

Rutland County Council

Catmose, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HP

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Meeting: CABINET

Date and Time: Tuesday, 12 March 2024 at 10.00 am

Venue: Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham, LE15 6HP

Democratic Services Officer to contact: David Ebbage 01572 720972
email: democraticservices@rutland.gov.uk

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A G E N D A

- 1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
- 2) ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND/OR HEAD OF THE PAID SERVICE
- 3) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Regulations, Members are required to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have and the nature of those interests in respect of items on this Agenda and/or indicate if Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.

4) MINUTES

To confirm the Minutes and Decisions made at the meeting of the Cabinet held on 13th February 2024.
(Pages 5 - 12)

5) ITEMS RAISED BY SCRUTINY

To receive items raised by members of scrutiny which have been submitted to the Leader and Chief Executive.

6) ADULT SOCIAL CARE PROVIDER FEES 2024-25

To receive Report No.27/2024 from the Portfolio Holder for Adults and Health.
(Pages 13 - 26)

7) CONTRACT FOR MICROSOFT SOFTWARE LICENCES

To receive Report No.28/2024 from the Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Governance and Resources.
(Pages 27 - 30)

8) HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT CONTRACT AWARD

To receive Report No.31/2024 from the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Environment and Communities.
(Pages 31 - 42)

9) RUTLAND'S ECONOMIC STRATEGY 2023-2040

To receive Report No.29/2024 from the Leader of the Council.
(Pages 43 - 104)

10) EDITH WESTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

To receive Report No.30/2024 from the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Property and Economic Development.
(Pages 105 - 298)

11) ANY ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

To receive items of urgent business which have previously been notified to the person presiding.

12) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

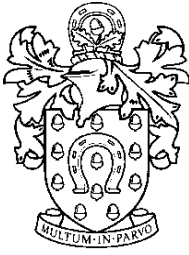
Tuesday, 16th April 2024.

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MEMBERS OF THE CABINET: Councillor G Waller (Chair)
Councillor A Johnson
Councillor P Browne
Councillor D Ellison
Councillor T Smith
Councillor C Wise

Quorum: 2

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Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP

Telephone 01572722577 Email:democraticservices@rutland.gov.uk

RECORD OF DECISIONS AT A MEETING OF THE CABINET

Tuesday, 13th February, 2024 at 10.00 am

PRESENT: Councillor G Waller (Chair) Councillor A Johnson (Vice-Chair)
Councillor P Browne Councillor D Ellison
Councillor T Smith Councillor C Wise

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mark Andrews Chief Executive
Angela Wakefield Strategic Director for Law and Governance
Dawn Godfrey Strategic Director for Children's Services
Kirsty Nutton Strategic Director for Resources
David Ebbage Democratic Services Officer
Alison Morgan Head of Service, Prevention & Assurance
Jane Kibble ASC Occupational Therapist

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor R Ross

Decisions published on 14 February 2024.

Key Decisions will be implemented on 22 February unless the Call-in Procedure as outlined in Procedure Rule 149 is invoked. (5 working days after publication)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

2 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN AND/OR HEAD OF THE PAID SERVICE

There were no announcements from the Chairman or Head of Paid Service.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4 MINUTES

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2024.

RESOLVED

- a) That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2024 be **APPROVED**.

5 ITEMS RAISED BY SCRUTINY

A report had been received from the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the report set out comments and views on the Integrated Budget Plan and Medium-Term Financial Strategy.

Cabinet members responded to each comment which was presented by the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, these were on SEND provision, Adult Social Care and Section 19 Inspections.

It was moved by Councillor G Waller and seconded that the recommendations of the report be noted. Upon being put to the vote, with six votes in favour the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet:

- a) **NOTED** the comments/views from the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

6 HOME IMPROVEMENT AGENCY PROCUREMENT

Report No.17/2024 was introduced by Councillor D Ellison, Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Health.

The report sets out the process and proposed award criteria for the procurement of a Home Improvement Agency service contract along with recommendations for approval and delegation of final award.

The provision of the HIA contract played a key role in supporting vulnerable people to remain in their own homes and to prevent and delay hospital and residential care admissions.

Members felt it was a very clear and good report, having an effective HIA which would reduce hospital admissions was greatly appreciated by Cabinet.

Members were also pleased with the figures within the report on the improved quality of life aspect of this service. The help individuals received to help them remain at home rather than an admission to a hospital or a care home was a huge benefit.

It was moved by Councillor D Ellison and seconded that the recommendations of the Report No.17/2024 be approved. Upon being put to the vote, with six votes in favour the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet:

- a) **RECOMMENDED** that a procurement was undertaken to award the HIA contract for Rutland County Council to one provider for a five-year period, commencing on 1st October 2024.
- b) **APPROVED** the procurement model and over-arching award criteria, which had been carefully considered to ensure that the successful provider can meet the requirements and can deliver appropriate quality services in Rutland.
- c) **DELEGATED** approval of the final award criteria to the Director for Adult Services and Health in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Adult Services and Health
- d) **APPROVED** the award of contract is delegated to the Director for Adult Services and Health in consultation with the Portfolio Holder. Decisions will only be taken in line with Cabinet approved award criteria.

7 LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND (LLR) JOINT LIVING WITH DEMENTIA STRATEGY 2024-2028

Report No.19/2024 was introduced by Councillor D Ellison, Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Health.

The report shared the Rutland results of the LLR joint Living Well Dementia Strategy 2024-2028.

The current Strategy covered the period 2019-2022. Due to the unprecedented circumstances caused by the COVID pandemic, the joint LLR Dementia Programme Board decided to extend the existing Strategy by an additional year to 2023.

The proposed Strategy was developed in partnership between LLR local authorities and the Integrated Care Board (ICB).

The refreshed Strategy would be implemented from January 2024. It was proposed that the strategy would remain live for a period of 5 years until late 2028. Due to the extended life of the Strategy, was planned that the progress of the Strategy action plan would continue to be monitored by the LLR DPB.

It was moved by Councillor D Ellison and seconded that the recommendations of the Report No.19/2024 be approved. Upon being put to the vote, with six votes in favour the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet:

- a) **APPROVED** the Leicestershire, Leicester City and Rutland (LLR) joint Dementia Strategy 2024-2028.
- b) **APPROVED** the Rutland Council Delivery Plan.

8 2023/24 QUARTER 3 - REVENUE AND CAPITAL FORECAST REPORT

Report No.18/2024 was introduced by Councillor A Johnson, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Governance and Resources.

The report updated Cabinet and all members of the forecasted outturn position for 2023/24 and highlighted the key financial risks being managed within directorates. The position was favourable and showed a reduction in use of reserves to support day to day expenditure, which was in line with the overall Financial Sustainability Strategy.

The report set out the forecasted outturn as at 31 December 2023 for 2023/24. The report compared the forecasted outturn position to the revised budget and forecasted variance.

The Chair thanked the Directors for their hard work in keeping the Council on the straight and narrow financially which Members appreciated the level of difficulty of the work involved.

It was moved by Councillor A Johnson and seconded that the recommendations of the Report No.18/2024 be approved. Upon being put to the vote, with six votes in favour the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet:

- a) **NOTED** the forecast year end position as at the end of December (third quarter) for:
 - a. Revenue Position (Section 3)
 - b. Capital Position (Section 4)
 - c. Dedicated Schools Grant (Section 5)
- b) **NOTED** the update on the achievement of the 2023/24 savings proposals (Section 6), and overview of the principles followed to deliver the Financial Sustainability Strategy (Section 7)
- c) **NOTED** performance against the Treasury Management Prudential Indicators is in line or better with the strategy set (Appendix B)

9 INTEGRATED BUDGET PLAN AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY - 2024/25 TO 2027/28

Report No.04/2024 was introduced by Councillor A Johnson, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Governance and Resources.

The report came to Cabinet as part of the Council's formal budget setting process as set out within the constitution and as per legislative requirements to set a balanced and sustainable budget for 2024/25 - 2027/28.

Cabinet agreed proposals for consultation on 11 January 2024. This report included 215 responses that had been received at 31 January 2024. The closing date for the consultation was 2 February 2024, therefore a supplementary paper had been issued prior to Cabinet so that all responses would be considered.

It was moved by Councillor A Johnson and seconded that the recommendations of the Report No.04/2024 be approved. Upon being put to the vote, with six votes in favour the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet **APPROVED** and **RECOMMENDED** to Council:

- a) The budget including a Council Tax increase of 4.99% (2.99% general Council Tax and 2.0% Adult Social Care precept), as outlined in section 5.1.2 and Appendix F.
- b) The updated budget assumptions, to be incorporated in the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) 2024/25 – 2027/28. These are outlined in sections 5 and 6.
- c) The grant funding receipts estimated across the MTFS as contained in Appendix D.
- d) The Fees and Charges Strategy that details the approach to be adopted by directorates when setting and updating fees and charges as provided in Appendix E.
- e) The revised capital programme and schemes outlined in section 6.5 and referencing Appendix K and M.
- f) The funding of the capital programme as detailed in the treasury management and capital strategies in Appendices L and M.
- g) The updated Reserves Strategy and forecast reserve commitments to fund the cost of transformational investment and previously identified departmental commitments as outlined in section 7.4, and Appendices B, C and I.
- h) The Education budget as outlined in section 6.6 and Appendix N.
- i) The budget virement limits as outlined in section 9.
- j) The Medium-Term Financial Strategy 2024/25 – 2027/28 as set out in the body of the report and following appendices:

- Appendix A – 2024/25 – 2027/28 MTFS detailed budget position
 - Appendix B – Budget proposals tables (pressures / savings / investments)
 - Appendix C – Directorates Overview, Service Ambitions and Budget Variation Statements
 - Appendix D – Grant Register
 - Appendix E – Fees & Charges Strategy / Policy & Schedule
 - Appendix F – Funding strategy
 - Appendix G – Financial Health Indicators
 - Appendix H – Financial Risk Register
 - Appendix I – Reserve Strategy
 - Appendix J – Consultation document & responses as at 31 January 2024
 - Appendix K – Capital Programme Schemes 2024/25 – 2027/28
 - Appendix L – Treasury Management Strategy & Annual Investment Strategy
 - Appendix M – Capital Strategy
 - Appendix N – Dedicated Schools Grant and the Schools budget
 - Appendix O – Carbon Impact Assessment
 - Appendix P – Reconciliation of budget adjustments since Cabinet 11 January 2024
 - Appendix Q – Council Tax Resolution
- k) The changes that have been made since the 11 January 2024 Cabinet report shown in Appendix P which includes additional grant announcement allocations resulting in an estimated net increase in income for 2024/25 of £0.5m and updating of assumptions applied for estimated expenditure and income.

That Cabinet **NOTED:**

- l) The strategic financial approach taken by the Council outlined in section 3 of this report.
- m) The Council's core funding position following the provisional Local Government Settlement outlined in section 5.
- n) The forecast reserves position and the statutory advice of the Chief Finance Officer outlined in section 7 'The Robustness (Section 25) Statement'.
- o) The financial health indicators which consider the key financial considerations of revenue and balance sheet performance, and that capital investment is not resulting in undue burden on future funding, section 8.

10 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

The Chair moved the meeting to a private session to discuss the exempt report. This was seconded and upon being put to the vote the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED

- a) That the meeting be moved to a private session.

11 WRITE OFF OF IRRECOVERABLE DEBTS

Report No.01/2024 was introduced by Councillor A Johnson, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Governance and Resources.

The report requested approval to write off debts, over the value of £2,500, where officers believed that there is little or no prospect of recovering them.

It was moved by Councillor A Johnson and seconded that the recommendations of the Report No.01/2024 be approved. Upon being put to the vote, with six votes in favour the motion was unanimously carried.

RESOLVED

That Cabinet:

- a) **NOTED** the action taken to recover outstanding debts.
- b) **AUTHORISED** the write off of the debts shown in Exempt Appendix A.

12 ANY ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business.

13 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 12th March 2024.

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The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 11.02am.

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CABINET

12 March 2024

ADULT SOCIAL CARE PROVIDER FEES

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Adults and Health

Strategic Aim	Support the most vulnerable	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Cllr D Ellison, Portfolio Holder for Adults and Health	
Contact Officer(s):	Kim Sorsky, Strategic Director for Adults & Health	Tel: 01572 758352 Ksorsky@rutland.gov.uk
	Karen Kibblewhite, Head of Commissioning & Procurement	Tel: 01572 827452 Kkibblewhite@rutland.gov.uk
Ward Councillors	All	

1 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 Summary

1.1.1 This report sets out the current position of the Adult Social Care market in Rutland and the implications of this in terms of the fees the Council pays for service users eligible for funding to receive services.

1.1.2 It sets out the current fees paid for services and the proposed fee rates and uplifts for 2024/25. This report does not include future fees for Older People’s residential care; this will be subject to a separate paper.

1.2 Recommendations

1. Notes the current position of the Adult Social Care markets and the risks associated with that;
2. Approves the proposed fees and uplifts for Adult Social Care providers for 2024/25.

1.3 Reasons for Recommendations

1.3.1 The Council has a duty to support the Adult Social Care provider market to

be sustainable and ensure that there is care available to vulnerable people. Paying fees to providers at appropriate levels to cover the cost of the care they deliver is part of this responsibility.

- 1.3.2 The uplift proposals have been designed to support the management of the market, ensure the Council is able to place vulnerable service users, whilst remaining affordable to the Council.

2 REPORT

2.1 Introductory Paragraph

- 2.2 The Care Act 2014 sets out in legislation the duties and responsibilities for market-related issues for local authorities. The duties on local authorities include the facilitation of a diverse, sustainable high-quality market for their whole local population, including self-funders, promotion of efficient and effective operation of the adult care and support to the market as a whole.

- 2.3 Significant work was undertaken in 2022/23 and earlier in 2023/24 to align fees with the actual cost to providers of delivering care. This resulted in some substantial increases to fees, particularly where fees had not been uplifted for a number of years previously.

- 2.4 The market in Rutland is unlike most local authorities due to its geography, workforce availability, and pre-dominance of 'self-funders' who can afford to pay for their own care.

2.5 Older People Home Care Market

- 2.5.1 There are an increasing number of people in Rutland who wish to remain in their own homes for longer; this is reflected in the trend over the past few years of reduction in the number of placements, and length of stay, in care homes and the increase in home care support. The Council actively support people to remain at home where individuals' needs allow, and this trend is expected to continue.

- 2.5.2 The Rutland home care market is made up of four providers registered locally, and a further 34 providers from neighbouring local authorities, although not all are currently delivering care in Rutland. The self-funder market comprises over 80% of care packages delivered by the Rutland based providers.

- 2.5.3 In March 2023, the Council moved to a Dynamic Purchasing System form of contract, allowing potential providers to enter into contracts with the Council at regular intervals and offering greater choice in the market. The result of this is an increase from 12 providers operating in Rutland to over 40. This has shifted the position from one in which it was extremely difficult to identify providers to take up care packages, to one where there is a surfeit of care providers and many care providers have not been successful in picking up any care packages in Rutland at all.

- 2.5.4 Of the 10 providers from whom the Council commissions care, around 80% of care packages are commissioned from 4 providers.

- 2.5.5 A total of c63,780 hours of care has been commissioned to date, expected to be c75,000 hours by 31st March; a slight increase from last year and over 10,000 hours more than the previous year. The recent challenges in the care home market have continued to put an increased emphasis on supporting people in their own homes. The level of hours commissioned reflects both the increased numbers of service users receiving care and the level of complexity of care needed, and so the future demand is likely to continue to increase.
- 2.5.6 Whilst the Council commissions significantly less care from the market compared to self-funders, providers are willing to work with the Council and pick up care packages at the Council's rate. There were 714 offers to deliver care for the 72 packages which have been brokered since April 2023.
- 2.5.7 There have also been no issues within the past 2 years of financial viability of local providers that the Council is aware of. It should not be assumed however that increasing costs and inflation may not have an impact on this in the future.

2.6 Learning Disability and Physical Disability Market

- 2.6.1 There are 2 residential care homes for service users with learning disabilities in Rutland comprising a total of 40 beds, and vacancies in either home are rare. Both have service users from outside of Rutland as well as those from within Rutland.
- 2.6.2 Additionally, 17 individuals with a range of learning disability and physical disability needs are placed in residential homes outside of Rutland.
- 2.6.3 Placements for service users are determined by needs and due to the complexity of many, the choice of provision is often extremely limited. The Council's ability to negotiate fees is consequently limited and particularly so where individuals have been in those homes for a number of years.

2.7 Direct Payments for Personal Assistants

- 2.7.1 Direct payments are made to individuals in lieu of a traditional care package to meet their eligible care and support needs. They enable people to commission their own or their child's care and support in order to meet their needs, giving them greater choice and control over the types of services they can receive, and how and when they are provided.
- 2.7.2 The Council holds a list of 49 Personal Assistants (PAs) in Rutland. There may be other PAs who are directly employed by individuals who are not in receipt of Direct Payments, and therefore the Council is not aware of.
- 2.7.3 The Council currently provides 100 Direct Payments to adults and 50 Direct Payments to families for children. These are used to directly employ a PA, commission a care agency of their choice, provide support for carers or respite in various forms, and can also include social inclusion or a piece of equipment. Currently, 79 of the 100 adults receiving Direct Payments and 38 of the 50 children's families receiving Direct Payments employ PAs, and this ranges from 1-2 hours per week to full-time care.

- 2.7.4 Personal Assistants can be self-employed or employed directly from the individual or family receiving the care and support. Regardless, the Direct Payment must be sufficient to meet any on-costs of employment including insurance, as well as the actual hourly rate of pay.
- 2.7.5 Work undertaken in 2022/23 to review Direct Payments included consultation with those employing PAs and PAs themselves. People noted that the lack of available PAs makes finding and keeping a PA very challenging, particularly when a specific skill set is required. As it takes time to train any PA, not just those who support more complex needs, the impact of losing them has a serious detrimental effect on the individuals' quality of life and that of their families/those living with them.
- 2.7.6 The consultation identified that a third of PAs those supporting adults were not charging more than the then £11.50 per hour rate as they did not want to cause the person they are supporting financial hardship. This is not representative of the actual market and is neither an appropriate nor sustainable approach to providing care in Rutland. The resultant fee uplift given for 2023/24 was designed to address this.

2.8 Fee Uplifts in 2023/24

- 2.8.1.1 In 2022/3 the Council carried out the Department of Health & Social Care's (DHSC) Fair Cost of Care exercise with home care providers. The exercise was a requirement of the Market Sustainability Fund and designed to bring fees in line with the actual costs of care providers reported whilst remaining affordable for the Council. An above inflation increase in fees for 2023/24 was approved as a result. [Report No.34.2023 - DHSC Fair Cost of Care Adult Social Care Fee Setting for Care Homes and Home C.pdf \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)
- 2.8.2 In addition, uplifts were calculated for other types of provision. Providers of learning disability, mental health, and physical disability residential homes were offered an 8.4% inflationary uplift, which was then negotiated on an individual basis where providers had not received an uplift for several years. The calculation of inflationary uplift remains the same each year and is set out in Appendix A.
- 2.8.3 A paper was tabled at Cabinet in March 2023 to consider an uplift for Direct Payments which had not been uplifted for 14 years. An increase of 30% was approved to bring the payments in line with the actual cost to Personal Assistants of delivering support. [Report No.41.2023 - Review of Direct Payments for Personal Assistants.pdf \(modern.gov.co.uk\)](#)
- 2.8.4 The resultant work brought all the fees broadly in line with actual provider costs. The current rates are set out below:

Type	Fee	% Uplift for 2023/24
Homecare	£22.00	17%

Learning Disability and Physical Disability Residential Homes	Various on an individual basis	8.74% - 20%
Direct Payments	£15.00	30%

2.9 Options Considered

2.9.1 Various options have been considered for each type of provision to ensure that providers continue to accept local authority funded service users and manage costs to the Council as far as possible. These vary according to the current market for each and are set out below.

2.9.2 Home Care

2.9.3 The market for home care has changed significantly over the past 12 months as set out in section 2.7 of this report. There is a surfeit of providers willing to take care packages in Rutland and a high level of bids for each package offered to providers.

2.9.4 An inflationary uplift of 6.75% to fees could be made, keeping the fees in line with the provider costs identified in the DHSC Fair Cost of Care exercise. This may prevent any significant increases needed in future years to bring costs back in line with the actual costs of delivering care. This would result in a fee of £23.48 per hour.

2.9.5 Given the current volume of providers and capacity within the market, and the increasing level of home care provided, there is also the option to not provide an uplift this financial year. The impact of an inflationary uplift or staffing uplift to individual providers would be minimal, but significant to the Council. It is not expected that retaining fee rates as they would have a substantial impact on the number of providers willing to deliver care packages in Rutland.

2.9.6 It is recommended that no uplift is provided for 2024/25.

2.9.7 Learning Disability and Physical Disability Residential Care

2.9.8 Significant work was undertaken in 2023 to bring fees in line with actual provider costs, and specifically taking in account that for many long-term packages no uplift had been given for a number of years. Not only was the impact on the budgets significant, but it also took considerable officer time to review cost breakdowns and undertake negotiations, with several uplifts not resolved until the end of the first quarter of this year.

2.9.9 Whilst no uplift could be given this year, there is a risk that without maintaining costs in line with inflation, the work undertaken to bring fees in line with actual cost of care will need to be repeated in future years, again impacting on the ability to project future costs and adequately build into the budget.

2.9.10 It is recommended that the inflationary uplift of 6.75% is awarded to all providers. Any providers who request a level above that will be asked to

provide detailed cost breakdowns as evidence which can then be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and further uplift given only in exceptional circumstances.

2.9.11 Direct Payments for Personal Assistants

2.9.12 Significant work was undertaken in 2022/23 to review Direct Payment rates and ensure Personal Assistants received sufficient hourly rate to meet the National Living Wage and their additional costs such as training, insurance, periods of sick or holiday, and so on.

2.9.13 There is an option to not provide an uplift to the current rate, however the National Living Wage will increase by 9.8% from April 2024 and this will directly impact on the majority of Personal Assistants. This will also lead to a position where Direct Payments do not keep pace with costs and in a future year a much larger uplift will be needed to stabilise the market and ensure there are still Personal Assistants working in Rutland for service users to access.

2.9.14 Recognising that whilst the majority of Personal Assistants' costs are related to their wages not all are, an inflationary uplift in line with that calculated for other Adult Social Care providers is proposed. This would maintain a level of uplift whilst considering equity across the board and keep costs affordable for the Council. It should be noted however, that overheads for Personal Assistants are proportionately lower than for other types of providers.

2.9.15 It is recommended that an inflationary uplift of 6.75% is given resulting in an hourly rate of £16.00.

3 CONSULTATION

3.1 Providers and Personal Assistants were consulted in 2022/23 to inform the changes to the fee rates at that time. The level of engagement, particularly from older people's home care providers was extremely limited.

3.2 Consultation with providers this year was considered, however given previous limited engagement and the fact that all fee uplifts are constrained by the budget, it was felt that it would not add value in relation to this.

3.3 There is ongoing engagement with home care providers via the Rutland Adult Social Care Provider Forum.

4 IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

4.1 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This section has been approved by Andrew Merry – Head of Finance

4.1.1 The main financial issues arising for this Report are as follows:

4.1.2 The budget for Adult Social Care was set to include an inflationary uplift of 4% for 2024/25 based on the budgeted position for 2023/24. This is below the level of inflation, and the percentage uplift to National Living Wage from 1st April 2024.

4.1.3 The need to pay uplifts to some Learning Disability and Physical Disability providers this financial year to bring them in line with current costs, has made the spend difficult to forecast and manage effectively. The work undertaken in 2022/23 and earlier this year provided a baseline of actual costs for each provider. By setting fees in line with inflation for 2024/25 the ability to forecast spend should be improved.

4.1.4 The proposed uplifts are as follows:

Type of provision	2023/24 Forecast	Proposed increase	Budget Pressure
Older People's Homecare	£3,630,987	0%	-£135,355
Learning Disability and Physical Disability Residential	£2,385,061	6.75%	£47,956
Direct Payments for Personal Assistants	£1,335,264	6.75%	£47,659
Total	£7,351,312	-	-£39,740

4.1.5 If the fee proposals for each type of provision are approved, then the budget pressures built in for these three types of provision will be sufficient overall and leave additional room within the budget of £39,740. The actual spend is determined by the number of people requiring care and support and the type of support which needs to be put in place so it should be noted that spend will fluctuate during the year.

4.1.6 There will also be some income from recharges to health where the Council has commissioned care packages on behalf of both organisations, and from contributions from people paying for their care. There is ongoing work to review the process of recharging to ensure that the Council is maximising the income due.

4.1.7 It should however be noted that as older people's residential and nursing care fees have yet to be set, this will have a significant impact on the budget and is likely to lead to a pressure on the budget overall. The current market is such that providers are charging the Council above the fees agreed. The budget released from the uplifts to the above types of provision will offset some of the additional costs from older people's residential and nursing care, however it is unlikely to offset all.

4.1.8 The full breakdown of the financial implications for each option for each type of provision is set out in Appendix B.

4.2 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

This section has been approved by Sarah Khawaja, Head of Legal & Democratic Services.

- 4.2.1 The Council has a duty under the Care Act to ensure a sustainable local market. In addition, the Market Sustainability Funding which will be received from the DHSC for 2024/25 sets a requirement that it be used to make tangible improvements in Adult Social Care including, but not limited to, increasing fee rates.

4.3 Risk Management Implications

- 4.3.1 The main risks to this Report and the Council achieving its objectives are as follows:
- 4.3.2 Risk: Fees paid become out of alignment with providers' costs and with inflation, leading to consequential future significant increases impacting on budget.
- 4.3.3 Assessment of Risk: Low
- 4.3.4 Mitigation: By uplifting on an annual basis, fees should keep pace with inflation and remain aligned with providers' actual costs.
- 4.3.5 Residual Risk: Low
- 4.3.6 Record of Risk: Corporate Risk Register
- 4.3.7 Risk: The fees set subsequently for older people's residential and nursing are above the inflationary built into the budget and above the budget released from the fees proposed in this paper.
- 4.3.8 Assessment of Risk: High
- 4.3.9 Mitigation: Fees will be set with providers to reflect as far as possible actual costs of care, and the option of block contract beds to set fees for a number of beds is being explored. However, the high number of self-funders in Rutland means that care homes are reluctant to take Council funded service users and consequently charge significantly higher fees. The risk consequently remains high.
- 4.3.10 Residual Risk: High
- 4.3.11 Record of Risk: Corporate Risk Register

4.4 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 4.4.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has not been completed because there are no identified risks or issues to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

4.5 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been completed. A copy of the

EqlA can be obtained from Karen Kibblewhite.

4.6 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

4.6.1 The Council has a duty in accordance with S17 Crime and Disorder Act 1988, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to the likely effect of that exercise of those functions on and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social behaviour).

4.6.2 This duty has been considered and there are no community safety implications relating to the recommendations.

4.7 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

4.8 The provision of Adult Social Care support enables vulnerable people to remain healthy and well, reducing the impact on wider support and health services.

4.9 ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

4.9.1 On 11 January 2021 Rutland County Council acknowledged that it was in a climate emergency. The Council understands that it needs to take urgent action to address it.

4.9.2 There are no environmental and climate change implications of the Recommendations.

4.10 PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

4.10.1 There are no procurement implications relating to the recommendations.

4.11 HR IMPLICATIONS

4.11.1 There are no HR implications relating to the recommendations.

5 BACKGROUND PAPERS

5.1.1 [Report No.34.2023 - DHSC Fair Cost of Care Adult Social Care Fee Setting for Care Homes and Home C.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

5.2 [Report No.41.2023 - Review of Direct Payments for Personal Assistants.pdf \(moderngov.co.uk\)](#)

6 APPENDICES

6.1 Appendix A – Inflationary Uplift Calculations

6.2 Appendix B – Financial Implications of Uplift Options

An Accessible Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.

Appendix A – Inflationary Uplift Calculations

Inflationary calculations take into account increase in National Living Wage to £11.44 per hour and inflation as of January of the calendar year the uplift will be given. They are apportioned to a split of 70% staffing costs and 30% non-staffing costs. This is an industry standard proportion used and accepted, and roughly equates to the proportions indicated by providers via the Fair Cost of Care exercise carried out in 2022/23.

Recognising that not all staff will be on NLW, but there is a need to maintain a differential between staff wages at different levels, the proportion of NLW used is adjusted to reflect 80% of staff costs.

	Increase	Factor	Blend
National Living Wage	9.8%	0.56	5.49%
Inflation – CPI as of January 2024	4.2%	0.3	1.26%
Total Uplift			6.75%

Appendix B – Financial Implications of Uplift Options

The following table sets out the financial implications of each of the uplift options by type of provision.

Older People's Home Care

Current Spend	Budgeted Inflation	Inflationary Uplift of 6.75%*	Pressure
£3,630,987	£135,355	£176,246	£40,891

*Based on Current Number of Services Users

Recommended option:

Current Spend	Budgeted Inflation	Nil increase	Pressure
£3,630,987	£135,355	0	-£135,355

Learning Disability and Physical Disability Residential Care

Current Spend	Budgeted Inflation	Nil increase	Pressure
£2,323,426	£92,183	0	-£92,183

Recommended option:

Current Spend	Budgeted Inflation	Inflationary Uplift of 6.75%*	Pressure
£2,385,061	£92,183	£140,139	£47,956

*Based on Current Number of Services Users

Direct Payments for Personal Assistants

Current Spend	Budgeted Inflation	Nil increase	Pressure
£1,335,264	£69,263	£116,922	-£69,263

Recommended option:

Current Spend	Budgeted Inflation	Inflationary Uplift of 6.75%*	Pressure
£1,335,264	£69,263	£116,922	£47,659

*Based on Current Number of Services Users

Budget Impact

The total impact of the proposed increases against the current budget is therefore:

Type of provision	2023/24 Forecast	Proposed increase	Budget Pressure
Older People's Homecare	£3,630,987	0%	-£135,355
Learning Disability and Physical Disability Residential	£2,385,061	6.75%	£47,956
Direct Payments for Personal Assistants	£1,335,264	6.75%	£47,659
Total	£7,351,312	-	£39,740

This excludes any potential income and the impact of older people's residential care fees.

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CABINET

12 March 2024

CONTRACT FOR MICROSOFT SOFTWARE LICENCES

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Governance and Resources

Strategic Aim	Provide Good Public Services	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Cllr A Johnson, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Governance and Resources	
Contact Officer(s):	Kirsty Nutton, Strategic Director for Resources	01572 758159 knutton@rutland.gov.uk
	Jason Haynes, ICT Services Manager	01572 758360 JHaynes@rutland.gov.uk
Ward Councillors	N/A	

1 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 Summary

- 1.1.1 The Council is reliant on Microsoft licences for the operational running of the Council.
- 1.1.2 Microsoft licences are renewed yearly based on specific requirements at the renewal date and overall costs are negotiated by Crown Commercial Services.

1.2 Recommendations

That Cabinet

- 1. Delegates authority to the Strategic Director for Resources, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder with responsibility for I.T, to negotiate and award the contract for Microsoft Software Licences.

1.3 Reasons for Recommendations

- 1.3.1 As the exact details of the supplier that the Council will engage with and the exact number of licences that are required is currently unknown, it is recommended that the award is delegated to the Strategic Director for Resources. This will enable the contract to be awarded without delay on completion of negotiations and with the most recent licence requirements. This will be for a three year period starting May

2024 and cover all licences purchased via a reseller of Microsoft Licences.

2 REPORT

2.1 Introductory Paragraph

- 2.1.1 The Council uses a range of Microsoft Licences including end user licences for device operating system, access to Microsoft software such as Teams, Outlook, Word and Excel as well as server licences for operating systems and applications such as databases.
- 2.1.2 Microsoft licences are let in periods of 3 years and a new contract is due in May 2024. Public Sector Licence costs are agreed centrally with Central Government and are made available to the Council via resellers under frameworks.
- 2.1.3 Annual costs are covered within the IT budget. Whilst an inflation-based increase has been included in the budget for 2024/25, the actual prices of the licences have not yet been published under the framework.
- 2.1.4 The value of the contract over three years will be approximately £300,000 and therefore a Cabinet decision will be required for the award of contract, which is the reason for the request for the decision to award to be delegated to the Strategic Director of Resources.
- 2.1.5 The range and scope of licences is complex and there are some significant challenges in securing the correct licences and the correct number of licences. This is usually determined close to the renewal date so that accurate numbers of licences can be secured, so for instance the exact number of staff that require a Teams licence.
- 2.1.6 There are established relationships with suppliers that the Council can procure Microsoft Licences from. These licences will be accessed via a Crown Commercial Services Framework when published.
- 2.1.7 With the costs of licences set centrally the opportunity to ensure best value for the Council is to seek a supplier to work with us on the renewal process and to ensure that the Council chooses the correct licences and those most appropriate for the user and their role.
- 2.1.8 Contract quantities are adjusted each anniversary and ad hoc licences can be purchased during the year.

2.2 Options Considered

- 2.2.1 The Council is reliant, for the normal running of Council business, on Microsoft software. In terms of options there is little choice for alternatives to using Microsoft Licences.
- 2.2.2 The use of Microsoft technologies can also be an enabler for delivering efficiencies for staff and improving Council services. By maximising the use of IT software such as Microsoft there are opportunities to reduce costs across the Council.

2.3 Consultation

2.3.1 The Council is not required to consult on this matter.

3 IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

3.1 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This section has been approved by Kirsty Nutton, Strategic Director for Resources.

3.1.1 The current costs of the Microsoft Licences is part of the centralised IT budget. Inflation will be applied during the budget setting process and any extra funding required when the final contract is established will be met from within the IT budget for 2024/25 and then adjusted as part of budget setting for future years.

3.2 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

This section has been approved by Sarah Khawaja Head of Legal & Democratic Services.

3.2.1 The Legal implications are set out within the report.

3.3 Risk Management Implications

3.3.1 The main risk associated with the award of the contract is where there is a significant change to either the way licences are structured or the costs per licence. This could create a financial risk within the IT revenue budget. This would be mitigated by reviewing the IT budget.

3.4 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

3.4.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has not been completed because there are no identified risks or issues to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

3.5 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

3.5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has not been completed as there are no service, policy or organisational changes being proposed

3.6 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

3.6.1 There are no community safety implications arising from this report.

3.7 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

3.7.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.

3.8 ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

3.8.1 On 11 January 2021 Rutland County Council acknowledged that it was in a climate emergency. The Council understands that it needs to take urgent action to address it.

3.8.2 The effective use of Microsoft licences can enable remote working, allow staff to operate from different sites and therefore reduce the impact of travel and the

associated carbon footprint.

3.9 PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.9.1 The use of the Crown Commercial Services Framework ensures that the procurement of the licenses is compliant with the Public Contract Regulations 2015, and with the Council's own Contract Procedure Rules.

3.9.2 There are no other procurement implications.

3.10 HR IMPLICATIONS

3.10.1 There are no HR implications.

4 BACKGROUND PAPERS

4.1 There are no background papers.

5 APPENDICES

5.1 There are no appendices to this report.

An Accessible Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.

CABINET

12 March 2024

HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT CONTRACT AWARD

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Transport, Environment and Communities

Strategic Aim	All	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Cllr C Wise, Portfolio Holder for Transport, Environment and Communities	
Contact Officer(s):	Penny Sharp – Strategic Director - Places	Tel: 01572 758160 Email psharp@rutland.gov.uk
	Angie Culleton – Head of Safe and Active Public Realm	Email aculleton@rutland.gov.uk
Ward Councillors	All	

1 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 Summary

1.1.1 This report sets out the process and proposed award criteria for the procurement of home to school transport contracts, along with recommendations for approval and delegation of final award.

1.2 Recommendations

1. That Cabinet approves the procurement model (section 2.5) and criteria for the award of home to school transport (appendix A) contracts for academic year 24/25.
2. Authorises the Strategic Director for Places in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Highways & Transport to award the contracts resulting from this procurement.

1.3 Reasons for Recommendations

1.3.1 Statutory services must be in place to meet our statutory obligations for home to school transport

1.3.2 A procurement exercise will identify the best value bidders who are able to deliver

the service for the Lots.

2 REPORT

2.1 Introductory Paragraph

- 2.1.1 Rutland County Council provides a range of transport services including: home to school transport; transport for children with special educational needs; transport for children looked after; post-16 education transport; and public transport services in line with statute and Council policy.
- 2.1.2 Alongside provision through the Council's in-house commissioned transport fleet, this transport is also provided by a number of external organisations (bus, minibus and taxi) via a range of long term, short term and emergency contracts

2.2 Options Considered

- 2.2.1 To not go out to procurement and to provide the transport in-house. This option was rejected as there is not sufficient capacity to do so; instead a combination of in-house transport and external contracts will be used to ensure that the Council's duty is met.
- 2.2.2 The contract award could be brought back to Cabinet for approval rather than delegated to the Portfolio Holder and Strategic Director for Places. However, this approach would delay the award and may impact the Council's ability to deliver its statutory obligations.

2.3 Background

- 2.3.1 Service requirements are reviewed each year alongside contract expiry dates. This takes place each year because contract requirements change on an annual basis. Some contracts (particularly those for SEND transport and children looked after where needs can change very regularly) are only awarded for 1 year, whilst others are awarded for up to 5 years. The contract review takes into account any changes to student distribution, school location, start or finish times, and school holidays.
- 2.3.2 The Transport Team use admissions data to ascertain which students will be likely to require transport for the next academic year, and their destination. This data is used to decide whether existing routes are appropriate, or whether efficiencies can be realised via route changes and alterations to vehicles. Furthermore, the need for lone transport and passenger assistants on SEND routes is also reviewed to ensure the services specified are what is actually required. This helps to reduce legacy arrangements when service user needs have changed over time and transport can now be delivered in a more economically advantageous way whilst still meeting the needs of service users.
- 2.3.3 All potential contracts are sent out to tender, including those that will probably be operated by the Council's in house-fleet. This enables the Transport Team to compare costs of providing the services in-house versus outsourcing and ensures the in-house fleet continues to offer good value for money.
- 2.3.4 Although transport contracts are subject to continual review throughout the year to ensure best use of resources, the main review of requirements for the next academic year takes place between February and June. Additions and amendments

to existing transport contracts are usually lower in cost than introducing a new contract/route so this is considered first for new applicants. For students with SEND and enhanced needs, cases are dealt with on a case by case basis. Further work is also underway to review all contracts for the future in light of the Council's financial position and the requirement to make efficiencies for future sustainability.

2.4 Contract Requirements

2.4.1 What is being procured?

2.4.2 Three types of service are being procured; broken down into procurement lots, as follows:

- Lot 1 (school bus contracts)
- Lot 2 (specialist transport taxis/minibuses)
- Lot 3 (pence per mile taxis & buses)

2.4.3 Contract Length

2.4.4 Each individual route has its own contract length based on the requirements of the students, but it should be noted that contracts are being put out for the maximum possible requirement in 2024 to encourage transport providers to submit competitive bids.

2.4.5 Mainstream school bus contracts tend to be offered for a period of 5 years wherever possible as this attracts more interest from operators, but routes with fewer students can be offered anywhere between 1 year up to 5 years dependant on the future transport needs of the students concerned.

2.4.6 Notice to terminate by both parties is 1 calendar month for all home to school transport contracts. Those bus services which are registered for use by the public will operate under the contractual notice for public bus contracts which is 3 months.

2.4.7 Package bids will be requested as part of the procurement. For example, one supplier will be simpler to contract manage and should result in a more competitive pricing structure. Option 1 – Bid for ALL network of home to school transport bus contract (can sub-contract) Option 2 – Bid for primary school buses only or secondary & post-16 registered public buses only. The vehicle size will be specified with enough capacity for additional usage above known scholar numbers as the services will be open to the public.

2.4.8 A review of Transport Policy is planned in 2024 in order to inform practice to ensure cost effective transport is commissioned.

2.4.9 Contract value

2.4.10 The estimated contract value (over the lifetime of all contracts, to a maximum of 5 years, included in the 3 lots) is £7,592,724. Detailed contracts for tender cannot be identified until the school admission data is available in April and May although it is estimated that 5 mainstream school bus routes, 49 taxi routes and 9 minibus routes will be included in the lots for tender.

2.4.11 Previous years advertised costs were:

- 2020/21 - £1,258,461
- 2021/22 - £1,829,023
- 2022/23 - £2,578,754
- 2023/24 - £7,592,723

2.4.12 The increased estimated costs for 2023/24 is due to all closed bus contracts being put out to tender at the same time, inviting package bids to achieve best value and to enable a smooth implementation of the outcomes of the wider bus network review.

2.4.13 There is a year-on-year increase in SEND students requiring transport, which in turn increases the overall estimated contract value. This value is estimated because the contracts tendered may change during the review process, and prices are based on previous tender prices and as such are subject to change during the tender process. The Rutland Council in-house routes are sent out to tender to obtain comparison pricing and not all tendered routes will be awarded.

2.5 Procurement Model

2.5.1 Following the annual review of transport requirements an invitation to tender is issued with support from the Welland Procurement Unit. The procurement process will follow the appropriate process in line with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. The value of the contracts combined is above the EU threshold.

2.5.2 Services usually operated by the Council's in-house fleet are also advertised to provide assurance that in-house operation of those services demonstrates best value for money.

2.5.3 The tender process also collects "pence per mile" quotes from operators in order that requests for quotations can be sent out to the bidders that are likely to provide the service at the lowest price for new or revised service requirements that occur during the course of the academic year. This allows us to opt for best value at all times and reduce any risk of higher cost short notice emergency contracts.

2.5.4 The timetable for the process for the academic year 2024/2025 is set out in Appendix A.

1.a.1 New procurement regulations under The Procurement Act 2023 are due to be introduced in October this year, and the intention is to review tendering options under these regulations to streamline the procurement of home to school transport in future years from the 2025/26 academic year.

2.6 Award Criteria

2.6.1 *Initial screening/ quality criteria*

2.6.2 Companies must meet quality criteria (initial screening) in order to be eligible to tender. These have been developed with support from the Welland Procurement Unit. In addition, service specific criteria are used. Examples of this might include:

being able to meet necessary specific insurance levels; being able to demonstrate vehicles are adequately maintained; and /or having passenger assistants with an appropriate level of training. To obtain and retain a PSV operator’s license (O License) involves meeting criteria relating to operator financial standing, good repute and strict operational standards. Compliance checks are carried out by both the DVSA and the relevant Traffic Commission in the form of initial screening and on-going checks and therefore quality standard checks to hold an O licence are in place externally. This removes the requirement for RCC to further stipulate localised quality standards for tendering other than the pass/fail criteria of holding the correct license/s. Further information on the criteria for obtaining transport licensing is available online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/psv-operatorlicensing-a-guide-for-operators-psv437>

2.6.3 *Basis of award*

2.6.4 Contracts will be awarded on the basis of cost to a bidder who meets the quality criteria. Contract specifications will therefore state that contracts will be awarded to the lowest priced bidder that is able to deliver the contract.

2.6.5 *Power to award contracts*

2.6.6 Cabinet approval is sought to delegate authority to the Strategic Director for Places in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Highways & Transport to award the contracts resulting from this procurement.

2.7 **Consultation**

2.7.1 The procurement process has closely followed that of previous years and the Portfolio Holder has been consulted.

3 **IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION**

3.1 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

This section has been approved by Kirsty Nutton, Strategic Director for Resources

3.1.1 The main financial implications for transport contracts are not necessarily from the retendering of the contract but the underlying pressures this budget is facing. This is due to increasing demand and/or complexity of cases year on year in a demand led statutory service area. Table 1 below shows the budget and forecast for 2023/24 as well as budgets included in the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

3.1.2 Table 1: Budget and 2023/24 forecast

Area	2023/24 Budget	2023/24 Forecast	2024/25 Budget	2025/26 Budget	2026/27 Budget	2027/28 Budget
Children Looked After Transport	81,600	120,300	83,700	83,700	83,700	83,700
Home to School Transport	789,300	953,200	956,400	956,400	956,400	956,400

Post 16 Transport	113,800	151,100	116,800	116,800	116,800	116,800
Adult Social Services Transport	50,000	57,600	54,300	54,300	54,300	54,300
Transport Fleet	471,200	480,300	456,700	456,700	456,700	456,700
SEN Transport	1,117,000	1,484,700	1,419,600	1,458,600	1,469,100	1,319,400
Inclusion Transport	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
Total	2,682,900	3,307,200	3,147,500	3,186,500	3,197,000	3,047,300

3.1.3 As Table 1 shows the current pressures in this budget (if demand and costs come in as the 23/24 forecast) show that there is £160k funding gap that will have to met within the cash limit for the service. This position has been discussed by the Corporate Leadership Team and alongside the robust procurement set out in this report, the following actions will be undertaken.

- Analysis of transport spend.
- Review policy to inform practice to ensure cost effective transport is commissioned.

3.1.4 Implementation of changes to Transport Policy may impact the commissioning of some home to school transport.

3.1.5 Notice to terminate contracts is 1 calendar month for all home to school transport contracts and 3 months for those bus services which are registered for use by the public, as set out in section 2.4.6. Therefore, if changes to home to school transport are required following the policy review, these can still be implemented with the appropriate contractual notice.

3.1.6 It is therefore not necessary to delay the procurement of home to school transport until completion of the policy review, ensuring that appropriate services are in place for the new academic year.

3.2 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Sarah Khawaja, Head of Legal & Democratic Services

3.2.1 There are no legal implications as the Home to School Transport procurement process has been drawn up with the Welland Procurement Unit, in line with the requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

3.2.2 Contained within the award process are 62 separate contracts and although none exceed the current threshold individually and would ordinarily fall within the delegated powers to award, officers, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder, have chosen not to exercise those powers in this case to ensure that Cabinet is able to fully consider matters and have a full picture when considering whether to authorise

delegation of award or not.

3.3 Risk Management Implications

3.4 The main risks to this Report and the Council achieving its objectives are as follows:

3.4.1 Risk/s: Late award of contract due to delay in process or not awarding contracts will mean that the Council cannot deliver on its statutory transport obligations

3.4.2 Assessment of Risk: High

3.4.3 Mitigation: Early approval of the procurement in line with previous years and procurement plans being followed with support from Welland. Bringing services in house is not possible, as staff resources and vehicles are not available to deliver these services.

3.4.4 Residual Risk: Low

3.4.5 Record of Risk (Project Risk Register to be developed):

3.5 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

3.5.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has not been completed because there are no identified risks or issues to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

3.6 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

3.6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) screening form has been completed and a full assessment is not required as the procurement has followed an approved process and has no impact on equality and diversity.

3.7 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

3.7.1 The Council has a duty in accordance with S17 Crime and Disorder Act 1988, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to the likely effect of that exercise of those functions on and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social behaviour).

3.7.2 This duty has been considered and there are no community safety implications relating to the recommendations.

3.8 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

3.8.1 None

3.9 ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

3.9.1 On 11 January 2021 Rutland County Council acknowledged that it was in a climate emergency. The Council understands that it needs to take urgent action to address it.

3.9.2 There are no environmental and climate change implications of the Recommendations.

3.9.3 Children travelling on school buses are likely to have less of an environmental

impact than those being driven to school. Where possible, children are placed on public service vehicles hence their transport does not increase emissions because the vehicle is already traveling. As such school bus provision is likely to have a positive impact on climate change.

3.10 PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

3.10.1 The procurement model is set out in the main body of the report.

3.10.2 The procurement process proposed is in line with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

3.11 HR IMPLICATIONS

3.12 TUPE Regulations (the Collective Redundancies and Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment)) 2014 and subsequent amendments will not apply to the Home to School Transport procurement. In-house routes tend to be less attractive to the market (more challenging behaviours and wheel-chair access) so will be unlikely to be delivered by private contractors at a competitive price.

4 BACKGROUND PAPERS

4.1 None

5 APPENDICES

5.1 Appendix A – Award Criteria

An Accessible Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.

APPENDIX A

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING STANDARD SELECTION QUESTIONS

Question No.	Section Headings and Sub-Headings	Maximum Available Section Score	Weighting Within Sub-Heading
1.1 1.1 (a) 1.1 (b) (i) 1.1 (b) (ii) 1.1 (c) 1.1 (d) 1.1 (e) 1.1 (f) 1.1 (g) 1.1 (h) 1.1 (i) (i) 1.1 (i) (ii) 1.1 (j) (i) 1.1 (j) (ii) 1.1 (k) 1.1 (m) 1.1 (n) 1.1 (o) 1.1 (p)	Potential Supplier Information Full name Registered office Registered website address Trading status Date of registration Company registration number Charity registration number Head Office DUNS number Registered VAT number Appropriate professional/trade registration If yes, details Legal required for professional/trade registration If yes, details Relevant classifications SME Persons of Significant Control Details of immediate parent company Details of ultimate parent company	0%	0%
1.2 1.2 (a) (i) 1.2 (a) (ii) 1.3 (a) (iii) 1.2 (b) (i) 1.2 (b) (ii)	Bidding Model Bidding as lead contact for a group of economic operators Name of group of economic operators Proposed legal structure Use of sub contractors Sub Contractor details	0%	0%
1.3 1.3 (a)-(h)	Contact Details and Declaration Details completed	0%	0%
2 2.1 (a)	Grounds for Mandatory Exclusion Regulations 57(1) and (2): Criminal organisation Corruption Fraud	Pass/Fail	Pass/Fail

Question No.	Section Headings and Sub-Headings	Maximum Available Section Score	Weighting Within Sub-Heading
2.1 (b)	Terrorist offences Money laundering Child labour/human trafficking Breach of environmental obligations Breach of social obligations Breach of labour obligations Bankrupt/insolvency or winding-up proceedings Grave professional misconduct Agreements with other economic operators to distort competition Conflict of interest Preparation of procurement procedure Early termination of contract /damages/comparable sanctions In breach of obligations re: tax/social security contributions Measures taken		
2.2	Self cleaning measures	Pass/Fail	Pass/Fail
2.3 (a) 2.3 (b)	Breach of tax/social security obligations If yes, further details	Pass/Fail	Pass/Fail
3 3.1 (a) 3.1 (b) 3.1 (c) 3.1 (d) 3.1 (e) 3.1 (f) 3.1 (g) 3.1 (h) 3.1 (i) 3.1 (j) 3.2	Grounds for Discretionary Exclusion Regulation 57 (8) Breach of environmental obligations Breach of social obligations Breach of labour obligations Financial administration Guilty of grave professional misconduct Distorting competition Conflict of interest Involved in preparation of procurement Significant or persistent deficiencies Statement response If yes, self cleaning	Pass/Fail	Pass/Fail
Question No.	Section Headings and Sub-Headings	Maximum Available Section Score	Weighting Within Sub-Heading
4 and 5 4.1	Economic and Financial Standing	Pass/Fail	Pass/Fail

Question No.	Section Headings and Sub-Headings	Maximum Available Section Score	Weighting Within Sub-Heading
4.2 5.1 5.2 5.3	Audited accounts or alternative means of demonstrating financial status Minimal financial threshold Parent company accounts Parent company guarantee Bank guarantee		
6 6.1 6.2	Technical and Professional Ability Details of up to three contracts Evidence of healthy supply chains maintained with sub-contractors Sub contract supply chain management	0%	0%
7 7.1 7.2	Requirements under Modern Slavery Act 2015 Relevant commercial organisation Compliant with annual reporting requirements	Pass/Fail	Pass/Fail
8	Additional Questions:		
8.1	Insurance	Pass / Fail	Pass/Fail

3. CRITERIA FOR ASSESSING TENDER RESPONSES

Only those Bidders which pass the Selection Questions will have their tenders evaluated using this scheme.

Section Headings and Sub-Headings	Maximum Score Available	Weighting Within Sub-Heading
Quality Company vehicle compliance Employee licensing	0%	Pass/Fail Pass/Fail
* Price (exclusive of VAT) Route pricing	100%	100%
Total	100%	

Pricing should be shown per journey (which normally includes a return journey). Unit rates and prices must be quoted in pounds and decimals of a pound. Such decimals need to be restricted to two decimal places.

For the purpose of giving feedback to bidders at the end of the process, pricing will be converted to a percentage score using the following formula:

Lowest price for this route x 100%

Bidder's price for this route

So if the lowest price offered for a given route is from Bidder A at £20.00, and the price offered by Bidder B is £40.00,

Then Bidder A will score $\frac{£20.00}{£20.00} \times 100\% = 100\%$ Contract awarded

And Bidder B will score $\frac{£20.00}{£40.00} \times 100\% = 50\%$

CABINET

12 March 2024

RUTLAND’S ECONOMIC STRATEGY 2023-2040

Report of the Leader of the Council

Strategic Aim	A Diverse and Sustainable Local Economy	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Cllr G Waller, Leader of the Council	
Contact Officer(s):	Penny Sharp – Strategic Director of Place	07973 854906 psharp@rutland.gov.uk
Ward Councillors	All	

1 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 Summary

- 1.1.1 This report sets out the key aims and objectives of the Economic Strategy.
- 1.1.2 This report seeks approval to publish the Economic Strategy and develop and implement a delivery plan to work towards achieving the aims and objectives of the strategy.

1.2 Recommendations

- 1.2.1 To seek formal approval of the Rutland Economic Development Strategy.
- 1.2.2 Delegates authority to the Strategic Director for Places in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economic Development to make any minor amendments and publish the Economic Strategy and supporting evidence base.
- 1.2.3 To delegate authority to the Strategic Director – Places in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development to develop the economic strategy including further engagement with stakeholders and businesses.
- 1.2.3 Delegates authority to the Strategic Director for Places in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development to implement the Strategy.

1.3 Reasons for Recommendations

- 1.3.1 To seek approval to publish and implement the Economic Strategy

2 REPORT

2.1 Introductory Paragraph

- 2.1.1 The existing Economic Strategy was adopted in January 2015 and set out the vision for growth and development in Rutland to 2021.
- 2.1.2 This report presents a new Economic Strategy 2023 – 2040 for a sustainable economy for Rutland. This will underpin the four priorities in our Corporate Strategy.
- 2.1.3 Rutland's economic strategy – Multum in Parvo – sets out an aspirational and credible strategy for delivering a shared vision of a successful future for Rutland's economy. It builds on the County's existing economic strengths and its unique character.
- 2.1.4 The strategy is underpinned by a comprehensive evidence base that identified that whilst the County has significant strengths it also has challenges including a shrinking economy over the period 2010-2019 and low social mobility.
- 2.1.5 Multum in Parvo establishes a framework with long-term objectives and priorities and offers an economic rationale to underpin future investment and delivery from now to 2040.

2.2 Options Considered

- 2.2.1 The alternative option would be to not develop a new economic strategy. The existing strategy is now significantly out of date and the economic context has changed considerably. An evidence-based economic strategy can provide a framework to inform other strategic plans, such as the Local Plan, and focus implementation actions. For this reason, the alternative option is not recommended.

2.3 Background

- 2.3.1 Rutland's Economic Strategy 2023 – 2040 sets out a vision and ambition to invigorate and grow the economy for the benefit of our residents.
- 2.3.2 The Strategy highlights the challenges of a small County with a rich history and identifies the opportunities for building a sustainable economy.
- 2.3.3 The Strategy identifies 4 objectives and sets out the priorities we need to pursue to achieve these objectives:

New Technologies and market industries

Productive local businesses

Skilled workers in quality jobs

Thriving places and communities

- 2.3.4 This strategy is the start of a different way of working for Rutland, moving towards greater collaboration on economic growth, focusing on a small number of shared priorities. The Strategy addresses both the supply side of stimulating economic growth (skills, employment and a supportive environment) as well as the demand side (supporting business growth and sector development).
- 2.3.5 Rutland's Economic Strategy provides a roadmap for the coming years to work collaboratively with businesses and other stakeholders to ensure a sustainable future.
- 2.3.6 Alongside the Corporate Strategy the objectives set out will strengthen our economy and offer increased economic opportunity for our businesses, residents, and communities.
- 2.3.7 The Economic Strategy will support the delivery of economic initiatives already in place and work to create the right conditions and increased opportunity for sustainable economic growth.

2.4 Consultation

- 2.4.1 The Economic Strategy has been developed through engagement with local businesses and key stakeholders within the County.
- 2.4.2 The Strategy has also been informed by feedback from the Future Rutland outcomes from the Future Rutland (FR) consultation identified the following priorities in relation to economic development.
- 2.4.3 Future Rutland respondents felt that emphasis should be placed on innovation and creativity as a means of attracting businesses and investment into Rutland. The importance of high skilled/high pay jobs (particularly for young people) was also seen as a priority.
- 2.4.4 The Economic Strategy draws on the evidence base developed to support the draft Local Plan (Regulation 18).
- 2.4.5 In addition, Scrutiny and Overview Committee established an Economy Task and Finish Group that reviewed the evidence base and heavily influenced the development of this economic strategy. The Economy Task and Finish Group suggested the economic strategy should be bold and ambitious, focusing on innovation, diversifying the visitor economy, attracting investment and supporting local businesses to grow.

3 IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

3.1 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This section has been approved by Kirsty Nutton, Strategic Director for Resources

- 3.1.1 There are no financial issues arising from this Report.

- 3.1.2 Any costs associated with publication will be met within existing budgets.
- 3.1.3 The economic strategy will also provide a clear framework to influence investment such as the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity and any future grant funding bids.

3.2 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

This section has been approved by Sarah Khawaja, Head of Legal & Democratic Services

- 3.2.1 There are no legal implications.
- 3.2.2 Any commissioning or procurement required to pursue this activity will be in accordance with the Council's Constitution, including the Contract Procedure Rules and Financial Procedure Rules. Cabinet and/or Council (whichever is appropriate in the circumstances) will be involved at key gateways to approve implementation of any initiatives and limit any financial exposure.

3.3 Risk Management Implications

- 3.3.1 The main risks to this Report and the Council achieving its objectives are as follows:
 - 3.3.1 Risk: That the Economic Strategy does not provide clear direction to the Council
 - 3.3.2 Assessment of Risk: Low
 - 3.3.3 Mitigation: The Economic Strategy is underpinned by a robust evidence base. In conjunction with the Portfolio Holder and the Director of Place officers will steer the Strategy as economic conditions and developments evolve.
 - 3.3.4 Residual Risk: Low
 - 3.2.5 Record of Risk: Directorate Risk Register

3.4 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 3.4.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has not been completed because there are no identified risks or issues to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

3.1 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.4.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has not been completed for the following reason because there are no identified risks/issues for equalities or protected groups.

3.5 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.5.1 This duty has been considered and there are no community safety implications relating to the recommendations.

3.6 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

- 3.6.1 Evidence demonstrates a strong correlation between income, health, and economic

growth.

- 3.6.2 The implementation of the Economic Strategy will provide the tools by which our enterprises, businesses, residents and communities can work with us to make Rutland a vibrant County that supports health and wellbeing.

3.7 ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 3.7.1 On 11 January 2021 Rutland County Council acknowledged that it was in a climate emergency. The Council understands that it needs to take urgent action to address it.
- 3.7.2 There are no environmental and climate change implications of the Recommendations.

3.8 PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.8.1 There are no procurement implications.

3.9 HR IMPLICATIONS

- 3.9.1 There are no HR implications.

4 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 4.1.1 None

5 APPENDICES

- 5.1.1 A – Draft Economic Strategy

An Accessible Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.

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Multum in Parvo

**Rutland's Economic Strategy
2023 - 2040**

Version & Policy Number	Version 2.0 Policy COMM/1234
Guardian	Penny Sharp Director of Place
Date Produced	March 2024
Next Review Date	March 2027

Approved by Scrutiny	
Approved by Cabinet	
Approved by Full Council	

Summary of document

Rutland's economic strategy – Multum in Parvo - sets out an aspirational and credible strategy for delivering a successful future for Rutland's economy.

This strategy is built on extensive evidence which highlights the economic opportunities and challenges we in Rutland face. The strategy establishes a framework with long-term objectives and priorities and offers an economic rationale to 2040.



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1.0 FOREWORD

As Rutlanders, we have much to be proud about - our landscape is amongst the most peaceful and picturesque in the UK, our communities are amongst the safest and our residents are amongst the happiest and healthiest.

However, like much of the UK, global events in recent years have had a direct impact on our local economy while our aspirations of being a pioneering County for achieving carbon neutrality is challenging us to re-evaluate conventional practices and approaches at all levels. In response, RCC has committed to placing sustainability at the core of everything that we do – socially, environmentally and economically; our Corporate Strategy set out overarching objectives and parameters to achieve this.

This document has been prepared to guide our economic strategy over the period of our Local Plan; it considers current trends and constraints and identifies four priority areas that are particular to our local context and character. It also presents a collaborative approach for achieving sustainable growth, led by RCC with input from multiple stakeholders at a regional and local level.

We are already seeing a positive impact and return from this approach, particularly the recently secured Levelling Up Fund and UK Shared prosperity Fund bids. Through

the proposed strategy and a collective effort, it is hoped that we will continue this success and harness the immense value of what makes Rutland special to underpin a successful, sustainable and modern rural economy.



Councillor Gale Waller
Leader of the Council

2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rutland's economic strategy - *Multum in Parvo* (*Much in Little*) - sets out an aspirational and credible strategy for delivering a shared vision of a successful future for Rutland's economy.

Led by Rutland County Council, our strategy is built on extensive evidence and local engagement which highlights the economic opportunities and challenges we in Rutland face. The strategy establishes a framework with long-term objectives and priorities and offers an economic rationale to underpin future investment and delivery from now till 2040.

It identifies early actions which the Council will take in pursuit of shared goals. As set out in the next steps, these will be supplemented through commitments and actions developed with partners over the next year. It puts in place the basis for proactive and purposeful partnerships between businesses, political leaders and other stakeholders in order to drive the change we want, starting with establishing a new Business Summit to bring together partners on an annual basis.

Taken together, the framework and partnership in our economic strategy lays out a roadmap leading to a bright future for Rutland's economy, supporting and growing the business base, enabling residents to access jobs and nurturing our towns, villages and rural areas.

Rutland today

Rutland is a small, historically successful rural county which offers most of our 41,000 residents a high quality of life. Our beautiful environment and characterful towns are hallmarks of life here. Overall, deprivation is low and the County's high quality of life is reflected in the healthy life expectancy of our residents, which exceeds national averages. Our 2,000 businesses tend to be small but resilient, and our highly skilled residents are a key asset, with a high proportion employed in senior roles.

Economic success and future prosperity cannot be taken for granted, though. Our economy shrunk by 8.2% from 2010-19 and Covid-19 caused additional stresses for local employers and residents. Retaining Rutland's high quality of life means reversing this trend, balancing prosperity and productivity as long-term economic goals, ensuring that this is an excellent place to live, visit and work.

The County will continue to evolve. The transition to net zero means changing the way we live. Technological developments will continue to influence how we communicate, work and socialise. Like the rest of the UK our population is ageing. In 20 years a third of our population are expected to be over 65 which will impact both on the services the Council and partners provide as well as demands of the private sector. However, skilled

workers will still be required by our businesses. These are just some of the trends which accentuate the need for us to take a new approach to sustainable, inclusive economic growth.

The moment of opportunity

The economic outlook is very different to when we last prepared an economic strategy in 2014: Brexit, Covid-19, Russia's war in Ukraine and the UK's commitment to net zero by 2050 have all impacted on the Nation's, and Rutland's economy. Locally we have new levers to deliver our strategic vision, such as the concurrent development of our Local Plan and a refresh of our Corporate Strategy.

As the UK's smallest County we can be nimble and strategic, supporting the existing business base to thrive, whilst also attracting and growing new businesses, linked to our strong skill base, and creating new clusters linked to some of our existing major businesses and sectors. We also have new funding to invest in local priorities through the Levelling Up Fund, UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Rural England Prosperity Fund.

We will balance the imperative to change and adapt our economy with the desire to retain our distinctive way of life and environment focusing on prosperity and productivity for residents and businesses. This means

taking actions which help us achieve our long-term vision and ambition without losing what makes Rutland special, creating the modern rural economy and an economic blueprint for other rural areas to follow.

Our vision, objectives and priorities

The central vision of our economic strategy is that we will harness the characteristics of the County to build the modern rural economy, with a productive, sustainable, and diverse business base. This is a prosperous County. People are attracted here to work, live and visit, drawn by the great quality of life, higher value jobs and excellent connectivity.

To achieve this vision we have set four objectives which are the basis of our strategy:

- 1. New technologies and market industries.**
- 2. Productive local businesses.**
- 3. Skilled workers in quality local jobs.**
- 4. Thriving places and communities.**

Under each objective we have defined a number of priorities and a set of outcomes that we will pursue as part of delivering our economic vision.

We have chosen a timeline for the strategy which aligns with Local Plan cycles, ensuring delivery is joined-up across the County. Our vision will be delivered through

actions the Council and partners can take now and in the future, which we will set out in a rolling three year action plan. We have defined a set of outcomes and progress metrics which will help us inform actions, chart our trajectory, and measure success.

Delivering on Rutland's economic potential requires all partners – local government, businesses, organisations and people – working together to shape our economy in pursuit of our vision.

Our objectives and priorities

New technologies and market opportunities

Clusters of technology-driven service sectors, green industry & agriculture, creating high value jobs

- Develop existing assets as innovation & enterprise hubs to attract new technologies, entrepreneurs, and investment
- Develop Rutland's offer to new businesses – space, skills, business support, finance
- Take a new approach to inward investment and place marketing that accentuates the benefits of living, working and investing in Rutland
- Embed Rutland in the regional innovation ecosystem, building links to universities

Productive local businesses

Resilient businesses growing across the county, benefiting from regional supply chains and collaboration, offering good quality local work

- Curate spatial corridors & employment clusters where it makes sense, including start up space, small units and grow on space
- Support innovation and growth in our existing SME base, creating the business support offer they need, including around net zero
- Strengthen local business networks, with more business engagement between the County Council and businesses
- Promote a year-round visitor economy

Skilled workers in quality local jobs

A highly skilled workforce to meet current and future employer needs

- Grow lifelong learning, reskilling & apprenticeship opportunities, especially around future tech and green skills
- Strengthen links to local universities, graduates to local businesses
- Raise awareness of job opportunities and apprenticeships in the county
- Reduce barriers to economic activity and improve social mobility
- Deliver high quality, energy efficient, mixed tenure and sized housing

Thriving places and communities

Diverse towns power our local economy with successful high streets, employment centres and rural areas

- Maintain a proactive plan for employment land, housing and natural capital
- Support vibrant town & local centres
- Ensure high quality digital connectivity for all
- Support the shift to a more sustainable transport network
- Protect, restore and enhance our nature, environment and habitats

The outcomes we will pursue

Headline metrics – the key information we will monitor as part of delivering our economic strategy

Increase in total size of the economy

Rising workplace wages

Reduction in Co2 emissions in line with net zero path

Key outcomes to pursue linked to each objective

Increase in concentration of businesses and employment in knowledge-intensive sectors

Improvement in business productivity (GVA per hour worked)

Increase in economically active working age population, with more people working locally

Increase in town centre footfall, business density and community satisfaction with amenities

3.0 RUTLAND TODAY

Rutland is home to 41,400 residents, 1,975 businesses and 16,000 jobs. Our businesses tend to be small but resilient: 90% of them have fewer than 10 employees and they have high survival rates. This level of success does mask some inequity. Business births are falling and overall business growth has been at around a third of the national growth rate. The value of Rutland's economy was £706m in 2020. The value of Rutland's economy fell by 8.8% between 2015 and 2020 compared to a 2.2% fall nationally.

There are opportunities to improve productivity; GVA per hour – the data point used to measure productivity - in 2020 was £30.35 vs £38.29 nationally Average wages for jobs based in Rutland are £1,600 p.a. lower than the national average although the average wage of Rutland residents is higher due to out-communiting. More positively the average wage in Rutland has been rising by almost 20% in the past 5 years.

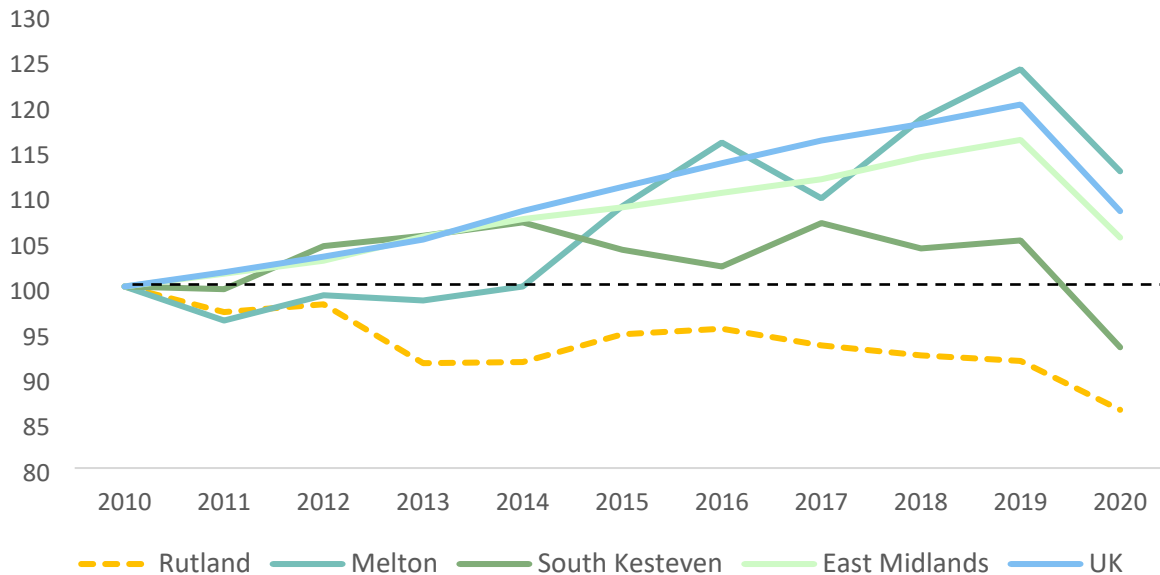
Balancing economic growth and prosperity

Whilst economic growth and productivity are important measures to consider, they do not tell the whole story about the prosperity of the County and the life Rutland provides for residents, especially given the interconnected nature of the economy with surrounding

areas. Healthy life expectancy measures the number of years people live in decent health. Health life expectancy is high in Rutland, exceeding the national average by over ten years of additional good health for men and three years for women. This suggests that living standards are high in Rutland and – for residents – the quality of work, housing, public services are high and levels of deprivation are low.

In 2022 we collected and reviewed a comprehensive set of data to both provide evidence of our economic wellbeing and to drive this new economic strategy. This review has shown us firstly, that there is more to do to support businesses to start and grow in Rutland, to create higher wage jobs and to complement our existing diverse business base. Secondly, we recognise that living standards are high and we have a highly qualified healthy population, who are commuting outside of the County for work and powering the East Midlands economy and beyond. We want to continue to be known for our excellent quality of life and skilled workforce and, in addition, to encourage a thriving local business base to employ our highly skilled population.

Gross Value Added (GVA) growth since 2010 (index, 2010=100)



Rutland's business base

Rutland benefits from a diverse business base which is not overly reliant on one sector. The sector mix is changing, however, and changing technologies will likely lead to more shifts and growth into new sectors. Areas such as mining and wholesale have grown and are some of our largest sectors along with education.

Agriculture



Whilst the sector is not a large proportion of total employment at 300 jobs, agriculture occupies a large amount of the County's land and supports the quality of countryside and biodiversity. Rutland is known for both crop and livestock production.

Education



At 2,250 jobs, this is one of the largest sectors in Rutland (despite there being no Further or Higher Education presence). The County is home to two well-known boarding schools whose alumni bring an opportunity to promote Rutland internationally and over 20 schools in total – most of which are rated as outstanding or good.

Manufacturing



Output from manufacturing has fallen from £150m in 2015 to £72m in 2019, a fall in the share of the economy from 19.4% to 9.6%. This has been accompanied by a decline in jobs from 2,250 in 2015 to 1,500 in 2020, with the share of total employment falling from 15.5% to 10%. Plastics manufacturing is a major local specialism employing 550 people. RPC containers and Rutland Plastics are significant employers.

Quarrying



Quarrying of stone, sand and clay has seen an increase of 280 jobs between 2015-20. This is an important sector where Rutland's assets and industry

are one of the leading areas in the country for quarrying of this nature.

Visitor Economy



The visitor economy support around 1,200 jobs, with the largest share in employment from accommodation, although fairly similar between shopping, food & drink and accommodation. The visitor economy is focussed on Rutland Water with attractions in Uppingham and Oakham.

Wholesale



Employment in the wholesale sector has increased by 56% between 2015-20, up to 700 jobs. This includes the wholesale of clothing and footwear, with 200 jobs in 2020, doubling over the last 5 years. There were 160 jobs related to the wholesale of machinery and equipment, an increase of 110 jobs.

Case study: Rutland Plastics, a legacy business helping to shape the modern economy

Founded in 1956, Rutland Plastics (RP) is an award winning plastic injection moulding company offering a complete range of services based in Oakham.

Expansion has continued on its original site and the factory area now exceeds 6100 square meters.

Originally the company manufactured its own range of plastic products from artificial flowers to accessories for budgerigars before launching its own range of children's toys, called 'Rutland'. Later, RP diversified into injection moulding for other companies producing such things as car nameplates and push-buttons for Ford.

RP remains involved in a wide range of technical moulding work but now also offers everything from concept design to 3D printing. The company currently has a turnover in excess of £15m and employs over 150 staff from the local community. RP has enjoyed a string of accreditations and accolades as it has grown – including the 'Processor of the Year' prize in the December 2021 Plastics Industry Awards.

Case study: Mecc Alte, one of Rutland's leading international manufacturers

In 1947, Mario Carraro launched a repair workshop for electric motors in Italy. Today, Mecc Alte are a global alternator supplier with over 1,200 employees, producing over 1,400 alternators a day across the globe. At their site in Oakham, Mecc Alte employs over 180 people and supports over 20 companies in Rutland via its supply chain.

As an alternator supplier, Mecc Alte have proven expertise and experience in research, design, low-cost manufacturing and development capabilities. They produce a diverse range of specialised alternator products, which include 400Hz, water-cooled, variable speed, totally enclosed, wind power and telecom systems.

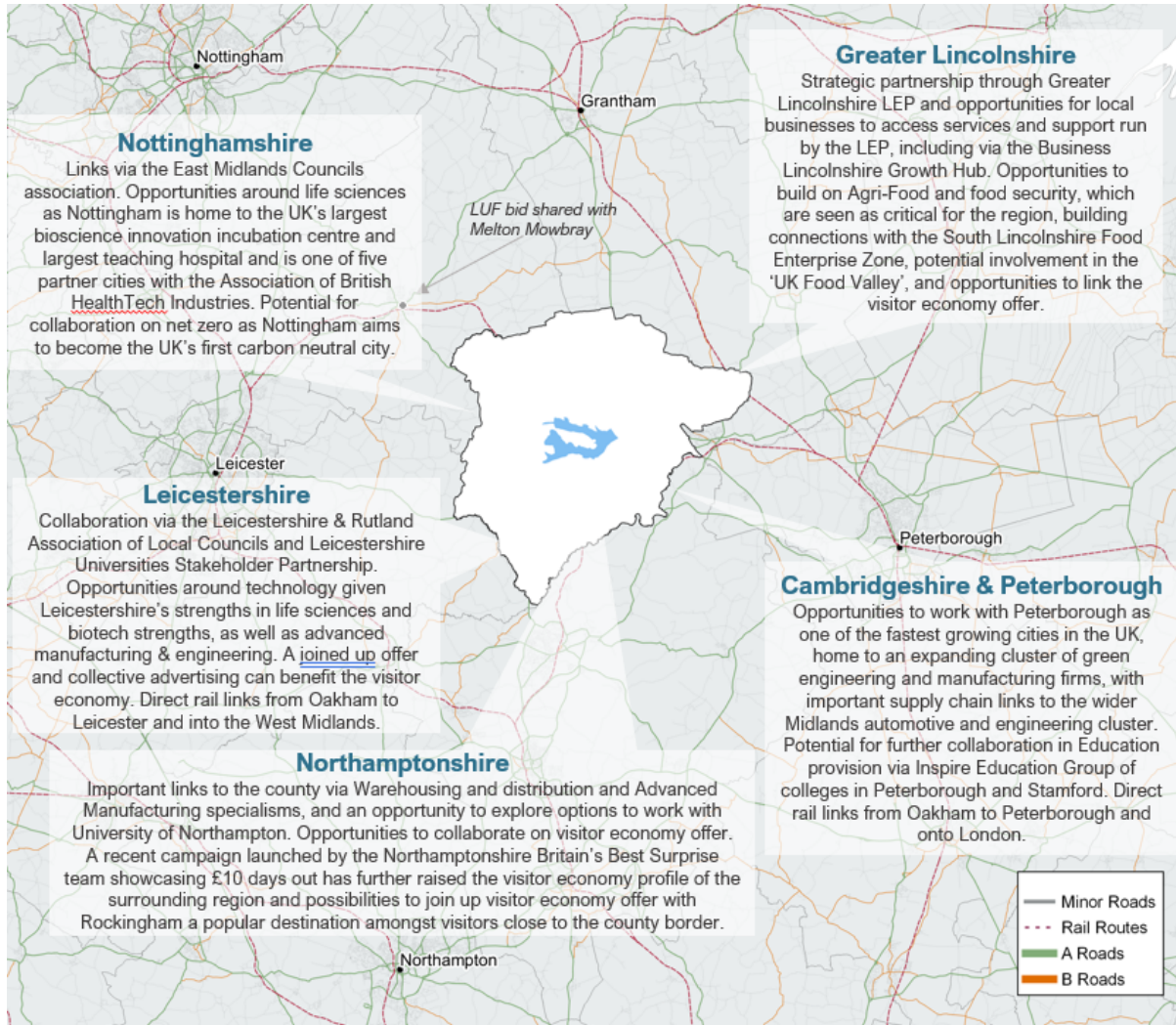
The Company has also won a range of awards for their services in the UK including the Association of Manufacturers of Power Generating Systems (AMPS) member Company of the Year in 2021 and AMPS Skills and Training provider in 2022, recognising the Company's contribution to skills and training across the manufacturing industry.

Collaborating as part of a wider regional economy

As a small county, Rutland can be agile and work with regional partners on shared priorities. Whilst recognising

our strengths as a County, collaboration with our neighbours is crucial if we are to capitalise on our potential as part of a strong wider economic area. Rutland has a large commuting workforce, with residents who work in Peterborough, Leicester, Grantham and further afield, including London. However, in the 2011 census* the County recorded a net inflow of 278 people, largely from South Kesteven and Melton, indicating that the nature of the work available in Rutland does not match the expectations of our resident population. This reinforces the need for Rutland to attract employers offering high calibre jobs.

We have an opportunity to work in partnership where it makes sense. For example, universities such as Leicester, Nottingham Trent, De Montfort, Cranfield and Anglia Ruskin University Peterborough provide opportunities for investment, R&D and links to businesses and graduates. Apprenticeships offer opportunity for local employers and educational institutions to develop the workforce.



A special place

It is often said and written that Rutland is 'a special place' – but what exactly makes it so? Despite being less than eighteen miles in any direction, Rutland is blessed with a wealth of assets and attributes. By strengthening the County's unique and special assets (while resolving any aspects that might be impeding growth), we can develop a sustainable economic strategy that will be bespoke to Rutland.

What makes Rutland unique?

- England's smallest county.
- Low density, as the most rural county in England and Wales.
- Highly educated resident population.

What makes Rutland special?

- Rural, informal and organic character with compact towns and villages nestling in the landscape.
- Strong sense of community and identity, fostered through the County's scale and history.
- Strategically located.
- Roman, Saxon and medieval settlements.
- Ancient semi-natural woodlands.
- Agriculture and local produce.
- A safe and accessible environment for leisure and work.

Case study: Rutland Cycling, a growing company committed to inspiring healthy lifestyles

Rutland Cycling was founded in 1981 by lifelong cycling enthusiasts Dave and Ann Archer as a simple cycle hire cabin on the shores of the newly-created Rutland Water. The Company's first store at Whitwell, Rutland Water, was soon followed by a second store on the south shore at Normanton (now Giant Store Rutland). The Company is now one of the leading independent cycle retailers in the UK, with 14 stores extending across the Midlands from Nottingham to Cambridge to Milton Keynes. Rutland's stores feature dedicated Electric Bike Centres and offer a wide range of products and services to all types of cyclists, from children learning to ride their first bike, through to performance athletes.

As the Company has grown, they have remained committed to inspiring people to get out and ride a bike and delivering an excellent experience for their customers. A string of awards are testament to this. Rutland Cycling have been voted Best Omnichannel Retailer by BikeBiz in 2020, Best Independent Cycling Retailer by BikeBiz in 2013, 2011 and 2010, as well as Total Women's Cycling Award for Best Independent Cycling Retailer in 2014, recognising their support for the women's cycling market. In 2018

they picked up the Family Business Award for Retail Excellence.

4.0 RUTLAND'S FUTURE ECONOMY

We will harness the characteristics of the County to build the modern rural economy, with a productive, sustainable, and diverse business base. This is a prosperous County. People will be attracted to work, live and visit, drawn by the great quality of life, higher value jobs and excellent connectivity.

Our future looks like...

Productive and sustainable economic growth, with a broader sector mix



More working in high skilled jobs, both locally and via commute



Strong local communities, vibrant places and a treasured natural environment

5.0 OUR ECONOMIC OBJECTIVES

We have developed four objectives which will guide our continued work to deliver the goals of our economic strategy. We will work with our communities to actively support and develop our businesses and attract partner commitment to drive forward the 4 objectives to ensure

economic success over the coming decades. To deliver them.

New Technologies and Market Opportunities

Clusters of technology driven service sectors, green industry & agriculture, creating high value jobs

Productive Local Businesses

Resilient businesses growing across the county, benefiting from regional supply chains and collaboration, offering good quality local work

Skilled Workers in Quality Local Jobs

A highly skilled workforce to meet current and future employer needs

Thriving Places and Communities

Diverse towns power local economy with successful high streets, employment centres and rural areas

New technologies and market opportunities

Why this is an objective for our Economic Strategy



Innovative and entrepreneurial workers

5% of jobs classified as innovative in 2020, same as nationally and 14.8% of residents are self employed vs 9.5% nationally.



Professional, scientific and technical activities growing

15% increase in size of this sector in the past 5 years and 200 additional jobs, potential to grow more and become more productive – this is a large, productive and growing sector nationally.

If we want to deliver a step change in the economic growth trajectory of the County we need to attract new businesses, addressing gaps in our traditional sector base and supporting existing businesses to capitalise on technology and investment opportunities. Across the UK, developments in science & technology are creating new market opportunities. We can capitalise on budding sector specialisms in software publishing and manufacturing electric motors.

For the economy to grow the County needs to create the conditions to enable these new businesses to thrive and to have strong connections into surrounding areas. This includes access to finance, business networks, skills, physical & digital connectivity, and start up & scale up support.

We have a small but growing track record of innovation. Whilst there is not currently a university or innovation space within the County where businesses can access advice or kit to test and develop new products and processes, Rutland benefits from links into the wider East Midlands, which is home to a number of higher education institutions. This brings an opportunity to link local businesses and entrepreneurs into this wider innovation ecosystem.

Through this objective we will:

- 1. Develop existing assets and funding opportunities as a focus for innovation & enterprise to attract new technologies, entrepreneurs, and investment.**
- 2. Develop Rutland's offer to new businesses – land, space, infrastructure, skills, business support and finance.**

- 3. Take a new approach to inward investment and place-marketing that accentuates the benefits of living, working and investing in Rutland.**
- 4. Embed Rutland in the regional innovation ecosystem, building links to universities and encouraging sector development.**

Early Council actions will include:

- Investing in a new Medi-Tech cluster, anchored in Oakham, funded through Levelling Up Fund.
- Review the Council's asset base to ensure they are attractive to our businesses, including the Kings Centre, Oakham Enterprise Park, and the Council estate.
- Map the existing start-up support offer and identify how to make this more bespoke to Rutland businesses, using UK Shared Prosperity Funding.
- Build on recent formation of the Universities Partnership for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, and make links to other East Midlands universities to understand how Rutland businesses can make connections to universities.

What does success look like?

- A strong enterprise and innovation offer bringing together clusters of businesses with a start-up and grow-on offer and stronger links to regional sectors, innovation assets and supply chains.
- A clear offer which is attracting businesses thanks to our skills base and ease of doing business.
- New tech-based service sectors and employment in knowledge-intensive sectors linked to high skilled population.

We will measure this through

- Employment in Knowledge Intensive industries.
- Number of new businesses established.
- Sector mix.
- Percentage of businesses reporting innovative practices.

Case study: Heidleberg Materials, a major employer embracing new technologies and markets

As a leading supplier of building materials, Hanson UK offers a wide range of cement products, suitable for all different uses, from general purpose to waterproof, quick dry, pre-mixed and ready mix cement. Hanson operates a number of sites across the UK, including the Ketton cement works.

There has been a cement works at the Ketton site in Rutland for almost 100 years and it is now one of the most efficient plants in Europe and is nationally important, with 60 per cent of production being sent by rail into London and the South East. Ketton cement works is supplied by the Grange Top quarry adjacent to the works, which employs over 250 people both directly and indirectly and many more in the supply chain. The company's operations are also the single biggest contributor to business rates in Rutland.

Grange Top quarry is home to a 13-megawatt solar installation. The 58,000 panels, located on worked-out areas of the quarry, provide 13 per cent of the electricity used by the Ketton plant, helping deliver substantial CO₂ savings. The site is hoping to reduce its CO₂ emissions further still through its involvement in a BEIS-funded carbon capture project, which aims to provide a low-cost solution to decarbonisation. In Spring 2022, Hanson's began a trial using C-Capture's carbon capture technology which uses a solvent to selectively capture the CO₂ produced at the plant.

Case Study: Business collaboration in The King Centre

The centre provides 12,000 square feet for around 30 businesses, mainly technology and research companies, generating a combined total in excess of £14m and employing more than 100 staff. After one year since opening, the centre reached full occupancy. Testimony from some of the most recent businesses to move to the site praise the vibrancy and sense of community among businesses, sharing ideas and supporting each other through their services. Businesses considered the centre to be a useful asset for Rutland,

particularly for small businesses looking grow as there aren't many serviced offices in the area.

Productive local businesses

Why this is an objective for our Economic Strategy



Businesses are resilient

A high degree of resilience among established businesses – 53% of Rutland business survive 5+ years compared to 39% nationally.

Rutland currently has a broad and traditional business base, centred on education, the visitor economy, manufacturing, warehousing, and agriculture. There's an opportunity to support the existing business base to create new jobs and to raise productivity through innovation, encouraging improvement in processes and turning ideas into new products.

Stronger connections – of transport, digital infrastructure, and relationships between businesses – are an opportunity for growth. This includes capitalising on Rutland's location within the wider region, ensuring that Rutland businesses are part of regional supply chains, trade & investment and clusters.

We have existing business parks such as Oakham Enterprise Park and the King Centre and Rutland Water forms the focus of our visitor economy; Uppingham and Oakham are retail and leisure destinations; and various logistics businesses are located along the A1 corridor.

Supporting these business spaces and clusters is important.

In addition, in the past few years Rutland has seen very low industrial and office space vacant. Availability of quality employment land is vital, both to attract new businesses and to allow for expansion of the current business base.

Through this objective we will:

- 1. Curate spatial corridors & employment clusters where it makes sense, including start up space, small units and grow on space.**
- 2. Support innovation and growth in our existing SME base, creating the business support offer they need, including around net zero.**
- 3. Strengthen local business networks, with more business engagement between the County Council and businesses.**
- 4. Promote a year-round visitor economy.**
- 5. Provide opportunities for businesses to relocate to Rutland.**

Early Council actions will include:

- Finalise and implement the new Local Plan, with identified employment.

- Develop plans for employment land, exploring the potential of areas such as St Georges Barracks, along the A1 corridor, and in town centres.
- Review the Council's Rural Diversification policy and approach to ensure that the County has a supportive policy and provides advice and guidance to those considering diversification.
- Ensure a business support offer that responds to local businesses from startups to scale ups; innovation support and rural diversification.
- Collaborate with the Federation of Small Businesses and Chamber of Commerce to ensure that the County promotes local business networks and spaces for businesses to interact, including regular physical meetings.
- Launch an annual Business Summit to bring together businesses, the Council, and partners.
- Implement the Levelling Up fund proposals around a digital visitor experience to showcase the largest Ichthyosaur fossil in Europe and the remains of a 4th Century Roman Villa, providing a high quality asset to add to the visitor economy offer.
- Deliver the Rural Prosperity Fund proposals to enhance our UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) business support project by targeting support for start-up businesses and young entrepreneurs;

sector specific support to enhance tourism sectors and support for agricultural diversification.

- Work with Discover Rutland to identify the peaks and gaps in the annual visitor offer, for example the winter offer for visitors when Rutland Water is closed.
- Work with Discover Rutland and regional destination management organisations to identify where Rutland does, or can, play a strong role in attracting visitors and build weekend and week-long routes around the East Midlands – for example food, walking & cycling, historic or retail-led visits.

What does success look like?

- A higher proportion of high wage jobs, with average wages exceeding the national average.
- Known as a net zero county, where green innovation drives sector development.
- Manufacturing & distribution clustered around A roads, linking to East Midlands Ports & logistics golden triangle.
- Small sustainable farms which contribute to UK food security and are part of regional and national supply chains.
- A local food destination, through restaurants, street stalls & markets, farm shops and online retail.

- Stronger business collaboration and networks leading to local supply chains and new ideas translated into new products and services.

We will measure this through

- Employment and wage rates across sectors.
- Productivity through GVA per hour worked.
- Rising workplace and resident earnings, including in lower wage occupations.
- Average commercial occupancy rates across unit types.
- m2 New / improved commercial space.

Case study: Hambleton Bakery, a treasured local business with a regional reputation

Hambleton bakery was formed as a partnership between Julian Carter and Tim Hart to make top quality bread for existing restaurants and Hambleton Hall, Harts Restaurant and Harts Hotel. Initially the aim for the bakery was to rediscover the taste of good bread, from unadulterated flour, salt and water using the slow, traditional processes. The product range has gradually expanded to include cakes and savouries supplied by a significant number of producers from the East Midlands region.

Hambleton Bakery currently employs around 150 people and has grown to supply six Hambleton Bakery shops, Hambleton Hall, Harts Nottingham, many farm and village shops and delis across the surrounding counties as well as restaurants, gastro pubs and artisan cafes. The network of wholesale customers continues to grow to more than 150 wholesale accounts. There are plans to expand to 8 shops, strengthening their position as a leading bakery in the East Midlands.

Skilled workers in quality local jobs

Why this is an objective for our Economic Strategy



Strong education outcomes

High KS2 and KS4 attainment. Most students progress into Higher Education and only 1.9% of 16-17 year olds are not in employment, education or training (NEET) vs 5.5% nationally.



43.5% qualified to university level (2021)

Those qualified to NVQ level 4+ is at the England rate and the % with no qualifications is 1.1%, far lower than 6.4% in England.

Our population is growing and ageing. Residents are highly skilled and often in senior occupations, including those who commute beyond the County for higher wages. The County has a strong education offer but without a university or Further Education college many young people commute or relocate for post-16 and higher education.

Rutland's businesses will continue to need access to workers that have the skills they need. Employment is at the national rate but has fallen over the last 5 years and economic inactivity has risen, largely down to early

retirement. A priority will be to ensure that there are enough working age people in the County to support local business demand. A wide housing offer will support a diverse and changing demographic, including first time buyers.

Net zero innovation and technology automation is likely to change the workplace, replacing and enhancing roles in a variety of sectors and professions, from how we harvest crops to the role of accountants and lawyers. The move to net zero and emerging technologies such as AI will impact on our businesses and future businesses which might locate to Rutland. We will develop links with the University sector in the East Midlands to enable residents to develop new skills.

Through this objective we will:

- 1. Grow lifelong learning, reskilling & apprenticeship opportunities, especially around future technology, digital and green skills.**
- 2. Strengthen links to local universities, linking graduates to local businesses.**
- 3. Raise awareness of job opportunities and apprenticeships in the County.**
- 4. Deliver high quality, energy efficient, mixed tenure and sized housing.**

Early Council actions will include:

- Promote Rutland's sectors and businesses are to local schools enabling young people to progress their careers locally.
- Use the Business Summit to understand local training and Apprenticeship demand and to understand local businesses requirements.
- Build a Skills Improvement Plan to support business requirements, working with the Federation of Small Businesses (who lead the region's Local Skills Improvement Plan).

What does success look like?

- A range of good quality job opportunities, particularly for those with higher academic qualifications who currently commute out of Rutland to work.
- Excellent careers advice to enable young people to understand the job opportunities available in Rutland.
- Opportunities for adults to upskill and retrain to meet the needs of a changing job market.

We will measure this through

- Percentage of local businesses reporting skills gaps.
- Economic inactivity rate.

- County's position on Social Mobility Index.
- Housing targets met / types of housing completions.

Thriving Places and Communities

Why this is an objective for our Economic Strategy



Availability of commercial space

A lack of land for office and industrial use could constrain business growth, with vacancy rates below 1% since 2019.



Lower housing affordability

House prices are almost 11x higher than annual earnings of those living and working in Rutland whilst housing supply has fallen in recent years.

The vibrancy of our town centres and high streets is an important part of the County's character and will support the retail and visitor economy offer. A recent resident survey highlighted our strong community spirit and distinctive market towns; our natural and cultural assets underpin the high quality of life our residents typically enjoy and draw in visitors. We can boast a high number of community assets - Rutland ranks 18th out of 311 authorities on the Community Asset Index.

We are attracting in residents to live in the County, particularly those aged 35+. In 2019/20, there was a net inflow of 308 people. Migration flows vary by age, with young people typically leaving the County for study and work opportunities elsewhere, whilst older people return

to the County at later stage of life . As people look to relocate to Rutland, it will be important that there are a broad range of skilled jobs available within the County's borders and that we have the infrastructure to support increased employment.

Within the County there are towns, villages, business parks and rural areas. We have an opportunity to work with local residents and businesses to build on places' distinctive characteristics as places to visit, work and learn. Place shaping through the Local Plan and Economic Strategy working in tandem will enable us to put the right homes and businesses in the right places.

Our rurality raises dependency on cars and makes providing high quality digital connections to households both more difficult and more important; in particular to support individuals and businesses to be able to work from home in all parts of the County.

Through this objective we will:

- 1. Maintain a proactive plan for employment land, housing and natural capital.**
- 2. Support vibrant town & local centres.**
- 3. Ensure high quality digital connectivity for all.**
- 4. Protect, restore and enhance our nature, environment and habitats.**

Early Council actions will include:

- Deliver a new local plan.
- Lobby government and BDUK to accelerate proposed roll out of ultrafast broadband and transform digital connectivity for rural homes and businesses.
- Implement the Levelling Up fund proposal around a new transport hub in Oakham.
- Work with Midlands Engine to understand employment and growth patterns and link these up with Midlands Connect to ensure that Rutland's transport priorities are understood and championed.
- Use new Census data to understand more about resident travel to work patterns, to understand how to support a move to greener methods of transport.

What does success look like?

- A County which attracts people to live, visit and work, and that is widely known as a destination for independent retail, gardens, food, wildlife, cycling and walking.
- Expressing clarity on spatial development, where all places grow in the way that works for them, balancing prosperity and productivity, and supporting long-term ambitions, strong local identities and places, where local priorities lead to

investment and change, and which together create a Rutland brand – all delivered through a renewed Council – business – resident partnership approach.

We will measure this through

- Resident wellbeing and satisfaction with local amenities.
- Progress against environmental targets e.g. for air quality and biodiversity.
- Number of visitors to new attractions / upgrades leading to increased spend.

Case study: refurbishing commercial space in the Oakham Enterprise Park

HM Prison Ashwell, on the outskirts of the Oakham, was badly damaged by fire in 2009 before closing in 2011. The mothballing of the prison created an eyesore on Rutland's rural landscape and had a significant impact on the local economy.

Rutland County Council decided to buy HM Prison Ashwell as a solution with the vision of transforming the 25 acre site into office, industrial and leisure premises for local start-ups and growing businesses. Rather than demolishing the site, the Council wanted to maximise the potential of existing businesses and where possible reuse existing structures and repurpose the facilities as office accommodation.

Refurbishing the facilities created 70 office spaces across the site. Working in partnership with Peterborough Regional College, the Council also created an adult learning and skills centre, using the 16,000 square foot former administration building. Elsewhere on site, other buildings have been leased to tenants in the leisure industry. Some modern cell blocks to the rear of the site that were undamaged were retained. These form the Events Zone, which are leased to an events company.

In total, the enterprise park provides around 106,000 sq. ft. of floorspace to over 100 tenants (as at January 2024).



6.0 DELIVERING THE STRATEGY

In 2023 Government announced a greater integration of Local Enterprise Partnerships' (LEP) funding and function into local government. This will change, and increase, Rutland's role as well as seeing our existing relationship with our Greater Lincolnshire LEP partners change.

This strategy creates a long-term focus and framework to target our activity. Rutland County Council is the strategic owner of the strategy however, we cannot deliver this alone. In this document we set out some of the Council's early actions, but overall the strategy will require more from the County, our businesses, the education sector, external public sector partners and residents.

Rutland will strengthen collaboration with regional partners to deliver this strategy. As a Council we are members of regional bodies such as Midlands Engine, East Midlands Councils, Midlands Connect, and Transport for East Midlands and we will continue to raise awareness of Rutland's priorities, barriers to growth, and investment opportunities.

A new relationship with business

Businesses will have an increased role and say in the strategy, building a new relationship with the Council and its economic development function.

This conversation must continue. We invite our business community to work with us, starting with a Business Summit in 2024. We will invite a broad range of Rutland businesses to an event to co-create the activity we need now across the 4 priorities to support businesses to prosper in our County. We plan to make this an annual event, reviewing progress for the economic strategy and identifying opportunities to make connections, support business investment and jobs.

Alongside this we will look to convene regular meetings to bring together businesses, investors, developers, and Council officers to understand how we can best work together on the priorities in the Economic Strategy.

Monitoring and evaluating our progress

As part of delivering our economic strategy we will develop a three-year rolling action plan of activities for Rutland County Council and partners to take, linked to the objectives, priorities and outcomes of our Economic Strategy. Monitoring and evaluating the impact of the actions we take will help us to plan for, and deliver, actions in pursuit of our objectives. This starts with the actions we've set out in this strategy. We have defined a

set of top-line metrics to monitor at a whole-of-strategy level, which are: increasing total size of our economy, rising workplace wages, and a reduction in CO2 emissions in line with net zero path. We have also set outcomes to pursue which are specific to each of our four strategic objectives. These are listed in the table on the next page.

We also want to hear from you. This Strategy is the County Council's commitment to sustainable, inclusive economic growth. We are proud of Rutland, of its many businesses, places and people. We are Multum in Parvo (Much in Little), a small rural county with a rich heritage. This strategy sets our ambition for the future and we hope you will work with us on the journey to build our modern rural economy.

Headline metrics					
Headline metric	Increase in total size of the economy		Rising workplace wages		Reduction in Co2 emissions in line with net zero path
Dataset	Gross Value Added (ONS, annual)		Annual Survey for Hours and Earnings (ONS, annual)		Greenhouse gas emissions, (DESNZ, annual)
Objective-specific outcomes					
	New technologies and market opportunities	Productive local businesses	Skilled workers in quality local jobs	Thriving places and communities	
Objective key outcome	Increase in concentration of businesses and employment in knowledge-intensive sectors	Improvement in business productivity (GVA per hour worked)	Increase in economically active working age population, with more people working locally	Increase in town centre footfall, business density and community satisfaction with amenities	
Sub-measures linked to priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of new businesses established Employment in Knowledge Intensive industries Number of patents files Percentage of businesses reporting innovative practices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employment rates (across sectors) Rising workplace earnings across sectors, including in lower wage occupations Average commercial occupancy rates across unit types m2 New / improved commercial space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of local businesses reporting skills gaps Economic inactivity rate County's position on Social Mobility Index Housing targets met / types of housing completions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident wellbeing and satisfaction with local amenities Healthy life expectancy Progress against environmental targets e.g. for air quality and biodiversity Number of visitors to new attractions / upgrades leading to increased spend 	



Rutland
County Council

A large print version of this document is available on request

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Rutland
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CABINET

12 March 2024

EDITH WESTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Property and Economic Development

Strategic Aim	A Diverse and Sustainable Economy	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	Cllr P Browne, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Property and Economic Development	
Contact Officer(s):	Penny Sharp, Strategic Director of Places	Telep: 01572 758160 Email psharp@rutland.gov.uk
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Ward Councillors	Councillor Gale Waller, Councillor Tim Smith	

1 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1 Summary

1.1.1 The draft Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted to the County Council for statutory consultation and subsequent independent examination.

1.2 Recommendations

1. Approves the draft Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan is published for public consultation for a minimum of 6 weeks.
2. Approves that following public consultation, the draft plan and representations received are submitted for independent examination.
3. Authorises the Strategic Director of Places to appoint an independent examiner in consultation with the Edith Weston Parish Council.
4. Authorises the Strategic Director of Places in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Property and Economic Development, following receipt of the examiner’s report, to publish the County Council’s decision notice, update the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan and undertake a referendum.
5. Authorises, subject to the outcome of the referendum, the Strategic Director of

Places in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Property and Economic Development to make the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan part of the Development Plan for Rutland

1.3 Reasons for Recommendations

- 1.3.1 To enable the submitted Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan to be the subject of public consultation, subsequent independent examination and referendum as required by legislation and regulations.

2 REPORT

2.1 Introduction and background

- 2.2 This report seeks Cabinet's authorisation to carry out consultation on the proposed Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan, followed by submission of that plan to an independent examiner. Subject to the acceptance of the recommendations of the examiner, authorisation is also sought to hold a local referendum. Subject to the outcome of that referendum, the report requests that Cabinet delegate the making of the Neighbourhood Plan to the Strategic Director of Places.

- 2.3 The draft Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan has been submitted to the County Council for statutory consultation and subsequent independent examination.

- 2.4 Rutland County Council is required to consider whether the plan complies with the relevant statutory requirements. Provided that it meets these requirements, the County Council is required to publicise the Draft Plan, invite representations, notify consultation bodies and submit it for independent examination.

- 2.5 The Draft Neighbourhood Plan that has been submitted to the County Council is attached as Appendix A, this is accompanied by a Basic Conditions Statement, the Consultation Statement, and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening report. These are attached as Appendices B, C and D respectively.

- 2.6 The submitted documents have been assessed in accordance with statutory requirements and it is considered that:

- a) the Parish Council is the authorised body to prepare the neighbourhood plan;
- b) the necessary documents have been submitted, including a map of the area, the proposed neighbourhood plan, statements of the consultation undertaken and how the plan meets the basic conditions, and a sustainability appraisal screening report; and
- c) the Parish Council has undertaken the correct procedures in relation to pre-submission consultation and publicity.

2.7 Options Considered

- 2.7.1 The Council may refuse to take forward the neighbourhood plan for independent examination if it considers that it does not comply with any of the criteria for a neighbourhood plan set out in legislation and regulations. The County Council would be required to notify the Parish Council and publicise its decision.

2.8 Consultation

- 2.8.1 If the Neighbourhood Plan meets the statutory requirements, the County Council is required to publicise it, invite representations, notify consultation bodies and submit it for independent examination. It is intended that the consultation will take place over a 6-week period following the decision of Cabinet.

3 IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION

3.1 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This section has been approved by Andrew Merry, Head of Finance

- 3.1.1 The main financial issues arising for this Report are as follows. There will be costs to the Council arising from publicising the neighbourhood plan, appointing an independent examiner, holding a public hearing (if required) and organising a local referendum. These costs are unlikely to exceed £10,000 but may vary dependant on the amount of work involved. The Council receives a neighbourhood planning grant from the Department for Levelling-Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) which will cover the costs involved in this process.

3.2 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

This section has been approved by Sarah Khawaja, Head of Legal & Democratic Services

- 3.2.1 The legal implications are that the Neighbourhood Plan, when 'made' by the County Council, will become part of the statutory development plan. Applications for planning permission are required to comply with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- 3.2.2 The process for progressing a Neighbourhood Plan through the relevant stages are set out in Neighbourhood Plan Regulations (2012) Regulations 15 - 20 inclusive. Some of these stages include statutory time limits within which decisions and stages must be completed.
- 3.2.3 The delegation of these stages to the Strategic Director of Places will enable these statutory time limits to be met.

3.3 Risk Management Implications

- 3.3.1 The main risk to this report relates to the possibility of judicial review of any decisions made by the County Council. This is considered to be low.

3.4 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS

- 3.4.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) has not been completed because there are no identified risks or issues to the rights and freedoms of individuals.

3.5 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.5.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has not been completed for the following reasons:

- 3.5.1.1 Government guidance on the application of EqIA indicates that RCC is not required

to undertake such an assessment of the neighbourhood plan;

- 3.5.1.2 An EqlA is not required to satisfy the 'basic conditions' that need to be met in drawing up the submission draft plan.

3.6 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

- 3.6.1 The Council has a duty in accordance with S17 Crime and Disorder Act 1988, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to the likely effect of that exercise of those functions on and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social behaviour).

- 3.6.2 This duty has been considered and there are no direct community safety implications arising from this report, at this stage of decision making for the neighbourhood plan.

3.7 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

- 3.7.1 There are no direct health and wellbeing implications arising from this report, at this stage of decision making for the neighbourhood plan.

3.8 ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 3.8.1 On 11 January 2021 Rutland County Council acknowledged that it was in a climate emergency. The Council understands that it needs to take urgent action to address it.

- 3.8.2 The Neighbourhood Plan sets out specific policies with respect to the environment which will be subject to consultation.

3.9 PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 3.9.1 The County Council is responsible for procuring the services of an independent examiner and will follow financial regulations in doing so.

3.10 HR IMPLICATIOINS

- 3.10.1 The County Council has a duty to support Neighbourhood Plans through the provision of advice and guidance as well as in appointing the independent examiner and in undertaking any subsequent referendum. This work is undertaken by existing staff with funding from the Government Neighbourhood Plan grant.

4 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 4.1 Neighbourhood Plan Regulations:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/637/contents/made>

- 4.2 Neighbourhood Plan guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/neighbourhood-planning--2>

5 APPENDICES

- 5.1 Appendix A: Submission version of Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan

- 5.2 Appendix B: Basic Conditions Statement

- 5.3 Appendix C: Consultation Statement
- 5.4 Appendix D: Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening report
- 5.5 Appendix E - Map of Neighbourhood Plan Area

An Accessible Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577.

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**Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan
2023-2041
Submission Version
(V4.0)
December 2023**

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Introduction

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

This Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Edith Weston Parish Council to guide the future development of the Neighbourhood Area. The Plan seeks to positively address climate change, protect the natural landscape, encourage heritage-led regeneration and support communities of the Neighbourhood Area now and in the future.

Once made, this new Plan will replace the existing 'made' Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan.

The Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan guides future development, focused on the themes of sustainable growth, residential development, natural landscape, green space, heritage, design, transport and other matters.

The Neighbourhood Plan encompasses the historic village of Edith Weston and its rural surrounds including part of Rutland Water within the neighbourhood area. The Neighbourhood Plan responds to the challenges the communities face, adapting to changing needs in a rural settlement.

The Neighbourhood Plan is based on analysis of data and of evidence; previous plans; and the views of the community. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group formed in July 2019 and the early community engagement began August 2019. Building upon the early community engagement, the themes for the Neighbourhood Plan emerged, providing insight into local issues of importance to the community. Further engagement included a householder questionnaire in November 2022 and focused consultation on proposed Local Green Space in September 2021.

The neighbourhood plan has also been supported by a range of technical reports including design codes and Housing Needs Assessment that together with the community engagement have informed the structure of the plan and its policies. Throughout the engagement and preparation of the plan Edith Weston Parish Council together with the Steering Group have kept people informed and engaged via <https://www.edithweston.org/>

A summary of the key findings from community engagement are reflected on the following page.

STRENGTHS

- ◆ Village rural setting and the surrounding landscape
- ◆ Access to the countryside
- ◆ Tranquillity
- ◆ Primary School
- ◆ Village Shop
- ◆ Public House

WEAKNESSES

- ◆ Lack of good public transport
- ◆ Poor non-vehicular routes to surrounding areas
- ◆ Inconsiderate parking
- ◆ Prevention of speeding within the village limits
- ◆ Lack of modern community facilities

OPPORTUNITIES

- ◆ Safeguard rural character and local green spaces
- ◆ Preserve and enhance the heritage and historic buildings
- ◆ Increase and improve sports/recreation facilities
- ◆ New community centre
- ◆ Identify suitable measures to manage/calm traffic through the village
- ◆ Create a mix of housing types, including affordable housing
- ◆ Improve cycling and walking routes to surrounding areas
- ◆ Improve public transport links

THREATS

- ◆ The main perceived threat is the potential development of St Georges Barricks main site:
 - Increase in volume of traffic
 - Impact on the landscape
 - Impact on our rural setting and way of life
 - Inappropriate building design
 - Lack of parking space and inconsiderate parking
- ◆ Future support to Tommy's Close, the village Memorial Hall and church all of which are ran on a charitable basis
- ◆ Uncontrolled expansion of the village beyond its present envelope
- ◆ Speeding vehicles within the village

1.2 Status of the Neighbourhood Plan

The Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan contains policies against which planning applications will be considered. The Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the statutory development plan, with the adopted Core Strategy Development Plan Document (July 2011) and the Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document (October 2014). Section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires planning applications must be determined in accordance with the policies of the statutory development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. So, the Neighbourhood Plan carries real weight in decision making.

The Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan will be in force from the date it is made until the end 31st December 2041 or until an updated plan is made before that date. The Plan will be reviewed regularly to assess whether an update is necessary.

The policies of the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan are based on analysis of evidence and community and stakeholder engagement.

The Neighbourhood Plan does not deal with excluded matters including waste, mineral extraction or nationally significant infrastructure.

1.3 Monitoring and Review

The Plan will be monitored by Edith Weston Parish Council throughout the Plan period to 2041. Monitoring will include:

- planning decisions to see how the plan is being used in practice;
- any changes in national policy, guidance or legislation.
- any changes in or local plan policy or guidance; and
- any other changes in the Neighbourhood Area (social, economic and environmental).

The plan will be reviewed and updated if and when necessary, a regular report will be prepared on the monitoring.

Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan

Figure 1: Plan of the Neighbourhood Area



Strategy for Sustainable Development

2. Strategy for Sustainable Development

2.1 Background to Edith Weston

2.1.1 Location

The village of Edith Weston lies on the south shore of Rutland Water approximately 6.5 miles to the southeast of Oakham and approximately 7.5 miles to the southwest of Stamford.

Oakham and Stamford railway stations are located on Birmingham–Peterborough line, providing links to Peterborough, Melton Mowbray, Leicester and Birmingham New Street, amongst other locations.

There has been a military presence in the parish since the 1940s. The St. George's Barracks MOD site, which is currently Army Medical Services and home to 1st Military Working Dog Regiment.

2.1.2 Characteristics of the Area





Edith Weston described as 'the village in the landscape' it is a small and compact rural village, nestled in the open countryside close to the southern shore of Rutland Water.

The village core is separated by strategic green spaces from the planned estates on Manton Road and Pennie Drive. These were purpose built residential developments for serving military personal and their families who form part of the wider village community.

The military presence has been within the parish since 1940 with a number of non-designated heritage assets within the former MOD site and training airfield.

Edith Weston has a Conservation Area, designated on the 22nd December 1975 and contains a number of listed buildings including the grade I Church of St Mary. Many of the properties are roofed in local materials of either thatch such as the grade II 'The Spinney' or in the local slate known as Collyweston Slate. These local building materials and roofscapes contribute to the distinct character of the area.

2.1.3 Population (2021 Census)

<p>1,100 Population</p>		<p>Under 20 20%</p> <p>Over 65 15%</p>
<p>380 Number of Households</p>		<p>Owned 52%</p> <p>Social or private rental 48%</p>
<p>69.7% Person economically active</p>		<p>Unemployed 1.8%</p>
<p>Vehicle Ownership per Household</p>		<p>3% No car or van</p> <p>33% One car or van</p> <p>64% More than one car or van</p>

2.1.4 Key Issues

The following list is a summary taken from early-stage community engagement. This includes some of the key themes addressed in the plan.

- ◆ Preserve the character of the village
- ◆ Protection of local green spaces
- ◆ Planned development must meet the identified local needs
- ◆ The proposed development of the Officers' Mess and Saint George's Barracks site will change the peaceful rurality of the village and surrounding area.
- ◆ Vehicles speeding through the village

2.2 Overall Planning Strategy

The Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan seeks to achieve sustainable development and growth. This is achieved through the ranges of policies in the Plan.

The Plan does not undertake housing site allocations, leaving this to the adopted Core Strategy. However, it does cater for the small-scale level of growth identified through policies EW-SG01 Development within the Settlement and EW-SG02 Infill. These identify the sustainable locations for new development in the Parish.

The natural environment is also a key priority of the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan. Key landscape characteristics, features and habitats are identified in policy EW-GE01 Natural and Green Environments, recognising the sensitivity and importance of the rural landscape character, which includes designations such as RAMSAR and SSSI's.

Local Green Space designations are also included. Some of which contribute to biodiversity or support local wildlife and contribute to the wider green infrastructure of the area. The Local Green Spaces designated are demonstrably special to the community they serve for recreation, leisure, and the value to the natural environment. These are listed in policy EW-GE02 Local Green Space.

Sustainable and innovative design including high energy performance and low carbon development is supported through policy EW-DH01 Sustainable Design. The historic environment including Edith Weston's designated and non-designated heritage assets are protected, with policies encouraging sensitive reuse. Policies EW-DH02 Planned Estates and EW-DH03 Edith Weston Conservation Area seek to protect and enhance the townscape and character of the conservation area and the planned estates.

The plan promotes a balanced and sustainable range of transport in policy EW-TM01 Transport and Movement supporting the existing path network.

The policies are intended to augment those in the adopted Local Plan, setting requirements more specific to Edith Weston.

2.3 Aims

- To protect the rural, natural, historic and built environment of Edith Weston, whilst minimising carbon use and increasing biodiversity.
- To promote local economic opportunity and more sustainable live-work patterns.
- To provide high quality housing to meet local need, supported by local community facilities.

- To promote active travel, healthy lifestyles and more sustainable forms of transport.

The aims will be achieved through the following planning policies.

2.4 Format of Policies

The policies are grouped under themed chapters. These are:

Chapter 3	Sustainable Growth
Chapter 4	Green Environment
Chapter 5	Design and Heritage
Chapter 6	Transport and Movement

The structure of the policies is as follows:

Purpose - what the group of policies in the chapter seeks to achieve

Planning Rationale: a concise summary of the thinking behind the policies in the chapter

Then for each individual policy:

The policy (requirements for development proposals to meet)

Interpretation (notes on how the policy should be applied in decision making)

Sustainable Growth

3. Sustainable Growth

3.1 Purpose

To support growth in sustainable locations, to meet the needs of the local community.

3.2 Planning Rationale

National Planning Policy Framework, December 2023

Chapter 5 of the National Planning Policy Framework December 2023 (NPPF) deals with 'Supply of homes, mix and affordability'. This includes addressing the needs of groups with specific housing requirements.

It also makes clear that neighbourhood plans should consider where small and medium sites for housing could go. The Neighbourhood Plan positively addresses this through making clear where suitable locations for housing would be across the Neighbourhood Area. Site allocations will be dealt with through the Local Plan owing to the constraints of the Neighbourhood Area including a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), RAMSAR site and a Special Protection Area (SPA).

Chapter 6 of the NPPF makes clear that significant weight should be given to supporting economic growth and activity. This includes taking into account local business needs and wider opportunities for development.

To support a prosperous rural economy the NPPF states that planning policies should enable sustainable growth and expansion of business in rural areas through conversion of existing buildings and well-designed new developments. It also sets out the type of uses that are focused around community services and facilities such as local shops, meeting places and public houses. All which Edith Weston Parish currently supports as a rural community.

Chapter 8 of the NPPF deals with 'Promoting healthy and safe communities' and states that planning policies should make provision for shared spaces and community facilities and guard against loss of valued facilities and services. It also supports improvement of existing community services and facilities. There are identified opportunities for this in the Neighbourhood Area, for example the Memorial Hall is a small venue, the community needs a larger community centre, suitable for the wider community to use.

Adopted Local Plan

The adopted local plan comprises the Core Strategy Development Plan Document, adopted July 2011 and the Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document adopted October 2014.

The Core Strategy, 2011 contains policies on residential development, housing mix, affordable housing and other related matters. The Site allocations and Policies Development Plan Document, 2014 contains site allocations and more detailed policies.

However, the Core Strategy does identify Edith Weston as 'Local Service Centre' in Policy CS3 The Settlement Hierarchy. Policy CS4 The Location of Development then seeks to inform development by setting out sustainable locations in accordance with the settlement hierarchy. It states that Local Service Centres such as Edith Weston can accommodate a level of growth mainly through small scale sites, infill and conversion or reuse of vacant buildings. There are also policies that deal with housing in the countryside, rural exception sites (SP10), density, type and affordable housing provision (policies CS10, CS11 and SP9).

Therefore, the Neighbourhood Plan responds positively, informing the growth strategy by identifying sustainable locations as set out in policies EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement and EW-SG02: Infill for future residential development in the Neighbourhood Area, focused on the main settlement within the 4 Planned Limits of Development boundaries in Edith Weston, infill and redevelopment of brownfield land at St George's Barracks Officers' Mess. The aim is to ensure homes are built to provide a range of dwellings which are desirable, affordable, and future proof. This includes provision of homes that include superior environmental performance and contribute to delivering carbon zero buildings.

The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to modify Local Plan requirements for mix and affordable housing, but to shape how housing development, including affordable provision is provided.

Rutland County Council are in the process of updating their Local Plan. In this new draft the spatial strategy for housing and economic growth for the next 15 years will be set.

Edith Weston Housing Needs Assessment, AECOM, July 2022

The independent Housing Needs Assessment (HNA) calculated an objectively assessed housing need figure. The HNA concluded an overall housing need figure of 21 new dwellings in the Plan period to 2041. This reflects the rural status of the settlement with limited services. Rutland County Council have also provided an indicative housing figure of 51 for the Plan period. They make clear that:

“It will be for Neighbourhood Plans to consider an appropriate buffer on top of the indicative housing supply figure to ensure choice and competition in the market for land and allow for contingency and any other factors. Again, there should be compelling evidence to justify the scale of any proposed buffer or the non-inclusion of a buffer.”

(Appendix 1 Advice Note to Neighbourhood Plans, Rutland County Council 2nd February 2023)

The more recent HNA from AECOM provides that robust evidence base required which clearly indicates there is no additional buffer required to meet the housing need of the Neighbourhood Area as the indicative figure from RCC far exceeds their projection of need.

Rutland County Council’s latest housing monitoring figures to March 2022 shows 6 homes have been completed and an additional commitment. This delivers 7 new homes towards the indicative figure, which would indicate the housing need is adjusted to 44 over the Plan period to 2041. This is reflective of the small-scale rural settlement.

It also identified the type and mix of homes that is required over the plan period. This identified that:

“The results of the life-stage modelling suggest there should be a particular focus on providing more four-bedroom dwellings. However, affordability is a serious and worsening challenge in the NA. While the provision of Affordable Housing (subsidised tenure products) is one way to combat this, another is to ensure that homes come forward which are of an appropriate size, type and density for local residents’ budgets. Continuing to provide smaller homes with fewer bedrooms would help to address this situation.”

It also noted that:

“Given the wider affordability issues present in Edith Weston we recommend a 70% rent to 30% ownership affordable tenure split, prioritising those in the most acute need. We recognise it would be advantageous to propose a higher proportion of affordable rent (i.e. 80% in line with adopted Local Policy), however flexibility is needed to accommodate the 25% First Homes requirement as well as other, potentially more affordable, intermediate tenures such as Shared Ownership.”

These conclusions have informed the residential development policies of the Neighbourhood Plan, to support the delivery of these elements, augmenting the policies in the adopted Local Plan.

Housing Capacity Report, July 2023

The Housing Capacity report makes clear that there is limited capacity within the four existing Planned Limits of Development in the Neighbourhood Area to accommodate the project growth. However, development within the existing settlements, together with development of St George's Barracks Officers' Mess, would accommodate between 66 and 70 units within the Plan period. This comfortably exceeds the upper figure for growth of 51 dwellings.

The Officers' Mess site is the most sustainable option, being a brownfield site, immediately adjacent to Edith Weston Village, in walkable distance of community facilities. Indeed, redevelopment of this site would increase the population catchment of the village, enhancing the viability of the centre and its facilities.

This means that it would be unnecessary to make additional site allocations outside of the existing settlements' planned limits of development. Growth within the Plan period can be accommodated by development within the settlements and redevelopment of the Officers' Mess site.

Community Facilities

Edith Weston has a number of community facilities and services including a Memorial Village Hall, Public House, School, Village Shop and a church. These facilities and services are considered fundamental to maintaining a good quality of life within the village. There is also Tommy's Close an important green space that was left to the village in trust which provides a play area for children and an open recreational and walking area for villagers to use.

Areas for improvement could be a more modern community centre and an area for recreational/sports for adults. There is room for expansion of facilities and use of Tommy's Close.

Public House – The Wheatsheaf



Everards Public House situated in the centre of the village regularly used by local villagers.

Church – St Mary the Virgin



The church is a grade 1 listed building and dates from around 1170, with the tower coming along some 200 years later.

School – Edith Weston Academy



Edith Weston Academy is a primary school and part of the Brooke Hill Academy Trust, which comprises three primary schools in Rutland and Leicestershire.

Village Memorial Hall



The Edith Weston Memorial Hall is a cornerstone of the community and runs many classes including yoga, keep fit, and line dancing. It is the location for community activities like Safari Supper evening, Hog Roast and quiz nights. Built on land donated by residents and with the active support of the RAF, the hall celebrated its centenary in 2021.

Village Shop



The Village Shop also provides post office services and a coffee cabin that is frequented by locals as well as visitors.

Tommy's Close



Tommy's Close provides play facilities for young children, and an all-weather hard playing surface for football and basketball for older children and open areas for recreational use and walking.

Rutland Sailing Club



Rutland Sailing Club is the largest inland club in the UK and runs national and regional championships throughout the year. Locals can join as social members at reduced cost.

Planning Principles

Policy EW-SG01 identifies the four Planned Limits of Development within the Neighbourhood Area as sustainable locations for new community, housing and employment development. The policy also supports the improvement of community facilities and sets criteria for infill within the Planned Limits of Development.

EW-SG02 addresses new housing on a brownfield site outside but adjacent to the Planned Limits of Development on the St George's Officers' Mess Barrack site.

These policies positively enable growth in the Plan period and take account of sustainability considerations, including supporting a diverse rural economy, supporting local facilities and walkable neighbourhood's.

Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement

1. Residential development will be supported within the Planned Limits of Development (see figure 2) subject to meeting the requirements in clause 3 of this policy.
2. Development to provide employment and/or community facilities will be supported within the Planned Limits of Development, subject to there being no significant adverse impact on residential amenity and to meeting the requirements in clause 3 of this policy.
3. For infill development and redevelopment within the Planned Limits of Development, the following requirements should be met:
 - a. The scheme should front the road, continuing the existing building line and orientation of flanking properties;
 - b. The scheme should complement the site and local context, meeting the requirements of Policy EW-DH01;
 - c. The scheme must not involve the complete or substantial loss of garden space of existing properties;
 - d. The new scheme should maintain gaps for maintenance between it and existing properties.
4. Proposals resulting in the loss of existing community facilities will only be supported where the applicant demonstrates that:
 - a. an alternative facility to meet local needs is available that is both equally accessible and of equal benefit to the community; or
 - b. all options for continued use have been fully explored and none remain which would be financially viable. Including evidence that an appropriate marketing exercise has been undertaken for at least 12 months.

Interpretation

Support for development within the Planned Limits of Development is subject to the scheme meeting the requirements of design and other policies in this Neighbourhood Plan.

The Policy complements and augments Policies SP5 and CS7 of the Local Plan.

Outside of the settlement boundary, rural exception sites are dealt with by the adopted Local Plan.

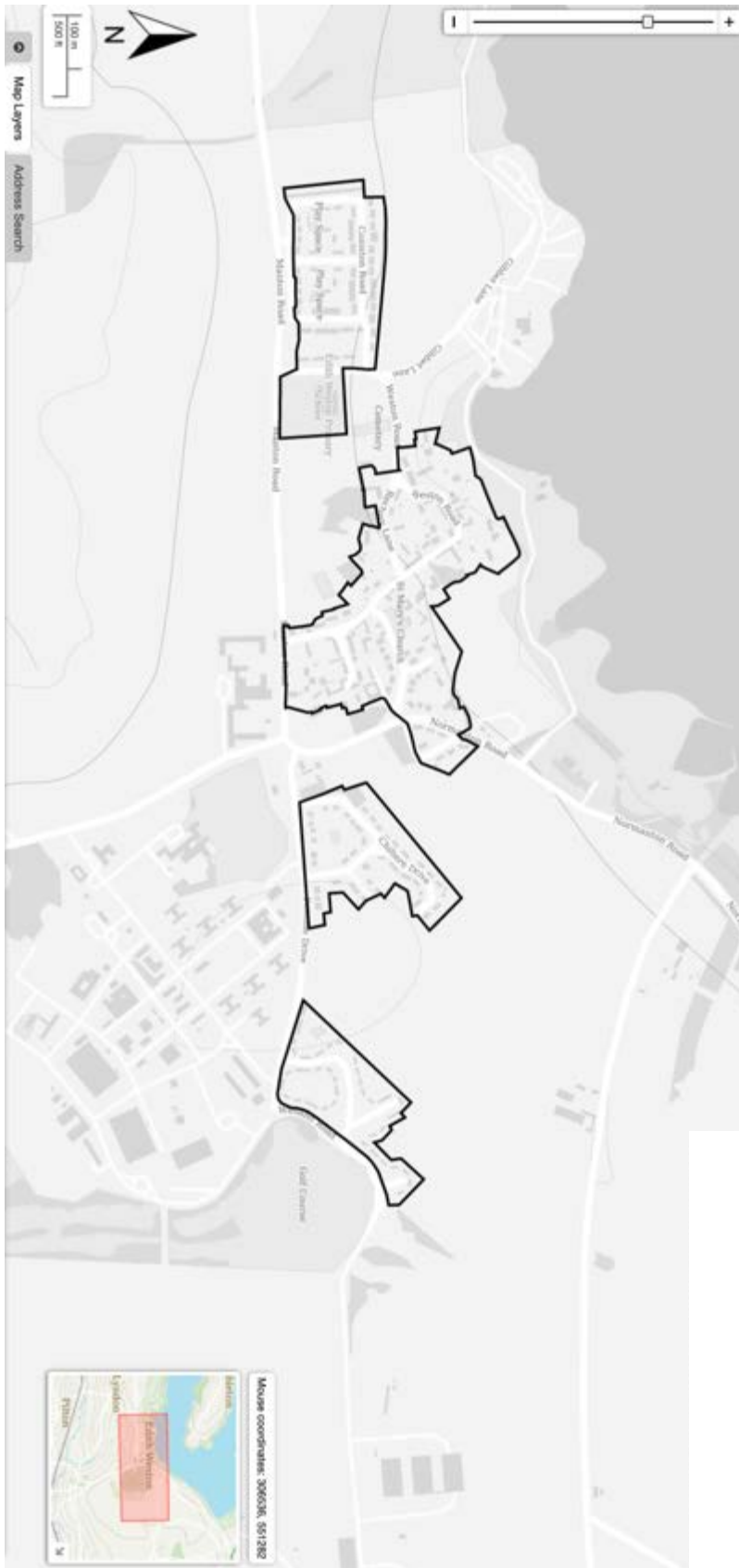
Housing mix and affordable housing are dealt with by the adopted Local Plan.

Adverse impacts on residential amenity could include noise, visual intrusion, vibration, dust or other impacts.

To be infill, a gap would need to be on road frontage and be flanked on both sides by existing buildings. A gap would be able to accommodate 1, 2 or perhaps 3 houses. Development of more extensive gaps would not be infill, so would not be supported by the policy. Similarly, the policy would not support ribbon development on the ends of built frontages. Housing set back behind existing properties, with access through a gap, would clearly not be infill development. Support for infill development and redevelopment is subject to the scheme meetings design and other requirements in this Neighbourhood Plan.

Maintenance gaps between properties should be sufficient to allow for the safe use of ladders.

Figure 2: Planned Limits of Development



(Rutland County Council, Accessed 03/12/2022

<https://rutland.opus4.co.uk/planning/localplan/maps/cfs#/x:493046/y:305310/z:9/b:31/o:8534>)

Policy EW-SG02: St George's Barracks Officers' Mess

1. **Redevelopment of the St George's Barracks Officers' Mess for residential purposes will be supported, subject to:**
 - a. **The scheme should complement the existing Edith Weston Village, meeting the requirements of Policy EW-DH01;**
 - b. **The mature trees and hedges to the north and east edges, flanking Manton Road and Edith Weston Road, should be retained as a landscape buffer and protected during construction;**
 - c. **Other mature trees within the site should be retained where possible and be protected during development, meeting the requirements of Policy EW-GE01;**
 - d. **The scheme should maximise pedestrian and cycle connectivity to the existing village centre, meeting the requirements of Policy EW-TM01;**
 - e. **The form and layout of development should take account of the site topography and allow for long views through the site towards Lyndon Valley;**
 - f. **The layout, landscaping and boundary treatment of the scheme should create a soft transition between the built development and surrounding landscape.**

Interpretation

The policy sets development and design principles for the redevelopment of this key brownfield site. Additional design, environment, transport or other requirements for development are set out in later policies of this plan.

The requirement for development to complement the village would require proper analysis of the site and context and wider village character. This would enable a site-specific and locally distinctive scheme to be prepared.

Existing trees and hedges should be key elements in the design of green infrastructure and landscape. To meet the requirements of the policy, it is envisaged that around a quarter of the site area would remain as green infrastructure.

Removal of trees due to poor condition/health would need to be justified by an arboriculture assessment.

Figure 3: St George's Barracks Officers' Mess Brownfield Site

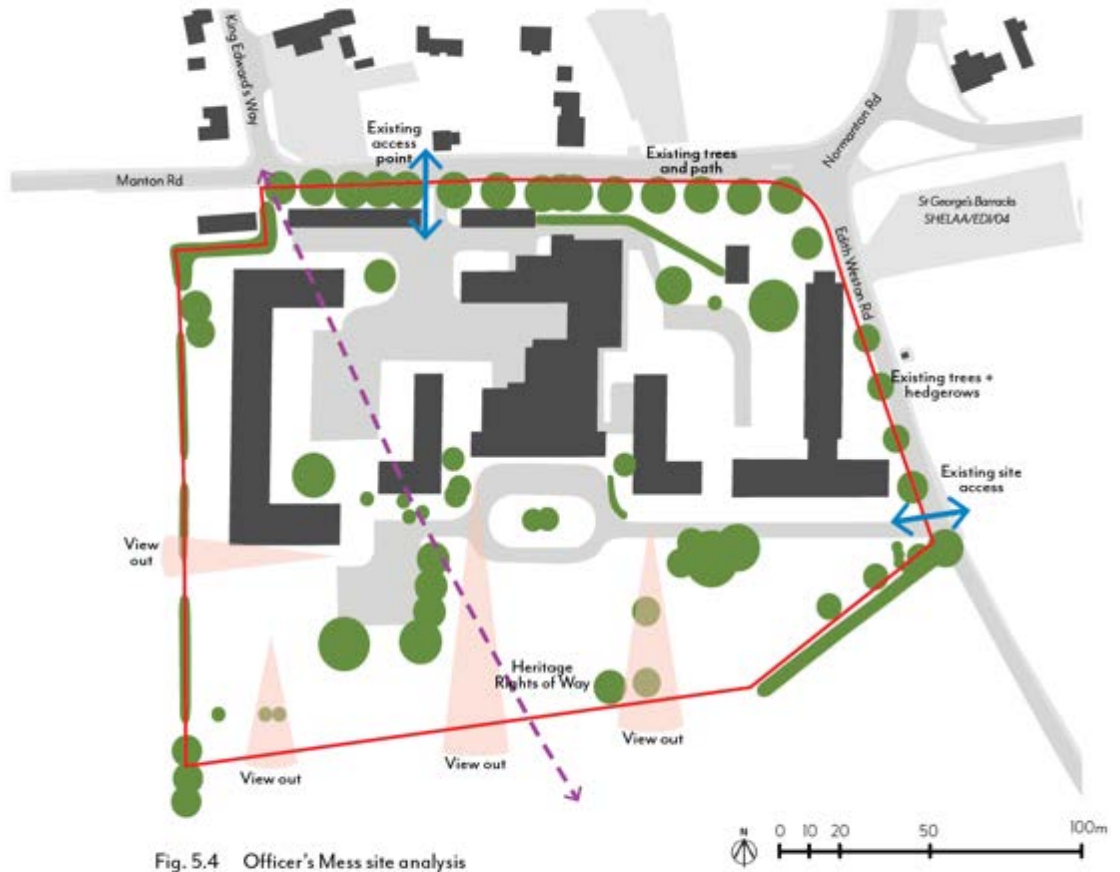








Fig. 5.4 Officer's Mess site analysis

Key

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
|  Existing buildings |  Historic Rights of Way |  Site access |
|  Existing roads |  Existing trees and hedgerows |  Site boundary |

Green Environment

4. Green Environment

4.1 Purpose

To protect and enhance the natural environment, landscape character and green infrastructure.

4.2 Planning Rationale

National Planning Policy Framework, December 2023

Chapter 8 of the NPPF deals with ‘Promoting healthy and safe communities’, including the designation of Local Green Spaces that are demonstrably special to the community. The Neighbourhood Plan Local Green Space audit considered 24 proposed spaces and designates 21 including wildflower meadows, open space and play areas that are important to the local community contributing to the health and well-being of the wider community.

Chapter 12 deals with ‘Achieving well-designed places’. Design considerations include function, adding to the quality of the area, visual attractiveness, effective landscaping, being sympathetic to local character and history, maintain strong and distinctive sense of place, and making safe, inclusive and accessible places.

This is augmented by the National Design Guide (2023) establishes that well-designed places have ten characteristics. These are context, nature, identity, use, resources, movement, built form, public space, homes and buildings and lifespan.

The NPPF makes clear in chapter 14 ‘meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change’, paragraph 152 that policies should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate.

Chapter 15 Conserving and enhancing the natural environment makes clear that planning policies should protect and enhance valued landscapes, intrinsic character and beauty of the landscape, habitats, and provide net gains in biodiversity. This includes consideration of protection of valued landscapes, intrinsic character, biodiversity net-gain, pollution, mitigation.

Adopted Local Plan

The adopted local plan comprises the Core Strategy Development Plan Document, adopted July 2011 and the Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document adopted October 2014.

The Rutland Core Strategy, 2011 contains various policies relating to the natural environment (CS21). The Development Plan Document 2014 contains more detailed policies on biodiversity (SP19) and landscape character (SP23).

The neighbourhood plan sets more specific requirements and takes account of more recent guidance.

Design Guidelines for Rutland, November 2021

The design SPD identifies the special landscape character areas relevant to the neighbourhood area. These are 'Rutland Water Basin' and 'High Rutland'. The mapping extract can be found on the following page which shows these areas.

Rutland Landscape Character Assessment, December 2022

The landscape character assessment is referenced in the Rutland design code. The neighbourhood area includes 2 of the character areas.

The first is High Rutland, undulating Mixed Farmlands, includes the following key characteristics:

- Retains a strong agricultural character with mixed or arable farming;
- Strong historic rural character, with evidence of medieval land use and settlement, in particular ridge and furrow, and narrow lanes;
- Woodland, mature hedges; and
- Ridges and valleys tend to run generally south-north, with shallower valleys.
- Popular with walkers using the Rutland Round

The Rutland Water Basin includes the following key characteristics:

- Rutland Water is a significant and highly distinctive feature in the remote, rural, open, rolling, mixed farmland vale landscape.
- Expansive waterbody and 'big skies' with a relatively narrow belt of landscape in between.
- A strongly rural character
- Large bird populations and other wetland species.
- Topography and vegetation cover significantly soften views.
- Significant nationally, regionally, and locally important open area as a major focus for more passive (recreational and tourist) pursuits in particular picnicking, walking, sight-seeing, bird / wildlife watching.
- Extensive opportunities for visitor access within, through and around the area, including sections of several national footpaths including the Rutland Round, with extensive permissive footpaths, bridleways, and off-road cycle tracks.

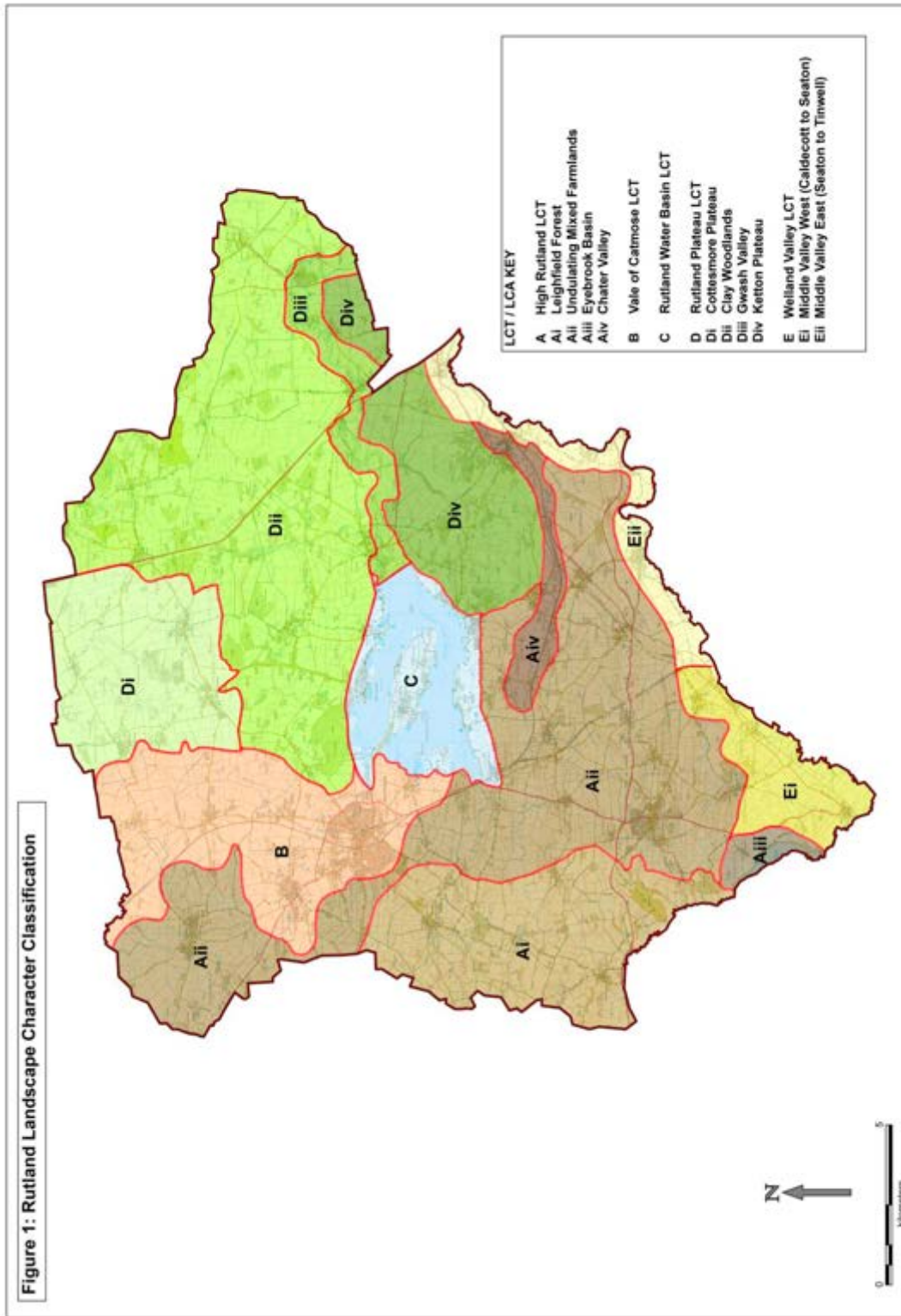


Figure 4a Rutland Landscape Character Assessment 2022

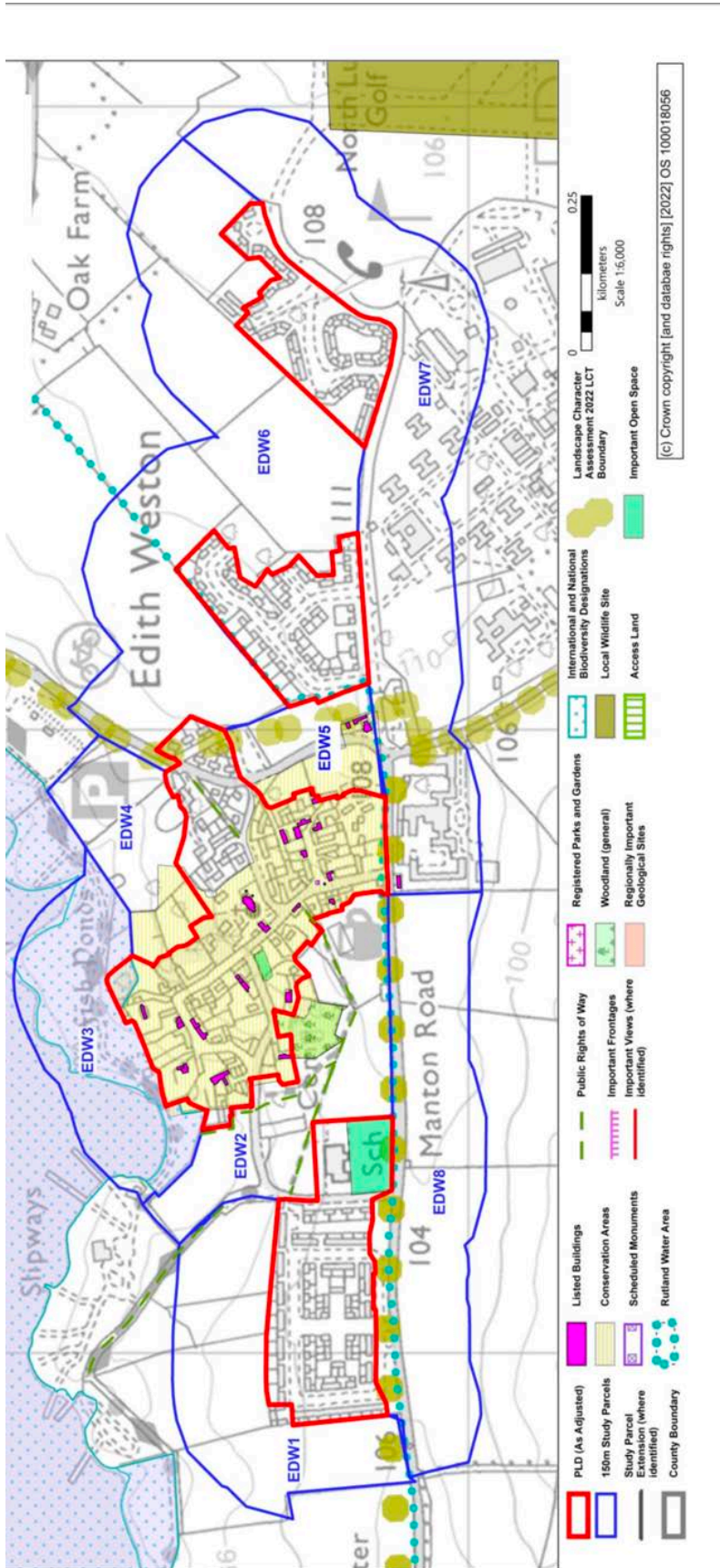


Figure 4b Rutland Landscape Character Assessment 2022

DEFRA Interactive Mapping Data

The interactive mapping data clearly identifies the special landscape characteristics, features and areas within the Neighbourhood Area. This includes sites of international significance such as the Rutland Water Ramsar and nationally significant sites of Rutland Water SSSI. The Neighbourhood area is also within the SSSI Impact Risk Zone for the North Luffenham Quarry SSSI. Other key natural features, assets or designations include:

- Priority Habitat semi-improved grassland;
- Priority Habitat Deciduous Woodland;
- Mixed woodland, tree belts, and large mature trees;
- Open Mosaic Habitat;
- Granted European Protected Species Applications for Bats; and
- Identified Important bird areas (Rutland Water).

These can all be viewed on the interactive mapping data.

Local Green Space Assessment Report, August 2023

The report identifies how an audit was undertaken to identify potential Local Green Space across the Neighbourhood Area. From the long list of 24, these were tested against the NPPF criteria. The proposed spaces were taken through informal engagement with the wider community, stakeholders and landowners. Following the consultation, the proposed Local Green Space list was revised to inform the spaces identified in this Plan. The Plan includes 21 proposed Local Green Spaces.

Planning Principles

Policy EW-GE01 protects natural and green environments across the Neighbourhood Area, including the identified significant sensitive and designated landscapes. Opportunities for biodiversity net gain and retention of existing trees and hedges contribute to enhancing the value of the natural environment. The policy also protects Rutland Water from any further water quality deterioration. It also includes improvements to water quality.

Policy EW-GE02 identifies the Local Green Spaces within the Neighbourhood Area that are demonstrably special to the community.

Policy EW-GE01: Natural and Green Environments

1. Development should cause no overall harm to, and should take opportunities to enhance, the area's habitats and ecology and must achieve biodiversity net gain.
2. Development should have no significant adverse impact on the following sensitive and designated landscapes (see figures 5 and 6):
 - a. Rutland Water Site of Special Scientific Interest and Special Protection Area;
 - b. Rutland Water Ramsar;
 - c. Local Wildlife Sites - North Luffenham Airfield;
 - d. Local Wildlife Site – Hedgerow;
 - e. Ridge and Furrow landscape;
 - f. Woodlands;
 - g. Verges.
3. Existing trees and hedges should:
 - a. be retained and incorporated into the design and layout of development;
or
 - b. where loss of trees or hedges is unavoidable, replacements should be provided within the development site, to create a similar level of amenity and effectiveness in terms of addressing climate change.
4. Development within or adjacent to Rutland Water should not cause further deterioration and should seek to improve the water quality.

Interpretation

Removal of trees due to poor condition/health would need to be justified by an arboriculture assessment. Replacement trees or new trees should be of native species or other species with high value in terms of addressing climate change.

Where applicable hedgerows will be protected by The Hedgerow Regulations 1997.

In terms of avoiding harm to habitats, the following hierarchy should be used:

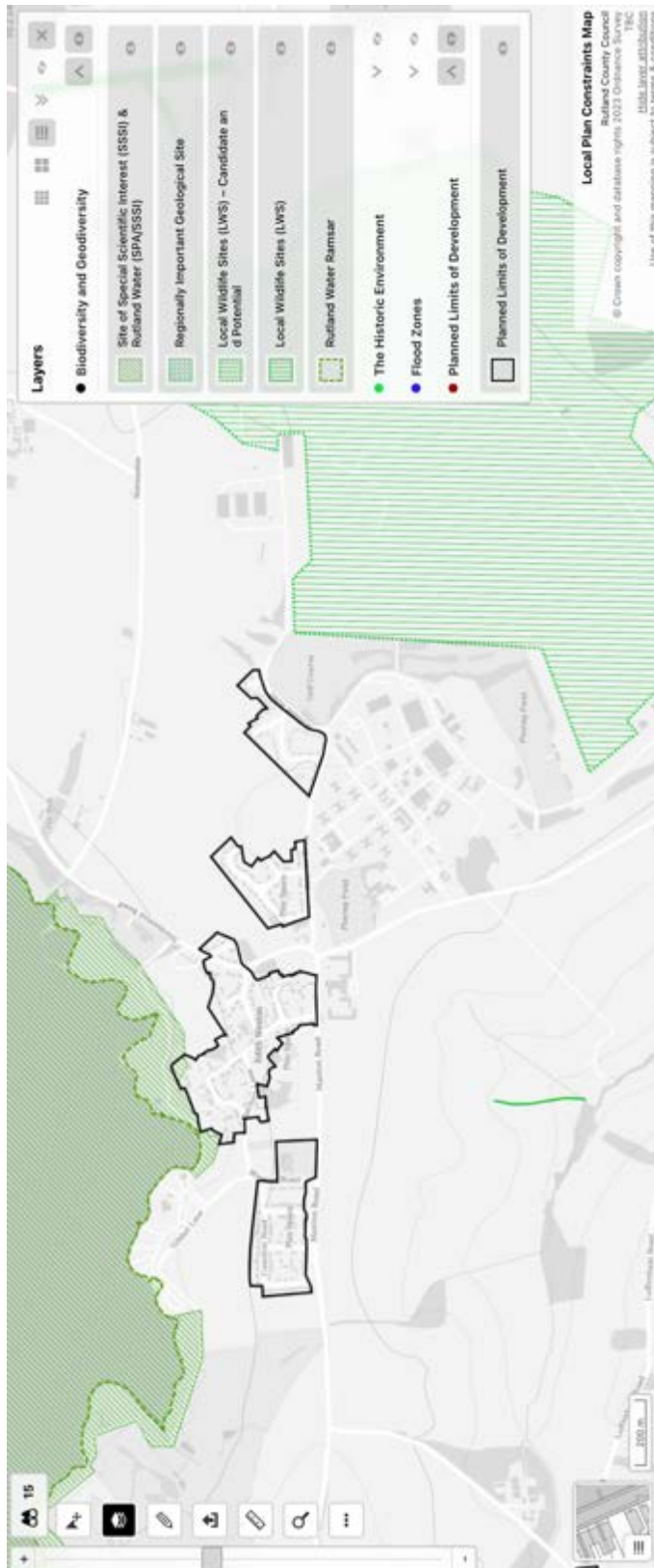
- Avoid habitat damage;
- Minimise habitat damage;
- Restore damaged or lost habitat;
- Compensate for habitat loss or damage (as a last resort).

Design features to support wildlife include:

- Bat boxes and bird boxes (owl, raptors, house sparrow, house-martin, swift, woodpecker);
- Hedgehog gaps in fences;
- Badger routes;
- Wildlife connectivity via grass verges and footpath edges;
- Meadow edge grasses and wildflowers, bee friendly desirable.

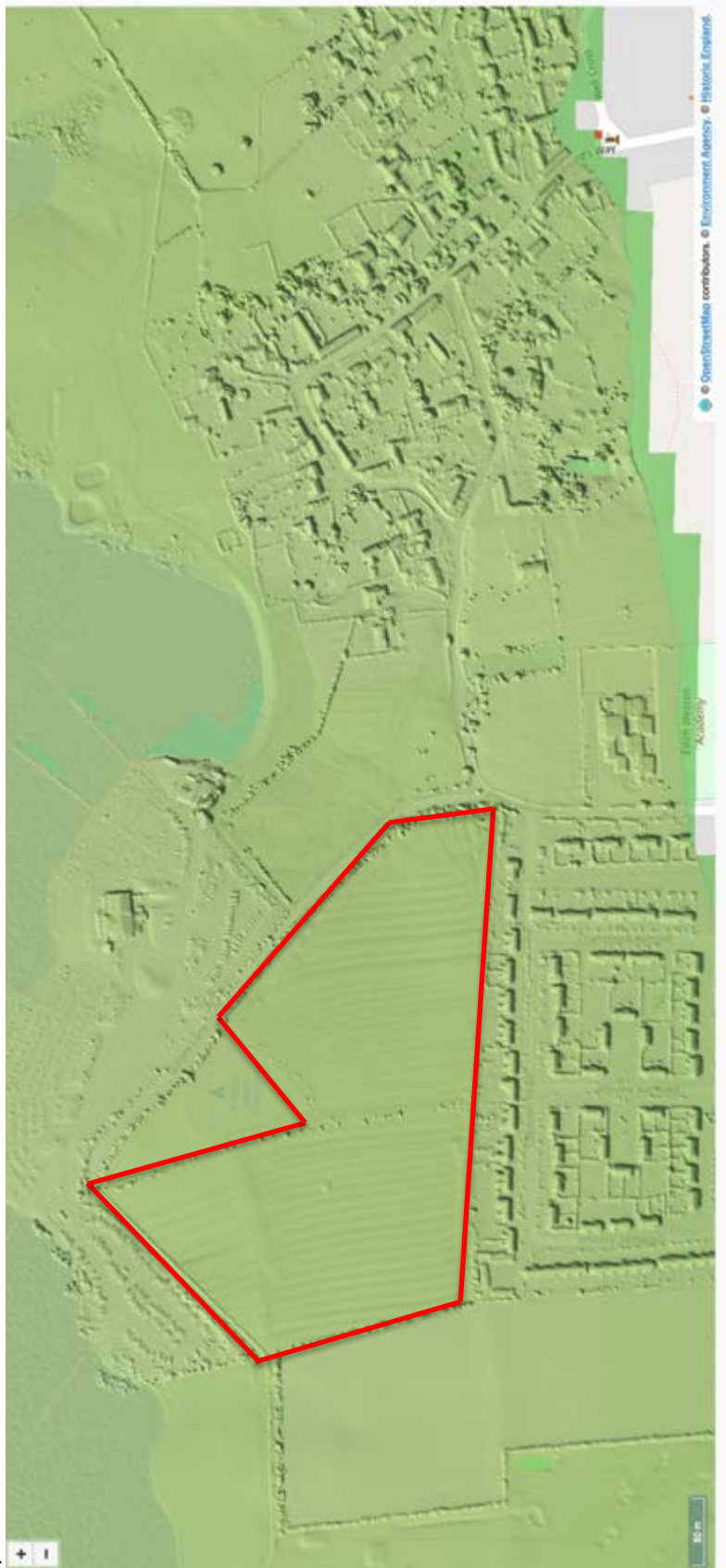
In ensuring that development within or adjacent to Rutland Water does not cause further deterioration and seeking to improve the water quality, the recommendations of the Anglian River Basin Management Plan should be taken into account.

Figure 4: Plan of Natural and Green Environments



(Rutland County Council, Accessed 07/02/2023,
<https://rutland.opus4.co.uk/planning/localplan/maps/cfs#/x:492702/y:305174/z:8/b:31/o:8523,o:8524,o:8525,o:8527,o:8529,o:8530,o:8534,o:8536>)

Figure 5: Map of Ridge and Furrow shown in redline area



(Open Source Data, accessed 07/12/2022, <https://enfarchsoc.org/opendata/>)

Policy EW-GE02: Local Green Space

1. The following spaces are designated as Local Green Space:

- LGS 1 Tyler's Orchard and Wildflower area
- LGS 2 The Dell, Normanton Road
- LGS 3 Woodland, Pennine Drive/Chiltern Drive
- LGS 4 Mendip Play Area
- LGS 5 Pennine Play Park
- LGS 6 Severn Crescent, Grassed Area 1
- LGS 7 Severn Crescent, Grassed Area 2
- LGS 8 Severn Crescent, Grassed Area 3
- LGS 9 Glebe Land Area A
- LGS 10 Glebe Land Area B
- LGS 11 Manton Road & Windermere Road, Verge and Trees
- LGS 12 Crummock Ave, Play Area
- LGS 13 Ullswater Ave, Play Area
- LGS 14 Derwent Ave Green Space
- LGS 15 Coniston Road Green Space
- LGS 16 Derwent Ave, Open Green Space
- LGS 17 School Playing Field
- LGS 18 Weston Road, Green Space/Field
- LGS 19 Weston Road Dell
- LGS 20 Tommy's Close Recreation Ground
- LGS 21 Memorial Stones open grassed area

Note; See Appendix 1 for maps

2. Development should have no adverse impact on the green character, community value, accessibility, safety, or amenity of Local Green Spaces.

Interpretation

National planning policy makes clear that Local Green Spaces have similar protection to Green Belts. However, it should be noted that the purpose of Local Green Spaces is based on community value, so is different to the five purposes of Green Belts.

The second clause of the policy takes account of the National Design Guide.

Design and Heritage

5. Design and Heritage

5.1 Purpose

To ensure that development is well designed and to protect or enhance historic and rural environments.

5.2 Planning Rationale

National Planning Policy Framework, December 2023

Chapter 12 of the NPPF deals with 'Achieving well-designed places'. Design considerations include function, adding to the quality of the area, visual attractiveness, effective landscaping, being sympathetic to local character and history, not discouraging innovation and change, maintain strong and distinctive sense of place, optimize site potential, and making safe, inclusive, and accessible places.

This is augmented by the National Design Guide (2023) which establishes that well-designed places have ten characteristics. These are context, nature, identity, use, resources, movement, built form, public space, homes and buildings and lifespan.

Chapter 16 of the NPPF deals with 'Conserving and enhancing the historic environment'. This includes consideration of sustaining or enhancing heritage assets, wider social, economic and cultural benefits, contribution of new development, and character of place.

Adopted Local Plan

The adopted local plan comprises the Core Strategy Development Plan Document, adopted July 2011 and the Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document adopted October 2014.

The Core Strategy, 2011 contains various policies relating to good design (CS19) and the historic environment (CS22) in chapter 5 Sustaining our Environment. The Development Plan Document 2014 contains site allocations and more detailed policies on design (SP5, SP6, SP15) and heritage (SP20).

The neighbourhood plan sets more specific design requirements and takes account of more recent guidance.

Chapter 5 'Sustaining our Environment' makes clear that new homes should be built to ensure new homes are capable of adapting to meet peoples changing needs. Together with the policies on good design and energy efficiency, these support the delivery of climate resilient communities in well-designed places.

Design Guidelines for Rutland, November 2021

The design SPD aims to inform high quality design at any scale of development. It establishes design steps and considerations, with detailed checklist elements for applicants to consider at a variety of scale development from household extension through to major applications.

The SPD also addresses climate change and seeks to inform climate resilient communities through good design and innovative architecture.

The SPD also puts great emphasis on early engagement with parish councils, asking applicants to demonstrate how these engagements have influenced the design. It makes clear that the first part of this process would be the Neighbourhood Plan policies.

Edith Weston Parish Council, Village Assessment and Design Guidance, AR Urbanism, January 2022

The Village assessment and Design guidance identifies the rural character of the neighbourhood area noting that it has been described as “*the village in the landscape*”. Focused on the medieval core of the historic village and the expansion with the military developments in the area. It identifies landscape characteristics of the area. The townscape analysis acknowledges predominant building heights of 2 and 2.5 storeys and that there is limited scope for infill.

Edith Weston Parish Council, North Luffenham Parish Council St George’s Barracks Masterplan Guidance and Design Code, AR Urbanism, December 2021

The document was prepared at a time when the St George’s Barracks was proposed as a strategic site allocation in the emerging local plan that has since been withdrawn. As part of the contextual site analysis, it identified Cold War military structures that were non-designated assets. These included the water towers, Air Traffic Control Tower, heating dome, the Type J hangars and the Bloodhound building. Only 3 of these are in the Neighbourhood Area and identified in policy EW-DH04. The map on the following page is an extract from the document that shows each of the non-designated Cold War heritage assets in relation to the wider military site.

Figure 7 Extract of map of Cold War non-designated heritage assets

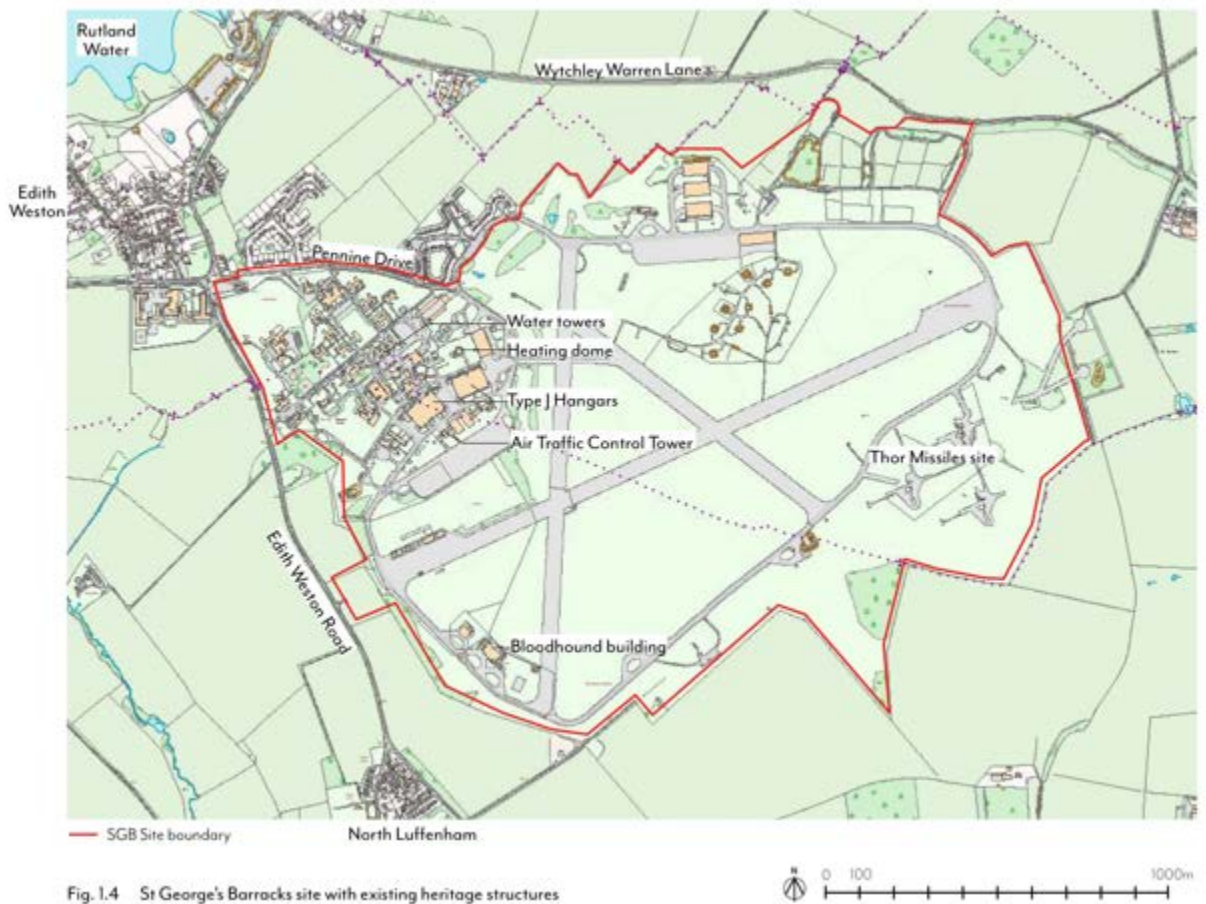


Fig. I.4 St George's Barracks site with existing heritage structures

(pg, 9, Edith Weston Parish Council, North Luffenham Parish Council St George's Barracks Masterplan Guidance and Design Code, AR Urbanism, December 2021)

Character Areas

The following describes some of the key character areas:

The historic village core of Edith Weston developed over time and has a more informal, diverse and organic character. Streets are often narrow without pavements but flanked by small green verges. Building heights vary up to 3-stories, with the exception of the church spire.

The planned military housing estates have a uniform materials pallet and are typically two storey detached or terraced housing all with front and rear gardens. Formal green space forms part of the settlement layout. These are similar landscape characteristics to garden suburbs. These estates are not as dense as the historic core of Edith Weston.

The Barracks site has a different character to the military housing estates. It comprises larger-scale blocks, in a landscape setting. This includes Cold War heritage structures including: Thor Missile site which is a grade II listed building entry number 1400806; Water Tanks; Heating Dome and Type J Hanger. The old airfield at SGB also has a Bloodhound Missile Tactical Control Centre and its associated radar tower as well as the old airfield control tower, the former feature was closely linked to the Thor Missile Site but are located outside of the parish boundary.

Building for a Healthy Life

The Building for a Healthy Life standard superseded Building for Life 12 and addresses a range of urban design, community, and related issues. This has informed the sustainable design policy.

This is augmented by the following policies relating to the planned estates and the Conservation Area, which deal with character in more specific detail.

Planning Principles

The emphasis in design policy is to support green design and walkable neighbourhood's. The policy takes account of principles in 'Building for a Healthy Life'. It also seeks to ensure development complements townscape characteristics of the area including boundary treatments. The character of the military planned estates is also protected.

Heritage policy protects townscape characteristics of the Edith Weston Conservation Area and the military non-designated heritage assets.

Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design

1. Development should complement the characteristics of the local context in terms of scale, massing, height, set-back from the road, and pattern of buildings and gardens.
2. Development should take opportunities to enhance pedestrian and cycle permeability and connectivity, including by providing links to existing public paths.
3. Development should provide active frontages to streets and spaces, so as to provide overlooking and natural surveillance of those streets and spaces.
4. Landscape and public realm should be an integral part of the design and layout of development, including both garden spaces and public spaces.
5. Residential development should include:
 - a. Private gardens or shared amenity space for housing; or
 - b. Balconies and/or shared amenity space for apartments;
 - c. Discretely located and screened storage for bins and recycling.
6. Development should use high quality, durable and sustainable materials and support will be given to the use of local materials, recycled materials and green materials that complement the local context.
7. Boundary treatments should complement the historic and rural character of the area, including the use of hedges and low stone walls.
8. Development should include positive design features to reduce carbon use.
9. Development should avoid harmful impacts on night skies from excessive or poorly designed lighting.

Interpretation

The term 'public realm' refers to streets, spaces and other publicly accessible places.

Permeability and connectivity refers to ease and choice of movement by pedestrians through a site and in terms of connections to surrounding paths.

Active frontages refer to building elevations containing features like windows, doors and balconies.

Balconies, where provided, should be of sufficient size to allow for sitting, drying clothes and planting containers.

Local materials would include limestone, painted render, slate, Collyweston slate, thatch, plain clay tiles, and timber windows. Green materials would include materials from sustainable sources, or with low embodied energy or materials and construction with superior environmental performance. Materials should complement the urban context. For example, a creative mix of traditional and green materials could be used.

Examples of positive design features to reduce carbon use are.

- use of efficient heating and cooling systems, or design to reduce dependency on heating and cooling systems;
- superior insulation properties and airtightness;
- natural ventilation and air flow (for warmer months) to help avoid over-heating;
- use of local, low-embodied energy, recycled and recyclable materials;
- living (green) walls or roofs;
- orientation to respond to climate;
- rainwater capture, storage and reuse (grey water);
- use of LED or other low wattage lighting;
- space for natural drying clothes;
- bins for recycling;
- flexible spaces and layouts to accommodate changing demands;
- existing landscape features, landform and green infrastructure should be retained and be incorporated into redevelopment and be enhanced as far as possible;
- Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) should be incorporated into the landscape design;
- hard surfacing should be kept to a minimum area and be water permeable;
- use of traditional hedges for boundary treatments creates a greener environment and enhances the historic and rural character of the area;
- green energy schemes can include wind turbines, ground source heat pumps, photovoltaics, biomass and other technologies.

For impacts on dark skies, considerations would include; locations, appearances of installations, illumination levels. Impacts could affect amenity, but also habitats and ecology.

Severn Trent encourages developers to get in contact at an early stage in planning to ensure that there is sufficient time for a development site to be assessed and if network reinforcements are required that there is time to develop an appropriate scheme to address the issues.

Policy EW-DH02: Planned Estates

1. Development within the planned estates (see figure 8) should complement the character of the estates, including the following key characteristics:
 - a. The green character based on a garden suburb-type layout, with a combination of communal green spaces and the pattern of front and rear gardens;
 - b. Use of hedges as boundary treatments;
 - c. High quality and green environment for pedestrians;
 - d. The predominant two-storey height of buildings;
 - e. The planned layouts and regular spacing of houses;
 - f. The palette of materials, including red brick, render and concrete roof tiles, with porches.

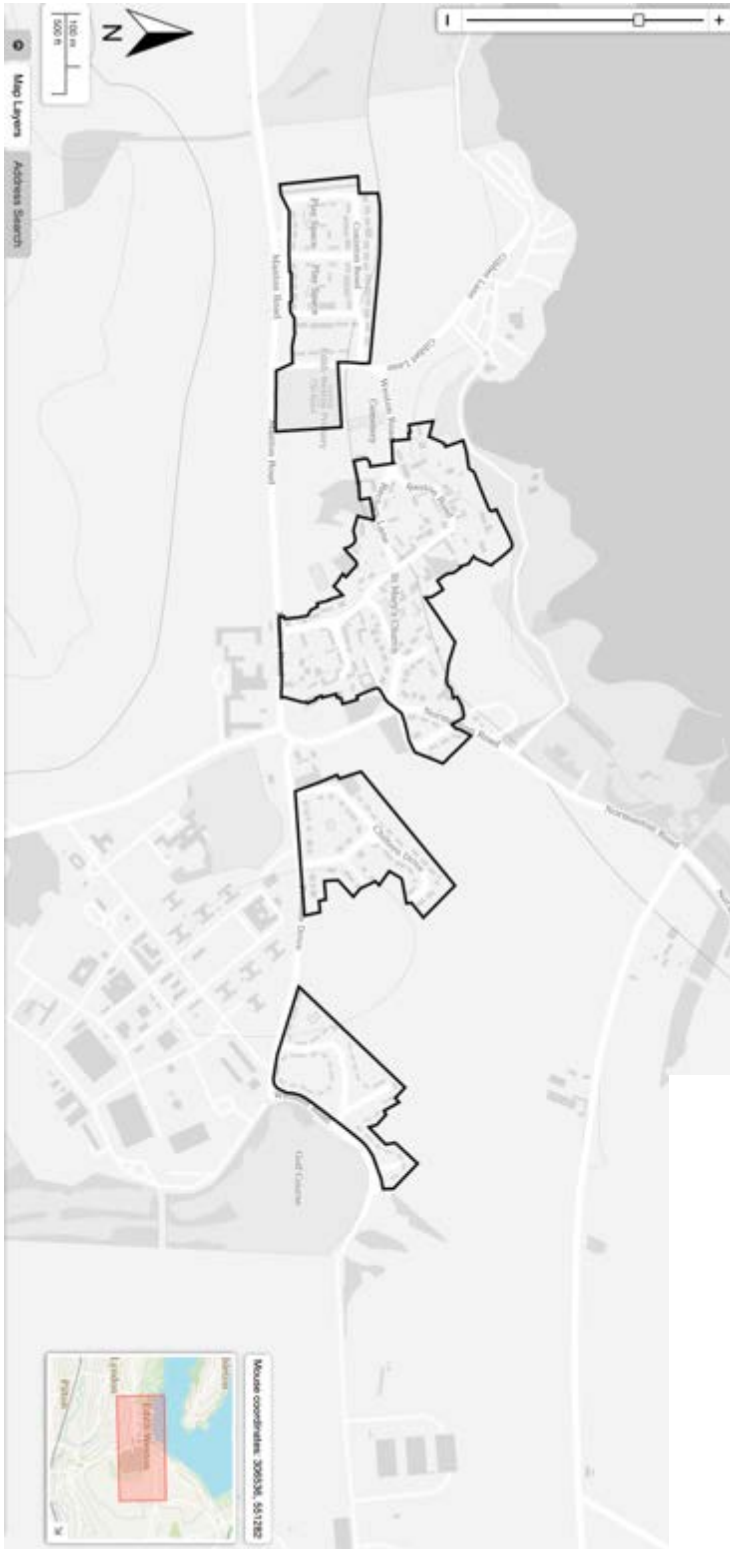
2. Development should not encroach onto or lead to the loss of the public green spaces in the estates.

Interpretation

The policy seeks to protect the distinctive character of the planned estates and to protect public green landscapes and their value to health, character, recreation and amenity.

The policy should not be interpreted as requiring or encouraging stylistic imitation or as a barrier to creative or green design.

Figure 8: Planned Estates



(Rutland County Council, Accessed 03/12/2022)

Policy EW-DH03: Edith Weston Conservation Area

1. Development in and around the Edith Weston Conservation Area (see figure 9) should preserve or enhance the character, including the following key elements of character:
 - a. The rural and vernacular character, based on an unplanned and organic layout and domestic-scale buildings;
 - b. The mix of rear-of-pavement/road building frontages, or buildings set back behind front gardens;
 - c. Use of low stone walls or hedges as boundary treatments;
 - d. Predominant character of one or two-storey buildings, some with additional storeys in the form of roof dormers;
 - e. Some streets with no footways or with grass verges;
 - f. Local materials including limestone, painted render, slate, Collyweston slate, thatch, plain clay tiles, and timber windows.

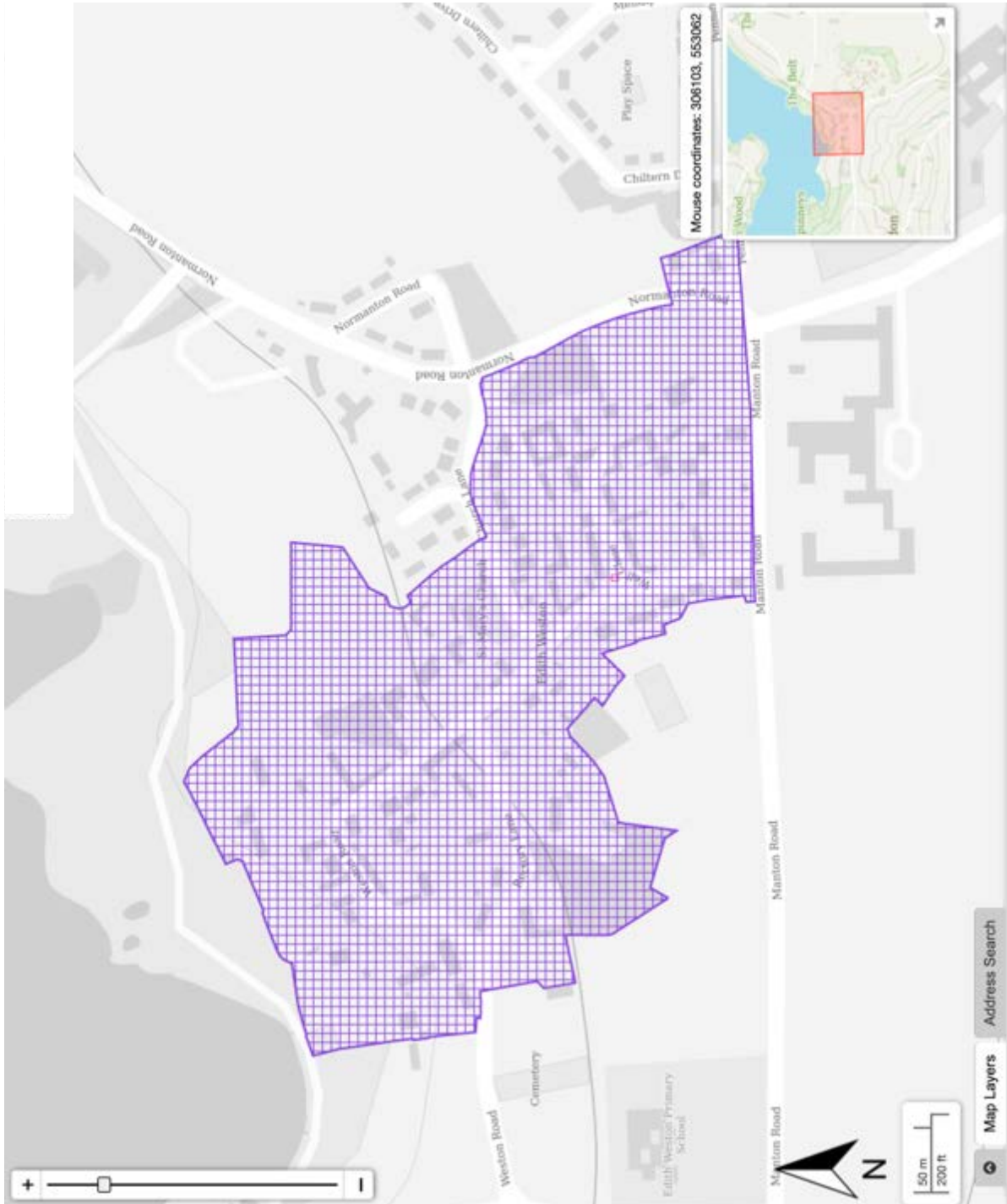
Interpretation

The policy highlights key elements of character, to guide the design of development.

The policy should not be interpreted as requiring or encouraging stylistic imitation or as a barrier to creative or green design.

Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan

Figure 9: Plan Edith Weston Conservation Area



(Rutland County Council, Accessed 03/12/2022)

Policy EW-DH04: Non-Designated Heritage

1. Development involving the conservation and re-use of the following war heritage structures and their settings (see figure 10) will be supported:
 - a. Water Towers.
 - b. Heating Dome.
 - c. Type J Hangars.

Interpretation

The policy identifies and seeks to retain key non-designated war heritage structures from the 20th Century within the St George's Barracks site.

For clarity, the Air traffic control tower and Bloodhound Building are located outside the Neighbourhood Area (Parish boundary). The Thor Missile site is already designated as a grade II listed building entry number 1400806;

Figure 10: Plan of Heritage Structures St George's Barracks Site

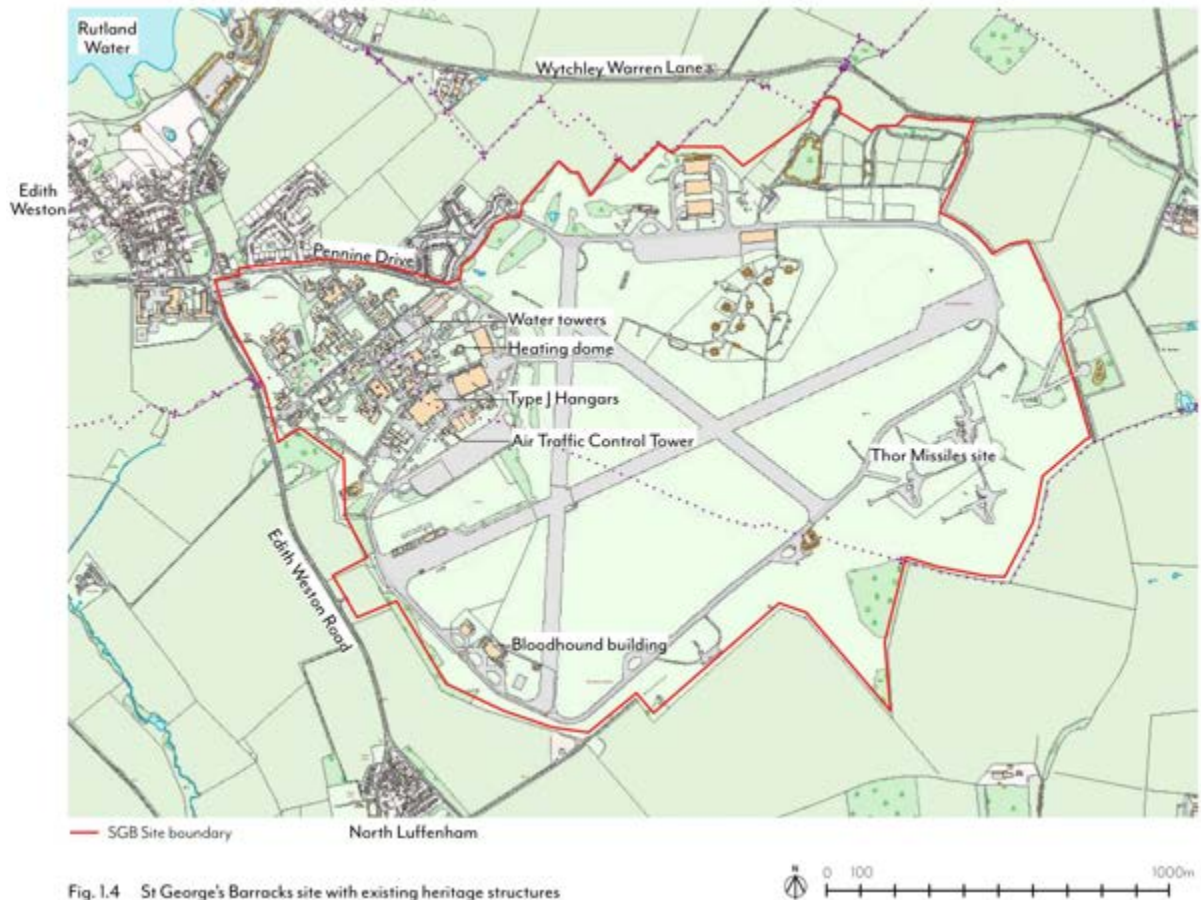


Fig. 1.4 St George's Barracks site with existing heritage structures

Transport and Movement

6. Transport and Movement

6.1 Purpose

To promote more sustainable travel methods, including active travel.

6.2 Planning Rationale

National Planning Policy Framework, December 2023

Chapter 2 deals with sustainable development.

Sustainable development has economic, social and environmental objectives, set out in Paragraph 8.

Paragraph 11a) states:

“all plans should promote a sustainable pattern of development that seeks to: meet the development needs of their area; align growth and infrastructure; improve the environment; mitigate climate change (including by making effective use of land in urban areas) and adapt to its effects;”

Chapter 9 of the NPPF deals with promoting sustainable travel. Whilst this is challenging in a rural environment without good public transport links, the Neighbourhood Plan promotes active travel through walking and cycling.

The NPPF defines sustainable transport modes as:

“Any efficient, safe and accessible means of transport with overall low impact on the environment, including walking and cycling, ultra low and zero emission vehicles, car sharing and public transport.”

This is important for rural communities to encourage ultra-low and zero emission vehicles, where the reliance is heavily on private vehicle journeys due to a lack of public transport alternatives.

The NPPF makes clear in chapter 14 ‘meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change’, paragraph 152 that policies should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate.

Decarbonising Transport Plan, 2021

The Government’s [Decarbonising Transport Plan \(2021\)](#) sets out a vision for future transport which aims to address the climate agenda, improve health and wellbeing,

create better places to live whilst providing ways of travelling which are affordable and reliable. The Neighbourhood Plan positively addresses this through policy, which addresses sustainable transport, including active travel and electric charging points for vehicles.

Adopted Local Plan

The adopted local plan comprises the Core Strategy Development Plan Document, adopted July 2011 and the Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document adopted October 2014.

The Core Strategy 2011 contains policies on sustainable transport and accessibility (CS18). There are also provisions for parking standards. Policies on design seek to inform any parking provision either on plot or within any new development. The Development Plan Document 2014 contains site allocations and more detailed policies.

Moving Rutland Forward, Rutland's 4th Local Transport Plan, 2019-2036

The Local Transport Plan (LTP) aims to deliver a transport network that supports economic growth and a sustainable population, meeting the needs of the community and promoting health and wellbeing. The policies of this Plan seek to minimise private car journey's, support E.V vehicles with designed charging points in new development and promote safe and accessible active travel routes.

Planning Principles

Policy EW-TM01 is focused on supporting active travel and a balanced range of transport choices.

Policy EW-TM01: Transport and Movement

1. Development that generates additional journeys should include a balanced range of transport choices, including sustainable options and active travel, proportionate to the scale and character of the scheme.
2. Development should take opportunities to enhance facilities for pedestrians, including people with different levels of mobility, and cycle infrastructure and connections.
3. All new dwellings should include:
 - a. sufficient curtilage parking to accommodate the size of dwelling without creating excessive on-street parking.
 - b. secure and covered storage for cycles and scooters, with electric charging facilities.
4. Development must have no adverse impacts on existing footpaths and cycleways in terms of safety, amenity or accessibility.
5. Opportunities should be taken to link to footpaths, including links to Rutland Water.
6. Development will not be supported where highway upgrades necessary to allow the scheme to go ahead would harm the historic or rural character of the area, including streets with no footways.

Interpretation

The policy ensures that cycling and walking are catered for in new residential development. Secure cycle storage could be integrated within the garage design.

In the application of the policy, if development could only be approved subject to highway improvements and those improvements would cause harm to the historic and rural character, then the scheme is unlikely to be sustainable.

7. Infrastructure

7.1 Infrastructure Priorities

Priorities of this Neighbourhood Plan for spending infrastructure monies are:

- ◆ Development of shared, community spaces
- ◆ Support of community activities
- ◆ Road safety
- ◆ Public transport, cycle routes and safe pedestrian routes

Support and build community spirit through development of spaces for wellbeing. These may include outdoor meeting spaces, seating and/or shelter for parents watching children in Tommy's Close, and development of calm green spaces - for example, a commemorative garden or orchard, sensory space for unsighted and other disadvantaged people,

Build on the community spirit of Edith Weston with inclusive activities and improved communications with residents and community stakeholders (parish council, parish church council, Memorial Hall, Tommy's Close, Army, local businesses and school)

Strive to improve road safety on Manton Road, including designation of safe school route, improved traffic calming and speed restrictions.

Lobby for provision of meaningful public transport

Contacts

8. Contacts

Edith Weston Parish Council

ewpcclerk@gmail.com

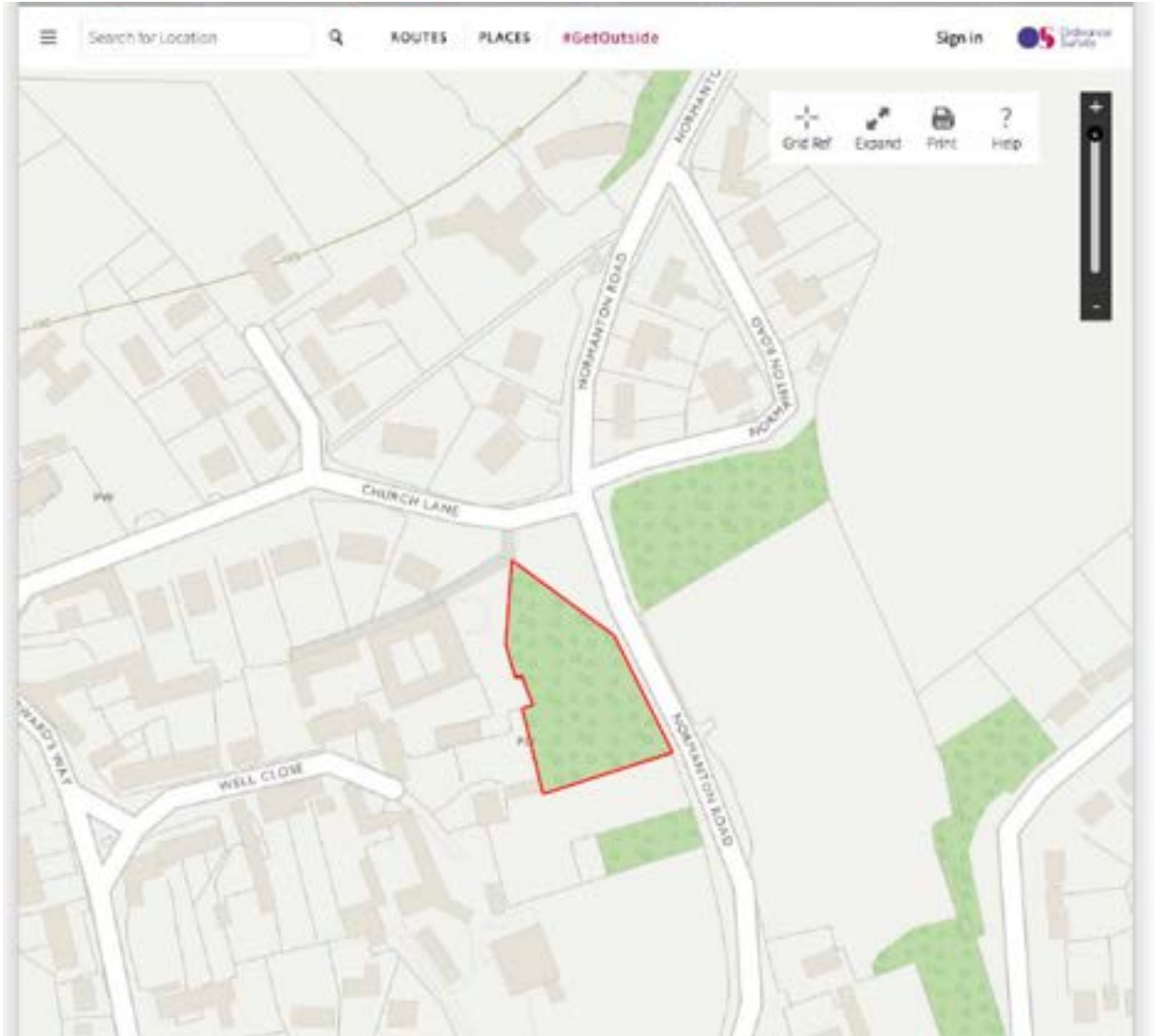
www.edithweston.org

Appendix 1

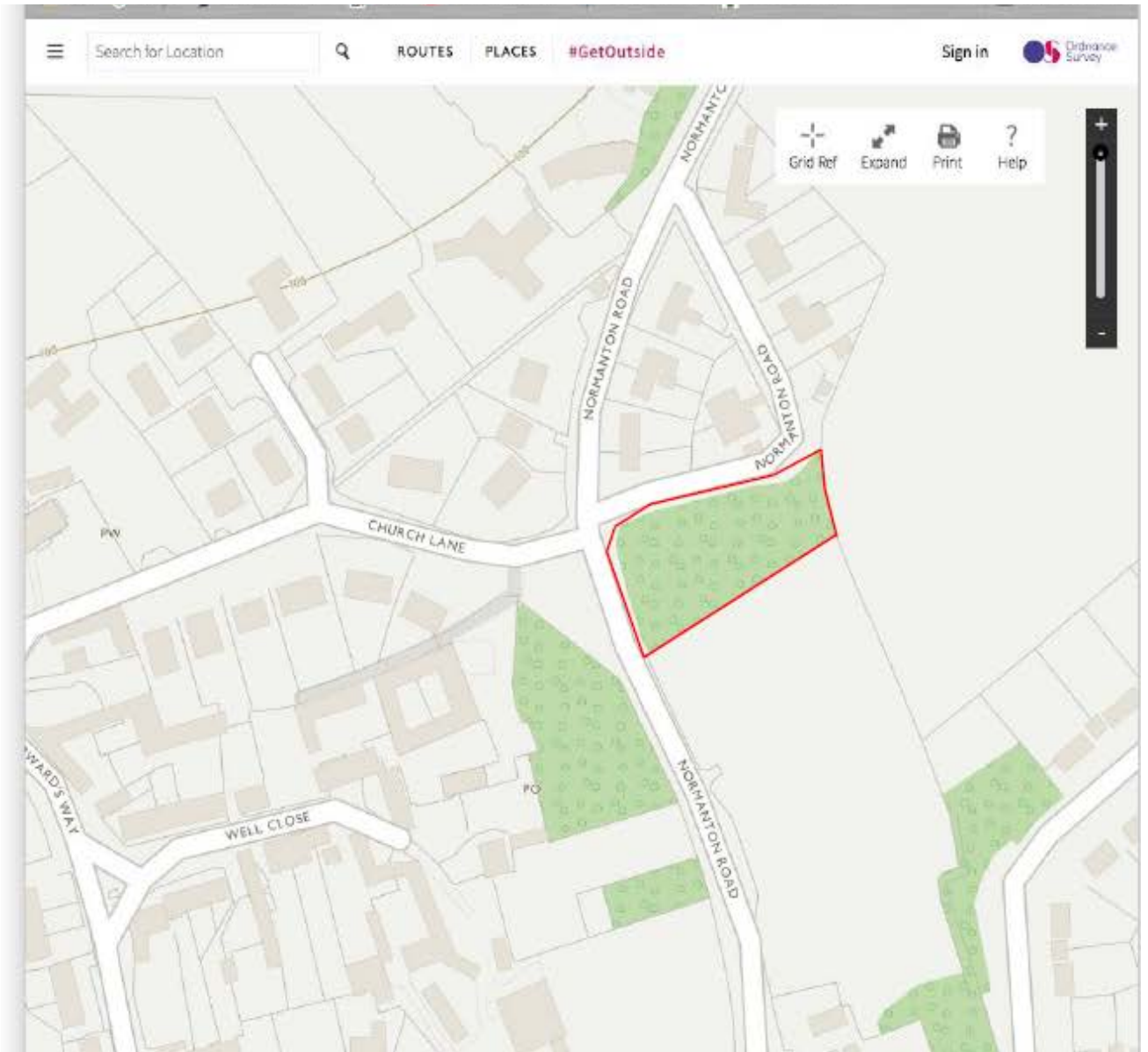
LGS Maps

9. Appendix 1

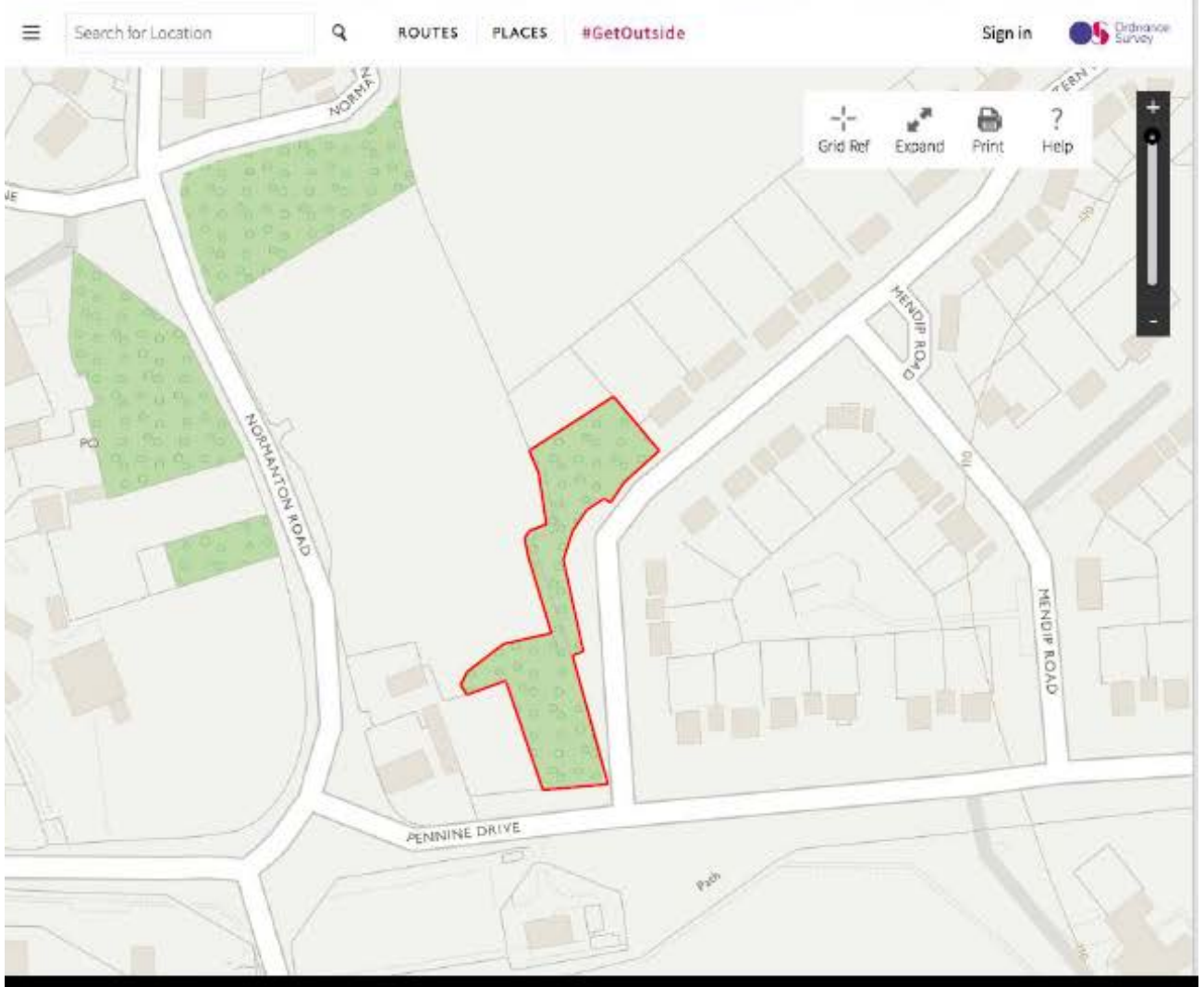
LGS 1 Tyler's Orchard and Wildflower area



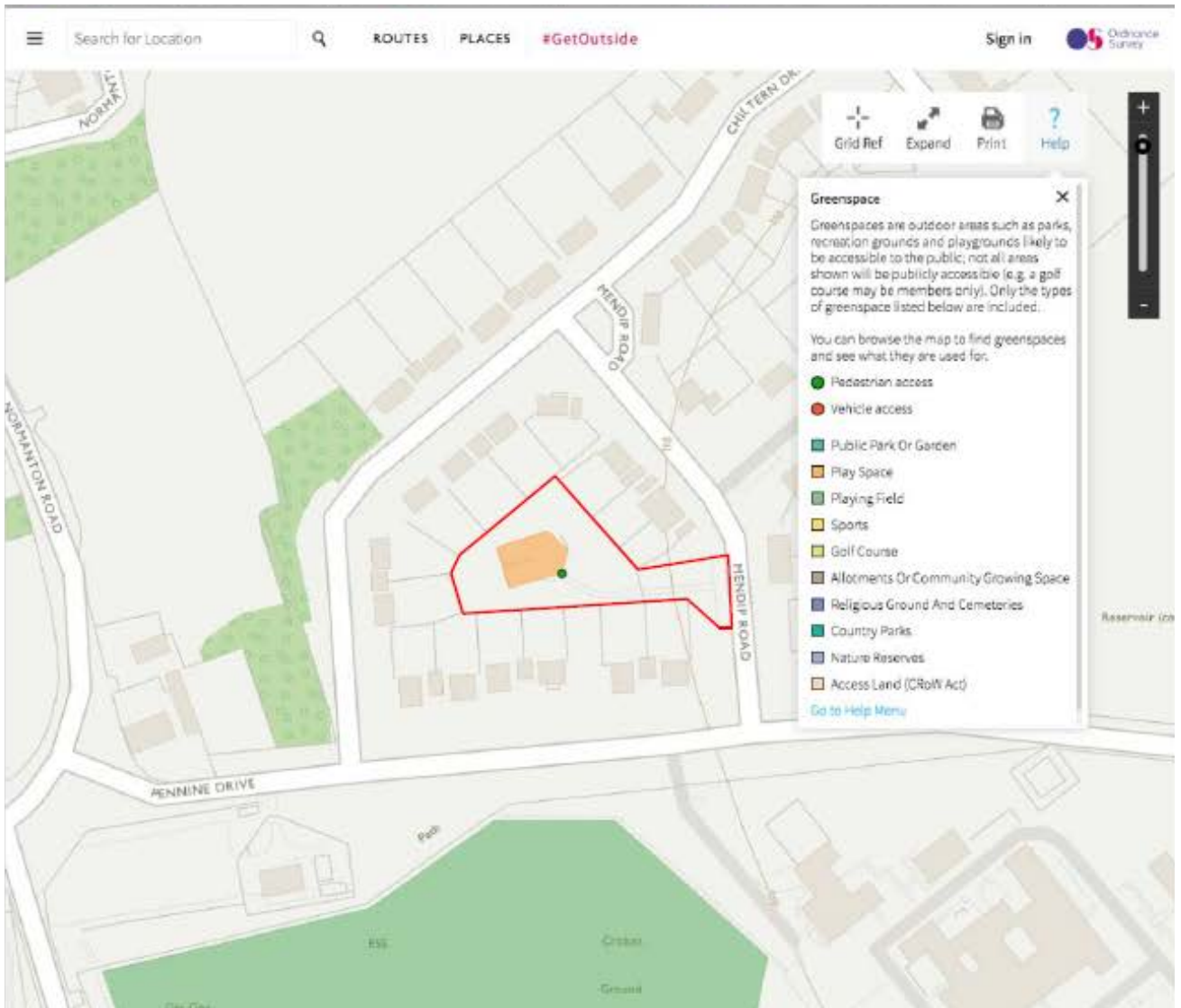
LGS 2 The Dell, Normanton Road



LGS 3 Woodland, Pennine Drive/Chiltern Drive



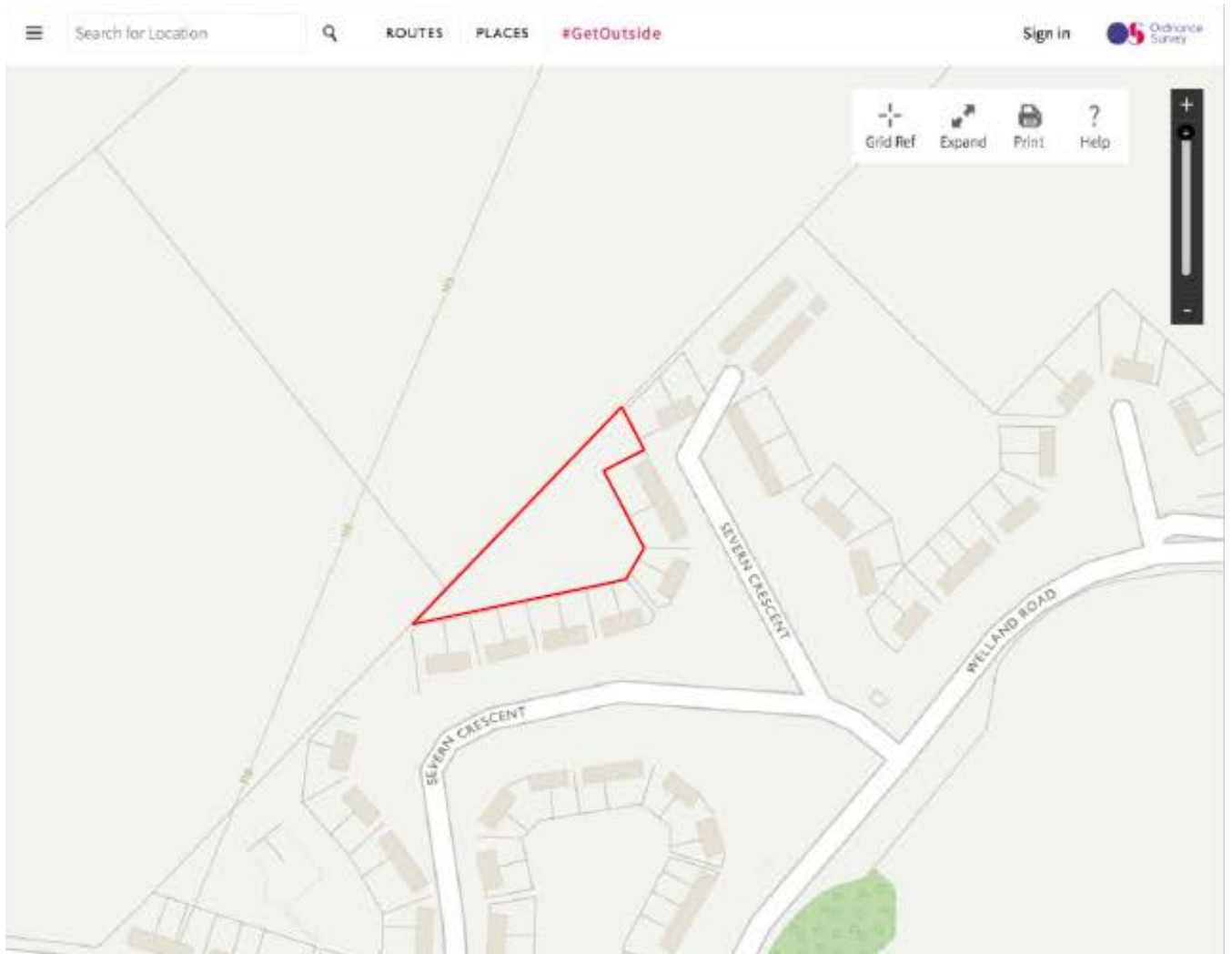
LGS 4 Mendip Play Area



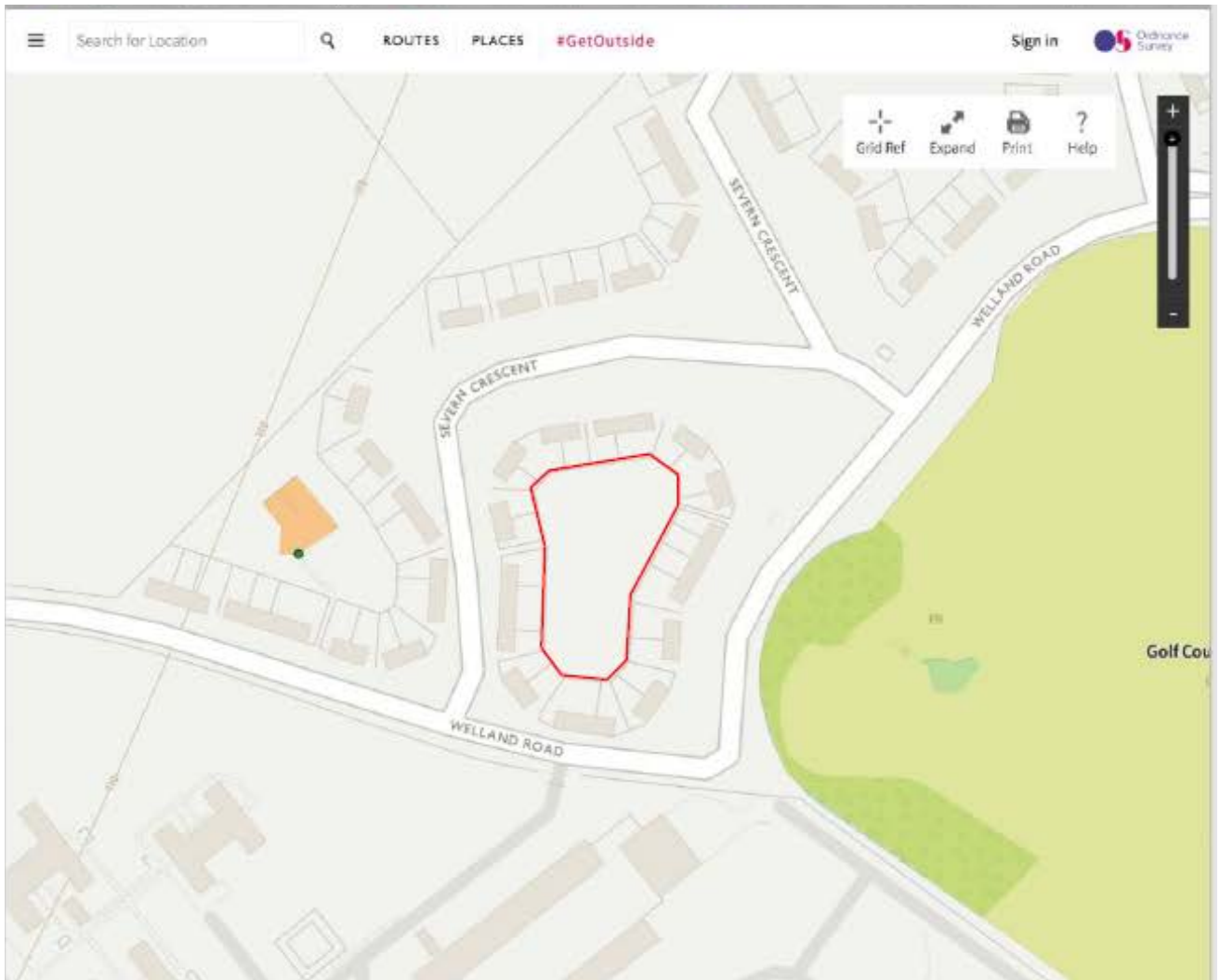
LGS 5 Pennine Play Park



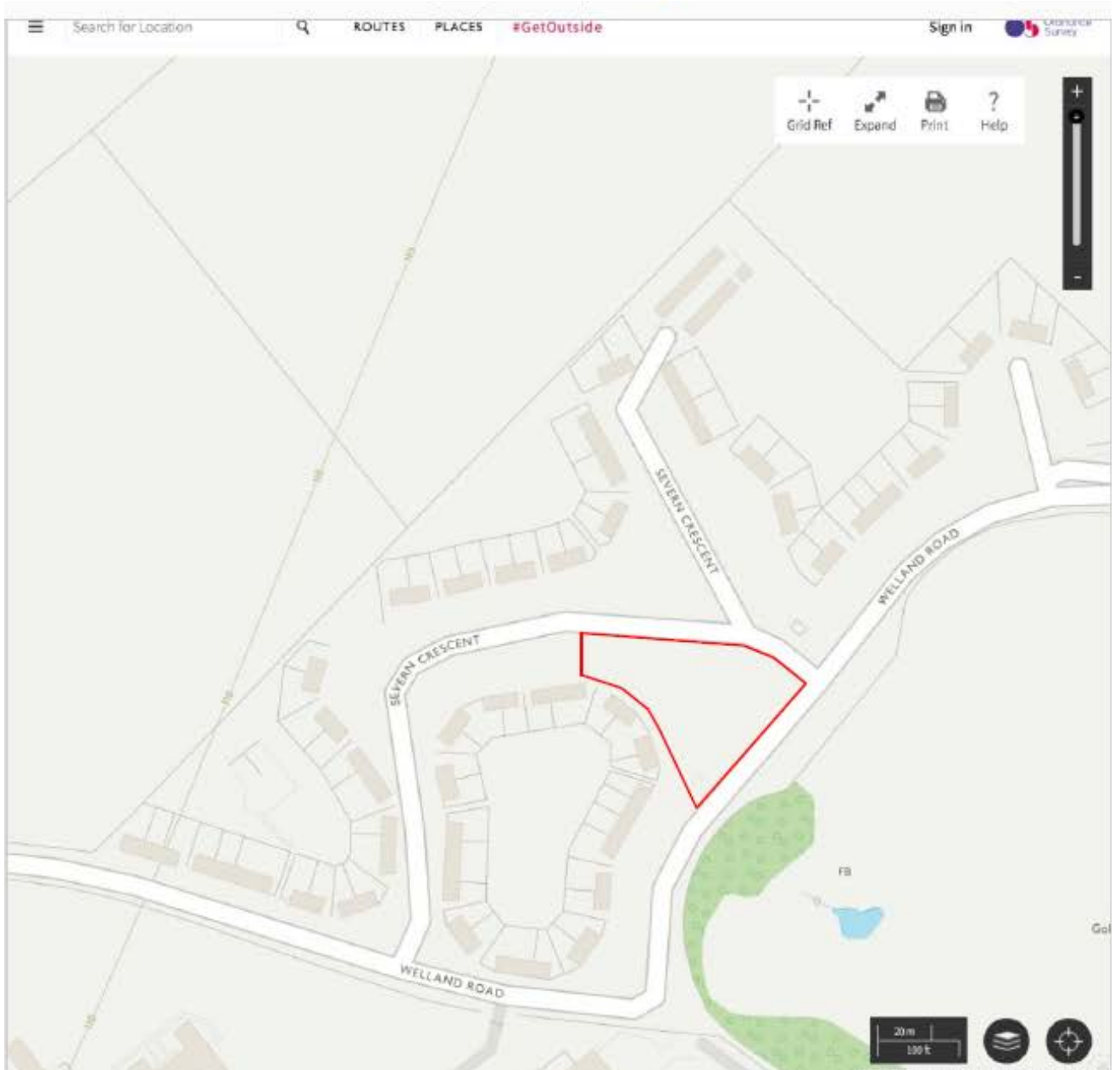
LGS 6 Severn Crescent, Grassed Area 1



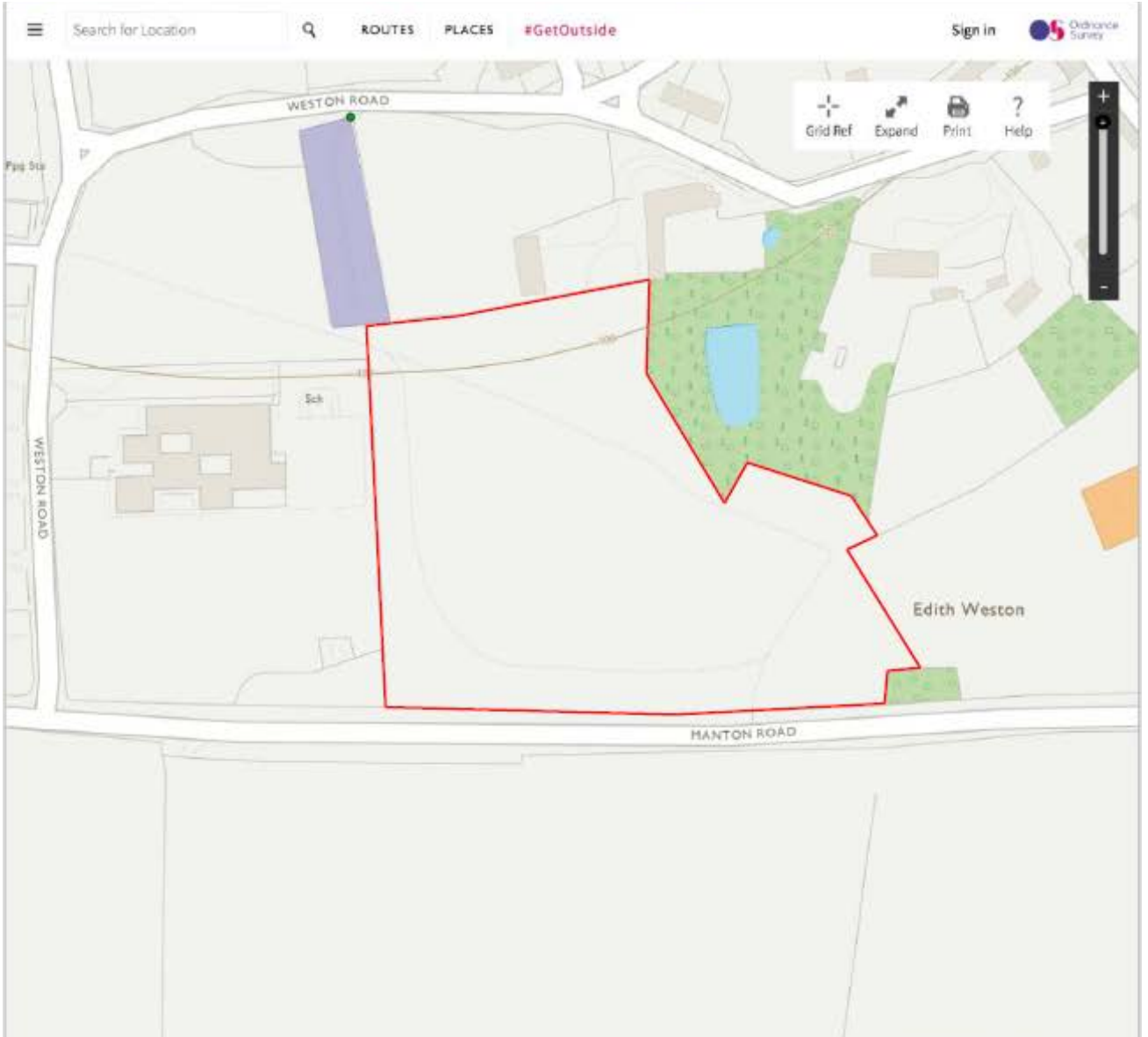
LGS 7 Severn Crescent, Grassed Area 2



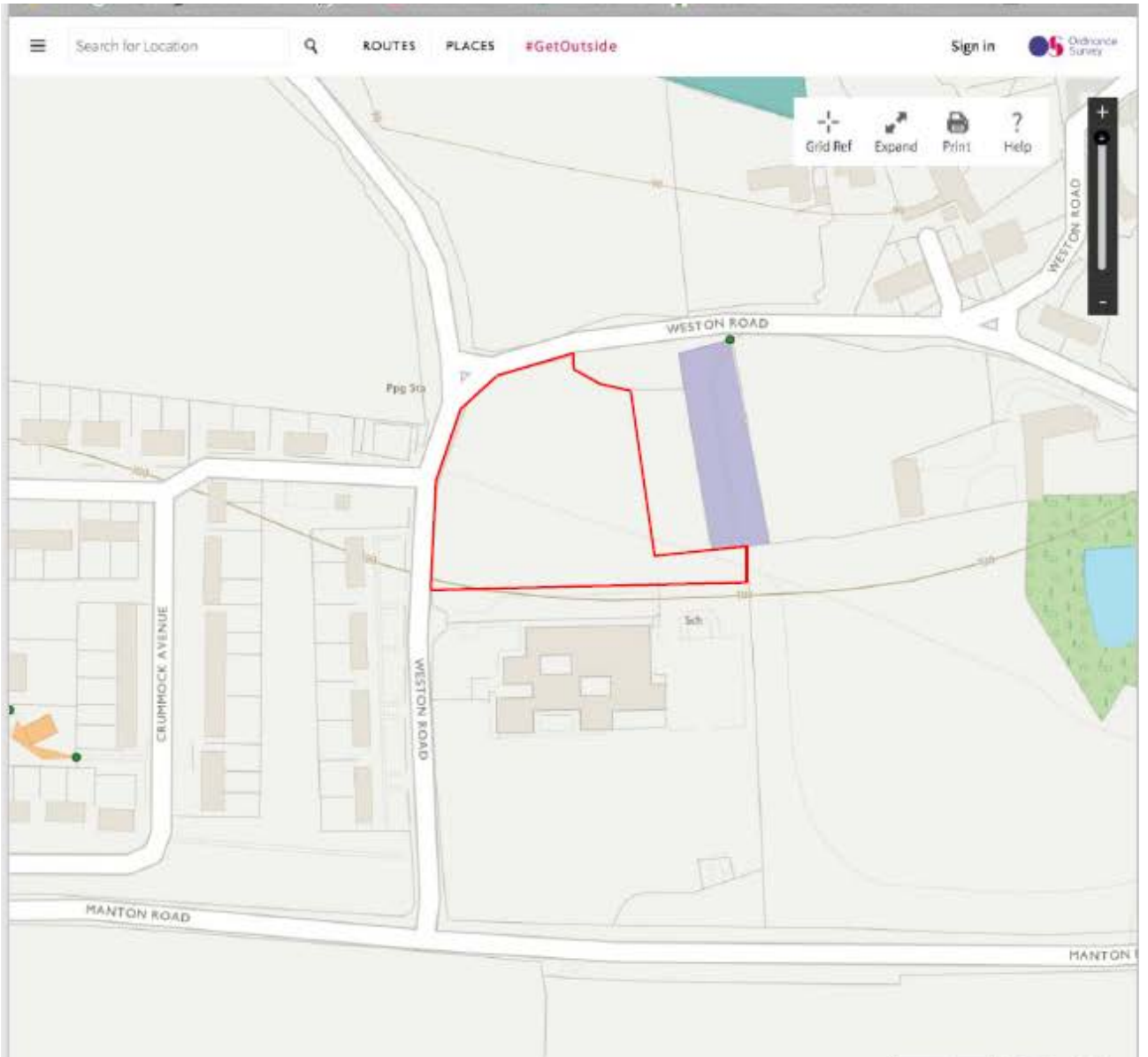
LGS 8 Severn Crescent, Grassed Area 3



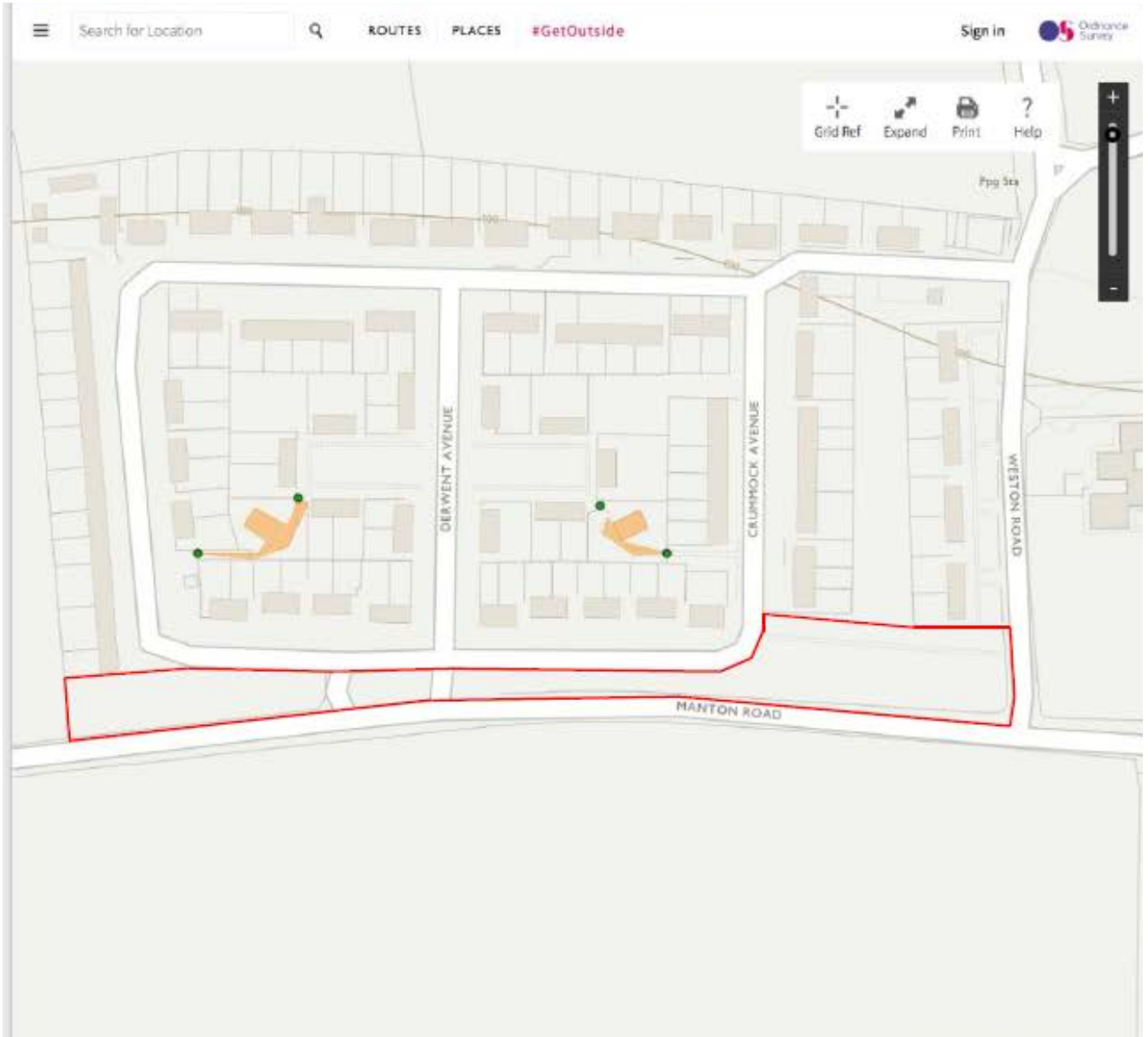
LGS 9 Glebe Land Area A



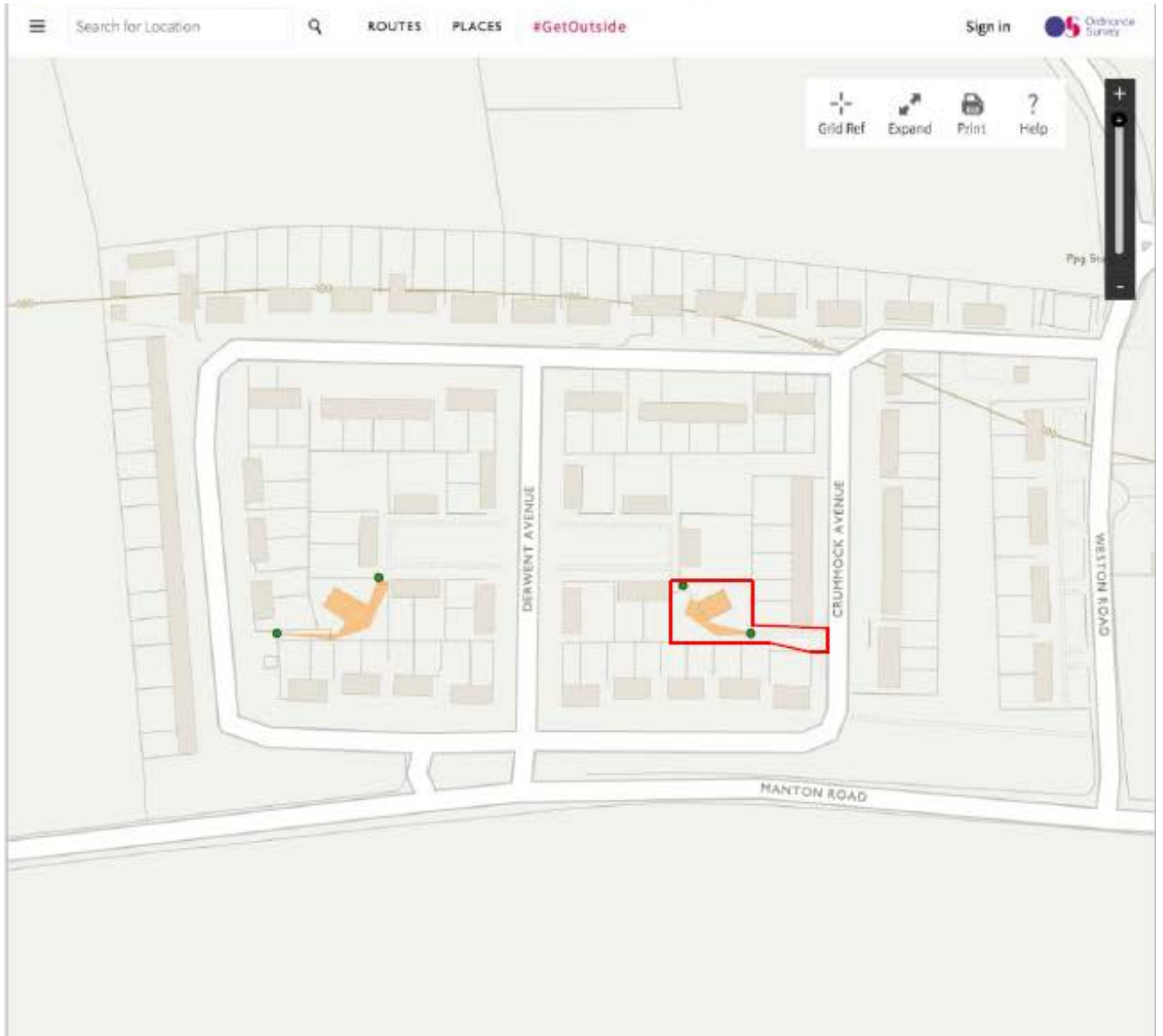
LGS 10 Glebe Land Area B



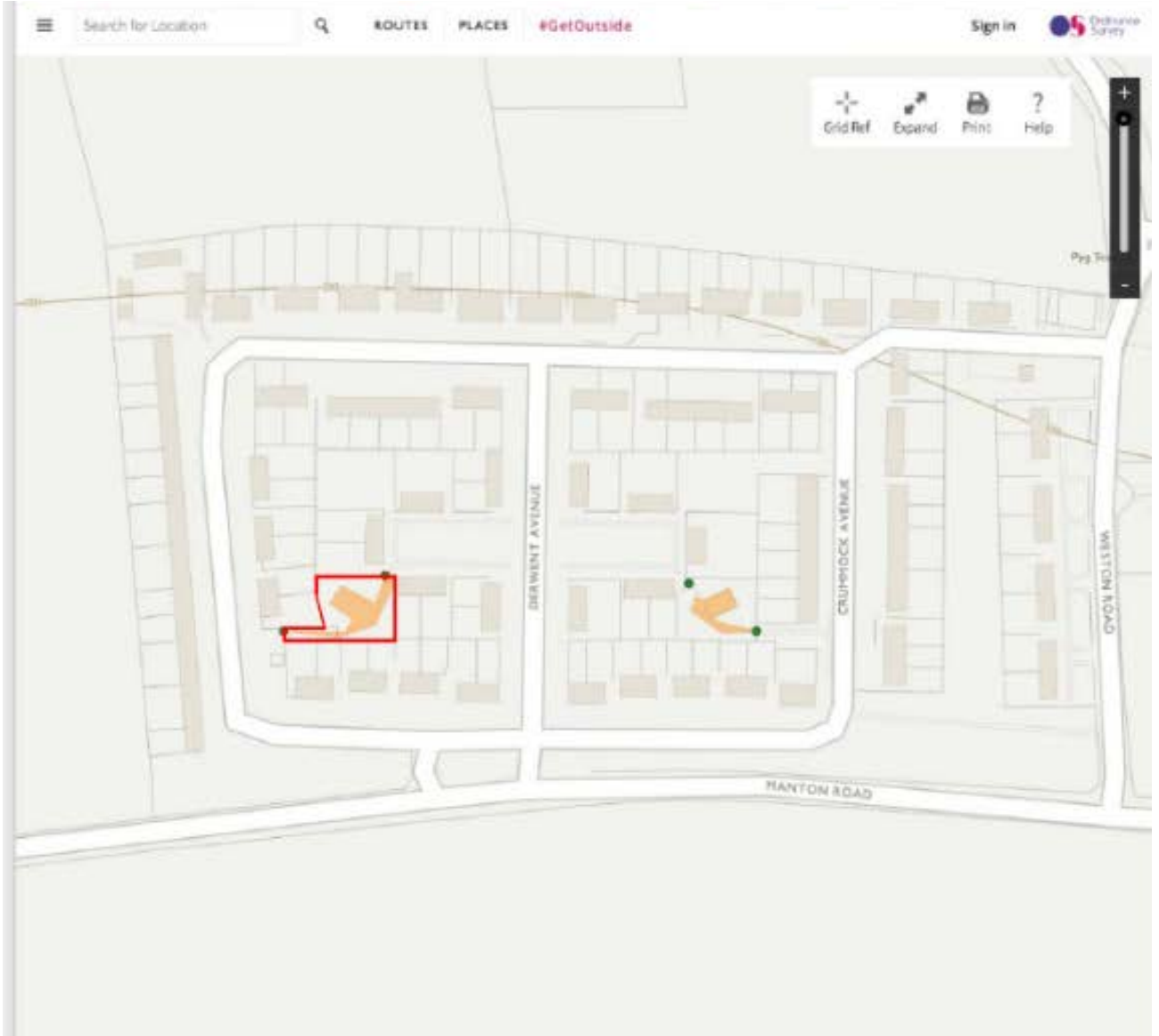
LGS 11 Manton Road & Windermere Road, Verge and Trees



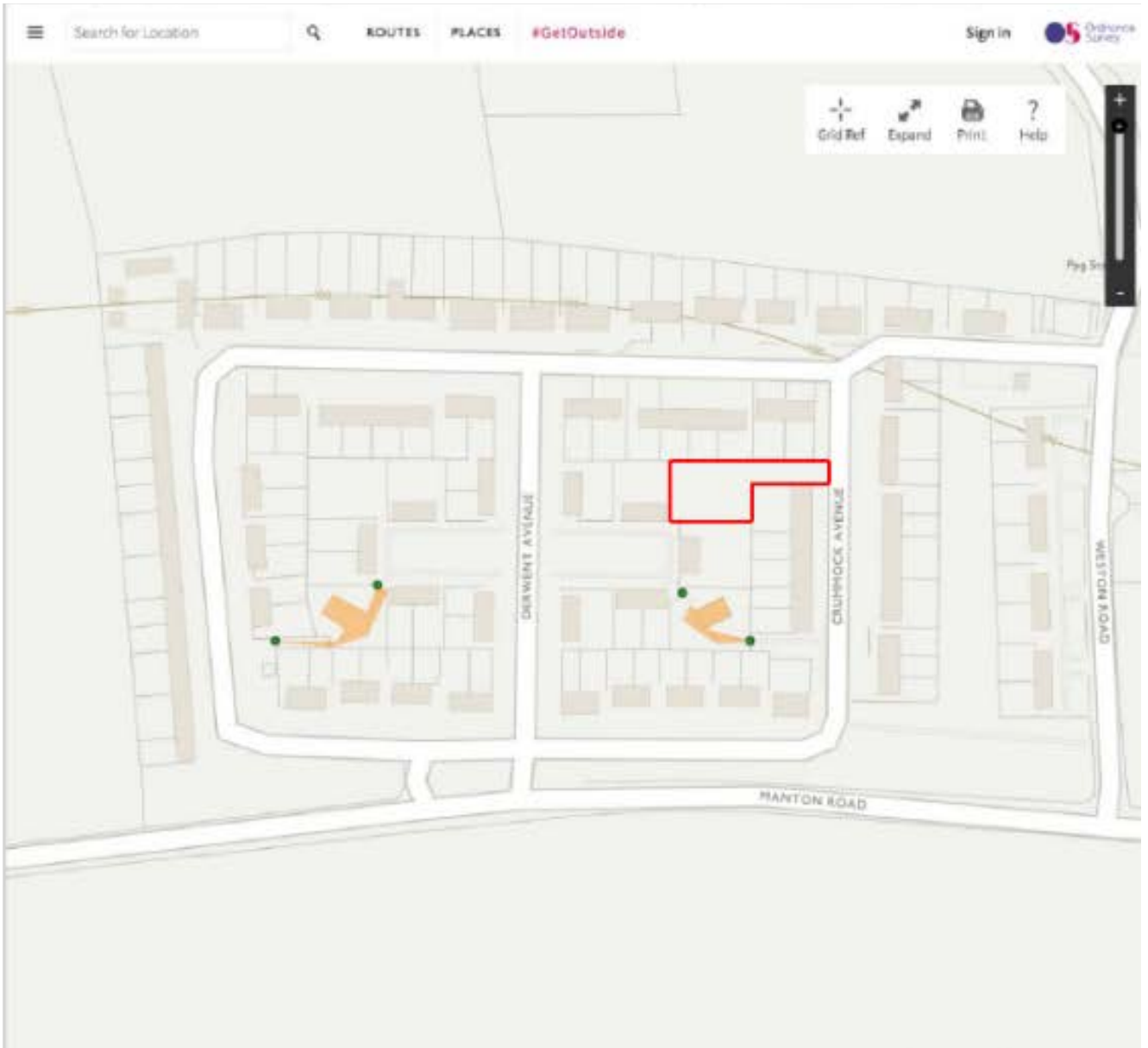
LGS 12 Crummock Ave, Play Area



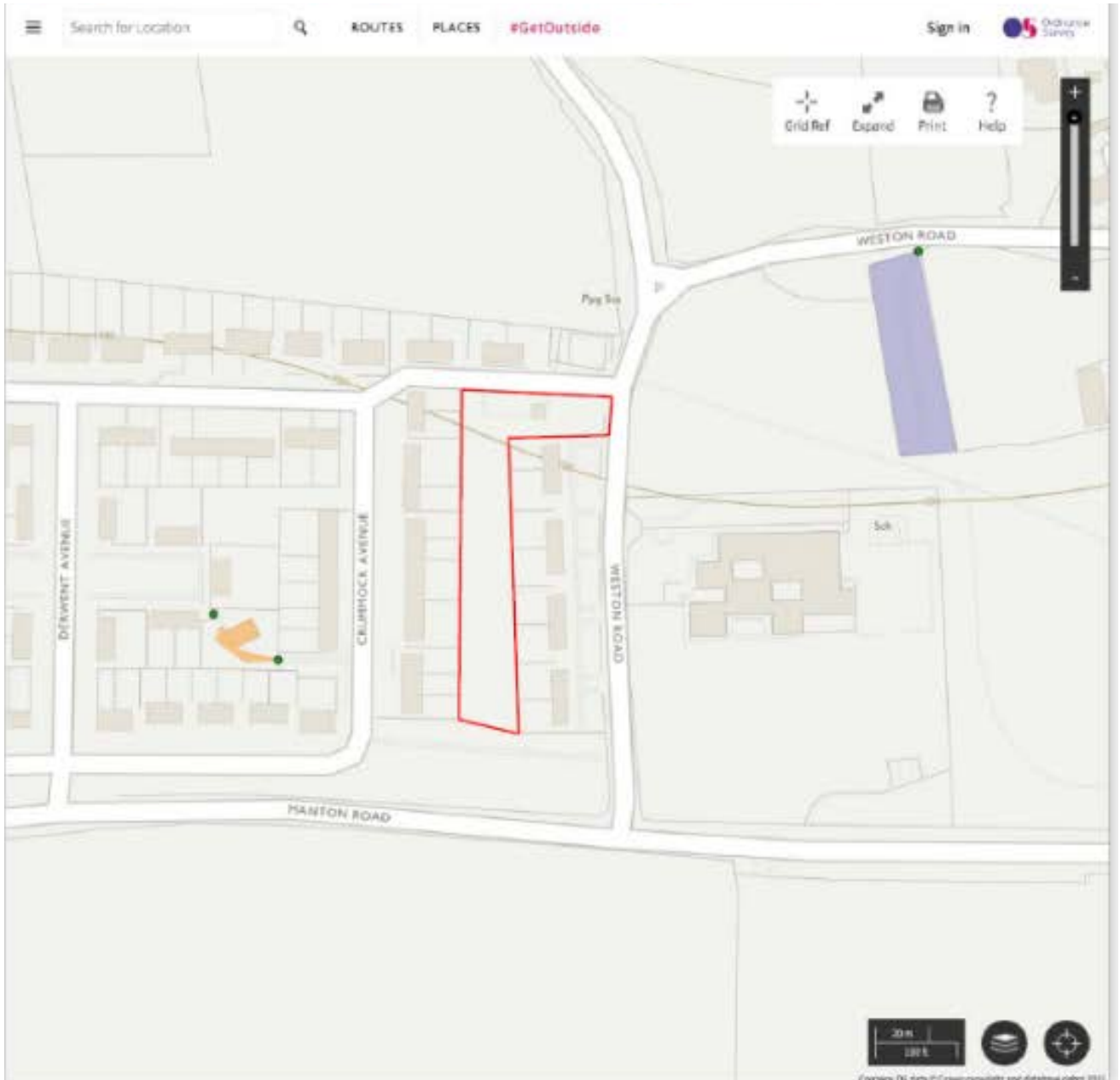
LGS 13 Ullswater Ave, Play Area



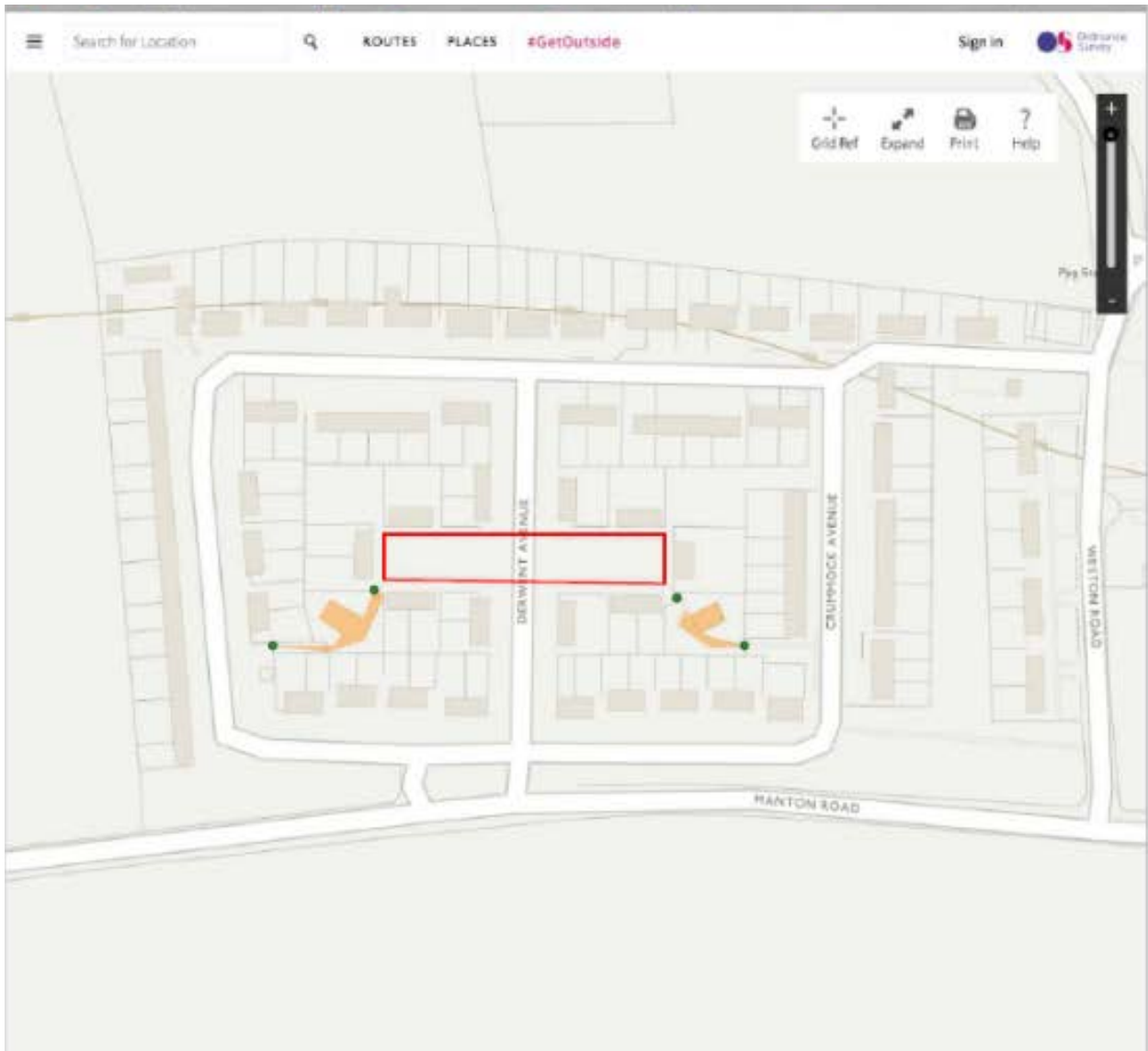
LGS 14 Derwent Ave Green Space



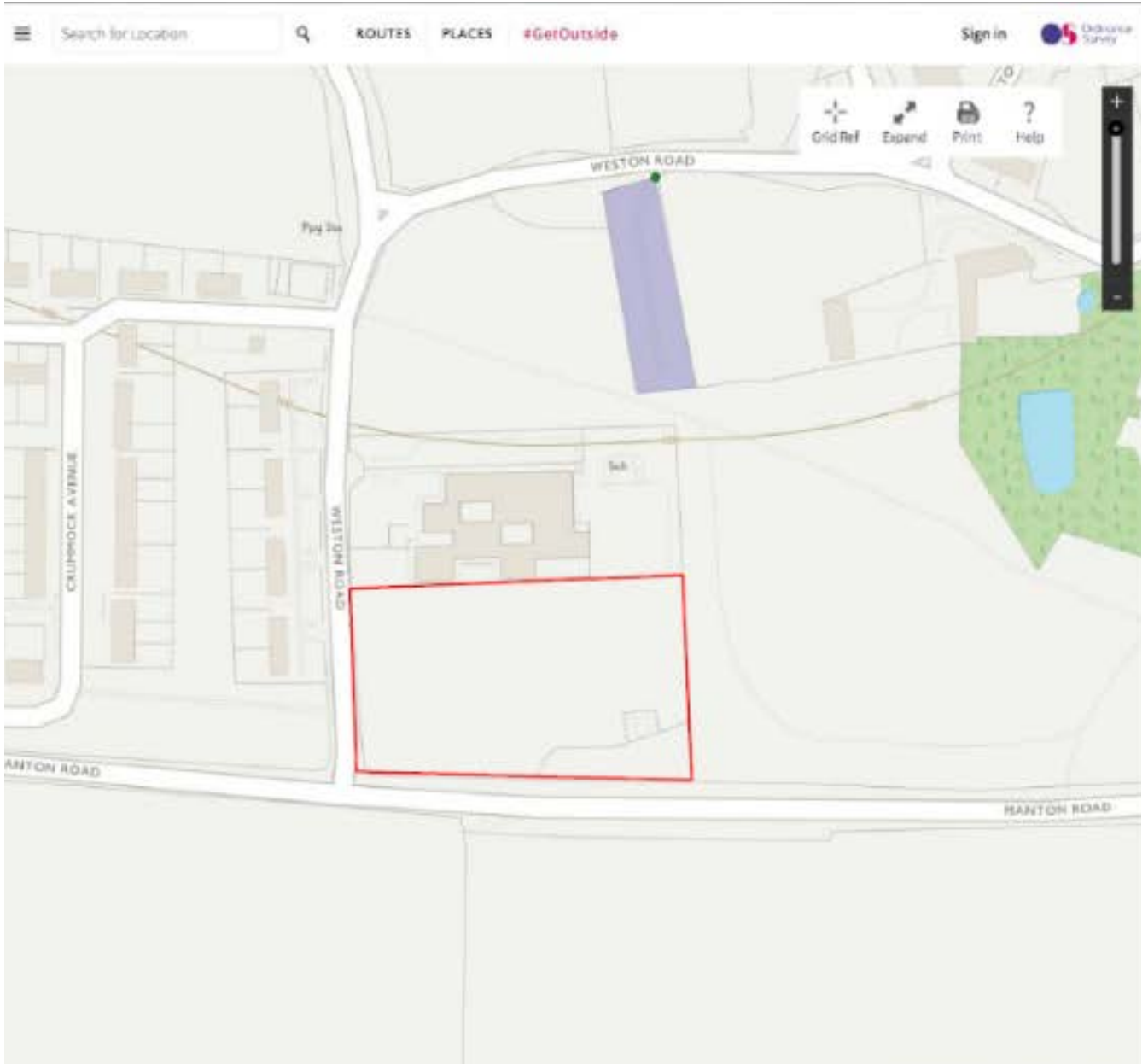
LGS 15 Coniston Road Green Space



LGS 16 Derwent Ave, Open Green Space



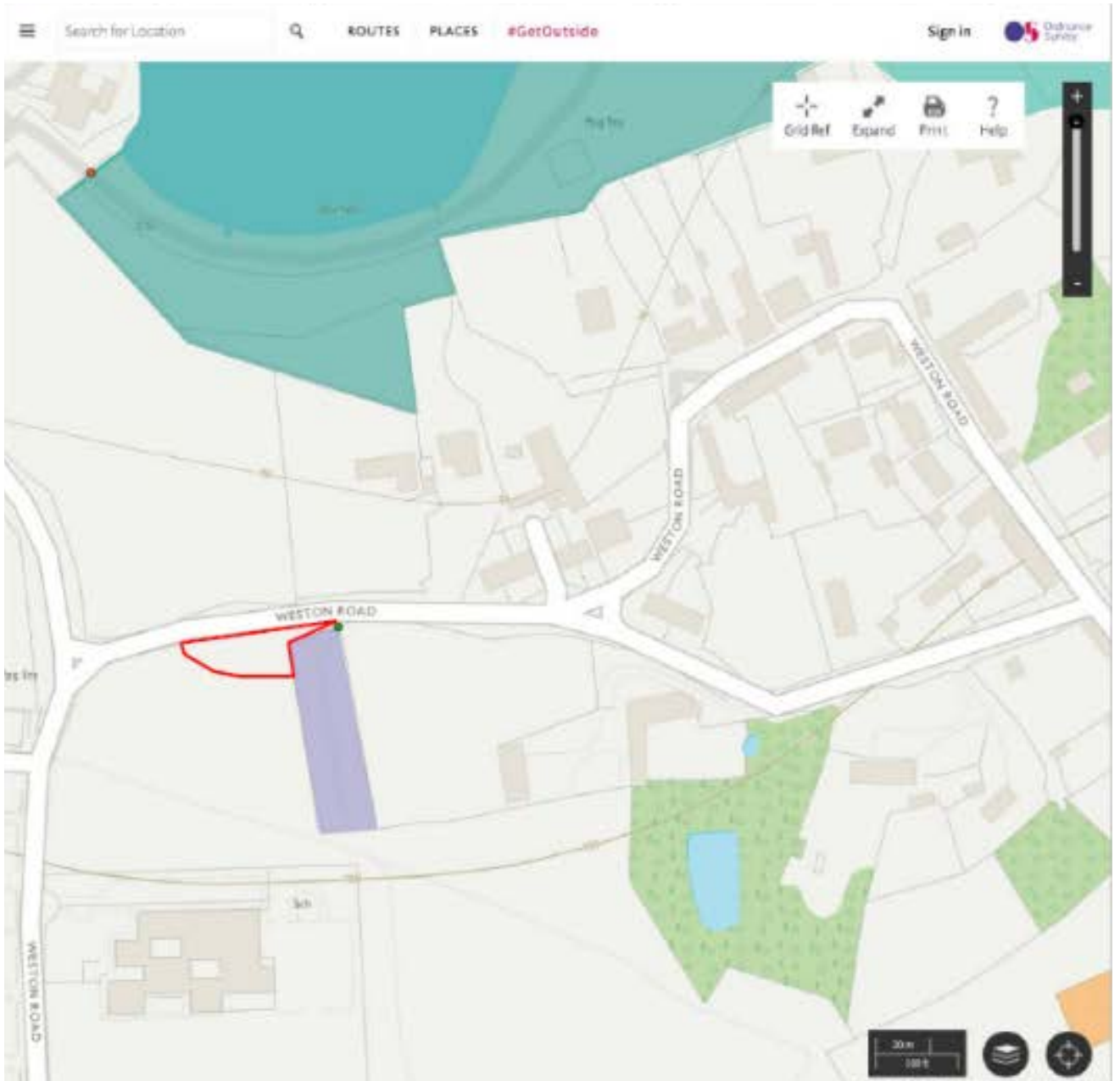
LGS 17 School Playing Field



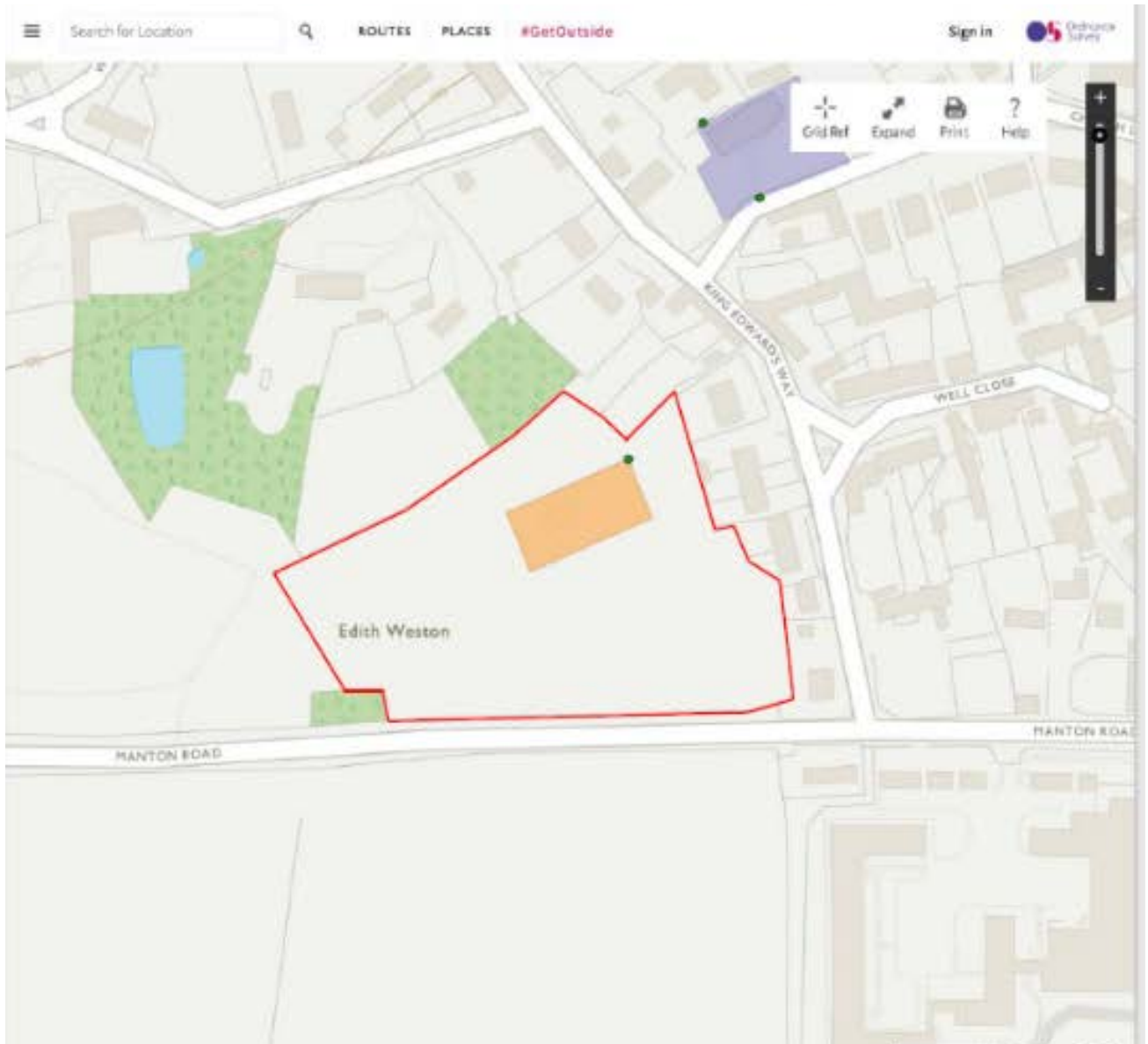
LGS 18 Weston Road, Green Space/Field



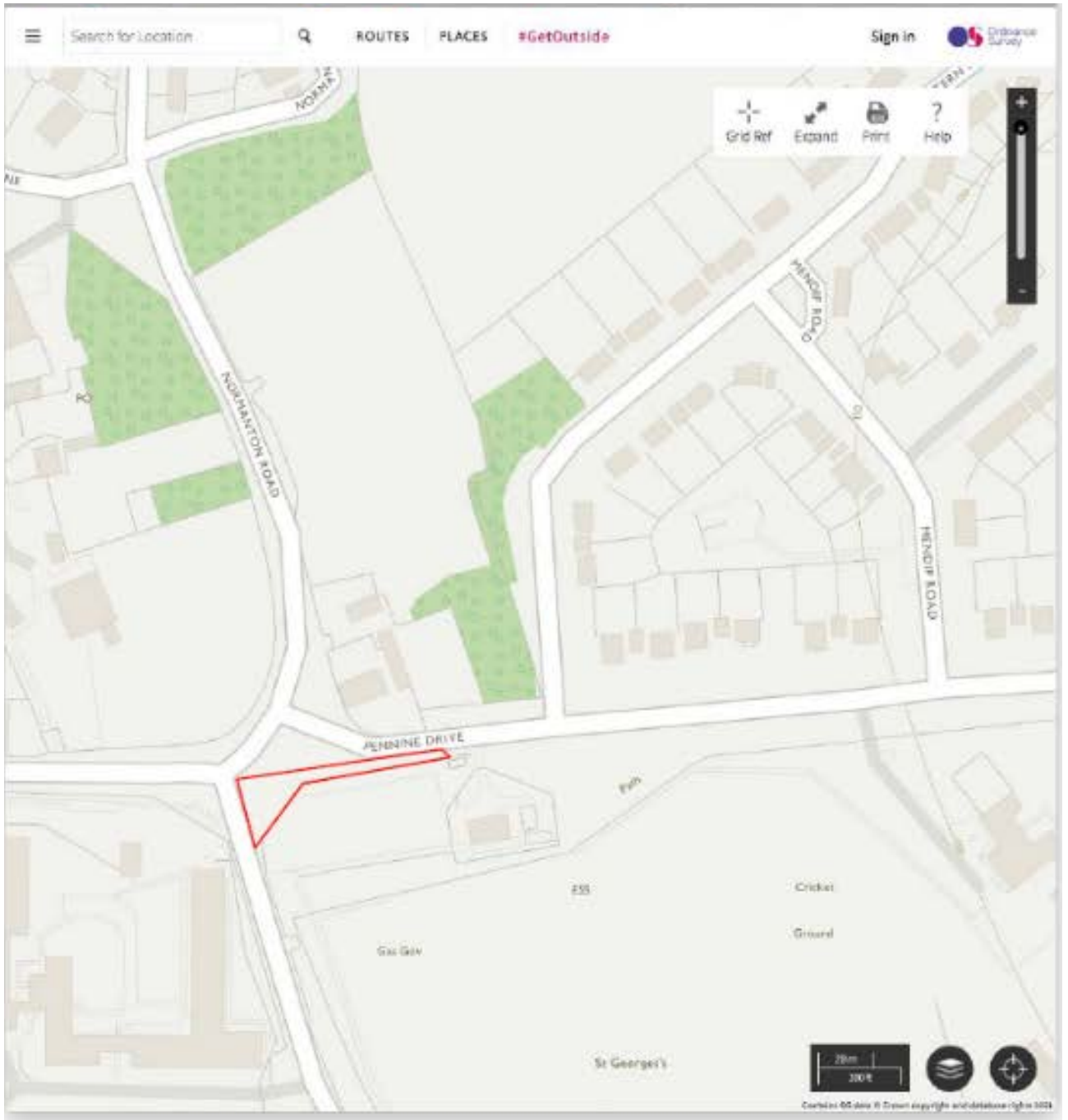
LGS 19 Weston Road Dell



LGS 20 Tommy's Close Recreation Ground



LGS 21 Memorial Stones open grassed area



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Urban Vision Enterprise CIC
Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan
Basic Conditions Statement V1.1
January 2024

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of the Report

This is a Basic Conditions Statement, prepared to accompany the submission of the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan.

The statement explains how the Neighbourhood Plan meets the Basic Conditions and other legal requirements. The statement also includes an equalities assessment, which demonstrates how the Plan meets the public duty relating to equalities. This is a key part of demonstrating compliance with human rights legislation.

2. Meeting Legal Requirements

2.1 General Requirements

Qualifying Body

The draft plan proposal is being submitted by Edith Weston Parish Council, which is the qualifying body for neighbourhood planning.

Scope and Statutory Process

The draft plan relates to the use and development of land and has been prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements and processes set out in planning legislation, policy and guidance. This includes designation of the Neighbourhood Area, screening (Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment) and statutory consultation (Regulation 14).

Period of Effect

The draft plan states the period for which it is to have effect, which is until the end of 2041 (Paragraph 1.2).

Excluded Development

The draft plan does not deal with mineral extraction, waste development, nationally significant infrastructure or any other matters set out in Section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Neighbourhood Area

The draft plan proposal relates to the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Area and to no other area. Once made, this Plan will replace the current 'made' Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan 2012-2026.

2.2 The Basic Conditions

The Basic Conditions that neighbourhood plans must meet are as follows:

1. must be appropriate having regard to national policy;
2. must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
3. must be in general conformity with the strategic policies in the development plan for the local area;
4. must be compatible with EU obligations (equivalence in UK law).

Regulations specify an additional basic condition that a plan does not breach the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, which set out the habitat regulation assessment process for land use plans, including consideration of the effect on habitats sites.

In addition, the plan must meet requirements of human rights law, including the requirements of the Equalities Act 2010.

The following chapters of this statement deal with the basic conditions and human rights requirements in more detail.

3. Sustainable Development

3.1 Dimensions of Sustainable Development

The National Planning Policy Framework 2023 states that sustainable development has economic, social and environmental objectives.

The draft neighbourhood plan takes a balanced approach to enabling growth, whilst also considering economic, social and environmental sustainability.

3.2 How Policies Address Sustainable Development

The draft plan proposal seeks to deliver growth and to address sustainability through a set of eleven policies, grouped in chapters as follows.

3. Sustainable Growth

Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement

Policy EW-SG02: St George's Barracks Officers' Mess

4. Green Environment

Policy EW-GE01: Natural and Green Environments

Policy EW-GE02: Local Green Space

5. Design and Heritage

Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design

Policy EW-DH02: Planned Estates

Policy EW-DH03: Edith Weston Conservation Area

Policy EW-DH04: Non-Designated Heritage

6. Transport and Movement

Policy EW-TM01: Transport and Movement

The **Sustainable Growth** Chapter enables growth and development within the defined settlement and for a brownfield site adjoining the settlement.

The Plan does not undertake housing site allocations, leaving this to the Rutland Local Plan. However, the support for development within the settlement boundary and also for the St George's Barracks Officer's Mess brownfield site meets evidenced housing need.

The **Green Environment** Chapter provides protection for the rural and natural environment and also protects green spaces with community value.

The **Design and Heritage** Chapter sets design requirements, both general and for specific areas, and also deals with non-designated heritage.

The **Transport and Movement** Chapter deals with transport requirements, including sustainable transport and active travel.

Policies dealing with design, environment and movement address sustainability, but should not be seen as being in opposition to growth. Achieving the economic potential of the parish depends on maintaining the attractiveness of the area as a place to live, work, spend leisure time and invest. Environmental quality is a key factor in achieving sustainable growth.

3.3 Achieving Sustainable Development

The policies have been prepared against the context of increasing awareness of the impacts of climate change and the urgent need to address the causes. Climate change is addressed in practical and local ways through the various policies, for example by supporting mixed use, walkable neighbourhoods, active travel and green design.

The policies enabling growth and addressing economic, social and environmental sustainability and infrastructure combine to ensure that the plan will help to achieve sustainable development, taking account of the needs of current and future generations.

4. National Policy and Guidance

4.1 Having Regard to National Policy and Guidance

The draft plan has regard to the National Planning Policy Framework December 2023 (NPPF) and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

Chapter 2 of the NPPF deals with achieving sustainable development. Sustainable development has economic, social and environmental objectives, set out in Paragraph 8.

Paragraph 11a) states:

all plans should promote a sustainable pattern of development that seeks to: meet the development needs of their area; align growth and infrastructure; improve the environment; mitigate climate change (including by making effective use of land in urban areas) and adapt to its effects;

This principle has underpinned the draft Neighbourhood Plan, which has the following aims:

- a. *To protect the rural, natural, historic and built environment of Edith Weston, whilst minimising carbon use and increasing biodiversity.*
- b. *To promote local economic opportunity and more sustainable live-work patterns.*
- c. *To provide high quality housing to meet local need, supported by local community facilities.*
- d. *To promote active travel, healthy lifestyles and more sustainable forms of transport.*

These aims then underpin the Neighbourhood Plan's policies.

Chapter 3 of the NPPF deals with plan-making. Paragraph 16 requires plans to be prepared with the objective of contributing to the achievement of sustainable development, to be prepared positively (aspirational but deliverable); to be shaped by early, proportionate and effective engagement and contain policies that are clearly written and unambiguous, to be accessible through digital tools and to serve a clear purpose and avoid duplication.

The policies of the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan have been written to provide a clear framework for decisions, in response to Paragraph 16.

Paragraph 29 requires neighbourhood plans not to promote less development than set out in the strategic policies for the area, or undermine those strategic policies.

The Neighbourhood Plan supports sustainable growth within the settlements and on the St George’s Barracks Officer’s Mess brownfield site.

The neighbourhood plan is based on a range of evidence, in line with planning practice guidance. This includes evidence on non-designated heritage, natural environment and design.

4.2 NPPF Policy Areas

The NPPF was revised in December 2023 and contains a number of policy areas. The following table details the relationship between the Neighbourhood Plan policies and the NPPF chapters.

NPPF Policy	NP Aim	NP Policies
<p>Chapter 5: Delivering a sufficient supply of homes</p>	<p>c.</p>	<p>Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design</p> <p>The Plan supports housing growth in sustainable locations, within the settlements and on a brownfield site adjacent to the settlement.</p> <p>The Plan sets design requirements for housing.</p>
<p>Chapter 6: Building a strong, competitive economy</p>	<p>b.</p>	<p>Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design</p> <p>The Plan supports proportionate economic development, supporting local economic opportunity and local community facilities.</p> <p>Design of development is important in creating positive image and quality of environment, both crucial in attracting investment and employment.</p>
<p>Chapter 8: Promoting</p>	<p>a, b, c, d.</p>	<p>Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement</p>

NPPF Policy	NP Aim	NP Policies
<p>healthy and safe communities</p>		<p>Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess Policy EW-GE01: Natural and Green Environments Policy EW-GE02: Local Green Space Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design</p> <p>The Plan supports development in the most sustainable locations, whilst also seeking to protect sensitive landscapes and green spaces with community value (LGS). A rigorous selection processes was undertaken to identify Local Green Spaces. The analysis for each space is set out in the ‘Local Green Space Assessment Report, August 2023’.</p> <p>Design requirements ensure that development supports community interaction and active travel.</p>
<p>Chapter 9: Promoting sustainable transport</p>	<p>d.</p>	<p>Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design Policy EW-TM01: Transport and Movement</p> <p>The policies promotes sustainable transport and active travel, including by addressing pedestrian convenience.</p>
<p>Chapter 11: Making effective use of land</p>	<p>a, b, c</p>	<p>Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess Policy EW-GE01: Natural and Green Environments Policy EW-GE02: Local Green Space Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design</p> <p>Collectively, the policies support mixed use, a walkable neighbourhood, use of brownfield land, homes to meet local need and environmentally responsible design.</p>
<p>Chapter 12: Achieving well-designed places</p>	<p>a, b, c, d.</p>	<p>Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design Policy EW-DH02: Planned Estates Policy EW-DH03: Edith Weston Conservation Area Policy EW-TM01: Transport and Movement</p>

NPPF Policy	NP Aim	NP Policies
		<p>The plan includes design policies, with a focus on quality of place, movement, character and green design. Emphasis is placed on pedestrian convenience and permeability and connectivity.</p> <p>Policies are informed by the National Design Guide in addition to other standards, such as ‘Building for a Healthy Life’.</p>
<p>Chapter 14: Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change</p>	<p>a, b, c, d.</p>	<p>Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess Policy EW-GE01: Natural and Green Environments Policy EW-GE02: Local Green Space Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design</p> <p>Climate change is a key theme running through policies. This includes reducing carbon impacts and promoting green development, in addition to protecting the rural and natural environment.</p>
<p>Chapter 15: Conserving and enhancing the natural environment</p>	<p>a.</p>	<p>Policy EW-GE01: Natural and Green Environments Policy EW-GE02: Local Green Space</p> <p>Policies protect the rural environment and biodiversity, including key landscape features and green spaces.</p>
<p>Chapter 16: Conserving and enhancing the historic environment</p>	<p>b.</p>	<p>Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design Policy EW-DH02: Planned Estates Policy EW-DH03: Edith Weston Conservation Area Policy EW-DH04: Non-Designated Heritage</p> <p>Policies address design and character, including more specific character requirements for planned estates and the Edith Weston Conservation Area.</p>

5. Local Policies

5.1 General Conformity with Strategic Local Policies

General conformity relates to the policies of the neighbourhood plan taken as a whole, considered against adopted strategic local policies taken as a whole.

The draft plan proposal has been drafted against the context of strategic local policies and do not undermine, and helps to achieve, the spatial strategy set out in:

- Rutland Core Strategy, July 2011
- Site Allocations and Policies, October 2014.

5.2 Policy Comparison

The following table compares the policies of the Rutland Core Strategy 2011 with the policies of the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan.

Rutland Core Strategy, July 2011	Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan
<p>Policy CS1 – Sustainable Development Principles Policy CS2 – Spatial Strategy</p>	<p>All Policies</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan’s policies address various issues covered by CS1 and CS2, including climate change, environment, travel, brownfield sites, character and economy.</p> <p>Development is supported in sustainable locations.</p>
<p>Policy CS3 – The Settlement Hierarchy Policy CS4 – The Location of Development</p>	<p>Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess</p> <p>Edith Weston is identified as a Local Service Centre. The Neighbourhood Plan allows for proportionate growth, meeting housing need.</p>

Rutland Core Strategy, July 2011	Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan
<p>Policy CS6 – Reuse of redundant military bases and prisons</p>	<p>Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan supports the redevelopment of the officers mess site.</p>
<p>Policy CS7 – Socially inclusive communities</p>	<p>Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement</p> <p>Employment and community facilities are supported by the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
<p>Policy CS9 – Provision and distribution of new housing</p>	<p>Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan fully meets evidenced housing need.</p>
<p>Policy CS10 – Housing density and mix</p>	<p>Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan focuses on good design and character, so the density of development would vary, especially in historically sensitive locations.</p> <p>Density has been considered in the calculation of housing capacity, within the settlements and the St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess site. This has taken account of Policy CS10, but also character considerations and environmental constraints.</p>

Rutland Core Strategy, July 2011	Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan
<p>Policy CS11 – Affordable housing</p>	<p>Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to modify affordable housing proportions or thresholds.</p>
<p>Policy CS13 – Employment and economic development</p>	<p>Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan sets sustainable locations for employment development and community facilities.</p>
<p>Policy CS18 – Sustainable transport and accessibility</p>	<p>Policy EW-TM01: Transport and Movement</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan supports sustainable transport and active travel.</p>
<p>Policy CS19 – Promoting good design</p>	<p>Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design Policy EW-DH02: Planned Estates Policy EW-DH03: Edith Weston Conservation Area</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan addresses various aspects of sustainable design and also character, including character policies for specific areas.</p>

Rutland Core Strategy, July 2011	Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan
<p>Policy CS21 – The natural environment</p>	<p>Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess Policy EW-GE01: Natural and Green Environments Policy EW-GE02: Local Green Space</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan supports growth within the existing settlements and on a brownfield site.</p> <p>The Plan also seeks to protect the natural environment and green spaces (LGS).</p>
<p>Policy CS22 – The historic and cultural environment</p>	<p>Policy EW-DH02: Planned Estates Policy EW-DH03: Edith Weston Conservation Area Policy EW-DH04: Non-Designated Heritage</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan addresses character and identifies non-designated heritage assets of particular importance.</p>
<p>Policy CS23 - Green infrastructure, open space, sport and recreation</p>	<p>Policy EW-GE01: Natural and Green Environments Policy EW-GE02: Local Green Space Policy EW-TM01: Transport and Movement</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan supports active travel and protects green spaces with community value.</p>

The following table compares the policies of the Rutland Site Allocations and Policies SPD 2014 with the policies of the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan.

Site Allocations and Policies, October 2014	Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan
Objectives 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 13	<p>All Policies</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan’s policies address various issues covered by the Objectives in the Site Allocations and Policies Plan.</p>
Policy SP1 – Presumption in favour of sustainable development	<p>All Policies</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan will be used in the application of Policy SP1.</p>
Policy SP4 – Built development in towns and villages	<p>Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement Policy EW-GE01: Natural and Green Environments Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan policies complement and add detail to the Local Plan in terms of supporting housing development, setting design requirements and considering environmental impacts.</p>
Policy SP11 - Use of military bases and prisons for operational or other purposes	<p>Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan supports the redevelopment of the officers mess site.</p>
Policy SP15 – Design and amenity	<p>Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design Policy EW-DH02: Planned Estates Policy EW-DH03: Edith Weston Conservation Area</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan complements SP15, but also takes into account the National design Guide 2021.</p>

<p>Site Allocations and Policies, October 2014</p>	<p>Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan</p>
	<p>More specific and local policy on local character also complements SP15.</p>
<p>Policy SP19 – Biodiversity and geodiversity conservation</p>	<p>Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design Policy EW-GE01: Natural and Green Environments</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan adds more specific requirements for Edith Weston, recognising local landscape features.</p>
<p>Policy SP20 - The historic environment</p>	<p>Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design Policy EW-DH02: Planned Estates Policy EW-DH03: Edith Weston Conservation Area Policy EW-DH04: Non-Designated Heritage</p> <p>Various policies address the historic environment, including requirements to complement context, consider local character (including the Edith Weston Conservation Area) and conservation of non-designated heritage.</p>
<p>Policy SP21 - Important open space and frontages</p>	<p>Policy EW-GE02: Local Green Space</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan designates an important open space as Local Green Space (LGS17). The other important green space is not designated as LGS, but verges are mentioned in Policy EW-DH03.</p>
<p>Policy SP23 - Landscape character in the countryside</p>	<p>Policy EW-GE01: Natural and Green Environments Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan focuses development on brownfield sites and provides protection for the natural and green environment.</p>

5.3 Emerging Local Policy

There is a Rutland Preferred Options Draft Local Plan regulation 18 consultation. Policy H1.4 recognises the Officer's Mess site for housing, consistent with the Neighbourhood Plan. However, it also proposes the wider St George's Barracks site as a proposed site allocation. The Parish Council made representations, objecting to this site. This will be decided through the Local Plan process.

The emerging Local Plan does not form a basis for considering general conformity. However, the evidence bases underpinning the emerging Local Plan has been considered. This includes the identification of a need for 514 homes for the 21 larger villages in Rutland, which includes Edith Weston. This figure informed the Edith Weston Housing Evidence Document July 2023.

6. EU Obligations

6.1 Screening

The plan has been screened to determine whether full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) were required. This included consultation with national statutory bodies.

Rutland Borough Council's ***Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment & Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report June 2023*** concludes with the following:

SEA

5.1 The EWNP has been prepared for town and country planning purposes and sets a framework for future development consent. The policies of the EWNP can be considered to determine the use of small areas at local level commensurate with their status in determining planning applications.

5.2 A screening assessment was undertaken to determine the need for a SEA in line with regulations and guidance and can be found in Section 3 of this report. The assessment finds no likely significant effects will occur as a result of the EWNP. The assessment finds many of the policies are in conformity with the local plan policies which have a full SA/SEA and which identified no likely significant effects will occur as a result of the implementation of policies.

5.3 From the findings of the screening assessment, it is recommended that a full SEA does not need to be undertaken for the EWNP.

HRA

5.4 A screening assessment was undertaken to determine the need for a HRA in line with regulations and guidance and can be found in section 4 of this report. The assessment finds that the EWNP is not predicted, without mitigation, to have any likely significant effects on a European site. The assessment finds many of the policies are in conformity with the local plan policies, which have undergone a full HRA and which identified no likely significant effects would occur as a result of the implementation of policies. It is also identified that no likely in combination significant effects will occur as a result of the implementation of the EWNP.

5.5 From the findings of the screening assessment, it is recommended that a full HRA does not need to be undertaken for the EWNP.

This confirms that neither full SEA nor HRA are required.

6.2 Meeting EU Obligations

Given the above screening outcome which takes account of the responses of national statutory bodies, the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan meets the basic conditions relating to not breaching EU obligations and Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

7. Human Rights

7.1 Considering Human Rights

Planning should be inclusive and rigorous engagement has taken place as part of the process of creating the plan. Stakeholder mapping was undertaken at an early stage. The outcomes from community engagement have informed the content of the draft plan.

Statutory consultation (Regulation 14) was undertaken and this took account of consultation case law, including compliance with Gunning principles.

The plan has also been informed by evidence, including data on the local population.

The following equalities assessment demonstrates that the Plan would have positive impact on different parts of the community, including those with protected characteristics.

7.2 Legal Requirement for Equality

Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 places a duty on public authorities to have due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination;
- advance equality of opportunity;
- foster good relations.

Protected characteristics are defined in the Equality Act as age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation. The Act also makes reference to marriage and civil partnership.

An Equalities Assessment is a systematic analysis of a policy or to scrutinise the potential for an adverse impact on a particular group or community, in particularly those with a protected characteristic.

An assessment has been made on whether the Neighbourhood Plan has a positive, negative or neutral impact on each of the protected characteristics.

7.3 Engagement and Consultation

The Neighbourhood Plan needs to cater for the widest range of needs, for all of the population. There is evidence to suggest that diversity is an important factor in achieving sustainable growth.

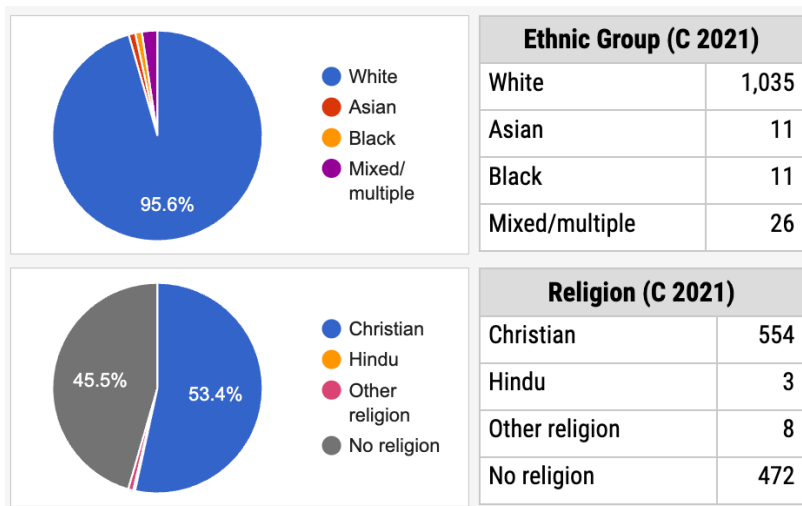
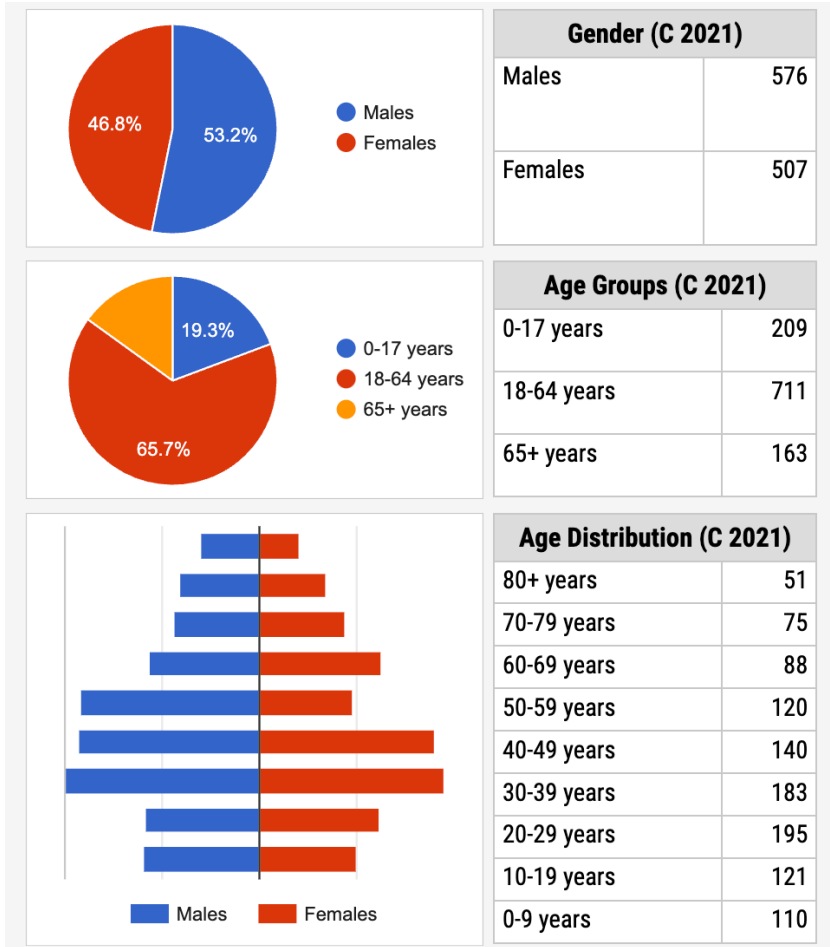
Planning should be inclusive and rigorous engagement has taken place as part of the process of creating the plan. Through informal engagement and the Regulation 14 consultation, certain issues of particular relevance to those with protected characteristics were raised, including pedestrian safety, limited public transport, cycling, housing mix and affordability, and green amenity space.

Statutory consultation (Regulation 14) took account of consultation case law, including compliance with Gunning principles. Comments made at the Regulation 14 stage were carefully considered and amendments were made to the Plan, where necessary. The Consultation Statement that forms part of the Neighbourhood Plan submission contains more detail.

7.4 Population Characteristics

This section needs to include: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership and socio-economic characteristics.

The Office of National Statistics 2021 figures for Edith Weston are as follows.



Sexual orientation figures for the East Midlands are:

Straight or heterosexual	89.7%
Gay or lesbian	1.28%
Bisexual	1.25%
Pansexual	0.21%
Asexual	0.06%
Queer	0.02%
All other sexual orientations	0.02%

7.5 Impacts on Protected and Other Characteristics

Equalities assessment requires consideration of each of the protected characteristics. However, it should be noted that the needs, attitudes and opinions of people within any of these broad groups are as diverse as in the population as a whole, including sometimes very polarised views.

The Neighbourhood Plan policies are:

Policy EW-SG01: Development within the Settlement

Policy EW-SG02: St George’s Barracks Officers’ Mess

Policy EW-GE01: Natural and Green Environments

Policy EW-GE02: Local Green Space

Policy EW-DH01: Sustainable Design

Policy EW-DH02: Planned Estates

Policy EW-DH03: Edith Weston Conservation Area

Policy EW-DH04: Non-Designated Heritage

Policy EW-TM01: Transport and Movement

The plan will achieve a range of benefits which potentially benefit the local population, in addition to addressing the specific needs of those with protected and other characteristics. These include:

- supporting housing growth to meet local need (EW-SG1, EW-SG2);
- seeking to maintain or enhance local economic opportunities and a range of community facilities (EW-SG1);
- protecting the natural, green and historic environments, including green spaces with community value (EW-GE01, EW-GE02, EW-DH02, EW-DH03, EW-DH04);
- ensuring that development is well-designed and supports active travel (EW-DH01, EW-TM01);

The plan addresses climate change and biodiversity through a range of practical requirements. This benefits the whole population. However, some requirements, can create particular benefits for people with protected characteristics, including

those without access to a car. For example, the plan promotes high quality design, with an emphasis on ease of movement and pedestrian convenience (EW-DH01, EW-TM01).

The Plan protects green infrastructure and green space which are important for quality of life, recreation, active lifestyles and physical and mental health (EW-GE02).

In terms of Neurodiversity, design policy EW-DH01 should help to create more legible environments, which are easier to negotiate.

The BSI document ‘PAS 6463:2022 Design for the mind – Neurodiversity and the built environment – Guide’ sets out where neurodiversity could fall under the definition of a disability:

Where a sensory difference has a substantial impact on day-to-day basis, it is very likely that the individual meets the definition of Disability as defined under the Equality Act 2010.

The following table refers to specific policies relevant to different protected characteristics and also other characteristics.

Characteristic	Impact	Mitigation
Age	<p>Positive impact (low):</p> <p>Emphasis on active travel maintaining or enhancing employment and community facilities and green space helps to create a walkable neighbourhood, so recognises the needs of those without access to a car, which includes older and younger groups (EW-SG01, EWEW-GE02, EW-DH01, EW-TM01). Design policies aim to create permeable and well-connected development (EWDH01).</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should widen the choice of accommodation available, including for first time buyers and those seeking to downsize.</p>	N/A
Disability	<p>Positive impact (low):</p> <p>Emphasis on active travel maintaining or enhancing employment and community facilities and green space helps to create a</p>	N/A

Characteristic	Impact	Mitigation
	<p>walkable neighbourhood, so recognises the needs of those without access to a car (EW-SG01, EWEW-GE02, EW-DH01, EW-TM01).</p> <p>The plan addresses design and infrastructure in terms of differing levels of ability and requiring covered and secure storage space for personal vehicles (EW-DH01, EW-TM01).</p>	
Gender reassignment	<p>Positive impact (low)</p> <p>The plan cannot directly address the social attitudes that underpin prejudice and hate crimes.</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should widen the choice of accommodation available (EW-SG01, EW-SG02).</p>	N/A
Maternity and pregnancy	<p>Positive impact (low)</p> <p>Emphasis on active travel maintaining or enhancing employment and community facilities and green space helps to create a more walkable neighbourhood (EW-SG01, EWEW-GE02, EW-DH01, EW-TM01).</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should help to cater for changing household needs (EW-SG01, EW-SG02).</p>	N/A
Race	<p>Positive Impact (low)</p> <p>The plan cannot directly address the social attitudes that underpin prejudice and hate crimes.</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should widen the choice of accommodation available (EW-SG01, EW-SG02).</p>	N/A

Characteristic	Impact	Mitigation
Religion or belief	<p>Positive impact (low)</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should widen the choice of accommodation available (EW-SG01, EW-SG02).</p>	N/A
Sex	<p>Positive impact (low)</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should widen the choice of accommodation available (EW-SG01, EW-SG02).</p> <p>Other policies would benefit all sexes.</p>	N/A
Sexual orientation	<p>Positive Impact (low)</p> <p>The plan cannot directly address the social attitudes that underpin prejudice and hate crimes.</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should widen the choice of accommodation available (EW-SG01, EW-SG02).</p>	N/A
Marriage and civil partnership	<p>Positive impact (low)</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should widen the choice of accommodation available (EW-SG01, EW-SG02).</p>	N/A
Socio-economic characteristics	<p>Positive impact (low)</p> <p>Emphasis on active travel maintaining or enhancing employment and community facilities and green space helps to create a walkable neighbourhood, so recognises the needs of those without access to a car (EW-SG01, EWEW-GE02, EW-DH01, EW-TM01).</p> <p>The plan seeks to maintain or enhance local employment (EW-SG01).</p> <p>The Plan supports new housing, which should widen the choice of accommodation available. The development of the larger site may trigger</p>	N/A

Characteristic	Impact	Mitigation
	affordable housing requirements, though this is dealt with by the Local Plan (EW-SG01, EW-SG02).	

7.6 Conclusion

The draft plan proposal meets human rights requirements, including compliance with the Equalities Act 2010. This is demonstrated through the rigorous engagement and consultation and equalities assessment, which indicates that the plan would have various positive impacts for people with protected and other characteristics.

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Edith Weston
Neighbourhood Development Plan
Consultation Statement
December 2023

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1. Introduction

This Consultation Statement accompanies the submission of the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Development Plan 2023-2041. It summarises the community engagement programme and the Regulation 14 consultation. It shows how the requirements of Regulations 14 and 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) have been satisfied.

2. Summary of Community Engagement

2.1 Approach to community engagement

The Neighbourhood Plan is based on analysis of data and evidence, an appraisal of themes from the current and previous plans, and on direct input from the community.

The community engagement programme started in August 2019. When combined with learnings from the current Plan, it contributed to the process of informing the creation of the Plan for 2023-41, providing insight into issues of importance to the local community.

Throughout the community engagement programme, and during the preparation of the 2023-41 Plan, the Parish Council has communicated regularly with the community through community newsletters distributed by email and printed in village notice boards and the village shop, social media (predominantly Facebook), and the parish council website <https://Edith Weston.org/>

2.2 What was done?

1. Postcard Competition with the local School in March 2021
2. Local Green Spaces: September 2021
 - a drop in event was held at the Village Hall for consultation and information about designation of Local Green Spaces
3. MOD re-development of the Officers' Mess: November 2022
 - a questionnaire to gauge views on the MOD plan to build new housing on the site of the SGB Officers' Mess was distributed by hand to every house in the community. The results providing important input to the framing of the draft plan.
4. Change in new housing as guidelines from RCC. March 2023
 - an online information and discussion event to inform and consider reaction to an increase in new housing guidelines from the RCC (up from 21 to 51)
5. Informal meetings with MOD and RCC
6. Regular updates in the Parish Council Newsletters and social media.

Feedback from these events was documented and informed the relevant Plan policies, where appropriate.

Regulation 14

The Regulation 14 consultation ran from 29th August 2023 at 11am for a period of 6 weeks and ended on 10/10/23 at 11am. (Details in section 3 below)

2.3 Who was targeted?

Residents by emailed parish council newsletters, website and social media, posters on the local noticeboards and key village locations (pub, village hall, shop and school) and a leaflet posted through the letter box of every household in the parish.

Local companies posted through letterbox
All neighbouring Parish Councils via their clerks.

Posters were put on all Parish Council, Church, Public house, and Local Shop notice boards around the Village.

2.4 Outcomes/Feedback

From the community engagement in 2022, the following Key topics were identified:

- Preserve the character of the village.
- Protection of local green spaces.
- Vehicles speeding through the village along Manton Road in particular.
- Future planned development must meet the identified local needs.
- Planned development of the St Georges Officers Mess site affecting the rurality of the village, increase in traffic, road safety concerns and lack of community services additional large-scale housing will bring.
- Better public transport.
- Need for affordable housing.

Policies have been updated and drafted to support and address the themes identified.

3 Pre-Submission Consultation (Regulation 14)

3.1 How the Consultation was Undertaken.

PERIOD

The Regulation 14 consultation ran from 29th August 2023 at 11am for a period of 6 weeks and ended on 10/10/23 at 11am. (Details in section 3 below)

COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

In this period, we executed our communications strategy to inform residents and the broader community of the consultation, how and where they could read the draft plan, and how to respond, using the specially created feedback form. This campaign reached across print, social media, email and in person sessions.

Leaflet distribution to every house, informing residents of the consultation and showing how to respond
(Attached below)

Posters informing residents of the consultation and showing how to respond were distributed and displayed at the following locations:

Edith Weston Academy primary school

Village Store and Coffee Cabin, Golf Club, CS Ellis

The Wheatsheaf pub, Village Hall, St George's Barracks

Rutland Sailing Club

St Mary the Virgin Church

Public phone box (now a defibrillator)

HARD COPY DISTRIBUTION for residents to read the draft plan.

The Wheatsheaf pub

Coffee Cabin, St Mary the Virgin Church

Phone box

Oakham and Ketton libraries

All hard copies had accompanying feedback forms

ONLINE DISTRIBUTION

EWPC website - full length draft plan, feedback form, poster

RCC website - full length draft plan, feedback form

Facebook - flyer, feedback form, EWPC newsletter

Email - flyer, feedback form to EW Ladies Group, Grub Club, SGB

Email - flyer, feedback form to Grub Club

Statutory Consultees, RCC planning team, neighbouring parish councils, MOD/DIO

PUBLIC SESSIONS HELD:

Friday September 15 at the village hall, 6.30pm and 7.30pm

Tuesday 19th September 19 at the Edith Weston School, 3.30pm and 4.15pm

Friday September 22 “Planning and a Pint event” at the Wheatsheaf, 6.30pm to 8pm

Monday 25th September 25 at the Village Hall, 6.30pm to 7.15pm

Saturday October 7 at the Village Coffee Cabin, 11am to 12 noon.

FEEDBACK PROCESS MANAGEMENT

Feedback on the consultation was channelled through a bespoke feedback form. The communications strategy made clear how to access the plan, either electronically or in hard copy, and to deliver it to the parish clerk ewpcclerk@gmail.com to the clerk’s postal address, or in person.

All feedback and comments were collated by the Parish Clerk, and subsequent actions noted in the feedback document (below)

CONCLUSION

All statutory consultees, residents, local businesses, other stakeholders and nearby parishes were able to contribute to the plan as required and amendments were made to strengthen the policies.

POSTER AND NEWSLETTER EXAMPLES



Copy of leaflets delivered to all households and businesses.

Below is an example of information that was sent out via the Parish Council Newsletter (email) and local magazine (hard copy).

Neighbourhood Plan

The public consultation on the Edith Weston draft neighbourhood plan is now open, and it runs till October 10. You will have received a leaflet explaining how to access the plan and how to get hold of a response form. We delivered this to every house in the village last weekend.

You can read the draft plan, and find the response form to let us know what you think here:

<https://edithweston.org/ewpc-neighbourhood-plan-consultation>

And you can read hard copies of the plan and pick up a response form from the shop, the phone box, the church and the pub. Please do not take the printed plans away with you!

Or you can find the plan and a response form at one of the pop-up sessions:

September 15 - the village hall, from 1830

September 19 - the school, from 1530

September 22 - the pub, from 1830

October 7, the shop, from 1100

3.2 Statutory Consultees

Details of the statutory bodies that were consulted as provided by Rutland County Council are listed in the following table:

Organisation	Name	Email
Rutland County Council	Sharon Baker	localplan@rutland.gov.uk
Leicestershire County Council	Leicestershire County Council	neighbourhoodplanning@leics.gov.uk
Lincolnshire County Council	Lincolnshire County Council	Dev_PlanningEnquiries@lincolnshire.gov.uk
Northamptonshire County Council	Northamptonshire County Council	planning@northamptonshire.gov.uk
Leicestershire & Rutland Association of Local Councils	Kirstie Frost	admin@leicestershireandrutlandalc.gov.uk
The Crown Estate	The Crown Estate	enquiries@thecrownestate.co.uk
Environment Agency	Environment Agency	LNplanning@environment-agency.gov.uk
Natural England	Natural England	consultations@naturalengland.org.uk
Historic England	Historic England	e-midlands@historicengland.org.uk
Leicestershire Police	Andrew Wroe	andrew.wroe@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk
Architectural Liaison officer for Leicestershire Police	Stephen Day	stephen.day7815@leicestershire.pnn.police.uk
Network Rail	Frances Cunningham	Frances.Cunningham@networkrail.co.uk
Civil Aviation Authority	Civil Aviation Authority	infoservices@caa.co.uk
Coal Authority	Coal Authority	communityresponse@coal.gov.uk
Anglian Water	Darl Sweetland	spatialplanning@anglianwater.co.uk >
Severn Trent	Severn Trent	GrowthDevelopment@severntrent.co.uk
National Grid	National Grid	nationalgas.uk@avisonyoung.com
National Grid (development liaison officer)	National Grid	box.landandacquisitions@nationalgrid.com
Vodafone and O2 (Mobile operator)	Vodafone and O2 (Mobile operator)	EMF.Enquiries@ctil.co.uk
Three (Mobile operator)	Three (Mobile operator)	jane.evans@three.co.uk
EE (Mobile operator)	EE (Mobile operator)	public.affairs@ee.co.uk
CPRE National	CPRE National Office	info@cpre.org.uk
CPRE Rutland	Ron Simpson	chair@cprerutland.uk
Welland Rivers Trust	Christopher French	info@wellandriverstrust.org.uk
The Woodland Trust	Nick Sandford	nicksandford@woodlandtrust.org.uk
Leicestershire and Rutland Bridleways Association	Roger Linford	rgl@dmu.ac.uk
Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre	Kirsty Gamble	kirsty.gamble@leics.gov.uk
Leicestershire & Rutland Age UK	Leicestershire & Rutland Age UK	enquiries@ageukleics.org.uk
Active Travel England	Active Travel England	Planning-Advice@activetravelengland.gov.uk

We also sent information to the following groups.

- Adjacent Parish Councils
- Local Businesses
- Posters within the Village

3.3 Issues

The main issues and concerns raised by the persons consulted and how these issues and concerns have been considered and, where relevant, addressed in modifications to the proposed neighbourhood development plan are set out in the next part of this statement.

4 Responses to Representations

Page No	Policy/Site Ref	Representation	Response
Name of Respondee		Historic England	
All	None	Letter suggesting further points of contact to ensure all historically important information is covered.	Comments Noted. No Action.
Name of Respondee		Local resident 1	
22	EW-SG01	<p>1. Residential Development</p> <p>The Plan should make clear that it will act in compliance with the Adopted Core Strategy (2011) and the site Allocations Policy (2014) until such time as the RCC have an Adopted Local Plan. Development within the EWNP boundary will be restricted to either NONE (CS9 and Insert 15 map), or Small Scale (CS4) with a maximum of 9 houses per site.</p> <p>The Housing Needs Assessment for EW of a maximum 21 New Dwellings to 2041 will be observed with <u>no need for an additional buffer</u>. Note: Policies CS10 & 11 are a possible exception. These positions will be maintained until a decision is made on the future of SGB/OM, in which case a Revised EWNP will be required. The proposal for 51 dwellings in EW being floated by RCC is so far removed from the current Adopted policies to be completely unacceptable at this time</p>	<p>The neighbourhood plan makes clear that it meets all basic conditions.</p> <p>Covered in 1.2 Status of NP and 3 Sustainable growth (adopted local plan). RCC advice note dated 2nd February 2023 provided an indicative number of 51.</p> <p>The housing policy is supported by evidence – Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan Housing Report, July 2023.</p> <p>Comment noted. Passed to the local planning authority for information.</p>
25	EW-SG02	<p>Redevelopment of SGB/OM for residential purposes (or other purposes) as covered by EWSG01, points 1 and 2, will be supported <u>subject to</u> the constraints and limits set by Adopted Core Strategies 2011 and Site Allocation Strategies 2014. This policy (EWSG01) will be adhered to until such time as the future of the SGB/OM site is determined and has passed an appeal, if applicable. It is believed the draft RCC Local Plan will not include SGB and Woolfox (apparently, they will be separately assessed.)</p> <p>2. The EWNP should make clear that Edith Weston villagers require the MoD to have carried out Alternative Uses for the O/M site properly evaluated, before settling on a housing estate as their preferred option.</p>	<p>Section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 sets out the status of the Statutory Development Plan and planning policy and planning practice guidance provides further clarification on the relationship between local plans and neighbourhood plans.</p> <p>Clauses 1 and 2 of EWSG01 have been amended to make clear that support for development is subject to meeting the requirements in clause 4.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan has to meet the evidenced housing need (between 21-51 houses). This site was considered to be the best and most sustainable option due to it being a brownfield site immediately adjacent to the existing settlement. As this brownfield site is capable of meeting housing need there is no requirement to allocate housing sites in more harmful locations. The policy is supported by evidence – Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan Housing Report, July 2023.</p>

Page No	Policy/Site Ref	Representation	Response
32	EW-GE01	P28 and P32 (and other places) refer incorrectly to an <u>Adopted</u> Local Plan. There is NO Adopted Local Plan, only the adopted Core Strategies DPD July 2011 and the Adopted Site Allocation and Policies DPD 2014. 3. Reference should be added that points out that hedgerows have special protection under the Hedgerows Regulations.	The adopted local plan comprises the Core Strategy Development Plan Document, adopted July 2011 and the Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document adopted October 2014. Agree, amended under Policy GE01 Interpretation
62	EW-DH01	DH01, a proposal: 1. Add: The EWNP will develop an overall desired use/layout for the Officers' Mess Site to maximise its contribution to the Heritage and Character of Edith Weston – which may, or may not – include a housing allocation within it. This should be a consultative process with EW residents and subject to a village vote on its acceptability.	The requirements for the development of the site have been set out in the policy. The Neighbourhood Plan has been subject to Regulation 14 consultation and will be subject to referendum. Residents would also have the opportunity to make representations on future planning applications.
64	EW-DH02	Change to: DH02 (d) No new dwellings of 3 storey height will be acceptable, other than set out for Dormers as in DH03 (d)	Policy DH01 clause 1 requires development to complement the specific context, including height. Policy DH02 clause 1.d refers specifically to the predominant 2-storey height. Policy DH03 relates to the Edith Weston Conservation Area. However, if a scheme for the Officer's Mess site included a similar arrangement of 2-storeys with dormers, it should be acceptable under policies DH01 and DH02.
68	EW-DH04	Add (d): The original 1941 main Officers' Mess building and its immediate surrounds should, as an Important WW2 Heritage Structure, be protected and ideally be Grade II listed (see Gareth Jones' arguments in support of listing the OM building).	Noted. The Officers Mess building was assessed by Historic England (Ref 1465339) and a decision made on 25 June 2019 not to list the officers mess building. Interpretation amended to refer to non-designated heritage structures.
Name of Respondee		Local resident 2	
22	EW-SG01	Support need for a larger community facility, which school could also access. Main problem with using church currently for events for children is lack of toilet, so access to toilets should be separate from community entrance with disabled code entrance? (Need to ensure provide carbon neutral community facilities e.g. air source heating / integral solar panel). Support need for safe pedestrian connectivity to new development and landscape design to ensure areas have synergy.	Comment noted. Policy EW SG01 supports new or enhanced community facilities. Low carbon design in new development is dealt with in policy DH01 clauses 6 and 8. Noted. Pedestrian permeability and connectivity are dealt with in policies EW DH01 and TM01.
32	EW-GE01	Replacement trees and hedges need to support eco system and reflect climate change and dryer climate.	Policies EW GE01 and EW DH01 deal with trees, hedges and landscape design.

Page No	Policy/Site Ref	Representation	Response
36	EW-GE02	All looks good.	Comment noted.
62	EW-DH01	Colly Weston roof tiles are extremely expensive and often very difficult to procure. They also have a limited life and need replacing. There are very good copies of these which last much longer and are sustainably less expensive – this should be noted. Green walls often become dead walls and watering systems not effective and therefore should be avoided unless there are major improvements. Solar lighting is an excellent way to keep areas safe. Principles are good though in proposals	This is covered in Policy DH01 clause 6 and interpretation (local materials)
64	EW-DH02	Excellent proposal – highlight 3 storey developments are not in keeping with area and should be avoided! Public green space is a priority. Do not think we should allow any new developments with no frontage footways - disabled or elderly residents would not be able to access.	This is dealt with by policies DH01 clause 1 and DH02 clause 1. Policies EW GE01 and DH01 deal with landscape and public spaces. Policy EW GE02 designates Local Green Space to protect spaces of community value. Policy EW TM01 deals with accessibility for people with different levels of mobility.
66	EW-DH03	Support principles.	Comment noted
68	EW-DH04	War heritage structures would need to be protected made safe and found some type of use - museums, heritage site etc.	Policy DH04 protects non-designated war heritage.
73	EW-TM01	Highway improvements are vital: Parking off street for all cars, 20 mph speed limit school, speed bumps, speed cameras. Road between Edith Weston and the Rutland Garden centre needs a bike lane / pedestrian path. There also needs to be a mini roundabout/ traffic lights at the junction from Manton to the A6003 – this will no longer be fit for purpose with increased traffic. This junction has already had serious collisions.	Traffic management fall outside of the scope of the neighbourhood plan. Comment shared with RCC highways. Traffic management fall outside of the scope of the neighbourhood plan. Comment shared with RCC highways.
	General comments	The infrastructure priorities are excellent and need to be mandatory not optional for developers and council.	Comment noted. The infrastructure priorities are included to guide the local authority. They cannot be mandatory.
Name of Respondee		Active Travel England	
		Thank you for your email and for your interest in ATE. Since 1 June 2023 ATE has been a statutory consultee on all planning applications for new developments that meet or exceed one of more of its application thresholds. This statutory consultee role does not extend to local planning or planning policy, therefore ATE should not be consulted on any Local Plans or planning policy and does not currently intend to respond to any consultations that it does receive. We have recently launched a pilot project for planning policy and Local Plans which will allow us to scope out opportunities for ATE's involvement in the future. The first phase of this project is an information gathering exercise so we have a clear understanding of existing planning policies for active travel at the local level. If you have not done so already, then please complete our quick survey . Finally, if you wish to contact the Planning and Development Team at ATE in the future then our direct email is: Planning-Advice@activetravelengland.gov.uk .	Comment noted.

Page No	Policy/Site Ref	Representation	Response
Name of Respondee		Local resident 3	
25	EW-SG02	<p>Unfortunately, we can see precious few benefits for the village. The density of housing, the size of the spaces allocated for play and the minimal allocation of parking will be in the hands of the future developers. I can see little leverage for the village.</p> <p>My biggest objection is the proposed replacement for our village store. It looks like a corner shop run by whoever wins the tender! Original promises of continuity of management have been broken. We lived opposite such a shop in Essex. The road had double yellow lines but parking by customers and large delivery lorries blocked the road several times a day.</p> <p>Our village store should be relocated to the disused MOD car park adjacent to the roundabout. Space for development and growth, space for parking, access for delivery lorries and more passing trade.</p> <p>The store contributes greatly to the life of our village. Are we going to sit back and hand it over to Aldi?</p>	<p>The policy supports residential development on this brownfield site, so is not relevant to existing community facilities. This comment may relate to a current planning application rather than the policy EW SG02.</p> <p>Policy EW SG01 deals with loss of community facilities. The Plan does not make any site allocations for retail outside of the Planned Limits of Development.</p> <p>A village shop would fall under use class E. Any change in ownership would be outside of the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
32	GE-01	Excellent detail	Comment noted.
36	GE-02	Really informative	Comment noted.
73	EW-TM01	<p>I would like to see a proper analysis of traffic movements. Every new house will need one/two or more cars as our bus service is only adequate if you need to travel to Stamford or Uppingham. It then only runs every 2 hours.</p> <p>We have already shown that Manton Road is used as a race track yet we are adding houses a long walk away from the school. So will parents drive the children to school?</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not seek to modify the local authority's parking standards. However, EW TM01 does promote active travel.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan makes provision for housing growth on a brownfield site immediately adjacent to the existing village. This was considered the most sustainable location. The comments may relate to a current planning application, rather than the Neighbourhood Plan transport policy.</p>
	General	I found the plan to be comprehensive and illuminating. My concerns about the village not benefiting from the proposed development might not be shared by all but I worry about the character and strengths of my village.	The Neighbourhood Plan addresses character and community facilities in various policies.
Name of Respondee		Local resident 4	
22	EW-SG01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development supported in line with sustainable growth as identified by the required of the village (51 dwellings by 2040) - Rural village status to be maintained (do er need to define what this is?) 	<p>Comment noted.</p> <p>Policies EW SG01 and EW SG02 deal with the locations for growth. Policy EW GE01 deals with the natural and green (rural environment), whilst policies EW DH01, EW DH02 and EW DH03 deal with design and character including character of the Edith Weston Conservation Area. Design and character are dealt with in policies EW DH01, EW DH02 and EW DH03. However,</p>

Page No	Policy/Site Ref	Representation	Response
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Point 1 – add in building design? Is complement right or should it be conform/align/match/in keeping with the existing village. - Point 5b – Suitable for first time buyer and retirement accommodation. Remove all reference to flats as not aligned to village design/feel. - Point 8 – Should this not be stronger – required to reduce carbon use (during development and then in use) and with lower energy and water consumption? - Infill developments is preferable to larger 3+ developments. - Commercial use only provided if there is evidential requirements and not conflicting with other existing uses in the village. i.e. two shops. - Align to the Transport Strategy to not promote increased traffic or require road network upgrades. <p>Comment section:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - heat pump rather than ground source only? - What is the word 'local' green energy schemes... referring too? 	<p>the plan makes clear that the intention is not to require stylistic imitation or to suppress creative or green design.</p> <p>Policies EW DH01, EW DH02 and EW DH03 deal with design and character, including the scale of development.</p> <p>Housing mix and affordable housing are dealt with in local plan policies.</p> <p>There is no point 8 relating to policy EW SG01. However, clause 8 of policy EW DH01 does deal with carbon use and is augmented by the list of design features in the interpretation to that policy (sustainable design).</p> <p>This is dealt with in clause 3 of EW SG01 and also EW DH01.</p> <p>EW SG01 would support E use class activities within the Planned Limits of Development subject to consideration of impacts on residential amenity and meeting other requirements in the policy. It should be noted that change of use between different class E activities would likely not require permission. Also planning policy should not seek to suppress competition or protect specific businesses.</p> <p>Policy ED TM01 seeks to promote sustainable and active travel. Any highway changes required to accommodate specific development proposals would be addressed at the planning application stage, for example through conditions or Section 106 (planning obligations).</p> <p>EW DH01 gives examples of green design in the interpretation but can't be prescriptive on specific kinds of micro-energy production.</p> <p>Removed word 'local' to avoid confusion.</p>

25	EW-SG02	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Built to the needs of the village – 51 dwellings by 2040 needed? 2. Built area of the brownfield site only – not the whole site as a large section to the south is undeveloped. 3. Landscape and design – not Landscape design? 4. Only add commercial use within the development if it is for local uses only. 5. Capacity of communal assets and schools etc are able to accommodate the development. <p>f) ...create a soft transition between the built development and the surrounding landscape <u>along with being complementary and enhancing to the existing village.</u></p>	<p>The Local Authority provided a growth figure in line with NPPF requirements - Edith Weston Housing Needs Assessment: Advice note to Neighbourhood plans.</p> <p>RCC advises whole site considered to be brownfield. The policy does require retention of mature trees and hedges and the need for a landscape buffer. Interpretation amended to include <i>“To meet the requirements of the policy, it is envisaged that around a quarter of the site area would remain as green infrastructure.”</i></p> <p>Landscape design replaced with landscaping.</p> <p>The policy supports residential development on this brownfield site. Policy EW SG01 supports employment development and community facilities within the Planned Limits of Development.</p> <p>Agree. This is dealt with in the adopted Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan cannot make decisions on behalf of the education providers.</p> <p>This is already required under policy EW SG02 clause 1f.</p>
36	EW-GE02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Plan – Shows Important Open Space (E12) to south of Rectory Lane – does this need including? - Add? – Large verge of the Officers Mess? Add? – - Open field to south of Weston Road east of the existing cemetery - Area to west of existing cemetery (similar size) – is this extension land for the cemetery? 	<p>Already protected by important open space in the adopted local plan.</p> <p>The verge appears to form part of the highway so is not eligible for LGS.</p> <p>These are designated as LGS9 and 10</p> <p>This is correct, land left out of LGS 10 for possible cemetery expansion.</p>
62	EW-DH01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Point 1 – should building design be added? - Infill developments is preferable to larger 3+ developments. - Commercial use only provided if there is evidential requirements and not conflicting with other existing uses in the village. i.e. two shops. 	<p>Design and character are dealt with in policies EW DH01, EW DH02 and EW DH03. However, the plan makes clear that the intention is not to require stylistic imitation or to suppress creative or green design.</p> <p>This is dealt with in clause 3 of EW SG01 and also EW DH01.</p> <p>EW SG01 would support E use class activities within the Planned Limits of Development subject to consideration of impacts on residential amenity and meeting other requirements in the policy. It</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Align to the Transport Strategy to not promote increased traffic or require road network upgrades. - Development supported in line with sustainable growth as identified by the required of the village (51 dwellings by 2040) - Rural village status to be maintained. - Peak tourism traffic already affecting the area. <p>Add a clear vision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Growth in line with village identified needs. - Sustainable growth (51 new dwellings by 2040) is permitted ideally through infill development as the primary source. - Over development of the village so to change it characterises - In keeping with the existing village characteristics - Sustainable development 	<p>should be noted that change of use between different class E activities would likely not require permission. Also planning policy should not seek to suppress competition or protect specific businesses.</p> <p>Policy ED TM01 seeks to promote sustainable and active travel. Any highway changes required to accommodate specific development proposals would be addressed at the planning application stage, for example through conditions or Section 106 (planning obligations).</p> <p>The Local Authority provided a growth figure in line with NPPF requirements - Edith Weston Housing Needs Assessment: Advice note to Neighbourhood plans.</p> <p>Policies EW SG01 and EW SG02 deal with the locations for growth. Policy EW GE01 deals with the natural and green (rural environment), whilst policies EW DH01, EW DH02 and EW DH03 deal with design and character including character of the Edith Weston Conservation Area.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan cannot deal with existing traffic management issues.</p> <p>A vision is optional. The Plan includes aims in section 2.3.</p>
73	EW-TM01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Peak tourism traffic (Weekend and Bank Holidays) already affecting the village. - Keep the road network from becoming major roads – not to promote lorries and coaches. 	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan cannot deal with existing traffic management issues. Policy EW TM01 promotes sustainable and active travel.</p>
	General comments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More detail on the current effects on the village due to tourism particularly at peak times (bank holidays and weekends). Further transport impacts at these times should be limited/stopped. - Enshrine in all policies the clear focus of this Neighbourhood plan (my views only: 	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan cannot deal with existing traffic management issues. Policy EW TM01 promotes sustainable and active travel.</p> <p>Each policy comes with a stated Purpose and Rationale</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sustainable growth (51 new dwellings by 2040) is permitted ideally through infill development as the primary source. - Over development of the village so changing it characterises to a small town - Tommy's Close is a green space that provides both open walking area, recreational space and the playground? It reads like playground only? - 2.1.2 – Key Issues: (page 11) Preserve the character AND STATUS as a village. - Offices mess – be clear not reference to larger MOD site? - Offices mess - Add Environmental issues? - Scale of the development aligned to village growth requirements? - Design and layout - SGB/OM – Is it clear enough that OM is potentially possible, but larger SGB would totally alter the core fundamentals of the village so would not be positively received / resisted? - Any increased vehicle movement through the village or the change in status of the Manton Road, Normanton Road or Edith Weston Road from unclassified (Please check this is correct). - Some of the alternative ideas would promote great traffic – does this conflict with the Transport and Movement Policy? - Page 12 – highly efficient energy performance? - Page 16 – “built” area of the OM rather than referring to all of the OM as brownfield land. A lot of this site is undeveloped? - Page 29 – Is a large zone of the Neighbourhood Area in Rutland Plateau – should we add in this detail? 	<p>Infill alone cannot meet our housing needs. Residential development of the Officer's Mess brownfield site allows local need to be fully met.</p> <p>This is referenced under Introduction 2.1.2 Strategy for Strategic Development: Characteristics of the Area</p> <p>Description changed on Tommy's Close references within the plan to include walking and recreational use.</p> <p>RCC designates EW as a 'Large Village</p> <p>Under 2.1.4 Key Issues the two sites are referenced separately Policy EW SG02 relates only to the Officer's Mess site.</p> <p>The list of issues come from village consultations with the MOD/CIO</p> <p>See previous responses on growth requirements, design, transport active travel and Officer's Mess site. SGB is not a proposed site in the Neighbourhood Plan, this is a proposed in the emerging local plan. Green design is dealt with in policy EW DH01(including the interpretation). The plan reflects what is in the Rutland Landscape Character Assessment.</p>
Name of Respondee		Montague Evans on behalf of the DIO	
	Introduction	<p>On behalf of our client, the Defence Infrastructure Organisation (“DIO”), we write to submit representations on the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan (“the Plan”). As a key landholder, the DIO welcomes the work undertaken by the local community on producing a plan that proactively tackles the issues surrounding new development in the Plan area.</p> <p>The DIO are largely supportive of the themes and policies within the draft Plan, including the support for the development of the Officers Mess site. These representations have been drafted to suit this formal consultation process, and the comments provided herein are intended to help ensure that, when adopted, the Plan is consistent and robust in both its production and application, and also aligned with the adopted Rutland Local Plan and National Guidance. We would be happy to meet with the Parish to discuss further if it would be of benefit.</p>	Comment noted
9	Sustainable Development And EW-SG02	<p>In preparing the draft Neighbourhood Plan the Parish Council have thoroughly considered the characteristics of the existing village and surrounding landscape context. This assessment recognises the quality of the existing village, the surrounding open countryside, and the integrated military community.</p> <p>In this regard, the DIO recognise the importance of preserving the character of the village, whilst creating a safe, accessible, and</p>	Comment noted.

		<p>thriving village with appropriate community services and amenities to meet future need.</p> <p>We are supportive of The Plan's overall planning strategy (Section 2.2) and Aims (Section 2.3) which seek to achieve sustainable development and growth, identifying suitable locations and policies to guide future development. The DIO support the inclusion of Policy EW-SG02 in the Neighbourhood Plan, and the recognition that the Officers Mess is a key brownfield site for development to deliver housing.</p>	
22	EW-SG01	<p>Section 3 of the Neighbourhood Plan relates to Sustainable Growth including the delivery of new housing. The Neighbourhood Plan aims to deliver a range of dwellings which are desirable, affordable, and future proofed to meet the changing needs of the community. The Plan currently identifies a range of housing requirements for the village, based upon the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan Housing Report (July 2023) and the Housing Needs Assessment (Aecom, 2022). The new evidence base for Rutland's emerging Local Plan has, at the time of writing, yet to be published which would represent the most up-to-date position. The available evidence base identifies a housing need ranging between 21 – 51 units for Edith Weston, but the 2022 Housing Needs Assessment identifies an affordable housing need of 71 dwellings based upon Edith Weston's fair share of growth within Rutland (Paragraph 125), going on to state that "...it is worth emphasizing that the HNA finds there to be robust evidence of need for Affordable Housing in the NA, and every effort should be made to maximise delivery where viable" (Paragraph 131)</p> <p>Rutland's evidence base identifies that there are wider affordability issues present in Edith Weston. Alongside the delivery of a mix of affordable housing tenures, the Local Authority encourages homes to come forward which are of an appropriate size, type and density for local resident's budgets, to assist with affordability.</p> <p>Edith Weston has no affordable housing opportunities, and private residences are typically larger family sized homes. There is a pressing need to diversify the housing stock to deliver homes for all that are affordable both in terms of size and tenure. There are limited opportunities to deliver this in Edith Weston, thus this will only be possible through schemes that maximise the use of brownfield land in line with the NPPF. To secure the affordable housing needed in the village, it would be appropriate to align the Neighbourhood Plan wording with the Rutland Local Plan which adopts minimum density targets rather than housing numbers for individual sites.</p> <p>This approach will be consistent with national and local policies and will maximise affordable housing provision within Edith Weston for the benefit of the community.</p>	<p>The indicative housing site capacity figure is based on density, but also takes account of context and environmental constraints. This is particularly important given the rural and heritage setting.</p>
25	EW-SG02	<p>We support the conclusions of the Housing Capacity Report (July 2023) summarised at page 18 of the draft Plan which highlights that the Officers Mess is the most sustainable brownfield site option immediately adjacent to Edith Weston village, in walkable distance to community facilities. The report states that redevelopment of the site would increase the population catchment, enhancing the viability of the centre and its facilities. The Officers Mess development, as proposed, can deliver a range of housing types including a mix of affordable housing units. This is a significant benefit for the village and we welcome the identification of the site within the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>The draft Neighbourhood Plan states that the Officers Mess site forms an important part of the Neighbourhood Plan growth strategy, through the sustainable development of brownfield land (page 16). Policy EW-SG02 supports the development of St George's Barracks Officers Mess for residential purposes. The draft policy sets out criteria for the design of future development, including the protection of mature trees and boundary planting, maximising cycle and pedestrian connectivity and high-quality design which complements the existing village and surrounding landscape. We are supportive of the inclusion of Policy EW-SG02 in the Neighbourhood Plan and the objectives outlined therein.</p> <p>The DIO have recently submitted an outline planning application to Rutland County Council for the redevelopment of the Officers Mess</p>	

		<p>for residential purposes. The proposed development provides new housing including affordable housing. The scheme will contribute towards the identified Infrastructure Priorities at Section 7 of the Neighbourhood Plan, including support of community activities and creation of new commercial and green space, improvements to highway access and safety on Manton Road and cycle / pedestrian connections.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, we disagree with the notion in the 'Key Issues' section of the Plan that states that <i>"the development of the Officers Mess can only happen in the wider context of St George's Barracks."</i> The two sites are able to be delivered separately and able to be considered on their own merits. This is reinforced by the now withdrawn Local Plan which allocated the site independently to the main Barracks for 70 homes, as well as the fact that a planning application has recently been submitted by the DIO for the redevelopment of the Officers Mess site on a stand-alone basis. This outline application demonstrates that the proposed scheme can be delivered in a sensitive manner, protecting key boundary landscaping, protecting the character of the village and without harm to highway safety in line with the objectives of draft Neighbourhood Plan Policy EW-SG02.</p> <p>There is no evidence that the two sites need to be masterplanned and developed together, and we are of the opinion that this should be reflected in the wording of the Neighbourhood Plan to avoid the risk of conjoining the consideration of the sites, given there is currently no specific policy in the Plan for the main barracks site.</p>	<p>Comment noted. Additional text added to key issues section to make clear that the preceding list was community engagement. The conflicting bullet point removed.</p>
68	EW-DH04	<p>The draft Neighbourhood Plan makes several references to the St George's Barracks Main Site in respect of prospective land uses, future master planning and recognises features on site which could be of heritage interest. The Barracks remain operational and occupied by the MoD at this time, but it has been confirmed that the site will be closing.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not include policies for the future development of the St George's Barracks site. The DIO wish to continue engagement with the local community and Rutland Council regarding the future of St George's Barracks. We note the suggestions made within the draft Neighbourhood Plan regarding alternative uses and the DIO will assess a range of options for the Barracks and surrounding land at the appropriate time. We welcome these suggestions, and they will be taken into account when considering the future of the site.</p> <p>Related to the main site is the Plan's commentary on heritage matters. Page 60 and draft Policy EW-DH04 of the Plan refers to features on the St George's Barracks site, referring to them as undesignated heritage assets that should be retained. Specifically, these are identified in the Plan as being the Type J-Hanger, a Heating Dome, water office, water tanks and Control Tower. The St George's Barracks site has been assessed by Historic England on more than one occasion, and with specific reference to the J-Hangers. The conclusions of the statutory body was that these were not suitable for listing. The DIO welcome further engagement with the Parish Council to seek further clarification on this matter and the structures that they are referring to.</p> <p>The DIO is therefore of the opinion that Policy EW-DH04: Non-Designated Heritage Assets should be removed from the Neighbourhood Plan since it is inaccurate and not supported by appropriate evidence. The features listed in the draft Policy have not been formally identified as heritage assets (designated or non-designated) by a statutory authority, and there is no evidence provided to support such a designation through the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>The DIO understand that these buildings and structures are of importance to the local community and should be taken into account when considering the redevelopment potential of this brownfield site. Future planning applications may need to consider their value and whether there is an ability to be practically and viably incorporated into any scheme, but this does not warrant such a designation to be included in the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>	<p>The Edith Weston Village Assessment and Design Guidance, January 2022 identifies the heritage value of the assets in question. The policy relates to non-designated heritage, it is unclear how the Historic England assessment on suitability for designation is relevant. The Parish Council is the statutory neighbourhood plan making body. There is no need to delete the policy, which meets the basic conditions including having regard to national policy and guidance.</p>

		<p>We request that Policy EW-DH04, Figure 9 and the associated text are therefore removed from the draft Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>Alternative wording to ensure that these buildings and structures are considered as part of any future redevelopment of the Barracks could be discussed within supporting text for the plan as required and we would welcome working with the Neighbourhood Plan Forum to agree such wording.</p>	
32 and 73	EW-GE01 and EW-TM01	<p>The DIO are supportive of the core principles put forward for good quality design and placemaking for new developments within the Parish. The Neighbourhood Plan includes a number of draft policies to protect and enhance the Natural and Green Environment (EW-GE01) and Transport and Movement (EW-TM01).</p> <p>Policy EW-GE01 protects natural and green environments, encourages opportunities for biodiversity and net gain and retention of existing trees and hedgerows. We support the draft wording of this Policy.</p> <p>According to the Neighbourhood Plan planning principles, the emphasis in design policy is to support green design and walkable neighbourhoods. Development should be sustainable, complement townscape characteristics of the area in terms of scale, massing, height, pattern of buildings and provide active frontages to streets and spaces. Landscape and public realm should be integral, including boundary treatments. Development should use high quality and sustainable materials, designed in a manner to reduce carbon use.</p> <p>These design principles are advocated by the DIO and have been integrated into the recent design work to prepare the outline planning application for the Officers Mess.</p> <p>Policy EW-TM01 encourages development to include a balanced range of transport choices, taking opportunities to enhance facilities for pedestrians, cyclists and those with different levels of mobility. All new dwellings should include sufficient vehicle parking, cycle and scooter storage and electric charging facilities. The DIO agree that new development in the parish should provide appropriate choice and connections for the local community.</p>	Comments noted.
32	EW-GE01	<p>Amongst other sites, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to designate the following areas as Local Green Space which are all in MoD ownership (NB. numbering taken from evidence base document):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LGS 3 Woodland, Pennine Drive/Chiltern Drive LGS 4 Mendip Play Area LGS 5 Pennine Drive LGS 6 Severn Crescent, Grassed Area 1 LGS 7 Severn Crescent, Grassed Area 2 LGS 8 Severn Crescent, Grassed Area 3 LGS 11 Manton Road and Windermere Road, Verge and Trees LGS 12 Crummock Ave, Play Area LGS 13 Ullswater Ave, Play Area LGS 14 Derwent Ave Green Space LGS 15 Coniston Road Green Space LGS 16 Derwent Ave, Open Green Space LGS 21 Memorial Stones Open Grassed Area <p>The inclusion of these sites as areas of designated open space are resisted by the DIO, whose requirement to support military activities cannot be restricted as there may be a need in future for this and surrounding land to be utilised for military purposes (including the provision of SFA). It is only when MoD land has been publicly identified as surplus to requirements, and not in active use, that it would be suitable for such designations to be applied.</p> <p>The planning system and policies of the development plan already presents a suitable mechanism for controlling development in these locations without the need for additional designations to be put in place.</p> <p>As per previous representations made by the DIO to the LGS Consultation in 2001, they request the removal of LGS 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 11-16 and 21 from Neighbourhood Plan Policy EW-GE02 on the basis that this is private land utilised for defence purposes in the form of Service Family Accommodation. It does not therefore meet local green space access criteria, and the DIO is at liberty to</p>	Comments noted. The comments suggest that the MoD could develop the estates without the need to apply for planning permission. However, it is unclear what statutory provision would allow this. The spaces meet the criteria in the NPPF. The spaces are demonstrably special to the communities they serve.

		amend the role and function of these areas to meet service personnel requirements, at any time.	
	General	<p>As noted at the outset, the DIO are supportive of the work undertaken by the Neighbourhood Plan Forum and welcome the inclusion of Policy EW-SG02 in the Neighbourhood Plan which supports the development of the Officer's Mess site as a key brownfield site for residential use. We welcome the opportunity to continue engagement with the community at the appropriate time on the future of the St Georges Barracks site. The comments and suggestions noted above are meant to ensure that the plan is appropriately drafted and, importantly, effective in its application. We trust that these comments are of use to the Neighbourhood Plan process.</p> <p>We would be grateful if Edith Weston Parish Council could confirm that this letter has been received, and please contact Jon Bradburn (jon.bradburn@montagu-evans.co.uk) or Lauren Hawksworth (lauren.hawksworth@montagu-evans.co.uk) of this office in the first instance.</p>	Comment noted.
Name of Respondee		Natural England	
	General	<p>Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 25 August 2023.</p> <p>Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development. Natural England is a statutory consultee in neighbourhood planning and must be consulted on draft neighbourhood development plans by the Parish/Town Councils or Neighbourhood Forums where they consider our interests would be affected by the proposals made.</p> <p>Natural England does not have any specific comments on this draft neighbourhood plan.</p> <p>Natural England does not hold information on the location of significant populations of protected species, so is unable to advise whether this plan is likely to affect protected species to such an extent as to require a Strategic Environmental Assessment. Further information on protected species and development is included in Natural England's Standing Advice on protected species.</p> <p>Furthermore, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all environmental assets. The plan may have environmental impacts on priority species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites, soils and best and most versatile agricultural land, or on local landscape character that may be sufficient to warrant a Strategic Environmental Assessment. Information on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees is set out in Natural England/Forestry Commission standing advice.</p> <p>We therefore recommend that advice is sought from your ecological, landscape and soils advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local soils, best and most versatile agricultural land, landscape, geodiversity and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by the plan before determining whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment is necessary.</p> <p>Natural England reserves the right to provide further advice on the environmental assessment of the plan. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make. If an Strategic Environmental Assessment is required, Natural England must be consulted at the scoping and environmental report stages.</p>	Comments noted.
Name of Respondee		Local resident 5	
22	EW-SG01	<p>1) The word <u>significant</u> should be removed from the statement below. The NP aims to protect the peace and tranquillity of the village therefore the NP should only support employment or community facilities if there is no adverse impact on the residential amenity. The word significant is unnecessary and vague and may be open to misinterpretation.</p> <p><i>Development to provide employment and/or community facilities will be supported within the Planned Limits of</i></p>	Deletion of the word 'significant' would make the policy too restrictive and would be contrary to national policy. Adverse impacts are referenced in the policy SG01 interpretation.

		<p>Development, subject to there being no significant adverse impact on residential amenity.</p> <p>2) I am confused by the statement below? If the intention is to demonstrate that the NP supports the development of new community facilities, <u>why</u> is this caveated with the loss of an existing facility? As the village has 2 community facilities, the memorial hall and Tommy's Close, this policy appears to support replacing either or both of these with an alternative. If this is correct then I do not believe this is matter for a NP policy and should be decided via a direct and transparent consultation with the village.</p> <p>Also, if a facility become no longer viable, whether or not the NP supports the loss/closure of the facility makes no difference and is irrelevant.</p> <p>Loss of community facilities will only be supported where a similar or better facility is provided in close proximity, or where it can be demonstrated that the facility is no longer viable, including offering the facility for sale at a realistic market price for at least 12 months.</p> <p>3) The statement below should be qualified in some way. For example, it must be sustainable, in character with the local surroundings, etc etc.</p> <p>Residential development will be supported within the Planned Limits of Development (see figure 2).</p>	<p>Policy amended for clarity. Clause 4 deals explicitly with the loss of facilities. This is planning policy so provides a context for dealing with planning applications. For publicly run facilities, any changes in provision may require consultation and equalities assessment before it gets to the planning stage. Neighbourhood Plan policies would only apply where there is a need for planning permission. It could not prevent closures.</p> <p>This would be addressed by Policy EW-SG01 clause 4b, which refers to Policy EW-DH01.</p>
25	EW-SG02	<p>1) The current local plan policy for redundant MOD sites calls for a masterplan or supplementary planning document, however as this policy could change with the next issue of the LP, the EWNP should include this or something similar. As any development on the SGB is likely of being on a large scale, insisting on a supplementary planning document maybe a sensible approach. Hopefully your NP advisor can hopefully advise you on this matter.</p> <p>2) With reference to the statement below, this policy section is too vague and open to misinterpretation. The definition of the word <u>complement</u> means - A complement is a number of people or things that makes something complete: We had a full complement of reporters and photographers along. Edith Weston does not need any development on the SGB site to complete it.</p> <p>The scheme should complement the existing Edith Weston Village, meeting the requirements of Policy EW-DH01;</p> <p>3) This policy does not address the issue of coalescence and does not protect the village against what is seen to be a weakness – ie – 'Uncontrolled expansion of the village beyond its present.' Any large-scale development on the SGB site will result in EW losing its village identity and EW will be overwhelmed. This policy does not protect us.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not make site allocations. EW-SG01 supports development of brownfield sites within the Planned Limits of Development and EW-SG02 supports the development of a brownfield site immediately adjacent to the Planned Limits of Development. The St George's Barracks Site is being considered as part of the Local Plan process. The Parish Council has objected to the allocation of this site. It would therefore be inconsistent to set specific policy requirements for this site. It should be noted that design and other policies in the Neighbourhood Plan would apply to all sites including any allocated in a future local plan. For clarity, Policy EW-DH04 amended to make clear it relates only to the heritage assets on the St George's Barracks site.</p> <p>The definition of compliment quoted relates to an alternative meaning of the word. Complement within the context of the policy would mean to ensure that the development was designed for the specific site and context. Text added to interpretation for clarity.</p> <p>The Officer's Mess site to which this policy relates is immediately adjacent to the village. Development of the site would not create coalescence with any other settlement.</p>

32	EW-GE01	1) For the same reasons as stated above the word significant should be removed from this policy. 2. Development should have no significant adverse impact on the following sensitive and designated landscapes (see figures 5 and 6):	Deletion of the word 'significant' would make the policy too restrictive and would be contrary to national policy.
64	EW-DH02	The EW conservation area is included within the Planned estates area (EW-DH02) and therefore appears to be in conflict with Policy EW-DH03:	The Edith Weston Conservation Area boundary includes the historic core of the village. The Planned Estates are all outside of the Conservation Area boundary.
68	EW-DH04	This policy does not include the recently recognised area of national importance which surrounds the Thor Missile site. I have attached my response to your earlier NP heritage consultation. In this document I explained that via the NP an area of national importance can be locally designated as a non-designated heritage asset. This will give further protection to the SGB site as a whole and the opportunity to include this in the NP should not be missed	The policy is for non-designated heritage structures. Interpretation has been updated to include the Thor Missile reference.
	General	I would appreciate your feedback on my comments concerning the non-designation of the land surrounding the Thor Missile site and its inclusion in the NP. It took a great amount of effort by a very small group of us to achieve recognition for this area of land and, subject to it falling within the EWNP area, it would be disappointing if it was not included in the EWNP. Thank you and well done to all those involved with preparing the NP.	Comment noted, see previous response.
Name of Respondee		Local resident 6	
25	EW-SG02	I support the principal of housing development of this site but it has to meet and not exceed the housing assessment needs for the parish.	Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan Housing Report, July 2023 deals with housing need and justification for development of this brownfield site.
68	EW-DH04	Page 69 – the reference to the water tanks and heating dome have not been included in the printed version due to format (they are on the electronic version). Change format so they will print.	This is a technical issue and will be checked for the submission version. Figure 9 amended to make clear all heritage structures within the Neighbourhood Area.
	General	Update NPPF policy references throughout the document where required to latest version released in September 2023. Check and correct spelling and grammar issues throughout the document.	Noted and plan updated to refer to NPPF 2023. Spelling, grammar, and formatting errors all corrected.
Name of Respondee		Rutland County Council	
	General	Reference throughout to the National Planning Policy Framework, now should be dated 2023 since the September update. A revised Landscape Character Area (2023) has been published: https://www.rutland.gov.uk/planning-building-control/local-plan/new-local-plan/local-plan-evidence-base/landscape-evidence	Plan updated to refer to NPPF 2023. Reference to landscape character area updated.
11	2.1.4	The Neighbourhood Plan needs to be worded positively and it's not possible at this stage to say that any development of the Officer's Mess can only happen in the wider context of SGB. Any proposed uses are likely to be put forward as part of a planning proposal by the landowner and will be subject to planning policies in the adopted Local Plan	Comment noted. Additional text added to key issues section to make clear that the preceding list was community engagement. The conflicting bullet point removed.
15	3.2	3rd paragraph, it might be helpful to go a bit further and respond to the new Local Plan as it develops, in order to future proof the NP rather than sticking to the adopted Local Plan policies, otherwise the NP will need an earlier review	Independent examination will consider general conformity against adopted local plan policies and not emerging ones. Reference to the emerging local plan has been amended to recognise that the Regulation 18 consultation did not take place in summer 2023. If the

			emerging local plan makes further progress, then references to it could be updated accordingly.
22	EW-SG01	Point 4, it would be useful to set out minimum maintenance gap between properties	Interpretation amended to include guidance.
25	EW-SG02	Support for the inclusion of a policy relating to St George's Barracks Officers' Mess	Comment noted.
62	Barrack's Officer's Mess and EW-DH01	<p>Fine in principle, but some concerns about EW-DH01 re: complement the existing village in line with EW-DH01</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talks about complementing the local context in terms of scale, massing, height, set-back and pattern of buildings & gardens but doesn't seem to allow for any suitable variation from this? • Mentions inclusion of balconies for apartments, but comments received in relation to Officer's Mess seem to suggest apartments aren't appropriate. (wording/grammar of this also could be interpreted as requiring the balconies to be shared – re-wording to read 'balconies and shared amenity space for apartments' would clarify this point) • Reference to materials doesn't seem to indicate a preference for materials appropriate to the historic context of the village. Suggest para 6 could do with a caveat that recycled and green materials will be supported where they don't result in harm to village character. <p>Policy fine in principle, support for retaining the trees in proviso b) - perhaps include some additional text excepting any works or removal of trees due to poor condition/health or perhaps add 'unless an Arboriculture assessment indicates removal of specific trees is justified due to poor condition or health of the trees in question'</p> <p>Proviso c) - Could even add the requirement that the design of any scheme is to use these trees as focal points within the development and as assets enhancing the quality of the development.</p> <p>Proviso d) – No issues</p> <p>Proviso e) - No issues per se, but there's no explanation of what it means by 'taking account of site topography'.</p>	<p>The policy says 'compliment' which does allow for variation where there is a design reason for doing so. It is unclear why apartments of an appropriate scale, complementing the scale of the existing village, would be unsuitable. Clause 5b amended for clarity. Clause 6 amended and additional text added to interpretation. The intention of the plan is to make clear that there is no incompatibility between innovative and creative green design and the historic environment.</p> <p>Text added to interpretation of policies EW-SG02 and EW-GE01. Additional text added to interpretation to clarify clause C of EW-SG02. The reference to site topography is clear. If the local planning authority requires further guidance on topography, the Design Guidelines for Rutland SPD, March 2022, makes multiple references.</p>
32	EW-GE01	<p>Proviso e) Needs to explain what designation applies to 'ridge and furrow' landscape</p> <p>Also applies to figure 6 map of ridge and furrow, what is the designation</p>	Ridge and furrow is not a designation it is a historic landscape feature. It is part of the landscape character and heritage of the area. No change required.
36	EW-GE02	<p>The play areas and amenity open space are already safeguarded by policy CS23 as they fall under the definition of green infrastructure on page 57 Para. 5.18) and as such it is difficult to see what added protections designation of the land as local green space (LGS) would bring even if the site would match the requirements of the NPPF.</p> <p>NPPF paragraph 102. Sets out that the Local Green Space designation should only be used where the green space is:</p> <p>a) in reasonably close proximity to the community it serves;</p> <p>b) demonstrably special to a local community and holds a particular local significance, for example because of its beauty, historic significance, recreational value (including as a playing field), tranquillity or richness of its wildlife; and</p> <p>c) local in character and is not an extensive tract of land.</p> <p>Plans of LGS designations – Consider moving these to an appendix.</p>	<p>LGS designation recognises the community value of the spaces and provides a higher level of protection, based on that community value. All of the spaces meet the LGS criteria in the NPPF as demonstrated in the Local Green Space Assessment report, August 2023. Similar spaces were accepted for designation in the recently made North Luffenham Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>LGS plans have been moved to appendix 1</p>
29	Rutland Landscape	The NP could also refer to the Landscape Sensitivity & Capacity Study (2012) which includes landscape around Edith Weston and the Rutland Water Area Review (2019)	Comment noted. The Plan has been updated to refer to Landscape

	Character Assessment 2003		Character Area December 2022 as the most up to date evidence.
60	Design Guidelines for Rutland November 2021	First sentence, typo there is no Core Strategy policy DE1 Suggest refer to Core Strategy Policy CS19 Promoting Good Design and Site Allocations Policy SP15 Design and amenity	Text amended to remove reference to DE1.
62	EW-DH01	Need to consider whether this policy adds anything to the Design Guidelines and needs to be more locally specific to Edith Weston. Under 'Examples of positive design features to reduce carbon use are.' It may be useful to define what a photovoltaics.	The policy should be applied together with policies EW-DH02 and EW-DH03. Collectively they have a strong local focus. EW-DH01 provides more detail and a stronger emphasis on green design. We have avoided including definitions of planning terms or technical terms in the neighbourhood plan. These are readily available in government and other guidance.
64	EW-DH02	Part 2) A number of amenity open space have been identified as LGS, although suggest they need to demonstrate why they should be. It might be helpful to clarify what is meant by this? Play areas and amenity open space are safeguarded under policy CS23	LGS designation recognises the community value of the spaces and provides a higher level of protection, based on that community value. All of the spaces meet the LGS criteria in the NPPF as demonstrated in the Local Green Space Assessment report, August 2023. Similar spaces were accepted for designated in the recently made North Luffenham Neighbourhood Plan.
68	EW-DH04	It's unclear / how should they be protected. Suggest retained? Still consider it would be helpful to have supporting text/justification to explain why they should be protected and their settings	The term 'protect' changed to 'retain' for clarity. The justification and evidence is within the Edith Weston Village Assessment and Design Guidance, January 2022 which identifies the heritage value of the assets in question. Materials prepared by Historic England also describe the value of Cold War heritage. Planning rationale updated for clarity.
73	EW-TM01	Point 1 is missing a 'to' after proportionate Part 1) suggest includes cycling Part 3a) Already covered by sp15 section L) – Doesn't add to this policy, suggest needs to be more specific and set out parking standard or be in accordance with council's adopted standards Part 3b) Does the garage class as secure cycle parking for dwellings? Part 4) Already covered by SP15 section L) – Doesn't add to this policy Part 6) suggest already covered by SP15 section m) most highways works would not need planning permission,	Amendment made to add 'to' as suggested. The term 'walking' replaced with 'active travel'. Parts 3a and b seek to ensure that the developer considers both parking and active travel. The intention is not to amend parking standards, though the policy may help to ensure the parking standards are applied in a consistent way. Interpretation amended to make clear that cycle storage could be included in garages. The policy contains more detail than SP15 on the issues to be considered. SP15 m does not refer to rural character.

Name of Respondee	Leicestershire County Council	
	<p>Leicestershire County Council is supportive of the Neighbourhood plan process and welcome being included in this consultation.</p> <p>Highways General Comments The County Council recognises that residents may have concerns about traffic conditions in their local area, which they feel may be exacerbated by increased traffic due to population, economic and development growth. Like very many local authorities, the County Council's budgets are under severe pressure. It must therefore prioritise where it focuses its reducing resources and increasingly limited funds. In practice, this means that the County Highway Authority (CHA), in general, prioritises its resources on measures that deliver the greatest benefit to Leicestershire's residents, businesses and road users in terms of road safety, network management and maintenance. Given this, it is likely that highway measures associated with any new development would need to be fully funded from third party funding, such as via Section 278 or 106 (S106) developer contributions. I should emphasise that the CHA is generally no longer in a position to accept any financial risk relating to/make good any possible shortfall in developer funding. To be eligible for S106 contributions proposals must fulfil various legal criteria. Measures must also directly mitigate the impact of the development e.g. they should ensure that the development does not make the existing highway conditions any worse if considered to have a severe residual impact. They cannot unfortunately be sought to address existing problems. Where potential S106 measures would require future maintenance, which would be paid for from the County Council's funds, the measures would also need to be assessed against the County Council's other priorities and as such may not be maintained by the County Council or will require maintenance funding to be provided as a commuted sum. In regard to public transport, securing S106 contributions for public transport services will normally focus on larger developments, where there is a more realistic prospect of services being commercially viable once the contributions have stopped ie they would be able to operate without being supported from public funding. The current financial climate means that the CHA has extremely limited funding available to undertake minor highway improvements. Where there may be the prospect of third-party funding to deliver a scheme, the County Council will still normally expect the scheme to comply with prevailing relevant national and local policies and guidance, both in terms of its justification and its design; the Council will also expect future maintenance costs to be covered by the third-party funding. Where any measures are proposed that would affect speed limits, on-street parking restrictions or other Traffic Regulation Orders (be that to address existing problems or in connection with a development proposal), their implementation would be subject to available resources, the availability of full funding and the satisfactory completion of all necessary Statutory Procedures.</p> <p>Flood Risk Management The County Council are fully aware of flooding that has occurred within Leicestershire and its impact on residential properties resulting in concerns relating to new developments. LCC in our role as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) undertake investigations into flooding, review consent applications to undertake works on ordinary watercourses and carry out enforcement where lack of maintenance or unconsented works has resulted in a flood risk. In April 2015 the LLFA also became a statutory consultee on major planning applications in relation to surface water drainage and have a duty to review planning</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p> <p>Comments noted. Identification and negotiation of Section 106 contributions for highways works would be a matter for the Local Planning Authority at the planning application stage.</p> <p>Traffic management issues fall outside of the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not include a flood risk policy. This is dealt with in national policy and by the local plan.</p>

	<p>applications to ensure that the onsite drainage systems are designed in accordance with current legislation and guidance. The LLFA also ensures that flood risk to the site is accounted for when designing a drainage solution.</p> <p>The LLFA is not able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent development where development sites are at low risk of flooding or can demonstrate appropriate flood risk mitigation. • Use existing flood risk to adjacent land to prevent development. • Require development to resolve existing flood risk. When considering flood risk within the development of a neighbourhood plan, the LLFA would recommend consideration of the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locating development outside of river (fluvial) flood risk (Flood Map for Planning (Rivers and Sea)). • Locating development outside of surface water (pluvial) flood risk (Risk of Flooding from Surface Water map). • Locating development outside of any groundwater flood risk by considering any local knowledge of groundwater flooding. • How potential SuDS features may be incorporated into the development to enhance the local amenity, water quality and biodiversity of the site as well as manage surface water runoff. • Watercourses and land drainage should be protected within new developments to prevent an increase in flood risk. <p>All development will be required to restrict the discharge and retain surface water on site in line with current government policies. This should be undertaken through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). Appropriate space allocation for SuDS features should be included within development sites when considering the housing density to ensure that the potential site will not limit the ability for good SuDS design to be carried out. Consideration should also be given to blue green corridors and how they could be used to improve the bio-diversity and amenity of new developments, including benefits to surrounding areas. Often ordinary watercourses and land drainage features (including streams, culverts and ditches) form part of development sites. The LLFA recommend that existing watercourses and land drainage (including watercourses that form the site boundary) are retained as open features along their original flow path and are retained in public open space to ensure that access for maintenance can be achieved. This should also be considered when looking at housing densities within the plan to ensure that these features can be retained. LCC, in its role as LLFA will not support proposals contrary to LCC policies.</p> <p>For further information it is suggested reference is made to the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012), Sustainable drainage systems: Written statement - HCWS161 (December 2014) and the Planning Practice Guidance webpage.</p> <p>Flood risk mapping is readily available for public use at the links below. The LLFA also holds information relating to historic flooding within Leicestershire that can be used to inform development proposals.</p> <p>Risk of flooding from surface water map: https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk Flood map for planning (rivers and sea): https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/</p> <p>Planning Minerals & Waste Planning The County Council is the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority; this means the council prepares the planning policy for minerals and waste development and also makes decisions on mineral and waste development.</p>	<p>The interpretation to EW-DH01 makes reference to sustainable drainage. Policy EW-GE01 deals with biodiversity and the natural environment.</p> <p>Minerals and waste are excluded matters for Neighbourhood Plans. We note that there is no specific comment on the Officers Mess site.</p>
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	<p>Although neighbourhood plans cannot include policies that cover minerals and waste development, it may be the case that your neighbourhood contains an existing or planned minerals or waste site. The County Council can provide information on these operations, or any future development planned for your neighbourhood. You should also be aware of Minerals and Waste Safeguarding Areas, contained within the adopted Minerals and Waste Local Plan (Leicestershire.gov.uk). These safeguarding areas are there to ensure that non-waste and non-minerals development takes place in a way that does not negatively affect minerals resources or waste operations. The County Council can provide guidance on this if your neighbourhood plan is allocating development in these areas or if any proposed neighbourhood plan policies may impact on minerals and waste provision.</p> <p>Property Education Whereby housing allocations or preferred housing developments form part of a Neighbourhood Plan the Local Authority will look to the availability of school places within a two-mile (primary) and three-mile (secondary) distance from the development. If there are not sufficient places, then a claim for Section 106 funding will be requested to provide those places.</p> <p>It is recognised that it may not always be possible or appropriate to extend a local school to meet the needs of a development, or the size of a development would yield a new school.</p> <p>However, in the changing educational landscape, the Council retains a statutory duty to ensure that sufficient places are available in good schools within its area, for every child of school age whose parents wish them to have one.</p> <p>Strategic Property Services No comment at this time.</p> <p>Adult Social Care It is suggested that reference is made to recognising a significant growth in the older population and that development seeks to include bungalows etc of differing tenures to accommodate the increase. This would be in line with the draft Adult Social Care Accommodation Strategy for older people which promotes that people should plan ahead for their later life, including considering downsizing, but recognising that people's choices are often limited by the lack of suitable local options.</p> <p>Environment General Comments With regard to the environment and in line with Government advice, Leicestershire County Council (LCC) would like to see Neighbourhood Plans cover all aspects of archaeology and the historic and natural environment including heritage assets, archaeological sites, listed and unlisted historic buildings, historic landscapes, climate change, the landscape, biodiversity, ecosystems, green infrastructure as well as soils, brownfield sites and agricultural land.</p> <p>Archaeology and the Historic Environment The planning process provides one of the most effective tools to manage the impact of land use change upon the historic environment. This is achieved both through the shaping of development plans (Local and Neighbourhood Plans) and the delivery of development management advice on individual planning applications. In that context, the inclusion of heritage in your Neighbourhood Plan, and the provision of relevant and effective policies, will</p>	<p>Planning infrastructure contributions for educational provision would be a matter for the Local Planning Authority at the planning application stage.</p> <p>Comment noted.</p> <p>Housing mix is dealt with by the local plan.</p> <p>Archaeology is dealt with by the local plan. The Neighbourhood Plan deals with environment and heritage, designated and non-designated, through policies EW-SG02; EW-GE01; EW-GE02; EW-DH01; EW-DH02; EW-DH03 and EW-DH04.</p>
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	<p>significantly strengthen the management of these issues and will be an effective way of the community identifying its own concerns and priorities.</p> <p>Ideally, Neighbourhood Plans should seek to work in partnership with other agencies to develop and deliver this strategic objective, based on robust local evidence and priorities. We recommend that each Neighbourhood Plan should consider the impact of potential development or management decisions on the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment. The historic environment is defined as comprising all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving evidence of past human activity, whether upstanding, buried or submerged, as well landscapes and their historic components.</p> <p>The Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environment Record (LRHER) can provide a summary of archaeological and historic environment information for your Neighbourhood Plan area. This will include gazetteers and maps describing the locally identified non-designated heritage assets, typically archaeological sites (both earthworks and buried archaeological remains), unlisted historic buildings and historic landscapes (parks and gardens). We will also provide information on medieval ridge and furrow earthworks to help you evaluate the surviving earthworks in your area.</p> <p>Information on Designated assets (Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens, Battlefields) is available from the National Heritage List for England (NHLE). https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/</p> <p>Consideration of the historic environment, and its constituent designated and non-designated heritage assets, is a material consideration in the planning process. While the data held by the LRHER is constantly maintained and updated, it is unlikely that the record represents an exhaustive list of all assets with the plan area. We suggest that information provided by the LRHER should be taken into account when preparing the Neighbourhood Plan and contribute to any list of locally identified heritage assets. Based upon a structured assessment process, this will be the basis of any non-designated heritage assets identified within the plan and given force through the preparation of appropriate heritage policy.</p> <p>Contact: her@leics.gov.uk, or phone 0116 305 8323</p> <p>For help with including heritage in your Neighbourhood Plan please see the following guidance: CBA Toolkit No. 10, Neighbourhood Planning (2017) https://www.archaeologyuk.org/asset/6FE3A721-B328-4B75-9DEBBD0028A4AEED/ National Trust Guide to Heritage in Neighbourhood Plans (2019) https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/documents/neighbourhood-planning-and-heritage-guidance.pdf</p> <p>Climate Change The County Council, through its Environment Strategy and Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan, is committed to achieving net zero for its own operations by 2030 and to working with Leicestershire people and organisations to become a net zero county by 2045 or before. Along with most other UK local authorities, the council has declared a climate emergency and wants to do its bit to help meet the Paris Agreement and keep global temperature rise to well below 2°C Leicestershire's Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan is available here.</p> <p>Planning is one of the key levers for enabling these commitments to be met and to meeting the legally binding target set by the government for the UK to be net zero by 2050. Neighbourhood Plans should, as far as possible, align to Leicestershire County Council's Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan by contributing to and</p>	<p>Consideration of climate change and the need for development to be sustainable has underpinned the drafting of all policies. The Basic Conditions against which the Plan will be tested includes a need to help to achieve sustainable development.</p>
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	<p>supporting a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and by increasing the county's resilience to climate change.</p> <p>Landscape The County Council would like to see the inclusion of a local landscape assessment taking into account: Natural England's Landscape character areas; Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Landscape and Woodland Strategy; the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Historic Landscape Characterisation Project; the Local District/Borough Council landscape character assessments; the Landscape Sensitivity and Green Infrastructure Study for Leicester and Leicestershire (2017), which examines the sensitivity of the landscape, exploring the extent to which different areas can accommodate development without impacting on their key landscape qualities.</p> <p>We would recommend that Neighbourhood Plans should also consider the street scene and public realm within their communities, further advice can be found in the latest 'Streets for All East Midlands' document (2018) published by Historic England.</p> <p>LCC would encourage the development of local listings as per the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and LCC have some data on the social, cultural, archaeological and historic value of local features and buildings (https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/history-and-heritage/historic-environment-record)</p> <p>Contact: her@leics.gov.uk or telephone: 0116 3058323</p> <p>Examples of policy statements for Landscape: POLICY X: LOCAL LANDSCAPE CHARACTER AREAS – Development proposals falling within or affecting the Local Landscape Character Areas (LLCAs), where possible, enhance the LLCA's particular characteristics, important views and local distinctiveness. Proposals having a harmful effect on a Local Landscape Character Area's character will not be supported.</p> <p>Biodiversity The Natural Environment and Communities Act 2006 places a duty on all public authorities in England and Wales to have regard, in the exercise of their duties, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) clearly outlines the importance of sustainable development alongside the core principle that planning should contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment, providing net gain for biodiversity, and reducing pollution. Neighbourhood Plans should therefore seek to work in partnership with other agencies to develop and deliver a strategic approach to protecting and improving the natural environment based on local evidence and priorities. Each Neighbourhood Plan should consider the impact of potential development or management of open spaces on enhancing biodiversity and habitat connectivity, such as hedgerows and greenways. Habitat permeability for species which addresses encouragement of movement from one location to another such as the design of street lighting, roads, noise, obstructions in water, exposure of species to predation and arrangement of land-uses should be considered.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan can be used to plan actions for the parish council on its' own land (community actions) and guide the actions of others (policy actions).</p> <p>For specific advice on species and habitats of importance in the County and actions that can make a difference to their conservation and ways to increase the quality and quantity of these, please refer to the Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan</p>	<p>The evidence base for the Neighbourhood Plan includes data on landscape designations and character. Policy EW-GE01 deals explicitly with landscape and the natural environment.</p> <p>Policy EW-DH01 deals with design.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan deals with non-designated heritage (see above comment on heritage).</p> <p>These examples are vague and generic. Policy EW-GE01 is more detailed and more locally specific.</p> <p>Policy EW-GE01 deals with biodiversity, habitats and the natural environment.</p>
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<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/planning/biodiversity-strategy>

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/planning/planning-and-biodiversity>

The Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre (LRERC) can provide a summary of wildlife information for your Neighbourhood Plan area. This will include a map showing nationally important sites (e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest); locally designated Wildlife Sites; locations of badger setts, great crested newt breeding ponds and ponds with high potential to support great crested newts' and bat roosts; and a list of records of protected and priority Biodiversity Action Plan species. These are all a material consideration in the planning process. If there has been a recent Habitat Survey of your plan area, this will also be included. LRERC is unable to carry out habitat surveys on request from a Parish Council, although it may be possible to add it into a future survey programme.

Contact: LRERC@leics.gov.uk., or phone 0116 305 1087

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/planning/leicestershire-and-rutland-environmental-records-centre-lrerc>,

For informal advice on actions for nature that can be taken forward on parish land please contact EnvironmentTeam@Leics.gov.uk

Many species of plants and animals in England and often their supporting features and habitats are protected. What you can and cannot do by law varies from species to species and may require a preliminary ecological appraisal. For information on protected species and the law please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/protected-species-how-to-review-planning-applications>

Examples of policy statements that can be added to the plan to support biodiversity:

POLICY X: BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION IN NEW

DEVELOPMENT – Consideration should be made in the design and construction of new development in the Plan Area to protect and enhance biodiversity, where appropriate, including:

- Roof and wall construction should incorporate integral bee bricks, bird nest boxes and bat breeding and roosting boxes. Target species and locations to be based on advice sought from the Local Authority's Biodiversity Officer (or equivalent).
- Hedges (or fences with ground-level gaps) should be used for property boundaries to maintain connectivity of habitat for hedgehogs and other terrestrial animals.
- Work with landowners to ensure good maintenance of existing hedgerows, gap up and plant new hedgerows where appropriate and introduce a programme of replenishing hedgerow trees.
- Avoidance of all unnecessary exterior artificial lighting: there is no legal duty requiring any place to be lit.
- Security lighting, if essential, should be operated by intruder sensors and illuminated for no longer than 1 minute. Sports and commercial facility lighting should be switched off during agreed 'curfew' hours between March and October, following best practice guidelines in Bats and Lighting Leicestershire Environmental Records Centre, 2014.
- Lighting design, location, type, lux levels and times of use should follow current best-practice, e.g. by applying the guidelines in Guidance note 08/18 Bats and artificial lighting in the UK: Bat Conservation Trust / Institution of Lighting Professionals, 2018.
- Natural/semi natural grassland margins adjacent to hedges of up to 5m buffer.
- Retain natural features wherever possible.

This is already dealt with in policies EW-DH01 and in the interpretation and policy EW-GE01 for the natural environment.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In creating habitats, consider the underlying geology and allow natural colonisation near local high-quality habitats. • Avoid use of topsoil to promote plant diversity, especially in areas of limestone or areas near to heathland - consider exposing sandy soils to encourage acid grassland and heath. • Allow for structural diversity of habitats – for example long and tall grass, to maintain a suitable grassland habitat for wildlife. A management plan should accompany all planning applications. • Avoid development and hard landscaping next to watercourses. • Restore naturalness to existing watercourses for example by retaining some steeper earth banks suitable for Kingfisher and Water Vole breeding. • Retain areas of deadwood within the site to maintain biodiversity. • Plant 30% of trees with a selection of larger native species and create lines of trees. <p>Green Infrastructure Green infrastructure (GI) is a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities (NPPF definition). GI includes parks, open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, street trees, cemeteries/churchyards, allotments and private gardens as well as streams, rivers, canals and other water bodies and features such as green roofs and living walls.</p> <p>The NPPF places the duty on local authorities to plan positively for a strategic network of GI which can deliver a range of planning policies including: building a strong, competitive economy; creating a sense of place and promoting good design; promoting healthier communities by providing greater opportunities for recreation and mental and physical health benefits; meeting the challenges of climate change and flood risk; increasing biodiversity and conserving and enhancing the natural and historic environment. Looking at the existing provision of GI networks within a community can influence the plan for creating & enhancing new networks.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan groups have the opportunity to plan GI networks at a local scale to maximise benefits for their community and in doing so they should ensure that their Neighbourhood Plan is reflective of the relevant Local Authority Green Infrastructure strategy. Through the Neighbourhood Plan and discussions with the Local Authority Planning teams and potential Developers communities are well placed to influence the delivery of local scale GI networks.</p> <p>Sites that are designated as Local Green Spaces can form an important strategic part of local Green Infrastructure and can be conserved and enhanced to make an important contribution to the district green infrastructure. Delivery of the conservation and enhancement can be dealt with in Policy and Community Actions.</p> <p>Brownfield, Soils and Agricultural Land The NPPF encourages the effective use of brownfield land for development, provided that it is not of high environmental/ecological/heritage value. Neighbourhood planning groups should check with Defra if their neighbourhood planning area includes brownfield sites. Where information is lacking as to the ecological or heritage value of these sites then the Neighbourhood Plan could include policies that ensure such survey work should be carried out to assess the ecological and heritage value of a brownfield site before development decisions are taken. Soils are an essential finite resource on which important ecosystem services such as food production, are dependent on. They should be enhanced in value and protected from adverse effects of unacceptable levels of pollution. Within the governments</p>	<p>Policy EW-GE01 deals with green infrastructure. Policy EW-GE02 makes Local Green Space designations are part of the green infrastructure provision.</p> <p>Development is focused within the Planned Limits of Developments and on a brownfield site immediately adjacent to the village. So, the plan does not support development of agricultural land.</p>
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	<p>“Safeguarding our Soils” strategy, Defra have produced a code of practice for the sustainable use of soils on construction sites which could be helpful to neighbourhood planning groups in preparing environmental policies.</p> <p>High quality agricultural soils should, where possible be protected from development and where a large area of agricultural land is identified for development then planning should consider using the poorer quality areas in preference to the higher quality areas. Neighbourhood planning groups should consider mapping agricultural land classification within their plan to enable informed decisions to be made in the future. Natural England can provide further information and Agricultural Land classification and have produced the following guide:- https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agricultural-land-assess-proposals-for-development/guide-to-assessing-development-proposals-on-agricultural-land. The British Society for Soil Science provide advice on what should be expected of developers in assessing land for development suitability. https://soils.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/Assessing-Agricultural-Land-Jan-2022.pdf</p> <p>Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) Information for Neighbourhood Planning groups regarding Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) can be found on the Neighbourhood Planning website (https://neighbourhoodplanning.org/toolkits-and-guidance/understand-plan-requires-strategic-environmental-assessment-sea/) and should be referred to.</p> <p>A Neighbourhood Plan must meet certain basic conditions in order to be ‘made’. It must not breach and be otherwise compatible with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations SI 2004/1633 (available online). These regulations deal with the assessment of environmental plans and programmes and implement Retained Reference Directive 2001/42 ‘on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment’.</p> <p>Not every Neighbourhood Plan needs a SEA; however, it is compulsory to provide when submitting a plan proposal to the local planning authority either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A statement of reasons as to why SEA was not required • An environmental report (a key output of the SEA process). <p>As a rule of thumb, SEA is more likely to be necessary if both of the following two elements apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Neighbourhood Plan allocates sites for development (for housing, employment etc.); and • the neighbourhood area contains sensitive environmental assets (e.g. a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)) that may be affected by the policies and proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan. <p>In light of these two considerations, it is very unlikely that a Neighbourhood Plan would require SEA if the plan is not allocating land for development. This is because allocating land for development is more likely to generate physical changes which lead to significant effects.</p> <p>As the UK has now left the EU, Neighbourhood Planning groups should remain mindful of any future changes which may occur to the above guidance. Changes are also likely to be forthcoming as a result of the Government’s Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (LURB). This proposes ‘Environmental Outcome Reports’ to replace the current system of Strategic Environmental Assessment</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan has been screened for SEA and HRA.</p>
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(including Sustainability Appraisals) and Environmental Impact Assessment and introduce a clearer and simpler process where relevant plans and projects (including Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects) are assessed against tangible environmental outcomes.

Impact of Development on Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC)

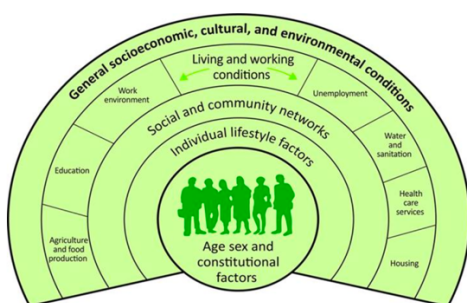
Neighbourhood planning groups should remain mindful of the interaction between new development applications in a district and borough area and the existing HWRC services delivered by Leicestershire County Council. The County's Waste Management team considers proposed developments on a case by case basis and when it is identified that a proposed development will have a detrimental effect on the local HWRC infrastructure then appropriate projects to increase the capacity of the HWRC most likely impacted have to be initiated. Contributions to fund these projects are requested in accordance with the Leicestershire's Planning Obligations Policy and the relevant Legislation Regulations.

Public Health

Health is shaped by many different factors throughout our lives. Health is affected by the settings in which we live, work, learn and play. These influences start to determine health and opportunities for better health from birth and throughout the whole life course, for example the environment, community, transport, education, and income.

This complex range of interacting social, economic, and environmental factors are known as the wider determinants of health or the social determinants of health. When there is a difference in these conditions it contributes to health inequalities- "Health inequalities are the preventable, unfair and unjust differences in health status between groups, populations or individuals that arise from the unequal distribution of social, environmental and economic conditions within societies" (NHS England)

The diagram below illustrates types of wider factors that influence an individual's mental and physical health.



The diagram shows:

- personal characteristics at the core of the model and this includes sex, age, ethnic group, and hereditary factors
- The layer around the core contains individual 'lifestyle' factor behaviours such as smoking, alcohol use, and physical activity•
- The next layer contains social and community networks including family and wider social circles
- The next layer covers living and working conditions include access and opportunities in relation to jobs, housing, education and welfare services
- The final outer layer is general socioeconomic, cultural and environmental conditions and includes factors such as disposable income, taxation, and availability of work.

This is outside of the scope of the neighbourhood plan.

Policy EW-TM01 promotes active travel. Policy EW-GE02 protects green space of community value (Local Green Space). The Neighbourhood Plan also addresses environmental quality in various policies. An equalities assessment will form part of the Basic Conditions Statement.

	<p>Research by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, looked into the major contributors to health and wellbeing and found that:</p> <p>Health Behaviours contribute to 30% of health outcomes made up of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smoking 10% • Diet/Exercise 10% • Alcohol use 5% • Poor sexual health 5% <p>Socioeconomic Factors contribute to 40% of health outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education 10% • Employment 10% • Income 10% • Family/Social Support 5% • Community Safety 5% <p>Clinical Care contributes to 20% of health outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to care 10% • Quality of care 10% <p>Built Environment contributes to 10% of health outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Quality 5% • Built Environment 5% <p>Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, Used in US to rank Counties by health Status</p> <p>Therefore, due to the complex way in which the built environment and communities we live in impact on our health any opportunity to mitigate negative impacts and enhance positive outcomes should be taken. Completing a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is a good practice to ensure neighbourhood concerns and recommendations are considered.</p> <p>Undertaking a HIA as part of your neighbourhood plans has the potential to influence all these areas, alongside influencing decisions made about access to care through transport and infrastructure.</p> <p>To aid you in undertaking a HIA please visit: https://www.healthyclacemaking.co.uk/health-impact-assessment/ At the bottom of this page there are also links to a number of local data sheets at a district level. You can also familiarise yourself with the health profile for your area by visiting: https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/health-profiles</p> <p>Dahlgren G, Whitehead M. (1991). Policies and Strategies to Promote Social Equity in Health. Stockholm, Sweden: Institute for Futures Studies.</p> <p>NHS England, "Reducing health inequalities resources," [Online]. Available: https://www.england.nhs.uk/about/equality/equality-hub/resources/ [Accessed February 2021].</p> <p>Communities Consideration of community facilities is a positive facet of Neighbourhood Plans that reflects the importance of these facilities within communities and can proactively protect and develop facilities to meet the needs of people in local communities. Neighbourhood Plans provide an opportunity to;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carry out and report on a review of community facilities, groups and allotments and their importance with your community. 2. Set out policies that seek to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect and retain these existing facilities, • support the independent development of new facilities, and, • identify and protect Assets of Community Value and provide support for any existing or future designations. 	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan addresses various social and community issues, for example by addressing community facilities, walkable neighbourhoods, spaces of community value, sustainable design and active travel.</p>
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	<p>3. Identify and support potential community projects that could be progressed. You are encouraged to consider and respond to all aspects of community resources as part of the Neighbourhood Planning process. Further information, guidance and examples of policies and supporting information is available at www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/np/useful-information.</p> <p>Economic Development We would recommend including economic development aspirations with your Plan, outlining what the community currently values and whether they are open to new development of small businesses etc.</p> <p>Fibre Broadband Our ambition is for a Digital Leicestershire. This includes the ambition for everyone to have access to fast, accessible, inclusive, reliable digital infrastructure and we are working to support government targets to achieve gigabit capable, lightning-fast broadband connections to 85% of Leicestershire by December 2025, increasing to 100% by 2030. A fast and reliable digital infrastructure will open new opportunities for residents, communities and businesses. It will underpin innovation, improve community and social networks and support learning and development for all. It will help to deliver a range of societal benefits including the more effective provision of public services, information and connect people to the support at the point of need. The Digital Leicestershire team manages programmes aimed at improving digital infrastructure in the county. This includes superfast, ultrafast and full fibre broadband. This work combines three approaches; engaging with commercial operators to encourage private investment in Leicestershire, working with all tiers of government to reduce barriers to commercial investment, and operating intervention schemes with public funds to support deployment of digital infrastructure in hard-to-reach areas that are not included in broadband suppliers' plans, reaching parts of the county that might otherwise miss out on getting the digital connectivity they need. We are currently providing support throughout the county with our Gigabit and Gigahub programmes.</p> <p>How does this role relate to neighbourhood plans? The UK government has brought into force new laws that require new homes in England to be built with gigabit broadband connections and enables telecoms firms to be able to get faster broadband to nine million people living in blocks of flats across the UK. Ministers have amended the Building Regulations 2010 to ensure that new homes constructed in England will be fitted with infrastructure and connections capable of delivering gigabit broadband - the fastest internet speeds on the market.</p> <p>The updated regulations mean that more people moving into new homes will have a gigabit-capable broadband connection ready when construction is completed, avoiding the need for costly and disruptive installation work after the home is built and enabling residents to arrange the best possible internet service at the point they move in.</p> <p>In a further boost to people's access to better broadband, another new law has made it easier to install faster internet connections in blocks of flats when landlords repeatedly ignore requests for access from broadband firms.</p> <p>Both of these new laws came into effect on 26 December 2022.</p>	<p>Policy EW-SG01 addresses growth within the Planned Limits of Development, including employment, community facilities and housing.</p> <p>This is now dealt with under building regulations.</p>
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Name of Respondee		Local resident 7	
22	EW-SG01	<p>This policy should make it much clearer – that it only supports infill or small-scale development within the PLD.</p> <p>Furthermore, the vision for Rutland – which forms the basis of RCCs corporate plan states that development will focus around our 2 market towns and that the countryside will be protected.</p>	<p>Requirements for development within the Planned Limits of Development are dealt with by policy EW-SG01. Design requirements are set out in policy EW-DH01. Outside the settlement boundary, rural exceptions sites are dealt with by the adopted Local Plan.</p>
25	EW-SG02	<p>This site is outside the PLD. Is there a risk of making this an exception which may open the village to further development along the North side – I think we need to be very careful.</p> <p>It is widely felt that given 45% (MOD figures) of the site is brownfield - that the visual aspect can be greatly improved through some control, considered development.</p> <p>Currently NO alternatives to housing have been considered. Can this plan request this? So it has done a full 360?</p> <p>I do not feel the NP is the right place to wrap this site up into a policy, that applies untested housing figures and therefore the word SOME should be incorporated where it says development will be supported.</p> <p>The housing needs number provided by a very comprehensive report by AECOM should not be ignored – it's our main evidence. The number being floated by RCC is yet to be tested under the local plan consultation at reg 18 or 19– and currently the methodology is not known.</p> <p>Edith Weston is the 7th least sustainable LSC.</p> <p>Distance needs to be considered and applied within the methodology, if we genuinely want to reduce the need to use the motor car and create a greener county.</p> <p>Sustainable development should drive all decisions – and we know that Edith Weston is not sustainable and therefore should not be considered for large scale development of any kind.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan is underpinned by evidence on housing need and growth (including the AECOM and UVE reports). This demonstrates that development within the Planned Limits of Development together with the Officers Mess brownfield site will meet local need. Given that growth can be accommodated within the Planned Limits of Developments and immediately adjacent brownfield site, additional site allocations are not necessary. It should be noted that national policy already supports the development of brownfield sites. Policy EW-SG01 and EW-SG02 set out the locations where development will be supported. Policies EW-GE01 and EW-GE02 deal with protection of the green and natural environment. Other polices deal with design requirements. Consideration of sustainability has underpinned the drafting of all policies.</p>

		<p>I think the wording should be tighter to protect the village from excess development, with MUCH greater emphasis on the form & layout – in addition to long views, a much larger village green - more green spaces, greater emphasis on road safety and the retention of the tennis courts to provide a community asset.</p> <p>Hedges & verges should be protected.</p> <p>Should the country approved RCC’s housing numbers at referendum, then we should add in a caveat that says at this point the NP approves 51 houses less the 6 + built and therefore the maximum houses would be 45 or less according to the house builds at the time.</p>	<p>The Plan includes policies dealing with form and layout (EW-DH01, EW-DH02 and EW-DH03), green community spaces (EW-GE02), sustainable transport (EW-TM01) and community facilities (EW-SG01).</p> <p>This is supported by policies EW-GE01 and EW-SG02.</p> <p>Housing need is addressed in the supporting reports, referenced in Chapter 3.</p>
32	EW-GE01	Excellent policy	Comment noted.
36	EW-GE02	Excellent allocations of green areas that are treasured within the village.	Comment noted.
62	EW-DH01	The 2023 changes to NPP should be incorporated. I believe this now uses the word “Beauty” when talking about building new property amongst other things.	NPPF references updated. Policies EW-DH01, EW-DH02, EW-DH03 deal with design and character. These seek to define local character, rather than using vague and generic terms.
68	EW-DH04	<p>It is understood that Historic England has indicated that both the OM site and the SGB site have heritage significance (the SGB site is addressed in the attached letter dated 30 January 2018). This is unsurprising given the importance of the barracks in relation to its activity.</p> <p>Edith Weston Parish Council Representation on Additional Soundness Issues Relating to Officer’s Mess H1.8 during the Cold War. It is understood that some of Historic England’s work considering the heritage status of the sites is ongoing and the Parish Council will make representations once any further evidence is available. Notwithstanding this, as the attached letter from Historic England to RCC (dated 14 March 2018) shows, Historic England has advised that the Officer’s Mess site should be considered as a non-designated heritage asset. None of this information has been considered within the SA.</p> <p>I believe it should be firmly established from Historic England – that this work has been concluded and the value of the OM has been fully determined to ensure that nothing is left uncertain or unprotected.</p>	<p>The Officers Mess building was assessed by Historic England (Ref 1465339) and a decision made on 25 June 2019 not to list the officers mess building. Policy EW-DH04 addresses non-designated heritage assets on the St George’s Barracks site.</p> <p>These comments appear to relate to the local plan and supporting sustainability analysis.</p> <p>Historic England was consulted at the screening stage and Regulation 14.</p>
73	EW-TM01	The development of the Officers Mess is in direct conflict with points 1 & 4 of this policy.	It would be possible for development to be designed to meet the requirements of clauses 1-4 of this policy in addition to the requirements of Policy EW-DH01.
	General	Huge amount of work – well done.	Comment noted.

Name of Respondee	Leicestershire Police	
General	<p>Leicestershire Police support the creation of the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan 2023-2041, which has a primary objective to reflect the community wide views, comments, observations, concerns and ambitions about Edith Weston planning in respect to future applications and their implications.</p> <p>Leicestershire Police will always attempt to reflect the aspirations of all the residents and people who work, study and pass through the area in the way that they Police the area, and will continue to do so, taking into consideration the contents of future Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plans. Neighbourhood Policing is a central part of Policing with resources deployed to provide visible presence and deterrent to potential offenders and contact for members of the public. Future planning applications and any additional demand on Policing resources, will need consideration, as currently resources are deployed from areas outside Edith Weston. Due to changes in the Policing estate, Police responses will still be maintained through new innovation and technological advances.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Policing will be maintained and continue to provide a close link to the community they serve and effective community consultation.</p> <p>To maintain the current levels and to accommodate future additional demand created by population growth and the resultant new dwellings, and associated infrastructure of schools, commercial, retail and other facilities such as open space additional Policing considerations should be taken into consideration.</p> <p>Open Space is a key issue for Policing within the planning process of new developments with particular attention to Safer Streets issues. Ongoing government funding has been focused on providing Safer Routes through Open Spaces with attention to trimming of ground level foliage to 1m and trees to have foliage trimmed to 2m from the ground to provide a 1m clear field of vision. Also lighting, signage and CCTV improvements are under consideration. Any new appropriate Open Spaces should consider these issues, to provide safe transit and use of these areas.</p> <p>Women and girls, as well as all vulnerable persons have been subject to crime and would be able to benefit from early consideration via the planning process.</p> <p>Paragraph 92 (a) & (b) of NPPF 2021 specifically provides that: -</p> <p>Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which:</p> <p>(a) promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other – for example through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres, street layouts that allow for easy pedestrian and cycle connections within and between neighbourhoods, and active street frontages;</p> <p>(b) are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion – for example through the use of attractive, well-designed, clear and legible pedestrian and cycle routes, and high-quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas; and</p> <p>Paragraph 96 states that: -</p> <p>To ensure faster delivery of other public service infrastructure such as further education colleges, hospitals and criminal justice accommodation, local planning authorities should also work proactively and positively with promoters, delivery partners and statutory bodies to plan for required facilities and resolve key planning issues before applications are submitted.</p> <p>Hence the inclusion of a police contribution to Leicestershire Police is a Priority consideration.</p> <p>Policing is a 24/7 service resourced to respond and deploy on an "on demand" and "equal access" basis and is wholly dependent on a range of facilities for staff to deliver this. A primary issue for</p>	<p>Comment noted.</p> <p>Policies EW-DH01 and EW-TM01 seek to create convenient and safe environments for all of the population, including those with protected characteristics. These and other requirements in the NPPF 2023 have informed the policies including EW-DH01 and EW-TM01.</p> <p>Consultation on major planning applications will be the responsibility of the Local Planning Authority.</p>

Name of Respondee		Avison Young on behalf of National Grid Electricity	
	General	<p>National Grid Electricity Transmission has appointed Avison Young to review and respond to local planning authority Development Plan Document consultations on its behalf. We are instructed by our client to submit the following representation with regard to the current consultation on the above document.</p> <p>About National Grid Electricity Transmission National Grid Electricity Transmission plc (NGET) owns and maintains the electricity transmission system in England and Wales. The energy is then distributed to the electricity distribution network operators, so it can reach homes and businesses. National Grid no longer owns or operates the high-pressure gas transmission system across the UK. This is the responsibility of National Gas Transmission, which is a separate entity and must be consulted independently. National Grid Ventures (NGV) develop, operate and invest in energy projects, technologies, and partnerships to help accelerate the development of a clean energy future for consumers across the UK, Europe and the United States. NGV is separate from National Grid's core regulated businesses. Please also consult with NGV separately from NGET.</p> <p>Proposed development sites crossed or in close proximity to NGET assets: An assessment has been carried out with respect to NGET's assets which include high voltage electricity assets and other electricity infrastructure. NGET has identified that it has no record of such assets within the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p> <p>NGET provides information in relation to its assets at the website below. • www2.nationalgrid.com/uk/services/land-and-development/planning-authority/shape-files/ Please also see attached information outlining guidance on development close to NGET infrastructure.</p> <p>Distribution Networks Information regarding the electricity distribution network is available at the website below: www.energynetworks.org.uk</p> <p>Further Advice Please remember to consult NGET on any Neighbourhood Plan Documents or site-specific proposals that could affect our assets.</p>	Comment noted.
Name of Respondee		Avison Young on behalf of National Gas	
	General	<p>National Gas Transmission has appointed Avison Young to review and respond to Neighbourhood Plan consultations on its behalf. We are instructed by our client to submit the following representation with regard to the current consultation on the above document.</p> <p>About National Gas Transmission National Gas Transmission owns and operates the high-pressure gas transmission system across the UK. In the UK, gas leaves the transmission system and enters the UK's four gas distribution networks where pressure is reduced for public use.</p> <p>Proposed sites crossed or in close proximity to National Gas Transmission assets An assessment has been carried out with respect to National Gas Transmission's assets which include high-pressure gas pipelines and other infrastructure. National Gas Transmission has identified that it has no record of such assets within the Neighbourhood Plan area.</p>	Comment noted.

	<p>National Gas Transmission provides information in relation to its assets at the website below. https://www.nationalgas.com/land-and-assets/network-route-maps Please also see attached information outlining guidance on development close to National Gas Transmission infrastructure.</p> <p>Distribution Networks Information regarding the gas distribution network is available by contacting: plantprotection@cadentgas.com</p> <p>Further Advice Please remember to consult National Gas Transmission on any Neighbourhood Plan Documents or site-specific proposals that could affect our assets.</p>	
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Name of Respondee		Severn Trent	
	General	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your consultation. Please note that our response only refers to water supply, as Edith Weston falls outside of Severn Trent's operating region for wastewater. We have some specific comments to make on your plan which you will find below. Please keep us informed when your plans are further developed when we will be able to offer more detailed comments and advice.</p> <p>Position Statement As a water company we have an obligation to provide water supplies and sewage treatment capacity for future development. It is important for us to work collaboratively with Local Planning Authorities to provide relevant assessments on the impacts of future developments and to provide advice regarding policy wording on other relevant areas such as water efficiency, Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), biodiversity, and blue green infrastructure. Where more detail is provided on site allocations, we will provide specific comments on the suitability of the site with respect to the water and sewerage network. In the instances where there may be a concern over the capacity of the network, we may look to undertake modelling to better understand the potential risk. For most developments there is unlikely to be an issue connecting. However, where an issue is identified, we will look to discuss in further detail with the Local Planning Authority. Where there is sufficient confidence that a development will go ahead, we will look to complete any necessary improvements to provide additional capacity.</p>	Comment noted. The interpretation to Policy EW-DH01 deals with SuDS.
P62	EW-DH01	<p>Policy EW-DH01 We feel the addition of a specific policy around water efficiency would be beneficial – particularly given that there are no specific water efficiency requirements in the Rutland Adopted Local Plan. An example of such a policy has been shown below with further detail later in this response.</p> <p>For your information we have set out some general guidelines and relevant policy wording that may be useful to you.</p> <p>Water Quality and Resources Good quality watercourses and groundwater is vital for the provision of good quality drinking water. We work closely with the Environment Agency and local farmers to ensure that the water quality of our supplies are not impacted by our operations or those of others. Any new developments need to ensure that the Environment Agency's Source Protection Zones (SPZ) and Safeguarding Zone policies which have been adopted by Natural Resources Wales are adhered to. Any proposals should take into account the principles of the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan as prepared by the Environment Agency.</p>	Water capture and re-use is already addressed in the interpretation to this policy. Policy EW-GE01 already mentions impact on water quality.

	<p>Every five years we produce a Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) which focuses on how we plan to ensure there is sufficient supply of water to meet the needs of our customers whilst protecting our environment over the next 25 years. We use housing target data from Local Planning Authorities to plan according to the projected growth rates. New development results in the need for an increase in the amount of water that needs to be supplied across our region. We are committed to doing the right thing and finding new sustainable sources of water, along with removing unsustainable abstractions, reducing leakage from the network and encouraging the uptake of water meters to promote a change in water usage to reduce demand.</p> <p>New developments have a role to play in protecting water resources, we encourage you to include the following policies:</p> <p>Protection of Water Resources Policy</p> <p>New developments must demonstrate that they will not result in adverse impacts on the quality of waterbodies, groundwater and surface water, will not prevent waterbodies and groundwater from achieving a good status in the future and contribute positively to the environment and ecology. Where development has the potential to directly or indirectly pollute groundwater, a groundwater risk assessment will be needed to support a planning application.</p> <p>Supporting Text: National Planning Policy Framework (July 2021) Paragraph 174 states:</p> <p><i>“Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by :</i></p> <p><i>a) preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Development should wherever possible, help to improve local environmental conditions such as air and water quality, taking into account relevant information such as river basin management plans;”</i></p> <p>Water Efficiency Policy</p> <p>We are supportive of the use of water efficient design of new developments fittings and appliances and encourage the optional higher water efficiency target of 110 litres per person per day within part G of building regulations. Delivering against the optional higher target or better provides wider benefits to the water cycle and environment as a whole. This approach is not only the most sustainable but the most appropriate direction to deliver water efficiency. We would therefore recommend that the following wording is included or the optional higher water efficiency standard:</p> <p>New developments should demonstrate that they are water efficient, incorporating water efficiency and re-use measures and that the estimated consumption of wholesome water per dwelling is calculated in accordance with the methodology in the water efficiency calculator, not exceeding 110 litres/person/day.</p> <p>National Planning Policy Framework (July 2021) Paragraph 153 states:</p> <p><i>“Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, taking into account the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes, and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures. Policies should support appropriate measures to ensure the future resilience of communities and infrastructure to climate change impacts, such as providing space for physical</i></p>	<p>This is already dealt with in the policy interpretation to EW-GE01 which states: <i>“In ensuring that development within or adjacent to Rutland Water does not cause further deterioration and seeking to improve the water quality, the recommendations of the Anglian River Basin Management Plan should be taken into account.”</i></p> <p>See previous comment on water efficiency. Neighbourhood Plans cannot set specific requirements for water consumption.</p> <p>Consideration of climate change and sustainable development has underpinned the drafting of all policies.</p>
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4-6 General

Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

This Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared by Edith Weston Parish Council to guide the future development of the Neighbourhood Area. The Plan seeks to positively address climate change, protect the natural landscape, encourage heritage-led regeneration and support communities of the Neighbourhood Area now and in the future.

Once made, this new Plan will replace the existing 'made' Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan.

The Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan guides future development, focused on the themes of sustainable growth, residential development, natural landscape, green space, heritage, design, transport and other matters.

The Neighbourhood Plan encompasses the historic village of Edith Weston and its rural surrounds including part of Rutland Water within the neighbourhood area. The Neighbourhood Plan responds to the challenges the communities face, adapting to changing needs in a rural settlement.

The Neighbourhood Plan is based on analysis of data and evidence of previous plans and the views of the community. The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group formed in July 2019 and the early community engagement began August 2020. Building upon the early community engagement, the themes for the Neighbourhood Plan emerged, providing insight into local issues of importance to the community. Further engagement included a household questionnaire in November 2022 and focused consultation on proposed Local Green Space in September 2021.

The neighbourhood plan has also been supported by a range of technical reports including design codes and Housing Needs Assessment that together with the community engagement have informed the structure of the plan and its policies. Throughout the engagement and preparation of the plan Edith Weston Parish Council together with the Steering Group have kept people informed and engaged via <https://www.edithweston.org/>

A summary of the key findings from community engagement are reflected on the following page:

** soon to be young org - as the early engagement went out of date? local questionnaire is nearly 4 years old (2020). Green space was there as a year ago. RCC may challenge the company of the data.*

Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan

1.2 Status of the Neighbourhood Plan

The Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan contains policies against which planning applications will be considered. The Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the statutory development plan, together with the adopted Core Strategy Development Plan Document (July 2011) and the Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document (October 2014). Section 38 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires planning applications must be determined in accordance with the policies of the statutory development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. So, the Neighbourhood Plan carries real weight in decision making. *Does it also impact on local RCC? Local Plan - may have to take the NP into account.*

The Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan will be in force from the date it is made until the end 31st December 2041 or until an updated plan is made before that date. *The plan will be reviewed regularly to assess whether an update is necessary. see to do.*

The policies of the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan are based on analysis of *you said this in the background section* evidence and community and stakeholder engagement.

The Neighbourhood Plan does not deal with excluded matters including waste, mineral extraction or nationally significant infrastructure.

1.3 Monitoring and Review

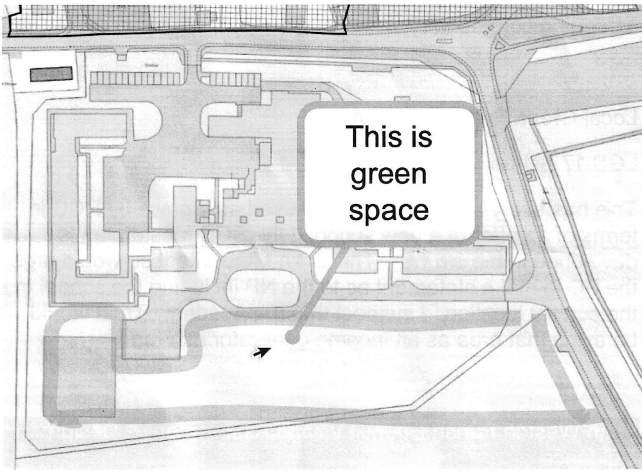
The Plan will be monitored by Edith Weston Parish Council throughout the Plan period to 2041. Monitoring will include:

- planning decisions to see how the plan is being used in practice;
- any changes in national policy, guidance or legislation;
- any changes in or local plan policy or guidance; and
- any other changes in the Neighbourhood Area (social, economic and environmental).

The plan will be reviewed and updated if and when necessary, a regular report will be prepared on the monitoring.

Noted. Grammar and spelling corrected throughout the plan. Public House added to SWOT, Otherwise, unchanged because this was a summary of the feedback we had at the time and is not open to additional feedback after the cut-off date.

Name of Respondee		Local resident 9	
36	EW-GE02	<p>It Would appear to me that the MOD to their letter on the 30th September 2021 is trying to have it both ways. Sure, they actually have space within the land that has been developed for houses SFA. However, it is unclear to me that some of these property areas may have been included within the sale of these properties recently on the open market. So how do they define what is theirs and what is not?</p> <p>Perhaps the NP needs a little finessing there. - this is a knotty matter that is minor to the whole NP but experience has shown that clarity in ownership of roads and land within the overall military estate is opaque at best. Pennine Drive is as I recall unadopted, so perhaps an ambition of the NP is to adopt and manage all roads and verges within the PLD.</p> <p>"A number of the above sites are play areas and the MOD is at liberty to remove and relocate play equipment to fulfil the MOD's service personnel families requirements"</p>	<p>These comments appear to be unrelated to the designation of Local Green Space. The adoption of roads and verges would be outside the scope of the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
16	Sustainable Growth	<p>HNA – Aecom</p> <p>I am at something at a loss as to how the Rutland County Council has managed to conflate the figures for number of properties from 21 (Aecom P6#5) dwellings to the number that is currently sitting in the outline neighbourhood plan. This is a small village. It should be better to increase this to a number on the officers mess that suits the village as the MOD actually is occupying a very considerable number of properties as SFA. They cannot and should not dictate to the PC and in turn neither should RCC.</p> <p>CS10 applies CS11 I believe identifies there is no need for development at this time.</p> <p>Aecom – Approach Edith Weston does not currently benefit from a specific housing requirement figure (HRF) provided by Rutland through Local Plan process. Rutland have set out an indicative housing requirement of 520 homes for 10 large villages, including Edith Weston. However, Rutland haven't advised how these 520 homes will be distributed between the villages.</p> <p>How can we identify our part to play in the local plan if RCC have not specified their needs?</p> <p>Aecom – Type and Size "The Parish Council is seeking to determine what size and type of housing would be best suited to the local community"</p> <p>So I am unaware of any independent consultancy undertaken by EWPC – How does this inform the NP?</p>	<p>The HNA concluded an overall housing need figure of 21 new dwellings in the Plan period to 2041. This reflects the rural status of the settlement with limited services. Rutland County Council have also provided an indicative housing figure of 51 for the Plan period (Paragraphs 66 and 67 of the NPPF). By meeting this figure, the Neighbourhood Plan provides better protection from speculative development proposals in unsustainable locations.</p> <p>This is a matter for the emerging Local Plan.</p> <p>Housing mix and type is dealt with by the Local Plan.</p>
P18	Sustainable Growth	<p>Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan – Housing Report St George's Barracks Officer's Mess</p> <p>"It is a brownfield site (previously developed land)"</p> <p>No it is not brownfield land. In order to be brownfield it must be designated as such in the RCC register. This cannot happen until the MOD vacate and this IMHO would include both sides of the road. In turn the OM has a large green area that is underdeveloped in front of it and as this is clearly greenfield then it ought to be returned to the original landowner. It turns this would make the area that the MOD wishes to develop a more appropriate size for the village. Quite possibly this would resolve the interplay on numbers that is occurring.</p>	<p>The site fits the definition of brownfield land-previously developed land in the NPPF 2023. This definition does not require a site to be on the register to be considered as brownfield land. The calculation of site capacity in the Housing Report assumed that around 25% would remain undeveloped. The policy explicitly requires retention of the green features on the site.</p>

		 <p>House densities could then be reduced to match those of the “old village” or match/join in to the conservation area. Architecturally this would work.</p>	<p>Design requirements are set out in policy EW-DH01. The housing density assumed in the housing report took account of environmental constraints and local context.</p>
P18	Section 3.2 Planning Rational	<p>Accommodating Sustainable Housing Growth “Development within the existing settlements, together with development of St Geroges Barracks Officer’s Mess, would accommodate between 66 and 70 units within the plan period. This comfortably exceeds the upper figure for growth of 51 dwellings”</p> <p>I think the PC should answer this in more detail. My reasoning is that whatever is done on the OM will inform the SGB site. Unless a separate and small village (circa 350 houses) is chosen then again EW and NL become an out of town conurbation with sustainability and viability issues. SEA and HRA will come into play at that stage despite notes in 4.2 screening commentary.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan makes provision for development within the Planned Limits of Development and the Officer’s Mess brownfield site. It does not allocate or support development of the St George’s Barracks site. This is being dealt with through the Local Plan process.</p>
P53	EW-GE02	<p>Local Green Space Assessment</p> <p>LGS 17 School Playing Field This has every likelihood of being used as a pawn by RCC in terms of an offer of a new school if the SGB Masterplan is developed in the old way. This is an MOD intent so would urge the PC to make a statement as to the NP including the school in the current location. I suspect that the Accademy Trust would be eying that area as an income generator mid-term.</p>	<p>The Local Green Space designation provides protection for the school playing field. The Neighbourhood Plan cannot make decisions under non-planning legislation regarding the school.</p>
P25		<p>Edith Weston Parish Council Village Assessment &Design Guidance</p> <p>REMINDER St George's Barracks Development</p> <p>1.3.6. if developed, and given the projected potential population in the new settlement, it is expected for this new settlement to earn independent governance, once completed. Until then the Garden Village will remain part of Edith Weston and North Luffenham parishes, and therefore will fall within the policy remit of their respective Neighbourhood Plans.</p> <p>Have we apolicy to manage any development corporation that RCC or MOD use to circumvent the NP?</p> <p>1.4.6. The site was designated as a Garden Vilage in 2019 by the Ministry for Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG), a status that remains in place despite the fact that the site is no longer allocated. The plan for a new Garden</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate or support development of the St George’s Barracks site. This is being dealt with through the Local Plan process.</p> <p>These comments appear to relate to the Local Plan.</p>

	<p>Village for approximately 2,200 homes was a key element of the new Rutland Local Plan that was due for adoption later in 2021.</p> <p>This is something to watch for – as best aware there are still a number of MOU's not obvious to the public.</p> <p>I am also pretty much sure that this does NOT apply</p> <p>"Have strong local support, engage the community and ideally demonstrate collaboration across local authority boundaries".</p> <p>EW does not have the facility to be self sufficient, include good transport links or offer a great deal of affordable housing. A garden village close by may not either</p> <p>2.1.20. The military development has led to significant loss of tree cover, of older hedgerows and dry stone walling that were integral elements of the previous agricultural landscape on the plateau.</p> <p>Time for us to recover trees and agricultural landscape Recommended Landscape Objectives Rutland Plateau</p> <p>2.1.21 It is also recommended to conserve and enhance and where possible extend the semi- natural habitats of species-rich, calcareous grasslands and typical limestone woodlands and to conserve historic landscape features. This should be included in the NP and be specific to the undeveloped areas of the airfield including runways, access gates and perimeter tracks.</p>	<p>Policy EW-GE01 deals with green infrastructure and the natural environment.</p>
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**Edith Weston
Neighbourhood Plan**

**Sustainability Appraisal/
Strategic Environmental Assessment
&
Habitat Regulations Assessment
Screening Report**



Rutland
County Council

June 2023

**Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment
Screening Report for Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan**

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Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report for Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan

1. Introduction

Purpose of Report

- 1.1 This screening report is designed to determine whether the contents of the proposed submission version of the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan (EWNP) requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.
- 1.2 This report will also screen whether the EWNP requires a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive and Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). A HRA is required if it is deemed that likely adverse significant effects may occur on protected European Sites (also known as Habitats Sites (NPPF, 2021)) as a result of the implementation of a plan/project. As a general 'rule of thumb' sites with pathways within of 10-15km of the plan/project boundary should be included with a HRA. Rutland Water Special Protection Area (SPA)/RAMSAR is the only internationally designated site within a 15km radius of the EWNP boundary.
- 1.3 The legislative background is referred to in section 2 which outlines the regulations that require the need for this screening exercise. The report is then split in two parts. The first part will cover the screening for the SEA and the second will cover the screening process for the HRA. Section 3 provides a screening assessment for both establishing the need for a SEA and the criteria for determining the likely significant environmental effects of the EWNP on the environment. Section 4 provides a screening assessment for the EWNP of both the likely significant effects of the implementation of the EWNP and the need for a HRA.
- 1.4 A summary of findings and conclusions for both screening processes can be found in Section 5 at the end of this document.

Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan Submission Version

- 1.5 The purpose of the EWNP is to provide a set of statutory planning policies to guide development within the Parish of Edith Weston over the life of the plan. The area covered by the Plan is shown at Appendix 1. Once formally adopted, a Neighbourhood Plan carries the same weight as Development Plans adopted by Rutland County Council.
- 1.6 The submission version of the EWNP sets out aims to protect the rural, natural, historic and built environment of Edith Weston, whilst minimising carbon use and increasing biodiversity; to promote local economic opportunity and more sustainable live-work patterns; to provide high quality housing to meet local need, supported by community facilities and to promote active travel, healthy lifestyles and more sustainable forms of transport.
- 1.7 The policies proposed in the Plan (see Section 4) are intended to support decision making that will deliver the objectives and achievement of the Vision. The Plan does not specifically allocate any land or buildings for a particular future use.

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Local Plan

- 1.8 The Localism Act (2011) requires that Neighbourhood Plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Local Plan. Rutland County Council has a Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) which was adopted in July 2011 and a Site Allocations & Policies DPD adopted in October 2014. The Local Plan Review (2016-2036) was withdrawn in September 2021 and work has begun on a new Local Plan which will cover the period up to 2041.
- 1.9 The settlement hierarchy in the adopted Local Plan and the Sustainability of Settlement Assessment (2019) categorises the towns and villages of Rutland according to their accessibility to facilities and services. Edith Weston is defined as a Smaller Service Centre which was merged with Restraint Villages in the 2019 update, to form Smaller Villages. This means that it has some, but a more limited range, of the key facilities and/or is less accessible to higher order centres than villages in the Local Service Centre category. Policy CS4 – The location of development states that Smaller Service Centres, now Smaller Villages, can accommodate minor scale development, mainly on previously developed land on a limited scale, appropriate to the character and the needs of the village. Comprising of affordable housing sites, infill development and conversion/reuse of suitable buildings.
- 1.10 Both the adopted Core Strategy DPD and Site Allocations & Policies DPD were subject to a full Sustainability Appraisal which included a SEA assessment. A HRA of both documents was also undertaken. The assessments established there were no likely significant effects arising from the implementation of the Core Strategy and the Site Allocations & Policies DPD.

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2. Legislative Background

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

- 2.1 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessments and Sustainability Appraisal legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC and was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or SEA Regulations. Detailed Guidance of these regulations can be found in the Government publication 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (ODPM 2005).
- 2.2 Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 requires local planning authorities to carry out a sustainability appraisal (SA) for any documents that can form part of a local plan. It is considered best practice for the SA to incorporate the requirements of the SEA.
- 2.3 There is no legal requirement for a neighbourhood plan to have a sustainability appraisal (as set out in section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004). However, a qualifying body must demonstrate how its plan will contribute to achieving sustainable development.
- 2.4 However, one of the basic conditions that will be tested by the independent examiner is whether the making of the Neighbourhood Development Plan is compatible with relevant legal obligations including a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)¹. Where a neighbourhood plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment a strategic environmental assessment needs to be carried out and an environmental report prepared in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of regulation 12 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004². Examples of where there may be such effects include, as set out in national Planning Practice Guidance, where a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development, the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by proposals in the plan or the neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a SA of the local/strategic policies for the area³.
- 2.5 To fulfil the legal requirement, this report focuses on screening for a SEA and the criteria for establishing whether a full assessment is needed.

Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA)

- 2.6 It is required by article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive and by regulation 63 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) that an appropriate assessment is carried out with regard to the Conservation Objectives of the European Sites and with reference to other plans and projects to identify if any significant effect is likely for any European Site.
- 2.7 To fulfil the legal requirements to identify if likely significant effects will occur with the implementation of the EWNP upon the European Sites, a screening assessment has been undertaken (in Section 4 of this report).

¹ Paragraph: 027 Reference ID: 11-027-20190722, National Planning Practice Guidance

² Paragraph: 028 Reference ID: 11-028-20150209, National Planning Practice Guidance

³ Paragraph: 028 Reference ID: 11-028-20150209, National Planning Practice Guidance

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- 2.8. In line with the Court judgement (CJEU People over Wind v Coillte Teoranta C-323/17) mitigation measures cannot be considered when carrying out a screening assessment to decide whether a plan or project is likely to result in significant effects on a European Site.

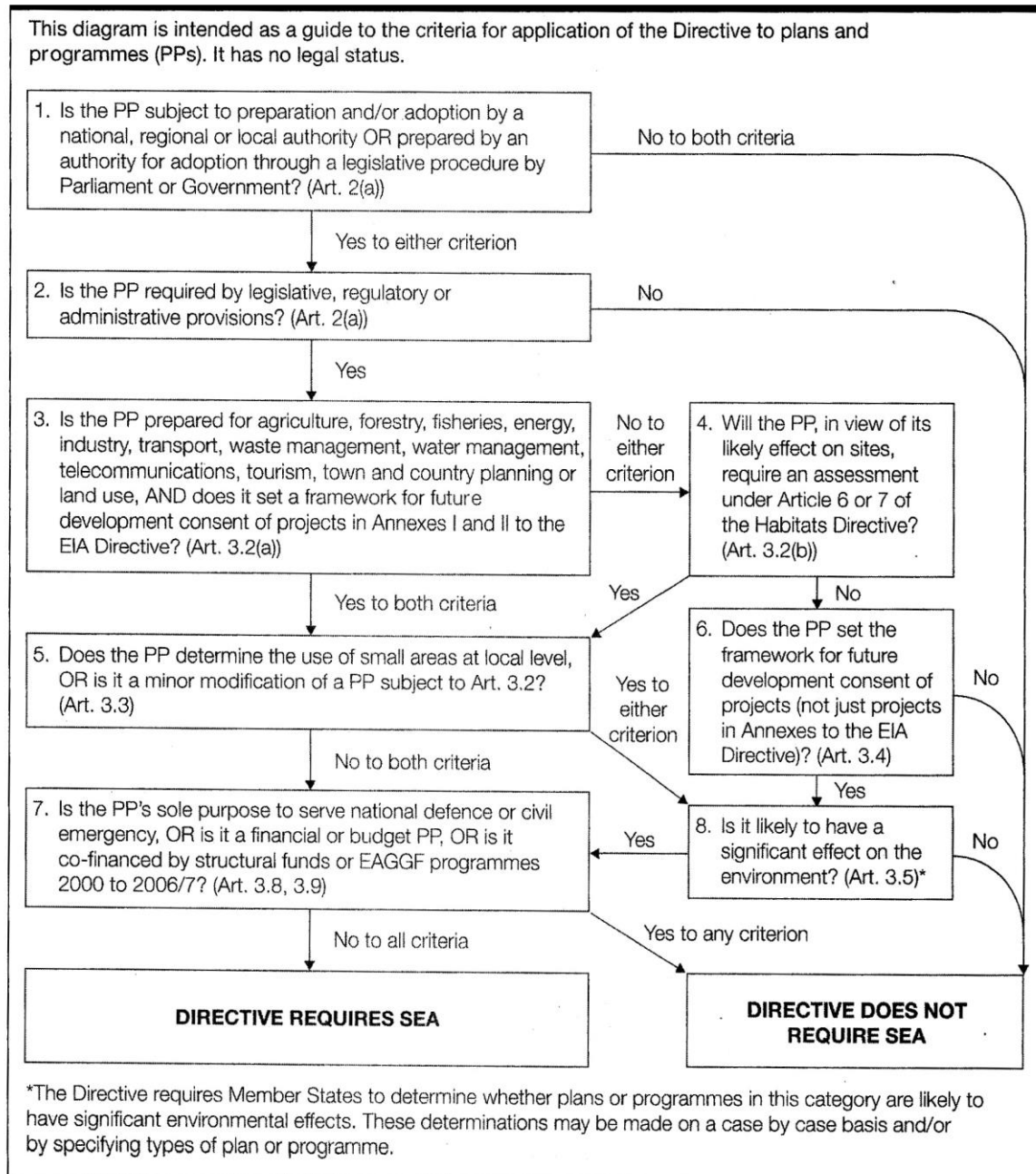
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3. SEA Assessment

Assessment

3.1. The diagram in Figure 1 illustrates the process for screening a planning document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required.

Figure 1: Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes



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3.2 Table 1 shows the assessment of whether the EWNP will require a full SEA. The questions below are drawn from the diagram in Figure 1 which sets out how the SEA Directive should be applied.

Table 1: Establishing the Need for SEA

Stage	Y/N	Reason
1. Is the PP (plan or programme) subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Y	Neighbourhood Plans are prepared by a qualifying body under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). The EWNP is prepared by the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group under the Edith Weston Parish Council (as the Qualifying Body). Once the plan is 'made', subject to examination and having received 50%+ or more 'yes' votes through a referendum, it will be adopted by Rutland County Council and become part of the Statutory Development Plan for the area.
2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	N	Communities have a right to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. However, communities are not required by legislative, regulatory, or administrative purposes to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. However, once 'made' the EWNP would form part of the statutory development plan and will be used when making decisions on planning applications within the Neighbourhood Area. Therefore, it is considered necessary to answer the following questions to determine further if an SEA is required.
3. Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	Y	The EWNP is prepared for town and country planning and land use and will set out a framework for future development of the scale that would fall under Annex II of the EIA Directive. However, for Neighbourhood Plans, developments which fall under Annex I of the EIA Directive are "excluded development" as set out in Section 61k of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act)
4. Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))	N/K	A neighbourhood plan could potentially have impacts on sites covered by the Habitat Regulations. A separate HRA screening assessment has been undertaken and can be found in Section 4 of this report.
5. Does the PP Determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)	Y	A neighbourhood plan can determine the use of small areas at a local level. The EWNP covers the parish of Edith Weston and will determine the use of sites and

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		areas at a local level. The EWNP does not allocate any sites within its area.
6. Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Y	Once 'made' the EWNP will form part of the statutory development plan and will be used in the determination of planning applications within the EWNP area. It, therefore, sets the framework for future developments at a local level.
7. Is the PP's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)	N	The EWNP does not deal with these issues.
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	N	None identified. The assessment of likely significant effects are considered in more detail in Table 2.

Criteria for Assessing the Effects of the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan

3.3. Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC are set out below:

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to
 - the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources,
 - the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy,
 - the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,
 - environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme,
 - the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to
 - the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,
 - the cumulative nature of the effects,
 - the transboundary nature of the effects,
 - the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),
 - the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),
 - the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
 - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,
 - exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values, - intensive land-use,
 - the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status
 - intensive land-use,
 - the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

Source: Annex II of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC

3.4. Table 2 below looks at the likelihood for the Submission EWNP to have significant effects on the environment.

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Table 2: Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment from Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

Criteria (from Annex II of the SEA Directive and Schedule 1 of Regulations)

1. Characteristics of the plans and programmes, having regard, in particular to:		Is there a significant environmental impact? Y/N	Justification
1a	The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	N	The EWNP sets out policies which will be used to determine proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan area only. The EWNP policies must be in general conformity with the strategic planning policy framework provided by existing policies within the Core Strategy and Site Allocations & Policies DPD and those in the emerging Rutland Local Plan. These are separately subject to SEA as a matter of course. The EWNP does not specifically allocate any land for development.
1b	The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	N	The EWNP will introduce new locally specific policies but will be in general conformity with other plans in the hierarchy, supporting the implementation of those higher tier policies at the Neighbourhood Plan Area level. Due to the locally specific nature of the policies, it is considered that the effect of the Plan on other plans and programmes or their effects on the environment will not be significant.
1c	The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	N	Neighbourhood Plans are required to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. The EWNP seeks to address climate change, protect and enhance the natural landscape whilst supporting community amenity now and in the future. It is anticipated that the EWNP may have a positive impact on the neighbourhood plan area and the likelihood of significant effects on the environment, therefore, minimised.
1d	Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme	N	The EWNP itself will not result in any environmental problems beyond those already identified in the SA of the Core Strategy & Site Allocations

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			& Policies DPD and emerging Local Plan. It is anticipated that the EWNP may have a positive impact in the neighbourhood plan area through seeking to encourage sensitive and sustainable development in relation to the environment.
1e	The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of [European] Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection)	N	The EWNP must be in conformity with the strategic policies contained within the Local Plan and supports the implementation of higher tier policies at a Neighbourhood Area level. The existing Local Plan for Rutland has had regard to European Community legislation on the environment. The content of the EWNP is not considered to conflict with plans or programmes related to waste management or water protection.
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having particular regard to:		Is there a likely significant environmental impact?	Justification
2a	The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	N	Some development is expected during the duration of the Plan (to 2041) so an element of environmental change will take place and permanent effects would exist beyond this. The EWNP does not allocate land for development and the Plan policies are designed to ensure new development is sustainable and minimises environmental impacts. Accordingly, no significant effects are predicted.
2b	The cumulative nature of the effects	N	The cumulative effects of the EWNP are likely to be positive although only on a local scale.
2c	The trans-boundary nature of the effects	N	The EWNP is unlikely to have a significant impact on neighbouring areas.
2d	The risk to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	N	It is unlikely that there would be risks to human health or the environment arising from the implementation of the policies proposed in the EWNP.

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2e	The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	N	The EWNP is applicable only to developments within the Neighbourhood Plan area. Therefore, the effects of the EWNP will more likely be felt at a much more local scale (i.e. site or neighbourhood).
2f	The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: i) Special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;	N	The EWNP is applicable to developments within the Neighbourhood Plan area, which includes a Conservation Area, and a number of listed buildings and structures. Impacts of development on these assets will be considered as part of individual planning applications. The EWNP provides policies for the parish of Edith Weston in addition to those in the existing Development Plan. The anticipated effects should, therefore, be positive for this criterion, particularly as the EWNP includes policies which will provide greater support to protect and enhance the natural and cultural heritage assets of the area.
	ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values;	N	This would be unlikely to result from the proposals.
	iii) Intensive land-use	N	This would be unlikely to result from the proposals.
2g	The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	N	None identified. The EWNP provides additional planning policy for Edith Weston which in itself will not have a significant effect. Any applications for development will be required to satisfy the relevant policies for protection of the character of the area before permission is granted.

SEA Screening Outcome

3.3 On the basis of the assessments set out in Table 1 and 2, it is concluded that the EWNP will not have significant effects in relation to any of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations and, therefore, does not need to be subject to SEA. The reasons for this are:

- The EWNP supports the implementation of higher tier policies in the existing Rutland Local Plan;

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- The EWNP seeks to avoid or minimise negative environmental effects through the provision of guidance on issues which should be considered when making proposals within the Neighbourhood Area. It is, therefore, likely to have an indirect positive environmental effect by setting out how proposals can avoid adverse effects on a number of environmental factors; and
- The Plan does not allocate land or buildings for specific new development.

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4. HRA Screening

HRA Process

- 4.1 The initial stage of the HRA process is the screening assessment of the impacts of a land use proposal against the conservation objectives of European (Habitats) sites. It determines if the implementation of the Plan, taking no account of mitigation measures, would result in a likely significant effect on any European site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. If a 'significant effect' is likely then the need for an Appropriate Assessment of the Plan would be triggered.
- 4.2 The screening process should provide a description of the plan, identify the European sites which may be affected by the plan and assess the significance of any possible effects on the identified sites.

Relevant European sites

- 4.3 Rutland Water Special Protection Area (SPA)/RAMSAR is the only international designated site within a 15km radius of the EWNP boundary. The HRA screening assessment needs to identify if any likely significant effects will be caused by the implementation of the EWNP.

Rutland Water SPA/RAMSAR

- 4.4 Rutland Water is a manmade pump storage reservoir created by the damming of the Gwash Valley in 1975 and is the largest reservoir by surface area in the United Kingdom. In general, the reservoir is drawn down in the summer and filled during the autumn and winter months when river levels are high. The main habitats are open water and a mosaic of lagoons, reedswamp, marsh, old meadows, scrub and woodland. The lagoons are one of the most important areas for wintering wildfowl.
- 4.5 The interest features in relation to the site as an SPA and RAMSAR are provided in Table 3.

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Table 3: Interesting Features of Rutland Water SPA/RAMSAR

Designation	Interesting Features
SPA	<p>Qualifies under Article 4.2 by supporting populations of European importance of the following migratory species over winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) - Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>)* - Wigeon (<i>Anas Penelope</i>)* - Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>) - Tufted Duck (<i>Aythya fuligula</i>)* - Goldeneye (<i>Bucephala clangula</i>)* - Mute Swan (<i>Cygnus atra</i>)* - Goosander (<i>Mergus merganser</i>)* - Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>)* - Coot (<i>Fulica Arra</i>)⁴ <p>Qualifies under Article 4.2 by regularly supporting at least 20,000 waterfowl.</p> <p>* Species that may be removed following the SPA Review *Stroud et al, 2001; The UK SPA network: its scope and content, JNCC)</p>
RAMSAR	<p>RAMSAR criterion 5 – Assemblages of international importance</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 19274 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998-99 – 2002/2003) <p>RAMSAR criterion 6 – Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance</p> <p>Qualifying Species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i> - Northern shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i>

4.6 The sensitivities and vulnerabilities of the site have been identified in HRA assessments for Rutland County Council’s Core Strategy and Site Allocations & Policies Development Plan Documents.

4.7 The HRA identified that the most noticeable species are the populations of gadwall and shoveler. Data on the use of the site by these species indicate the gadwall and shoveler numbers peak in the autumn, generally around September/October, before declining over the winter period.

4.8 This suggests that Rutland is mainly used as a refuge whilst species are moulting in early autumn, before dispersing from the site to other wintering areas as winter

⁴ Natural England (2014): ‘Rutland Water Citation, [Online] available to access [here](#)

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report for Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan

progresses. During the winter, gadwall and shoveler occupy more extensive open waters of lakes, reservoirs, and gravel pits.

4.9 Threats include disturbance and water pollution. The principal sensitivities and vulnerabilities of Rutland Water include:

- Water Quality. The level of phosphate can vary above the recommended level at certain times of the year. This increases the risk of a shift in the trophic status of the water body to an algae dominated system, which would adversely affect the site
- Water level. The water level is linked to abstraction and affects accessible aquatic plants are for wildfowl feeding on the site. The ecological perturbation that frequent lowering and raising of water levels causes could be an important factor in whether or not a switch in trophic status occurs
- Recreation. Management of the trout fishery has caused some debate over potential effects on site ecology. In addition, water sports such as sailing have the potential to affect the site through disturbance. Casual recreation around the site margins may also affect some interest features. The site and the interest features are most likely to be vulnerable to disturbance during the key autumn period

4.10 The HRA considered that both the Core Strategy and the Site Allocations & Policies DPDs would have no likely significant effects on Rutland Water in combination with any other adopted planning documents.

4.11 Although the EWNP does not propose to allocate land specifically for new development, any windfall development that comes forward in the EWNP area will be subject to Core Strategy Polices CS4 – ‘Location of Development’ and Site Allocations & Policies DPD Policy SP5 – ‘Built Development in the towns and villages’

4.12 An assessment of likely significant effects has been undertaken for all policies in the EWNP. Table 4 below presents a HRA Screening for the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan.

Table 4: Establishing the Need for an Appropriate Assessment

Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Detail of Policy to be Screened	Comment	Likely Significant Effect
Policy EW-SG01	Development within the Settlement	The policy itself will not lead to development. It sets out location requirements for residential development and supports other forms of development if they do not adversely affect residential amenity.	No likely significant effect
Policy EW-SG02	St George’s Barracks Officer’s Mess	This policy supports redevelopment of a specific brownfield site, subject to development plans meeting design principles including	No likely significant effect

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Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Detail of Policy to be Screened	Comment	Likely Significant Effect
		retention of mature trees and maximising pedestrian and cycle connectivity to the rest of the village.	
Policy EW-GE01	Natural and Green Environments	The policy itself will not lead to development, but sets out criteria against which any development should be measured. This includes enhancing biodiversity and not adversely impacting sensitive and designated landscapes such as hedgerows, ridge and furrow landscape, woodlands and verges. The policy sets out that if the development results in the unavoidable loss of a natural feature, then replacements must be of local native species and seek to achieve greater level of amenity.	No likely significant effect
Policy EW-GE02	Local Green Space	The policy itself will not lead to development but seeks to designate areas as Local Green Spaces to protect them from development and to ensure that any development does not adversely affect their community value, accessibility, safety or amenity.	No likely significant effect
Policy EW-DH01	Sustainable Design	This policy sets out that development should complement the characteristics of the local context with regard to scale and height using high quality, durable and sustainable locally sourced materials. Developments should take opportunities to be as sustainable as possible including positive	No likely significant effect

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Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan Policy	Detail of Policy to be Screened	Comment	Likely Significant Effect
		design features to reduce carbon use.	
Policy EW-DH02	Planned Estates	The policy itself will not lead to development, but seeks to protect the distinctive character of the planned estates, protecting green spaces and their value to health, character, recreation and amenity.	No likely significant effect
Policy EW-DH03	Edith Weston Conservation Area	This policy will not lead to development but sets out criteria for preserving and enhancing the historic character and aims to ensure that development proposals are of high-quality design and are sensitive to the locally distinctive identity of the village and conservation area.	No likely significant effect
Policy EW-DH04	Non-Designated Heritage	This policy will not lead to development. It sets out to protect non-designated war-related heritage structures on the St George's Barracks site.	No likely significant effect
Policy EW-TM01	Transport and Movement	The policy itself will not lead to development but aims to encourage sustainable transport options and linking of new development to existing footpaths. It sets out requirements for parking and EV charging facilities for new dwellings. The policy does not support development where required highway upgrades would harm the historic or rural character of the area.	No likely significant effect

4.13 The findings show that the policies will have no likely significant effect upon Rutland Water. Therefore, in the context that the EWNP does not propose to allocate land specifically for new development and the policies within the EWNP are in conformity with those in both the adopted Core Strategy and Site Allocations & Policies DPD, which

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were subject to a HRA that confirmed no significant effects are likely, it is considered that there will be no requirement to undertake an Appropriate Assessment of the EWNP.

In combination effects

- 4.14 Regulation 105 of the Habitats Regulations 2017 requires an appropriate assessment where a land use plan (not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects
- 4.15 There are a number of potentially relevant plans and projects which may result 'in combination' effects for the EWNP, a useful starting point to determine whether the EWNP may result in 'in combination' effects are the HRA's undertaken for Rutland County Council's Core Strategy and Site Allocations & Policies DPD's. Both these HRA's identified possible 'in combination' effects in relation to development and regional water resource demands on Rutland Water.
- 4.16 However, in mitigation, the Water Cycle Study identifies that there is either sufficient capacity within the sewerage network to avoid significant effects on Rutland Water, or works will be able to improve their treatment levels within the limits of conventional wastewater treatment technology to allow for increased discharges from the Waste water Treatment Works (WwTWs).
- 4.17 The screening assessment undertaken concludes that no likely significant effects in relation to the Rutland Water SPA/RAMSAR site will occur as a result of the implementation of the Core Strategy and Site Allocations & Policies DPD's.

Screening Outcome

- 4.18 The EWNP does not go beyond the requirements set out in the Core Strategy & the Site Allocations & Policies DPD. Consequently, it is considered that no significant 'in combination' likely effects will occur from the implementation of the EWNP. As such, the EWNP does not require a full HRA to be undertaken.

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report for Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan

5. Conclusions and Recommendations of the Screening Assessments

SEA

- 5.1 The EWNP has been prepared for town and country planning purposes and sets a framework for future development consent. The policies of the EWNP can be considered to determine the use of small areas at local level commensurate with their status in determining planning applications.
- 5.2 A screening assessment was undertaken to determine the need for a SEA in line with regulations and guidance and can be found in Section 3 of this report. The assessment finds no likely significant effects will occur as a result of the EWNP. The assessment finds many of the policies are in conformity with the local plan policies which have a full SA/SEA and which identified no likely significant effects will occur as a result of the implementation of policies.
- 5.3 From the findings of the screening assessment, it is recommended that a full SEA does not need to be undertaken for the EWNP.

HRA

- 5.4 A screening assessment was undertaken to determine the need for a HRA in line with regulations and guidance and can be found in section 4 of this report. The assessment finds that the EWNP is not predicted, without mitigation, to have any likely significant effects on a European site. The assessment finds many of the policies are in conformity with the local plan policies, which have undergone a full HRA and which identified no likely significant effects would occur as a result of the implementation of policies. It is also identified that no likely in combination significant effects will occur as a result of the implementation of the EWNP.
- 5.5 From the findings of the screening assessment, it is recommended that a full HRA does not need to be undertaken for the EWNP.

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report for Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan

6. Determination

- 6.1. To aid the Council's formal determination, the three statutory consultation bodies designated in the regulations have been consulted: Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency.
- 6.2. Consultation on the Screening Report was carried out with the three bodies in April/May 2023. Historic England and Natural England agreed with the conclusions of the Screening Report. These consultation responses are included within Appendix 2.
- 6.3. The Environment Agency provided a response which suggested that additional assessment may be required.

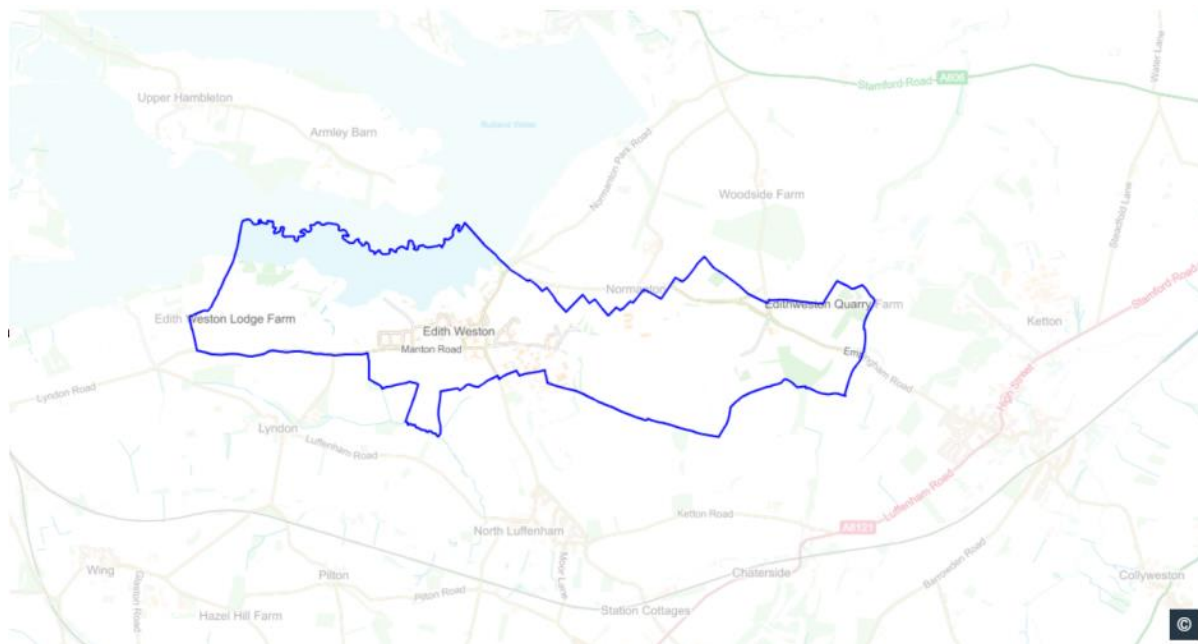
Further discussion between Rutland County Council and the Environment Agency concluded that the wording of Policy EW-GE01: Natural and Green Environments should be amended to include: "Any development within or adjacent to the watercourse should not cause further deterioration and should seek to improve the water quality based on the recommendations of the Anglian River Basin Management Plan".

The Environment Agency has confirmed that the inclusion of this sentence would be sufficient to negate the need for a full SEA/SA. The consultation response and subsequent correspondence are included within Appendix 2.

- 6.4. Rutland County Council are of the opinion that an environmental assessment of the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan is not required as it is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.
- 6.5. It is also the Council's opinion that a full Habitats Regulations Appropriate Assessment is not required, as the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a significant effect on any designated sites.

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Appendix 1 – Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan Area



Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report for Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan

Appendix 2 – Statutory Body Responses

Historic England



Mr Julie Nichols
Rutland County Council
Rutland

Direct Dial: 0121 625 6870

Our ref: PL00792917
2 May 2023

Dear Mr Nichols

EDITH WESTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - SEA SCREENING REQUEST

Thank you for your consultation of 28/04/2023 and the request for a Screening Opinion in respect of the *Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan*.

For the purposes of consultations on SEA Screening Opinions, Historic England confines its advice to the question, "Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?" in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage. Our comments are based on the information supplied with the screening request.

On the basis of the information supplied and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of 'SEA' Directive], Historic England is of the view that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not likely to be required.

The views of the other statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for a SEA is made. If a decision is made to undertake a SEA, please note that Historic England has published guidance on Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Historic Environment that is relevant to both local and neighbourhood planning and available at:

<https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/>

Should it be concluded that, overall, a SEA will be required for the Plan, Historic England would be pleased to discuss the scope of the assessment in relation to the historic environment in due course.

I hope that this information is of use to you at this time. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

C. Fletcher



THE FOUNDRY 82 GRANVILLE STREET BIRMINGHAM B1 2LH
Telephone 0121 625 6888
HistoricEngland.org.uk



Historic England is subject to both the Freedom of Information Act (2000) and Environmental Information Regulations (2004). Any information held by the organisation can be requested for release under this legislation.

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report for Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan



Clive Fletcher
Principal Adviser, Historic Places
clive.fletcher@HistoricEngland.org.uk



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Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report for Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan

Natural England

Date: 16 May 2023
Our ref: 431612
Your ref: Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan



Ms Julie Nichols
Rutland County Council

Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

BY EMAIL ONLY

Localplan@Rutland.gov.uk

Dear Ms Nichols

Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan – Review SEA & HRA Screening

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 28 April 2023.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment

It is our advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that, in so far as our strategic environmental interests (including but not limited to statutory designated sites, landscapes and protected species, geology and soils) are concerned, that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.

Neighbourhood Plan

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans, in light of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended), is contained within the [National Planning Practice Guidance](#). The guidance highlights three triggers that may require the production of an SEA, for instance where:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

We have checked our records and based on the information provided, we can confirm that in our view the proposals contained within the plan will not have significant effects on sensitive sites that Natural England has a statutory duty to protect.

We are not aware of significant populations of protected species which are likely to be affected by the policies / proposals within the plan. It remains the case, however, that the responsible authority should provide information supporting this screening decision, sufficient to assess whether protected species are likely to be affected.

Notwithstanding this advice, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all potential environmental assets. As a result the responsible authority should raise environmental issues that we have not identified on local or national biodiversity action plan species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites or local landscape character, with its own ecological and/or landscape advisers, local

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report for Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan

record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local landscape and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by this plan, before determining whether an SA/SEA is necessary.

Please note that Natural England reserves the right to provide further comments on the environmental assessment of the plan beyond this SEA/SA screening stage, should the responsible authority seek our views on the scoping or environmental report stages. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening

Natural England agrees with the report's conclusions that the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan would not be likely to result in a significant effect on any European Site, either alone or in combination and therefore no further assessment work would be required.

For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Sally Wintle
Consultations Team

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report for Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan

Environment Agency



Julie Nichols
Rutland County Council
Planning Policy
Catmose House Catmose Street
Oakham
Leicestershire
LE15 6HP

Our ref: AN/2022/133735/SE-02/SC1-
L01
Date: 23 May 2023

Dear Julie

Draft SEA/HRA screening report for the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency on the draft Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening report for the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan. We are a statutory consultee in the SEA process and aim to reduce flood risk and protect and enhance the water environment. Based on our review of the draft plan, we think there are potential significant environmental effects that relate to the Neighbourhood Plan area.

We have identified that the Neighbourhood Plan area will be affected by the following environmental constraints:

Main River water quality

The Rutland Water runs adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan area. This watercourse is currently failing to reach good ecological status/potential under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). It is currently classified as having poor status. Developments within or adjacent to this watercourse should not cause further deterioration and should seek to improve the water quality based on the recommendations of the [Anglian River Basin Management Plan](#). An assessment of the potential impacts of the neighbourhood plan on this watercourse under WFD should be included within the SEA/SA appraisal.

Should you require any additional information, or wish to discuss these matters further, please do not hesitate to contact me on the number below.

Yours sincerely

Amelia Crawford
Sustainable Places Planning Advisor
☎ 07387 134115 (mobile)
✉ amelia.crawford@environment-agency.gov.uk
🌐 www.gov.uk/environment-agency

Ceres House, Searby Road, Lincoln, LN2 4DW
Customer services line: 03708 506 506
Email: LNplanning@environment-agency.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/environment-agency

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End

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report for Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan

From: Crawford, Amelia <Amelia.Crawford@environment-agency.gov.uk>
Sent: Friday, June 9, 2023 11:06 AM
To: Local Plan <Localplan@Rutland.gov.uk>
Cc: Sharon Baker <SBaker@rutland.gov.uk>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RE: Rutland - RE: Consultation on SEA/HRA screening for the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan

Warning: This email originates outside of Rutland County Council.
Do **NOT** click on links or attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.
Please report any issues or concerns to the IT Service Desk.

Morning Julie,

The amendment suggested to policy EW-GE01 would be sufficient to negate the need for a full SEA/SA.

Just to clarify our response – we weren't requesting a full SEA/SA for your Neighbourhood Plan to be undertaken, we are aware that there are no allocations within the NP but wanted to ensure that any windfall development near or adjacent to the river does not cause any further deterioration to the water quality and so, should be acknowledged within an SEA/SA. As the amendment you suggest to Policy EW-GE01 acknowledges this, we support the alteration to this policy.

If you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards

Amelia Crawford
Planning Advisor

Environment Agency | Sustainable Places | Lincolnshire and Northamptonshire Area
✉ Ceres House, Searby Rd, Lincoln, LN2 4DW

Sent: 07 June 2023 09:56
To: Crawford, Amelia <Amelia.Crawford@environment-agency.gov.uk>
Cc: Sharon Baker <SBaker@rutland.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Rutland - RE: Consultation on SEA/HRA screening for the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan

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Dear Amelia,

I am following up on my previous email requesting a discussion of the SEA/HRA Screening Report for the Edith Weston Neighbourhood Plan (NP).

The EA response is that the Edith Weston NP will need a full SEA/SA appraisal to assess the potential impacts of the Plan on Rutland Water under the WFD. As far as I am aware, this is the first time that EA has recommended full SEA/SA appraisal in response to a NP Screening Report within our area. Given that the Plan does not allocate sites, we do not fully understand the reasoning behind this position., particularly given that another of our Statutory Consultees – Natural England - do not consider there is a requirement for SEA/HRA.

In the Plan, Policy EW-GE01: Natural and Green Environments, states that Development should have no significant adverse impact on the following sensitive and designated landscapes (see figures 7 and 8):

- a. Rutland Water Site of Special Scientific Interest and Special Protection Area;
- b. Rutland Water Ramsar;

Would an amendment to this policy along the lines of "any development within or adjacent to the watercourse should not cause further deterioration and should seek to improve the water quality based on the recommendations of the Anglian River Basin Management Plan" be sufficient to negate the requirement for full SEA/SA in the opinion of the EA?

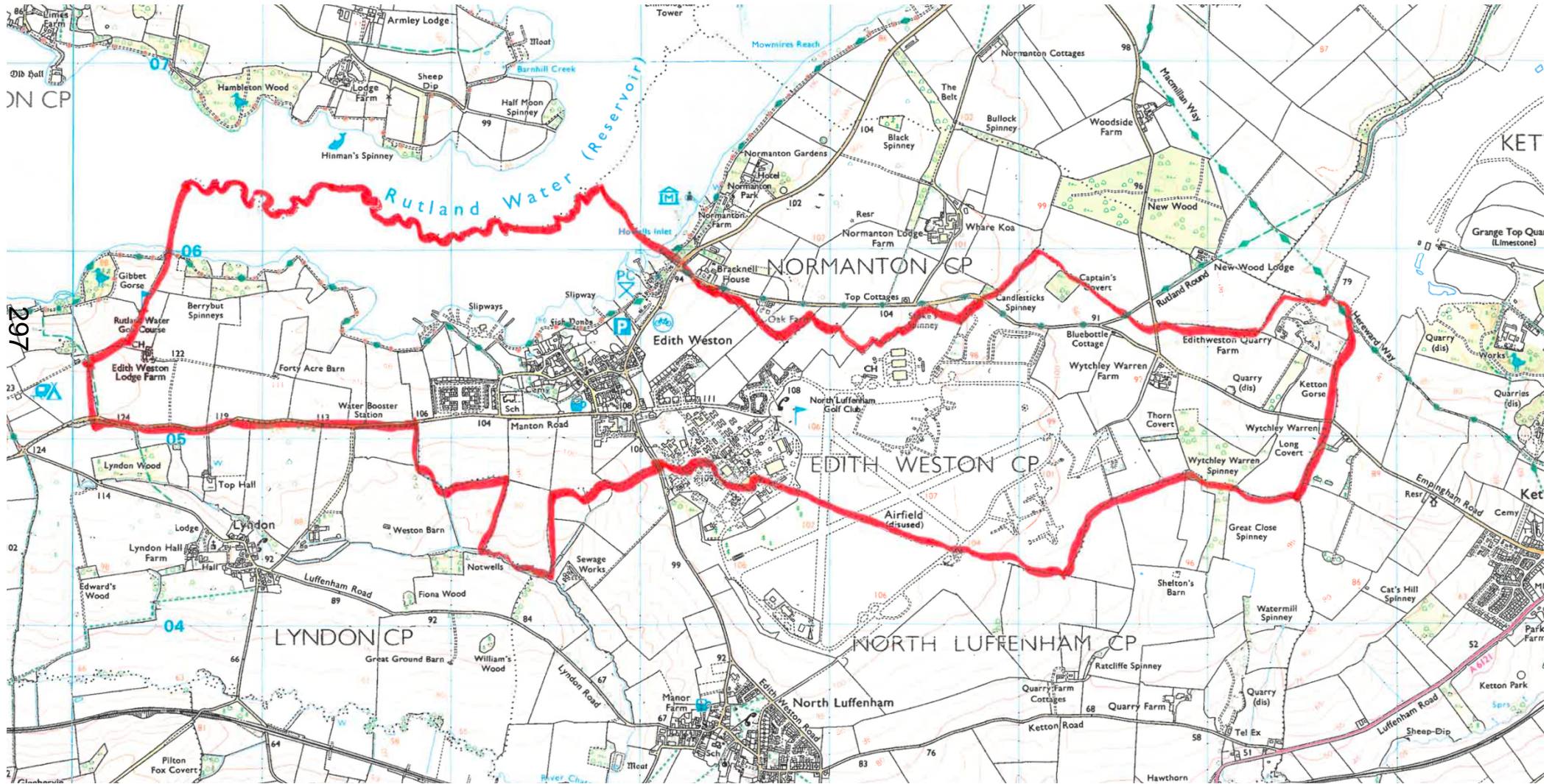
I have attached the NP, Draft Screening Report and your response for ease.

I would appreciate a quick response so that we can progress the passage of this Neighbourhood Plan.

Kind regards,
Julie

Julie Nichols (she/her)
Planning Policy Trainee
Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP

Edith Weston Parish Neighbourhood Area Map



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