



Habitats Regulations Assessment

Screening Report for the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014

June 2013

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Executive Summary

This document is a Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment of the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014, which has been carried out by Cambridge City Council as the relevant competent authority. It has been carried out in order to meet the requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

Habitats Regulations Assessment is an assessment of the potential effects of a proposed plan or project, both alone and in combination with other plans and projects, on one or more Natura 2000 or Ramsar sites. This report represents stage 1 of this process and provides:

- Details of the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 and its objectives;
- Details of other relevant plans and projects;
- Details of the Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites that could potentially be affected by the Draft Local Plan (including their specific characteristics and conservation objectives); and
- A screening assessment of the Draft Local Plan, both alone and in combination with other identified plans and projects, in order to identify any likely significant effects on those sites.

The conclusion drawn as a result of this screening assessment is that the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 is not likely to have any significant effects on the Natura 2000 or Ramsar sites identified. The City Council therefore considers that there is not necessary to proceed to further stages of appropriate assessment.

1 - INTRODUCTION

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document is a Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment of the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014, which has been carried out in order to meet the requirement of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). It has been prepared by Cambridge City Council, as the relevant competent authority.

1.2 The Habitats Directive

1.2.1 Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora (the 'Habitats Directive') provides the legal protection for habitats and species of European Importance. Article 6(3) establishes the requirement for Habitats Regulations Assessment and states:

“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.”

Article 6(4) goes on to discuss alternative solutions, the test of 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI) and compensatory measures:

“If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.

Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species, the only considerations which may be raised are those relating to human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or, further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest.”

1.2.2 The sites covered by Habitats Regulations Assessment form what are known as Natura 2000 sites. These are a European network of special areas of conservation and special protection areas under the old Wild Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) or the new Wild Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), provided for by Article 3(1) of the Habitats Directive. These sites of international importance for nature conservation were established under the Habitats Directive, which was transposed into UK law as the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &C) Regulations 1994¹. On 1st April 2010 this was

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1994/2716/contents/made>

replaced by the The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010². This was consequently amended by the The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012³, which came into force on 16th August 2012.

1.2.3 The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012⁴ updates the legislation and consolidates all the many amendments, which have been made to the Regulations since 1994.

1.2.4 Paragraph 118 of the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) states that:

“the following wildlife sites should be given the same protection as European sites:

- potential Special Protection Areas and possible Special Areas of Conservation;
- listed or proposed Ramsar⁵ sites; and
- sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on European sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites

Therefore these sites will also be assessed as part of this screening assessment.

Review of the Implementation of the Habitats Directive

1.2.5 In November 2011 the Government announced a review of the Habitats and Wild Birds Directives as currently implemented in England. This review was published by DEFRA on 22nd March 2012⁶.

1.2.6 The review found that in the large majority of cases the implementation of the Directives was working well and allowed for the development of key infrastructure and ensured a high level of environmental protection. Four key areas were identified, where change would improve the implementation of the Directives, these were:

- Facilitating nationally significant infrastructure projects
- Improving implementation processes and streamlining guidance
- Improving the quality, quantity and sharing of data
- Improving the customer experience

1.2.7 An implementation plan for these measures is currently under-development. A report on the progress on the implementation was scheduled for March 2013.

² <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made>

³ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/1927/contents/made>

⁴ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/1927/contents/made>

⁵ Potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation and proposed Ramsar sites are sites on which Government has initiated public consultation on the scientific case for designation as a Special Protection Area, candidate Special Area of Conservation or Ramsar site

⁶

1.3 What is Habitats Regulations Assessment?

- 1.3.1 Habitats Regulations Assessment is an assessment of the potential effects of a proposed plan in combination with other plans and projects on one or more European sites, Natura 2000 sites and Ramsar Sites. The Habitats Directive promotes a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensatory measures. First, the plan should aim to **avoid** any negative impacts of European sites by identifying potential impacts early on in the plan-making process and writing these impacts out of the plan. Where adverse impacts remain, **mitigation measures** should be applied to the point that no adverse impacts remain. If the plan is still likely to result in adverse impacts that cannot be mitigated it should not be taken forward in its current form. In this situation the plan may have to undergo an assessment of alternative solutions. Where adverse impacts remain **compensatory measures** may be required but these will only be permitted if (a) no alternative solutions exist and (b) the plan is required for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (the 'IROPI' test).
- 1.3.2 There are 4 stages to the Habitats Regulations Assessment process as outlined below:
- **Stage 1 (Screening)** – the process which identifies the likely impacts upon a Natura 2000 or Ramsar site(s), either alone or in combination with other projects or plans and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant;
 - **Stage 2 (Appropriate Assessment)** – The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the site(s), either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts should be provided;
 - **Stage 3 (Assessment of alternative solutions)** – The process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 and Ramsar site(s); and
 - **Stage 4 (Compensatory measures)** – An assessment of the compensatory measures where, in light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest, it is deemed that the plan should proceed.
- 1.3.3 If the screening stage concludes that there are likely to be no significant impacts on European sites then there is no need to progress to the stage of Appropriate Assessment.
- 1.3.1 Judgement of the significance of effects on European sites should be undertaken in relation to the designated interest features and conservation objective of the site in question using sound judgement and with a scientific basis where available. If insufficient information is available to make a clear judgement, it should be assumed that a significant effect is possible in line with the precautionary principle.
- 1.3.1 Natural England will be consulted to ensure that the Habitats Regulations Assessment is considering all the potential impacts that may affect the sites (and the management objectives for each site).

The Precautionary Principle

Prudent action that avoids the possibility of irreversible environmental damage in situations where the scientific evidence is inconclusive but the potential damage could be significant.

1.4 Structure of the Habitats Regulations Assessment

1.4.1 The structure of this Habitats Regulations Assessment will be as follows:

- Description of the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014
- Description of the relevant plans and projects considered 'in combination'
- Screening Methodology
- Identification and description of European Sites
- Conclusions on the Screening Assessment of the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014
- Consultations

1.5 Joint Working

1.5.1 In line with the Duty to Cooperate (as specified in the Localism Act 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework) we are working closely with South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridgeshire County Council in preparing the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014. Cross boundary issues have been identified and worked on jointly and screening reports, such as the Habitats Regulations Assessment have been worked on in conjunction with South Cambridgeshire district Council and Cambridgeshire County Council.

2 Description of the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014

2.1 The Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 will set out the planning framework to guide the future development of Cambridge. The document covers the Local Authority area for Cambridge. It will be one of the development plan documents which comprise the council's Local Development Framework (LDF). Other development plan documents include the North West Cambridge area action plan, the Cambridge East area action plan and the Statement of Community Involvement. The Cambridge Local Plan will bring together the following statutory requirements:

- core strategy
- development control policies
- site-specific allocations.

2.2 The vision of the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 is:

The vision for Cambridge is of a compact, dynamic city, located within the high quality landscape setting of the Cambridge Green Belt. The city will draw inspiration from its iconic historic core, heritage assets and structural green corridors, achieving a sense of place in all of its parts, with generous, accessible and biodiverse open spaces and well-designed architecture. Building on the city's reputation for design excellence, Cambridge's new development will be innovative and will promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, helping to support the transition to a more environmentally sustainable and successful low carbon economy. The city will continue to develop as a centre of excellence and world leader in the fields of higher education and research, and will foster the dynamism, prosperity and further expansion of the knowledge-based economy, whilst retaining the high quality of life and place that underpins that economic success. It will also grow in importance as a sub-regional centre for a wide range of services. Housing provision in the city will be of a high quality and will support the development and enhancement of balanced and mixed communities through provision of housing of a mix of sizes and types, including a high proportion of Affordable Housing. The Cambridge Local Plan 2014 seeks to guide and facilitate growth and the infrastructure required to support development, so that the city grows in a sensitive and sustainable manner. This will ensure that the high environmental quality of the city is protected and enhanced and that future developments offer a full range of opportunities to all.

2.3 The vision is supported by the following strategic objectives, which require all new development in Cambridge to:

1. contribute to the vision of Cambridge as an environmentally sustainable city, where it is easy for people to make a transition to a low carbon lifestyle. This means making best use of energy (including community energy projects), water and other natural resources, securing radical reductions in carbon emissions, minimising environmental impact and being capable of adapting to the impacts of climate change.
2. be highly water efficient; will contribute to overall flood risk reduction through water sensitive urban design, and will help to improve the quality of the River Cam and other water features in the city.

3. be of the highest quality, in terms of design excellence and innovation, addressing its impact upon its surroundings and embracing the principles of sustainable design and construction.
4. contribute to the positive management of change in the historic environment, protecting, enhancing and maintaining the unique qualities and character of Cambridge, including the River Cam corridor, the city's wider landscape and setting, and its designated and undesignated heritage assets for the future.
5. protect and, where appropriate, enhance the character and quality of the Cambridge skyline.
6. protect and enhance the landscape setting of the city, which comprises the Cambridge Green Belt, the green corridors penetrating the urban area, the established network of multi-functional green spaces, and tree canopy cover in the city.
7. protect and enhance the city's biodiversity, network of habitats and geo-diversity.
8. be provided to meet the needs of the city within its sub-region, delivering an appropriate mix of housing types, sizes and tenures to meet existing and future needs, including Affordable Housing.
9. assist the creation and maintenance of inclusive, environmentally sustainable communities.
10. promote and support economic growth in environmentally sustainable and accessible locations, facilitating innovation and supporting Cambridge's role as a world leader in higher education, research, and knowledge-based industries, whilst maintaining the quality of life and place that contribute to economic success.
11. support Cambridge's vibrant and thriving centres, with a varied range of shopping facilities in accessible locations that meet the needs of people living, working and studying in, or visiting, the city and its wider sub-region.
12. promote social cohesion and sustainability and a high quality of life by maintaining and enhancing provision for open space, sports and recreation, community and leisure facilities, including arts and cultural venues that serve Cambridge and the sub-region.
13. be located to help minimise the distance people need to travel, and be designed to make it easy for everyone to move around the city and access jobs and services by sustainable modes of transport.
14. ensure appropriate and timely provision of environmentally sustainable forms of infrastructure to support the demands of the city, including digital and cultural infrastructure.
15. promote a safe and healthy environment, minimising the impacts of development and ensuring quality of life and place.

2.4 The LDF currently comprises a number of development plan documents (DPDs) and supplementary planning documents (SPDs) as shown in table 1 below.

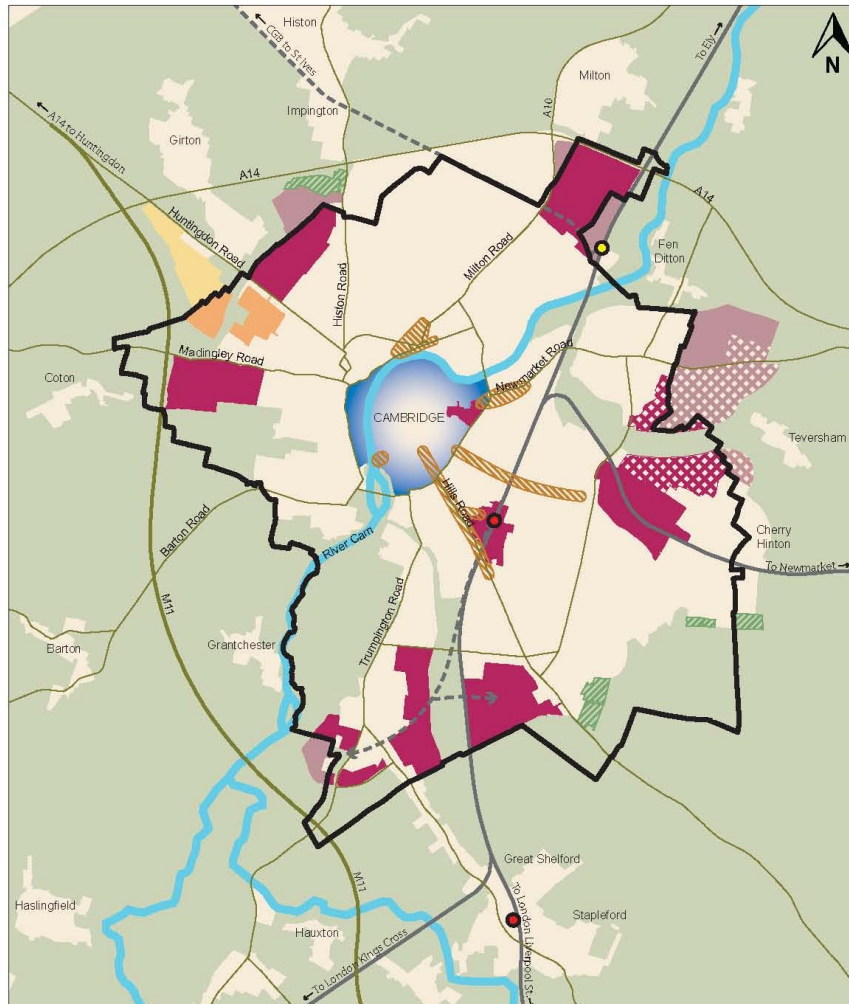
Table 1: Cambridge Local Development Framework

Document Name	Progress to date
Cambridge East Area Action Plan (DPD)	Adopted in February 2008
North West Cambridge Area Action Plan (DPD)	Adopted October 2009
Affordable Housing (SPD)	Adopted January 2008
Sustainable Design & Construction (SPD)	Adopted May 2007
Planning Obligations Strategy (SPD)	Adopted March 2010 (minus education section)
Public Art (SPD)	Adopted January 2010
Old Press/Mill Lane Site SPD	Adopted January 2010
Eastern Gate Development Framework SPD	Adopted October 2011

2.5 Some of the Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) will fall away as they are tied to current Local Plan Policies, others such as the Eastern Gate Development Framework SPD and the Old Press Mill Lane SPD will remain. New SPDs will be prepared to provide additional detail.

Figure 1: Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 – Key Diagram

Key Diagram



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- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| City boundary | Area of Major Change within Cambridge |
| Major road | Area of Major Change within South Cambridgeshire |
| River Cam | Area of safeguarded land within Cambridge |
| City centre | Area of safeguarded land within South Cambridgeshire |
| Train Station | Area of Cambridge Northwest Area Action Plan within Cambridge |
| Railway Line | Area of Cambridge Northwest Area Action Plan within South Cambridgeshire |
| Cambridgeshire Guided Busway (CGB) | Site to be released from the Green Belt |
| Green Belt | Opportunity Area |
| Proposed Science Park Station | |

Areas identified in South Cambridgeshire are indicative only and subject to confirmation via a review of the South Cambridgeshire Local Plan.

3 – DESCRIPTION OF THE RELEVANT PLANS AND STRATEGIES

3 Description of the Relevant Plans and Strategies to be Considered ‘In Combination’

- 3.1 The 2006 Cambridge Local Plan is the current Local Plan and plans for development in Cambridge up to 2016.
- 3.2 Previous Habitats Regulations Assessments have referred to the East of England Plan or Regional Strategy for the East of England and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan 2003. These plans were revoked by the *The Regional Strategy for the East of England (Revocation) Order 2012*⁷, which came into force on 3rd January 2013. Article 2 of the order revokes the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) and Regional Economic Strategy and Article 3 revokes all directions preserving policies contained in structure plans in the area to which the RSS relates. Therefore these plans and policies are no longer to be considered ‘in combination’.
- 3.3 This screening stage focuses on the ‘in-combination’ effects of the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 in combination with other plans, including those of other nearby authorities and minerals and waste plans produced by County Councils. These plans are listed with a brief summary in Appendix 1.
- 3.4 All relevant plans mentioned (in Appendix1) will be subject to the requirements of the Habitats Regulations Assessment, by the relevant authority.

⁷ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/3046/introduction/made>

4 – SCREENING METHODOLOGY – SETTING OUT THE APPROACH USED AND SPECIFIC TASKS UNDERTAKEN

4 Screening Methodology Setting out the Approach Used and Specific Tasks Undertaken – UPDATE LP2031 NE team name etc.

4.1 The Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 has been undertaken in accordance with the European Commission's guidance on the 'Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites', and seeks to meet the requirements of the Habitats Directive. The tasks undertaken in this process are outlined below.

4.2 Task 1: Identification of Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites that may be affected by the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 and the factors contributing to and defining the integrity of these sites.

4.2.1 There are no Natura 2000 or Ramsar sites contained within the area covered by Cambridge City Council, so initial investigations were undertaken to identify sites in surrounding districts. This work has already been undertaken by South Cambridgeshire District Council for the Habitats Regulations Assessment of their Draft Local Plan Development Plan Document and involved the use of GIS data as well as consultation with Natural England. South Cambridgeshire District Council have incorporated their Habitats Regulations Assessment into their *Local Plan – Initial Sustainability Report (July 2012)* and *Local Plan – Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (June 2012)*. South Cambridgeshire District Council is the neighbouring authority for Cambridge City Council and as such it was felt appropriate to apply Habitats Regulations Assessment to the same sites. The precautionary principle was applied to this selection and as such sites beyond the boundary of South Cambridgeshire District Council have been included. The sites identified are listed in section 5 of this document and the attributes that contribute to and define the integrity of these sites are listed in Appendix 2. It is felt that the information identified is appropriate to inform this screening decision.

4.3 Task 2: Completion of the Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Matrix for the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014, including an Assessment of Significance of Effects.

4.3.1 The screening matrix has been used to assess a number of the Councils development plan documents and SPDs. As such, this methodology has been approved for use by Natural England. In accordance with government guidance, the precautionary principle has been applied to the assessment of whether or not the potential effects of the document are considered to be 'significant'. The screening matrix has been used to assess the significance of effects on the conservation objectives of each of the European sites identified and considers both the potential effects of the document alone and in combination with other relevant plans and projects as identified in section 3 of this document. The impacts examined by the screening matrix are in relation to land take by development, impact on protected species which travel outside the designated sites, increased disturbance from recreational use, impacts on water quantity and quality and changes in levels of pollution.

5 Natura 2000 and Ramsar Sites Potentially Affected by the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014

5.1 There are no Natura 2000 or Ramsar sites within Cambridge. However there are a number of sites outside the boundaries of the City that have been considered as part of this assessment because of their proximity to the district and/or the nature of their conservation interest. These sites are:

- Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC;
- Ouse Washes SAC, SPA and Ramsar site;
- Fenland SAC and Ramsar site;
- Portholme SAC
- Devil's Dyke SAC
- Breckland SAC and SPA

There are no candidate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) or Special Protection Areas (SPAs) in the area.

5.2 As mentioned previously, the sites chosen were identified by South Cambridgeshire District Council for the Habitats Directive Assessment as part of their *Local Plan – Initial Sustainability Report (July 2012)* and *Local Plan – Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (June 2012)*. Natural England confirmed that these sites were appropriate for the purposes of a Habitats Regulations Assessment in a letter to South Cambridgeshire District Council dated the 9th November 2006. Breckland SAC and SPA has been added to this assessment as it has been included in many other Local Authorities' Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). Details of each of these sites along with their relevant conservation objectives are contained within Appendix 2. The locations of these sites are shown on the maps in Appendix 3.

5.3 The conservation objectives for each SAC or SPA are designed to ensure that the qualifying interest of each site is maintained in the long term. Whilst these are specific to each site, there are some general principles including:

- To maintain the population of the habitat/species as a viable component of the site;
- To maintain the distribution of the habitat/species within the site;
- To maintain the distribution and extent of habitats supporting the species;
- To maintain the structure, function and supporting processes of habitats supporting the species; and
- To ensure that there is no significant disturbance of the species.

For further information please visit the Natural England website at <http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/>

5.4 Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance, designated under the Ramsar Convention. The Ramsar Convention is an international agreement signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971, which provides for the conservation and good use of wetlands. The UK Government ratified the Convention and designated the first Ramsar sites in 1976. The main aim of Ramsar sites is to promote the conservation of the site in order to avoid

deterioration of wetland habitats of Ramsar interest and significant disturbance of associated species.

- 5.5 The main aim of this screening assessment is to ensure that the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014, either alone or in combination with other plans as identified in Appendix 1, will not have an impact on the conservation objectives of these sites.

6 - CONCLUSIONS

6 Conclusions of the Screening Assessment

- 6.1 Appendix 4 of this document contains the full screening assessment of the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 on the identified Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites. This considers the potential impacts of the document both alone and in combination with other relevant plans as outlined in section 3 above.
- 6.2 The overall conclusions of this screening assessment is that the Draft Cambridge Local Plan 2014 is unlikely to have any significant impacts on the conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites identified. As such it is felt that it is not necessary to proceed to the next stage of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process i.e. Stage 2 and the requirement for an appropriate assessment.

7 - CONSULTATIONS

7 Consultations

- 7.1 Natural England is the statutory nature conservation body for appropriate assessment. Their consultation team were consulted on this Habitats Regulations Assessment. In a response dated 18th July 2013 Natural England stated that “after reviewing the document Natural England are satisfied that the Habitats Regulations Assessment screening report provides a comprehensive assessment of the potential impacts of the Cambridge City Council Draft Local Plan 2014 on N2K sites. We agree with the conclusion of the report that the Local Plan is unlikely to have a significant effect on N2K sites and that a more detailed Appropriate Assessment is therefore not required.”

APPENDIX 1 – SUMMARY OF OTHER RELEVANT PLANS AND STRATEGIES

Appendix 1: Summary of other relevant plans and strategies

Title	Date of Adoption	
Cambridge City Council		
Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031: Issues and Option 2 –Part 2 – Site Options Within Cambridge	2013	A consultation document looking at site options within Cambridge for allocation and designation in the Local Plan, internal and external space standards and car and cycle parking standards.
Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031 - Issues and Options Report	2012	A consultation document highlighting issues and providing options for new policies to guide the development of the Local Plan to 2031
Cambridge Local Plan 2006	2006	This document provides the policies to guide development in Cambridge to 2016. It also designates proposal sites for certain types of development, including a number of Areas of Major Change, which are mainly concentrated around the fringe of the City.
Eastern Gate Development Framework SPD.	2011	This document addresses the need to improve the physical environment within the Eastern Gate area. It includes planning guidance to help coordinate and guide future redevelopment in line with the council's Local Plan policies and objectives
Cambridge City Council Public Art SPD	2010	This document provides guidance on the provision of public art as part of new developments. It covers public art delivered through the planning process, principally Section 106 Agreements (S106), the commissioning of public art using the S106 Public Art Initiative, and outlines public art policy guidance
Cambridge City Council - Old Press/Mill Lane Site SPD	2010	This document provides guidance for the long-term and incremental redevelopment of the Old Press/Mill Lane site.
Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD,	2007	This document provides further guidance on the policies in the 2006 Cambridge Local Plan that relate to sustainable design and construction issues. These issues include: urban design, transport, movement and accessibility, sustainable drainage, energy, recycling and waste facilities, biodiversity, pollution, climate change adaptation, water, materials and construction waste and the historic environment.
Cambridge Planning Obligations Strategy SPD,	2007	This document will provide the framework for the negotiation and use of planning obligation money across the city. Its main

Title	Date of Adoption	
		purpose is to provide the mechanisms to secure provision of new infrastructure or improvements to existing infrastructure, measures to mitigate the adverse effects of new developments and measures to address the needs identified to accommodate the projected growth of Cambridge.
Cambridge Affordable Housing SPD	2008	This document gives advice on what is involved in providing Affordable Housing in Cambridge. It expands upon and adds detail to policies 3/7 and 5/5 of the 2006 Cambridge Local Plan.
Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council		
Cambridge Local Plan Towards 2031, South Cambridgeshire Local Plan. Issues and Options 2 – Part 1 Joint Consultation on Development Strategy and Site Options on the Edge of Cambridge	2013	A consultation document produced in partnership with South Cambridgeshire District Council, including potential sites that could be allocated for residential, employment or other uses in the Local Plan. It also included site options for a community stadium.
Cambridge East Area Action Plan DPD,	2008	This document provides the detailed policy guidance for the development of Cambridge East, a new major urban quarter of Cambridge comprising between 10,000 to 12,000 dwellings.
North West Cambridge Area Action Plan DPD	2009	This document provides the detailed policy guidance for the development of land between Madingley Road and Huntingdon Road on the fringes of Cambridge, which has been allocated to provide for the long-term needs of the University of Cambridge.
Cambridgeshire County Council		
<p>Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste LDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste Core Strategy and Proposals Map C ○ Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste Proposals Map A: Minerals and Transport Zones and Proposals Map B: Waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2011 ○ 2012 	<p>These documents set out the Councils' strategic vision and objectives for future development and management of minerals and waste within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, including strategic site allocations over the Plan period to 2026. The document also contains a suite of development control policies to guide minerals and waste development.</p> <p>The proposals maps set out the Councils' allocations for site-specific proposals for future development and management of minerals and waste within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. It identifies site-specific</p>

Title	Date of Adoption	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Block Fen / Langwood Fen Master Plan Supplementary Planning Document ○ The Location and Design of Waste Management Facilities Supplementary Planning Document ○ RECAP Waste Management Design Guide SPD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2011 ○ 2011 ○ 2012 	<p>land allocations for future minerals and waste management development and other supporting site-specific policies. Map A: shows minerals and transport proposals; Map B: shows waste management proposals; Map C: shows Mineral Safeguarding Areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guides long term mineral and waste management development in this area • Sets out advice which will improve the design and sustainability of new waste management facilities • Provides advice on the design and provision of waste management infrastructure in residential and commercial developments, including the basis on which developer contributions will be sought for waste management infrastructure
Cambridgeshire Third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) 2011-2026 Policies and Strategy	2011	Sets out Cambridgeshire's existing and future transport issues and how we will seek to address them. It was developed following consultation with the public and stakeholders in Spring 2010, the consultation results are available to download below. LTP3 covers the period 2011-2026 and was adopted in March 2011.
South Cambridgeshire District Council		
South Cambridgeshire Local Plan. Issues and Options 2: Part 2 – South Cambridgeshire Further Site Options	2013	A consultation document that sought views on additional new site options for development and other possible changes such as amendments to village frameworks and designations to protect village character in South Cambridgeshire.
South Cambridgeshire Local Plan. Issues and Options	2012	A consultation document that sought views on options for how the district should be developed over the next 20 years to 2031. Included site options for development and options for policies covering a wide range of topics.
South Cambridgeshire Core	2007	Sets out the strategic vision and overall

Title	Date of Adoption	
Strategy DPD		approach for future development in South Cambridgeshire to 2016. Reflects the strategy in the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Structure Plan 2003 with the focus on locating new development in the most sustainable locations on the edge of Cambridge and at the new town of Northstowe.
South Cambridgeshire Site Specific Policies DPD	2010	Contains allocations for housing and employment development as well as safeguarding land for transport infrastructure in South Cambridgeshire.
South Cambridgeshire Development Control Policies DPD	2007	Guides decisions on planning applications and covers a wide range of topics including housing, jobs, travel, the natural environment and the Green Belt.
Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan DPD,	2008	Provides the detailed policy guidance for the development of the Southern Fringe (Trumpington Meadows site).
Fen Drayton Former LSA SPD	2011	Provides practical advice and guidance on how to develop a proposal that will comply with Policy SP/11 in the Site Specific Policies DPD in January 2010. This policy allows the reuse or redevelopment of buildings (excluding glass houses) where it can be demonstrated they are no longer needed for agricultural purposes for on site experimental or other ground breaking forms of sustainable living, provided that the development would not occupy a larger footprint than existing buildings.
Orchard Park Design Guide SPD	2011	Relates to Policy SP/1 in the Site Specific Policies DPD and policies in the Development Control Policies DPD. Sets out the design principles for the remaining land parcels at Orchard Park that the Council expects to be addressed by developers in any planning application, to ensure the creation of a high quality desirable 'place'. The SPD provides a framework that will assist in the assessment of applications and design guidance that will apply to any development proposals that may come forward and is not land use specific.
Health Impact Assessment SPD	2011	Relates to Policy DP/1 in the Development Control Policies DPD and policies in individual Area Action Plans. For major

Title	Date of Adoption	
		developments, a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is required to be submitted alongside any planning application to demonstrate that the potential impacts on health have been considered at the planning and design stage. The SPD builds on international and national guidance, and provides advice and guidance on the preparation of Health Impact Assessments including the steps involved in the process and details of what should be included in the HIA to demonstrate that any health related impacts have been fully considered.
Landscape in New Developments SPD	2010	Expands on district-wide policies included in the Development Control Policies DPD and policies in individual Area Action Plans. The Landscape in New Developments SPD seeks to ensure consideration is given, wherever possible, to the retention of landscaping features within developments, or to incorporating new planting into new designs. Landscaping is a valuable addition to any development, often helping to create accessible green spaces for wildlife and people. Also builds on national policy in PPS 1, PPS 9 and PPG 15.
District Design Guide SPD	2010	Expands on district-wide policies included in the Development Control Policies DPD and policies in individual Area Action Plans. The aim of the District Design Guide SPD is to provide additional guidance on how developments can ensure they are sustainable and achieve a high quality of design in a way that respects the local context. The District Design Guide SPD also builds on national policy in PPS 1 and its supplement: Planning & Climate Change.
Affordable Housing SPD	2010	Expands on district-wide affordable housing policies included in the Development Control Policies DPD. These policies seek to secure the provision of an appropriate level, mix and size of affordable housing, including on rural exceptions sites, so that new housing developments planned in the district address the identified housing needs of all parts of the community. It provides guidance to applicants and agents preparing development proposals to ensure

Title	Date of Adoption	
		the affordable housing proposed meets desirable standards at an affordable price to benefit all potential future occupiers. Also builds on national policy in PPS 3 and Circular 05/05.
Listed Buildings SPD	2009	Expands on district-wide policies included in the Development Control Policies DPD and policies in individual Area Action Plans. These policies seek to ensure that Listed Building issues are adequately addressed throughout the development process. It also builds on the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and PPG 15. The Listed Buildings SPD provides broad guidance on Listed Buildings with regards to South Cambridgeshire District Council policies, and therefore it covers general approaches, typical works and when Listed Building Consent is likely to be required
Biodiversity SPD	2009	Expands on district-wide policies included in the Development Control Policies DPD and policies in individual Area Action Plans. These policies seek to ensure that biodiversity is adequately protected and enhanced throughout the development process. It also builds on national policy in PPS 1 and PPS 9, which promote sustainable, well-designed development while seeking to ensure that biodiversity and appropriate landscaping are fully integrated into new developments.
Trees and Development Sites SPD	2009	Provides guidance to applicants and agents preparing development proposals that may impact on trees, including protected trees and trees that are unprotected but of significance. It also guides owners of protected trees on the application process and criteria used to assess those applications.
Public Art SPD	2009	Supports Policy SF/6 in the Development Control Policies DPD. Defines what is meant by the term Public Art, provides an outline of the wider benefits of having Public Art included within new developments, and gives clear guidance for developers to encourage them to include Public Art within proposed development schemes.
Open Space in New	2009	Provides further detail on the Council's

Title	Date of Adoption	
Developments SPD		quantitative, qualitative and accessibility standards for children's play space, outdoor sport, and informal open space for new developments. It also provides clear guidance on how to calculate the requirements of individual developments, and the process that applicants and officers will need to go through during the planning application process.
Development Affecting Conservation Areas SPD	2009	Supports Policy CH/5 in the Development Control Policies DPD. Provides further guidance on how national policy in PPG 15 is interpreted in the local context. The guidance applies to new developments and works to existing buildings, as well as demolition of existing structures within conservation areas.
Cottenham Village Design Statement SPD	2007	Describes Cottenham at particular points in time and highlights the qualities valued by its residents. The document supports the Development Control Policies DPD.
South Cambridgeshire Gypsy and Traveller DPD. Issues and Options 1: General Approach	2006	A consultation document that sought views on the general approach to identifying need and the criteria that should be used for the selection of sites.
South Cambridgeshire Gypsy and Traveller DPD. Issues and Options 2: Site Options and Policies	2009	A consultation document that sought views on site options for Gypsy & Traveller pitches and Travelling Showpeople plots and draft planning policies.
Northstowe Area Action Plan DPD	2007	This document provides the detailed policy guidance for the proposed new town of Northstowe, which will consist of up to 10,000 new homes, a town centre and new employment.
Huntingdonshire District Council		
Huntingdonshire Core Strategy	2009	The Core Strategy sets the framework for how Huntingdonshire will develop up to 2026. It contains Strategic policies to manage growth and guide new development. The Core Strategy provides the local context for considering the long-term social, economic and environmental resource impacts of development.
Huntingdonshire Development Management DPD Proposed Submission, 2010	2010	Sets out the Council's policies for managing development in Huntingdonshire. The Development Management DPD has not been progressed beyond this Proposed Submission version due to the change in

Title	Date of Adoption	
		Government and announced changes in planning policy. The Proposed Submission version has been used since 2010 as the most up to date approved statement of development management policies; however the emerging Local Plan to 2036 will be given greater weight as it progresses through the stages of preparation
Huntingdon West Area Action Plan,	2011	The area action plan covers approximately 300 hectares of land west of Huntingdon's town centre. Of this, some 20 hectares is land between the town centre and the railway line and includes the Huntingdon Railway Station. The remaining land extends west to encompass the Hinchingsbrooke area. The Huntingdon West Area Action Plan is an area where significant change is expected. It will help deliver planned growth, stimulate regeneration, protect areas particularly sensitive to change, and resolve potentially conflicting objectives in this area.
Local Plan to 2036	In progress	The plan will set out the strategy for development in the whole of Huntingdonshire, incorporating policies for managing development and site-specific proposals for different forms of development in the context of the new National Planning Policy Framework. The plan will include consideration of the Alconbury Enterprise Zone and other proposed development on the Airfield, as well as other opportunities that have arisen since the Core Strategy was adopted in 2009. The plan is currently in the very early stages of evidence-based preparation.
Huntingdonshire Gypsy and Traveller Sites DPD – Issues Report	2009	This document identified sites to provide residential accommodation for the Gypsy and Traveller community in Huntingdonshire. Gypsy and Traveller site provision is now being considered as part of the Local Plan to 2036 process
East Cambridgeshire District Council		
East Cambridgeshire Core Strategy	2009	Covers the district of East Cambridgeshire, and includes the spatial strategy to 2025. It sets the strategic vision for the district and

Title	Date of Adoption	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Littleport Masterplan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2011 	<p>future growth of new housing, employment and facilities. It expects Soham's population to increase by around 2,000 people (1,100 homes) by 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Littleport Masterplan is the Council's longer-term vision for the future of Littleport. The Littleport Masterplan presents a vision for Littleport that embraces its unique natural fen landscape setting, and is focused on revitalising the town centre, improving job opportunities, and achieving high quality development that enhances the image of the town. The Masterplan proposes an increase in the population of the town from approximately 8,800 currently to some 13,000 over the 21-year time period of the plan, an increase of some 1,700 new homes. Accompanying this is provision for employment sites to provide local jobs.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burwell Masterplan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2013 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burwell Masterplan seeks to provide a modest level of growth to meet housing need, sympathetic to Burwell's village character. The key principle is balanced growth, promoting job creation alongside housing development to reduce out commuting, thereby creating a more sustainable community. The Masterplan also contains a number of infrastructure proposals, together, providing a clear spatial framework for the development of the village over the next 20 years.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic issues and village vision issues and options consultations and technical work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2011/2012 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> East Cambridgeshire District Council has taken a unique 'bottom-up' approach to site specific allocations as part of the Core Strategy Review, by involving and consulting residents and Parish Councils at the early stages of options development and continued close working throughout the site allocations process. This

Title	Date of Adoption	
		work helped prepare a Village Vision for every village in the District including site specific allocation policies and identified infrastructure needs
<p>SPDs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ashley Conservation Area • Burwell High Town Conservation Area • Burwell North Street Conservation Area • Haddenham Conservation Area • Hill Row Haddenham Conservation Area • Soham Conservation Area • Ely Conservation Area • Stretham Conservation Area • Dullingham Conservation Area • Littleport Conservation Area Appraisal • Little Downham Conservation Area Appraisal • Sutton Conservation Area Appraisal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shop Fronts Design Guide • County Wildlife Sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developer Contributions and Planning Obligations (Oct.2011 - updated version). • SPD on Developer Contributions – a review of the current SPD – expected to be adopted May 2013. • Design Guide SPD (<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2010 • 2011 • Due 2013 • Due 2013 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2010 • 2010 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011 • Due 2013 • 2012 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The conservation areas SPDs assess the character and interest of each area and to help determine whether the area should be designated a Conservation Area. The documents aim to fulfil East Cambridgeshire District Council's duty to 'draw up and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement' of these areas as required by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance for the design of shop fronts • The document has been adopted as Supplementary Planning Guidance to Policy CS6–Environment, and Policy EN6-Biodiversity and Geology in the Core Strategy. • Guidance on developer contributions and planning obligations • Review of current SPD to include guidance and clarity on Community Infrastructure Levy. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A building design guide for East Cambridgeshire

Title	Date of Adoption	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contaminated Land - Guidance on Submitting Planning Applications on Land that may be Contaminated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2010 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance on Submitting Planning Applications on Land that may be Contaminate
Fenland District Council		
Fenland Local Plan 1993	1993	The Local Plan concentrates growth in existing housing, employment and service provision within existing centres. It will be replaced by the Fenland Local Plan Core Strategy.
Fenland Local Plan Draft Core Strategy 2013		Plans for growth over a 20-year period, aiming to deliver 11,000 new homes to 2031, with large new housing areas on the edge of Wisbech, March, Chatteris and Whittlesey. It provides new land to attract new businesses and jobs and sets out policies to guide development and provision of infrastructure.
North Hertfordshire District Council		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> District Local Plan No. 2 with Alterations – Originally adopted in April 1996 Now working on a new Local Plan 	2007	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This document shows the saved policies (from the 1996 Local Plan) under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. It seeks to restrain development pressures, maintain the existing pattern of settlements and countryside, and enhance the character of existing land uses in urban and rural areas. Core Strategy and Development Policies were consulted on in 2007, the results of which will feed into a new Local Plan. The Council's preferred option (Option F) was indicated as 7,000 new homes, based on meeting affordable housing needs. A new consultation on housing options is being held in February-March 2013. the Local Plan is currently scheduled for adoption in 2015.
North Hertfordshire Draft Design SPD 2011	2011	This document provides a guide for the future development of the towns, villages and rural areas. It brings together guidance and advice from other sources such as government guidance and village design statements.
North Hertfordshire Vehicle Parking Provision at New Development SPD 2006	2006	This document establishes zones within which different parking standards will be applied.
Planning Obligations SPD	2006	This document elaborates the Council's

Title	Date of Adoption	
		policy on securing money from new development to pay for infrastructure.
Stevenage and North Hertfordshire Action Plan, Issues & Options 2008		This document contained planning policies to direct the future growth of Stevenage to the north and west, and area that will be subject to considerable growth. The AAP will guide the development of new homes, new employment areas and associated services to support the new neighbourhoods. It will now feed into the formulation of the Local Plan.
Central Bedfordshire		
Central Bedfordshire Council, Core Strategy & Development Management Policies (For North Bedfordshire)	2009	Sets out the vision, objectives, spatial strategy and overarching policies to 2031. The Core Strategy plans for the delivery of: 14,230 new homes in the district between 2001-2021 and 3720 new homes in the period 2021-2026, making a total of 17,950 between 2001-2026. The Council will plan for a minimum target of 17,000 net additional jobs in the district for the period 2001-2026. In support of this target, approximately 77 hectares of net additional B1-B8 employment land will be identified for the remainder of the period 2010-2026. Land will be allocated through the Site Allocations DPD, which will identify whether phasing is required.
Site Allocations DPD for North Bedfordshire	2011	Identifies land for new development, including housing, employment and other forms of development. This document forms part of the LDF. At least 5,000 new homes and approximately 77ha of employment land (B1 – B8) must be provided between 2010 and 2026, in line with requirements contained in the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies DPD.
Saved Local Plan 2007 Policies (2007) and joint Core Strategy 2011 (endorsed for Development Management purposes)		In the south, until a new Development Strategy is adopted, the adopted Local Plan (2004) and joint Core Strategy (endorsed for Development Management purposes) will continue to set the planning context for decisions on planning applications.

Title	Date of Adoption	
		http://www.shapeyourfuture.org.uk/corestrategy.html
Bedford Borough Council		
Bedford Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan	2008	Plans for district up to 2021. The areas of Bedford, Kempston and the northern Marston Vale (the Growth Area) are the focus for development
Forest Heath		
Forest Heath Core Strategy, Adopted May 2010 by the Council, quashed by central Government		Setting out a vision, objectives, spatial strategy and overarching policies, the Core Strategy guides the provision of new development in the District up until 2026 (with Housing to 2031). The policies and text of the Core Strategy were quashed by the High Court in April 2011.
Forest Heath Local Plan 1995 Saved Policies	2010	Saved Local Plan policies from the 1995 Forest Heath Plan.
Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council Development Management Policies Submission Document	2012	The Development Management Policies document contains policies which will, when adopted, form an important tool for the day-to-day determination of planning applications. Part of the Local Development Framework.
Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council Joint Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) Consultation Document	2012	A joint SPD which will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications
Forest Heath District Council Core Strategy Policy CS7 Single Issue Review Issues and Options document	2012	The High Court order that quashed the Core Strategy removed the spatial distribution of housing numbers. The document revisits these parts of the Core Strategy in order to reconsider the most appropriate general locations for housing growth and seeks to review the evidence base.

Title	Date of Adoption	
Open Space, Sport and Recreation Supplementary Planning Document	2011	The SPD sets out the District Council's approach when considering planning applications for new residential development which is likely to generate demand for, access to and use of open space and recreation facilities.
St Edmundsbury Borough Council		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>St Edmundsbury Core Strategy Development Plan Document</i> • Rural Site Allocations Preferred Options DPD • Draft Bury St Edmunds Vision 2031, Haverhill Vision 2031 and Rural Vision 2031 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011 • 2010 	<p>The Core Strategy Preferred Options and Strategic Sites Issues and Options document looks at how and where the borough can accommodate the sustainable growth of housing and jobs up until 2031. All growth around Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill will protect the identity of those villages that surround the towns. Housing provision is split as 8,118 in Bury St Edmunds, 5,301 in Haverhill and 2,212 in Other villages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sets out the council's preferred options for site allocations in the six key service centres and the 12 local service centres identified in the Core Strategy Document. It reviews the existing Housing Settlement boundaries for all villages and also proposes to designate the general employment areas and operational use areas outside Bury St Edmunds and Haverhill. • Plan to guide the overall direction of future service provision and management of growth in the borough for the next 20 years and beyond. The documents are part of the Local Development Framework, which establishes where development will take place across the borough, and the documents will be part of the statutory planning policy for the borough.
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk		
King's Lynn & West Norfolk Core Strategy	2011	This document guides development to 2025. The majority of new housing (90%) will be located within either the main towns, settlements adjacent to the main towns and in the settlements designated as Key Rural Service Centres.

Title	Date of Adoption	
King's Lynn & West Norfolk Site Specific Allocations and Policies	2011	The Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan document allocates and designates areas of land for particular uses such as: housing, employment, retail, recreation and open space. It proposes changes to the development boundaries for each of the settlements, and sets out important Development Management Policies, which apply across the whole borough and are used for determining planning applications, dealing with particular subjects.
Central Bedfordshire Council and Luton Borough Council		
Bedfordshire & Luton Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2000-2015,	2005	Sets policies regarding proposals for minerals extraction and waste sites
Managing Waste in New Developments SPD	2006	Provides guidance on reducing, recycling and recovering waste during demolition, construction and occupation of new developments.
The Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Strategic Sites and Polices – Submission Document (2012)		This will set out the Councils' strategic vision and objectives for future development and management of minerals and waste within the Plan area, identify strategic site specific land allocations for minerals and waste development, and will include a suite of core policies which will be used to determine planning applications for mineral extraction and waste management development.
Hertfordshire County Council		
The Minerals Local Plan 2002 - 2016	2007	Sets policies regarding proposals for minerals extraction and also allocates sites.
Waste Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Document	2012	This document sets out the county council's strategic, overall spatial strategy and development management policies for waste development in Hertfordshire. All other waste local development documents must conform to the Core Strategy.
Waste Site Allocations Local Development Document (currently being progressed towards adoption).		This Local Development document identifies sites for waste management facilities. It includes maps and waste planning briefs for sites identified as Allocated Sites or Employment Land Areas of Search. This document is currently at Proposed Submission stage.
Suffolk County Council		
• Waste Core Strategy	• 2011	The Core Strategies set out the key

Title	Date of Adoption	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minerals Core Strategy • Minerals Specific Site Allocations DPD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2008 • 2009 	<p>elements of the minerals and waste planning framework for the county based on an agreed vision followed by aims and strategic objectives. The document also contains a suite of generic development control policies.</p> <p>The Site Allocations document contains policies for determining planning applications for minerals related development. It identifies on maps twelve sites for sand and gravel extraction containing 10.53mt and will meet the identified need for sand and gravel until 2021.</p>

NAME: EVERS DEN AND WIMPOLE WOODS

Designation and Code: Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – UK0030331
SSSI boundary is the same as the SAC

Location

The site is located in South Cambridgeshire District, but outside the area covered by the North West Cambridge Area Action Plan. The site is located close to Wimpole Park.

Grid ref Centroid⁸ : TL 340526 **Area:** 66.48 ha.

Primary reason for selection of the site

Presence of colony of Barbastelle bats *Barbastella barbastellus* for which it is considered to be one of the best areas in UK.

Conservation objective

To maintain, in favourable condition, the habitats for the population of Barbastelle bats.

General Site characteristics

Broadleaved deciduous woodland (100%)

Soil and geology – Basic, Clay

Geomorphology and Landscape – Lowland

Species

Barbastella barbastellus bats. This is one of the UK's rarest mammals. The species is protected on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Site Description

The site comprises a mixture of ancient coppice woodland (Eversden Wood) and high forest woods likely to be of more recent origin (Wimpole Wood). A colony of Barbastelle bats (*Barbastella barbastellus*) is associated with the trees in Wimpole Woods. These trees are used as a summer maternity roost where the female bats gather to give birth and rear their young. Most of the roost sites are within tree crevices. The bats also use the site as a foraging area. Some of the woodland is also used as a flight path when bats forage outside the area.

Eversden Wood is species-rich example of ancient ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) field maple (*Acer campestre*) – dog's mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) woodland and is one of the largest remaining sites of this type on the Cambridgeshire chalky boulder-clay.

The woodland is predominantly relict coppice of ash and field maple over an understorey of hazel (*Corylus avellana*) with aspen (*Populus tremula*), birch (*Betula sp*) and small-leaved elm (*Ulmus minor*) also locally dominant.

⁸ This is the approximate central point of the SAC. In the case of large, linear or composite sites, this may not represent the location where a feature occurs within the SAC.

The ground flora is characterised by dog's mercury and bluebell (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*), and the damp soil conditions are reflected in the local abundance of associated plants such as meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) and tufted hair-grass (*Deschampsia cespitosa*). Many herbs typical of old woodlands are present including yellow archangel (*Galeobdolon luteum*), wood anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*) and the nationally scarce oxlip (*Primula elatior*) a species largely confined to damp chalky boulder-clay woods of eastern England. Other locally uncommon plants represented include herb-Paris (*Paris quadrifolia*), and, particularly on the drier wood banks, pignut (*Conopodium majus*) and hairy wood-rush (*Luzula pilosa*).

The woodland rides provide additional habitat diversity and support herbs such as ragged-Robin (*Lychnis flos-cuculi*) and false fox-sedge (*Carex otrubae*).

Management and ownership

The primary management principles used for this site are those that maintain a regime of minimum management with little disturbance in order to protect the roosting sites in the woodland for the Barbastelle bats.

Wimpole Woods is owned and managed by the National Trust and their management is aimed at maintaining and where possible, enhancing the Barbastelle population.

Eversden Wood is privately owned and the current management is considered compatible with the use of this wood as a foraging area / flight path by Barbastelles.

Access

There is public access to the woods. Public rights of way go through both areas of woodland.

Wimpole Wood is near to Wimpole Park where the National Trust provide car parking for visitors to their estate. This is around 1km as the crow flies from the start of the woodland. There is also a minor road that runs between Wimpole and Eversden Woods and this provides very limited on road parking available closer to Eversden Wood but still some 500m away. This is not signposted as available for parking.

Current condition

Natural England produced a conditions report on Eversden and Wimpole Woods SSSI in October 2011 (from survey work in January/December 2010) and found that the site is meeting 100% its PSA⁹ targets. 39.88% of the area is in favourable condition¹⁰ and 60.12% is in an unfavourable recovering condition. None of the area is in decline.

Barbastelle bats require minimal disturbance within 2Km of their roost. They can forage up to 20km from their roosts but more typically venture around 6-8km. Barbastelle bats' foraging routes radiate out from their roosting sites using a limited number of main routes,

⁹ PSA target – the Government's Public Service Agreement (PSA) target to have 95% of the SSSI are in favourable or recovering condition by 2010.

¹⁰ Favourable Condition means that the SSSI land is being adequately conserved and is meeting its conservation objectives

which split into major limbs and then into smaller branches¹¹.

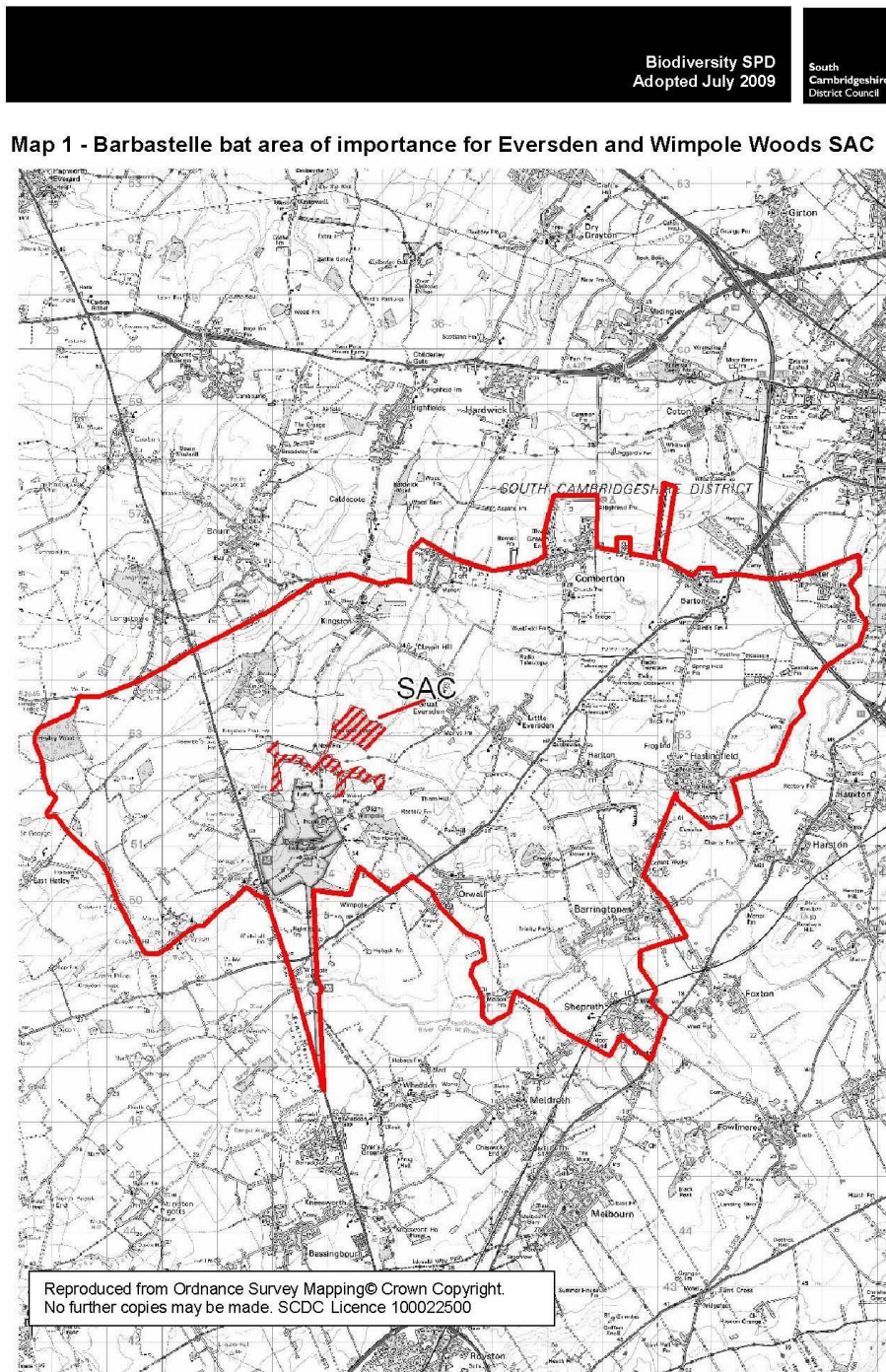
The Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document published by South Cambridgeshire District Council in July 2009 (see Appendix 1) mapped out the main area of importance to Barbastelle bats, and this is shown on the map below (and is in Map 1 of their report). It reflects the landscape and habitat of known value to bats, and also where survey effort has been deployed to date.

Vulnerability

The current use of the woods, including public access, is considered compatible with the Barbastelle interest and should not affect the Barbastelle population or their roosts.

¹¹ Greenway F (20204) Advice for the management of flightless and foraging habitats of the Barbastelle Bat *Barbastella barbastellus*, English Nature Research Report 657.

Map 1 Barbastelle bat area of importance for Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC



NAME: DEVIL'S DYKE

Designation and Code

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – UK0030037

Location

The site is located in East Cambridgeshire district and also extends into Forest Heath district in Suffolk.

Grid ref Centroid : TL 611622 **Area**: 8.02 ha.

Primary reason for selection of the site

Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco- Brometalia*) (important orchid site).

Conservation Objective

To maintain in favourable condition unimproved calcareous grassland with particular reference to semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (CG3 and CG5 grassland) and *Himantoglossum hircinum* lizard orchid.

General site characteristics

Dry grassland. Steppes (100%)
Soil and geology – Basic, Limestone
Geomorphology and landscape - Lowland

Species

CG3 *Bromus erectus*
CG5 *Bromus erectus* – *Brachypodium pinnatum* calcareous grasslands
Himantoglossum hircinum – lizard orchid
Pulsatilla vulgaris - Pasque flower

Site Description

This section is the most species rich of the Devil's Dyke which as a whole stretches from the Fen Edge at Reach ending at Ditton Green. The section that is identified as a SAC is adjacent to Newmarket Heath. **Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*)** Devil's Dyke consists of a mosaic of CG3 *Bromus erectus* and CG5 *Bromus erectus* – *Brachypodium pinnatum* calcareous grasslands.

It is the only known UK semi-natural dry grassland site for lizard orchid *Himantoglossum hircinum*. Lizard orchid is nationally rare (i.e. occurring in 15 or fewer 10x10 km squares) and is vulnerable in Great Britain. It is restricted to calcareous grasslands and dunes in southern England. It is considered to be one of the best areas for this in the United Kingdom

Management and ownership

The dyke is in private ownership. There is a Devil's Dyke Restoration Project set up which is a partnership scheme involving Natural England, English Heritage, Cambridgeshire

Wildlife Trust and Cambridgeshire County Council working with landowners and managers and local people. The aim of this project is to restore the dyke and there is a clear management plan. The species rich calcareous grassland requires active management without which it rapidly becomes dominated by rank grasses which leads to the encroachment of scrub over time. Traditional management is by grazing.

The Pasque flower is a speciality of the dyke and a Local Species Action Plan has been produced for this plant.

Access

There is a public right of way running along the dyke. There is parking available at the July Race course, Newmarket.

Current condition

As grazing declined in the early part of the twentieth century, scrub has encroached onto many areas of the dyke. In the SAC area there had been some scrub encroachment on the southern part of the site and some clearance work has been undertaken. A survey was carried out by Natural England in July 2008 with the corresponding report (compiled in October 2011) indicating that 49.57% of the area is in favourable condition, 23.43% is in an unfavourable recovering condition but 27% of the area is in unfavourable condition with no change. In May 2002 the site was meeting 100% of its PSA targets, this reduced to 86% in 2008 and 73% in 2011. This would appear to indicate that the condition of the area is not improving.

Vulnerability

Although clearance work has been undertaken there will need to be control over any regrowth of scrub and any weediness of this section.

There is some scrub encroachment on the southern part of the site and some clearance work has been undertaken. The grassland itself is not currently managed and leaf-litter build up could be a long-term problem. Future management plans to address this through a mowing regime are being considered.

The area remains vulnerable as the reduction in meeting its PSA targets indicates over the last 10 years

NAME: FENLAND

Designation and Code

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – UK 0014782

There are three fens that together form the Fenland SAC

- 1 Wicken Fen
- 2 Chippenham Fen
- 3 Woodwalton Fen

Each site is also a Ramsar site.

Location

Wicken Fen and Chippenham Fen are in East Cambridgeshire District; Woodwalton Fen is in Huntingdonshire District.

Grid ref Centroid: TL554701 Wicken Fen TL555700; Chippenham Fen TL648697; Woodwalton Fen TL230840

Area: 618.64 ha.

Primary reason for selection of site for SAC

Molinia meadows on calcareous peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*) – considered to be one of the best areas in UK. Fenland contains, particularly at Chippenham Fen, one of the most extensive examples of the tall herb-rich East Anglian type of M24 *Molinia caerulea* – *Cirsium dissectum* fen-meadow. It is important for the conservation of the geographical and ecological range of the habitat type, as this type of fen-meadow is rare and ecologically distinctive in East Anglia.

Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* and species of the *Caricion davallianae* – considered to be rare as its total extent in the UK is estimated to be less than 1,000 ha; considered to be one of the best areas in UK. The individual sites within Fenland SAC each hold large areas of **calcareous fens**, with a long and well-documented history of regular management. There is a full range from species-poor *Cladium*-dominated fen to species-rich fen with a lower proportion of *Cladium* and containing such species as black bog-rush *Schoenus nigricans*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta* and meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum*. There are good transitions to purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* and rush pastures, all set within a mosaic of reedbeds and wet pastures.

Conservation objective

To maintain in favourable condition:

- *Molinia* meadows on chalk and clay (Eu- *Molinion* community)
- Calcareous fens with *Cladium mariscus* (great fen sedge) and species of the *Caricion davallianae* vegetation community.

To maintain in favourable condition the habitats for the population of spined loach and

great crested newts.

General site characteristics

Bog Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (70%)

Broadleaved deciduous woodland (20%)

Inland water body (standing water, running water) (5%)

Other arable land (5%)

Soil and geology – basic, peat

Geomorphology – floodplain, lowland

Species

Molinion caeruleae - for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

Cladium mariscus and *Caricion davallianae* - which is considered to be rare as its total extent in the United Kingdom is estimated to be less than 1000 hectares. This is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

Cobitis taenia (Spined loach) - for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Triturus cristatus (Great crested newt) - for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Current conditions

The fenland grasslands are dependent upon traditional management practices of cutting and grazing by livestock. In recent decades scrub and woodland have spread at the expense of fen vegetation. Appropriate water management is vital to the maintenance of the special features. The three constituent sites are all National Nature Reserves and the site management plans include actions to address this problem.

DESCRIPTION OF EACH SITE THAT TOGETHER FORMS THE FENLAND SAC

1. WICKEN FEN

Location

This site is in East Cambridgeshire District.

Area: 254 ha.

Reason for Ramsar allocation

- Criterion 1 – One of the most outstanding remnants of East Anglian peat fens. The area is one of the few that has not been drained. Traditional management has created a mosaic of habitats from open water to sedge and litter fields.
- Criterion 2 - The site supports one species of British Red Data Book plant fen violet *Viola persicifolia*, which survives at only two other sites in Britain. It contains eight nationally scarce plants and 121 British Red Data invertebrates.

Site description

This site is a marginal remnant of the original peat fenland of the East Anglian basin. It has been preserved as a flood catchment area, and its water level is controlled by sluice gates.

The original peat fen lies to the north of Wicken Lodge. The site here supports fen communities of carr and sedge. The carr scrub is largely of alder buckthorn *Frangula alnus*, buckthorn *Rhamnus catharticus* and willow over a sparse vegetation of fen plants and including marsh fen *Thelypteris palustris*. The more open areas of sedge fen are typically of tall grasses, saw sedge *Cladium mariscus*, purple moor grass *Molina caerulea*, sedges *Carex* spp and rushes *Juncus* spp.

Nationally important higher plants include *Viola persicifolia*, *Lathyrus palustris*, *Myriophyllum verticillatum*, *Oenanthe fluviatilis* and milk parsley *Peucedanum palustre*.

To the south of the Wicken Lode, the area is of rough pasture land, reedbed and pools which are attractive to breeding wetland birds and to wintering wildfowl, the area being subjected to winter flooding.

The dykes, abandoned claypits and other watercourses carry a great wealth of aquatic plants. Many, such as greater spearwort *Ranunculus flammula* and lesser water-plaintain *Baldellia ranunculoides* are now uncommon elsewhere.

Management and ownership

The site is owned by the National Trust and managed by a local management committee, which reports to the East Anglian Regional Office of the National Trust.

The continuation of the historic systems of management and the effective monitoring and maintenance of water levels underlies the Fen's ecology and are crucial for the success of all other management practices. The Fen is artificially protected from drying out by a water-retaining membrane.

Access

There is a visitor centre and shop, nature trails, three hides and 16km of walking routes. Entry is by permit only to help control visitor numbers. Visitors are also managed by 'zoning' parts of the Fen near the entrance, leaving the more remote parts of the site relatively undisturbed. The Fen is open throughout the year from dawn to dusk.

Current conditions

Natural England has produced a report about the condition of the SSSI (in 2008). Only 36% of the site was meeting PSA targets. 53% of the area was unfavourably declining. A more recent survey 2009/10 found improvements to the site. Natural England compiled a report in October 2011 showing that the site was meeting 100% of its PSA targets, with no declining areas. 47.08% of the area was in favourable condition and 52.92% in unfavourable recovering.

Vulnerability

Work carried out in the nearby river system to prevent flooding in the 1960s means that the site no longer receives the amount of winter water as it did in the past. This has brought about a lowering of the water table over the past 40 years (Ramsar Report 5.5.06).

The habitats within this site are highly sensitive to inorganic fertilisers and pesticide. Access to this site, and any recreational activities within, may need to be controlled.

2. CHIPPENHAM FEN

Location

This site is in East Cambridgeshire District Council.

Area: 112 ha.

Reason for Ramsar allocation

- Criterion 1 – A spring-fed calcareous basin mire with a long history of management that is partly reflected in the diversity of the present-day vegetation;
- Criterion 2 - The invertebrate fauna is very rich, partly due to its transitional position between Fenland and Breckland. The species list is very long, including many rare and scarce invertebrates characteristic of ancient fenland sites in the UK.
- Criterion 3 – The site supports diverse vegetation types, rare and scarce plants. The site is the stronghold of Cambridge milk parsley *Selinum carvifolia*.

Site description

The site comprises areas of tall and often rich fen, fen grassland and basic flush that have developed over shallow peat soils. The site also contains calcareous grassland, neutral grassland, woodland, mixed scrub and open water.

The site is in a shallow peat-filled depression underlain by a thick layer of marl, which rises to the surface in places. The fen is fed by rainfall and springs from the chalk aquifer. There are several ponds on the site and a system of dykes take water from the springs, in the south of the reserve, to the Chippenham River, near its northern boundary.

The areas of tall fen are dominated by a mosaic of saw sedge *Cladium mariscus* and reed *Phragmites australis* are present with abundant purple moor grass *Molinia caerulea*. A rich fen has developed in mown areas supporting the nationally rare *Selinum carvifolia*. In one area this merges into a species rich basic flush where black bog rush *Schoenus nigricans* becomes abundant. Dense and scattered scrub has developed. There are areas of chalk grassland that grade into the fen grassland. The damp neutral grassland meadows are developing a fen meadow flora. The ditches support a rich aquatic flora.

The water level is controlled within a series of ditches.

Because the fen contains such a wide range of habitats it supports a wide variety of breeding bird species, including hobby, short-eared owl, nightingale and several species of warbler. It also forms the winter roosting for hen harriers.

Management and ownership

Both the site and surrounding areas are privately owned. Part of the site is under unspecified tenure. The site is mainly used for nature conservation

The site is actively managed by Natural England through regular cutting and grazing with cattle. Encroaching scrub is being removed to restore fen where appropriate. A water compensation scheme has been instituted to ameliorate the effects of water abstraction. The Environment Agency monitors groundwater changes in the aquifer.

Access

There are rights of way across the site. Access away from the paths is by permit only. The nearest car parking is in the villages of Fordham or Chippenham.

There is a low level of usage by local inhabitants using the rights of way through the middle of the site according to the Ramsar information sheet. Few people apply for permits for recreational purposes, they are mainly requested by naturalists.

Current conditions

In October 2011 it was reported that 100% of the area is now meeting the PSA target. 72.65% of the area is in favourable condition and 27.35% in unfavourable recovering condition. Previous reports showed that 85.41% of the area was meeting the PSA target.

Chippenham Fen NNR has suffered from a changed hydrological regime due to abstraction from the underlying chalk aquifer. This problem is being addressed through supply of supplementary water together with a programme of vegetation and invertebrate population monitoring. This project is being taken forward by Natural England, the Environment Agency and Anglian Water Services plc.

Vulnerability

There is considerable pressure in the region from the water abstraction that may affect the local springs and aquifer.

The habitats within the site are highly sensitive to inorganic fertilisers and pesticides, applications of which should be avoided both within the site itself and in adjacent surrounding areas.

3. WOODWALTON FEN

Location

This fen is in Huntingdonshire District.

Area: 229.7 ha.

Reason for Ramsar allocation

- Criterion 1 – The site is within an area of one of the remaining parts of East Anglia which has not been drained;
- Criterion 2 – The site supports two species from the British Red Data Book for plants, fen violet and fen wood rush.

Site description

This fen holds a range of wetland plant communities once characteristic of large areas of the East Anglian fens. The site was once a raised bog associated with the former Whittlesey Mere and was dug for peat in the late 19th century when most of the acidic peat was removed, exposing the underlying fen peat. The vegetation of the area today largely reflects this historical use of the site. The open fen and swamp communities represented are of several types. A relict of the acid peat holds stands of purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* with ling *Calluna vulgaris*, bog myrtle *Myrica gale*, tormentil *Potentilla erecta* and the saw sedge *Cladium mariscus*. A further swamp community is dominated by purple small-reed *Calamagrostis epigejos*. Mixed fen covers a significant part of the site. This vegetation community is floristically rich and contains species such as meadow rue *Thalictrum flavum*, yellow iris *Iris pseudacorus*, swamp meadow-grass *Poa palustris* and great water dock *Rumex hydrolapathum*. Rare fen plants such as the fen wood-rush *Luzula pallescens* and fen violet *Viola persicifolia* occur.

Of particular note is the network of ditches on the site and these hold many water plants that are now relatively uncommon in Britain including bladderwort *Urticularia vulgaris* and water violet *Hottonia palustris*. In addition, two meres have been dug in order to increase the area of standing water on the site and these have proved valuable for aquatic plant and animal communities. Further habitats of significance on the site include marshy grassland, birch and alder woodland and fen carr. The carr is varied in composition and contains willow *Salix* spp., blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, birch *betula* spp and guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*.

The whole site is a patchwork of wetland communities, providing a habitat for many uncommon plant and insect species-a number of which are confined to East Anglia.

Management and ownership

The site was purchased by Hon Charles Rothschild in 1910 and donated to the Society for the Promotion of Nature Reserves (now the Royal Society for Nature Conservation) in 1919. Since the 1950s the pro-active management of the site has sought to reverse the drying out process and therefore conserve this crucial fenland habitat. The site is leased from the Wildlife Trust to Natural England.

The effective monitoring and maintenance of water levels underlies the Fen ecology and is crucial for the success of all other management practices. A Water Level Management Plan

has been implemented and the site is flooded in winter in time of high water flows thus protecting low-lying farmland. However as a consequence nutrient levels in the water can be high due to agricultural runoff. Water inflows and outflows are strictly controlled. In the 1980s clay sealed banks were constructed around the perimeter of the reserve, this isolated water levels on the fen from that of the surrounding area.

The Great Fen project aims to link this nature reserve with Holme Fen.

Access

Parking is limited at this site – some being available alongside the Great Raveley Drain. There are three marked trails around the fen following the rides. Woodwalton Fen has not been a permit only site since around 2003. Although members of the public no longer require Natural England's permission to access the site, there remains in force restricted access to some areas and a no dog policy is maintained.

Current condition

The site is meeting 97.91% of its PSA target. 53.28% of the area is in favourable condition and 44.63% is unfavourable recovering, 2.09% is favourable with no change. In 2008 the site was meeting 100% of the PSA target so there is slight decline in the sites condition.

Woodwalton Fen takes water in the summer months from the surrounding drains. In the winter months the fen is designed to be used as a flood storage area, although this occurs infrequently. As a consequence nutrient levels in the water can be high due to agricultural runoff. Water inflows and outflows are strictly controlled. In the 1980s clay sealed banks were constructed around the perimeter of the reserve, this isolated water levels on the fen from that of the surrounding area.

Vulnerability

Woodwalton Fen takes water in the summer months from the surrounding drains. In the winter months the fen is designed to be used as a flood storage area, although this occurs infrequently. In both these circumstances the water entering the Fen is high in nutrients from agricultural run-off. It is intended to undertake research to investigate what effects the flooding may be having on the site's interests. The quality of the water from agricultural run off needs to be monitored

NAME: OUSE WASHES

Designation and Code

Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Site – UK0013011. The boundaries of the Ramsar site as extended are coincident with those of the Ouse Washes SSSI.

Location

This site is located in East Cambridgeshire, Fenland and West Norfolk Districts.

Grid reference Centroid: TL498895

Area: 2,403 ha. (Ramsar site and SSI site): 311.35 ha. (SAC site).

Primary reason for selection of this site as SAC

Spined loach *Cobitis taenia* – This site is only one of four known outstanding localities in the UK.

Conservation objective:

To maintain, in favourable condition, the habitats for the populations of species (Bewicks swan, whooper swan, hen harrier, spotted crake, and ruff) migratory species of European importance (widgeon, gadwall, pintail, shoveler, pochard and black-tailed Godwit) and wintering waterfowl assemblage of European importance, with particular reference to grassland / marshy grassland with ditches and open water.

Also to maintain in favourable condition the habitat for spined loach.

General site characteristics

Inland water bodies (standing water, running water) (50%)

Bogs Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (20%)

Improved grassland (30%)

Soil and Geology – Alluvium Clay, Neutral, Peat

Geomorphology and Landscape – Floodplain, Lowland

Site Description

The Ouse Washes represent spined loach *Cobitis taenia* populations within the River Ouse catchment. The Counter Drain with its clear water and abundant macrophytes is particularly important and a healthy population of spined loach is known to occur.

The site is an area of seasonally flooded washlands habitat managed in a traditional agricultural manner. The washlands support nationally and internationally important numbers of wintering waterfowl and nationally important numbers of breeding waterfowl. The site is also of note for the large area of unimproved neutral grassland communities, which it holds,

and for the richness of the aquatic flora within the associated watercourses.

Reasons for identification as a Ramsar Site

The Ouse Washes Ramsar site and its proposed extension is a wetland of major international importance comprising seasonally flooded washlands, which are agriculturally managed in a traditional manner. It provides breeding and winter habitats for important assemblages of wetland bird species, particularly wildfowl and waders.

- Ramsar Criterion 1a - The site qualifies by being a particularly good representative example of a natural or near-natural wetland characteristic of its biogeographical region. It is one of the most extensive areas of seasonally flooding washland of its type in Britain, and the wetland has high conservation value for many plant and animal groups.
- Ramsar Criterion 2a - The site qualifies by supporting a number of rare species of plants and animals. The site holds several nationally scarce plants, including the whorled water-milfoil *Myriophyllum verticillatum*, greater water parsnip *Sium latifolium*, river water-dropwort *Oenanthe fluviatilis*, fringed water-lily *Nymphoides peltata*, long stalked pondweed *Potamogeton praelongus*, hair-like pondweed *Potamogeton trichoides*, grass-wrack pondweed *Potamogeton compressus*, tasteless water-pepper *Polygonum mite*, small water-pepper *Polygonum minus* and marsh dock *Rumex palustris*. Invertebrate records indicate that the site holds a good relict fenland fauna for several groups, reflecting the diversity of wetland habitats. Two rare Red Data Book insects have been recorded, the large darter dragonfly *Libellula fulva* and the riffle beetle *Oulimnius major*.
- Ramsar Criterion 2a - The Ouse Washes also qualifies by supporting a diverse assemblage of rare breeding waterfowl associated with seasonally flooding wet grassland. This includes breeding migratory waders of lowland wet grassland: oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, redshank *Tringa totanus*, snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, ruff *Phdomachus pugnax*, lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, and black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa* and a diverse assemblage of breeding wildfowl with mute swan *Cygnus olor*, shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, gadwall *Anas strepera*, teal *A. crecca*, mallard *A. platyrytynchus*, pintail *A. acuta*, garganey *A. querquedula*, shoveler *A. clypeata*, pochard *Aythya ferina*, tufted duck *Aythya fuligulaa*, moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* and coot *Fulica atra* occurring regularly. Many of these species are rare and much restricted in Britain and the European Community owing to habitat loss and degradation. The site thus has an important role in maintaining the ranges of several of these species, which have been affected by changes in habitat elsewhere in Britain. Breeding gadwall, mallard, garganey, shoveler and bar-tailed godwit are all present in nationally important numbers.
- Ramsar Criterion 5 - The Ouse Washes qualifies as a wetland of international importance by virtue of regularly supporting over 20,000 waterfowl, with an average peak count of 60,950 birds recorded in the five winter periods 1986/7 to 1990/91.
- Ramsar Criterion 6 - The Ouse Washes also qualifies by supporting, in winter, internationally important populations of the following species (figures given are average peak counts for the five winter period 1986/87 - 1990/91): 4,980 Bewick's

swan *Cygnus columbarius bewicki* (29% of the north-west European wintering population); 590 whooper swans *Cygnus cygnus* (3% of the international population); 38,000 wigeon *Anas penelope* (5% of the north-west European population); 4,100 teal *A. crecca* (1% of NW European); 1,450 pintail *Anas acuta* (2% NW European); and 750 shoveler *Anas clypeata* (2% of NW European). Also notable are the following nationally important wintering populations: 270 cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (2% of the British wintering population); 490 mute swan *Cygnus olor* (3% of British); 320 gadwall *Anas strepera* (5% of British); 2,100 pochard *Aythya ferina* (4% of British); 860 tufted duck *Aythya fuligula* (1 % of British); and 2,320 coot *Fulica atra*.

During severe winter weather elsewhere, the Ouse Washes can assume even greater national and international importance as wildfowl and waders from many other areas arrive, attracted by the relatively mild climate, compared with continental European areas, and the abundant food resources available.

The continued international importance of this site is dependant on the maintenance of a winter flooding regime and a high, but controlled summer water table.

Reasons for identification as a Special Protection Area

The Ouse Washes Ramsar site and the Special Protection Area is a wetland of major international importance comprising seasonally flooded wash lands, which are agriculturally managed in a traditional manner. It provides breeding and winter habitats for important assemblages of wetland bird species, particularly wildfowl and waders.

The boundaries of the Special Protection Area are coincident with those of the Ouse Washes SSSI, apart from the exclusion of a section of the Old Bedford River in the north of the SSSI.

The Ouse Washes qualifies under Article 4.1 of the EC Birds Directive by supporting, in summer, a nationally important breeding population of ruff *Philomachus pugnax* species. In recent years an average of 57 individuals have been recorded, a significant proportion of the British population.

The site also qualifies under Article 4.1 by regularly supporting internationally or nationally important wintering populations of three species. During the five year period 1986/87 to 1990/91, the following average peak counts were recorded: 4,980 Bewick's swan *Cygnus columbarius bewickii* (29% of the north-west European wintering population, 70% of the British wintering population), and 590 whooper swans *Cygnus cygnus* (3% of the international population, 10% of British). In addition, between 1982-87 an average of 12 wintering hen harrier *Circus cyaneus* was recorded, representing 2% of the British wintering population.

The Ouse Washes qualifies under Article 4.2 by supporting, in summer, in recent years, nationally important breeding populations of five migratory species: 111 pairs of gadwall *Anas strepera* (20% of the British breeding population); 850 pairs of mallard *Anas platyrhynchos* (2% of British); 14 pairs of garganey *Anas querquedula* (20% of British), 155 pairs of shoveler *A. clypeata* (12% of British), and 26 pairs of black-tailed godwits *Limosa limosa* (44% of British).

The site further qualifies under Article 42 as a wetland of international importance by virtue of regularly supporting over 20,000 waterfowl, with an average peak count of 60,950 birds recorded in the five winter period 1986/1 to 1990/91. This total included-internationally or nationally important wintering populations of the following migratory waterfowl (figures given are average peak counts for the five winter period 1986/87 - 1990/91): 270 cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo* (296 of the British wintering population); 490 mute swan *Cygnus olor* (3% of British); 38,000 wigeon *Anas penelope* (596 of the north-west European population, 1596 of British); 320 gadwall *Anas strepera* (5% of British); 4,100 teal *A. crecca* (1% of NW European, 4% of British); 1,450 pintail *Anas acuta* (2% NW European, 6% of British); 750 shoveler *Anas clypeata* (2% of NW European, 8% of British); 2,100 pochard *Aythya ferina* (4% of British); 860 tufted duck *Aythya fuligula* (1% of British); and 2,320 coot *Fulica atra* (1% of British).

The site also qualifies under Article 4.2 by virtue of regularly supporting, in summer, a diverse assemblage of the breeding migratory waders of lowland wet grassland including: oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, redshank *Tringa totanus*, snipe *Gallinago gallinago*, Ruff *Philomachus pugnax*, lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*, and black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa*; and a diverse assemblage of breeding wildfowl with mute swan *Cygnus olor*, shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*, gadwall *Anas strepera*, teal *A. crecca*, mallard *A. platyrhynchos*, pintail *A. acuta*, garganey *A. querquedula*, shoveler *A. clypeata*, pochard *Aythya ferina*, tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*, moorhen *Gallinula chloropus* and coot *Fulica atra* occurring regularly. Many of these species are rare and much restricted in Britain and the European Community owing to habitat loss and degradation. The site thus has an important role in maintaining the ranges of several of these species, which have been affected by changes in habitat elsewhere in Britain.

During severe winter weather elsewhere, the Ouse Washes can assume even greater national and international importance as wildfowl and waders from many other areas arrive, attracted by the relatively mild climate, compared with continental European areas, and the abundant food resources available.

The continued international importance of this site is dependant on the maintenance of a winter flooding regime and a high, but controlled summer water table.

Management and ownership

Given the extent of the Ouse Washes there are a number of management techniques that need to be carried out in the washes. Wetland grassland requires active management if it is to retain its conservation interest this has traditionally been done by grazing. Partial winter flooding is required to maintain suitable habitat conditions for wintering birds. A mosaic of winter flooded grassland and permanently un-flooded grassland is desirable. Ditches are artificial habitats created by land drainage – if left unmanaged silt accumulates in the bottom of the ditches leading to the loss of the range of aquatic plants and animals colonising the ditches. There needs to be a rotation undertaken on ditch management. Also the level of water in the ditches and its quality needs to be regulated to maintain the optimum level for the plant and animal community. All the habitats are highly sensitive to inorganic fertilisers and pesticides.

Access

There is a network of public rights of way in the Washes. The RSPB manage a nature

reserve at Welches Dam where there is a visitor centre and a number of bird hides. The WWT manage a nature reserve at Welney, Norfolk also with a centre and hides.

Current condition

Assessment work was carried out in 2003 and at this time many of the units that comprise the Washes were in an unfavourable state. Only 12.93% of the site meets the PSA target. The water quality regularly failed to meet total Phosphorus target of 0.1mg/l. Until this can be remedied the site will continue to remain unfavourable.

Vulnerability

Two independent and parallel rivers comprise the SAC. The Counter Drain / Old Bedford (known also as the outer river) drains adjacent farmland. The Old Bedford / Delph (known also as the inner river) is sourced by the River Great Ouse. During the winter and increasingly during the spring and summer months as well, the inner river takes flood-water from the Great Ouse, and therefore has an important flood defence function. Issues of concern relate to water quantity, water quality, salinity, turbidity and sediment.

The need to ensure there is sufficient water for the rivers is addressed through the Water Level Management Plan agreed by the Environment Agency and partner organisations. The outer river is also a source of water for nearby arable land forming spray irrigation, but this abstraction is unmetered for the most part. Abstraction of water from the Great Ouse system to Essex via the Ely-Ouse Transfer Scheme is monitored through the Denver License Variation. Other proposals for water abstraction, e.g. to Rutland Water by Anglia Water, have been the subject of assessment, but there are no current proposals.

It has been found that in the Environment Agency Review of Consents that there was very little difference between the different abstraction scenarios in terms of water resource availability to the Ouse Washes. The water table depth ranges are, therefore, relatively similar between the different scenarios i.e. there is little between the naturalised and current and maximum licensed scenarios. Therefore abstraction licences have no effect on the vegetation supporting the SPA features under the existing operating regime. Therefore the Agency concluded that water resources consents do not adversely affect the integrity of the European site, with respect to SPA features.

Water quality is a major issue of concern. Increases in two plant nutrients - nitrogen and particularly phosphorus (thought to be derived from sewage treatment works) - are leading to changes in the macrophyte communities, shown by a decline in species diversity and the loss of species together with an increase in species tolerant of eutrophic conditions. This is particularly apparent in the inner river. There is evidence that agricultural inputs are a minor component. In addition, blanket-weed (aquatic algae) poses problems to navigation and angling, leading to issues of timing and frequency of aquatic weed-cutting.

It is clear from the Environment Agency Review of Consents process that high phosphorus concentrations are currently the main issue for the Ouse Washes leading to eutrophication in the main watercourses and internal ditches and degradation of the wet grassland habitat. From all of the available evidence, phosphorus levels are above the desired target level, in some cases by a considerable amount. The main contribution to the phosphorus load comes from consented point source discharges of sewage effluent.

In addition, flood water draining off the adjacent Ouse Washes into the inner river can be of a very poor quality (particularly in warm weather) leading to problems of deoxygenation with resultant fish-kills. The frequency of increased spring and summer flooding on the Ouse Washes is currently being studied to ascertain ways of ameliorating its effects.

Saline intrusion through the northernmost tidal lock gate may be contributing to an increase in salinity levels of the outer river.

Conditions must be applied to planning permissions for gravel extraction from quarries near to the SAC, to ensure that drainage water from de-watering and washings does not affect the turbidity and sediment levels in the outer river.

NAME: PORTHOLME

Designation and Code

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – UK0030054.

Location

This site is within Huntingdonshire District.

Grid reference Centroid: TL 237708 **Area:** 91.93 ha.

Primary reason for selection of this site

Lowland hay meadows *Alopecurus pratensis* *Sanguisorba officinalis* – considered to be one of the best areas in UK.

Conservation objectives

To maintain in favourable condition the lowland hay meadow.

General site characteristics

Humid grassland (100%)

Soil and geology – Alluvial, Neutral

Geomorphology and landscape – Floodplain, Lowland.

Species

Alopecurus pratensis and *Sanguisorba officinalis* - This large site represents lowland hay meadows in eastern England. It is the largest surviving traditionally-managed meadow in the UK, with an area of 104 ha of alluvial flood meadow (7% of the total UK resource). There has been a long history of favourable management and very little of the site has suffered from agricultural improvement, and so it demonstrates good conservation of structure and function. It supports a small population of fritillary *Fritillaria meleagris*. *Libellula fulva* is also present.

Site Description

It is the largest surviving traditionally managed meadow in the UK with an area of 104 ha of alluvial flood meadow (7% of the total UK resource). It is almost completely surrounded by water. There has been a long history of favourable management on traditional lines as a 'lammas' meadow and very little of the site has suffered from agricultural improvement, and so it demonstrates good conservation of structure and function. It supports a small population of fritillary (*Fritillaria meleagris*). Watercourses on the periphery of the site have populations of some uncommon invertebrates including one dragonfly, which is of a nationally restricted distribution. It is considered to be one of the best areas for this in the United Kingdom.

The grassland communities are characterised by the presence of such grasses as Yorkshire fog *Holcus lanatus*, yellow oat-grass *Trisetum flavescens*, meadow foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*, and meadow fescue *Festuca pratensis*. The range of herbs present, typical of such meadows, includes lady's bedstraw *Galium verum*, pepper-saxifrage *Silaum silaus* and great burnet *Sanguisorba officinalis*. A number of locally rare and one nationally rare plant are also present.

Channels of the River Ouse surround the meadow, and the Alconbury Brook is close by. These water bodies are important for dragonflies (*Odonata*) in particular the restricted dragonfly *Libellula fulva*.

Large flocks of waders use this site in winter.

Management and ownership

The London Anglers Association owns the site and is advised on the management of the site by Natural England.

Neutral grassland requires active management if it is to retain its conservation interest. In order to maintain a species rich sward, each year's growth of vegetation must be removed; otherwise the sward becomes progressively dominated by tall and vigorous grasses. These, together with an associated build up of dead plant matter, suppress less vigorous species and reduce the botanical diversity of the site.

The traditional management of this site, which still continues, is by cutting for hay followed by grazing of the aftermath in later summer until the autumn. In winter and early spring Portholme is inundated by floodwaters. This provides natural fertilising of the soil and it is this seasonal flooding coupled with the traditional management that maintains the diversity of the natural plant communities.

The Environment Agency carried out drainage improvements on Portholme Meadow, Huntingdon, in September 2010 to help re-establish rare types of grassland that had been found to be not in good condition. This unfavourable condition was due to the amount of curled dock present. Curled dock is an invasive weed which degrades the quality of the natural grassland. Floodwater ponding had caused deterioration in the vegetation community and these inappropriate water levels had resulted in the changes to the meadows. The plan by the Environment Agency has allowed the floodwater to drain off more quickly from the affected area and reduce the curled dock populations, allowing the desired grassland communities to re-establish. The works also improved the site's ability to adapt to climate change.

In the past MAFF (the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food) had sponsored dipwell monitoring of the meadows. Water table levels are vital to the management of this site. Currently no monitoring is being carried out. Anglian Water Services (AWS) is required to produce a statutory water company drought plan under the requirements of the new s39B of the Water Industry Act 1991 as introduced by the Water Act 2003. For each site, potential changes arising from the drought actions have been identified and the existence and adequacy of current monitoring programmes has been provisionally assessed. For the most part, existing monitoring is adequate for monitoring the effects of the drought actions. In relation to Portholme it recommends in the 2006 Drought Plan the following:

'One site (Portholme Meadow) has been monitored in the past and this work is probably sufficient to determine a baseline. However, no monitoring is currently being undertaken. Previous modelling studies suggest that reductions in river water levels are likely to be very small and

are therefore unlikely to have any effect on riparian water table levels in adjacent meadows or water levels in adjacent gravel pits.'

Access

There are three main entrances to the meadow and visitors can walk around the site on the extensive footpaths, which lead off the main entrances. The footpaths form a triangle across the meadow and each footpath is approximately 1.6km in length.

Current condition

The units of the site were assessed in June 2005 and 2006 and it was found to have inappropriate cutting / mowing regimes and inappropriate weed control. The site was not meeting the PSA target at all. 90.92% of the area was seen to be unfavourable but remaining unchanged i.e. not in decline.

By November 2010 there was an improvement, the site was recorded as meeting 100% of the PSA target in an unfavourable recovering condition. The latest report compiled by Natural England in November 2011 indicates that the site is meeting 100% of its PSA targets and that it is favourably recovering. The last survey of the site was carried out in June 2011. It would appear that the drainage improvement works carried out by the Environment Agency has had a positive impact.

Vulnerability

The site is a large area of alluvial flood meadow which has had a long history of favourable management and, therefore, demonstrates good conservation of structure and function. Traditionally the site is cut for hay followed by aftermath grazing in late summer and autumn. Part of the site is subject to a Countryside Stewardship agreement aimed at maintaining the alluvial flood meadow. The Environment Agency has produced a Water Level Management plan which aims to maintain the current water level management regime in the long-term and recommends improvements in data collection on water levels and flooding frequency. The recommendations will be incorporated in the relevant Local Environment Agency Plan (due to go to consultation in 1999).

Without a controlled management plan the site will not retain its conservation interest. The improvement in drainage carried out by the Environment Agency shows how the correct management can greatly improve an area's biodiversity.

NAME: BRECKLAND

Designation and Code

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) – UK0019865

Special Protection Area (SPA) – UK9009201

Although covering much of the same land the boundary of the SAC is not contiguous with that of the SAP.

Location

This site is within Forest Heath in Suffolk and Kings Lynn and West Norfolk District in Norfolk.

Grid reference Centroid: TL862948 **Area:** SPA – 39433.65 ha; SAC – 7548.06 ha

Primary reason for selection of this site for SAC

- Inland dunes with open *Corynephorus* and *Agrostis* grasslands.
- Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition-type vegetation
- European dry heaths
- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland species on calcareous substrates (*Festuco-Brometalia*).

Other qualifying features:

The area is considered to support a significant presence of Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*)

The area is considered to support a significant presence of *Triturus cristatus* (great crested newt)

General site characteristics

Inland water bodies (0.5%)

Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (1%)

Dry grassland (59.4%)

Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. *Phygrana* (20%)

Improved grassland (0.2%)

Other arable land (0.1%)

Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (9%)

Coniferous woodland (4%)

Inland rocks. Scree. Sands. Permanent snow and ice (0.5%)

Other land (0.3%)

Site Description

Wangford Warren and adjoining parts of RAF Lakenheath are included in the Breckland site as the only occurrence of this habitat type in the UK. The site has one of the best-preserved systems of active inland sand dunes in the UK. The habitat type, which is in part characterised by the nationally rare grey hair-grass *Corynephorus canescens* occurring here at its only inland station, is associated with open conditions with active sand movement. The site shows the colonization sequence from open sand to acidic grass-heath.

The Breckland meres in Norfolk represent natural eutrophic lakes in the east of England. They are examples of hollows within glacial outwash deposits and are fed by water from the underlying chalk aquifer. Natural fluctuations in groundwater tables mean that these lakes

occasionally dry out. The flora is dominated by stonewort – pondweed *Characeae* – *Potamogetonaceae* associations.

The dry heaths of Breckland are representative of European dry heaths in East Anglia, in eastern England, developed under a semi-continental climate. Breckland has an average annual precipitation of only 600mm, relatively hot summers and cool winters. Frosts can occur in any month of the year. The dry acidic heath of Breckland represents H1 *Calluna vulgaris* – *Festuca ovina* heath in the SAC series. The sand sedge dominated *Carex arenaria* sub-community (H1d) is typical of areas of blown sand – a very unusual feature of this location.

The highly variable soils of Breckland, with underlying chalk being largely covered with wind-blown sands, have resulted in mosaics of heather -dominated heathland, acidic grassland and calcareous grassland that are unlike those of any other site. In many places there is a linear or patterned distribution of heath and grassland, arising from fossilised soil patterns that formed under peri-glacial conditions. Breckland is important for rare plants, such as perennial knawel *Scleranthus perennis* ssp. *prostrates*, and rare invertebrates.

Breckland in East Anglia is the most extensive surviving area of the rare grassland type CG7 *Festuca ovina* – *Hieracium pilosella* – *Thymus praecox* grassland. The grassland is rich in rare species typical of dry, winter-cold, continental areas, and approaches the features of grassland types in central Europe more than almost any other semi-dry grassland found in the UK. The terrain is relatively flat, with few physical variations, but there are mosaics of calcareous grassland and heath/acid grassland, giving rise to patterns of structural variation.

Current Condition:

In recent decades, scrub and woodland have spread at the expense of the heathland and chalk grassland vegetation due to the cessation of traditional cutting and grazing management. Management agreements and particularly Environmentally Sensitive Area payments go part of the way towards re-introducing this largely uneconomical traditional management, and controlling the scrub. Strong populations of rabbits are important in maintaining the Breckland swards.

Vulnerability:

Grazing by sheep/cattle is essential to the maintenance of habitats. Problems include nutrient deposition from the atmosphere and adjacent arable land, invasion by self sown trees/shrubs, and uncontrolled and inappropriate recreational activities. Local ground water abstraction has a deleterious impact on the natural eutrophic lakes, the Breckland meres, and is the subject of active liaison between English Nature and the Environment Agency.

Reasons for identification as a Special Protection Area:

During the breeding season the area regularly supports:

Burhinus oediconemus (Western Europe - breeding)- 60.1% of the GB breeding population of stone curlews

Caprimulgus europaeus - 12.2% of the GB breeding population of nightjars. - *Lullula arborea*

- 28.7% of the GB breeding population of woodlarks.

General Site Characteristics:

Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana (0.9%)

Dry Grassland. Steppes (19.7)

Humid grassland. Mesophile Grassland (1.3%)
Improved grassland (0.3%)
Other arable land (31.5%)
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (1.4%)
Coniferous woodland (44.7%)

Vulnerability:

Stone-Curlews are largely reliant on arable land for nesting and are thus vulnerable to disturbance and nest destruction from agricultural operations. Stone curlews require very short vegetation, with abundant patches of bare and stony ground. The bare stony ground provides excellent camouflage for adults, chicks and eggs, whilst the short vegetation allows good visibility for predator avoidance.

The best way to achieve suitable conditions for stone curlews in arable land is to plant spring-sown crops that develop slowly. Autumn sown crops are usually too dense and tall by the spring nesting season. It can be useful to provide a rotation system of a range of spring sown crops that includes summer fallows, thus supplying both nest sites and invertebrate rich areas for foraging. Ideal ploughing times are just before the birds arrive (usually early March) and just before egg laying commences (usually early May). Alternatively, crops that grow too tall for nesting stone-curlew can be treated with herbicide to restore bare ground.

Management agreements are in place to provide nest plots and thus safeguard the population.

Stone-Curlew, Nightjar and Woodlark are vulnerable to predation from corvids¹² and foxes and to disturbance caused by human activity, including dog walking. There should be the absolute minimum of disturbance to breeding stone-curlew, particularly by people on foot within sight of, and up to 500m from nests. In 2005, new public access was introduced on heaths by legislation. Safeguards to protect stone-curlew have been included but the situation will require monitoring to determine how successful restrictions have been in preventing additional disturbance.

Breckland heathlands and acid grasslands supporting stone-curlew, nightjar and woodlark are fragile in terms of the high background levels of air pollution in the area, particularly high nitrogen loads causing undesirable habitat changes. Research on this topic is ongoing, and measures to export the nutrients off heaths (such as night time sheep folding or topsoil stripping) to counter the effects of pollution are potential management options. There are development pressures on the area, particularly for infrastructure, which requires substantial discussion and mitigation in some cases. This is achieved through Natural England commenting on planning applications and providing input to structural and local plans.

Woodlark and nightjar benefit from clear-fell forestry rotational management. Surveys for both woodlark and nightjar were carried out in 2010. The woodlark survey recorded 209 breeding pairs; a figure below 253 would indicate unfavourable condition. The nightjar survey recorded 240 churring males; a figure below 311 would indicate unfavourable condition. The appropriate management is currently taking place in the forests carried out by the Forestry Commission (FC). The FC's Design Plan for the Breckland Forest area indicates that there has not been a change in the extent of the habitat and therefore a programme of research

¹² Corvids; Crows, jays, magpies, ravens, jackdaws and rooks all belong to the Family of birds called Corvidae.

and experimental management is underway to determine the cause of the population changes with a commitment from FC to adopt management practices to meet population target.

Collecting of eggs of stone-curlew, and to some extent night jar and woodlark, is believed to be a serious threat to individual birds and to population size. The loss of eggs to this illegal activity is unknown. There is a police-based alert system in place in Breckland to try and reduce this type of crime, and landowners are vigilant.

Current condition of Breckland farmland

The report compiled by Natural England in November 2011 showed that 100% of the PSA target is being met for the numerous units that make up the Breckland Farmland SSSI – all are in a favourable condition.

The condition of the units making up the Breckland Forest SSSI area also is meeting 100% of the PSA target although the condition is described as unfavourable recovering due to the reduction in the number of stone curlews and nightjars found in the 2010 survey.

Appendix 3: Maps

Map 2: Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC

Map 3: Devil's Dyke SAC

Map 4: Fenland SAC and Wicken Fen RAMSAR site

Map 5: Fenland SAC and Chippenham Fen RAMSAR site

Map 6: Fenland SAC and Woodwalton Fen RAMSAR site

Map 7: Ouse Washes RAMSAR, SAC and SPA (part of site)

Map 8: Ouse Washes RAMSAR, SAC and SPA (part of site)

Map 9: Portholme SAC

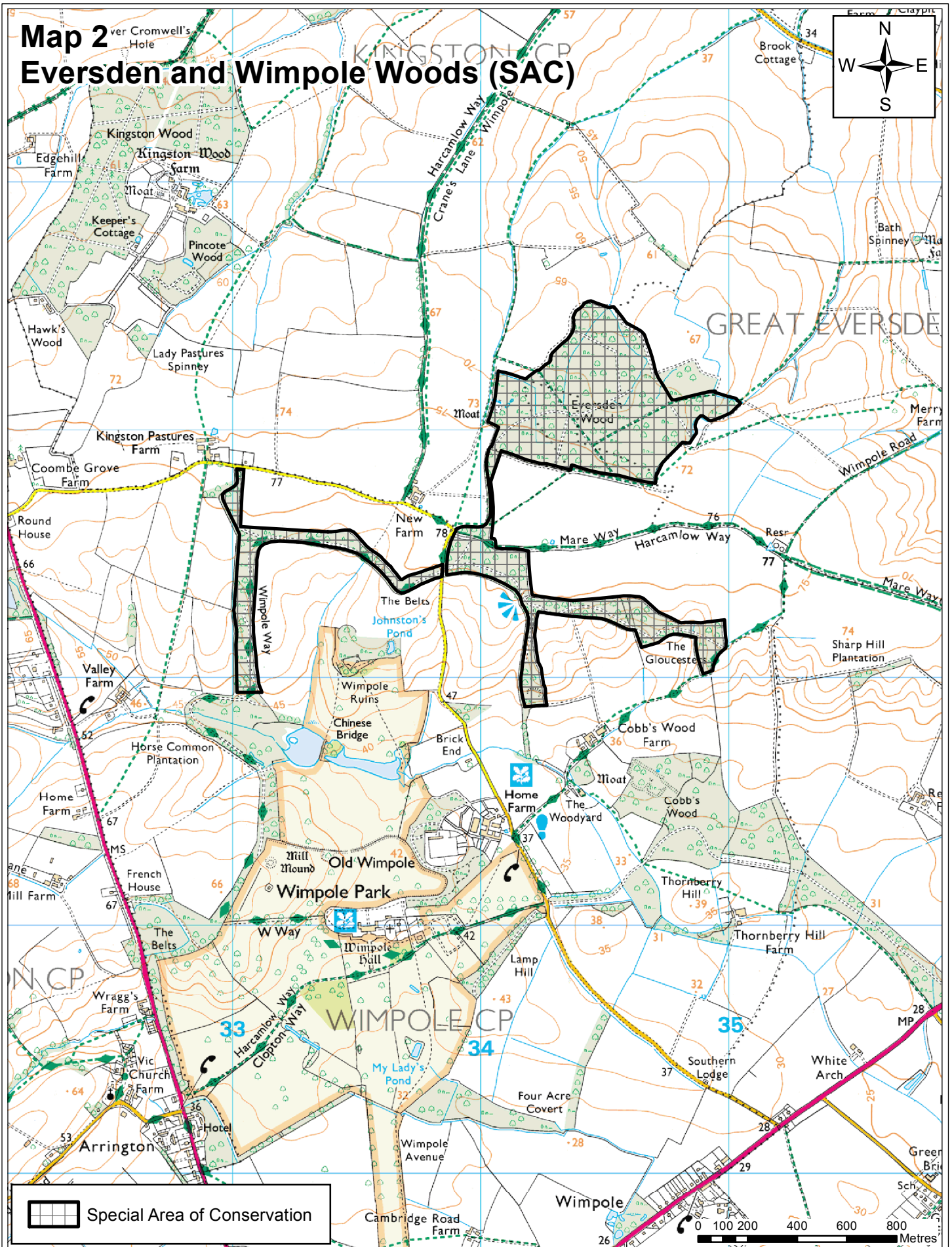
Map 10: Breckland SAC and SPA

Map 11: Special Areas of Conservation and proximity to Cambridge City Council Boundary

Map 12: Special Protection Areas and proximity to Cambridge City Council Boundary

Map 13: RAMSAR sites and proximity to Cambridge City Council Boundary

Map 2 Eversden and Wimpole Woods (SAC)



 Special Area of Conservation

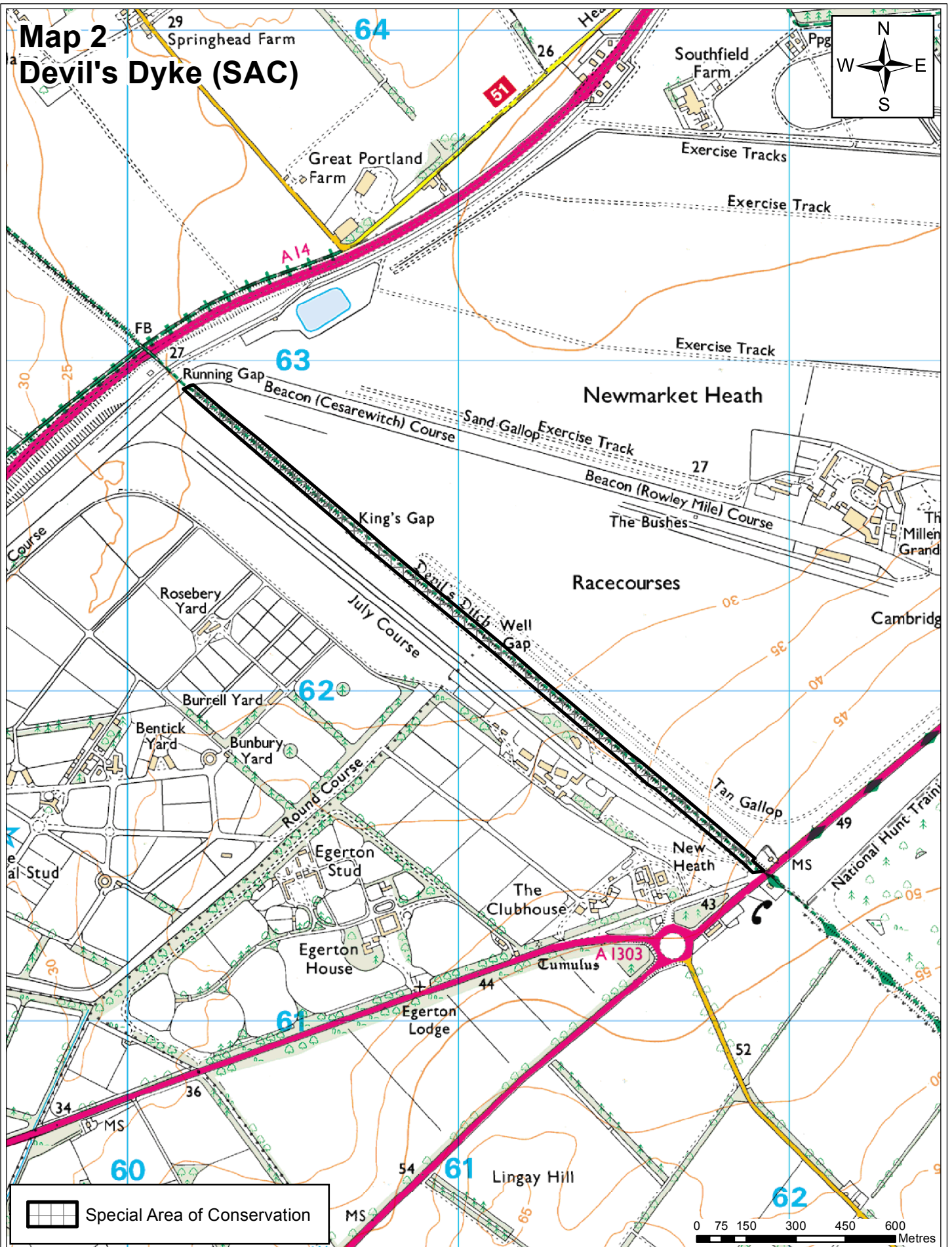



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Map 2 Devil's Dyke (SAC)



 Special Area of Conservation

0 75 150 300 450 600 Metres

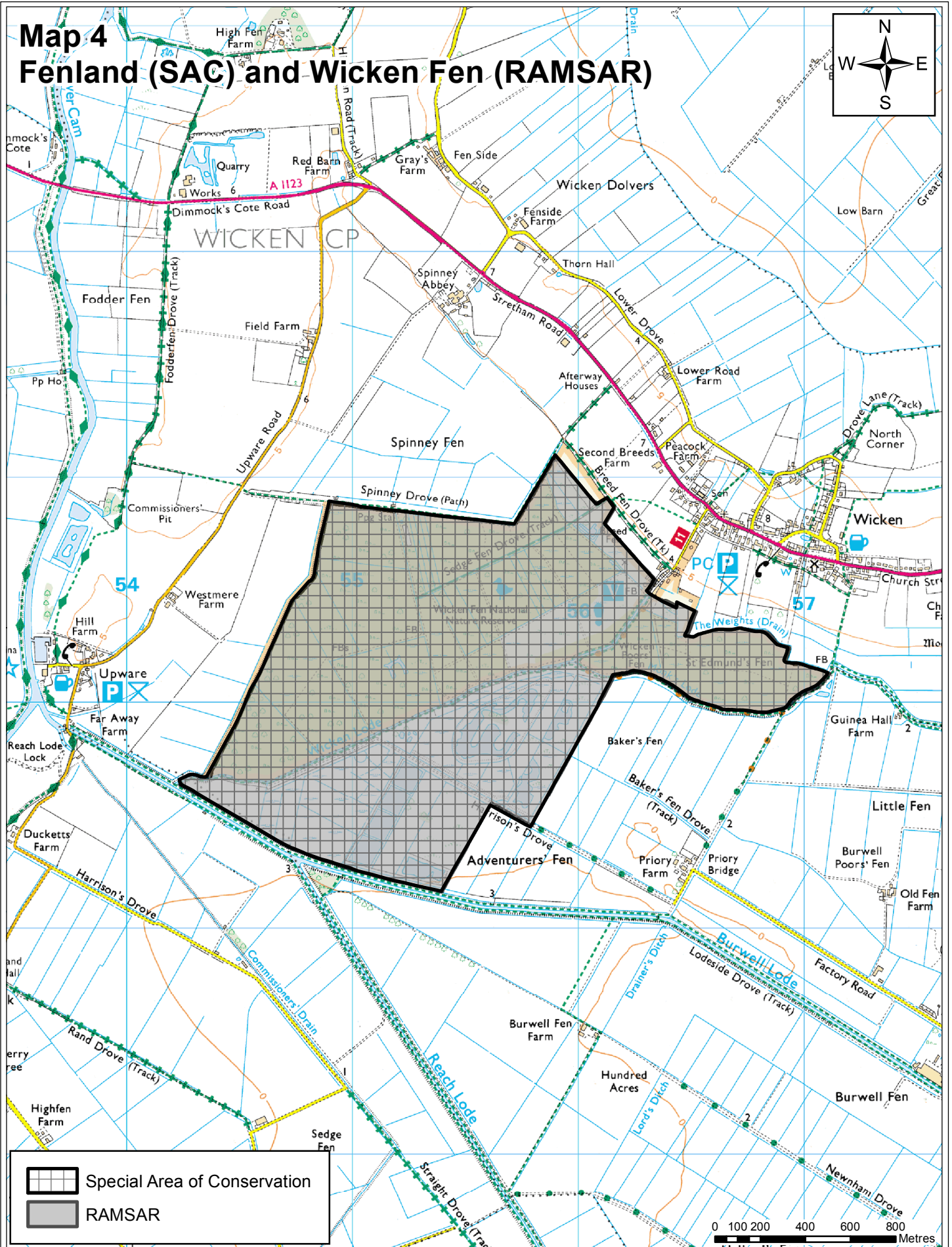
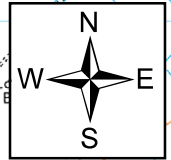


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Map 4 Fenland (SAC) and Wicken Fen (RAMSAR)

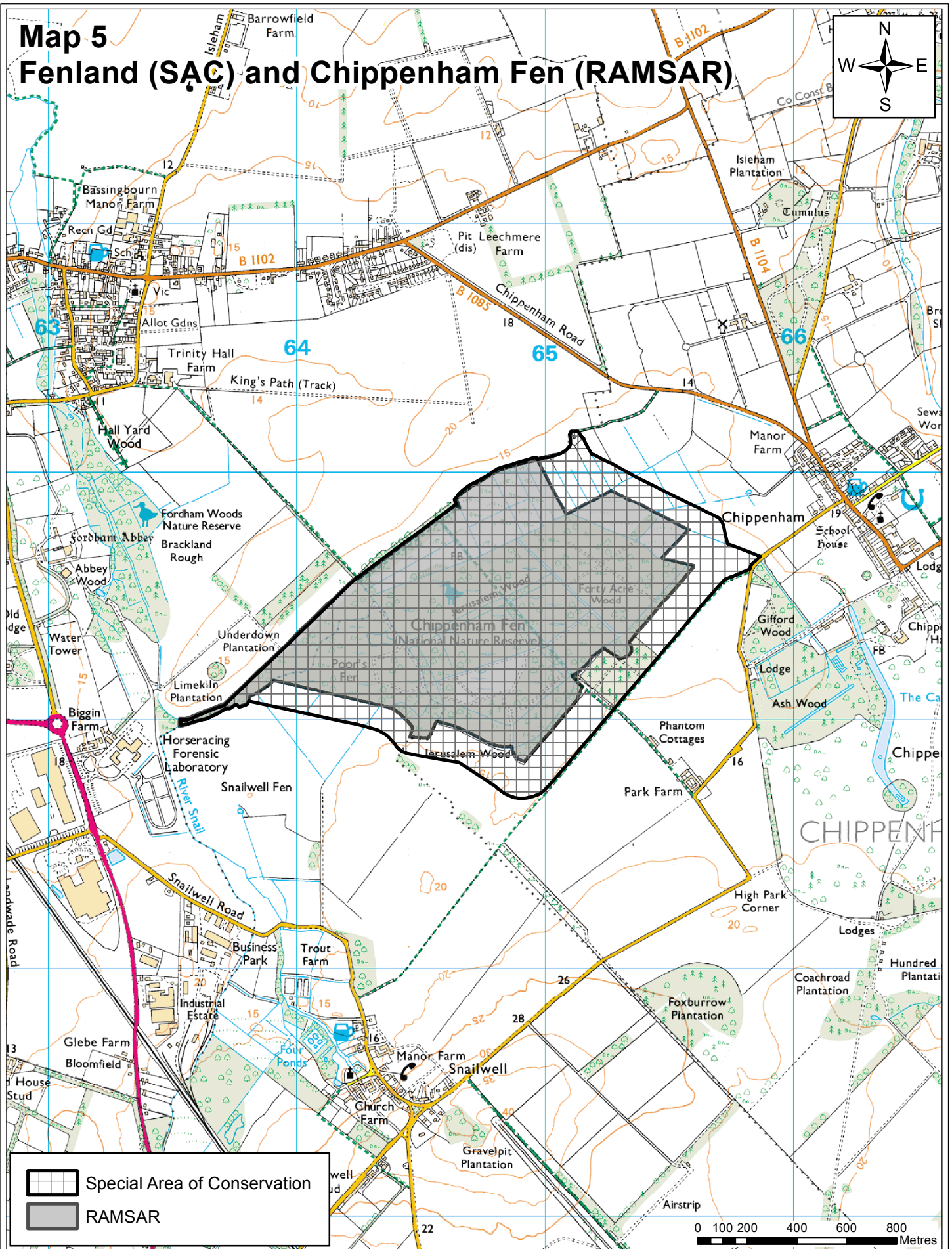


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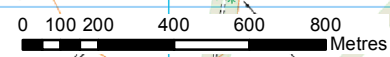
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Map 5 Fenland (SAC) and Chippenham Fen (RAMSAR)



	Special Area of Conservation
	RAMSAR

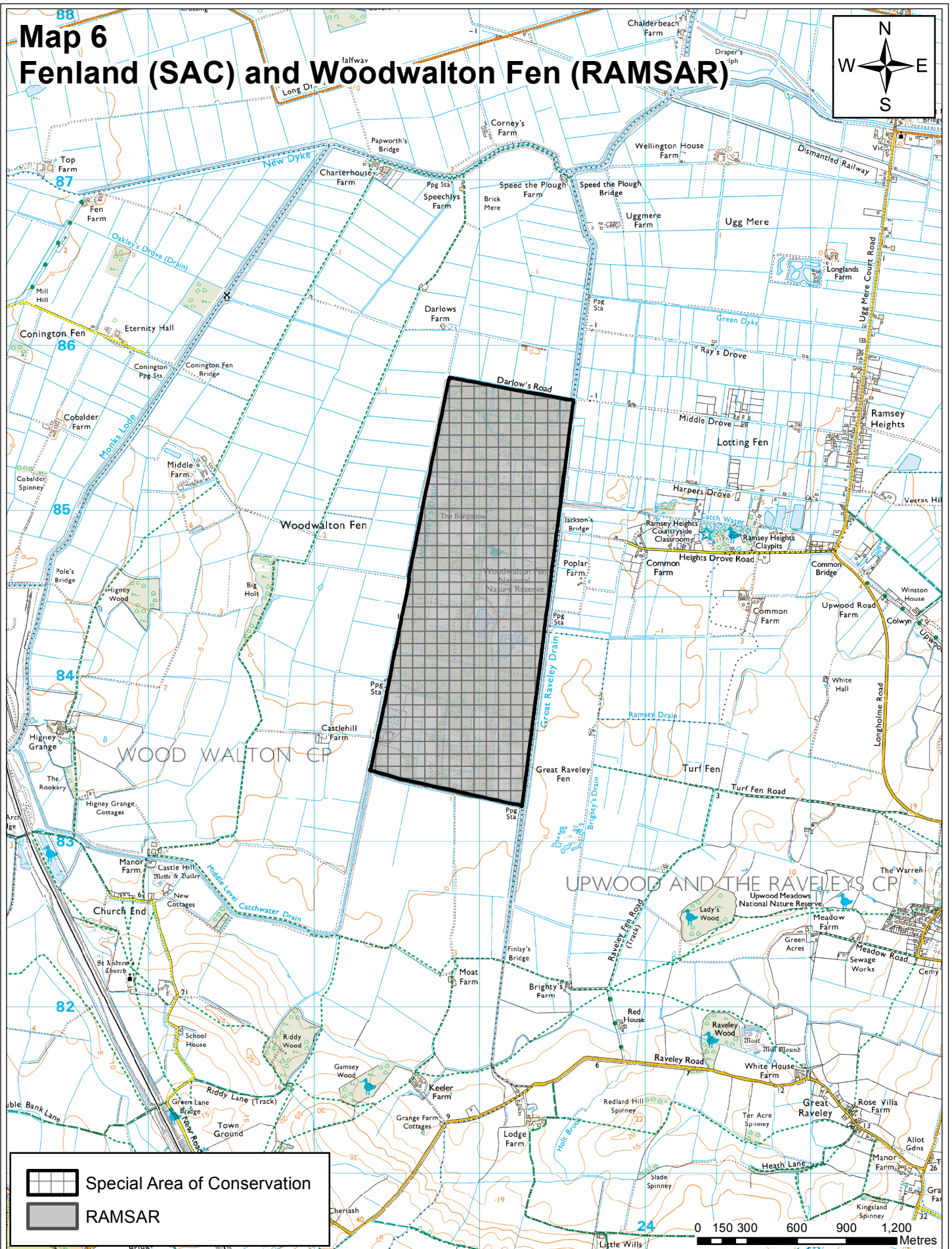
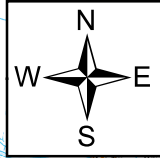


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Map 6 Fenland (SAC) and Woodwalton Fen (RAMSAR)



	Special Area of Conservation
	RAMSAR

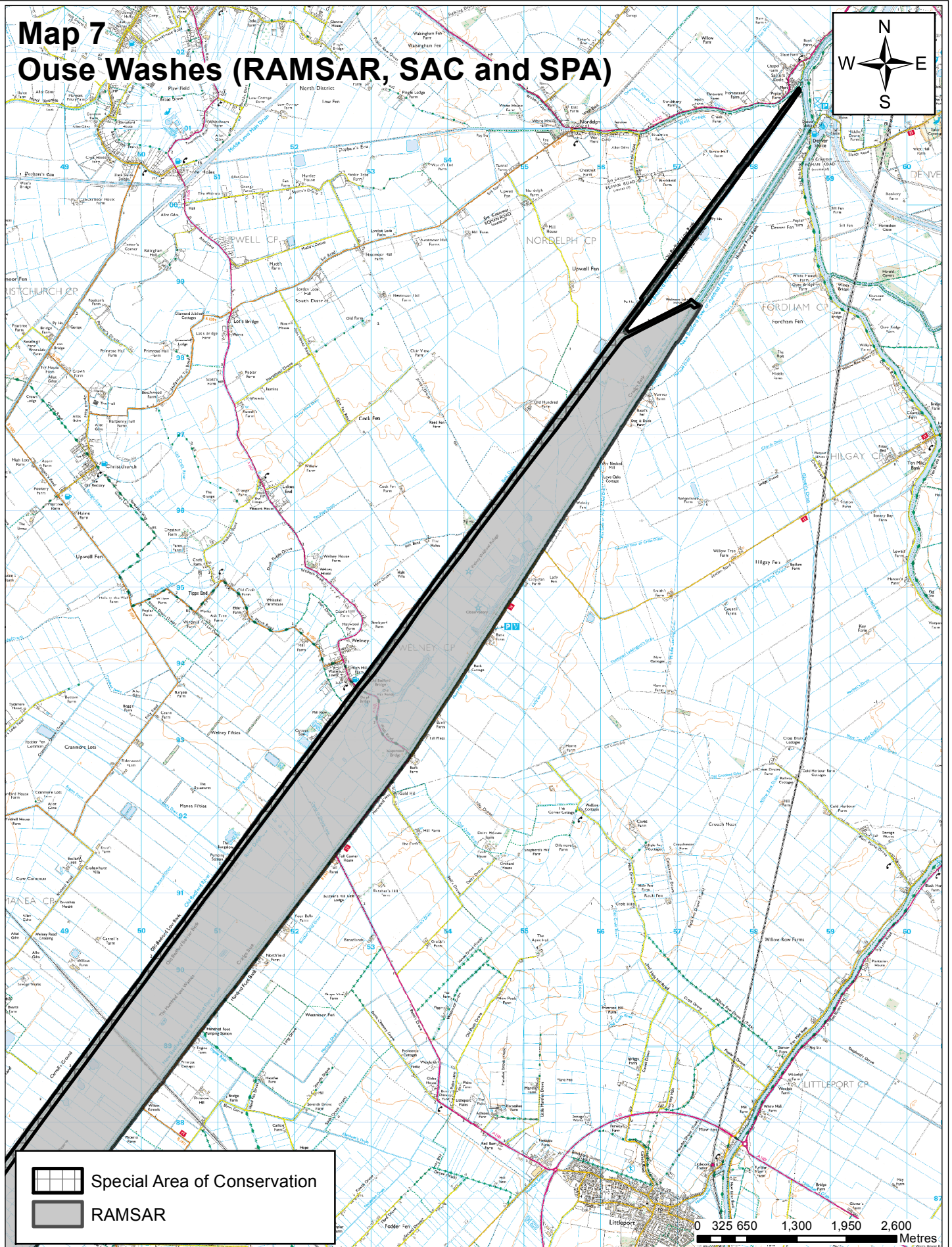




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Map 7 Ouse Washes (RAMSAR, SAC and SPA)



 Special Area of Conservation
 RAMSAR

0 325 650 1,300 1,950 2,600 Metres

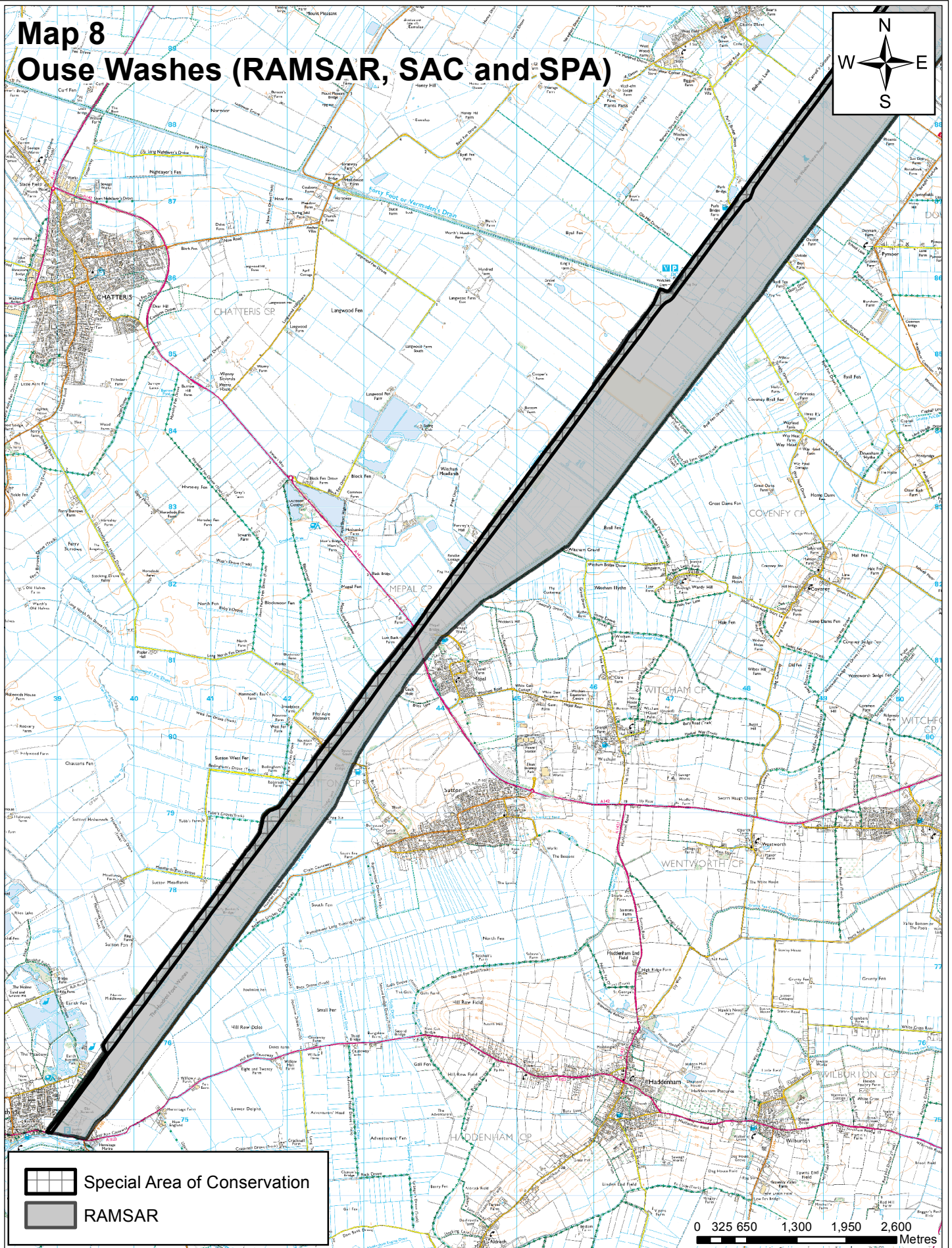




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Map 8 Ouse Washes (RAMSAR, SAC and SPA)



-  Special Area of Conservation
-  RAMSAR

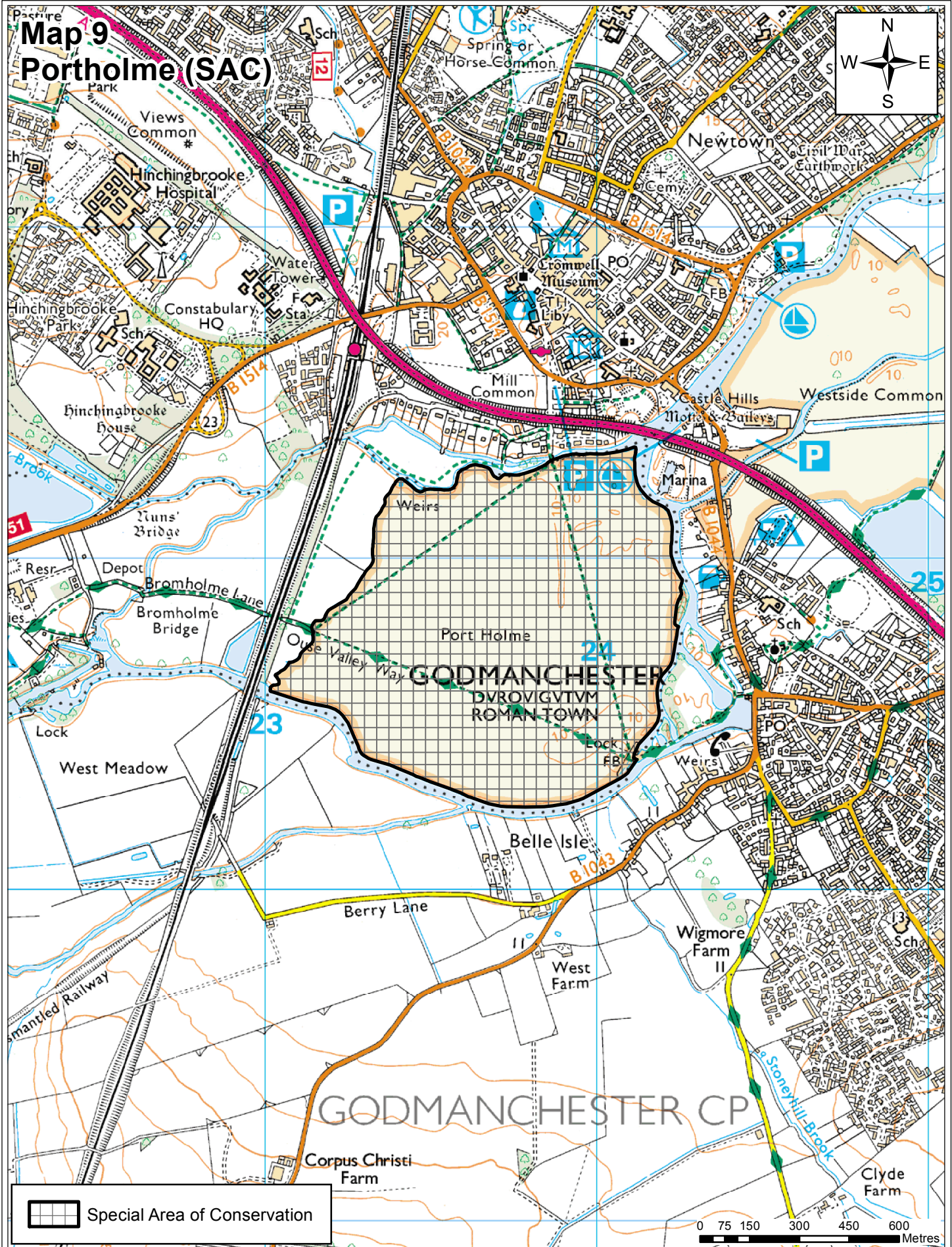
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
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**Map 9
Portholme (SAC)**



 Special Area of Conservation

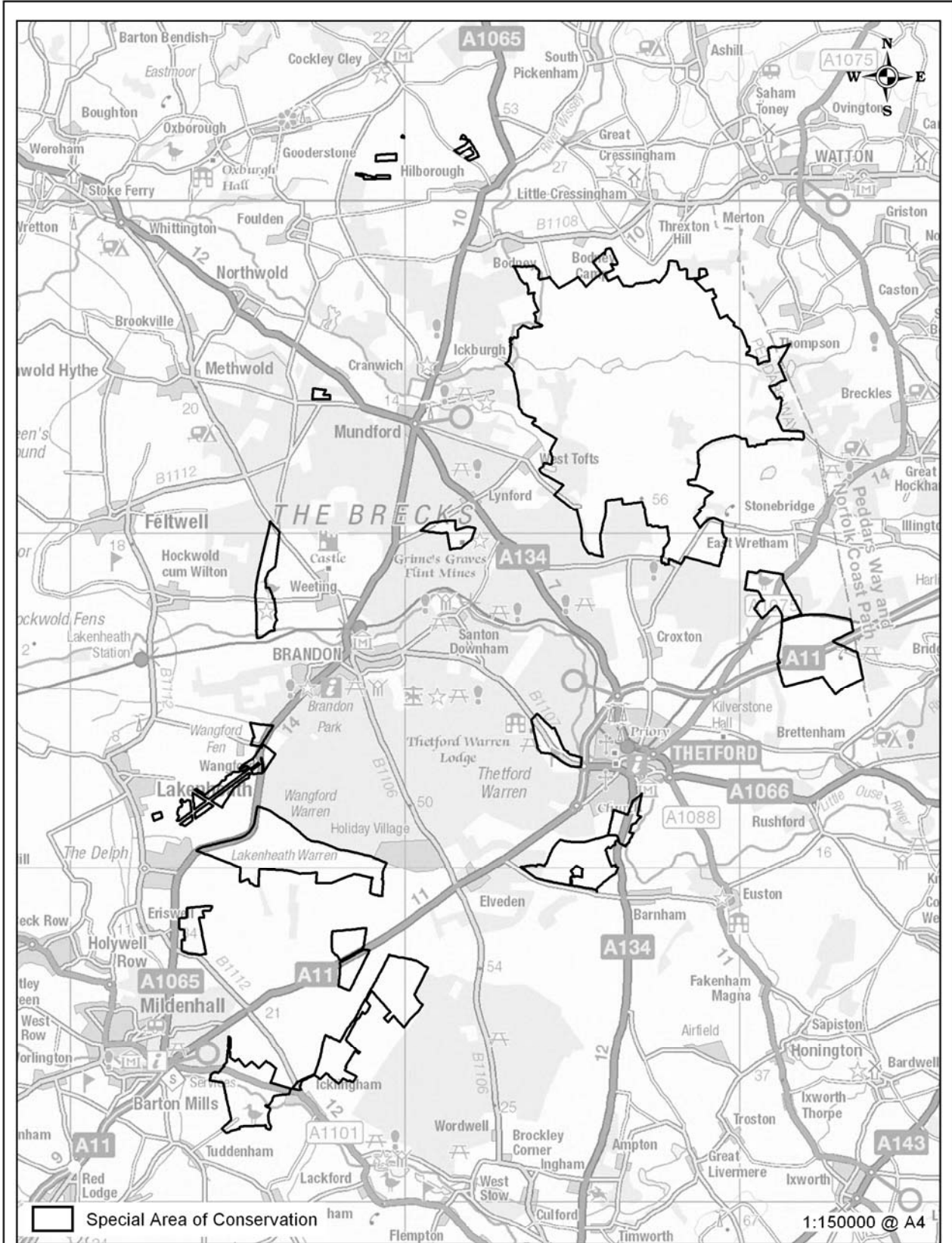
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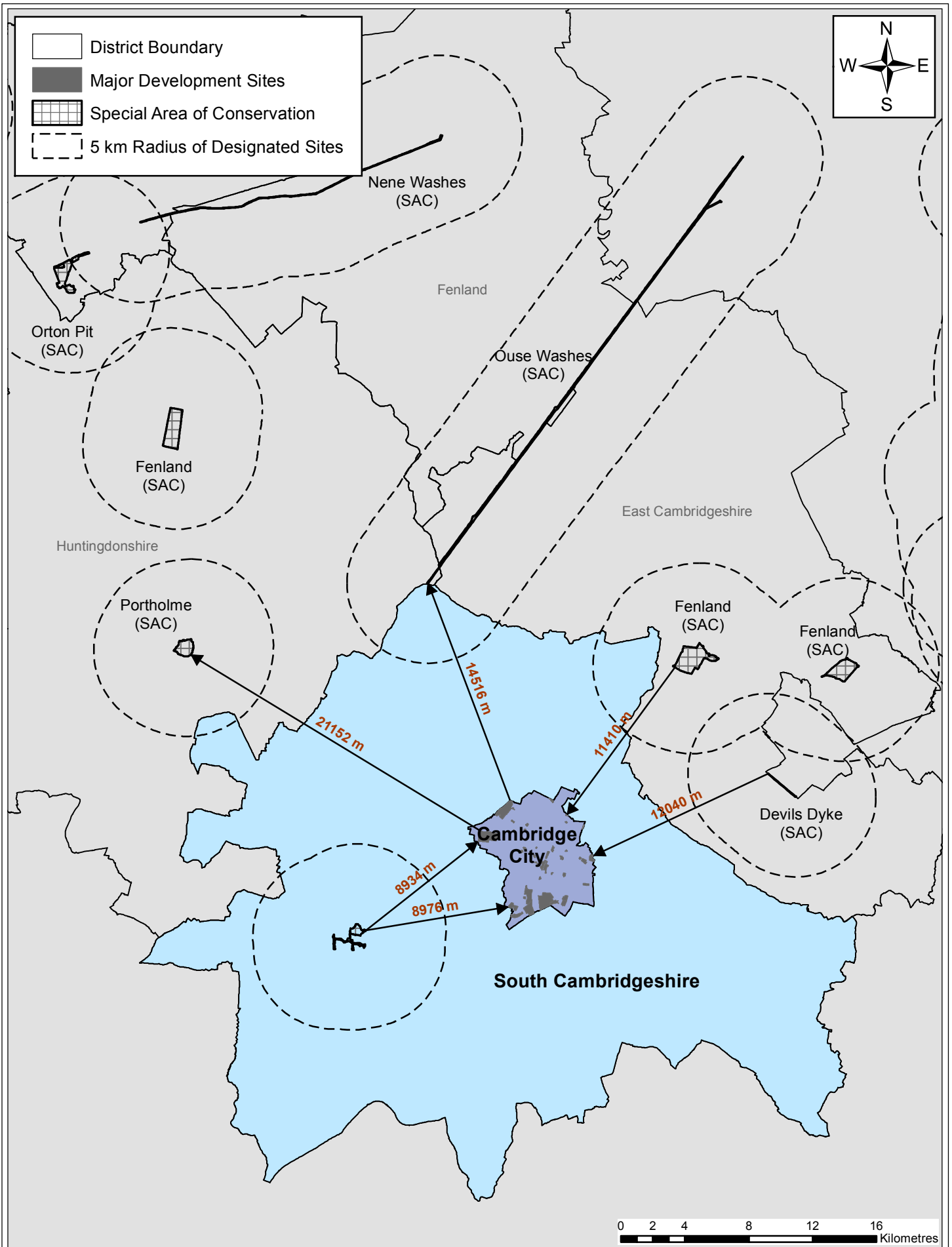
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Map 10 Breckland (SAC)

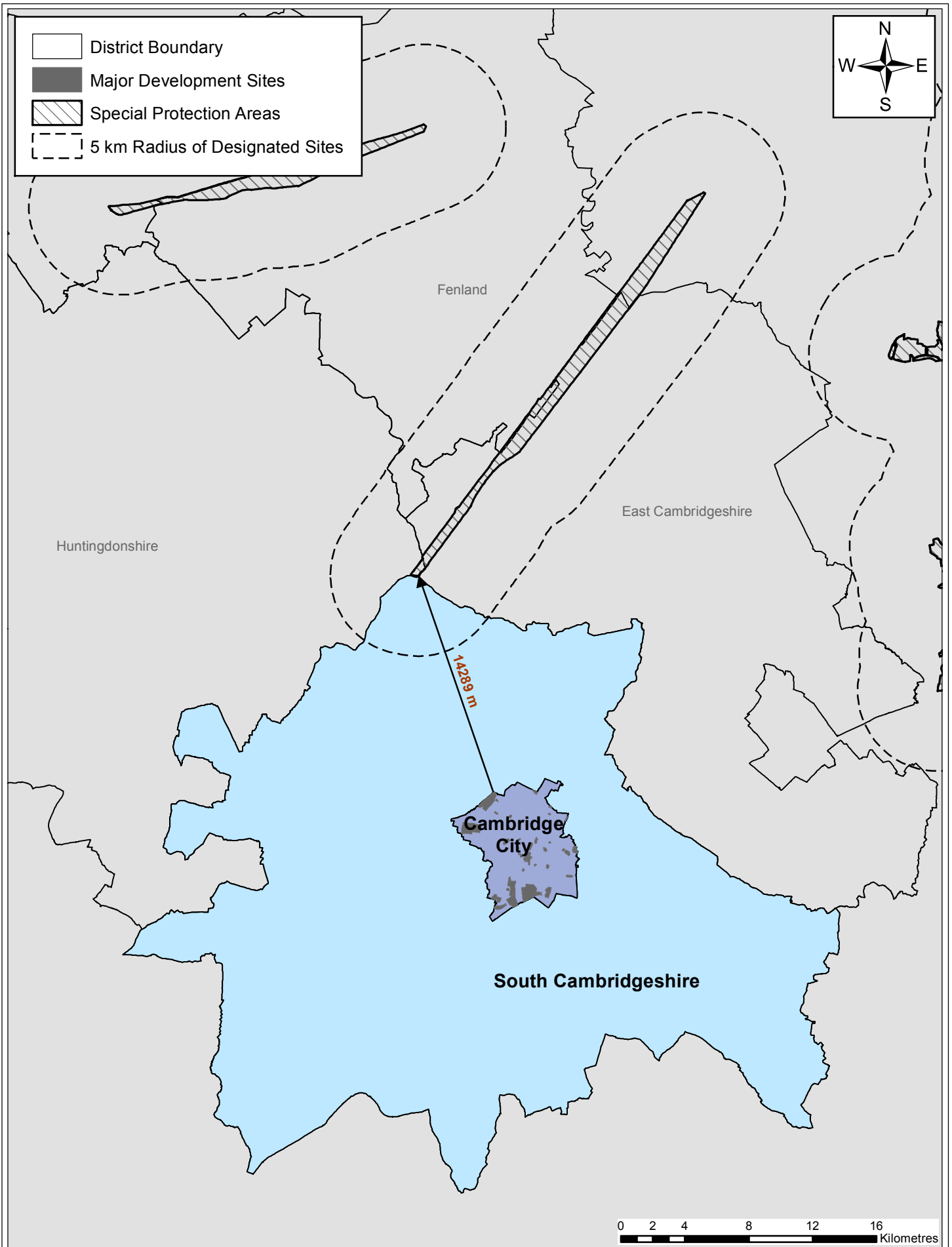
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Map 11: Special Areas of Conservation and proximity to Cambridge City Council

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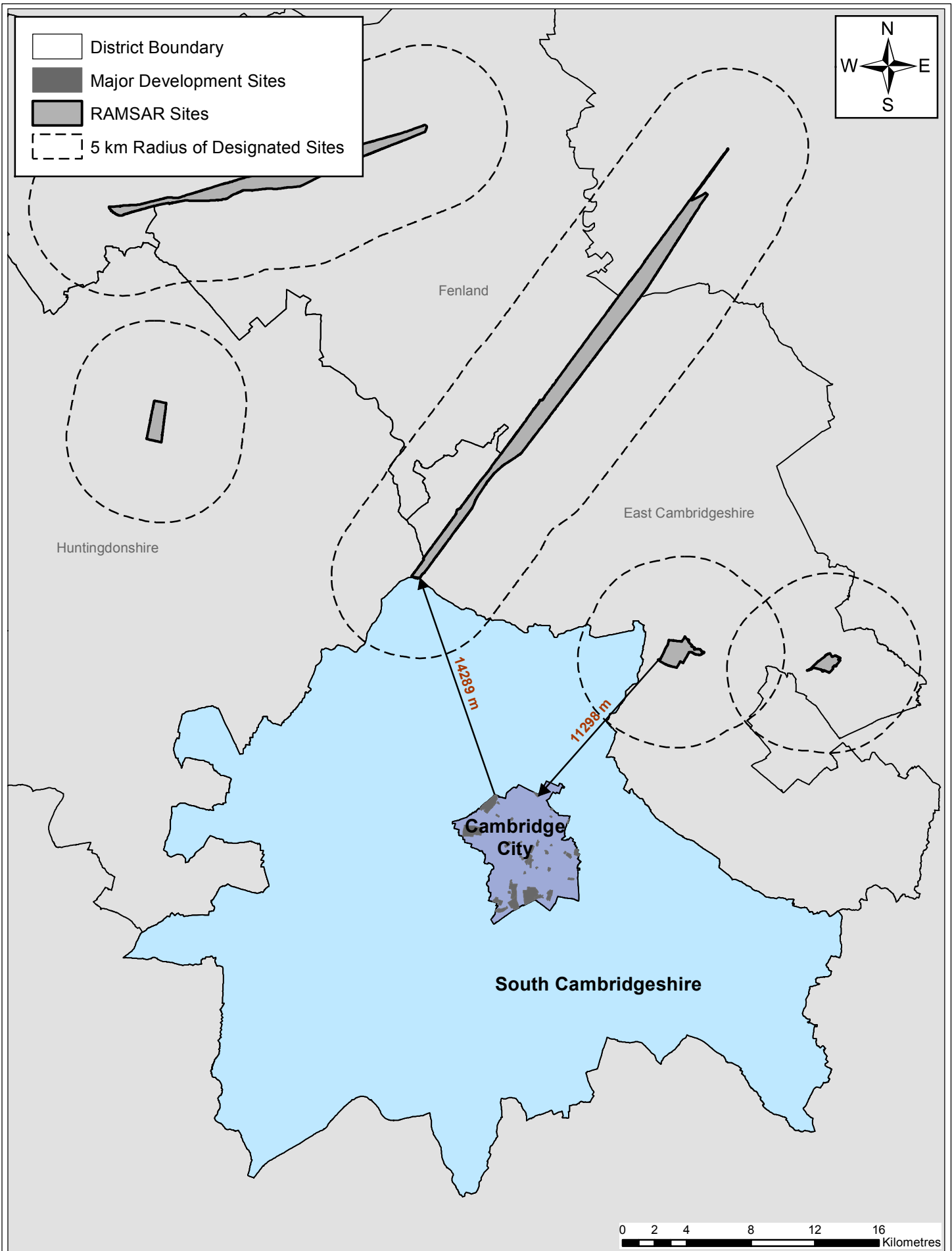
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Map 12 - Special Protection Areas and proximity to Cambridge City Council Boundary

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Map 13 - RAMSAR Sites and proximity to Cambridge City Council Boundary

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