



Habitats Regulation Assessment

Screening Report for the Old Press/Mill Lane
Supplementary Planning Document

February 2009

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Executive Summary

This document is a Habitats Regulation Screening Assessment of the Old Press/Mill Lane Supplementary Planning Document (SPD), 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 Regulation 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 Old Press/Mill Lane SPD 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 SPD (including their specific characteristics and conservation objectives); and
- A screening assessment of the SPD, 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 Old Press/Mill Lane SPD is not likely to have any significant effects on the Natura 2000 or Ramsar sites identified. The City Council therefore feels that there is not necessary to proceed to further stages of appropriate assessment. This conclusion is supported by Natural England.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document is a Habitats Regulation Screening Assessment of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD, 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 Regulation 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 Regulation Assessment form what are known as Natura 2000 sites. These are a Europe-wide network of sites of international importance for nature conservation established

under the Habitats Directive, which has been transposed into UK law as the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &C) Regulations 1994.

1.2.3 Natura 2000 sites include Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). Planning Policy Statement 9 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (PPS9) advises that proposed sites awaiting approval – potential SPAs (pSPAs) and candidate SACs (cSACs) – should be treated in the same way as those already classified and approved. Ramsar sites are also considered by Habitats Regulation Assessments in accordance with paragraph 6 of PPS9. These sites support internationally important wetland habitats and are listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention, 1971).

1.3 What is Habitats Regulations Assessment?

1.3.1 Habitats Regulation 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. 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.

1.3.2 If the screening stage concludes that there are likely to be no significant impacts on European sites then this will not need to process to the stage of Appropriate Assessment.

1.3.3 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.

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 Regulation Assessment

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

- Description of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD
- 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 Old Press/Mill Lane SPD
- Consultations

2 Description of the Old Press/Mill Lane Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

- 2.1 The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD sets out the City Council's aspirations for the future use and development of the Old Press/Mill Lane site. The site lies in the heart of the historic city of Cambridge (see figure 1), providing a base for a range of the University of Cambridge's academic and administrative facilities. It has long been recognised that the University is interested in relocating some of its activities from the site to other more appropriate buildings and locations within the City. The SPD supplements, expands and adds to detail to Local Plan Policy 7/5 and proposals site 7.10.
- 2.2 The main objectives of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD are to:
- a) Preserve and/or enhance the special historic character of the Conservation Area, including its Listed Buildings and their settings;
 - b) Create the opportunity for adaptive re-use of existing buildings where possible;
 - c) Create the opportunity for redevelopment to provide high quality, sustainable new buildings of innovative design which contribute positively to the character of the Conservation Area and the setting of Listed Buildings;
 - d) Introduce a range of complementary and compatible land uses that add vitality and vibrancy to the area throughout the day;
 - e) Create and enhance areas of public open space and public realm to a high quality, potentially including a new vibrant public space fronting onto the river;
 - f) Improve permeability through the site and create safer streets with priority for pedestrians and cyclists;
 - g) Minimise non-essential car parking and improve servicing;
 - h) Provide high quality, well designed areas of cycle parking.
- 2.3 The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD forms part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) for Cambridge, which will set out policies and proposals for the development and use of land in the City. The LDF is comprised of 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
Core Strategy (DPD)	Consultation on informal Preferred Options expected June – July 2009
Cambridge East Area Action Plan (DPD)	Adopted in February 2008
North West Cambridge Area Action Plan (DPD)	Submitted to the Secretary of State in May 2008. Examination in public November – December 2008
Site Specific Allocations (DPD)	Issues and options consultation expected November – December 2009
Generic Development	Issues and options consultation expected

Control Policies (DPD)	November – December 2009
Affordable Housing (SPD)	Adopted January 2008
Sustainable Design & Construction (SPD)	Adopted May 2007
Planning Obligations (SPD)	Representations being considered
Public Art (SPD)	Consultation expected early 2009
Historic Environment (SPD)	Pre production background studies and information gathering

Figure 1: Location of the Old Press/Mill Lane site.



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

- 3.1 The 2006 Cambridge Local Plan, to which the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD is linked, plans for development proposed in Regional Planning Guidance (RPG6) and subsequently the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Structure Plan 2003.
- 3.2 The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the East of England was adopted in May 2008 and as such has replaced RPG6 and elements of the Structure Plan. This plan has been subject to an initial Habitats Regulation Assessment, which concluded that the plan will not have any significant effect on any Natura 2000 or Ramsar sites and that a full appropriate assessment is not required for any of the policies of the RSS. The RSS will be subject to an early review, which will need to be subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment.
- 3.3 In response to representations submitted in relation to this initial Habitats Regulations Assessment, further assessment work has been commissioned to assess to draft alterations to the RSS in order to ensure that it is fully compliant with the requirements of the European Habitats Directive.
- 3.4 The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD relates to a specific site allocation in the heart of the historic city of Cambridge. Other locations for development within Cambridge are identified in the 2006 Local Plan.
- 3.5 This screening stage focuses on the 'in-combination' effects of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD in combination with other plans, including those of other nearby authorities and minerals and waste plans produced by County Councils. These plans are listed below with a brief summary of each plan set out in Appendix 1.
 - Cambridge Local Plan 2006
 - Cambridge Development Strategy Issues & Options Report, June 2007
 - Cambridge Sustainable Design and Construction SPD, Adopted 2007
 - Cambridge Draft Planning Obligations Strategy SPD, 2007
 - Cambridge Affordable Housing SPD, Adopted 2008
 - Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Structure Plan, 2003
 - Cambridgeshire Waste Local Plan 2003
 - Cambridgeshire Aggregates (minerals) Local Plan 1991
 - Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste DPD Preferred Options 2 September 2008
 - Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan 2006-2011
 - South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2004
 - South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy DPD, Adopted 2007

- South Cambridgeshire Site Specific Policies DPD Submission Draft, 2006
- South Cambridgeshire Generic Development Control Policies DPD, Adopted July 2007
- Cambridge East Area Action Plan DPD, Adopted February 2008
- Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan DPD, Adopted February 2008
- North West Cambridge Area Action Plan DPD Submission Draft, May 2008
- Northstowe Area Action Plan DPD, Adopted July 2007
- South Cambridgeshire Gypsy and Traveller DPD, Issues and Options, October 2006
- Huntingdonshire Local Plan 1995 & Alteration 2002
- Huntingdonshire Core Strategy Submission Draft, July 2008
- Huntingdonshire Development Control Policies DPD Issues & Options Report, 2007
- Huntingdon West Area Action Plan, Issues & Options Report, 2007
- East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2000, Core Strategy Submission Draft, May 2008, Site Allocations Issues & Options Report, 2006
- Fenland Local Plan 1993, Core Strategy Preferred Options 2 2007, Site Specific Proposals Issues & Options 2007
- North Hertfordshire Local Plan No. 2 with alterations 2007, Core Strategy Preferred Options 2007, Development Policies DPD Preferred Options 2007, Land Allocations DPD Issues & Options 2008
- Stevenage & North Hertfordshire Action Plan Issues & Options 2008
- Mid Bedfordshire Local Plan 2005, Core Strategy & Development Management Policies Preferred Options 2007, Gypsy & Traveller DPD Second Issues & Options Report 2007
- Forest Heath Local Plan Saved Policies 2007, Core Strategy Final Policy Option Report 2008, Site Specific Policies & Allocations DPD Issues & Options Report, 2006
- King's Lynn & West Norfolk Local Plan Saved Policies 2007, Core Strategy Revised Issues & Options Stage, 2008
- Bedfordshire & Luton Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2005, Bedfordshire & Luton Minerals and Waste Core Strategy and Site Allocations Plan Preferred Options 2007
- Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Review 2002-2016 (2007), Waste Local Plan 1995-2005 (1999) and Saved Policies, Waste Core Strategy Submission Draft 2008, Waste Development Policies Preferred Options 2008, Waste Site Allocations Preferred Options 2008.
- Suffolk Waste Local Plan 2006, Waste Issues & Options Report 2008, Adopted Minerals Core Strategy 2008 & Minerals Specific Site Allocations DPD Submission Draft 2008
- St Edmundsbury Local Plan 2006 & Core Strategy Issues & Options Report 2008

4 Screening Methodology Setting out the Approach Used and Specific Tasks Undertaken

4.1 The Habitats Regulation Assessment of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD 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 Old Press/Mill Lane SPD 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 Regulation Assessment of their Core Strategy Development Plan Document and involved the use of GIS data as well as consultation with the Natural England Four Counties team. South Cambridgeshire District Council is the neighbouring authority for Cambridge City Council and as such it was felt appropriate to apply Habitats Regulation 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 Regulation Assessment Screening Matrix for the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD, including an Assessment of Significance of Effects.

4.3.1 The screening matrix used to assess the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD is the same as that used by South Cambridgeshire District Council for the Habitats Directive Assessment of their Local Development Framework and by the City Council for the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the North West Cambridge Area Action Plan, Sustainable Design and Construction SPD, Affordable Housing SPD and Planning Obligations SPD. As such, this methodology has been approved for use by Natural England's Four Counties team. In accordance with government guidance, the precautionary principle has been applied to the assessment of whether or not the potential effects of the SPD 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 SPD 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 Old Press/Mill Lane SPD.

5.1 There are no Natura 2000 or Ramsar sites within Cambridge City. 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

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 of their Core Strategy DPD. Natural England confirmed that these sites were appropriate in a letter to South Cambridgeshire District Council dated the 9th November 2006. 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.

5.3 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.

5.4 The main aim of this screening assessment is to ensure that the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD, either alone or in combination with other plans as identified in section 3, will not have an impact on the conservation objectives of these sites.

6 Conclusions of the Screening Assessment

- 6.1 Appendix 4 of this document contains the full screening assessment of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD 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 Old Press/Mill Lane SPD 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

- 7.1 Natural England is the statutory nature conservation body for appropriate assessment. Their Four Counties team have been consulted on this Habitats Regulations Assessment and their conclusions are as follows:

“We have reviewed the Habitats Regulations Assessment and consider that the assessment has been well prepared and we conclude that Cambridge City Council has undertaken the screening process in accordance with the requirements of the Habitats Regulations. Natural England supports the conclusion of the HRA that this SPD is unlikely to have a significant effect on any European sites and that Appropriate Assessment is not required for this document.”

Appendix 1: Summary of other relevant plans and strategies

OTHER RELEVANT PLANS & STRATEGIES	SUMMARY
Cambridge Local Plan 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.
Cambridge Development Strategy Issues & Options Report, June 2007.	This document will set out the strategic elements of the Cambridge LDF. It will set out a vision for the future of Cambridge, the general locations where development will take place, policy objectives and higher-level policies to guide development planning.
Cambridge Sustainable Design & 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 Draft 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 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.
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Structure Plan, 2003.	Sets out the detailed development strategy for Cambridgeshire & Peterborough based on Regional Planning Guidance for the East of England (RPG6). It should be noted that with the adoption of the Regional Spatial Strategy (2008) many of these policies are no longer in use.
Cambridgeshire Waste Local Plan 2003.	Aims to provide a sustainable strategy and policy framework for waste management in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Includes site specific proposals for waste management facilities.
Cambridgeshire Aggregates (Minerals) Local Plan 1991.	Sets policies for working minerals and safeguarding mineral deposits.
Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste DPD Preferred Options 2 Sept 2008.	Comprises: i – A draft Core Strategy DPD to guide the spatial strategy vision for the future of mineral extraction and the delivery of high quality sustainable waste management facilities ii – A draft Site Allocations DPD with proposed allocations for waste management facilities and minerals workings

OTHER RELEVANT PLANS & STRATEGIES	SUMMARY
	The documents have been subject to initial Habitats Regulations Assessment, which has come to the conclusion that a full assessment will be required for some of the sites allocated in the Plan.
Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan 2006-2011.	Sets out how Government capital funding allocated for transport will be spent and how this will be used to meet local and national targets.
South Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2004.	Provides guidance for the plan period 1991-2006 and aims to guide provision of homes, jobs and shops together with facilities for leisure and transportation
South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy DPD, 2007.	Sets the vision for future development in South Cambridgeshire to 2016, setting out that most new development will take place on the edge of Cambridge and in a new town near to Longstanton and Oakington (Northstowe)
South Cambridgeshire Site Specific Policies DPD Submission Draft, 2006.	This document contains allocations for housing and employment development as well as safeguarding land for transport infrastructure in South Cambridgeshire.
South Cambridgeshire Generic Development Control Policies DPD, Adopted July 2007.	This document will guide decisions on planning applications covering a wide range of topics including housing, jobs, travel, the natural environment and the Green Belt.
Cambridge East Area Action Plan DPD, Adopted February 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.
Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan DPD Adopted February 2008	This document provides the detailed policy guidance for the development of the Southern Fringe (Trumpington Meadows site).
North West Cambridge Area Action Plan DPD Submission Draft May 2008.	This document will provide 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.
Northstowe Area Action Plan DPD, Adopted July 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, 4,800 of which are to be provided by 2016.
South Cambridgeshire Gypsy and Traveller DPD Issues and Options Report, 2006.	This document will set out the policies to address the needs of the Gypsy and Traveller population until 2021. It will also allocate sites up to 2010.
Huntingdon Local Plan 1995 & alteration 2002.	Provided for development up to 2006 and focused development onto larger settlements.
Huntingdonshire Core Strategy Submission Draft, July 2008 & Development Control Policies DPD Issues & Options Report, 2007.	The Core Strategy will set 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. The Development Control Policies DPD will set out local

OTHER RELEVANT PLANS & STRATEGIES	SUMMARY
	policies for managing development in Huntingdonshire. The policies in this document will be used to assess and determine applications for development in the district and cover topic areas including climate change, housing, economic development, quality of life and the environment.
Huntingdon West Area Action Plan, Issues & Options Report, 2007.	This document will provide a framework for development of this area in the short, medium and long-term. It is needed because significant land-use changes are likely come forward, including mixed-use redevelopment of the Ermine Street/George Street area, changes to the road system as a result of the A14 improvements and the need to guide development of the Hinchingsbrooke Community Campus including an extension to the Country Park.
East Cambridgeshire Local Plan 2000, Core Strategy Submission Draft 2008 & Site Allocations DPD Issues & Options Paper 2006.	The Local Plan concentrates growth in housing, employment and service provision in Ely, Soham and Littleport, including the re-use of previously developed land. Elsewhere in the district, growth will be limited and is likely to take the form of meeting existing commitments and allocations and, where appropriate redevelopment of sites within the built framework. The Core Strategy aims to provide for growth in a sustainable manner, planning for 8,600 dwellings in 2001 to 2021. The Core Strategy sets out the spatial vision for the district up to 2025 and the spatial objectives and strategic policies to deliver that vision. The document also includes a set of Development Control Policies, which will be used in assessing planning applications. The Site Allocations DPD will allocate sites for housing, employment and other land uses and contain site-specific policies.
Fenland Local Plan 1993 and Core Strategy Preferred Options 2 2007 and Site Specific Proposals Issues & Options 2007.	The Local Plan concentrates growth in existing housing, employment and service provision within existing centres, an aim that is continued in the Core Strategy, when planning for the additional 4,120 dwellings needed to meet the requirements of the Regional Spatial Strategy. The Site Specific Proposals document will set out policies against which planning applications will be assessed, and will allocate new sites for housing, employment and other land uses.
North Herts Local Plan No.2 with alterations 2007, Core Strategy Preferred Options 2007, Development Policies Preferred Options 2007, Land Allocations DPD Issues & Options 2008.	The Local Plan 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. The Core Strategy sets the strategic objectives and spatial portrait for the future development of the district looking to 2021. The Core Strategy is supplemented by the Development Policies DPD, which contains detailed development policies essential for the implementation of the Core Strategy and the Land Allocations DPD. This document gives

OTHER RELEVANT PLANS & STRATEGIES	SUMMARY
	detailed site-specific locations for the development and land uses discussed in the Core Strategy, and considers sites for employment, Gypsy & Traveller sites, other/mixed uses and residential development.
Stevenage and North Hertfordshire Action Plan, Issues & Options 2008	This document will contain 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.
Mid Bedfordshire Local Plan 2005 & Core Strategy & Development Management Policies DPD Preferred Options 2007, Gypsy & Traveller DPD Second Issues & Options Report 2007	<p>The Local Plan directs housing and economic development to within and adjoining the main urban areas and in the strategic transport corridors South West of Bedford and in East Bedfordshire.</p> <p>The Core Strategy deals with the broad strategy for development in the Mid Beds District up to 2021, including the broad locations for proposed growth. The Development Management document provides the policy framework against which decisions on planning applications will be made. The Development Management document also includes the process of revising Settlement Envelopes.</p> <p>The Gypsy & Traveller DPD seeks to identify the amount and location of Gypsy & Traveller accommodation and will include criteria based policies against which Gypsy & Traveller associated development will be determined.</p>
Forest Heath Local Plan Saved Policies 2007 and Core Strategy Final Policy Option Report 2008, Site Specific Policies & Allocations DPD Issues & Options Report, 2006	The Local Plan and LDF documents focus development on existing towns. The Core Strategy is the principle document that provides the overall strategic vision for the future of Forest Heath to 2031; stating how the council will respond to local priorities and meet challenges of the future; identify broad locations/strategic sites, scale and type of development and the supporting infrastructure that will take place. The Site Specific Policies and Allocations DPD will determine development boundaries for towns and villages and allocate sites for the required range of land-use and scale of development outlined in the Core Strategy.
King's Lynn and West Norfolk Local Plan Saved Policies 2007, and Core Strategy Revised Issues & Options Stage, 2008	The Borough has to accommodate the provision of 12,000 homes to be built in the period to 2021. The Core Strategy outlines the Council's vision, objectives and key policies on important issues like housing, employment and shopping.
Bedfordshire & Luton Minerals and Waste Local Plan 2005	Sets policies regarding proposals for minerals extraction and waste sites and also allocated sites for these purposes.
Bedfordshire & Luton Minerals Core Strategy and Site Allocations Plan –	Sets policies regarding proposals for minerals extraction and also allocates sites for this purpose.

OTHER RELEVANT PLANS & STRATEGIES	SUMMARY
Preferred Options 2007	
Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Review 2002 – 2016 (2007)	Sets policies regarding proposals for minerals extraction and also allocates sites.
Hertfordshire Waste Local Plan 1995 – 2005 (1999)	Sets policies regarding proposals for waste sites and allocates sites.
Hertfordshire Waste Core Strategy Submission Draft, 2008	Sets out the spatial vision and strategic objectives for waste planning in the county. This will contain core policies needed to implement the overall objectives and covers the period to 2021.
Hertfordshire Waste Development Policies Preferred Options 2008 and Waste Site Allocations Preferred Options 2008	<p>The Waste Development Policies Document will set out the key policies that aim to ensure that the development and operation of waste management facilities reflect the objectives of the Waste Core Strategy. It sets out a number of general policies that clearly define the circumstances in which planning permission will, or will not, be granted.</p> <p>The Waste Site Allocations document will identify sites for waste management facilities based on a set of assessment criteria and will include maps and planning briefs for the development of specific sites.</p>
Suffolk Adopted Minerals Core Strategy 2008 & Minerals Specific Site Allocations DPD Submission Draft 2008	<p>The Core Strategy sets out the key elements of minerals 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>
Suffolk Waste Local Plan 2006, and Waste Core Strategy Issues & options Part II (Strategic Sites) Report 2008	Sets policies regarding proposals for waste sites and allocates sites. The Waste Issues and Options (Part II) Sites document represents the initial stage of consultation upon strategic waste management sites and the third stage of consultation on waste issues in general. Previous rounds of consultation were concerned with general issues and policy options.
St Edmundsbury Local Plan 2006	Concentrates growth in housing, employment and service provision within existing urban areas.
St Edmundsbury Core Strategy Preferred Options Report 2008 & Strategic Sites Issues & Options Report 2008	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.

Appendix 2: Information on Natura 2000 and Ramsar Sites

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. The site is located close to Wimpole Park.

Grid ref: 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 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 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.

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 December 2006 and found that the site is meeting 100% its PSA targets.¹ The area is in 100% favourable condition².

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, which split into major limbs and then into smaller branches³.

¹ PSA target – the Government's Public Service agreement (PSA) target to have 95% of the SSSI area in favourable or recovering condition by 2010.

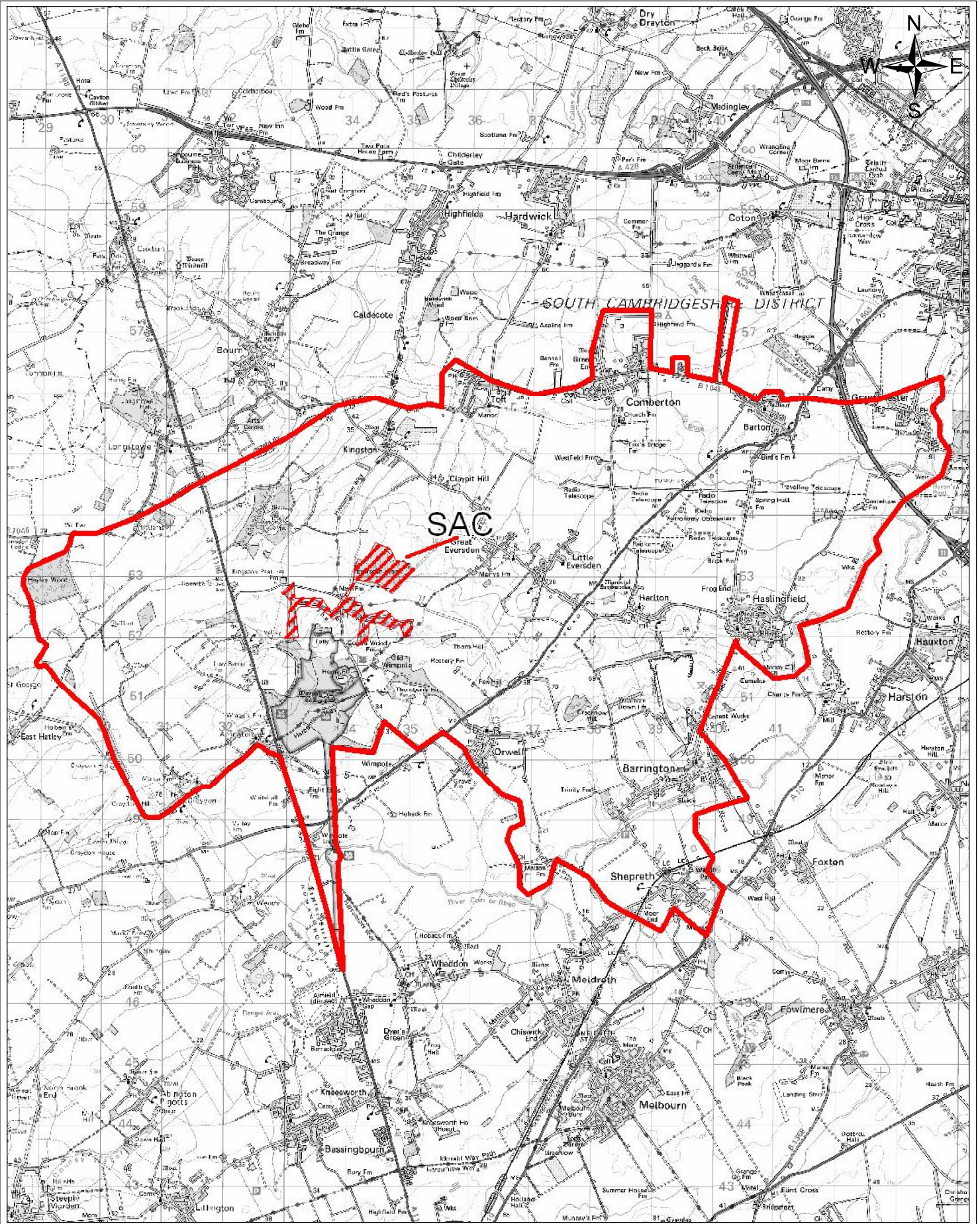
² Favourable condition means that the SSSI land is being adequately conserved and is meeting its conservation objectives.

³ Greenaway F (2004) Advice for the management of flightlines and foraging habitats of the Barbastelle Bat *Barbastella barbastellus*, English Nature Research Report 657.

The Biodiversity Strategy published by South Cambridgeshire District Council mapped out the main area of importance to Barbastelle bats, and this is shown on the map below. 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.



Map - Area of Importance for Barbastelle Bats at the Eversden & Wimpole Woods SAC

(Reproduced with permission of South Cambridgeshire District Council).

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Date:	05/04/07
Produced by:	James Wilson
Section/Department:	Policy & Projects, Environment & Planning
Scale:	1:82,000



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: 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. 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.

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 the Cambridgeshire County Council working with landowners and managers and local people. The aim of this project is to restore the dyke and there are now clear management aims. 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 carried out by Natural England in May 2002 assessed this section of the dyke as being in favourable condition. The site is meeting 100% of its PSA targets.

Vulnerability

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

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: Wicken Fen TL 555700; Chippenham Fen TL 648697;
Woodwalton Fen TL 230840

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.

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.

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%)

Soil and geology – basic, peat

Geomorphology – floodplain, lowland

Species

Molinion caeruleae

Cladium mariscus

Caricion davallianae

Cobitis taenia (Spined loach)
Triturus cristatus (Great crested newt)

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 (December 2006). Only 36.10% of the site is meeting PSA targets. 52.92% is unfavourably declining.

Vulnerability

The reason for the adverse conditions is related to inappropriate water levels in the fen, marsh and swamp areas.

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).

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

For reporting purposes the SSSI is divided into 17 units. 85.41% of the area is 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. Persistent drought is a potential threat as seven of nine years in the recent past have received well below average rainfall for the regions (Report dated 2002).

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 practises. 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

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.

Considerable work has been undertaken to help progress the reed beds towards favourable conditions including annual cutting and installation of windpump to control water levels. Further scrub removal is programmed to be carried out. Major scrub clearance and coppice management work is to be completed by 2008.

Vulnerability

The area is meeting 100% of the PSA target. The quality of the water from the 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: TL 49885

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 Annexe 1 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%)

Site Description

The Ouse Washes represent spined loach 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. 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. 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*, an Annex 1 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 Annex 1 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 unflooded 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 fails 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.

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. Water quality issues are currently the subject of debate between the Environment Agency and English Nature. Three sewage treatment works in the Great Ouse will be covered by the Urban Waste Water Directive, but there remain more than 90 smaller works. These will be subject to the Review of Consents to be undertaken by the Environment Agency within the next four years. A case could be prepared and submitted to OFWAT and the Water Industries AMP 4 Programme commencing 2005, in order to strip phosphates from all relevant sewage treatment works in the system.

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: 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

Sanguisorba officinalis

Fritillaria meleagris

Libellula fulva

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.

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.

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 recommendation will be incorporated in the relevant Local Environment Agency Plan (due to go to consultation in 1999).

In the past MAFF 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 are 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 in unfavourable declining condition. Overall the sward composition and structure were well within the criteria recommended for MG4 grassland however the unit failed on the frequency of *Rumex crispus*.

Vulnerability

Without a controlled management plan the site will not retain its conservation interest.

Appendix 4: Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Matrix

Screening Matrix for Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC

<p>Name, location and summary of conservation objectives for the Site</p>	<p>Eversden & Wimpole Woods SAC Grid Ref: TL 340526</p> <p>Reason for designation: This site has been designated as a SAC due to the presence of a colony of Barbastelle bats. The woods comprise a mixture of ancient coppice woodland in the Eversden woods and high forest woods likely to be of more recent origin in the Wimpole Woods.</p> <p>A colony of Barbastelle bats is present at Wimpole Woods, where the trees are used as a summer maternity roost. Most of the roost sites are within tree crevices. The bats also use the site as a foraging area and some of the woodland is used as a flight path when bats forage outside the site. The Barbastelle bat is one of the UK's rarest mammals.</p> <p>The site is located outside of the Cambridge City boundary, within South Cambridgeshire District Council's area.</p>
<p>Are there any other projects or plans that together with the Old Press/Mill Land SPD could affect the Eversden and Wimpole Woods?</p>	<p>The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD allocates land for development in the heart of the City of Cambridge. The site is comprised completely of Previously Developed Land. There are other plans for Cambridge City that could, theoretically indirectly affect the site, namely the 2006 Cambridge Local Plan and the North West Cambridge Area Action Plan. These plans include allocations of land for development.</p> <p>Other relevant plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cambridge Development Strategy Issues & Options Report, 2007; ▪ Cambridge Sustainable Design & Construction SPD, 2007; ▪ Cambridge Draft Planning Obligations Strategy SPD, 2007; ▪ Cambridge Affordable Housing SPD, 2008 ▪ Cambridgeshire Waste Local Plan, 2003; ▪ Cambridgeshire Aggregates (minerals) Local Plan, 1991;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste DPD Preferred Options 2, Sept 2008; ▪ Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan, 2006-2011; ▪ South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, 2004; ▪ South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy DPD, 2007; ▪ South Cambridgeshire Site Specific Policies Submission DPD, 2006; ▪ Northstowe Area Action Plan, 2007; ▪ Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan, 2008; ▪ North West Cambridge Area Action Plan Submission Draft, May 2008; ▪ Bedfordshire & Luton Minerals and Waste Local Plan, 2005; ▪ Bedfordshire & Luton Minerals Core Strategy and Site Allocation Plan, Preferred Options, 2007; ▪ Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Review 2002 – 2016, 2007; ▪ Hertfordshire Waste Core Strategy DPD Submission Draft, 2008; ▪ Hertfordshire Waste Development Policies & Site Allocations DPDs, Preferred Options, 2008 ▪ Huntingdonshire Local Plan 1995 & Alteration 2002, Core Submission Draft 2008, Development Control Policies Issues & Options Report, 2007 & Huntingdon West AAP Issues & Options Report, 2007; ▪ North Hertfordshire Local Plan 2 with alterations, 2007, Core Strategy Preferred Options, 2007, Development Policies Preferred Options 2007, and Land Allocations Issues & Options, 2008; and ▪ Mid Bedfordshire Local Plan 2005, Core Strategy and Development Management DPD Preferred Options 2007 and Gypsy & Traveller DPD Second Issues & Options Report, 2007
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THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
Land take by development	<p>The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD does not propose any development that will take land from the Eversden and Wimpole Woods and will not result in the fragmentation of habitats.</p> <p>None of the other plans listed above propose development that</p>	There are no policies in the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD or any other plans that have a direct impact on these woods.

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	would take land from these woods.	
Impact on protected species outside the protected sites	<p>Eversden and Wimpole Woods are home to the Barbastelle bat (<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>), which can forage up to 20km from their roost sites, although this distance is more typically around 6-8km. Barbastelle bats require minimal disturbance within 2km of their roost. The main area of importance for these bats has been identified in the South Cambridgeshire Biodiversity Strategy as shown on Map 1 in Appendix 2.</p> <p>While the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD does allocate land for development, the site is located outside the main area of importance for the Barbastelle bat.</p> <p>The draft Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF Preferred Options 2 proposes an extension to the Barrington Quarry, which lies within the area of importance. The initial Habitats Regulations Assessment Scoping Report has indicated that the impacts of the proposals on this site need to be included in a full Appropriate Assessment.</p> <p>Although outside the area of importance, the closest area of new development is at Cambourne, which is within South Cambridgeshire District Council's area. This is a previously planned new settlement of 3,300 dwellings situated 6km away from the woods that was granted outline planning permission in 1993. The South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy proposed that the village is built out at current minimum density of 30dph, which would generate an additional 700 dwellings within the existing planned footprint. The Habitats Regulations</p>	<p>The woods are relatively isolated and are not located near to any of the locations for major development (as identified in the Southern Fringe and North West Cambridge Area Action Plans). Development at Cambourne will take place within the existing planned footprint, which is outside the area of importance for the Barbastelle bats and there are no villages within the vicinity of the site that may fall under the South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy's policies for small-scale windfall development within existing village frameworks.</p> <p>The precise nature of the impacts of proposals contained within the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF, will be subject to a full Appropriate Assessment, which will be carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council as the relevant competent authority.</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>Assessment for this document suggests that as this development will take place within the existing planned footprint, which is outside the area of importance there will be no additional impact on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods as a result of this document.</p> <p>The South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy also contains rural settlement policies that allow for small-scale windfall development to take place. The woods are some distance away from any villages that fall within these policies and it is likely that any such development will take place within existing village frameworks and will not involve the use of Greenfield land in the countryside. The Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Core Strategy therefore suggests that such development will not have a significant affect on these woods.</p> <p>The closest major developments to these woods are on the fringes of Cambridge (the Southern Fringe and North West of Cambridge). An Area Action Plan has been adopted for the Southern Fringe (by South Cambridgeshire District Council) and an Area Action Plan has been produced for the North West Cambridge site, and this has been submitted to the Secretary of State for examination. Both of these sites are over 8km from the woods and are outside the area of importance.</p>	
Recreational pressure and disturbance	It is possible that development on the Old Press/Mill Lane site may include an element of residential uses, and this may lead to an increased demand for access to the countryside recreation. Proposals contained within the Local Plan to	While the provision of an element of residential development at the Old Press/Mill Lane site could lead to an increased demand for access to countryside recreation, delivery

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>increase the dwelling stock in the city by 12,500 (rising to 19,000 in response to the RSS) could also lead to an increased demand for access to countryside recreation and likewise in South Cambridgeshire where there are proposals to increase the dwelling stock by 23,500. However, no major proposals contained within the Cambridge Local Plan, South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy or any other plans are within 5km of these woods. The closest major development on the fringes of Cambridge is over 8km away from the sites and the closest development, at Cambourne, is over 6km away.</p> <p>The woods form part of a Country Walk and forms part of the wider countryside footpath network. Their form and character, along with their relative distance from car parking and public transport limits their attractiveness for informal recreation and leisure. Many of the visitors to this area tend to focus their attention on the National Trust property at Wimpole Hall.</p> <p>In addition, many of the new developments proposed in the Cambridge sub-region will include improvements to countryside access opportunities and the provision of new strategic open space (as demonstrated by the Cambridge Sub-region Green Infrastructure Strategy, 2006). These proposals will be aimed at the provision of recreation opportunities for use by existing and new communities in more accessible locations than sites such as the Eversden and Wimpole Woods.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that there will be no significant impact from increased recreational pressure and disturbance on the</p>	<p>of additional open space as part of new developments, coupled with the relative distance of development sites from the Eversden and Wimpole Woods, leads to the conclusion that the SPD will not lead to increased recreational pressure and disturbance on the woods.</p> <p>With regards to other plans, the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England states that in drawing up local development plans, consideration should be given to the risks of recreational disturbance where housing proposals fall within a 5km radius of Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites. Using this test, it is unlikely that any proposals contained within the documents identified will have a significant effect on the woods as they are all outside the 5km radius proposed.</p> <p>The Natura 2000 data for these woods indicates that the current use of the woods is considered to be compatible with the Barbastelle bats' interests and should not affect their population or roosts. As the bats roost in the trees and forage at sunset/night they are not affected by day visitors.</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC as a result of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD alone or in combination with other plans.	It is therefore considered that there will be no significant impact from increased recreational pressure and disturbance on the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC as a result of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD alone or in combination with other plans.
Water quantity and quality	This is not relevant for the conservation objectives of this site	Not relevant
Changes in pollution levels	<p>The objectives of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD seek to reduce the amount of car parking on site and to improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists thereby encouraging the use of more sustainable modes of transport. Coupled with the sites City Centre location, with good access to services and facilities, this should help to reduce pollution generated by transport in the vicinity of the site. The redevelopment of the site also offers a number of opportunities to introduce higher sustainability standards to the site, including renewable energy, thereby helping to reduce pollution from energy generation, albeit on a small-scale.</p> <p>In addition to the Old Press/Mill Lane, Cambridge's Sustainable Design & Construction SPD contains guidance for applicants of major developments in Cambridge City on a number of sustainability criteria, many of which will contribute to reducing pollution from transport by promoting more sustainable modes of transport, as well as pollution from noise, light and odours in the wider area. The urban extensions to Cambridge set out in the Local Plan should help to reduce the level of commuting into</p>	<p>As the Eversden and Wimpole Woods are not in close proximity to proposed major development sites and major transport routes it is not considered that there is likely to be any significant impact on the woods as a result of changes in pollution levels. The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD seeks to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport in the vicinity of the site and should help to reduce pollution from transport. Policy requirements contained within other relevant plans and guidance in the form of the City Council's Sustainable Design & Construction SPD also have aim of reducing pollution.</p> <p>The precise nature of the impacts of proposals contained within the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF, will be subject to a full Appropriate Assessment, which will be carried out by Cambridgeshire</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>Cambridge and its associated pollution by redressing the balance of homes to jobs and allow people to use more sustainable forms of transport. However, the scale of development proposed may lead to an increase in local pollution, but this will be kept to a minimum through the existence of the Sustainable Design and Construction SPD. The Sustainability Appraisal for the SPD highlights that the existence of the SPD will be critical in achieving the City Council's sustainability objectives for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the reduction of pollution. As the development sites within Cambridge City are some distance away from the Eversden & Wimpole Woods, it is considered that the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD in combination with plans for development in Cambridge City will not have an impact on these woods.</p> <p>Many of the plans for development outside of the City contain policies to minimise the amount of pollution generated as a result of new developments. Again there are no new developments or major transport routes in close proximity to the woods. Policies are also included that protect sites of biodiversity importance (including European sites) from adverse impacts from development.</p> <p>The draft Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF Preferred Options 2 proposes an extension to Barrington Quarry, which is 4km from the woods. The initial Habitats Regulations Assessment Scoping Report has highlighted the need for further assessment of the potential impacts of this proposal on</p>	<p>County Council as the relevant competent authority.</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	the Woods, and has recommended that a full Appropriate Assessment is carried out for this and a number of other sites. The County's Draft Minerals and Waste Development Control Policies document states that development will only be permitted where appropriate planning conditions may be attached, or a legal agreement undertaken, which would satisfactorily secure the protection of European sites. In exceptional circumstances, it may be acceptable to offer appropriate mitigation schemes to enable development to proceed on selected sites.	

Agencies consulted	Natural England
Response to consultation	Natural England support the conclusion of the HRA that this SPD is unlikely to have a significant effect on any European sites and that Appropriate Assessment is not required for this document.

Overall Conclusions:
With regards to the Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC, it is considered that the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD is unlikely to have a significant impact on the conservation objectives of this site. With regards to the possible impacts resulting from proposals contained within the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF, this will be the subject of a full Appropriate Assessment carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council as the relevant competent authority.

Screening Matrix for the Devil's Dyke SAC

<p>Name, location and summary of conservation objectives for the Site</p>	<p>Devil's Dyke SAC Grid Ref: TL 611622</p> <p>Reason for designation: This site has been designated as a SAC due to the presence of semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco – Brometalia</i>).</p> <p>Devil's Dyke consists of a mosaic of calcareous grasslands (CG3 <i>Bromus erectus</i> and CG5 <i>Bromus erectus – Brachypodium pinnatum</i>). It is the only known UK semi-natural dry grassland site for lizard orchid (<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>).</p> <p>The site is located outside of the Cambridge City boundary, within East Cambridgeshire District Council's area.</p>
<p>Are there any other projects or plans that together with the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD could affect Devil's Dyke?</p>	<p>The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD allocates land for development in the heart of the City Cambridge. The site is comprised completely of Previously Developed Land. There are other plans for Cambridge City that could, theoretically indirectly affect the site, namely the 2006 Cambridge Local Plan and the Cambridge East Area Action Plan (prepared jointly with South Cambridgeshire District Council). These plans include allocations of land for development.</p> <p>Other relevant plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cambridge Development Strategy Issues & Options Report, 2007; ▪ Cambridge Sustainable Design & Construction SPD, 2007; ▪ Cambridge Draft Planning Obligations Strategy SPD, 2007; ▪ Cambridge Affordable Housing SPD, 2008 ▪ Cambridgeshire Waste Local Plan, 2003; ▪ Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste DPD Preferred Options 2 , Sept 2008; ▪ Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan, 2006-2011; ▪ South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, 2004; ▪ South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy DPD, 2007; ▪ South Cambridgeshire Site Specific Policies Submission DPD, 2006;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cambridge East Area Action Plan, 2008; ▪ Suffolk Waste Local Plan 2006, Waste Issues & Options Report 2008, Adopted Minerals Core Strategy 2008 & Minerals Specific Site Allocations DPD Submission Draft 2008 ▪ East Cambridgeshire Local Plan, 2000, Core Strategy Submission Draft, 2008, Site Allocations Issues & Options, 2006; ▪ Forest Heath Local Plan Saved Policies, 2007, Core Strategy Final Policy options Report, 2008 and Site Specific Policies & Allocations Issues & Options, 2006; ▪ St. Edmundsbury Local Plan, 2006 and Core Strategy Issues & options Report, 2008
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THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
Land take by development	<p>The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD does not propose any development that will take land from Devil's Dyke and will not result in the fragmentation of habitats.</p> <p>None of the other plans listed above propose development that would take land from this site.</p>	There are no policies in the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD or any other plans that have a direct impact on this site.
Impact on protected species outside the protected sites	The conservation objectives for this site relate to plant species within the grassland itself as opposed to animal species. Therefore there are no species listed as important to the integrity of the site that travel to forage outside the boundaries of the site.	Due to the distance of the site from the city and the fact that there are no species listed as important to the integrity of the site that travel to forage outside the boundaries of the site there is not likely to be any significant effect from the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD alone or in combination with other plans.
Recreational pressure and disturbance	It is possible that development on the Old Press/Mill Lane site may include an element of residential uses, and this may lead to an increased demand for access to the countryside recreation. Proposals contained within the Local Plan to increase the dwelling stock in the city by 12,500 (rising to 19,000 in response to the RSS) could also lead to an increased demand for access to countryside recreation and likewise in	While the provision of an element of residential development at the Old Press/Mill Lane site could lead to an increased demand for access to countryside recreation, delivery of additional open space as part of new developments, coupled with the relative distance of development sites from Devil's

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>South Cambridgeshire where there are proposals to increase the dwelling stock by 23,500. However, no major proposals contained within the Cambridge Local Plan, South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy or any other plans are within 5km of this site. The closest major development site to Devil's Dyke is at Cambridge East, which is over 10km from the site. It is not considered that the level of public use at Devil's Dyke will increase greatly as a result of proposals contained within these documents.</p> <p>In addition, many of the new developments proposed in the Cambridge Sub-region will include improvements to countryside access opportunities and the provision of new strategic open space (as demonstrated by the Cambridgeshire Horizons Green Infrastructure Strategy).</p> <p>It is therefore considered that there will be no significant impact from increased recreational pressure and disturbance on Devil's Dyke as a result of the Affordable Housing SPD alone or in combination with other plans.</p>	<p>Dyke, leads to the conclusion that the SPD will not lead to increased recreational pressure and disturbance on the woods.</p> <p>With regards to other plans, the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England states that in drawing up local development plans, consideration should be given to the risks of recreational disturbance where housing proposals fall within a 5km radius of Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites. Using this test, it is unlikely that any proposals contained within the documents identified will have a significant effect on Devil's Dyke as they are all outside the 5km radius proposed.</p> <p>The impact of public access is not listed in the vulnerabilities relating to this site contained within the site data.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that there is not likely to be a significant impact on Devil's Dyke as a result of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD alone or in combination with other plans.</p>
Water quantity and quality	This is not relevant for the conservation objectives of this site	Not relevant
Changes in pollution levels	The objectives of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD seek to reduce	As Devil's Dyke is not in close proximity to

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>the amount of car parking on site and to improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists thereby encouraging the use of more sustainable modes of transport. Coupled with the sites City Centre location, with good access to services and facilities, this should help to reduce pollution generated by transport in the vicinity of the site. The redevelopment of the site also offers a number of opportunities to introduce higher sustainability standards to the site, including renewable energy, thereby helping to reduce pollution from energy generation, albeit on a small-scale.</p> <p>In addition to the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD, the Cambridge Sustainable Design & Construction SPD contains guidance for applicants of major developments in Cambridge City on a number of sustainability criteria, many of which will contribute to reducing pollution from transport by promoting more sustainable modes of transport, as well as pollution from noise, light and odours in the wider area. The urban extensions to Cambridge set out in the Local Plan should help to reduce the level of commuting into Cambridge and its associated pollution by redressing the balance of homes to jobs and allow people to use more sustainable forms of transport. However, the scale of development proposed may lead to an increase in local pollution, but this will be kept to a minimum through the existence of the Sustainable Design and Construction SPD. The Sustainability Appraisal for the SPD highlights that the existence of the SPD will be critical in achieving the City Council's sustainability objectives for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the reduction of pollution. As</p>	<p>proposed major development sites it is not considered that there is likely to be any significant impact on the site as a result of changes in pollution levels. The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD seeks to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport in the vicinity of the site and should help to reduce pollution from transport. Policy requirements contained within other relevant plans and guidance in the form of the City Council's Sustainable Design & Construction SPD also have the aim of reducing pollution.</p> <p>The precise nature of the impacts of proposals contained within the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF, will be subject to a full Appropriate Assessment, which will be carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council as the relevant competent authority.</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>the development sites within Cambridge City are some distance away from Devil's Dyke, it is considered that the Sustainable Design & Construction SPD in combination with plans for development in Cambridge City is unlikely to have a significant impact on this site.</p> <p>Many of the plans for development outside of the City contain policies to minimise the amount of pollution generated as a result of new developments. Again there are no new developments in close proximity to Devil's Dyke. Policies are also included that protect sites of biodiversity importance (including European sites) from adverse impacts from development.</p> <p>The site is adjacent to the A14 but this is roughly at right angles to the road and as a result only a limited part of the Dyke is actually adjacent to the A14. Policies contained within the Cambridge Local Plan and South Cambridgeshire LDF and other documents have the objective of reducing commuting into Cambridge by focussing development in and on the edge of Cambridge and in the new town of Northstowe to the north west of Cambridge. It is therefore considered that there are unlikely to be any significant increases in the amount of traffic using this part of the A14.</p> <p>The Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF has highlighted the need for Devil's Dyke to be further considered in a full Appropriate Assessment. In this case, the precautionary</p>	

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	principle has been applied, as there may be possible air pollution issues as a result of proposals in the Site Allocations document for a Clinical Waste Management Facility incorporating energy from waste at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge. Cambridgeshire County Council will carry out this full assessment as the relevant competent authority.	

Agencies consulted	Natural England
Response to consultation	Natural England support the conclusion of the HRA that this SPD is unlikely to have a significant effect on any European sites and that Appropriate Assessment is not required for this document.

Overall Conclusions:
The Old Press/Mill Lane is unlikely to have significant impacts on the conservation objectives of Devil's Dyke SAC. With regards to the possible impacts resulting from proposals contained within the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF, this will be the subject of a full Appropriate Assessment to be carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council as the relevant competent authority.

Screening Matrix for the Fenland SAC and Ramsar Sites

<p>Name, location and summary of conservation objectives for the Site</p>	<p>Fenland SAC comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wicken Fen; • Chippenham Fen; and • Woodwalton Fen <p>Reason for designation:</p> <p>This site has been designated as a SAC due to the presence of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Molinia</i> meadow on calcareous, peaty or clayey silt laden soils (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>); • Calcareous fens with <i>Cladium mariscus</i> and species of <i>Caricion davallianae</i>; • Significant presence of Spined Loach (<i>Cobitis taenia</i>); and • Presence of Great Crested Newts (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>) <p>The Fenland SAC contains one of the most extensive examples of the tall herb-rich East Anglian type of fen- meadow (<i>Molinia caerulea</i> – <i>Cirsium dissectum</i>), particularly at Chippenham Fen. It is important for the conservation of the geographical and ecological range of the habitat type, as this type of fen-meadow is now rare and ecologically distinctive to East Anglia.</p> <p>The individual sites that make up the Fenland SAC hold large areas of calcareous fens with a long and well documented history of regular management. There is a full range of habitat types ranging from species-poor <i>Cladium</i> dominated fen to species-rich fen with a lower proportion of <i>Cladium</i> and containing such species as black bog-rush (<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>), tormentil (<i>Potentilla erecta</i>) and meadow thistle (<i>Cirsium dissectum</i>). There are good transitions to purple moor-grass (<i>Molinia caerulea</i>) and rush pastures, all set within a mosaic of reed beds and wet pastures. The Fens also support a significant population of spined loach (<i>Cobitis taenia</i>) and great crested newts (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>).</p> <p>The three sites that make up the Fenland SAC are located outside of the Cambridge City boundary. Each of the sites is also designated as a Ramsar site and a summary of the conservation objectives for each site is given below.</p>
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- **Wicken Fen SAC and Ramsar Site**

<p>Name, location and summary of conservation objectives of the Ramsar site</p>	<p>Wicken Fen SAC and Ramsar site</p> <p>Grid Reference: TL 555700</p> <p>Reason for designation as a Ramsar site: Wicken Fen is considered to be one of the most outstanding remnants of the East Anglian peat fens. It supports one species from the British Red Data Book of plants, the fen violet (<i>Viola persicifolia</i>), which survives at only two other sites in the UK. It also contains eight nationally scarce plants and 121 British Red Data book invertebrates.</p> <p>The site is located outside of the Cambridge City boundary, in East Cambridgeshire District Council's area.</p>
<p>Are there any other plans that together with the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD could affect Wicken Fen?</p>	<p>The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD allocates land for development in the heart of the City of Cambridge. The site is comprised completely of Previously Developed Land. There are other plans for Cambridge City that could, theoretically indirectly affect the site, namely the 2006 Cambridge Local Plan and the Cambridge East Area Action Plan (prepared jointly with South Cambridgeshire District Council).</p> <p>Other relevant plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cambridge Development Strategy Issues & Options Report, 2007; ▪ Cambridge Sustainable Design & Construction SPD, 2007; ▪ Cambridge Draft Planning Obligations Strategy SPD, 2007; ▪ Cambridge Affordable Housing SPD, 2008 ▪ Cambridgeshire Waste Local Plan, 2003; ▪ Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste DPD Preferred Options 2 , Sept 2008; ▪ Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan, 2006-2011; ▪ South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, 2004; ▪ South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy DPD, 2007; ▪ South Cambridgeshire Site Specific Policies Submission DPD, 2006; ▪ Cambridge East Area Action Plan, 2008;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Suffolk Waste Local Plan 2006, Waste Issues & Options Report 2008, Adopted Minerals Core Strategy 2008 & Minerals Specific Site Allocations DPD Submission Draft 2008 ▪ East Cambridgeshire Local Plan, 2000, Core Strategy Submission Draft, 2008, Site Allocations Issues & Options, 2006; ▪ Forest Heath Local Plan Saved Policies, 2007, Core Strategy Final Policy options Report, 2008 and Site Specific Policies & Allocations Issues & Options, 2006; ▪ St. Edmundsbury Local Plan, 2006 and Core Strategy Issues & options Report, 2008
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THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
Land take by development	<p>The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD does not propose any development that will take land from Wicken Fen and will not result in the fragmentation of habitats.</p> <p>None of the other plans listed above propose development that would take land from this site.</p>	There are no policies in the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD or any other plans that have a direct impact on this site.
Impact on protected species outside the protected sites	The conservation objectives relate to species of plant within the fen and species of invertebrates. While the Old Press/Mill Land SPD does allocate land for development, this is within the built environment of Cambridge on previously developed land, and is unlikely to have a significant impact on the species listed as being important to this site. Likewise, locations identified in other relevant plans are not considered likely to have a significant impact on species listed as important to the integrity of the site.	Due to the distance of Wicken Fen from the city, it is not considered that there is likely to be a significant effect from the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD both alone and in combination with other plans on the integrity of this site.
Recreational pressure and disturbance	It is possible that development on the Old Press/Mill Lane site may include an element of residential uses, and this may lead to an increased demand for access to the countryside recreation. Proposals contained within the Local Plan to	While the provision of an element of residential development at the Old Press/Mill Lane site could lead to an increased demand for access to countryside recreation, delivery

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>increase the dwelling stock in the city by 12,500 (rising to 19,000 in response to the RSS) could also lead to an increased demand for access to such recreation and likewise in South Cambridgeshire where there are proposals to increase the dwelling stock by 23,500. However, no major development proposals contained within the Cambridge Local Plan, South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy or any other plans are within 5km of Wicken Fen. Access to the site is limited to public rights of way, with any access beyond these being by permit only and can therefore be controlled.</p> <p>In addition, many of the new developments proposed in the Cambridge Sub-region will include improvements to countryside access opportunities and the provision of new strategic open space (as demonstrated by the Cambridge Sub-region Green Infrastructure Strategy, 2006). These proposals will be aimed at the provision of recreation opportunities for use by existing and new communities in more accessible locations than sites such as Wicken Fen.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that there will be no likely significant impact from increased recreational pressure and disturbance on Wicken Fen as a result of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD alone or in combination with other plans.</p>	<p>of additional open space as part of new developments, coupled with the relative distance of development sites from Wicken Fen, leads to the conclusion that the SPD will not lead to increased recreational pressure and disturbance on this site.</p> <p>With regards to other plans, the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England states that in drawing up local development plans, consideration should be given to the risks of recreational disturbance where housing proposals fall within a 5km radius of Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites. Using this test, it is considered unlikely that any proposals contained within the documents identified will have a significant effect on Wicken Fen as they are all outside the 5km radius proposed.</p> <p>The impact of public access is not listed in the vulnerabilities relating to this site contained within the site data. The Natural Trust manages access to the site and zoning ensures that the more remote parts of the site are left undisturbed.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that there is unlikely to be a significant impact from increased</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
		recreational pressure and disturbance on Wicken Fen as a result of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD alone or in combination with other plans.
Water quantity and quality	<p>Redevelopment of the Old Press/Mill Lane site has the potential to introduce uses onto the site that have a higher demand for water than uses currently on site (for example the introduction residential units). However policies contained within other plans for Cambridge call for water conservation measures to be put in place in all new developments to lessen the impact of this demand. In addition, all new development will be required through policy to mitigate their impacts on water runoff and drainage through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems. This policy is supplemented and expanded upon in the City Council's Sustainable Design & Construction SPD, which contains measures to both manage and minimise flood risk and minimise water use, which should in combination help to alleviate any risk of developments having an impact on the water quantity and quality at Wicken Fen. The Sustainability Appraisal of the SPD highlights that the existence of the SPD will be critical in order to achieve the City Council's Sustainability Objectives for managing and minimising flood risk and minimising water consumption. As the development sites within Cambridge City are some distance away from Wicken Fen, it is considered that the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD in combination with plans for development in Cambridge City will have no likely significant impact on this site.</p> <p>Many of the plans for development outside of the City contain</p>	<p>The Old Press/Mill Lane will be one of a raft of policy documents used to guide development and determine planning applications in the City. Many of these plans contain policies that should help to alleviate any potential impacts of new development on water quantity and quality at Wicken Fen. As such it is felt that the document, both alone and in combination with other plans, is unlikely to result in significant impacts on the nature conservation objectives of the site.</p> <p>The Environment Agency plays an important role in regulating proposals for wastewater treatment and drainage, being governed by the Habitats Directive and the Urban Wastewater Directive. They also regulate the quality of water released from wastewater treatment works and are a statutory consultee for all flood risk assessments carried out for development proposals. It is therefore felt that the impact of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD and other plans is unlikely to have a significant impact on Wicken Fen.</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>policies to minimise the impacts on water quantity and quality from new developments. The principle for new developments not exceeding undeveloped rates for site run off is central to PPS25 Development and Flood Risk. Again there are no new developments in close proximity to Wicken Fen. Many of the other relevant plans contain policies promoting the use of sustainable drainage systems and requirements to restrict surface water run off to no greater than if the site were undeveloped.</p> <p>With regards to the impact of increased water consumption as a result of new development, many of the plans identified which are outside Cambridge City contain requirements for water conservation strategies to be provided as part of new development proposals. Water companies have planned for new resources and infrastructure in their water resources plans that were submitted in 2004, which cover the period up to 2030. These take into account the growth as outlined in the Sustainable Communities Plan and the majority of supply is anticipated to come from existing licenses (Source: Maintaining Water Supply, Environment Agency, July 2004). Any additional water abstraction from Wicken Fen can only take place if it is shown that it does not adversely affect the sites ecological integrity (Source: The Cam and Ely Ouse Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy Consultation Document, Environment Agency October 2006).</p> <p>The Habitats Regulations Assessment Scoping Report for the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF (Site Specific</p>	<p>With regards to the possible impacts resulting from proposals contained within the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF, this will be the subject of a full Appropriate Assessment. Cambridgeshire County Council will carry out this assessment as the relevant competent authority.</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	Document) has identified potential hydrological impacts on Wicken Fen as a result of the allocation of the Dimmocks Cote Quarry in Wicken for Limestone extraction. In order to further assess the nature of these impacts and whether there will be a need for mitigation measures to be put in place, the conclusions of this Scoping Report were that a full Appropriate Assessment would be required. Cambridgeshire County Council will carry out this assessment as the relevant competent authority.	
Changes in pollution levels	<p>The objectives of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD seek to reduce the amount of car parking on site and to improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists thereby encouraging the use of more sustainable modes of transport. Coupled with the site's City Centre location, with good access to services and facilities, this should help to reduce pollution generated by transport in the vicinity of the site. The redevelopment of the site also offers a number of opportunities to introduce higher sustainability standards to the site, including renewable energy, thereby helping to reduce pollution from energy generation, albeit on a small-scale.</p> <p>In addition to the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD, the Cambridge Sustainable Design & Construction SPD contains guidance for applicants of major developments in Cambridge City on a number of sustainability criteria, many of which will contribute to reducing pollution from transport by promoting more sustainable modes of transport, as well as pollution from noise, light and odours in the wider area. The urban extensions to Cambridge set out in the Local Plan should help to reduce the level of</p>	<p>As Wicken Fen is not in close proximity to proposed major development sites it is not considered that there is likely to be any significant impact on the site as a result of changes in pollution levels. The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD seeks to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport in the vicinity of the site and should help to reduce pollution from transport. Policy requirements contained within other relevant plans and guidance in the form of the City Council's Sustainable Design & Construction SPD also have the aim of reducing pollution.</p> <p>With regards to the possible impacts resulting from proposals within the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF, this will be subject to further assessment as part of a full Appropriate Assessment. Cambridgeshire County Council will carry out this assessment</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>commuting into Cambridge and its associated pollution by redressing the balance of homes to jobs and allow people to use more sustainable forms of transport. However, the scale of development proposed may lead to an increase in local pollution, but this will be kept to a minimum through the existence of the Sustainable Design and Construction SPD. The Sustainability Appraisal for the SPD highlights that the existence of the SPD will be critical in achieving the City Council's sustainability objectives for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the reduction of pollution. As the development sites within Cambridge City are some distance away from Wicken Fen, it is considered that the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD in combination with plans for development in Cambridge City is unlikely to have a significant impact on this site.</p> <p>Many of the plans for development outside of the City contain policies to minimise the amount of pollution generated as a result of new developments. Again there are no new developments in close proximity to Wicken Fen. Policies are also included that protect sites of biodiversity importance (including European sites) from adverse impacts from development.</p> <p>The Habitats Regulations Assessment Scoping Report for the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF (Site Specific Document) has identified potential airborne impacts on Wicken Fen as a result of the allocation of the Dimmocks Cote Quarry in Wicken for Limestone extraction. In order to further assess</p>	<p>as the relevant competent authority.</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	the nature of these impacts and whether there will be a need for mitigation measures to be put in place, the conclusions of this Scoping Report were that a full Appropriate Assessment would be required. Cambridgeshire County Council will carry out this assessment as the relevant competent authority.	

Agencies consulted	Natural England
Response to consultation	Natural England support the conclusion of the HRA that this SPD is unlikely to have a significant effect on any European sites and that Appropriate Assessment is not required for this document.

Overall Conclusions:
The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD, both alone and in combination with other plans, is unlikely to have significant impacts on the conservation objectives for Wicken Fen. With regards to the possible impacts resulting from proposals contained within the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF, this will be the subject of a full Appropriate Assessment to be carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council as the relevant competent authority.

- **Chippenham Fen SAC and Ramsar Site**

<p>Name, location and summary of conservation objectives of the Ramsar site</p>	<p>Chippenham Fen SAC and Ramsar Site</p> <p>Grid Reference: TL 648697</p> <p>Reason for designation as a Ramsar site: Chippenham Fen is a spring-fed calcareous basin mire with a long history of management, which is partly reflected in the diversity of its present day vegetation. The invertebrate fauna is very rich, partly due to its transitional position between Fenland and Breckland. The species list contains many rare and scarce invertebrates, characteristic of ancient British fenland sites. The site supports diverse flora, with rare and scarce species. The site is the stronghold of Cambridge milk parsley <i>Selinum carvifolia</i>.</p> <p>The site is located outside of the Cambridge City boundary in East Cambridgeshire District Council's area.</p>
<p>Are there any other plans that together with the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD could affect Chippenham Fen?</p>	<p>The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD allocates land for development in the heart of the City of Cambridge. The site is comprised completely of Previously Developed Land. There are other plans for Cambridge City that could, theoretically indirectly affect the site, namely the 2006 Cambridge Local Plan and the Cambridge East Area Action Plan (prepared jointly with South Cambridgeshire District Council).</p> <p>Other relevant plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cambridge Development Strategy Issues & Options Report, 2007; ▪ Cambridge Sustainable Design & Construction SPD, 2007; ▪ Cambridge Draft Planning Obligations Strategy SPD, 2007; ▪ Cambridge Affordable Housing SPD, 2008 ▪ Cambridgeshire Waste Local Plan, 2003; ▪ Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste DPD Preferred Options 2 , Sept 2008; ▪ Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan, 2006-2011; ▪ South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, 2004;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy DPD, 2007; ▪ South Cambridgeshire Site Specific Policies Submission DPD, 2006; ▪ Cambridge East Area Action Plan, 2008; ▪ Suffolk Waste Local Plan 2006, Waste Issues & Options Report 2008, Adopted Minerals Core Strategy 2008 & Minerals Specific Site Allocations DPD Submission Draft 2008 ▪ East Cambridgeshire Local Plan, 2000, Core Strategy Submission Draft, 2008, Site Allocations Issues & Options, 2006; ▪ Forest Heath Local Plan Saved Policies, 2007, Core Strategy Final Policy options Report, 2008 and Site Specific Policies & Allocations Issues & Options, 2006; ▪ St. Edmundsbury Local Plan, 2006 and Core Strategy Issues & Options Report, 2008
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THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
Land take by development	<p>The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD does not propose any development that will take land from Chippenham Fen and will not result in the fragmentation of habitats.</p> <p>None of the other plans listed above propose development that would take land from this site.</p>	There are no policies in the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD or any other plans that have a direct impact on this site.
Impact on protected species outside the protected sites	The conservation objectives relate to species of plant within the fen and species of invertebrates. While the Old Press/Mill Land SPD does allocate land for development, this is within the built environment of Cambridge on previously developed land, and is unlikely to have a significant impact on the species listed as being important to Chippenham Fen. Likewise, locations identified in other relevant plans are not considered likely to have a significant impact on species listed as important to the integrity of the site.	Due to the distance of the site from the city it is not considered that there is likely to be a significant effect from the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD both alone and in combination with other plans on the integrity of this site.
Recreational pressure and disturbance	It is possible that development on the Old Press/Mill Lane site may include an element of residential uses, and this may lead	While the provision of an element of residential development at the Old Press/Mill

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>to an increased demand for access to the countryside recreation. Proposals contained within the Local Plan to increase the dwelling stock in the city by 12,500 (rising to 19,000 in response to the RSS) could also lead to an increased demand for access to such recreation and likewise in South Cambridgeshire where there are proposals to increase the dwelling stock by 23,500. However, no major proposals contained with the Cambridge Local Plan, South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy or any other plans are within 5km of Chippenham Fen (Cambridge East is over 15km from the site).</p> <p>Both the site and the surrounding area are privately owned. While there are rights of way running across the site, access beyond these paths is by permit only. The Ramsar data sheets indicate a low level of usage by local villagers with few people applying for permits for recreational purposes.</p> <p>In addition, many of the new developments proposed in the Cambridge Sub-region will include improvements to countryside access opportunities and the provision of new strategic open space (as demonstrated by the Cambridge Sub-region Green Infrastructure Strategy, 2006). These proposals would be aimed at the provision of recreation opportunities for use by existing and new communities in more accessible locations than sites such as Chippenham Fen.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that there will be no likely significant impact from increased recreational pressure and disturbance on</p>	<p>Lane site could lead to an increased demand for access to countryside recreation, delivery of additional open space as part of new developments, coupled with the relative distance of development sites from Chippenham Fen, leads to the conclusion that the SPD is unlikely to lead to increased recreational pressure and disturbance on this site.</p> <p>With regards to other plans, the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England states that in drawing up local development plans, consideration should be given to the risks of recreational disturbance where housing proposals fall within a 5km radius of Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites. Using this test, it is unlikely that any proposals contained within the documents identified will have a significant effect on Chippenham Fen as they are all outside the 5km radius proposed.</p> <p>It is considered unlikely that the level of public use of Chippenham Fen will increase greatly as a result of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD alone or in combination with other plans.</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	Chippenham Fen as a result of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD alone or in combination with other plans.	
Water quantity and quality	<p>Redevelopment of the Old Press/Mill Lane site has the potential to introduce uses onto the site that have a higher demand for water than uses currently on site (for example the introduction residential units). However, policies contained within other plans for Cambridge call for water conservation measures to be put in place in all new developments to lessen the impact of this demand. In addition, all new developments will be required through policy to mitigate their impacts on water runoff and drainage through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems. This policy is supplemented and expanded upon in the City Council's Sustainable Design & Construction SPD, which contains measures to both manage and minimise flood risk and minimise water use, which should in combination help to alleviate any risk of developments having an impact on the water quantity and quality at Chippenham Fen. The Sustainability Appraisal of this SPD highlights that the existence of the SPD will be critical in order to achieve the City Council's Sustainability Objectives for managing and minimising flood risk and minimising water consumption. As the development sites within Cambridge City are some distance away from Chippenham Fen, it is considered that the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD in combination with plans for development in Cambridge City will not have an impact on this site.</p> <p>Many of the plans for development outside of the City contain policies to minimise the impacts on water quantity and quality from new developments. The principle for new developments</p>	<p>The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD will be one of a raft of policy documents used to guide development and determine planning applications for this site. Many of these plans contain policies that should help to alleviate any potential impacts of new development on water quantity and quality at Chippenham Fen. As such it is felt that the document, both alone and in combination with other plans, will be unlikely to have a significant impact on Chippenham Fen.</p> <p>The Environment Agency plays an important role in regulating proposals for wastewater treatment and drainage, being governed by the Habitats Directive and the Urban Wastewater Directive. They also regulate the quality of water released from wastewater treatment works and are a statutory consultee for all flood risk assessments carried out for development proposals. It is therefore felt that the impact of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD and other plans is unlikely to have a significant impact on Chippenham Fen.</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>not exceeding undeveloped rates for site run off is central to PPS25 Development and Flood Risk. Again there are no new developments in close proximity to Chippenham Fen. Many of the other relevant plans contain policies promoting the use of sustainable drainage systems and requirements to restrict surface water run off to no greater than if the site were undeveloped.</p> <p>With regards to the impact of increased water consumption as a result of new development, many of the plans identified that are outside Cambridge City contain requirements for water conservation strategies to be provided as part of new development proposals. Water companies have planned for new resources and infrastructure in their water resources plans that were submitted in 2004, which cover the period up to 2030. These take into account the growth as outlined in the Sustainable Communities Plan and the majority of supply is anticipated to come from existing licenses (Source: Maintaining Water Supply, Environment Agency, July 2004). (For general information, it is possible that some existing abstraction licences could be causing effects on sensitive wetland SSSI's. This matter is being addressed through the Asset Management Plan Process (AMP) and Restoring Sustainable Abstraction (RSA) initiative of the Environment Agency).</p>	
Changes in pollution levels	The objectives of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD seek to reduce the amount of car parking on site and to improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists thereby encouraging the use of more sustainable modes of transport. Coupled with the sites City	As Chippenham Fen is not in close proximity to proposed major development sites it is not considered that there is likely to be any significant impact on the site as a result of

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>Centre location, with good access to services and facilities, this should help to reduce pollution generated by transport in the vicinity of the site. The redevelopment of the site also offers a number of opportunities to introduce higher sustainability standards to the site, including renewable energy, thereby helping to reduce pollution from energy generation, albeit on a small-scale.</p> <p>In addition to the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD, the Cambridge Sustainable Design & Construction SPD contains guidance for applicants of major developments in Cambridge City on a number of sustainability criteria, many of which will contribute to reducing pollution from transport by promoting more sustainable modes of transport, as well as pollution from noise, light and odours in the wider area. The urban extensions to Cambridge set out in the Local Plan should help to reduce the level of commuting into Cambridge and its associated pollution by redressing the balance of homes to jobs and allow people to use more sustainable forms of transport. However, the scale of development proposed may lead to an increase in local pollution, but this will be kept to a minimum through the existence of this SPD. The Sustainability Appraisal for the SPD highlights that the existence of the SPD will be critical in achieving the City Council's sustainability objectives for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the reduction of pollution. As the development sites within Cambridge City are some distance away from Chippenham Fen, it is considered that the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD in combination with plans for development in Cambridge City is unlikely to have a significant</p>	<p>changes in pollution levels. The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD seeks to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport in the vicinity of the site and should help to reduce pollution from transport. Policy requirements contained within other relevant plans and guidance in the form of the City Council's Sustainable Design & Construction SPD also have the aim of reducing pollution.</p> <p>With regards to the possible impacts resulting from proposals within the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF, this will be subject to further assessment as part of a full Appropriate Assessment. Cambridgeshire County Council will carry out this assessment as the relevant competent authority.</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>impact on this site.</p> <p>Many of the plans for development outside of the City contain policies to minimise the amount of pollution generated as a result of new developments. Again there are no new developments in close proximity to Chippenham Fen. Policies are also included that protect sites of biodiversity importance (including European sites) from adverse impacts from development.</p> <p>The Habitats Regulations Assessment Scoping Report for the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF (Site Specific Document) has identified potential airborne pollution impacts on Chippenham Fen as a result of the allocation of a proposed Clinical Waste Management facility at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge. In order to further assess the nature of these impacts and whether there will be a need for mitigation measures to be put in place, the conclusions of this Scoping Report were that a full Appropriate Assessment would be required. Cambridgeshire County Council will carry out this assessment as the relevant competent authority.</p>	

Agencies consulted	Natural England
Response to consultation	Natural England support the conclusion of the HRA that this SPD is unlikely to have a significant effect on any European sites and that Appropriate Assessment is not required for this document.

Overall Conclusions:

The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD, both alone and in combination with other relevant plans, is unlikely to have significant impacts on the conservation objectives for Chippenham Fen. With regards to the possible impacts resulting from proposals contained within the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF, this will be the subject of a full Appropriate Assessment, to be carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council as the relevant competent authority.

- **Woodwalton Fen SAC and Ramsar Site**

<p>Name, location and summary of conservation objectives of the Ramsar site</p>	<p>Woodwalton Fen SAC and Ramsar Site</p> <p>Grid Reference: TL 230840</p> <p>Reason for designation as a Ramsar site: Woodwalton Fen lies within an area of one of the remaining parts of East Anglia that has not been drained. The site supports two species of flora listed in the British Red Data Book for plants, fen violet <i>Viola persiciflora</i> and fen wood rush <i>Luzula pallescens</i>.</p> <p>The site is located outside of the Cambridge City boundary, in Huntingdonshire District Council's area.</p>
<p>Are there any other plans that together with the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD could affect Woodwalton Fen?</p>	<p>The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD allocates land for development in the heart of the City of Cambridge. The site is comprised completely of Previously Developed Land. There are other plans for Cambridge City that could, theoretically indirectly affect the site, namely the 2006 Cambridge Local Plan and the North West Cambridge Area Action Plan (prepared jointly with South Cambridgeshire District Council).</p> <p>Other relevant plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cambridge Development Strategy Issues & Options Report, 2007; ▪ Cambridge Sustainable Design & Construction SPD, 2007; ▪ Cambridge Draft Planning Obligations Strategy SPD, 2007; ▪ Cambridge Affordable Housing SPD, 2008 ▪ Cambridgeshire Waste Local Plan, 2003; ▪ Cambridgeshire Aggregates (minerals) Local Plan, 1991; ▪ Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste DPD Preferred Options 2, Sept 2008; ▪ Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan, 2006-2011; ▪ South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, 2004; ▪ South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy DPD, 2007; ▪ South Cambridgeshire Site Specific Policies Submission DPD, 2006;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Northstowe Area Action Plan, 2007; ▪ Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action , 2008; ▪ North West Cambridge Area Action Plan Submission Draft, May 2008; ▪ Huntingdonshire Local Plan 1995 & Alteration 2002, Core Submission Draft 2008, Development Control Policies Issues & Options Report, 2007 & Huntingdon West AAP Issues & Options Report, 2007; ▪ Fenland Local Plan 1993, Core Strategy Preferred Options 2 2007 and Site Specific Proposals Issues & Options 2007.
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THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
Land take by development	<p>The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD does not propose any development that will take land from Woodwalton Fen and will not result in the fragmentation of habitats.</p> <p>None of the other plans listed above propose development that would take land from this site.</p>	There are no policies in the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD or any other plans that have a direct impact on this site.
Impact on protected species outside the protected sites	The conservation objectives relate to species of plant within the fen. While the Old Press/Mill Land SPD does allocate land for development, this is within the built environment of Cambridge on previously developed land, and is unlikely to have a significant impact on the species listed as being important to Chippenham Fen. Likewise, locations identified in other relevant plans are not considered likely to have a significant impact on species listed as important to the integrity of the site.	Due to the distance of the site from the city it is not considered that there is likely to be a significant effect from the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD both alone and in combination with other plans on the integrity of this site.
Recreational pressure and disturbance	It is possible that development on the Old Press/Mill Lane site may include an element of residential uses, and this may lead to an increased demand for access to the countryside recreation. Proposals contained within the Local Plan to increase the dwelling stock in the city by 12,500 (increasing to	While the provision of an element of residential development at the Old Press/Mill Lane site could lead to an increased demand for access to countryside recreation, delivery of additional open space as part of new

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	<p>19,000 in response to the RSS) could also lead to an increased demand for access to such recreation and likewise in South Cambridgeshire where there are proposals to increase the dwelling stock by 23,500. However, no major proposals contained within the Cambridge Local Plan, South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy or any other plans are within 5km of Woodwalton Fen (Northstowe is over 20km away from the site).</p> <p>Parking is limited at the site and there are no public rights of way crossing the fen. 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. There are other countryside access opportunities available in more accessible locations and so it is considered unlikely that the proposed plans will lead to a great increase in visitor numbers.</p> <p>In addition, many of the new developments proposed in the Cambridge Sub-region will include improvements to countryside access opportunities and the provision of new strategic open space (as demonstrated by the Cambridge Sub-region Green Infrastructure Strategy, 2006). These proposals will be aimed at the provision of recreation opportunities for use by existing and new communities in more accessible locations than Woodwalton Fen.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that there will be no likely significant</p>	<p>developments, coupled with the relative distance of development sites from Woodwalton Fen, leads to the conclusion that the SPD is unlikely to lead to increased recreational pressure and disturbance on this site.</p> <p>With regards to other plans, the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England states that in drawing up local development plans, consideration should be given to the risks of recreational disturbance where housing proposals fall within a 5km radius of Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites. Using this test, it is unlikely that any proposals contained within the documents identified will have a significant effect on Woodwalton Fen as they are all outside the 5km radius proposed.</p> <p>The impact of public access is not listed in the vulnerabilities relating to this site contained within the site data. Public access to some areas of the site is restricted and a no dog policy is maintained.</p> <p>It is considered unlikely that the level of public use of Woodwalton Fen will increase greatly as a result of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD</p>

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Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	impact from increased recreational pressure and disturbance on Woodwalton Fen as a result of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD alone or in combination with other plans.	alone or in combination with other plans.
Water quantity and quality	<p>Redevelopment of the Old Press/Mill Lane site has the potential to introduce uses onto the site that have a higher demand for water than uses currently on site (for example the introduction residential units). However policies contained within other plans for Cambridge call for water conservation measures to be put in place in all new developments to lessen the impact of this demand. In addition, all new developments will be required through policy to mitigate their impacts on water runoff and drainage through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems. This policy is supplemented and expanded upon in the City Council's Sustainable Design & Construction SPD, which contains measures to both manage and minimise flood risk and minimise water use, which should in combination help to alleviate any risk of developments having an impact on the water quantity and quality at Woodwalton Fen. While it is recognised that while there would be an increase in water consumption and in theory on water quality through increased run off as a result of the new developments proposed in Cambridge City and on the fringes of the City the potential impact will be kept to a minimum through the existence of this SPD and other policies. The Sustainability Appraisal of the Sustainable Design and Construction SPD highlights that the existence of the SPD will be critical in order to achieve the City Council's Sustainability Objectives for managing and minimising flood risk and minimising water consumption. As the development sites within Cambridge City are some distance</p>	<p>The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD will be one of a raft of policy documents used to guide development and determine planning applications for this site. Many of these plans contain policies that should help alleviate any potential impacts of new development on water quantity and quality at Woodwalton Fen. As such it is felt that the document, both alone and in combination with other plans, will not result in significant impacts on the nature conservation objectives of the site.</p> <p>The Environment Agency plays an important role in regulating proposals for wastewater treatment and drainage, being governed by the Habitats Directive and the Urban Wastewater Directive. They also regulate the quality of water released from wastewater treatment works and are a statutory consultee for all flood risk assessments carried out for development proposals. It is therefore felt that the impact of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD and other plans are unlikely to have a significant impact on Woodwalton Fen.</p> <p>With regards to the possible impacts resulting</p>

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Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>away from Woodwalton Fen, it is considered that the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD in combination with plans for development in Cambridge City is unlikely to have a significant impact on this site.</p> <p>Many of the plans for development outside of the City contain policies to minimise the impacts on water quantity and quality from new developments. The principle for new developments not exceeding undeveloped rates for site run off is central to PPS25 Development and Flood Risk. Again there are no new developments in close proximity to Woodwalton Fen. Many of the other relevant plans contain policies promoting the use of sustainable drainage systems and requirements to restrict surface water run off to no greater than if the site were undeveloped.</p> <p>With regards to the impact of increased water consumption as a result of new development, many of the plans identified that are outside Cambridge City contain requirements for water conservation strategies to be provided as part of new development proposals. Water companies have planned for new resources and infrastructure in their water resources plans that were submitted in 2004, which cover the period up to 2030. These take into account the growth as outlined in the Sustainable Communities Plan and the majority of supply is anticipated to come from existing licenses (Source: Maintaining Water Supply, Environment Agency, July 2004).</p> <p>The Habitats Regulations Assessment Scoping Report for the</p>	<p>from proposals within the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF, this will be subject to further assessment as part of a full Appropriate Assessment. Cambridgeshire County Council will carry out this assessment as the relevant competent authority.</p>

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Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF (Site Specific Document) has identified potential hydrological impacts on Woodwalton Fen as a result of the allocation of a number of Preferred Sites for Minerals and Waste development. In order to further assess the nature of these impacts and whether there will be a need for mitigation measures to be put in place, the conclusions of this Scoping Report were that a full Appropriate Assessment would be required. Cambridgeshire County Council will carry out this assessment as the relevant competent authority.</p>	
Changes in pollution levels	<p>The objectives of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD seek to reduce the amount of car parking on site and to improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists thereby encouraging the use of more sustainable modes of transport. Coupled with the sites City Centre location, with good access to services and facilities, this should help to reduce pollution generated by transport in the vicinity of the site. The redevelopment of the site also offers a number of opportunities to introduce higher sustainability standards to the site, including renewable energy, thereby helping to reduce pollution from energy generation, albeit on a small-scale.</p> <p>In addition to the objectives of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD, the Cambridge Sustainable Design & Construction SPD contains guidance for applicants of major developments in Cambridge City on a number of sustainability criteria, many of which will contribute to reducing pollution from transport by promoting more sustainable modes of transport, as well as pollution from</p>	<p>As Woodwalton Fen is not in close proximity to proposed major development sites it is not considered that there is likely to be any significant impact on the site as a result of changes in pollution levels. The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD seeks to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport in the vicinity of the site and should help to reduce pollution from transport. Policy requirements contained within other relevant plans and guidance in the form of the City Council's Sustainable Design & Construction SPD also have the aim of reducing pollution.</p> <p>With regards to the possible impacts resulting from proposals within the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF, this will be subject to further assessment as part of a full</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>noise, light and odours in the wider area. The Sustainability Appraisal for this SPD highlights that its existence would be critical in achieving the City Council's sustainability objectives for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the reduction of pollution. As the development sites within Cambridge City are some distance away from Woodwalton Fen, it is considered that the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD in combination with plans for development in Cambridge City will not have a likely significant impact on Woodwalton Fen.</p> <p>Many of the plans for development outside the City contain policies to minimise the amount of pollution generated as a result of new developments. Again there are no new developments in close proximity to Woodwalton Fen. Policies are also included that protect sites of biodiversity importance (including European sites) from adverse impacts from development.</p> <p>The Habitats Regulations Assessment Scoping Report for the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF (Site Specific Document) has identified potential airborne impacts on Woodwalton Fen as a result of the allocation of a number of Preferred Sites for Minerals and Waste development. In order to further assess the nature of these impacts and whether there will be a need for mitigation measures to be put in place, the conclusions of this Scoping Report were that a full Appropriate Assessment would be required. Cambridgeshire County Council will carry out this assessment as the relevant competent authority.</p>	<p>Appropriate Assessment. Cambridgeshire County Council will carry out this assessment as the relevant competent authority.</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant

Agencies consulted	Natural England
Response to consultation	Natural England support the conclusion of the HRA that this SPD is unlikely to have a significant effect on any European sites and that Appropriate Assessment is not required for this document.

Overall Conclusions:
The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD, both alone and in combination with other relevant plans, is unlikely to have significant impacts on the conservation objectives for Woodwalton Fen. With regards to the possible impacts resulting from proposals contained within the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF, this will be the subject of a full Appropriate Assessment, to be carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council as the relevant competent authority.

Screening Matrix for the Ouse Washes SAC, SPA and Ramsar Site

<p>Name, location and summary of conservation objectives of the site</p>	<p>The Ouse Washes</p> <p>Grid Reference: TL 498895</p> <p>The Ouse Washes is a wetland of major international importance comprising seasonally flooded washlands, which are managed through the use of traditional agricultural techniques. It provides breeding and winter habitats for important assemblages of wild bird species, particularly wildfowl and waders.</p> <p>Reason for designation as a SAC: The Ouse Washes contain a significant population of spined loach (<i>Cobitis taenia</i>). The Counter Drain, with its clear water and abundant macrophytes, is particularly important and has a significant population of spined loach.</p> <p>Reason for designation as an SPA The Ouse Washes is a wetland of major international importance comprising seasonally flooded washlands, which are managed through the use of traditional agricultural techniques. It provides breeding and winter habitats for important assemblages of wild bird species, particularly wildfowl and waders.</p> <p>Reason for designation as a Ramsar site The Ouse Washes have been designated as a Ramsar site for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Particularly good example of a natural or near-natural wetland, characteristic of its biogeographical region; • The site supports a number of rare species of flora and fauna; • The site supports a diverse collection of rare breeding waterfowl associated with seasonally flooding wet grassland; • The Washes are of international importance by virtue of regularly supporting over 20,000 waterfowl; • The Washes are important internationally for supporting certain species during the winter
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	<p>The boundaries of the SPA and Ramsar site vary slightly from those of the Ouse Washes SAC, which are primarily located in East Cambridgeshire District and King's Lynn and West Norfolk District.</p>
<p>Are there any other plans that together with the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD could affect the Ouse Washes?</p>	<p>The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD allocates land for development in the heart of the City of Cambridge. The site is comprised entirely of Previously Developed Land. There are other plans for Cambridge City and surrounding districts that could, theoretically indirectly affect the site.</p> <p>Other relevant plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cambridge Development Strategy Issues & Options Report, 2007; ▪ Cambridge Sustainable Design & Construction SPD, 2007; ▪ Cambridge Draft Planning Obligations Strategy SPD, 2007; ▪ Cambridge Affordable Housing SPD, 2008 ▪ Cambridgeshire Waste Local Plan, 2003; ▪ Cambridgeshire Aggregates (minerals) Local Plan, 1991; ▪ Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste DPD Preferred Options 2, Sept 2008; ▪ Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan, 2006-2011; ▪ South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, 2004; ▪ South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy DPD, 2007; ▪ South Cambridgeshire Site Specific Policies Submission DPD, 2006; ▪ Northstowe Area Action Plan, 2007; ▪ Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action , 2008; ▪ North West Cambridge Area Action Plan Submission Draft, May 2008; ▪ Huntingdonshire Local Plan 1995 & Alteration 2002, Core Submission Draft 2008, Development Control Policies Issues & Options Report, 2007 & Huntingdon West AAP Issues & Options Report, 2007; ▪ Fenland Local Plan 1993, Core Strategy Preferred Options 2 2007 and Site Specific Proposals Issues & Options 2007. ▪ King's Lynn & West Norfolk Local Plan Saved Policies 2007 & Core Strategy Revised Issues & Options Stage, 2008

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Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
Land take by development	<p>The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD does not propose any development that will take land from the Ouse Washes and will not result in the fragmentation of habitats.</p> <p>None of the other plans listed above propose development that would take land from this site.</p>	There are no policies in the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD or any other plans that have a direct impact on this site.
Impact on protected species outside the protected sites	The conservation objectives relate to species of fauna within the Ouse Washes and Counter Drain. While the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD does allocate land for development, this is within the built environment of Cambridge on previously developed land, and is unlikely to have a significant impact on the species listed as being important to the Ouse Washes. Likewise, locations identified in other relevant plans are not considered likely to have a significant impact on species listed as important to the integrity of the site.	Due to the distance of the site from the city it is not considered that there is likely to be a significant effect from the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD both alone and in combination with other plans on the integrity of this site.
Recreational pressure and disturbance	It is possible that development on the Old Press/Mill Lane site may include an element of residential uses, and this may lead to an increased demand for access to the countryside recreation. Proposals contained within the Local Plan to increase the dwelling stock in the city by 12,500 (rising to 19,000 in response to the RSS) could also lead to an increased demand for access to such recreation and likewise in South Cambridgeshire where there are proposals to increase the dwelling stock by 23,500. However, no major proposals contained within the Cambridge Local Plan, South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy or any other plans are within 5km of the Ouse Washes (Northstowe being 7km away from the	<p>While the provision of an element of residential development at the Old Press/Mill Lane site could lead to an increased demand for access to countryside recreation, delivery of additional open space as part of new developments, coupled with the relative distance of development sites from the Ouse Washes leads to the conclusion that the SPD is unlikely to lead to increased recreational pressure and disturbance on this site.</p> <p>With regards to other plans, the Habitats</p>

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	<p>nearest point on the Washes).</p> <p>There is a network of public rights of way through the Washes. The RSPB manages a nature reserve at Welches Dam, while the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust manage a reserve at Welney in Norfolk.</p> <p>In addition, many of the new developments proposed in the Cambridge Sub-region will include improvements to countryside access opportunities and the provision of new strategic open space (as demonstrated by the Cambridge Sub-region Green Infrastructure Strategy, 2006). These proposals will be aimed at the provision of recreation opportunities for use by existing and new communities in more accessible locations than sites such as the Ouse Washes.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that there will be no likely significant impact from increased recreational pressure and disturbance on the Ouse Washes as a result of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD alone or in combination with other plans.</p>	<p>Regulations Assessment of the draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England states that in drawing up local development plans, consideration should be given to the risks of recreational disturbance where housing proposals fall within a 5km radius of Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites. Using this test, it is unlikely that any proposals contained within the documents identified will have a significant effect on the Ouse Washes as they are all outside the 5km radius proposed.</p> <p>The impact of public access is not listed in the vulnerabilities relating to this site contained within the site data. Therefore it is considered unlikely that the level of public use at the Ouse Washes will increase greatly as a result of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD alone or in combination with other plans.</p>
Water quantity and quality	<p>All of the Cambridge City area drains into the Ouse Washes via the River Cam. Exceptional rainfall events cause the River Cam to Flood at Fen Road, Midsummer and Stourbridge Commons and along Riverside. Several of its tributaries flood as well, and development must not increase flood risk to these locations or elsewhere from both urban run off and additional wastewater from Cambridge Sewage Treatment Works.</p> <p>Redevelopment of the Old Press/Mill Lane site has the potential</p>	<p>The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD will be one of a raft of policy documents used to guide development and determine planning applications in this area of Cambridge. Many of these plans contain policies that should help to alleviate any potential impacts of new development on water quantity and quality at the Ouse Washes. As such it is felt that the document, both alone and in combination with</p>

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	<p>to introduce uses onto the site that have a higher demand for water than uses currently on site (for example the introduction residential units). However, policies contained within other plans for Cambridge call for water conservation measures to be put in place in all new developments to lessen the impact of this demand. In addition, all new development, including that for affordable housing, will be required through policy to mitigate their impacts on water runoff and drainage through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems. This policy is supplemented and expanded upon in the City Council's Sustainable Design & Construction SPD, which contains measures to both manage and minimise flood risk and minimise water use, which should in combination help to alleviate any risk of developments having an impact on the water quantity and quality at the Ouse Washes. While it is recognised that while there would be an increase in water consumption and in theory on water quality through increased run off as a result of the new developments proposed in Cambridge City and on the fringes of the City the potential impact will be kept to a minimum through the existence of this SPD and other policies. It is also recognised that seasonal flooding plays an important role in maintaining the integrity of the Ouse Washes, and again the Sustainable Design and Construction SPD contains guidance to address the issue of run off and wastewater flood risk to ensure that there are no unacceptable impacts. The Sustainability Appraisal of the SPD highlights that the existence of the SPD will be critical in order to achieve the City Council's Sustainability Objectives for managing and minimising flood risk and minimising water consumption. As the development sites within Cambridge City</p>	<p>other plans, will not result in likely significant impacts on the nature conservation objectives of the site.</p> <p>The Environment Agency plays an important role in regulating proposals for wastewater treatment and drainage, being governed by the Habitats Directive and the Urban Wastewater Directive. They also regulate the quality of water released from wastewater treatment works and are a statutory consultee for all flood risk assessments carried out for development proposals. Any larger sewage treatment works discharging into sensitive areas must meet the Wastewater Directives standards for the removal of nutrients unless it can be demonstrated that the removal will have no effect on the degree of eutrophication (the Ouse Washes have been identified as a Eutrophic Sensitive Area). A review of the capacity of sewage treatment works in the East of England (Halcrow, 2006) indicates that any new development draining into the Uttons Drove Sewage Treatment Works may result in an increased flood risk in the Swavesey Internal Drainage Board Area, as opposed to the great Ouse itself. The report recommended that further investigation should be carried out with regards to the</p>

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Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>are some distance away from the Ouse Washes, it is considered that the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD in combination with plans for development in Cambridge City will not have an impact on this site.</p> <p>Many of the plans for development outside of the City contain policies to minimise the impacts on water quantity and quality from new developments. The principle for new developments not exceeding undeveloped rates for site run off is central to PPS25 Development and Flood Risk. Again there are no new developments in close proximity to the Ouse Washes. Many of the other relevant plans contain policies promoting the use of sustainable drainage systems and requirements to restrict surface water run off to no greater than if the site were undeveloped.</p> <p>With regards to the impact of increased water consumption as a result of new development, many of the plans identified that are outside Cambridge City contain requirements for water conservation strategies to be provided as part of new development proposals. Water companies have planned for new resources and infrastructure in their water resources plans that were submitted in 2004, which cover the period up to 2030. These take into account the growth as outlined in the Sustainable Communities Plan and the majority of supply is anticipated to come from existing licenses (Source: Maintaining Water Supply, Environment Agency, July 2004).</p> <p>The Habitats Directive aims to ensure biodiversity through the</p>	<p>effect of increased effluent discharge on the receiving watercourses, and all the relevant plans and policies take this into account.</p> <p>It is therefore felt that the impact of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD and other plans will not have a likely significant impact on the Ouse Washes.</p> <p>With regards to the possible impacts resulting from proposals within the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF, this will be subject to further assessment as part of a full Appropriate Assessment. Cambridgeshire County Council will carry out this assessment as the relevant competent authority.</p>

THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
	<p>conservation, maintenance and restoration of natural habitats, flora and fauna at designated Natura 2000 sites. Abstraction can only take place or continue if it is shown that it will not adversely affect the sites ecological integrity (Source: The Cam and Ely Ouse Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy Consultation Document – Environment Agency, 2006).</p> <p>The Habitats Regulations Assessment Scoping Report for the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF (Site Specific Document) has identified potential hydrological impacts on the Ouse Washes as a result of all of the sites allocated within the Preferred Options Report. In order to further assess the nature of these impacts and whether there will be a need for mitigation measures to be put in place, the conclusions of this Scoping Report were that a full Appropriate Assessment would be required. Cambridgeshire County Council will carry out this assessment as the relevant competent authority.</p>	
Changes in pollution levels	The objectives of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD seek to reduce the amount of car parking on site and to improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists thereby encouraging the use of more sustainable modes of transport. Coupled with the sites City Centre location, with good access to services and facilities, this should help to reduce pollution generated by transport in the vicinity of the site. The redevelopment of the site also offers a number of opportunities to introduce higher sustainability standards to the site, including renewable energy, thereby helping to reduce pollution from energy generation, albeit on a	As the Ouse Washes is not in close proximity to proposed major development sites it is not considered that there is likely to be any significant impact on the site as a result of changes in pollution levels. The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD seeks to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport in the vicinity of the site and should help to reduce pollution from transport. Policy requirements contained within other relevant plans and

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	<p>small-scale.</p> <p>In addition to the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD, the Cambridge Sustainable Design & Construction SPD contains guidance for applicants of major developments in Cambridge City on a number of sustainability criteria, many of which will contribute to reducing pollution from transport by promoting more sustainable modes of transport, as well as pollution from noise, light and odours in the wider area. The Sustainability Appraisal for the SPD highlights that the existence of the SPD will be critical in achieving the City Council's sustainability objectives for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the reduction of pollution. As the development sites within Cambridge City are some distance away from the Ouse Washes, it is considered that the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD in combination with plans for development in Cambridge City will not have a likely significant impact on this site.</p> <p>Many of the plans for development outside of Cambridge contain policies to minimise the amount of pollution generated as a result of new developments. Again there are no new developments in close proximity to the Ouse Washes. Policies are also included that protect sites of biodiversity importance (including European sites) from adverse impacts from development.</p>	<p>guidance in the form of the City Council's Sustainable Design and Construction SPD also have the aim of reducing pollution.</p>

Agencies consulted	Natural England
Response to consultation	Natural England support the conclusion of the HRA that this SPD is unlikely to have a significant effect on any European sites and that Appropriate Assessment is not required for this document.

Overall Conclusions:
The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD, both alone and in combination with other relevant plans, is unlikely to have significant impacts on the conservation objectives for the Ouse Washes. With regards to the possible impacts resulting from proposals contained within the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF, this will be the subject of a full Appropriate Assessment, to be carried out by Cambridgeshire County Council as the relevant competent authority.

Screening Matrix for the Portholme SAC

<p>Name, location and summary of conservation objectives of the site</p>	<p>Portholme SAC</p> <p>Grid Reference: TL 237708</p> <p>This site has been designated as a SAC due it being the best example of lowland hay meadow (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>, <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) in the East of England. The site is over 90ha in size and is the largest surviving alluvial flood meadow, traditionally managed, in the UK. There has been a long history of favourable management at the site, with little of the site being subjected to agricultural improvement. As a result it demonstrates good conservation of both its structure and function. The site supports a small population of fritillary (<i>Fritillaria meleagris</i>).</p> <p>The site is located outside of Cambridge City, within Huntingdonshire District Council's area.</p>
<p>Are there any other plans that together with the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD could affect the Ouse Washes?</p>	<p>The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD allocates land for development in the heart of the City of Cambridge. The site is comprised entirely of Previously Developed Land. There are other plans for Cambridge City that could, theoretically indirectly affect the site.</p> <p>Other relevant plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cambridge Development Strategy Issues & Options Report, 2007; ▪ Cambridge Sustainable Design & Construction SPD, 2007; ▪ Cambridge Draft Planning Obligations Strategy SPD, 2007; ▪ Cambridge Affordable Housing SPD, 2008 ▪ Cambridgeshire Waste Local Plan, 2003; ▪ Cambridgeshire Aggregates (minerals) Local Plan, 1991; ▪ Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste DPD Preferred Options 2, Sept 2008; ▪ Cambridgeshire Local Transport Plan, 2006-2011; ▪ South Cambridgeshire Local Plan, 2004; ▪ South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy DPD, 2007; ▪ South Cambridgeshire Site Specific Policies Submission DPD, 2006; ▪ Northstowe Area Action Plan, 2007; ▪ Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan, 2008;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ North West Cambridge Area Action Plan Submission Draft, May 2008; ▪ Huntingdonshire Local Plan 1995 & Alteration 2002, Core Submission Draft 2008, Development Control Policies Issues & Options Report, 2007 & Huntingdon West AAP Issues & Options Report, 2007;
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THE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS:		
Nature of Potential Impact	How the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to affect the site	Why these effects are not considered to be significant
Land take by development	<p>The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD does not propose any development that will take land from Portholme SAC and will not result in the fragmentation of habitats.</p> <p>None of the other plans listed above propose development that would take land from this site.</p>	There are no policies in the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD or any other plans that have a direct impact on this site.
Impact on protected species outside the protected sites	The conservation objectives for the Portholme SAC relate to species of flora located within the site. While the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD does allocate land for development, this is within the built environment of Cambridge on previously developed land, and is unlikely to have a significant impact on the species listed as being important to the Ouse Washes. Likewise, locations identified in other relevant plans are not considered likely to have a significant impact on species listed as important to the integrity of the site.	Due to the distance of the site from the city it is not considered that there is likely to be a significant effect from the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD both alone and in combination with other plans on the integrity of this site.
Recreational pressure and disturbance	It is possible that development on the Old Press/Mill Lane site may include an element of residential uses, and this may lead to an increased demand for access to the countryside recreation. Proposals contained within the Local Plan to increase the dwelling stock in the city by 12,500 (rising to 19,000 in response to the RSS) could also lead to an increased demand for access to such recreation and likewise in South	While the provision of an element of residential development at the Old Press/Mill Lane site could lead to an increased demand for access to countryside recreation, delivery of additional open space as part of new developments, coupled with the relative distance of development sites from the

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	<p>Cambridgeshire where there are proposals to increase the dwelling stock by 23,500. However, no major proposals contained within the Cambridge Local Plan or South Cambridgeshire Core Strategy are within 5km of this site.</p> <p>Portholme is located within Huntingdonshire District Council's administrative area. The minimum dwelling provision between 2001 and 2021, as required by the RSS, for Huntingdonshire is 11,200 units. The majority of this development is to be concentrated in the most sustainable locations (i.e. market towns) with limited growth in large villages.</p> <p>In addition, many of the new developments proposed in the Cambridge Sub-region will include improvements to countryside access and the provision of new strategic open space (as demonstrated by the Cambridge Sub-region Green Infrastructure Strategy, 2006). These proposals will be aimed at the provision of recreation opportunities for use by existing and new communities in more accessible locations than sites such as Portholme.</p> <p>It is therefore considered that there will be no likely significant impact from increased recreational pressure and disturbance on Portholme SAC as a result of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD alone or in combination with other plans.</p>	<p>Portholme SAC leads to the conclusion that the SPD is unlikely to lead to increased recreational pressure and disturbance on this site.</p> <p>With regards to other plans, the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England states that in drawing up local development plans, consideration should be given to the risks of recreational disturbance where housing proposals fall within a 5km radius of Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites. Using this test, it is unlikely that any proposals contained within the documents identified will have a significant effect on Portholme as they are all outside the 5km radius proposed.</p> <p>The impact of public access is not listed in the vulnerabilities relating to this site contained within the site data. Therefore it is considered unlikely that the level of public use at Portholme SAC will increase greatly as a result of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD alone or in combination with other plans.</p>
Water quantity and quality	Redevelopment of the Old Press/Mill Lane site has the potential to introduce uses onto the site that have a higher demand for water than uses currently on site (for example the introduction residential units). However, policies contained within other	The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD will be one of a raft of policy documents used to guide development and determine planning applications for this site. Many of these plans

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	<p>plans for Cambridge call for water conservation measures to be put in place in all new developments to lessen the impact of this demand. In addition, all new development, including that for affordable housing, will be required through policy to mitigate their impacts on water runoff and drainage through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems. This policy is supplemented and expanded upon in the City Council's Sustainable Design & Construction SPD, which contains measures to both manage and minimise flood risk and minimise water use, which should in combination help to alleviate any risk of developments having an impact on the water quantity and quality at Portholme. While it is recognised that while there would be an increase in water consumption and in theory on water quality through increased run off as a result of the new developments proposed in Cambridge City and on the fringes of the City the potential impact will be kept to a minimum through the existence of this SPD and other policies. The Sustainability Appraisal of the SPD highlights that the existence of the SPD will be critical in order to achieve the City Council's Sustainability Objectives for managing and minimising flood risk and minimising water consumption. As the development sites within Cambridge City are some distance away from Portholme it is considered that the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD in combination with plans for development in Cambridge City will not have a likely significant impact on this site.</p> <p>Many of the plans for development outside of the City contain policies to minimise the impacts on water quantity and quality from new developments. The principle for new developments</p>	<p>contain policies that should help alleviate any potential impacts of new development on water quantity and quality at the Portholme SAC. As such it is felt that the document, both alone and in combination with other plans, will not result in likely significant impacts on the nature conservation objectives of the site.</p> <p>With regards to the possible impacts resulting from proposals within the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF, this will be subject to further assessment as part of a full Appropriate Assessment. Cambridgeshire County Council will carry out this assessment as the relevant competent authority.</p>

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	<p>not exceeding undeveloped rates for site run off is central to PPS25 Development and Flood Risk. Again there are no new developments in close proximity to Portholme SAC. Many of the other relevant plans contain policies promoting the use of sustainable drainage systems and requirements to restrict surface water run off to no greater than if the site were undeveloped.</p> <p>The Habitats Regulations Assessment Scoping Report for the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF (Site Specific Document) has identified potential impacts on Portholme a result of sand and gravel extraction from two sites at Brampton (South West Brampton and West of Brampton). It is possible that these impacts could be hydrological. In order to further assess the nature of these impacts and whether there will be a need for mitigation measures to be put in place, the conclusions of this Scoping Report were that a full Appropriate Assessment would be required. Cambridgeshire County Council will carry out this assessment as the relevant competent authority.</p>	
Changes in pollution levels	The objectives of the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD seek to reduce the amount of car parking on site and to improve facilities for pedestrians and cyclists thereby encouraging the use of more sustainable modes of transport. Coupled with the sites City Centre location, with good access to services and facilities, this should help to reduce pollution generated by transport in the vicinity of the site. The redevelopment of the site also offers a number of opportunities to introduce higher sustainability standards to the site, including renewable energy, thereby	As Portholme SAC is not in close proximity to proposed major development sites it is not considered that there is likely to be any significant impact on the site as a result of changes in pollution levels. The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD seeks to encourage the use of sustainable modes of transport in the vicinity of the site and should help to reduce pollution from transport. Policy requirements

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	<p>helping to reduce pollution from energy generation, albeit on a small-scale.</p> <p>In addition to the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD, the Cambridge Sustainable Design & Construction SPD contains guidance for applicants of major developments in Cambridge City on a number of sustainability criteria, many of which will contribute to reducing pollution from transport by promoting more sustainable modes of transport, as well as pollution from noise, light and odours in the wider area. The Sustainability Appraisal for the SPD highlights that the existence of the SPD will be critical in achieving the City Council's sustainability objectives for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the reduction of pollution. As the development sites within Cambridge City are some distance away from Portholme SAC, it is considered that the Old Press/Mill Lane SPD in combination with plans for development in Cambridge City is unlikely to have a significant impact on this site.</p> <p>Many of the plans for development outside of the City contain policies to minimise the amount of pollution generated as a result of new development, which is hoped should lead to a reduction in levels of pollution in the immediate environs. Again there are no new developments in close proximity to Portholme SAC. Policies are also included that protect sites of biodiversity importance (including European sites) from adverse impacts from development.</p> <p>The site is located close to the A14, however improvements are</p>	<p>contained within other relevant plans and guidance in the form of the City Council's Sustainable Design and Construction SPD also have the aim of reducing pollution.</p> <p>With regards to the possible impacts resulting from proposals within the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF, this will be subject to further assessment as part of a full Appropriate Assessment. Cambridgeshire County Council will carry out this assessment as the relevant competent authority.</p>

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	<p>planned which will lead to the rerouting of the A14 south of Huntingdon, to be implemented by 2015. This will lead to the removal of a significant amount of traffic away from the site and should lead to a reduction in levels of pollution.</p> <p>The Habitats Regulations Assessment Scoping Report for the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF (Site Specific Document) has identified potential impacts on Portholme a result of sand and gravel extraction from two sites at Brampton (South West Brampton and West of Brampton). It is possible that these impacts could involve pollutants. In order to further assess the nature of these impacts and whether there will be a need for mitigation measures to be put in place, the conclusions of this Scoping Report were that a full Appropriate Assessment would be required. Cambridgeshire County Council will carry out this assessment as the relevant competent authority.</p>	

Agencies consulted	Natural England
Response to consultation	Natural England support the conclusion of the HRA that this SPD is unlikely to have a significant effect on any European sites and that Appropriate Assessment is not required for this document.

Overall Conclusions:
The Old Press/Mill Lane SPD, both alone and in combination with other relevant plans, is unlikely to have significant impacts on the conservation objectives for Portholme SAC. With regards to the possible impacts resulting from proposals contained within the Cambridgeshire Minerals and Waste LDF, this will be the subject of a full Appropriate Assessment, to be carried out by

Cambridgeshire County Council as the relevant competent authority.