

# Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for the Rutland Local Plan

SA Scoping Report

Rutland County Council

March 2022

## Quality information

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Front cover: View over Rutland Water, available via the [Discover Rutland](#) website.

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# 1. Introduction

## Rutland

- 1.1 Covering an area of approximately 382 km<sup>2</sup>, Rutland is located in the East Midlands region of England and is bordered by five local authority areas, including: South Kesteven (to the north and north east), Peterborough (to the east), North Northamptonshire (to the south), Harborough (to the south west), and Melton (to the north west).
- 1.2 Rutland has a population of approximately 40,476 residents (2020). The key settlements in the area comprise the main town of Oakham, the smaller town of Uppingham, and local service centres including Cottesmore, Edith Weston, Empingham, Greetham, Ketton, Market Overton, and Ryhall. In addition, there are over 45 villages in Rutland, including the smaller service centres of Barrowden, Belton-in-Rutland, Caldecott, Essendine, Exton, Glaston, Great Casterton, Langham, Lyddington, Manton, Morcott, North Luffenham, South Luffenham, Tinwell, Whissendine, and Wing.
- 1.3 Rutland has a distinctive local character, a unique local heritage, and a wealth of environmental and cultural assets. This is reflected by the significant number of national and local designations present in the county, including links to its significant historic environment and biodiversity resource.

## Local Plan Context

- 1.4 Rutland County Council is currently undertaking a review of the Adopted Local Plan for Rutland. The new Rutland Local Plan (hereafter referred to as “the new Local Plan”) will replace the Adopted Local Plan, the key documents of which include<sup>1</sup>:
  - The Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) which was adopted in July 2011.
  - The Site Allocations and Policies DPD which was adopted in October 2014.
  - The Minerals Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPD which was adopted in October 2010.
- 1.5 The new Local Plan, which will cover the period up to 2036, will be the key planning policy document for Rutland and will guide decisions on the use and development of land. The proposed timetable is set out in the revised Local Development Scheme (April 2022). An Issues and Options consultation will be undertaken in May 2022 (under Regulation 18 of the Local Plan Regulations). This will be followed by consultation on a “Preferred Options” Local Plan (also under Regulation 18 of the Local Plan Regulations) during Summer 2023 and a statutory consultation on a Pre-submission Local Plan (under Regulation 19 of the Local Plan Regulations) in Spring 2024. The timetable will be kept under review as the production of the Local Plan progresses. Further information is available on the Council’s webpages<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Rutland County Council (various dates): ‘The Adopted Local Plan’, [online] available to access [here](#)

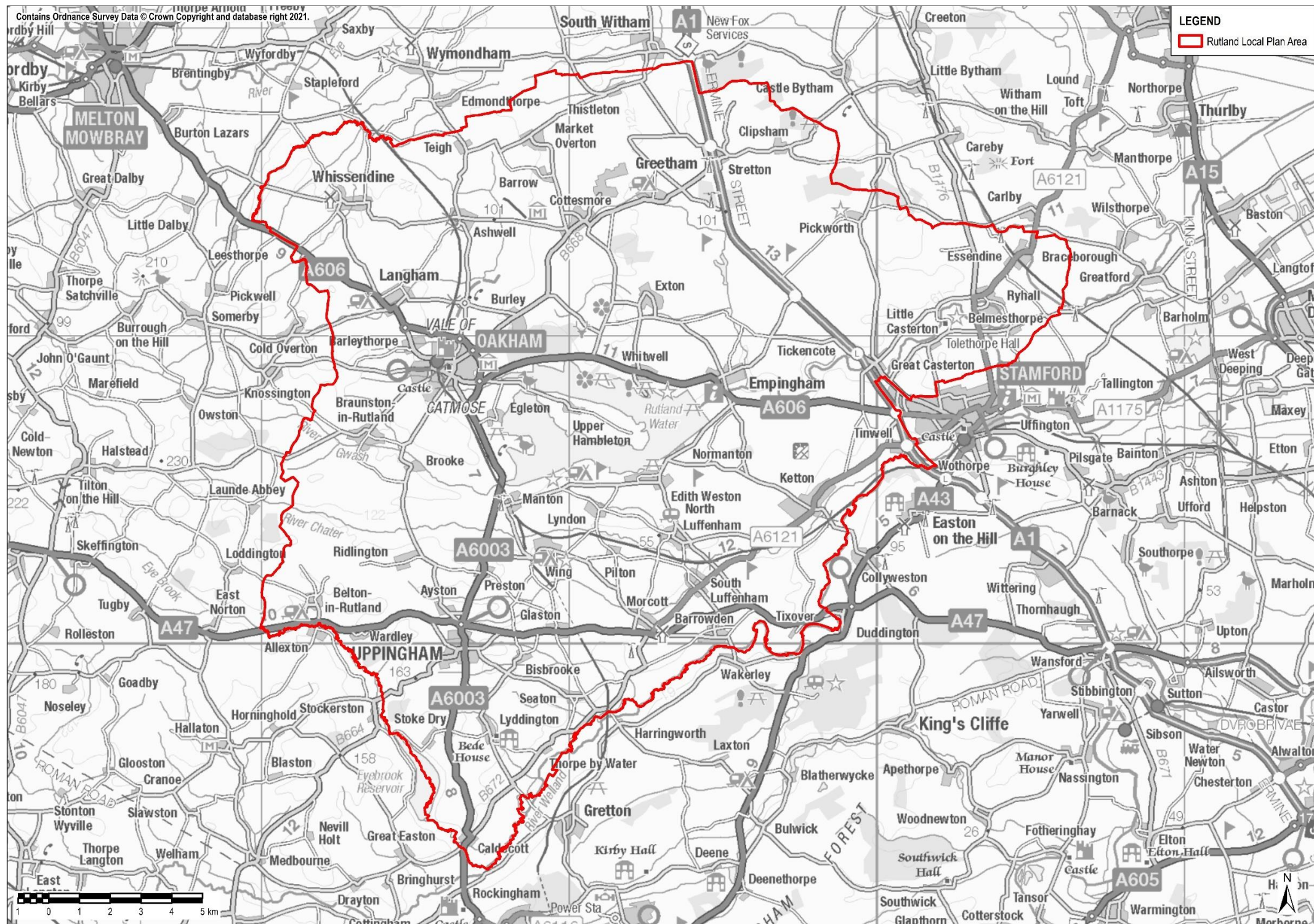
<sup>2</sup> Rutland County Council (2022): ‘Planning Policy’, [online] available to access [here](#)

1.6 Key information relating to the new Local Plan is presented in **Table 1.1** below.

**Table 1.1: Key facts relating to the new Local Plan**

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Name of Responsible Authority | Rutland County Council  |
| Title of Plan                 | Rutland Local Plan ("the new Local Plan")   |
| Subject                       | Development plan  |
| Purpose                       | <p>The new Local Plan will guide future development and land use within Rutland in the period to 2036.</p> <p>Replacing the Adopted Local Plan, which was adopted in 2011, the new Local Plan will, alongside neighbourhood plans, comprise the development plan for the county and will be the primary basis against which planning applications are assessed.</p> |
| Timescale                     | To 2036   |
| Area covered by the plan      | Rutland Unitary Authority area (shown in the figure above)  |
| Summary of content            | <p>The new Local Plan will set out the vision, strategy, and policies to manage growth and development in Rutland in the period to 2036.</p> <p>It will indicate the broad locations in the county for future housing, employment, retail, leisure, transport, community services and other types of development.</p>   |
| Plan contact point            | <p>Sharon Baker, Senior Planning Officer, Rutland County Council.</p> <p>Email address: <a href="mailto:sbaker@rutland.gov.uk">sbaker@rutland.gov.uk</a></p>  |





## Sustainability Appraisal (SA) explained

- 1.7 AECOM has been commissioned to undertake an independent Sustainability Appraisal (SA) in support of the new Local Plan on behalf of Rutland County Council.
- 1.8 SA considers and communicates the likely significant effects of an emerging plan, and the reasonable alternatives considered during the plan making process, in terms of key sustainability issues. The aim of SA is to inform and influence the plan-making process with a view to avoiding or mitigating negative effects and maximising positive effects. Through this approach, the SA seeks to maximise the new Local Plan's contribution to sustainable development.
- 1.9 SA is undertaken for local plans in England to reflect the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. This process is undertaken in line with the procedures prescribed by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (the SEA regulations) which previously transposed into national law the EU Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.<sup>3</sup> SA also widens the scope of the assessment from focusing on environmental issues to also include social and economic issues.
- 1.10 The National Planning Practice Guidance<sup>4</sup> states that a sustainability appraisal's role is:
- "...to promote sustainable development by assessing the extent to which the emerging plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives. This process is an opportunity to consider ways by which the plan can contribute to improvements in environmental, social and economic conditions, as well as a means of identifying and mitigating any potential adverse effects that the plan might otherwise have."*
- 1.11 Two key procedural requirements of the SEA Regulations are that:
- 1) A report (the 'SA report') is published for consultation alongside the draft plan that presents an appraisal of the draft plan (i.e. discusses 'likely significant effects' that would result from plan implementation) and reasonable alternatives; and
  - 2) When deciding on 'the scope and level of detail of the information' which must be included in the SA report there is a consultation with nationally designated authorities concerned with environmental issues.

## This scoping report

- 1.12 This scoping report is concerned with (2) above. It presents a suggested scope for the SA so that the nationally designated authorities (which, in England, are Natural England, the Environment Agency and Historic England) can provide timely comment.

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<sup>3</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC

<sup>4</sup> GOV.UK (2020): 'SEA and SA Guidance', [online] available to access [here](#)



## Overview of the SA process for the new Local Plan

1.13 The SA process will be designed to inform and influence plan making at key stages of plan development. The stages of the SA process, in conjunction with those of the new Local Plan, are set out below. The current stage (scoping) is therefore the first stage of the SA process, as shown in Figure 1.1 below.

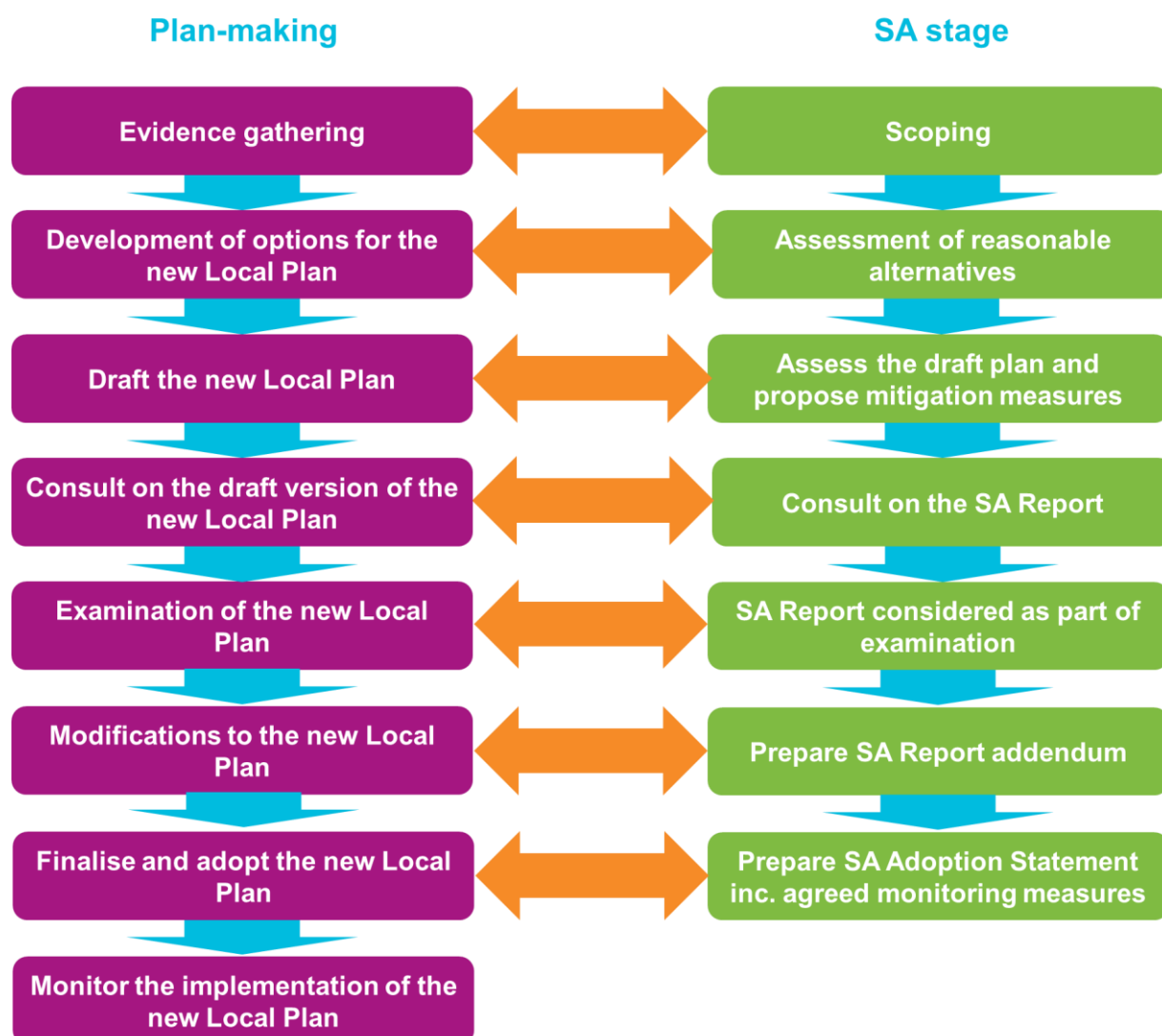


Figure 1.1: Stages of the SA process in conjunction with the development of the new Local Plan

## Approach to scoping

1.14 This Scoping Report presents the proposed scope for the SA process. Developing the draft scope for the SA has involved the following steps:

- i. Defining the broader context for the new Local Plan and associated SA (i.e. international, national, and local policy and commitments), to summarise the regulatory and legislative framework.

- ii. Establishing the baseline for the SA, (i.e. the current and future situation in Rutland in the absence of the new Local Plan, in order to help identify the plan's likely significant effects).
- iii. Identifying particular problems or opportunities ('issues') that should be a particular focus of the SA; and
- iv. Developing a SA framework comprising objectives and appraisal questions on the basis of these issues which can then be used to appraise the new Local Plan and reasonable alternatives.

## SA themes

1.15 The outcomes of the scoping elements introduced through steps i-iv above have been presented under a series of SA themes, as follows:

**Table 1.2: SA themes**

| SA theme  | Elements covered by theme   |
|---|---|
| SA theme 1: Biodiversity and Geodiversity       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International, national, and local biodiversity designations</li> <li>• Key habitats</li> <li>• Key species</li> <li>• Ecological networks</li> <li>• Geological sites</li> </ul>  |
| SA theme 2: Landscape                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designated and non-designated sites and areas</li> <li>• Landscape, townscape and villagescape character</li> <li>• Visual amenity</li> </ul>  |
| SA theme 3: Historic Environment                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designated and non-designated heritage assets</li> <li>• Setting, special qualities and significance of heritage assets</li> <li>• Locally important heritage assets</li> <li>• Archaeological resources</li> <li>• Historic character of Rutland</li> </ul> |
| SA theme 4: Air, Land, Soil and Water Resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Air quality</li> <li>• Water availability and quality</li> <li>• Soil quality</li> <li>• Agricultural land</li> <li>• Minerals resources</li> </ul>  |
| SA theme 5: Climate Change                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>• Potential effects of climate change</li> <li>• Flood risk</li> <li>• Climate change resilience</li> </ul>  |
| SA theme 6: Communities, Health and Wellbeing   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population and age structure</li> <li>• Deprivation</li> <li>• Housing quality, mix and affordability</li> <li>• Community facilities</li> <li>• Influences on health and wellbeing</li> </ul>   |
| SA theme 7: Transportation                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation infrastructure</li> <li>• Traffic flows and congestion</li> <li>• Accessibility and connectivity</li> <li>• Public rights of way</li> </ul>   |

| SA theme                      | Elements covered by theme   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| SA theme 8: Economic Vitality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Current and emerging economic sectors</li> <li>• Employment, education, and skills</li> <li>• Productivity and growth</li> </ul> |

1.16 The selected SA themes incorporate the ‘SEA topics’ suggested by Annex I(f) of the SEA Directive<sup>5</sup>. These were refined to reflect a broad understanding of the anticipated scope of plan effects.

1.17 It is intended that presenting the scoping information under these themes will help enable the reader to easily locate the information of greatest interest to them. Once agreed (i.e. subsequent to the current consultation), the suggested scope presented under the eight themes will provide a methodological ‘framework’ for the appraisal of the draft plan and alternatives.

## Scoping report structure

1.18 In light of the above, this scoping report has been structured as follows:

- **Chapters 2 to 9** present for each of the SA themes:
  - An overview of the relevant plans, programmes or strategies that are likely to influence the new Local Plan.
  - The current and future baseline.
  - The key sustainability issues that should be a particular focus of the SA for the theme; and
  - The SA framework (comprising objectives and appraisal questions) which it is anticipated will be used to appraise the draft version of the new Local Plan and reasonable alternatives.
- **Chapter 10** subsequently presents an overview of the next steps for the SA process alongside plan development.

<sup>5</sup> The SEA Directive is ‘of a procedural nature’ (para 9 of the Directive preamble) and does not set out to prescribe particular issues that should and should not be a focus, beyond requiring a focus on ‘the environment, **including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors**’ [our emphasis]

## 2. Biodiversity and Geodiversity

### Focus of theme

- International, national, and local biodiversity designations
- Key habitats
- Key species
- Ecological networks
- Geological sites

### Policy context

2.1 **Table 2.1** below presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the new Local Plan. The key messages emerging from the review are then summarised after the table.

Table 2.1: Plans, policies, and strategies reviewed in relation to biodiversity and geodiversity SA theme

| Document title  | Year of publication |
|---|---------------------|
| International   |                     |
| <a href="#">The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations</a>                        | 2017                |
| <a href="#">The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands</a>   | 1971                |
| National  |                     |
| <a href="#">National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</a>                                   | 2021                |
| <a href="#">Environment Act 2021</a>  | 2021                |
| <a href="#">Defra Policy Paper: Changes to the Habitat Regulations 2017</a>                 | 2021                |
| <a href="#">A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment</a>                 | 2018                |
| <a href="#">Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services</a> | 2011                |
| <a href="#">The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature</a>                            | 2011                |
| <a href="#">UK Biodiversity Action Plan</a>   | 2007                |
| <a href="#">Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006</a>                          | 2006                |
| <a href="#">Countryside and Rights of Way Act</a>   | 2000                |
| <a href="#">Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</a>   | 1981                |
| Local   |                     |
| <a href="#">Rutland County Council Corporate Plan 2019-2024</a>                             | 2019                |
| <a href="#">Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland BAP - Space for Wildlife</a>             | 2016                |
| <a href="#">Rutland Local Plan - Core Strategy Development Plan Document</a>                | 2011                |
| <a href="#">Rutland Local Plan - Supplementary Planning Documents</a>                       | Various             |



- 2.2 The new Local Plan will be required to be in general conformity with the NPPF, which highlights that opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity. This includes utilising a strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing networks of habitats and green infrastructure at the wider catchment or landscape scale.
- 2.3 Support is given through the Framework to establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures. Trees notably make an important contribution to the character and quality of urban environments and can also help mitigate and adapt to climate change. Planning policies and decisions should ensure that new streets are tree-lined, and that opportunities are taken to incorporate trees elsewhere in developments (such as parks and community orchards).
- 2.4 The Environment Act includes further provisions in relation to biodiversity, including parameters for biodiversity gain as a condition of planning permission, as well as biodiversity gain site registers and biodiversity credits. Consultation on the Biodiversity Net Gain Regulations is currently in progress ([accessible here](#)). The consultation sets out proposals, and seeks views, on how biodiversity net gain will work in practice, and closes in April 2022.
- 2.5 The Environment Act also identifies a general duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity, including through biodiversity reports and local nature recovery strategies. Local nature recovery strategies will identify biodiversity priorities for the strategy area as well as a local habitat map. Furthermore, habitat maps are expected to include recovery and enhancement areas which are or could become of importance for biodiversity.
- 2.6 The recently published 25 Year Environment Plan sets out the Government's environmental plan of action over the next quarter century. The Plan aims to tackle the growing problems of waste and soil degradation, improving social justice through tackling pollution and promoting the mental and physical health benefits of the natural world. It also sets out how the Government will address the effects of climate change. These aims are supported by a range of policies and initiatives (such as mandatory biodiversity and environmental net gains, and the implementation of a Nature Recovery Network and Local Nature Recovery Strategies) which are focused on the following six key areas:
- Using and managing land sustainably.
  - Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes.
  - Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing.
  - Increasing resource efficiency and reducing pollution and waste.
  - Securing clean, productive, and biologically diverse seas and oceans; and
  - Protecting and improving the global environment.
- 2.7 In this context, Goal 3 'Thriving plants and wildlife' and the policies contained within Chapter 2 'Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes' and Chapter 5 'Securing clean, productive and biologically diverse seas and oceans' directly relate to the biodiversity theme.

2.8 The UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) identifies priority species and habitats requiring conservation action. Although the UK BAP has been superseded, BAP priority species and habitats have been used to draw up statutory lists of priority species and habitats in England. At the local level, the Leicester, Leicestershire, and Rutland BAP (2016-2026) has been prepared in three parts and focuses on the following three components:

- To promote the restoration, management, and creation of BAP priority habitats.
- To promote the creation of new wildlife habitat in the wider countryside; and
- To survey, monitor and promote favourable management of existing good sites through the local wildlife sites system.

2.9 The UK Government has placed regulations on Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to lead in responding to biodiversity losses by adopting clear environmental and planning policy requirements to encourage developers to take account of biodiversity impacts.

## Summary of current baseline

### Internationally designated sites

2.10 The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar Convention) is the intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. The convention was adopted in 1971 and came into force in 1975. In the UK, the initial emphasis was on selecting sites of importance to water birds, and consequently, many Ramsar Sites were also designated as Special Protection Areas (SPA).

2.11 To ensure the European Directives were operable in the UK after the end of the EU transition period, changes were made by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. In this respect, SPAs and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in the UK no longer form part of the EU Natura 2000 ecological network. Instead, the 2019 Regulations propose the creation of a national site network within the UK territory<sup>6</sup>. The network comprises the designated sites already designated under the Nature Directives (i.e. 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC), along with any additional sites which are designated under the 2019 Regulations. The national site network continues to operate in parallel with other designations and contributes towards the UK's international commitments for protected areas.

2.12 Notified in October 1991, Rutland Water Ramsar site is a reservoir which (by area) is the largest water body in England, and the second largest by capacity. Covering a total area of approximately 1,540 ha, the underlying geology of Rutland Water is formed of gently dipping Jurassic rocks of limestone, sandstone, and ironstone, which are overlain by glacial tills which give rise to fertile soils composed of loams and clays. Rutland Water is also a popular tourist destination for water sports, sailing, and fishing, with routes around the reservoir also popular with walkers and cyclists. Over 45% of the site is managed by the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust and Anglian Water,

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<sup>6</sup> DEFRA (2021): Policy Paper: Changes to the Habitats Regulations 2017', [online] available to access [here](#)

as a nature reserve<sup>7</sup>. The Ramsar site shares an overlapping designation with Rutland Water SPA and SSSI, and the citation for the site states<sup>8</sup>:

2.13 The site qualifies as a wetland of international importance by regularly supporting in winter, over 20,000 waterfowl. This includes:

- Great crested glebe (*Podiceps cristatus*)
- Mute swan (*Cygnus olor*)
- Wigeon (*Anas penelope*)
- Gadwall (*Anas strepera*)
- Teal (*Anas crecca*)
- Shoveler (*Anas clypeata*)
- Tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*)
- Goldeneye (*Bucephala clangula*)
- Goosander (*Mergus merganser*)
- Coot (*Fulica arra*)

2.14 The site is also of strong scientific and nature conservation interest for supporting a diverse assemblage of wintering wildfowl.

2.15 The conservation objectives for Rutland Water aim to ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, including<sup>9</sup>:

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features.
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features.
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely.
- The population of each of the qualifying features, and,
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

### Nationally designated sites

2.16 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) are protected by law to conserve their wildlife or geology. Natural England is a statutory consultee on development proposals that might impact on SSSIs. There are 19 SSSIs located wholly or partly within Rutland, as follows:

- Bloody Oaks Quarry SSSI
- Burley and Rushpit Woods SSSI
- Clipsham Old Quarry and Pickworth Great Wood SSSI
- East Wood, Great Casterton SSSI
- Empingham Marshy Meadows SSSI

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<sup>7</sup> Natural England (2018): 'European Site Conservation Objectives: supplementary advice on conserving and restoring site features', [online] available to access [here](#)

<sup>8</sup> Natural England (2014): 'Rutland Water Citation', [online] available to access [here](#)

<sup>9</sup> Natural England (2019): 'Rutland Water Conservation Objectives', [online] available to access [here](#)

- Eyebrook Reservoir SSSI
- Greetham Meadows SSSI
- Ketton Quarries SSSI
- Luffenham Heath Golf Course SSSI
- Newell Wood SSSI
- North Luffenham Quarry SSSI
- Prior's Coppice SSSI
- Ryhall Pasture and Little Warren Verges SSSI
- Rutland Water
- Seaton Meadows SSSI
- Shacklewell Hollow SSSI
- Tickencote Marsh SSSI
- Tolethorpe Road Verges SSSI; and
- Wing Water Treatment Works SSSI

2.17 SSSI Impact Risk Zones (IRZ) are a GIS tool/dataset which maps zones around each SSSI according to the sensitivities of the features for which it is notified. They specify the types of development that have the potential to have adverse impacts at a given location. In this respect, many areas of land within Rutland overlap with one or more SSSI IRZs for the types (and potentially the amount) of development likely to come forward through the new Local Plan. The areas of Rutland within IRZs can be viewed using the MAGIC Interactive Mapping Tool<sup>10</sup>.

2.18 National Nature Reserves (NNRs) have been established to protect some of England's most important habitats, species, and geology, and to provide 'outdoor laboratories' for research. Most NNRs offer significant opportunities for schools, specialist interest groups and the public to experience wildlife at first hand and to learn more about nature conservation. In the context of the above, the nearest NNR, 'Cribbs Meadow' is located approximately 250m to the north of the county, approximately 1km to the north west of the settlement of Thistleton (which is the most northerly village in Rutland). More widely, there are three additional NNRs within a 5km radius of Rutland (all located to the east), specifically: Collyweston Great Wood & Easton Hornstocks NNR; Bedford Purlieus NNR; and Barnack Hills and Holes NNR. While these sites are located outside of the county, they share overlapping designations with SSSIs. In this respect, the SSSI IRZs associated with these sites may potentially extend into Rutland.

### Locally important sites

2.19 Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) represent some of the most significant areas of semi-natural habitat in Rutland. In this respect, there are over 350 LWS in Rutland,

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<sup>10</sup> MAGIC (2022): 'Magic Interactive Mapping Tool', [online] available to access [here](#)



approximately 270 of which are notified. The remaining 80 LWS are potential candidates for designation<sup>11</sup>.

2.20 Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) are some of the most significant areas for geology and heritage in Rutland. They represent local character and distinctiveness, and range from man-made features such as mine spoil, underground workings, quarries, and road cuttings – which provide rare inland exposures to large landscape features such as river corridors. In this regard there are six RIGS within Rutland (four of which are confirmed and two which are potential candidates for designation). The RIGS, as shown in the figures at the end of this chapter, are as follows:

- Clipsham Quarry (confirmed)
- Eye Brook Valley RIGS (candidate)
- Greetham Quarry (confirmed)
- Thistleton Gullet RIGS (confirmed)
- Wardley Wood RIGS (candidate)
- Woolfox Quarry RIGS (confirmed)

2.21 There is a variety of Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Priority Habitats located within or within proximity to Rutland, primarily areas of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, deciduous woodland (and ancient woodland), good quality semi-improved grassland, lowland calcareous grassland, lowland fens, lowland heathland, lowland meadows, purple moor grass and rush pasture reedbeds, and traditional orchard.

2.22 Ecological features of interest which might have the potential to be impacted by new development areas include trees, hedgerows, watercourses, road verges, and rail sidings. As these features play an important role in providing connectivity corridors and refugia for migrating and foraging species, it will be important for the new Local Plan to consider the potential implications on such features within the plan making process.

2.23 The Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre (LRERC) contains records of protected or notable species within Rutland<sup>12</sup>. This includes records of several species of birds, mammals, bats, insects, grasses, trees, amphibians, and reptiles; many of which are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. In this respect, the BAP Priority Habitats and designated sites within and surrounding Rutland are likely to support populations of protected species.

2.24 The figures presented at the end of this chapter show the location of the designated sites and BAP Priority Habitats within and in proximity to Rutland.

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<sup>11</sup> The information for determining whether the LWS (and RIGS) were notified / confirmed or potential candidates is based on the latest GIS layer data provided to AECOM by Rutland County Council's GIS team. It is possible that some of the potential candidate sites have since been notified / confirmed in the time which has elapsed since the preparation of these GIS layers.

<sup>12</sup> Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre (LRERC), online database and archive for ecological information, accessible [here](#) with records available on request.

## Summary of future baseline

- 2.25 Habitats and species will potentially face increasing pressures from future development within Rutland, with the potential for negative impacts on the wider ecological network. This may include a loss of habitats and impacts on biodiversity networks, which may be exacerbated by the effects of climate change. This has the potential to lead to changes in the distribution and abundance of species and changes to the composition of habitats.
- 2.26 Internationally and nationally designated sites are particularly sensitive to air quality issues and recreational pressures. Regarding air quality, exceeding critical values for air pollutants may result in changes to the chemical status of habitat substrate, accelerating or damaging plant growth, altering vegetation structure and composition and thereby affecting the quality and availability of nesting, feeding or roosting habitats. Additionally, the nature, scale, timing, and duration of some human activities can result in the disturbance of birds (i.e. – the notifying features of Rutland Water) at a level that may affect their behaviour, and consequently affect the long-term viability of their populations.
- 2.27 The new Local Plan presents an opportunity to maximise benefits for biodiversity by including consideration of important habitats, species, and designated sites at an early stage of planning for future growth. To maintain and improve the condition of biodiversity in the future, it will be important to not only protect and enhance important habitats but the connections between them, in addition to delivering net gains through new development areas.
- 2.28 To maintain and improve the condition of biodiversity in the future, it will be crucial to effectively coordinate the delivery of housing, employment, and infrastructure to ensure that opportunities to improve green infrastructure and ecological corridors are maximised within Rutland and in the surrounding areas. This is likely to be further enhanced through collaboration and partnership working, including potentially through initiatives which come forward in response to the requirements of key policy and legislative drivers (e.g. nature recovery networks, and local nature recovery strategies).

## Key sustainability issues

- 2.29 The following key issues have been identified through the baseline review for this theme:
- There are 21 internationally and nationally designated sites for biodiversity and/or geodiversity within Rutland, including: 19 SSSIs, and Rutland Water Ramsar (and SPA).
  - Most of Rutland overlaps with one or more SSSI IRZs for the types (and potentially the amount) of development likely to come forward during the plan period, including: residential, rural residential, and rural non-residential development types.
  - Locally important sites for biodiversity and geodiversity within Rutland includes over 350 LWS and six RIGS.
  - There is a variety of BAP Priority Habitats located within or within proximity to Rutland, primarily areas of coastal and floodplain grazing marsh, deciduous woodland (and ancient woodland), good quality semi-improved

grassland, lowland calcareous grassland, lowland fens, lowland heathland, lowland meadows, purple moor grass and rush pasture reedbeds, and traditional orchard.

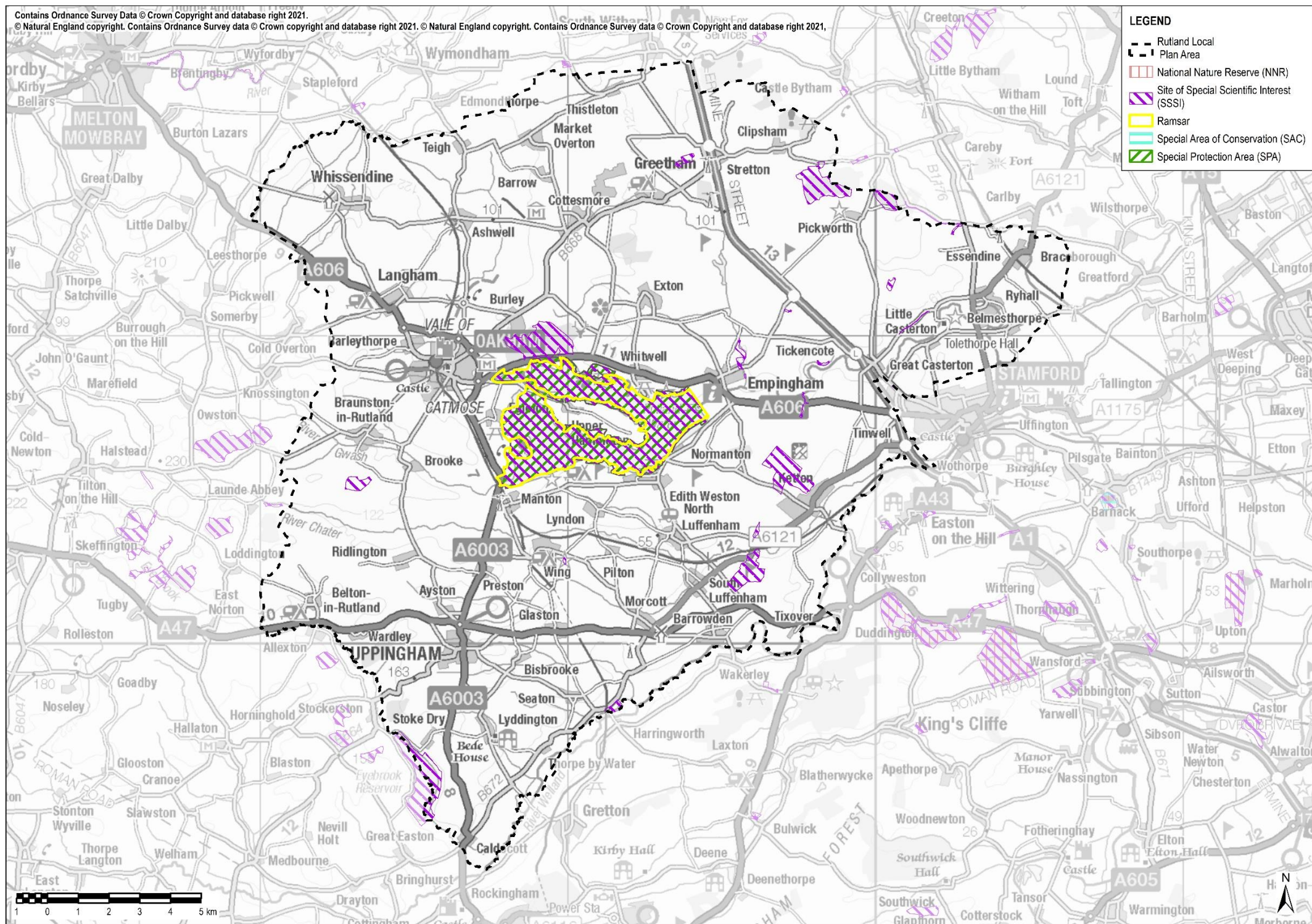
- Ecological features of interest in Rutland which might have the potential to be impacted by new development areas include trees, hedgerows, watercourses, road verges, and rail sidings.
- The LRERC contains records of protected or notable species within Rutland. This includes records of several species of birds, mammals, bats, insects, grasses, trees, amphibians, and reptiles.

## SA objectives and appraisal questions

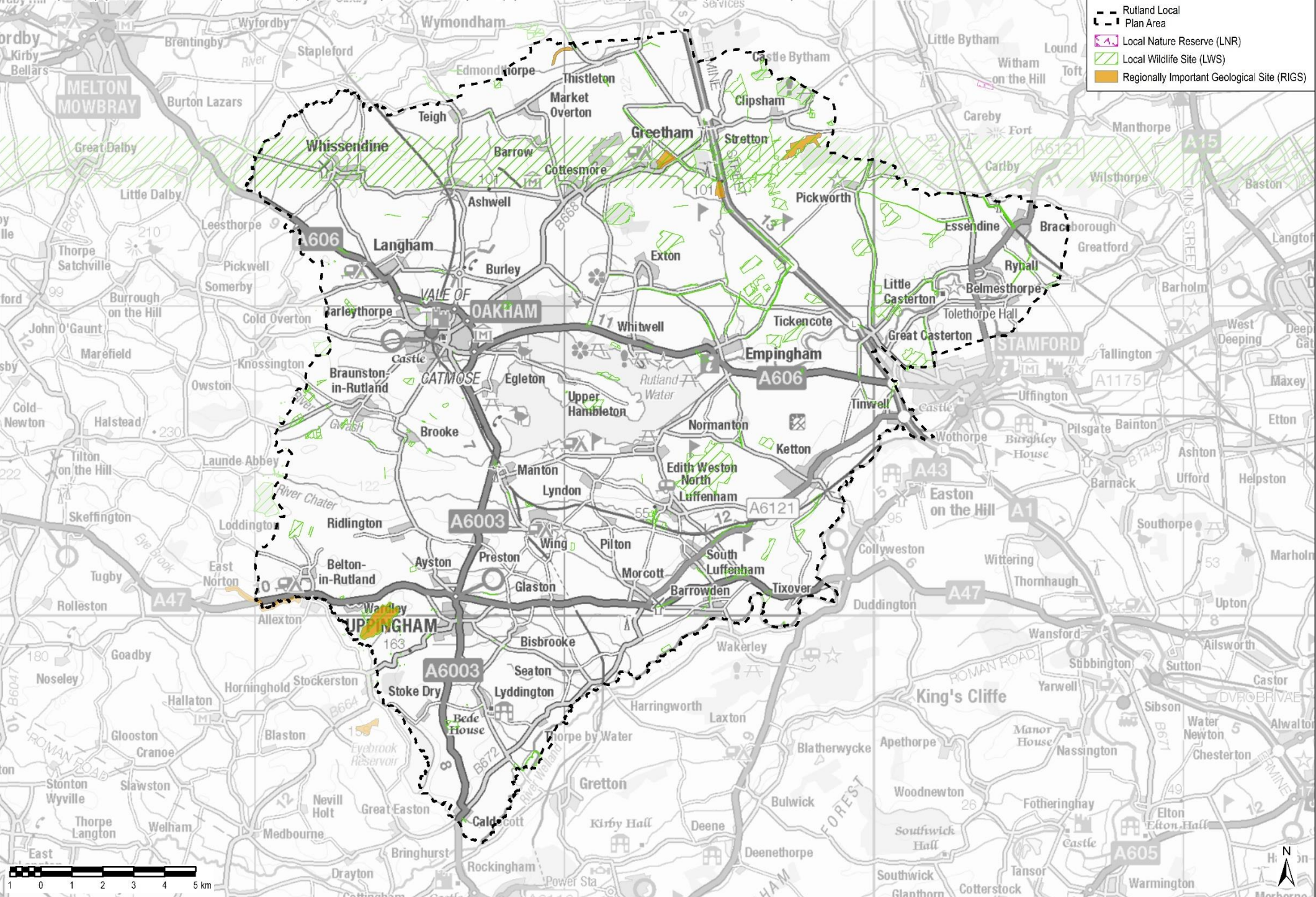
Table 2.2: Proposed SA objectives and assessment questions for the biodiversity and geodiversity theme

| SA objective  | Appraisal questions   |
|---|---|
| 1. Support the integrity of internationally, nationally, and locally designated sites | <p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Protect the integrity of the internationally and nationally designated sites within and within proximity to Rutland?</li> <li>b) Manage pressures on locally designated sites for biodiversity and geodiversity in Rutland?</li> </ul>   |
| 2. Protect and enhance habitats and species in Rutland                                | <p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Protect and enhance priority habitats, and the habitat of priority species?</li> <li>b) Protect key species during the construction and operational phases of new development areas?</li> <li>c) Protect and enhance ecological networks?</li> <li>d) Achieve a net gain in biodiversity?</li> <li>e) Increase the resilience of Rutland's biodiversity to the potential effects of climate change?</li> </ul> |
| 3. Enhance understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity                             | <p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Support access to, interpretation and understanding of biodiversity and geodiversity?</li> <li>b) Encourage opportunities for engagement with Rutland's biodiversity and geodiversity resource?</li> </ul>   |





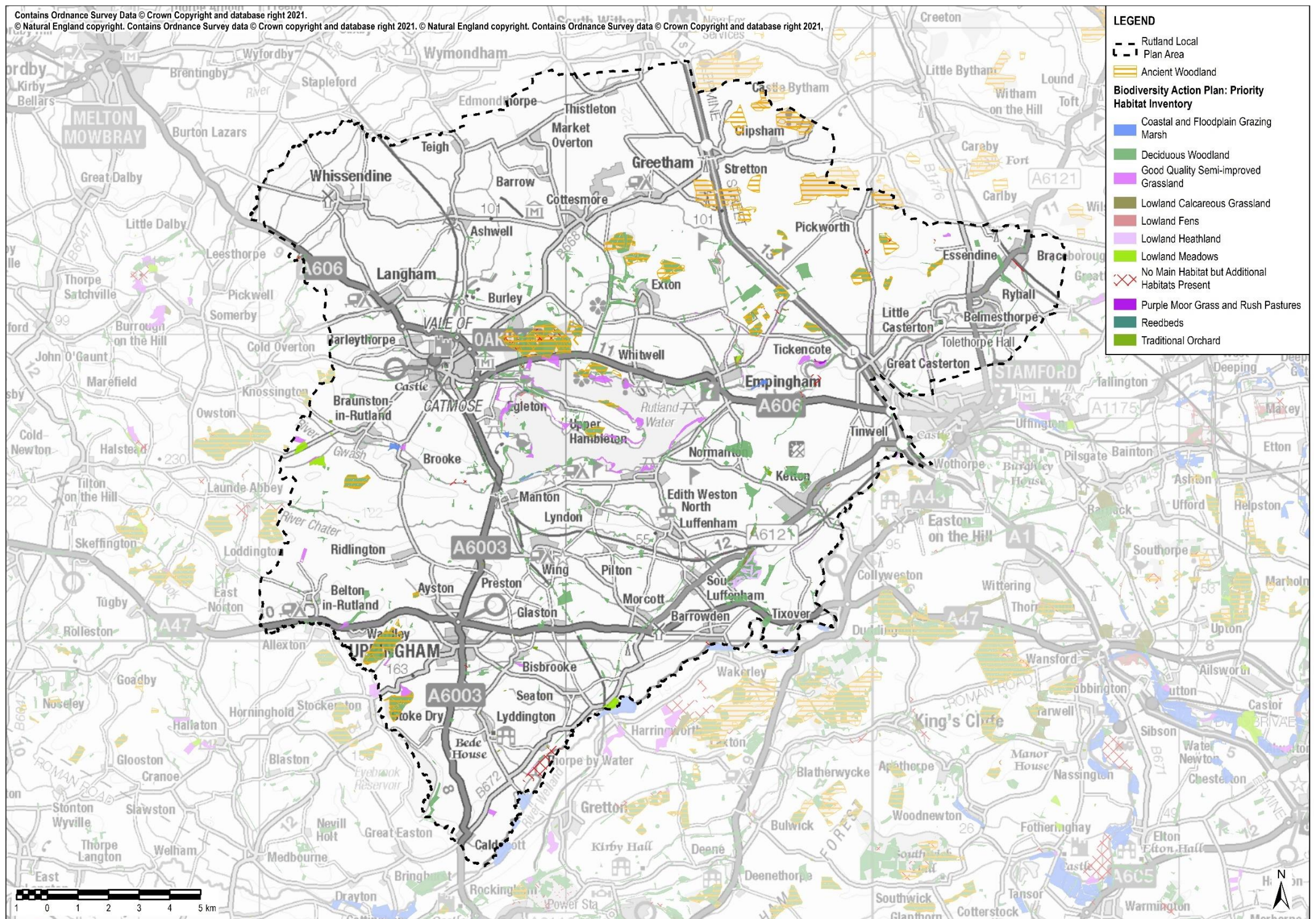




**LEGEND**

- Rutland Local Plan Area
- Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
- Local Wildlife Site (LWS)
- Regionally Important Geological Site (RIGS)







## 3. Landscape

### Focus of theme

- Designated and non-designated sites and areas
- Landscape, townscape and villagescape character
- Visual amenity

### Policy context

- 3.1 **Table 3.1** below presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the new Local Plan. The key messages emerging from the review are then summarised after the table.

Table 3.1: Plans, policies, and strategies reviewed in relation to the landscape SA theme

| Document title   | Year of publication |
|--|---------------------|
| International  |                     |
| <a href="#">The European Landscape Convention</a>                            | 2000                |
| National   |                     |
| <a href="#">National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</a>                    | 2021                |
| <a href="#">Environment Act 2021</a>   | 2021                |
| <a href="#">National Model Design Code</a>                                   | 2021                |
| <a href="#">The National Design Guide</a>                                    | 2019                |
| <a href="#">A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment</a>  | 2018                |
| <a href="#">National Character Area profiles</a>                             | Various             |
| Local  |                     |
| <a href="#">Rutland County Council Corporate Plan 2019-2024</a>              | 2019                |
| <a href="#">Rutland Local Plan - Core Strategy Development Plan Document</a> | 2011                |
| <a href="#">Rutland Local Plan - Supplementary Planning Documents</a>        | Various             |

- 3.2 The European Landscape Convention of the Council of Europe promotes the protection, management and planning of the landscapes and organises international co-operation on landscape issues. The convention was adopted in October 2000 and is the first international treaty to be exclusively concerned with all dimensions of European landscapes.
- 3.3 The new Local Plan will be required to be in general conformity with the NPPF which gives great weight to conserving and enhancing protected landscapes, as well as landscape character and scenic beauty. The scale and extent of development within these designated areas should be limited, while development within their setting should be sensitively located and designed to avoid or minimise adverse impacts on the designated areas.
- 3.4 The NPPF recognises the role of green infrastructure in landscape settings, as well as the importance of designated biodiversity sites, habitats, woodland,

historic features, agricultural land, and cultural landscapes. The positive contribution that land remediation can make in terms of addressing despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land is also recognised.

- 3.5 The 25-year Environment Plan and National Design Guide complement each other with their aims for a cleaner, greener country which puts the environment first and celebrates the variety of natural landscapes and habitats. Design is focused on beautiful, enduring, and successful places, which respond to local character and provide a network of high quality green open spaces. Specifically, the policies contained within Chapter 2 'Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes' and Goal 6 'Enhanced beauty, heritage, and engagement with the natural environment' of the Government's "A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment" directly relates to the landscape theme.
- 3.6 The Design Guide Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) was adopted in November 2021 and aims to help improve the design quality of new build development in Rutland and South Kesteven. The key aims of the SPD are to:
- Establish the expectations for a high level of design and build quality in all development proposals in Rutland and South Kesteven.
  - Set out the design steps and considerations that planning applicants are expected to undertake; and
  - Provide applicants with a clear understanding of good quality design at any scale or type of development, from a new community to an individual home extension.
- 3.7 National Character Area (NCA) Profiles are published by Natural England and divide England in 159 distinct natural areas based on their landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, historic, cultural, and economic characteristics. NCAs follow natural features in the landscape and are not aligned with administrative boundaries. NCA profiles describe the features which shape each of these landscapes, providing a broad context to its character. They also provide Statements of Environmental Opportunities to protect and enhance the special qualities of these areas. Additionally, the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan states the intention to work with relevant authorities to deliver environmental enhancements within all 159 NCAs across England.

## Summary of current baseline

### Nationally protected landscapes

- 3.8 Rutland is not within or in proximity to a National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, or any Green Belt land.

### National Character Areas

- 3.9 National Character Areas (NCAs) are landscape areas which share similar characteristics, following natural lines in the landscape rather than administrative boundaries. In this respect, most of the north eastern section of Rutland is located within the Kesteven Uplands NCA. Most of the central and north western sections of Rutland are located within the Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds NCA. Most of the southern section of Rutland is within

the High Leicestershire NCA. Additionally, a small section of the Northamptonshire Vales NCA overlaps with the southern border of Rutland.

3.10 The profiles for the predominant three NCAs within Rutland (as listed above) describe the following statements of environmental opportunities (SEO).

3.11 The SEOs associated with the Kesteven Uplands NCA are as follows<sup>13</sup>:

- SEO 1: Manage and enhance the agricultural landscape and soils of the Kesteven Uplands, continuing the long tradition of mixed farming which has shaped the area, securing viable and sustainable food production, while seeking to enhance biodiversity and improve water quality and availability.
- SEO 2: Protect and significantly increase the extent, quality, and connectivity of the unimproved and limestone grasslands throughout the NCA, to enhance biodiversity, ecological networks, water availability and quality, climate regulation and sense of place.
- SEO 3: Manage and expand the native woodlands throughout the Kesteven Uplands to reinforce the area's wooded character, benefit biodiversity, increase the potential for biomass, access, and recreation, and help to regulate climate change and water quality.
- SEO 4: Protect, manage, and promote the area's rich historic environment including the significant limestone geology, the historic parklands, the manor houses and medieval monastic buildings, and deserted medieval villages, while also improving access and interpretation to enhance people's understanding and enjoyment of the landscape.
- Additional Opportunity 1: Conserve the strong settlement character of the Kesteven Uplands villages and ensure that new development is sympathetic to this, protecting its tranquil characteristics away from major urban influences.

3.12 The SEOs associated with the Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds NCA are as follows<sup>14</sup>:

- SEO 1: Promote sustainable agricultural practices in this important food producing area to conserve the soil resource and protect water quality, while also ensuring the distinctive historic field pattern and important grassland and broad-leaved woodland habitats are conserved and restored.
- SEO 2: Conserve and manage Rutland Water reservoir and nature reserve for its internationally designated habitats and for the variety of recreational and education assets it provides.
- SEO 3: Protect tranquillity levels in the rural landscape and ensure new development on the urban fringe incorporates green infrastructure into the design, maintains the vernacular and links with the wider countryside.
- SEO 4: Where new development is planned on the urban fringe consider integrating multi-functional greenspace into the design with links to the surrounding countryside.

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<sup>13</sup> Natural England (2014): 'NCA Profile: Kesteven Uplands', [online] available to access [here](#)

<sup>14</sup> Natural England (2014): 'NCA Profile: Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds', [online] available to access [here](#)

- Additional Opportunity 1: Conserve and manage the suite of SSSIs and local sites to protect and improve their condition.

3.13 The SEOs associated with the High Leicestershire NCA are as follows<sup>15</sup>:

- SEO 1: Protect and appropriately manage the strong visual and historic character of this varied and sparsely settled rural landscape of broad rolling ridges and wide secluded valleys – maintaining the settlement pattern and features of High Leicestershire, in particular its areas and features of archaeological and heritage interest, including the field patterns, ridge and furrow, ancient woodlands, country houses and village churches – to enhance sense of place and history so that the area can be enjoyed by all for its tranquillity.
- SEO 2: Sustainably manage the moderately fertile soils, arable crops, livestock, grassland, woodlands, coverts, and spinneys that contribute to sense of place while maintaining viable food production, enhancing biodiversity networks, and encouraging farmland birds and mammals and rarer arable plants.
- SEO 3: Manage and enhance the recreational assets, such as the rights of way network, country parks such as Burrough Hill and waterbodies such as Eyebrook Reservoir, and improve access to these assets and the open countryside from the city of Leicester and surrounding rural communities, to maintain a sense of place, enhance soil and water quality and have a beneficial effect on people's health and wellbeing.
- SEO 4: Manage, conserve, and enhance the woodlands, hedgerows, streams, rivers, and field ponds – including the rivers Chater, Gwash and Eye Brook, their tributaries and the Eyebrook Reservoir – to enhance biodiversity and soil quality and improve water quality, flow and availability.

### **Landscape, townscape, and villagescape character**

3.14 Landscape, townscape, and villagescape character plays an important part in understanding the relationship between people and place, identifying recognisable and distinct patterns which make one area different from another. Landscape, townscape, and villagescape character can assist in the assessment of the likely significance of effects of change resulting from development and the value of landscape, both in visual and amenity terms.

3.15 Completed in 2003, the Landscape Character Assessment for Rutland<sup>16</sup> classifies five-character types (LCTs) across the county, as follows: High Rutland LCT, Vale of Catmose LCT, Rutland Water Basin LCT, Rutland Plateau LCT, and Welland Valley LCT. These LCTs are divided into landscape character sub-areas to further represent the distinctiveness of each LCT. An outline of the LCTs is provided below, as summarised from the Assessment:

- High Rutland LCT covers the west and central parts of Rutland and is divided into the following four sub-areas: Leighfield Forest, Ridges and Valleys, Eyebrook Valley, and Chater Valley.
- Vale of Catmose LCT is a small area which extends to the north and south of Oakham, including the settlement itself.

<sup>15</sup> Natural England (2013): 'NCA Profile: High Leicestershire', [online] available to access [here](#)

<sup>16</sup> David Tyldesley and Associates (2003): 'Rutland Landscape Character Assessment', [online] available to access [here](#)



- Rutland Water Basin LCT is a distinctive area which is based on the reservoir and its immediate surroundings.
- Rutland Plateau LCT covers the north and east parts of Rutland and is divided into the following four sub-areas: Cottesmore Plateau, Clay Woodlands, Gwash Valley, and Ketton Plateau.
- Welland Valley LCT extends along much of the southern boundary of Rutland, broadly following the River Welland which is at the boundary between Rutland and Northamptonshire. The LCT is divided into two sub-areas, as follows: Middle Valley West (Caldecott – Seaton), and Middle Valley East (Barrowden – Tinwell).

3.16 The Landscape Character Assessment also provides guidance for the management of the LCTs in response to new development. For example, new development areas have the potential to adversely impact upon the distinctive qualities of each LCT in the absence of sensitive design. In this respect, this evidence base can be used to enable informed decisions to be made about the future protection, management and sustainable development of Rutland's landscapes, townscape, and villagescape, and can be complemented by more detailed local studies.

3.17 The Assessment listed above will be a useful source of evidence during the next stages of the SA process.

### **Landscape sensitivity and capacity**

3.18 The sensitivity of many of Rutland's landscapes is high, and the character of the landscape is varied within the LCTs. These range from high plateau landscapes across large areas of the north east and south west, to lowland valleys in the centre and north west and on the county's southern border along the Welland Valley. Landscapes in Rutland have been affected by rural development, including housing and infrastructure, as well as agricultural intensification.

3.19 Completed in May 2010 (with additional updates between 2012 and 2019), the Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study<sup>17</sup> considers the sensitivity and capacity surrounding key settlements within Rutland, including Oakham, Uppingham, and the following ten local service centres (as defined in the Study): Cottesmore, Edith Weston, Empingham, Great Casterton, Greetham, Ketton, Langham, Market Overton, Ryhall, and Whissendine. Specifically, the Study defines 'zones' around each of these settlements, providing an overview of the character, landscape and visual sensitivities, value, and overall sensitivity and capacity scores for each zone. The outcomes of the Study will be a useful source of evidence during the next stages of the SA process.

3.20 It is also anticipated that the Study will be revisited and updated in the coming months to contribute to the emerging evidence base for the new Local Plan.

### **Tree Preservation Orders**

3.21 Implemented by local planning authorities, Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) are designated to protect specific trees, groups of trees or woodlands in the

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<sup>17</sup> Rutland County Council (2010 – 2019): 'Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study', [online] available to access [here](#)

interests of their amenity value. When considering 'amenity'; the local planning authority will likely take into consideration the following criteria<sup>18</sup>:

- Visibility: the extent to which the trees or woodlands can be seen by the public; and
- Individual, collective, and wider impact: considering the importance of the trees or woodlands in relation to their cultural or historic value, contribution to and relationship with the landscape and/or their contribution to the character or appearance of a conservation area.

3.22 In this context, Rutland County Council have designated approximately 740 TPOs in the interest of their amenity value, including many within and adjacent to the key settlements. The TPOs, grouped by location, are accessible to view in the figure at the end of this chapter.

### Visual amenity

3.23 It is useful to note that the views across Rutland are also an important consideration in the planning process as the scale, height and mass of development can ultimately impact important views if they are not considered and assessed through the process. Changes due to both development and landscape manipulation can see these views degraded over time.

### Tranquillity and dark skies

3.24 Tranquillity is a natural resource, and an essential quality of the countryside. It is a much-valued aspect of human experience that the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) has long championed<sup>19</sup>. As highlighted by CPRE, although found in many places, it is the countryside that gives us the best chance to experience it. With its broad views, woodlands and heaths, wildlife, the sounds of nature, massive skies, and open water, the rural environment offers us many opportunities to experience deep tranquillity. It enables us to appreciate the beauty and harmony of the natural world. Tranquillity is a central part of why the countryside matters deeply to so many people and the reason many want to spend time there. Dark skies are also an essential component of tranquillity, contributing to a feeling of remoteness and providing a sense of wilderness.<sup>20</sup> In the context of the above, the Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study considers tranquillity as a central part of 'landscape value' across Rutland. The outcomes of the Study will be a useful source of evidence during the next stages of the SA process.

## Summary of future baseline

3.25 New development has the potential to lead to incremental but small changes in landscape, townscape and villagescape character and quality in and around Rutland. This includes from the loss of landscape features and areas with an important visual amenity value. An increase in population also has the potential to negatively impact character and tranquillity.

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<sup>18</sup> GOV.UK (2014): 'Tree Preservation Orders – General', [online] available to access [here](#)

<sup>19</sup> Campaign to Protect Rural England (2015): 'Give Peace a Chance', [online] available to access [here](#)

<sup>20</sup> Campaign to Protect Rural England (2019): 'Why we are working for starry, starry skies', [online] available to access [here](#)

## Key sustainability issues

3.26 The following key issues have been identified through the baseline review for this theme:

- There are four NCAs overlapping with Rutland, namely: Kesteven Uplands NCA, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire Wolds NCA, High Leicestershire NCA, and the Northamptonshire Vales NCA.
- Alongside the SEOs within the NCA profiles, the Landscape Character Assessment provides guidance for the management of Rutland's landscapes in response to new development.
- Reflecting the results of the Landscape Sensitivity and Capacity Study, several areas of undeveloped land surrounding the key settlements in Rutland have a 'low' or 'low to medium' capacity to accommodate new development areas.
- Landscapes in Rutland have been affected by rural development, including housing and infrastructure, as well as agricultural intensification.
- Rutland County Council have designated approximately 740 TPOs in the interest of their amenity value, mostly in and adjacent to key settlements.
- Visual amenity is an important consideration in the planning process as the scale, height and mass of development can ultimately impact important views if they are not considered and assessed through the process.
- Tranquillity and dark skies are a central part of character, contributing to the value of Rutland's landscapes.
- New development has the potential to lead to incremental change in landscape, townscape and villagescape character, and visual amenity.

## SA objectives and appraisal questions

Table 3.2: Proposed SA objectives and assessment questions for the landscape theme

| SA objective   | Appraisal questions  |
|--|--|
| 4. Protect and enhance the character and quality of Rutland's landscapes, townscapes and villagescapes | <p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Support the distinctive qualities of the NCAs and LCAs within and surrounding Rutland?</li> <li>b) Protect and enhance key landscape, townscape and villagescape features which contribute to local distinctiveness?</li> <li>c) Protect locally important viewpoints contributing to sense of place and visual amenity?</li> <li>d) Improve understanding of Rutland's distinctive landscape, townscape and villagescape resources?</li> </ul> |

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## SA objective

## Appraisal questions

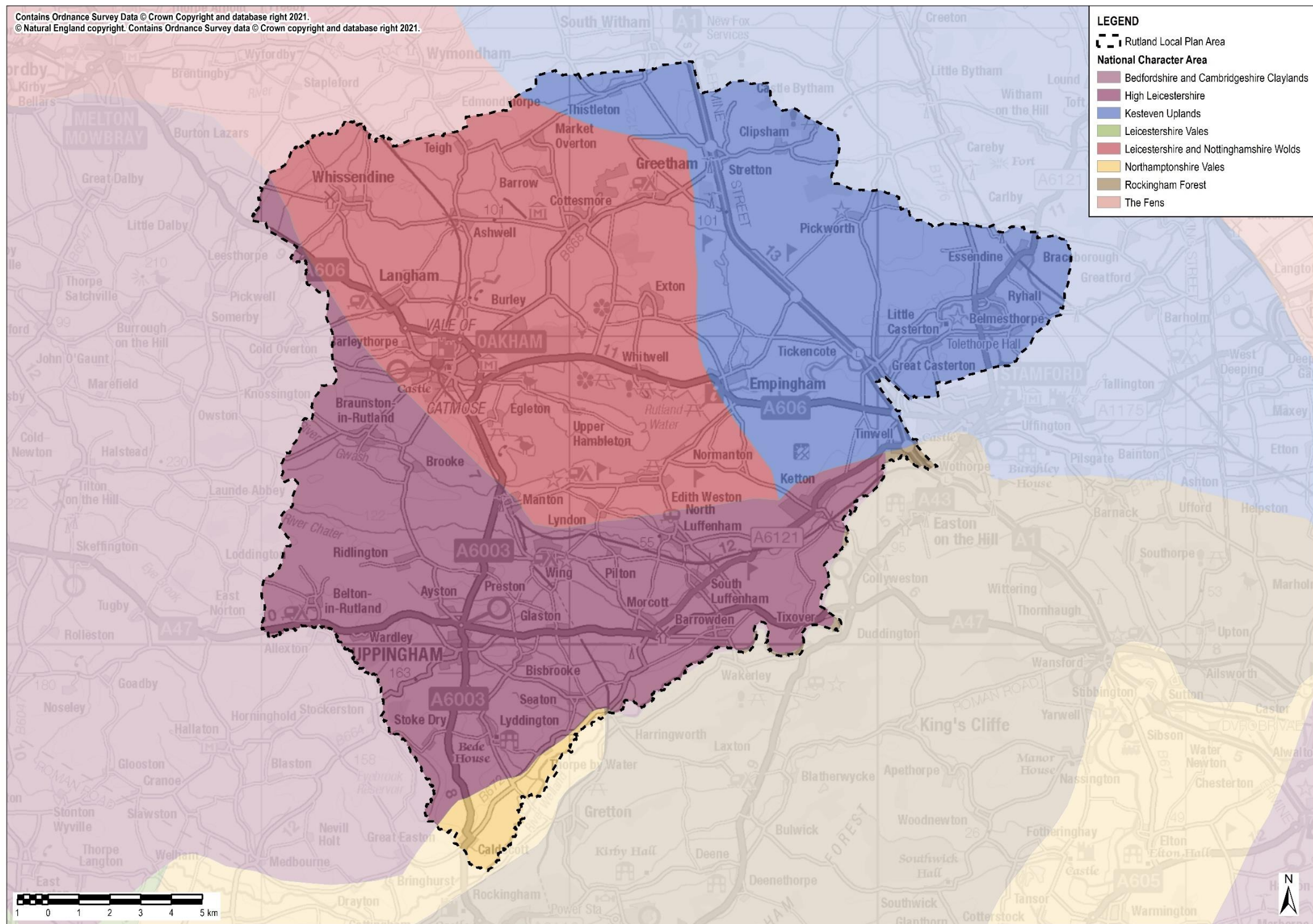
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5. Contribute to  
tranquillity and the  
quality of dark skies

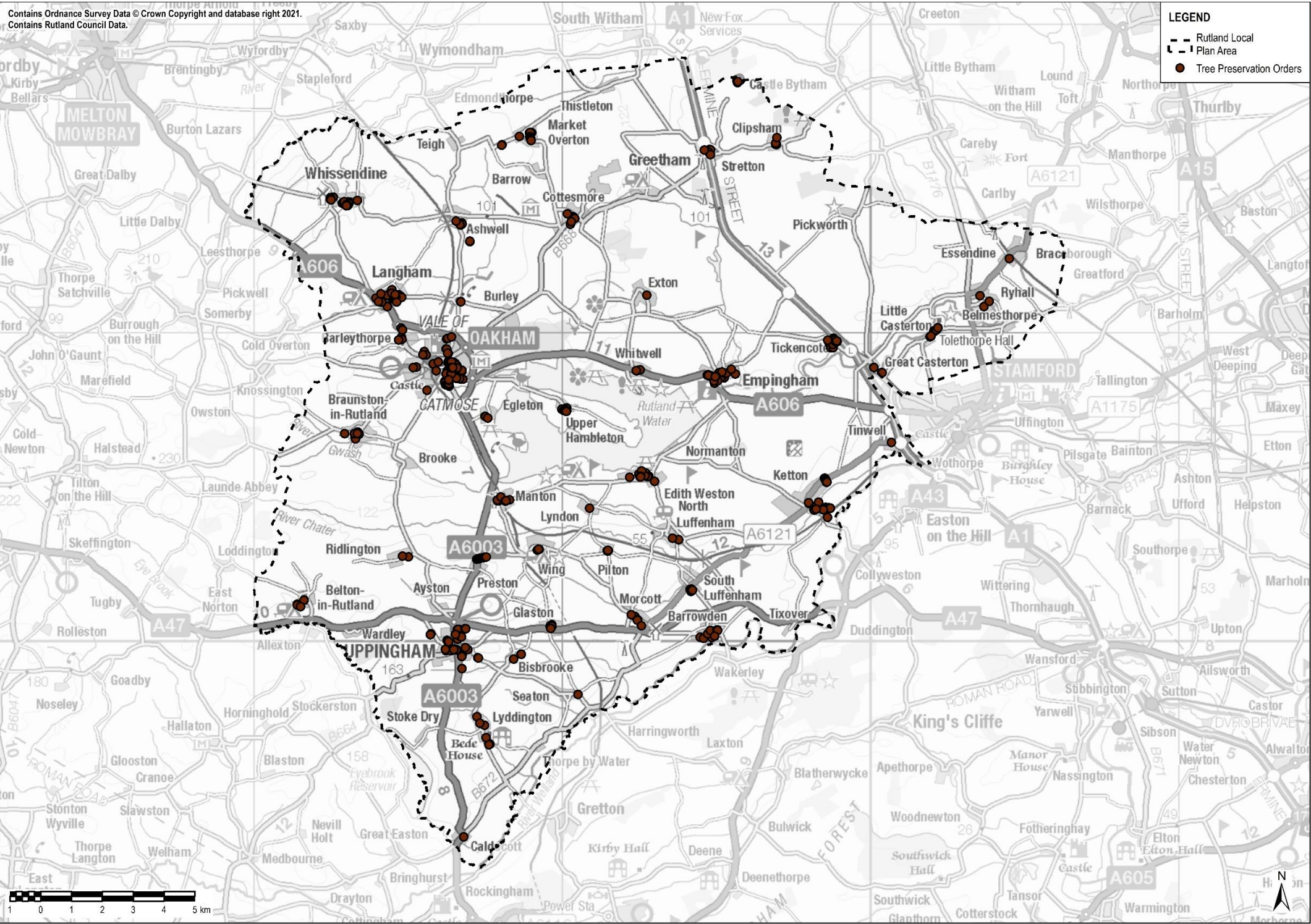
Will the option/proposal help to:

- a) Ensure that new infrastructure provision does not adversely impact on the quality of Rutland's dark skies?
  - b) Minimise the impact on and seek to improve areas of tranquillity?
-









## 4. Historic Environment

### Focus of theme

- Designated and non-designated heritage assets
- Setting, special qualities and significance of heritage assets
- Locally important heritage assets
- Archaeological resources
- Historic character of Rutland

### Policy context

4.1 **Table 4.1** below presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the new Local Plan. The key messages emerging from the review are then summarised after the table.

Table 4.1: Plans, policies, and strategies reviewed in relation to the historic environment SA theme

| Document title  | Year of publication |
|---|---------------------|
| International   |                     |
| <a href="#">UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage</a>                          | 1972                |
| National  |                     |
| <a href="#">National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</a>   | 2021                |
| <a href="#">National Model Design Code</a>  | 2021                |
| <a href="#">Planning Practice Guidance</a>  | 2019                |
| <a href="#">Historic England Advice Note 1: Conservation Area Appraisal Designation and Management (second edition)</a>         | 2019                |
| <a href="#">The National Design Guide</a>   | 2019                |
| <a href="#">Historic England Advice Note 12: Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets</a> | 2019                |
| <a href="#">A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment</a>   | 2018                |
| <a href="#">Historic England Good Practice Advice in Planning: 3 The Setting of Heritage Assets (second edition)</a>            | 2017                |
| <a href="#">Historic England Advice Note 8: Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)</a>      | 2016                |
| <a href="#">Historic England Advice Note 3: The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans</a>                    | 2015                |
| <a href="#">Historic England Good Practice Advice in Planning 1: The Historic Environment in Local Plans</a>                    | 2015                |
| <a href="#">Historic England: Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance</a>  | 2008                |
| <a href="#">Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act</a>  | 1990                |
| <a href="#">Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act</a>  | 1979                |

| Document title  | Year of publication |
|---|---------------------|
| Local   |                     |
| <a href="#">Rutland Local Plan - Core Strategy Development Plan Document</a>                              | 2011                |
| <a href="#">The Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Historic Landscape Characterisation Project</a>     | 2010                |
| <a href="#">Ashwell, Empingham, Lyddington, Morcott, Whitwell and Ketton Conservation Area Appraisals</a> | Various             |
| <a href="#">Rutland Local Plan - Supplementary Planning Documents</a>                                     | Various             |

- 4.2 The new Local Plan policies will need to regard the UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. It notes that the threats to cultural and natural heritage are increasing through destruction, decay and shifting social and economic conditions.
- 4.3 Chapter 16 in the NPPF is dedicated to conserving and enhancing the historic environment. The NPPF states the following:
- Heritage assets range from sites and buildings of local historic value to those of the highest significance. They are irreplaceable resources and should be conserved appropriately to ensure their continued contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations.
  - Plans should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay, or other threats.
  - Local planning authorities should identify and assess the significance of any heritage asset that could be affected by a proposal.
  - When considering the impact of a proposed development on an asset's significance, great weight should be given to conservation irrespective of whether potential harm leads to less than substantial harm, substantial harm, or total loss.
- 4.4 The messages in the NPPF are supported by the National Planning Practice Guidance, including the key message that local planning authorities should set out a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment in their local plans, recognising that conservation is not a passive exercise and there are specific opportunities for the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets.
- 4.5 The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979) allows for the investigation, presentation and recording of matters of archaeological or historical interest and makes provision for the regulation of operations or activities which may affect ancient monuments and archaeological areas.
- 4.6 The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990) protects listed buildings and conservation areas. It enforces controls on buildings and areas of special architectural or historical interest.
- 4.7 Historic England is the statutory body that helps people care for, enjoy, and celebrate England's spectacular historic environment. Guidance and advice notes provide essential information for local planning authorities, neighbourhood groups, developers, consultants, landowners, and other



interested parties on historic environment considerations, and are regularly reviewed and updated in light of legislative changes. The following guidance and advice notes are particularly relevant and should be read in conjunction with the others:

- Historic England Good Practice Advice in Planning 1: The Historic Environment in Local Plans assists local authorities, planning and other consultants, owners, applicants, and other interested parties in implementing the historic environment policies contained within the NPPF.
- Historic England Advice Note 1: Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management highlights various methods to manage change whilst allowing for the conservation and enhancement of historic areas. The advice note emphasises the importance of understanding the various types of architectural and historic interest that underpin designations and recognising the importance of implementing controls to positively contribute to the significance and value of conservation areas.
- Historic England Advice Note 12: Statements of Heritage Significance offers guidance on how to describe heritage significance in order to help local planning authorities reach a verdict on impacts of proposals to heritage assets. Understanding the significance of heritage assets before development proposals are suggested enables owners and applicants to receive effective, consistent, and timely decisions.
- Historic England Advice Note 8: Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) provides support to all stakeholders involved in assessing the effects of certain plans on the historic environment. It offers guidance on how to appropriately consider heritage during each stage of the SA/SEA process and establishes the basis for robust and comprehensive assessments.
- Historic England Advice Note 3: The Historic Environment and Site Allocations in Local Plans offers advice to those involved in the process of identifying potential sites for development in order to help ensure the historic environment plays a positive role in allocation and evidence. In addition, the document details a number of steps to make sure that heritage considerations are fully integrated in any site selection methodology.
- Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 3 The Setting of Heritage Assets offers advice on understanding setting, how it may contribute to the significance of heritage assets and allow that significance to be appreciated. It also offers an insight into how different views and interpretations contribute to setting. Part 2 of the advice note outlines a five stepped approach to conducting a broad assessment of setting.
- Historic England: Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance ensures consistency in the approach taken by Historic England when carrying out its governmental statutory advisor role. It addresses the challenges of modernising heritage protection by proposing an integrated approach to making decisions.

4.8 The National Model Design Code states that schemes should respect the historic assets of a site and its surroundings and make use of existing structures where possible.

- 4.9 A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment and the National Design Guide both recognise and reiterate the role of the historic environment in supporting healthy and thriving ecosystems, landscapes, and cultural values. Of note is Chapter 2 'Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes' in the 25 Year Plan.

## Summary of current baseline

### Historic background of Rutland

- 4.10 Rutland is England's smallest county but has a wealth of local history and heritage, including Roman and Anglo-Saxon settlements, Oakham Castle dating to the 12<sup>th</sup> century, a former royal forest, ancient churches, stone-built villages and the two historic market towns of Oakham and Uppingham<sup>21</sup>. In ancient times the area was sparsely populated oak woodland with an important Roman settlement at Great Casterton. Presently, the county has many old churches and houses, including a large 14<sup>th</sup> century church at Oakham<sup>22</sup>.
- 4.11 The Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Historic Landscape Characterisation Project demonstrates that Rutland has areas of Medieval, Post Medieval, Late Post Medieval and Modern historical landscapes. The heritage features of interest which complement these historical landscapes are explored in further detail below.

### Designated heritage assets and areas

- 4.12 The historic environment is protected through the planning system, via conditions imposed on developers and other mechanisms. Historic England is the statutory consultee for certain categories of listed building consent and all applications for scheduled monument consent.

### Listed buildings

- 4.13 Listed buildings are nationally designated buildings which are protected through the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act. A structure can be designated for its architectural and/or historical interest. Furthermore, a structure can be listed to ensure its preservation; for its architectural and/or historic contribution, for a specific feature on the structure, or for the land within the curtilage of the structure.
- 4.14 According to the National Heritage List for England compiled by Historic England, there is a total of 1,416 listed buildings in Rutland. This includes 28 Grade I, 72 Grade II\* and 1,316 Grade II listed buildings<sup>23</sup>. During the next stages of the SA process, the National Heritage List for England shall be reviewed in greater detail as the appraisals progress to determine whether any heritage assets are likely to be impacted by the proposals within the new Local Plan.

### Scheduled monuments

- 4.15 The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979) allows the investigation, presentation and recording of matters of archaeological or

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<sup>21</sup> Rutland County Council Local History and Heritage can be accessed [here](#).

<sup>22</sup> Britannica's webpage on Rutland can be accessed [here](#).

<sup>23</sup> The register of listed buildings can be accessed [here](#).



historical interest and makes provision for the regulation of operations or activities which may affect ancient monuments and archaeological areas. Scheduled monuments are nationally designated sites that are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act. According to the National Heritage List for England, there are 32 scheduled monuments in Rutland in total, as follows:

- Air photography site NE of village and site of Roman town
- Alstoe Moot and part of Alsthorpe deserted medieval village
- Ashwell medieval settlement remains, watermill and gardens at Old Hall
- Barnhill moated site at Hambleton
- Bridge over River Chater
- Bronze Age enclosure
- Butter Cross and stocks
- Castle Hill motte and bailey, Beaumont Chase
- Church Bridge
- Deserted medieval village on A6003, Snelston
- Dovecot and arch, formerly lodge of Brooke House
- Dovecote 170m north east of the junction between Main Street and Exton Road
- Duddington Bridge
- Earthwork in Morcott Spinney
- Essendine Castle moated site
- Exton Old Hall
- Horn deserted medieval village and moated site
- Lyddington Bedehouse: a medieval bishop's palace and post-medieval almshouse with moat, gardens, fishponds and cultivation remains
- Manorial settlement, 127m north west of St Mary's Church
- Martinthorpe deserted medieval village
- Maze 220m south east of St Peter and St Paul's Church
- Moated site at Allextion
- Moated site at North Luffenham
- Moated site with fishponds and enclosures at Empingham
- Moor Lane moated site, Whissendine
- Oakham motte and bailey castle and medieval gardens
- Roman villa complex, north of Cuckoo Farm Lodge
- Standing cross on The Green, 130m north west of The Bede House
- Village cross 50m south of Middle Farm
- Village cross at junction of Well Cross and King Edward's Way
- Wakerley Bridge
- Woodhead Castle ringwork bailey and fishpond

## Registered parks and gardens

4.16 Historic England's 'Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England', established in 1983, currently identifies over 1,600 sites assessed to be of significance. In this respect, there are two registered parks and gardens present in Rutland:

- Burley on the Hill (Grade II); and
- Exton Park (Grade II).

## Conservation areas

4.17 Conservation areas are designated because of their special architectural and historic interest. Conservation area appraisals are a tool to demonstrate the area's special interest, explaining the reasons for designation and providing a greater understanding and articulation of its character - mentioned within the 'Conservation Area Designation, Appraisal and Management' advice note by Historic England.

4.18 There are 34 conservation areas in Rutland<sup>24</sup>, six of which have appraisals: Ashwell\*, Empingham, Lyddington\*, Morcott, Whitwell\*, and Ketton. The remaining 28 conservation areas are as follows:

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| • Ayston*         | • Tickencote        |
| • Clipsham*       | • Wing              |
| • Cottesmore      | • Langham*          |
| • Edith Weston    | • Belton*           |
| • Exton           | • Braunston*        |
| • Greetham        | • Egleton*          |
| • Hambleton       | • Teigh*            |
| • Market Overton  | • Little Casterton* |
| • North Luffenham | • Ryhall            |
| • Oakham          | • Great Casterton   |
| • Preston*        | • Seaton*           |
| • Ridlington*     | • Barrowden         |
| • South Luffenham | • Uppingham         |
| • Stretton*       | • Tinwell*          |

4.19 The conservation area appraisals and management plans, alongside any supporting documentation (including character area descriptions, boundary maps, and the location of key views) are accessible to download via Rutland County Council's webpages. However, due to the absence of any conservation area appraisals or management plans for the remaining 28 conservation areas

<sup>24</sup> Information on conservation areas in Rutland can be accessed [here](#). Those with an asterisk (\*) are conservation areas which have an Article 4 Direction imposed to restrict the scope of permitted development rights.

in Rutland, it is currently not possible to gain a detailed understanding of their special character and interest. This represents a gap in the existing baseline.

### Locally important heritage features

- 4.20 It is noted that not all of Rutland's environment features are subject to statutory designations, with non-designated features contributing a large part of what people come into contact with on a day-to-day basis. Although not designated, many buildings and areas are of historic interest and are important to local communities. For example, open spaces and key distinctive buildings are likely to have a local historic value.
- 4.21 In the context of the above, the Leicestershire and Rutland Historic Environmental Record (HER) identifies important and distinctive structures or features that positively contribute to the local sense of place and distinctiveness of Rutland and its archaeological recourse. Following a high-level review of the HER via the Heritage Gateway<sup>25</sup>, that there are 3,584 records within Rutland. During the next stages of the SA process and subject to the availability of information, the HER will be reviewed in greater detail to determine the potential impacts to non-designated heritage features resulting from the provisions within the new Local Plan.

### Heritage at risk

- 4.22 Since 2008, Historic England has produced an annual Heritage at Risk Register which highlights historic environment assets that are seen to be 'at risk'. According to the 2021 Heritage at Risk Register for the Midlands<sup>26</sup>, there are four heritage assets at risk within Rutland: one in the 'building and structure' category and three in the 'place of worship' category. During the next stages of the SA process and where appropriate, the Register shall be reviewed in greater detail to determine whether any heritage features which are currently at risk are likely to be impacted by the proposals within the new Local Plan.
- 4.23 It is important to recognise that Heritage at Risk registers for areas outside of London do not contain information about the status of Grade II listed buildings. As such, it is currently not possible to determine whether any of the Grade II listed buildings within the Rutland area are at risk.

## Summary of future baseline

- 4.24 New development areas within Rutland have the potential to impact on the fabric and setting of heritage assets, for example, through inappropriate design and layout. However, it is noted that existing historic environment designations offer a degree of protection to heritage assets and their settings.
- 4.25 New development does not need to pose a threat to the significance of a heritage asset. There may be the opportunity for new development in Rutland to enhance the historic setting of its settlements, support historic landscape character and better reveal the significance of heritage assets. This could be achieved through design and layout requirements.

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<sup>25</sup> The Leicestershire and Rutland HER Advanced Search can be accessed via Heritage Gateway [here](#). In order to view the data, users should change the tab from 'map' to 'admin location' and type Rutland into the administrative location search bar and press the search button at the bottom of the page.

<sup>26</sup> The Midlands Heritage at Risk register can be accessed [here](#).

4.26 It is also recognised that the new Local Plan has the potential to establish cross-cutting provisions relating to development, possibly including the creation and enhancement of functional environmental infrastructure, the encouragement of ecosystem services, the development of buffers to natural spaces and the restoration of connectivity. In this context, improving the resilience of such networks is further likely to protect the historic environment, protecting important views and/ or the setting of designated and non-designated assets, in addition to the wider character of key historic settlements within Rutland.

## Key sustainability issues

4.27 The following key issues have been identified through the baseline review for this theme:

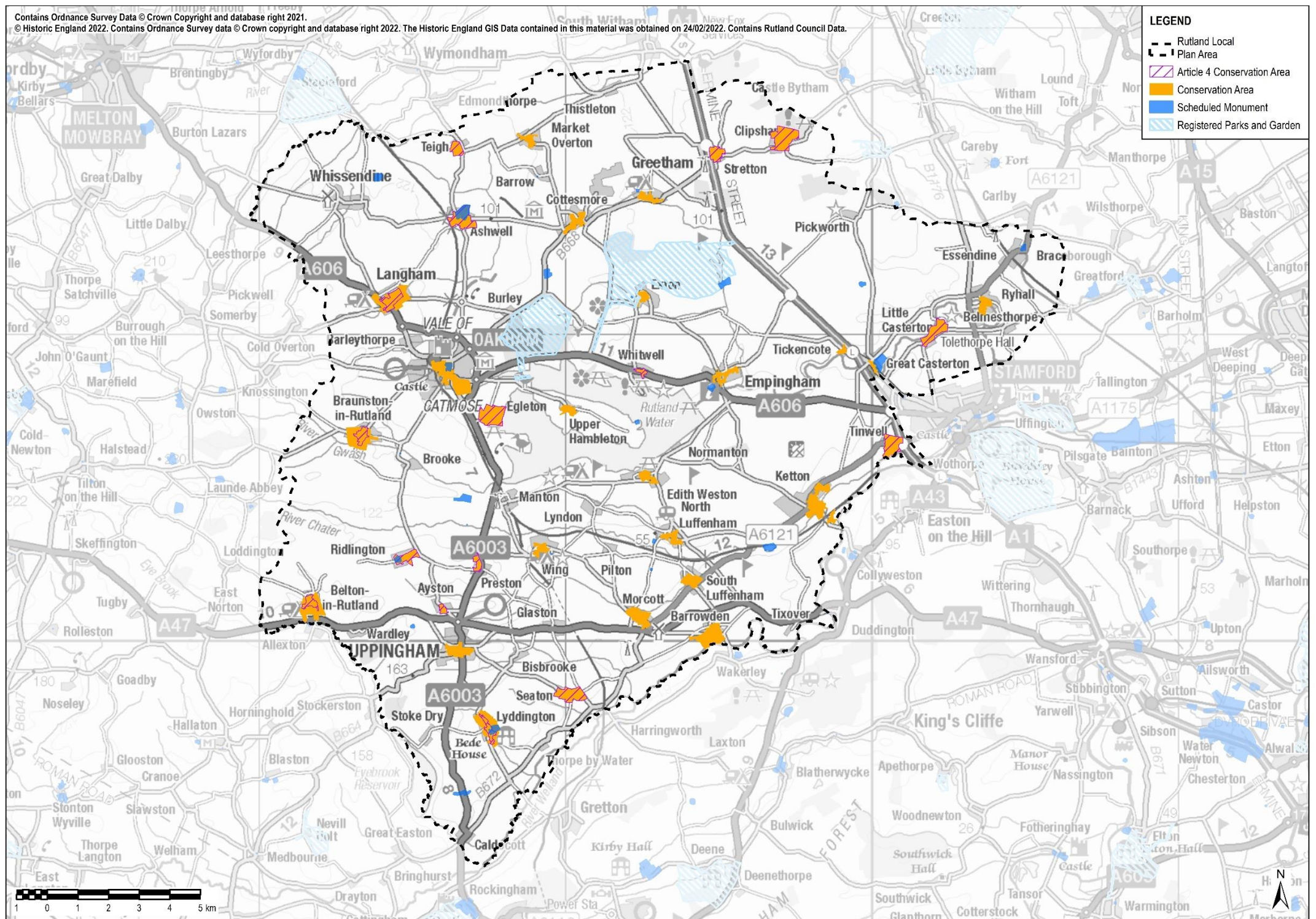
- According to the National Heritage List for England, Rutland has 1,416 listed buildings: 28 Grade I, 72 Grade II\* and 1,316 Grade II.
- According to the 2021 Heritage at Risk Register, there are four heritage assets at risk within Rutland. It is not currently possible to determine whether the Grade II listed buildings within Rutland are at risk.
- There are 32 scheduled monuments within Rutland that are protected under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979).
- There are two historic parks and gardens within Rutland – both of which are Grade II listed.
- There are 34 designated conservation areas within Rutland, six of which have conservation area appraisals that detail the special qualities of these areas with character area descriptions, boundary maps, key view locations and priority actions.
- Due to the absence of any conservation area appraisals or management plans for most of the conservation areas in Rutland, it is currently not possible to gain a detailed understanding of their special character and interest. This represents a gap in the existing baseline.
- The Leicestershire and Rutland HER highlights over 3,500 non-designated heritage assets which provide local historic significance to Rutland.
- It will be important to ensure that future development avoids/minimises impacts upon the historic environment and maximises opportunities to improve the fabric and setting of the historic environment in Rutland.
- There are significant opportunities to enhance awareness and understanding of Rutland's historic environment resource and better reveal the historic significance of its assets.



## SA objectives and appraisal questions

Table 4.2: Proposed SA objectives and assessment questions for the historic environment theme

| SA objective  | Appraisal questions   |
|---|---|
| 6. Conserve and enhance Rutland's historic environment, including designated and non-designated heritage assets | <p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Conserve and enhance the significance of buildings and structures of architectural or historic interest, both designated and non-designated, and their setting?</li> <li>b) Conserve and enhance the special interest, character and appearance of conservation areas and their settings?</li> <li>c) Conserve and enhance the special interest, character and appearance of registered parks and gardens, and their settings?</li> <li>d) Protect and where possible, enhance the wider historic environment, including historic landscapes?</li> </ul> |
| 7. Conserve and enhance Rutland's archaeological resource   | <p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Conserve and enhance archaeological resource, including features listed on the Leicestershire and Rutland HER?</li> </ul>  |
| 8. Promote opportunities for enhancing the understanding of Rutland's distinct historic environment             | <p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Support access to, interpretation and understanding of the historic evolution and character of the environment?</li> <li>b) Ensure that, where possible, development contributes to improved public understanding of assets and their settings?</li> </ul>   |





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Grade I  
Grade II\*  
Grade II

## 5. Air, Land, Soil and Water Resources

### Focus of theme

- Air quality
- Water availability and quality
- Soil quality
- Agricultural land
- Minerals resources

### Policy context

5.1 **Table 5.1** below presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the new Local Plan. The key messages emerging from the review are then summarised after the table.

Table 5.1: Plans, policies, and strategies reviewed in relation to the air, land, soil, and water resources SA theme

| Document title   | Year of publication |
|--|---------------------|
| International  |                     |
| <a href="#">The Water Environment Regulations</a>  | 2017                |
| <a href="#">Directive 2010/75/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council on industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control)</a> | 2010                |
| National   |                     |
| <a href="#">National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</a>  | 2021                |
| <a href="#">The Clean Air Strategy</a>   | 2019                |
| <a href="#">A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment</a>  | 2018                |
| <a href="#">UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide concentrations</a>  | 2017                |
| <a href="#">National Planning Policy for Waste</a>   | 2014                |
| <a href="#">Waste Management Plan for England</a>  | 2013                |
| <a href="#">Future Water: The Government's water strategy for England</a>  | 2011                |
| <a href="#">Water for Life</a>   | 2011                |
| <a href="#">Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England</a>   | 2009                |
| Local  |                     |
| <a href="#">Draft River Basin Management Plans: Humber and Anglian</a>   | 2021                |
| <a href="#">Rutland Local Aggregates Assessment</a>  | 2019                |
| <a href="#">Anglian Water: Water Resources Management Plan</a>   | 2019                |
| <a href="#">Severn Trent Water: Water Resources Management Plan</a>  | 2019                |
| <a href="#">Rutland Local Plan - Core Strategy Development Plan Document</a>   | 2011                |
| <a href="#">Rutland Minerals Core Strategy and Development Control Policies Development Plan Document</a>  | 2010                |



| Document title  | Year of publication |
|---|---------------------|
| <a href="#">Rutland Local Plan - Supplementary Planning Documents</a>   | Various             |
| <p>5.1 The Water Environment Regulations (2017) applies to surface waters (including some coastal waters) and groundwater. It sets out the requirement to prevent the deterioration of aquatic ecosystems; protect, enhance, and restore water bodies to ‘good’ status; and achieve compliance with standards and objectives for protected areas.</p>   |                     |
| <p>5.2 The Water Framework Directive (WFD) drives a catchment-based approach to water management. In England and Wales there are 100 water catchments and it is Defra’s intention to establish a ‘framework for integrated catchment management’ across England. The Environment Agency is currently consulting on revised river basin management plans for the eight river basin districts in England. The plans seek to deliver the objectives of the WFD namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance the status and prevent the further deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetlands which depend on aquatic ecosystems.</li> <li>• Promote the sustainable use of water.</li> <li>• Reduce the pollution of water, especially by ‘priority’ and ‘priority hazardous’ substances; and</li> <li>• Ensure the progressive reduction of groundwater pollution.</li> </ul>   |                     |
| <p>5.3 The Directive on industrial emissions sets out rules on the prevention and control of pollution caused by industrial activities. It also details the rules designed to prevent or reduce emissions into the air, water, and land. Furthermore, it outlines ways to avert waste generation in order to achieve a high level of environmental protection.</p>  |                     |
| <p>5.4 Air quality features in Chapter 9 and Chapter 15 of the NPPF. The NPPF states the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 9: significant development should be focused on locations which are currently, or can be made to be, sustainable. Through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes, congestion and emissions can be decreased and air quality improved.</li> <li>• Chapter 15: new and existing developments should be prevented from contributing to, being at risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of air pollution.</li> <li>• Chapter 15: planning policies and decisions should comply with relevant limit values or national objectives for pollutants, appropriately considering the presence of Air Quality Management Areas, Clean Air Zones and the cumulative impacts of individual sites. Opportunities to improve air quality or mitigate impacts should be identified, like traffic and travel management and the creation or enhancement of green infrastructure. These opportunities should be considered at the plan-making stage to ensure a strategic approach is adopted and there is an effective limitation of issues. Local air quality action plans should also be considered and adhered.</li> </ul> |                     |

- 5.5 Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) are declared in areas that exceed national objectives for levels of particulates, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide, ozone, benzene, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, butadiene, carbon monoxide, lead and/or nitrogen oxides.
- 5.6 Land, soil, and water resources feature in Chapter 11, Chapter 15, and Chapter 17 of the NPPF. The NPPF states the following:
- Chapter 11: planning policies and decisions should promote an effective use of land in meeting the need for homes and other uses, whilst safeguarding and improving the environment and ensuring safe and healthy living conditions. Therefore, support is given to the use of brownfield land within settlements in addition to remediating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated or unstable land. Support is also given to promoting the development of under-utilised land and buildings.
  - Chapter 11: planning policies and decisions should encourage multiple benefits from both urban and rural land, including through mixed use schemes and engaging in opportunities to achieve net environmental gains.
  - Chapter 15: planning policies and decisions should work with the natural and local environment by:
    - Protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, sites of biodiversity or geological value and soils; and
    - Recognising the unique and intrinsic value of the countryside and the wider benefits from natural capital and ecosystem services – including other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land, and of trees and woodland.
  - Chapter 15: prevent new and existing development from contributing to, being at risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of water pollution.
  - Chapter 17: planning policies should safeguard mineral resources by defining Mineral Safeguarding Areas so that the known locations of specific minerals resources are not sterilised by non-mineral development.
- 5.7 The Clean Air Strategy identifies how the Government will tackle all sources of air pollution. The strategy proposes goals to cut public exposure to particulate matter pollution and outlines required action to meet these goals. The proposed measures include new legislation and local powers to act in areas with air pollution issues.
- 5.8 The 25-year Environment Plan discusses measures to improve soil quality, restore and protect peatlands, use water more sustainably, reduce pollution, maximise resource efficiency and minimise environmental impacts. The 25-year Environment Plan also discusses air quality; stating that the Government will take action to expand net gain approaches to include air quality improvements, as well as planting more trees in urban areas to improve air quality and changing fuel supplies to reduce air pollution.
- 5.9 The UK plan for tackling roadside nitrogen dioxide is an air quality plan focused on bringing nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) within statutory limits in the quickest time possible. The plan identifies that improving air quality and reducing carbon

emissions is also important and wants to position the UK at the forefront of vehicle innovation by making motoring cleaner.

- 5.10 The National Planning Policy for Waste outlines the UK Government's goal of a more sustainable and efficient approach to resource use and management. It states that local planning authorities should ensure sufficient opportunities are taken to meet the identified needs for the management of waste streams. It also states that local planning authorities should ensure the need for waste management facilities is considered alongside other spatial planning concerns and should recognise the contribution waste management can bring to the development of sustainable communities.
- 5.11 The Waste Management Plan for England identifies measures being taken to move towards a zero-waste economy, including a national waste plan which seeks to identify measures to move towards a circular economy in which resources are kept in use for longer. To do this, there needs to be a maximisation in the value of resources used and a minimisation in the waste created.
- 5.12 Future Water: The Government's water strategy for England sets out how the water sector will look by 2030, including the improvement in rivers, canals, lakes and seas for both people and wildlife. The vision also includes valuing and protecting water resources and delivering water to customers in a fair, affordable, and cost-reflective manner. This is achieved by breaking the water sector down into multiple sections: future water, water demand, water supply, water quality in the natural environment, surface water drainage, river and coastal flooding, greenhouse gas emissions and charging for water.
- 5.13 Water for Life highlights the Government's vision for a more resilient water sector. It details the measures that will be deployed to tackle issues such as poorly performing ecosystems, and the combined impacts of climate change and population growth on stressed water resources.
- 5.14 Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England policy paper seeks to ensure that all soils in England will be managed sustainably and degradation threats minimised successfully by 2030. This policy paper also seeks to secure sustainable and resilient water resources in addition to the improvement in waterbody quality.
- 5.15 Anglian Water's WRMP highlights the acute stresses that the catchment faces in the coming years and the challenges faced in terms of securing water resources into the future in one of the driest regions in England. The document outlines how Anglian Water aim to confront and manage these issues to ensure the timely provision of clean water to all residents in the period up to 2045.
- 5.16 Severn Trent Water's WRMP forecasts a significant deficit between water supply and demand unless action is taken. The document outlines how Severn Trent aims to confront this issue without risking the future ecological status of the water bodies in the region.
- 5.17 The Rutland Minerals Core Strategy and Development Control Policies Development Plan Document sets out the following objectives:
- To safeguard Rutland's mineral resources from unnecessary sterilisation, in particular local resources of limestone and building stone.

- To maintain a local supply of essential raw materials for the cement plant at Ketton, in addition to a supply of limestone for aggregates purposes in line with national and regional policy guidance.
- To support the distinctive local identity of Rutland through supplying and encouraging the use of locally sourced building materials.
- To secure sound work practices which prevent or reduce possible impacts on Rutland's communities arising from the extraction, processing, management, or transportation of minerals.
- To reduce the impact of mineral development on the environment through sustainable design and construction as well as encouraging the use of resources and addressing the flood risk and climate change concerns.
- To promote the sustainable transport of minerals and reduce the effects of road-borne transport.

## Summary of current baseline

### Air quality

- 5.18 Councils are obligated to review and assess air quality in their region on a regular basis under the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) process, set out in Section 82 of the Environment Act (1995).
- 5.19 Air quality in Rutland is generally good. Monitoring occurs at 13 sites across the county; the results of which are included in the Air Quality Annual Status Reports (ASRs) that are submitted annually to the UK Government.
- 5.20 According to the latest ASR report for Rutland (dating to 2019)<sup>27</sup>, there are no AQMAs in the county; therefore, there is no formal requirement to develop an air quality action plan. However, Rutland County Council have encouraged and support measures to mitigate emissions. This includes (but is not limited to) policy guidance, transport planning, public information campaigns, car lift/share schemes and the installation of electric car charging points at certain locations (including offices in Oakham).

### Soil resources

- 5.21 The Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) classifies land into six grades (plus 'non-agricultural land' and 'urban'), where Grades 1 to 3a are recognised as being the 'best and most versatile' (BMV) land and Grades 3b to 5 of poorer quality. In this context, there is a need to avoid loss of higher quality BMV agricultural land.
- 5.22 The provisional ALC dataset provided by Natural England<sup>28</sup> indicates that the majority of Rutland is underlain by Grade 3 'good to moderate' agricultural land. However, in the absence of a detailed ALC assessment for the whole of Rutland, it currently cannot be determined whether the Grade 3 land is either Grade 3a (i.e. BMV land) or Grade 3b (i.e. not BMV land). According to the provisional dataset, there are also areas of Grade 2 'very good' agricultural land in Rutland, mostly concentrated to the south of the county around the settlements of Wing and Preston. Furthermore, areas of Grade 1 'excellent'

<sup>27</sup> 2019 ASR for Rutland can be accessed [here](#).

<sup>28</sup> Natural England (2011): 'Regional ALC Classification Map for East Midlands' can be accessed [here](#).



agricultural land can be found around the settlements of Teigh, Whissendine and Oakham. The provisional ALC for the whole of Rutland is shown in the figures at the end of this chapter.

- 5.23 The results of the 'Predictive Best and Most Versatile (BMV) Land Assessment' for the East Midlands<sup>29</sup> provided by Natural England indicates that a large proportion of the county has a moderate to high likelihood of containing BMV land. Nevertheless, it is also important to note that the national dataset is of very low resolution and may not necessarily provide an accurate reflection of the agricultural land quality within Rutland.

## Water resources and quality

- 5.24 The water resources located within and in proximity to Rutland include a network of larger watercourses, two main reservoirs (including Rutland Water and Eyebrook Reservoir), small streams, and brooks. There is also several drainage ditches and small pools located within and adjacent to field margins. The larger watercourses in the county include the River Chater, River Glen, River Gwash, and the River Welland, with several tributaries also feeding in and connecting to these watercourses. The water resources in Rutland are shown in the figures at the end of this chapter.
- 5.25 Rutland is located within two river basin districts, specifically: the Anglian River Basin District and the Humber River Basin District. Within these districts, the waterbodies which pass through Rutland are within two key operational catchment areas, specifically: the Welland Upper Operational Catchment and the Wreake River Operational Catchment. A summary of the water quality information for these two operational catchment areas is provided below.
- 5.26 The Welland Upper Operational Catchment covers the southern section of Rutland and contains 20 waterbodies. The results of the 2019 water quality assessments for these waterbodies are shown below in **Table 5.2**.

**Table 5.2: Ecological and chemical water quality status for the waterbodies in the Welland Upper Operational Catchment area<sup>30</sup>**

|                       | Ecological status |      |          |      | Chemical status |      |      |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------|----------|------|-----------------|------|------|
| Number of Waterbodies | Bad               | Poor | Moderate | Good | High            | Fail | Good |
| 20                    | 6                 | 6    | 7        | 1    | 0               | 20   | 0    |

- 5.27 The Wreake River Operational Catchment covers the northern section of Rutland and contains 16 waterbodies. The results for the 2019 water quality assessments for these waterbodies are shown below in **Table 5.3**.

<sup>29</sup> Natural England (2017): 'Likelihood of BMV Agricultural Land, Strategic Scale Map for East Midlands' can be accessed [here](#).

<sup>30</sup> Classifications data for Welland Upper Operational Catchment can be accessed [here](#)

**Table 5.3: Ecological and chemical water quality status for the waterbodies in the Wreake River Operational Catchment area<sup>31</sup>**

|                       | Ecological status |      |          |      | Chemical status |      |      |
|-----------------------|-------------------|------|----------|------|-----------------|------|------|
| Number of Waterbodies | Bad               | Poor | Moderate | Good | High            | Fail | Good |
| 16                    | 0                 | 3    | 13       | 0    | 0               | 16   | 0    |

5.28 During the subsequent stages of the SA process, the Environment Agency's Catchment Data Explorer (accessible [here](#)) and draft river basin management plan interactive mapping tool (accessible [here](#)) shall be explored in further detail to determine any potential impacts to watercourses in relation to the policies and proposals in the new Local Plan.

### Nitrate Vulnerable Zones

5.29 The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) requires Member States to identify areas where groundwater have nitrate concentrations of more than 50 mg/l nitrate or are thought to be at risk of nitrate contamination. Areas associated with such groundwater are designated as Nitrate Vulnerable Zones (NVZs) within which, Member States are required to establish Action Programmes to reduce and prevent further nitrate contamination. According to the interactive NVZ mapping tool<sup>32</sup>, Rutland overlaps with 'Surface Water' and 'Ground Water' NVZs.

### Source Protection Zones

5.30 Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) have been defined by the Environment Agency in England and Wales to protect groundwater sources such as wells, boreholes and springs that are used for public drinking water supply. Rutland overlaps with areas of 'Zone III Total Catchment', 'Zone II Outer Protection' and 'Zone I Inner Protection' SPZs (particularly the eastern section of Rutland).

### Mineral resources

5.31 Mineral resources are defined as natural concentrations of minerals or bodies of rock that have the potential to be of economic interest in the present or the future due to their inherent properties. As minerals are a non-renewable resource, minerals safeguarding is deployed as the process through which it is ensured that non-minerals development does not needlessly prevent the future extraction of mineral resources<sup>33</sup>.

5.32 According to the latest LAA, Rutland's bedrock geology consists of mudstone, siltstone, sandstone, limestone, and argillaceous rocks. This geology comprises the following resources:

- River terrace sand and gravel.
- Sub-alluvial sand and gravel.

<sup>31</sup> Classifications data for Wreake River Operational Catchment can be accessed [here](#)

<sup>32</sup> The interactive NVZ mapping tool can be accessed [here](#).

<sup>33</sup> UK Government's guidance on minerals can be accessed [here](#).

- Glacial/glaciofluvial sand and gravel.
- Siliceous clay; and
- Limestone.

5.33 As shown in the figure at the end of this chapter, most of the north eastern section of Rutland overlaps with one or more Mineral Safeguarding Areas (MSAs). The MSAs within Rutland include: Limestone Aggregate Area; Limestone and Clay; Limestone and Clay for Cement Purposes Area; and Sand and Gravel. This reflects the distinctive geology of Rutland which comprises Jurassic rocks of limestone, sandstone, and ironstone.

## Summary of future baseline

5.34 New housing and employment provision implemented by the new Local Plan has the potential for adverse effects on air quality through increasing traffic flows and associated levels of pollutants. However, as Rutland has no recorded AQMAs or pollutants of concern, the risks associated with exceedances of air quality objectives are relatively limited.

5.35 Future development has the potential to affect water quality through diffuse pollution, wastewater discharges, water run-off, and modification. However, water companies are likely to maintain adequate water supply and wastewater management over the plan period, and the requirements of the Water Environment Regulations are likely to lead to continued improvements to water quality within Rutland and wider area.

5.36 Due to the likely prevalence of BMV agricultural land and mineral resources within sections of the undeveloped areas of Rutland, new developments which are located outside of the settlement boundaries have the potential to lead to losses of higher quality agricultural land and could potentially result in the sterilization of mineral resources.

## Key sustainability issues

5.37 The following key issues have been identified through the baseline review for this theme:

- With regards to improvements to air quality, the new Local Plan presents opportunities to improve accessibility and support more local and sustainable journeys/ connections. These opportunities will be explored in the 'Communities, Health and Wellbeing' and 'Transportation' SA themes.
- Undeveloped areas of land in Rutland have the potential to be underlain by best and most versatile (BMV) land, though a full classification of the quality of this land has not been undertaken. Nonetheless, the results of the BMV land assessment for the East Midlands indicates there are areas in Rutland which have a moderate and high likelihood of containing BMV land.
- The water resources located within and in proximity to Rutland include a network of main rivers, two reservoirs, small streams, and brooks. There is also several drainage ditches and small pools located within and adjacent to field margins. The main rivers in the county include the River Chater, River Glen, River Gwash and the River Welland.

- Rutland overlaps with 'Surface Water' and 'Ground Water' NVZs.
- Rutland overlaps with areas of 'Zone III Total Catchment', 'Zone II Outer Protection' and 'Zone I Inner Protection' SPZs (particularly the eastern sections of Rutland).
- Plan making should consider how local decisions affect water supply, such as water accessibility issues, and ensure that appropriate drainage infrastructure is in place to accommodate new development areas.
- There are locations within Rutland (particularly in the north east of the county) which are within a Mineral Safeguarding Area. Plan making should consider how local decisions may affect the integrity of mineral resources.

## SA objectives and appraisal questions

Table 5.4: Proposed SA objectives and assessment questions for the air, land, soil, and water resources theme

| SA objective   | Appraisal questions  |
|--|--|
| 9. Deliver improvements in air quality in Rutland            | <p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Reduce emissions of pollutants from transport?</li> <li>b) Promote the use of low emission vehicles?</li> <li>c) Promote enhancements in sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport?</li> <li>d) Promote enhancements to green infrastructure networks to facilitate increased absorption and dissipation of pollutants?</li> </ul>  |
| 10. Ensure the efficient and effective use of land           | <p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Avoid the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land?</li> <li>b) Support a brownfield first approach to new development opportunities?</li> <li>c) Support the remediation of contaminated land?</li> <li>d) Protect the integrity of mineral resources?</li> <li>e) Encourage recycling of materials and minimise consumption of resources during construction, operation, and maintenance of new infrastructure?</li> </ul> |
| 11. Manage Rutland's water resources in a sustainable manner | <p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Support improvements to water quality consistent with the aims of the Water Environment regulations?</li> </ul>   |



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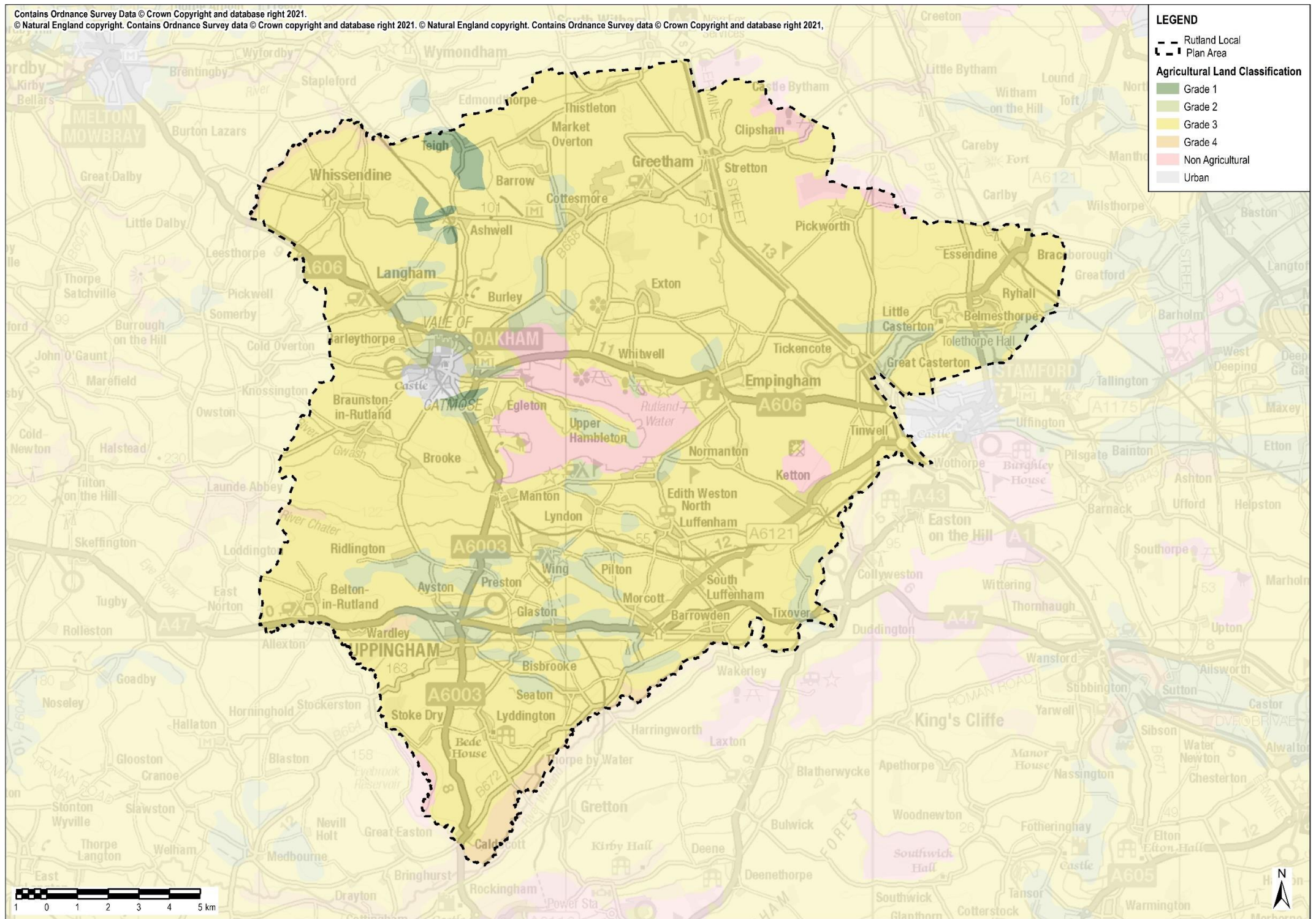
**SA objective**

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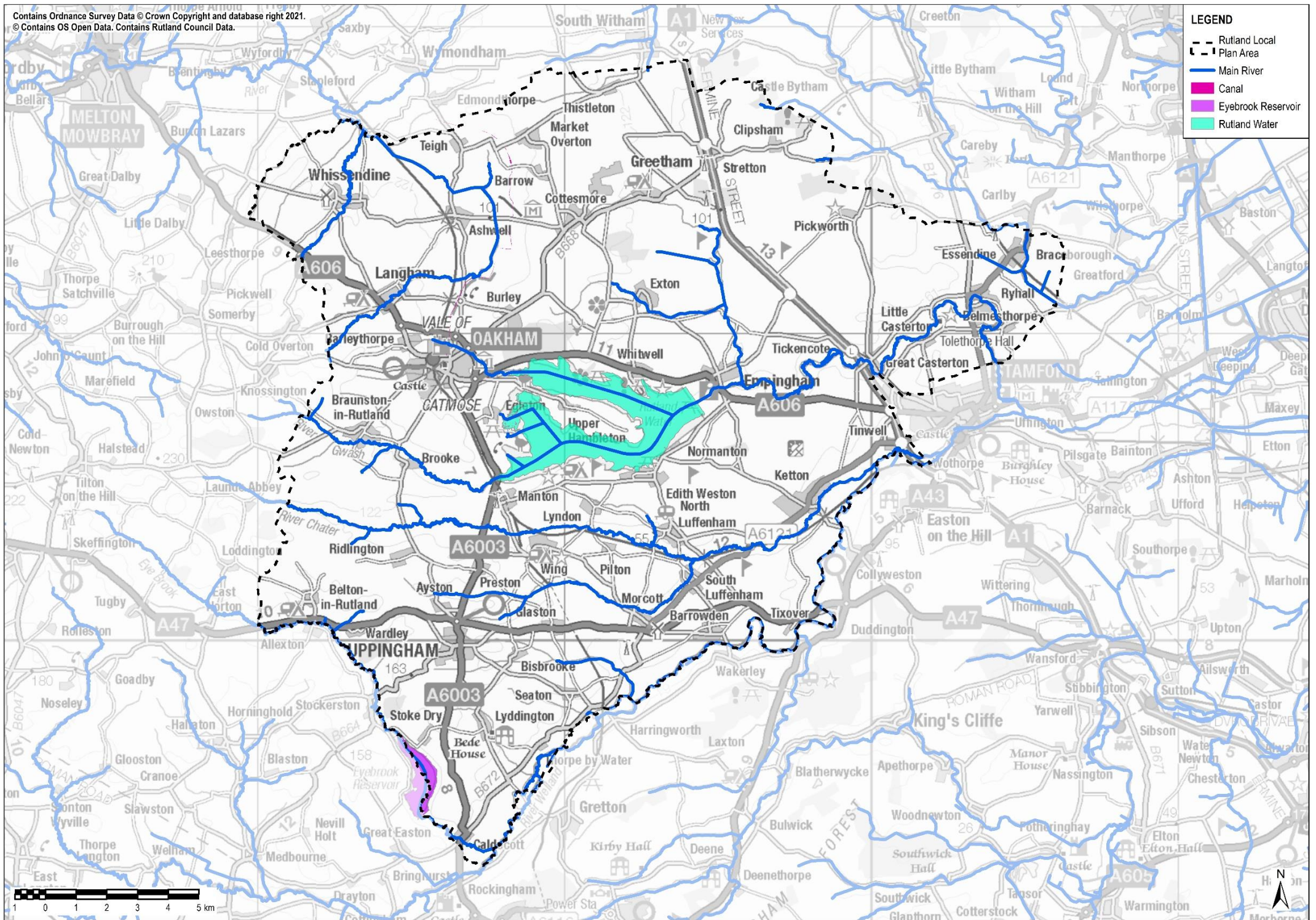
**Appraisal questions**

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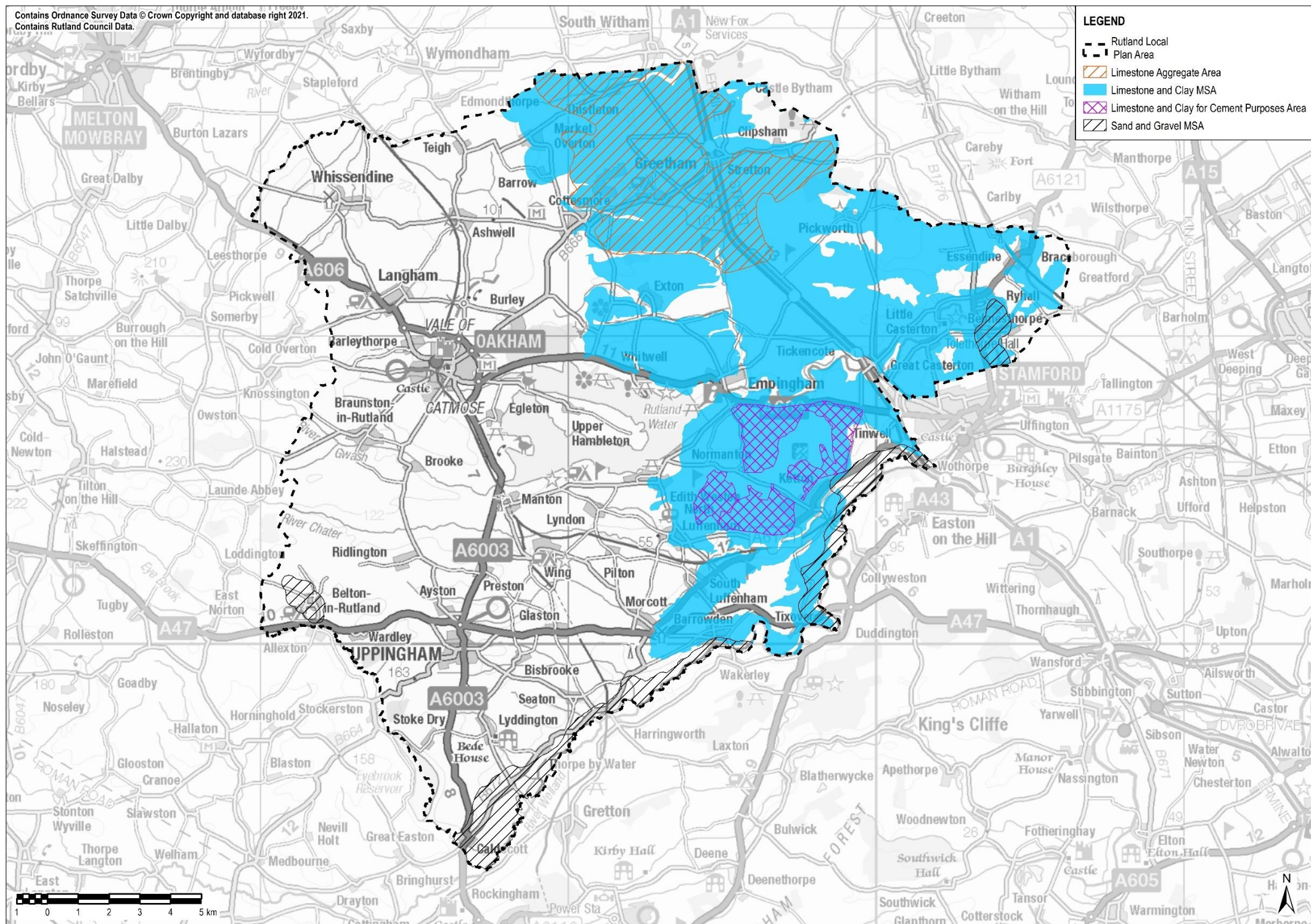
- b) Ensure that appropriate drainage infrastructure is available to serve new development areas?
  - c) Reduce pressures on wastewater treatment works and the capacity of the existing networks?
  - d) Help to minimise diffuse surface water pollution?
  - e) Protect surface water and groundwater resources?
  - f) Minimise water consumption?
-













## 6. Climate Change

### Focus of theme

- Greenhouse gas emissions
- Potential effects of climate change
- Flood risk
- Climate change resilience

### Policy context

6.1 **Table 6.1** below presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the new Local Plan. The key messages emerging from the review are then summarised after the table.

Table 6.1: Plans, policies, and strategies reviewed in relation to the climate change SA theme

| Document title  | Year of publication |
|---|---------------------|
| International   |                     |
| <a href="#">UN Paris Agreement</a>  | 2016                |
| National  |                     |
| <a href="#">National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</a>   | 2021                |
| <a href="#">Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener</a>   | 2021                |
| <a href="#">National Infrastructure Assessment</a>  | 2021                |
| <a href="#">The UK Sixth Carbon Budget</a>  | 2020                |
| <a href="#">The Clean Air Strategy 2019</a>   | 2019                |
| <a href="#">Blueprint for a resilient economy</a>   | 2019                |
| <a href="#">A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment</a>                               | 2018                |
| <a href="#">The National Adaptation Programme and the Third Strategy for Climate Adaptation Reporting</a> | 2018                |
| <a href="#">The Clean Growth Strategy</a>   | 2017                |
| <a href="#">UK Climate Change Risk Assessment 2017</a>  | 2017                |
| <a href="#">Flood and Water Management Act 2010</a>   | 2010                |
| <a href="#">The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan: National strategy for climate and energy</a>               | 2009                |
| <a href="#">Climate Change Act 2008</a>   | 2008                |
| Local   |                     |
| <a href="#">Rutland County Council Corporate Plan 2019-2024</a>   | 2019                |
| <a href="#">Local Flood Risk Management Strategy</a>  | 2018                |
| <a href="#">Rutland Local Plan - Core Strategy Development Plan Document</a>                              | 2011                |
| <a href="#">Rutland Local Plan - Supplementary Planning Documents</a>                                     | Various             |

- 6.2 The UN Paris Agreement is an international treaty on climate change with the aim to limit global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. To achieve this, the planet should be climate neutral by the mid-century.
- 6.3 Chapter 14 of the NPPF is dedicated to meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding, and coastal change. The NPPF states the following:
- The planning system should shape places to contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience, encourage the reuse of existing resources, and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure.
  - Plans should take a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change, considering the long-term implications for flood risk, coastal change, water supply, biodiversity and landscapes and the risk of overheating from rising temperatures.
- 6.4 The Clean Growth Strategy, Clean Air Strategy and the Net Zero Strategy are a collection of documents seeking to progress the Government's commitment to becoming net zero by 2050 under the UK Climate Change Act 2008. The documents outline how the Government will tackle air pollution sources whilst maintaining an affordable energy supply and increasing economic growth. This parallels with the 25 Year Environment Plan, which seeks to manage land resources sustainably, recover and reinstate nature, protect soils and habitats, increase resource efficiency, improve water quality, and connect people with the environment. The documents also interlink with the Government's commitment to decarbonising transport. The decarbonisation plan recognises the need to undertake action to adapt the transport sector and increase resilience to climate change risks. This challenge is more directly addressed through the UK's National Adaptation Programme.
- 6.5 The National Infrastructure Assessment is published every five years and analyses the UK's long-term economic infrastructure needs in order to create a strategic vision and recommendations. The baseline report focuses on three key strategic outcomes: reaching net zero, reducing environmental impacts, and adapting to a changing climate and supporting levelling up. The baseline report states that climate change will increase pressures on all sectors, including economic infrastructure.
- 6.6 The Sixth Carbon Budget is the legal limit of UK net greenhouse gas emissions and requires the country to reduce emissions by 78% by 2035 relative to 1990 levels. This puts the country on track to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 at the latest. The first five carbon budgets have already been put into legislation and run up to the year 2032.
- 6.7 The National Adaptation Programme outlines the Government's response to the second Climate Change Risk Assessment, demonstrating the actions the government is currently taking and actions it will be taking in the future. It highlights the high risk flooding and coastal change poses to communities, businesses and infrastructure, the high risk an increase in temperature poses to health, wellbeing and productivity, as well as the impacts climate change could have on water and energy supply shortage, natural capital, food production and trade and pests, diseases and invasive non-native species.

6.8 The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment is published every five years as dictated by the Climate Change Act 2008. It is an assessment of the risks to the UK arising from climate change and the subsequent adaptation programme to address said risks in combination with delivering climate change resilience. The 2017 assessment identified six priority risk areas:

- Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses, and infrastructure.
- Risks to health, well-being, and productivity from high temperatures.
- Risk of shortages in the public water supply, and for agriculture, energy generation and industry.
- Risks to natural capital, including terrestrial, coastal, marine, and freshwater ecosystems, soils, and biodiversity.
- Risks to domestic and international food production and trade; and
- New and emerging pests and diseases, and invasive non-native species, affecting people, plants, and animals.

6.9 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 provides for better and more comprehensive management of flood risk for people, homes, and businesses, in addition to aiding in safeguarding safeguard community groups from unaffordable rises in surface water drainage charges and protecting consumer water supplies.

6.10 The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan: National strategy for climate and energy outlines a five-point plan to tackle climate change:

- Protecting the public from immediate risk; spending money on flood protection, implementing a heat wave plan in the NHS and aiding communities affected by coastal erosion.
- Preparing for the future; factoring climate risk into the decision-making process, changing infrastructure methods, managing water, and adjusting farming practices.
- Limiting the severity of future climate change through a new international climate agreement; leading international efforts.
- Building a low carbon UK; cutting emissions and investing in energy efficiency and clean energy technologies.
- Supporting individuals, communities, and businesses to play their part, raising awareness, and providing a variety of support for individuals, communities, and businesses.

6.11 The plan outlines working towards these five points through several chapters: transforming our power sector, transforming our homes and communities, transforming our workplaces and jobs, transforming transport, and transforming farming and managing our land sustainably.

6.12 The UK Climate Change Act 2008 established a framework to develop an economically viable emissions reduction path. The Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order of 2019 put in place the legally binding target

of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050. The Climate Change Act includes the following:

- The UK Government must reduce greenhouse gas emissions by a minimum of 100% of 1990 levels by 2050.
- The Act requires the Government to produce legally binding carbon budgets – a cap on the amount of greenhouse gases emitted in the UK over a five-year period.
- The Committee on Climate Change was set up to advise the Government on emissions targets and report any progress to parliament.
- The Act requires the Government to assess and prepare for the risks and opportunities linked to climate change for the UK. The Committee on Climate Change's Adaptation Sub-Committee advises on these risks.

6.13 In May 2019, the UK Parliament declared a climate emergency, with a view to explicitly acknowledging that human activities are significantly affecting the climate, and actions to mitigate and adapt to climate change should be paramount. This declaration has been mirrored by several local planning authorities across the country. Further context is provided by the recent commitment by environmental law firm Client Earth to request that all local authorities with emerging local plans to “*explain how they will set evidence-based carbon reduction targets and ensure these targets are then central to their new planning policy.*”<sup>34</sup> Additionally, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Green Alliance's 'Blueprint for a Resilient Economy' report outlines the following five essential building blocks to support new long term employment opportunities, thriving businesses and a healthier, fairer society, whilst protecting against the potentially devastating future impacts of climate change and nature's decline:

- Invest in net zero infrastructure.
- Restore nature.
- Stop wasting valuable resources.
- Ensure clean air and healthy places; and
- Make the recovery fair.

6.14 Rutland County Council's Corporate Plan 2019-2024 demonstrates that climate change is a priority, appearing in Priority theme 1: Delivering sustainable development and Strategic Objective 1.7 - develop an environmental policy to meet Rutland's needs and the challenge of climate change.

6.15 Rutland County Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy provides an overview for how the Council will lead and co-ordinate local flood risk management, acting as a focal point for integrating all flood risk management functions in the county. The document recognises that climate change is leading to warmer wetter winters and drier summers, which impact on drainage systems and subsequent flood management techniques.

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<sup>34</sup> Client Earth (2019) Lawyers put local authorities on notice over climate inaction [online] available to access [here](#)



## Summary of current baseline

### Contribution to climate change

6.16 Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions shown in **Figure 6.1** and **Figure 6.2** are derived from data supplied by the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy<sup>35</sup>.

6.17 As demonstrated in **Figure 6.1** below, the largest contributing sector with regards to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Rutland is the industry and commercial sector. However, this sector has experienced a large decline in emissions over the period 2005-2018 (512.3 kilotons). Comparatively, domestic sector emissions and transport sector emissions have remained consistent between 2005-2018; the former has decreased by 31.9 kilotons and the latter has increased by 12 kilotons. Overall, Rutland has experienced a decrease of 532.2 kilotons of total CO<sub>2</sub> emissions across the three sectors during this time period.

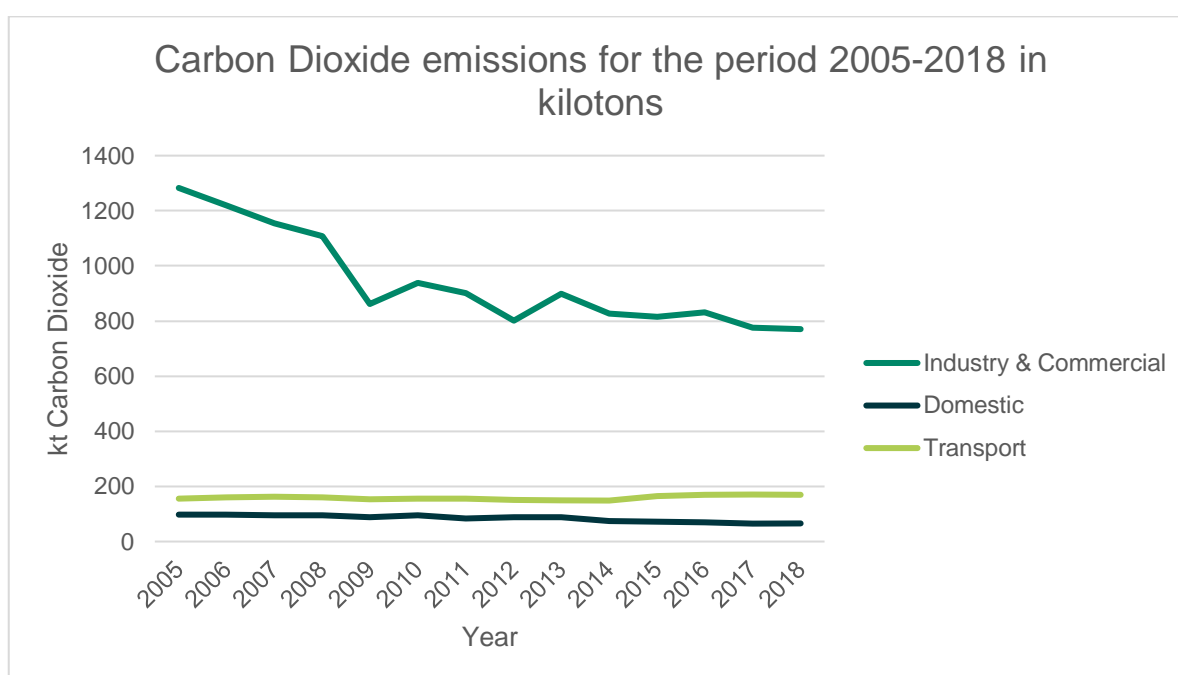


Figure 6.1: CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in kilotons (kt) per sector in Rutland (2005-2018)

6.18 **Figure 6.2** below indicates that CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in Rutland are higher in kilotons per km<sup>2</sup> than the East Midlands region and England as a whole. There has been a decrease of nearly 1.4 kilotons of CO<sub>2</sub> per km<sup>2</sup> in Rutland across the examined time period. This is a larger decrease than both the regional emissions and national trends, with East Midlands decreasing by approximately 0.7 kilotons of CO<sub>2</sub> per km<sup>2</sup> and England by approximately 1.1 kilotons of CO<sub>2</sub> per km<sup>2</sup> for the same time period.

<sup>35</sup> Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (2020) 2005 to 2018 UK local and regional CO<sub>2</sub> emissions – data tables can be downloaded [here](#).

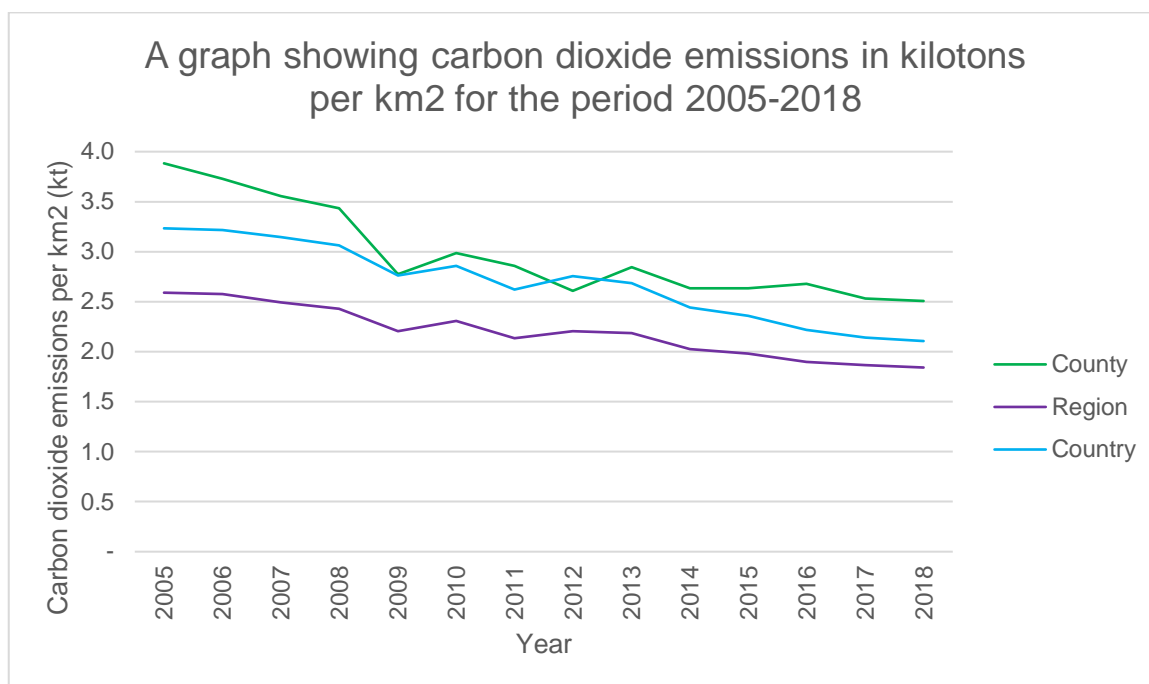


Figure 6.2: CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in kilotons (kt) per km<sup>2</sup> across Rutland (County), East Midlands (Region) and England (Country) (2005-2018)

### Potential effects of climate change

6.19 The UK Climate Projections (UKCP18) programme is a climate analysis tool that provides the most up-to-date assessment on potential future climatic changes in the UK based on climate model simulations<sup>36</sup>. Projections can be downscaled to a regional level across the UK, allowing for specific evaluations of a selected area.

6.20 As highlighted by the research, the effects of climate change (under medium emissions scenarios 50th percentile) for the East Midlands during the period 2040-2059 compared to the period 1981-2000 are likely to be as follows<sup>37</sup>:

- The central estimate of increase in annual mean temperatures of between 2°C and 3°C; and
- The central estimate of change in annual mean precipitation of +10 to +20% in winter and -10% to -20% in summer.

6.21 Resulting from these changes, a range of risks may exist for Rutland, including:

- Effects on water resources from climate change.
- Reduction in availability of groundwater for extraction.
- Adverse effect on water quality from low stream levels and turbulent stream flow after heavy rain.
- Increased risk of flooding, including increased vulnerability to 1:100-year floods.
- A need to increase the capacity of wastewater treatment plants and sewers.

<sup>36</sup> Information about UKCP18 and key data can be accessed [here](#).

<sup>37</sup> Met Office (2018): 'Land Projection Maps: Probabilistic Projections' can be accessed [here](#).

- A need to upgrade flood defences.
- Soil erosion due to flash flooding.
- Loss of species that are at the edge of their southerly distribution.
- Spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution.
- Increased demand for air-conditioning.
- Increased drought and flood related problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence.
- Risk of road surfaces melting more frequently due to increased temperature; and
- Flooding of roads.

## Flood risk

6.22 In terms of flood risk zones (as shown in the figure at the end of this chapter), a considerable amount of Rutland is within Flood Zone 1 and has a low to very low fluvial flood risk. However, there are areas of Flood Zone 2 and Flood Zone 3 in proximity to the main watercourses in Rutland. Reviewing the flood map for planning<sup>38</sup> in further detail reveals that the following settlements contain areas which are either within or adjacent to Flood Zone 2 or 3:

- Flood Zone 2: Barrowden, Barleythorpe, Belmesthorpe, Braunston-in-Rutland, Caldecott, Empingham, Essendine, Exton, Great Casterton, Greetham, Ketton, Little Casterton, Oakham, Ryhall, South Luffenham, Tickencote and Toll Bar.
- Flood Zone 3: Ashwell, Barrowden, Barleythorpe, Braunston-in-Rutland, Caldecott, Empingham, Essendine, Exton, Greetham, Ketton, Langham, Lyddington, Oakham, Ryhall, South Luffenham, Stretton, Tickencote and Whissendine.

6.23 Additionally, there are several areas of Rutland which have a medium to high surface water flood risk potential. Again, areas adjacent to watercourses have the most risk, including at the settlements listed above. However, more impermeable areas of land (such as roads and pavements) are also key areas of risk.

## Summary of future baseline

6.24 Climate change has the potential to increase the occurrence of extreme weather events in Rutland. This is likely to increase the risks associated with climate change, with an increased need for resilience and adaptation. Specifically, new development areas have the potential to increase flood risk through factors such as changing surface and ground water flows, overloading existing inputs to the drainage and wastewater networks and/or increasing the number of residents exposed to areas of existing flood risk.

6.25 In terms of climate change contribution, greenhouse gas emissions per km<sup>2</sup> generated in Rutland may continue to decrease with the adoption of further energy efficiency measures, renewable energy production and new

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<sup>38</sup> Flood map for planning website and tool can be accessed [here](#).

technologies. However, increases in the built footprint of Rutland would contribute to increases in the absolute levels of greenhouse gas emissions.

- 6.26 In terms of climate change adaptation, it is anticipated that flood risk concerns can be mitigated in part by the inclusion of sustainable drainage measures and high-quality design within new development areas which incorporates permeable areas and materials. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Update (accessible [here](#)) and Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (accessible [here](#)) are also useful evidence sources to inform policy development.

## Key sustainability issues

- 6.27 The following key issues have been identified through the baseline review for this theme:

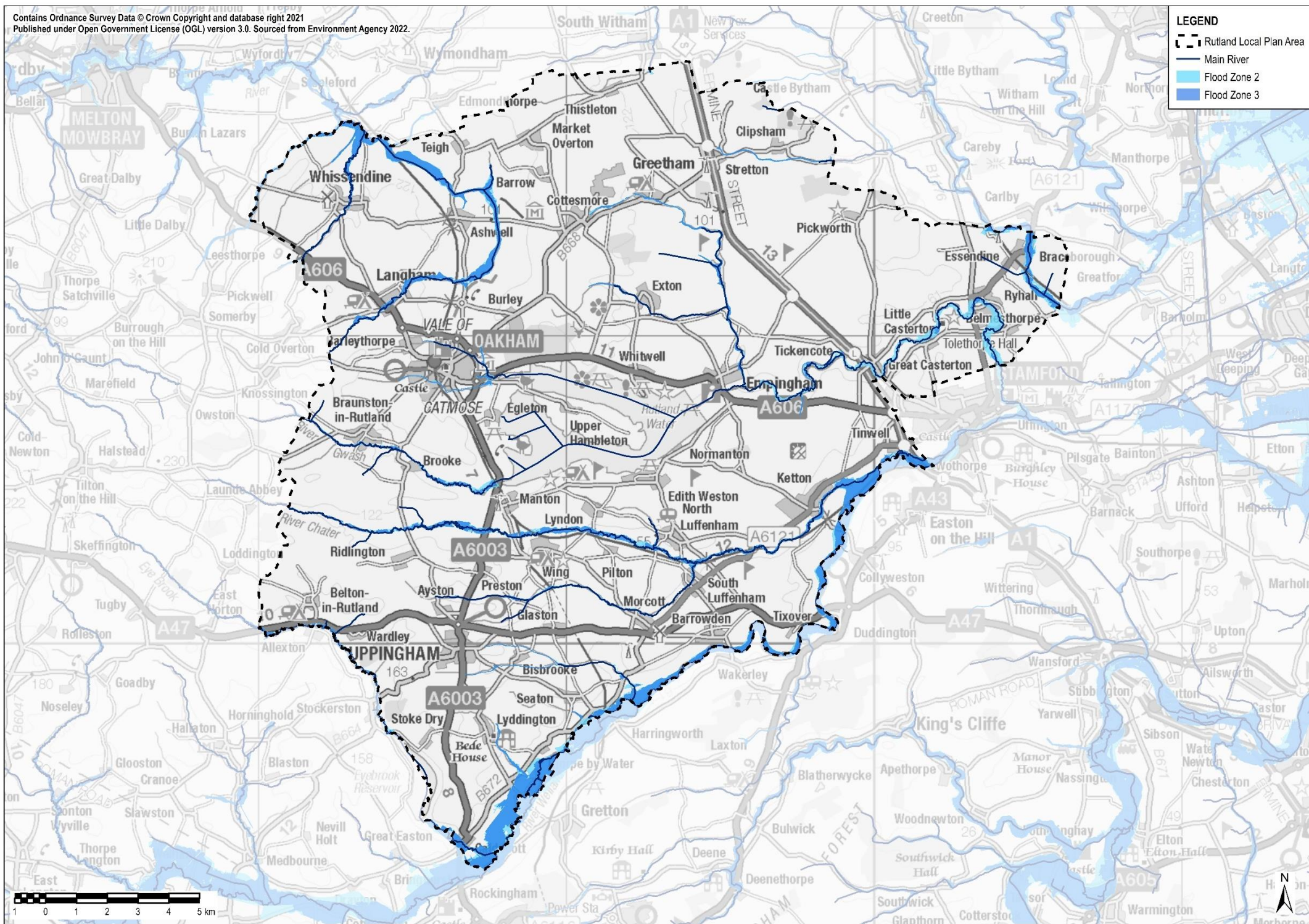
- Rutland County Council recognised the climate crisis in 2021, and aims to help tackle climate change through plan-making where possible.
- The transport sector continues to be a key challenge in terms of reducing emissions. The new Local Plan provides opportunities to guide development towards the most accessible locations in Rutland and require local infrastructure (including walking and cycling infrastructure) improvements where appropriate.
- The new Local Plan should seek to maximise opportunities to support actions in tackling climate change. This may include through encouraging sustainable transport technologies, such as the use of electric vehicles, and through the use of sustainable drainage systems.
- The East Midlands could experience an increase in annual mean temperature of between 2°C and 3°C, an increase in mean winter precipitation of between +10% and +20% and a decrease in mean summer precipitation of between -10% and -20%. These changes have an extensive list of potential health implications for residents, including those in Rutland.
- Many of the settlements in Rutland are located within or adjacent to areas of Flood Zone 2 or Flood Zone 3 due to their proximity to the watercourses present in the county.
- Surface water run-off from development can exacerbate the risk of flooding by increasing the run-off from land to water courses. Areas adjacent to watercourses have the most risk from surface water flooding. However, more impermeable areas of land (such as roads and pavements) are also key areas of risk in Rutland.
- Rutland should seek to increase the resilience of the area to the effects of climate change by supporting and encouraging adaptation strategies.



## SA objectives and appraisal questions

Table 6.2: Proposed SA objectives and assessment questions for the climate change theme

| SA objective  | Assessment Questions  |
|---|---|
| 12. Reduce the contribution to climate change made by activities within Rutland                 | <p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Promote the use of sustainable modes of transport, including walking, cycling and public transport?</li> <li>b) Increase the number of new developments meeting or exceeding sustainable design criteria?</li> <li>c) Generate energy from low or zero carbon sources?</li> <li>d) Reduce energy consumption from non-renewable resources?</li> </ul>  |
| 13. Support Rutland's resilience to the potential effects of climate change, including flooding | <p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Ensure that inappropriate development does not take place in areas at higher risk of flooding, taking into account the likely future effects of climate change?</li> <li>b) Improve and extend green infrastructure networks to support adaptation to the potential effects of climate change?</li> <li>c) Sustainably manage water run-off, reducing surface water runoff?</li> <li>d) Ensure the potential risks associated with climate change are considered through new development areas?</li> </ul> |





# 7. Communities, Health and Wellbeing

## Focus of theme

- Population and age structure
- Deprivation
- Housing quality, mix and affordability
- Community facilities
- Influences on health and wellbeing

## Policy context

7.1 **Table 7.1** below presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the new Local Plan. The key messages emerging from the review are then summarised after the table.

Table 7.1: Plans, policies, and strategies reviewed in relation to the communities, health, and wellbeing SA theme

| Document title   | Year of publication |
|--|---------------------|
| National   |                     |
| <a href="#">National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</a>  | 2021                |
| <a href="#">Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On</a>  | 2020                |
| <a href="#">Healthy and safe communities - Planning practice guidance</a>  | 2019                |
| <a href="#">Planning for Sport Guidance</a>  | 2019                |
| <a href="#">A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment</a>  | 2018                |
| <a href="#">Public Health England: Healthy High Streets</a>  | 2018                |
| <a href="#">Public Health England: Spatial Planning for Health</a>   | 2017                |
| <a href="#">Space for people: Targeting action for woodland access</a>   | 2017                |
| <a href="#">Fixing our broken housing market</a>   | 2017                |
| <a href="#">Equalities Act 2010</a>  | 2010                |
| <a href="#">Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England</a>                                       | 2010                |
| <a href="#">Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE)</a>  | 2010                |
| <a href="#">Green Infrastructure Guidance</a>  | 2009                |
| <a href="#">Green Infrastructure and the Urban Fringe: Learning lessons from the Countryside In and Around Towns programme</a> | 2007                |
| <a href="#">The Environmental Noise (England) Regulations</a>  | 2006                |
| Local  |                     |
| <a href="#">Future Rutland Vision</a>  | 2022                |
| <a href="#">Rutland County Council Corporate Plan 2019-2024</a>  | 2019                |
| <a href="#">Strategic Housing Market Assessment</a>  | 2019                |

| Document title  | Year of publication |
|---|---------------------|
| <a href="#">Rutland Housing, Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2017-2022</a> | 2017                |
| <a href="#">Rutland Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy</a>                         | 2016                |
| <a href="#">Rutland Site Allocations and Policies Development Plan Document</a>     | 2014                |
| <a href="#">Rutland Local Plan - Core Strategy Development Plan Document</a>        | 2011                |
| <a href="#">Rutland Local Plan - Supplementary Planning Documents</a>               | Various             |

- 7.2 The new Local Plan will be required to be in general conformity with the NPPF, which overall seeks to retain and enhance access to community services and facilities, including health facilities, educational facilities, and open space. The NPPF recognises the benefits of a range of local provisions supporting community needs, including in rural areas. The Framework seeks to protect settlement and community identities. Furthermore, the NPPF recognises the benefits of creating cohesive communities, in safe environments where crime and the fear of crime do not undermine the quality of life of residents.
- 7.3 The NPPF recognises the role of development plans in helping to deliver access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity which contribute to the health and wellbeing of communities. The health benefits of access to nature, green spaces and green infrastructure is further reiterated through the 25-year Environment Plan.
- 7.4 The Government's 25 Year Environment Plan also highlights the health impacts of protecting and enhancing the natural environment. There is a particular focus on the physical and mental wellbeing benefits that the environment provides. One stated aim is to "help people improve their health and wellbeing by using green spaces including through mental health services", whilst another is to "*encourage children to be close to nature, in and out of school, with particular focus on disadvantaged areas.*" The strategy highlights spatial planning approaches that can help deliver these aims, including planting one million trees in England's towns and cities by 2022 and delivering additional green infrastructure.
- 7.5 Health Equity in England: The Marmot Review 10 Years On (2020) has been produced by the Institute of Health Equity and commissioned by the Health Foundation to mark 10 years on from the landmark study Fair Society, Healthy Lives (The Marmot Review). The report highlights:
- People can expect to spend more of their lives in poor health.
  - Improvements to life expectancy have stalled, and declined for the poorest 10% of women; and
  - The health gap has grown between wealthy and deprived areas.
- 7.6 Public Health England (PHE) has a key role in shaping health policy and practice across the country. In 2017 the organisation published 'Spatial Planning for Health: An evidence resource for planning and designing healthier places'. The review provides guidance on the role of the built and natural environment in shaping health impacts. The review also explores the impacts of neighbourhood design, provision of housing, transport, and the natural environment on public health. Additionally, in 2018 PHE produced a 'Healthy



High Streets' briefing which highlights how health inequalities can be addressed in the design of the built environment.

7.7 The Equality Act 2010 is a major piece of UK legislation which provides the framework to protect the rights of individuals against unlawful discrimination and to advance equal opportunities for all. Section 149 of the Equality Act sets out the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) to which local authorities are subject in carrying out all its functions. In this respect, those subject to the PSED, which includes all local authorities in the Peninsula STB, must have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

7.8 These are sometimes referred to as the three aims or arms of the PSED. The Act explains that having due regard for advancing equality involves:

- Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.
- Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people; and
- Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.

7.9 The Act describes fostering good relations as tackling prejudice and promoting understanding between people from different groups. It states that compliance with the duty may involve treating some people more favourably than others. The duty covers the following eight protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

7.10 The Future Rutland Conversation is an in-depth discussion with everyone who lives and works in Rutland, to understand what's most important to them. The aim of Future Rutland is to take this knowledge and use it to develop a new 'shared vision' for the county – a clear statement of intent that unites communities, businesses, and public bodies around a set of common goals and aspirations which can help to shape Rutland's long-term future. The vision is split in to the following four sections which cover all aspects of life in Rutland:

- A special place: sustaining a vibrant rural county that harnesses the enterprise of its businesses, the ambition and creativity of its residents, and the passion of its local communities.
- Sustainable lives: living sustainably and combatting the climate crisis through the power of choice, removal of barriers, and real collective action.
- Healthy and well: promoting health, happiness, and well-being for people of all ages and backgrounds; and

- A county for everyone: celebrating diversity and ensuring everyone can live well, be heard, and overcome any challenges they may face.

7.11 The JHWS is centred around the health and wellbeing priority areas in Rutland, including mental health and emotional wellbeing, carers, physical activity, housing and health, obesity, and dementia. The JHWS seeks to focus on prevention and early intervention, to tackle inequalities within the provision of health services, and to deliver transformational change in Rutland's health and care system. The three key priorities for the JHWS are included below:

- Extending health life expectancy – targeting those residents aged 45 to 65 to help make sure that they stay healthier for longer.
- Reducing inequalities – supporting groups within the community that have poorer health or likely to have poorer health than others.
- Health and social care integration – ensuring that those at most risk have access to the right combination of care and support.

## Summary of current baseline

### Population and age structure

7.12 Based on mid-year estimates, the population of Rutland in 2020 was estimated to be 40,476 residents, a 7.7% increase since 2011. The percentage increase is slightly greater than the 7.3% increase observed for the East Midlands and 6.7% increase observed for England as a whole during this period. The population totals along with the increases / decreases by settlement in Rutland, is presented in **Table 7.2** below.

Table 7.2: Population data for key settlement areas in Rutland<sup>39</sup>

| Settlement           | Population in 2011 | Population in 2020 | Population Increase (+) / decrease (-) |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| Barrowden            | 506                | 500                | -1.2%                                  |
| Braunston-in-Rutland | 502                | 505                | +0.6%                                  |
| Cottesmore           | 1,067              | 1,175              | +10.1%                                 |
| Edith Weston         | 818                | 846                | +3.4%                                  |
| Empingham            | 880                | 995                | +13.1%                                 |
| Exton                | 607                | 605                | -0.3%                                  |
| Great Casterton      | 600                | 597                | -0.5%                                  |
| Greetham             | 638                | 874                | +37.0%                                 |
| Ketton               | 1,926              | 1,997              | +3.7%                                  |
| Langham              | 1,371              | 1,447              | +5.5%                                  |
| Market Overton       | 584                | 616                | +5.5%                                  |
| North Luffenham      | 679                | 769                | +13.3%                                 |
| Oakham               | 10,922             | 11,227             | +2.8%                                  |
| Ryhall               | 1,459              | 1,485              | +1.8%                                  |
| Uppingham            | 4,745              | 5,001              | +5.4%                                  |
| Whissendine          | 1,253              | 1,233              | -1.6%                                  |

<sup>39</sup> Source of data is the UK Office for National Statistics, available to view on the City Population webpage for Rutland, accessible [here](#)

- 7.13 As shown in **Table 7.2** above, four settlements in Rutland experienced a declining population between 2011 and 2020. A further seven settlements experienced a modest increase in population (between 0-10%) during this period. The populations of Cottesmore, Empingham, Greetham, and North Luffenham increased by over 10% between 2011 and 2020. The populations of Oakham and Uppingham (i.e. the two largest settlements in Rutland) have observed more modest increases in population between 2011 and 2020.
- 7.14 In terms of age structure, approximately 19.4% of residents in Rutland are between 0-17 years of age, with 25.6% of residents aged 65 and over<sup>40</sup>. The remaining 55% of residents in Rutland are within the economically active (working age) grouping between 18-64 years of age. However, within the 18-64 grouping, approximately 14.8% are between 50 and 59 years of age. In this respect, Rutland is experiencing an ageing population, with many more residents likely to hit retirement age during the new Local Plan period. This has the potential to place extra burden on care facilities and health services.

## Housing

- 7.15 The Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) is an essential piece of evidence which supports the local plan process. It is a technical assessment which considers sites for housing and economic (for example retail, leisure, cultural, office, warehousing) development in Rutland over the plan period. The total number of households in Rutland (as of 2018)<sup>41</sup> was 17,170.
- 7.16 A key housing challenge in Rutland is the affordability of dwellings. In this regard, the SHMA Update (2019) for Rutland provides an analysis of the need for affordable homes (accessible [here](#)). It categorises this analysis between a 'traditional' need (which is mainly for social/affordable rented accommodation and is based on households unable to buy or rent in the market) and the 'additional' category of need introduced by the revised NPPF/PPG (which includes housing for those who can afford to rent privately but cannot afford to buy a home). Specifically, the SHMA concludes that there is an annual need for an additional 44 "traditional" affordable housing units in the period to 2036 per year and 10% of housing as affordable home ownership.
- 7.17 To put the above in to context, the average house prices in Rutland (based on August 2019 data from the Land Registry) was just over £327,000, compared to averages of just over £195,000 for the East Midlands and £242,000. The average house price in the UK<sup>42</sup> has also increased by almost 10% in 2021, and now stands at just over £276,000. The median salary ratio to house prices in Rutland is 11.4, compared with an average of 8.4 for England.

## Index of Multiple Deprivation

- 7.18 The Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (IMD)<sup>43</sup> is an overall relative measure of deprivation constructed by combining seven domains of deprivation according to their respective weights, as described below. The seven deprivation domains are as follows:

<sup>40</sup> Source of data is the UK Office for National Statistics, available to view on the City Population webpage for Rutland, accessible [here](#)

<sup>41</sup> Rutland County Council (2019): 'Key Statistical Data Report', [online] available to access [here](#)

<sup>42</sup> BBC (2022): 'House prices grow faster than any full year for 17 years', [online article] accessible [here](#)

<sup>43</sup> DCLG (2019): Index of Multiple Deprivation, [online interactive map] available to access [here](#)

- **Income:** The proportion of the population experiencing deprivation relating to low income, including those individuals that are out-of-work and those that are in work but who have low earnings (satisfying the respective means tests).
- **Employment:** The proportion of the working-age population in an area involuntarily excluded from the labour market, including those individuals who would like to work but are unable to do so due to unemployment, sickness or disability, or caring responsibilities.
- **Education, Skills and Training:** The lack of attainment and skills in the local population.
- **Health Deprivation and Disability:** The risk of premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health. Morbidity, disability, and premature mortality are also considered, excluding the aspects of behaviour or environment that may be predictive of future health deprivation.
- **Crime:** The risk of personal and material victimisation at local level.
- **Barriers to Housing and Services:** The physical and financial accessibility of housing and local services, with indicators categorised in two sub-domains.
  - ‘Geographical Barriers’: relating to the physical proximity of local services
  - ‘Wider Barriers’: relating to access to housing, such as affordability.
- **Living Environment:** The quality of the local environment, with indicators falling categorised in two sub-domains.
  - ‘Indoors Living Environment’ measures the quality of housing.
  - ‘Outdoors Living Environment’ measures air quality and road traffic accidents.
- Two supplementary indices (subsets of the Income deprivation domains), are also included:
  - **Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index:** The proportion of all children aged 0 to 15 living in income deprived families.
  - **Income Deprivation Affecting Older People Index:** The proportion of all those aged 60 or over who experience income deprivation.

7.19 Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) are a geographic hierarchy designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics in England and Wales. They are standardized geographies designed to be as consistent in population as possible, with each LSOA containing approximately 1,000 to 1,500 people. In relation to the IMD 2019, LSOAs are ranked out of the 32,844 in England and Wales, with 1 being the most deprived. Ranks are normalized into deciles, with a value of 1 reflecting the top 10% most deprived LSOAs in England and Wales.

7.20 A map showing the overall levels of deprivation in Rutland is presented in the figure below (organised by LSOA and adapted from the [IMD map](#)). The ‘warmer’ colours show more deprived populations in the county and the ‘cooler’ colours show less deprivation. In this respect, overall deprivation levels across



Rutland are relatively low. Other than Rutland 001C LSOA, which is in the top 50% most deprived category (and includes the settlements of Greetham, Stretton, Clipsham, and Thistleton), all other LSOAs in Rutland are amongst the top 40% least deprived in England.

- 7.21 As the overall levels of deprivation data is based on average across the seven deprivation domains, it is also useful to explore the IMD data for each of the deprivation domains in further detail. This enables individuals to gain an understanding of whether there are pockets of deprivation either in specific locations, or across Rutland as a whole. In this respect, outside of the key settlements of Oakham, Uppingham, and the LSOAs in the north west (which includes Langham, Whissendine, Market Overton, and Cottesmore), most of Rutland is deprived within the 'barriers to housing and services' domain and within the 'living environment' domain. This is shown in the following figures.

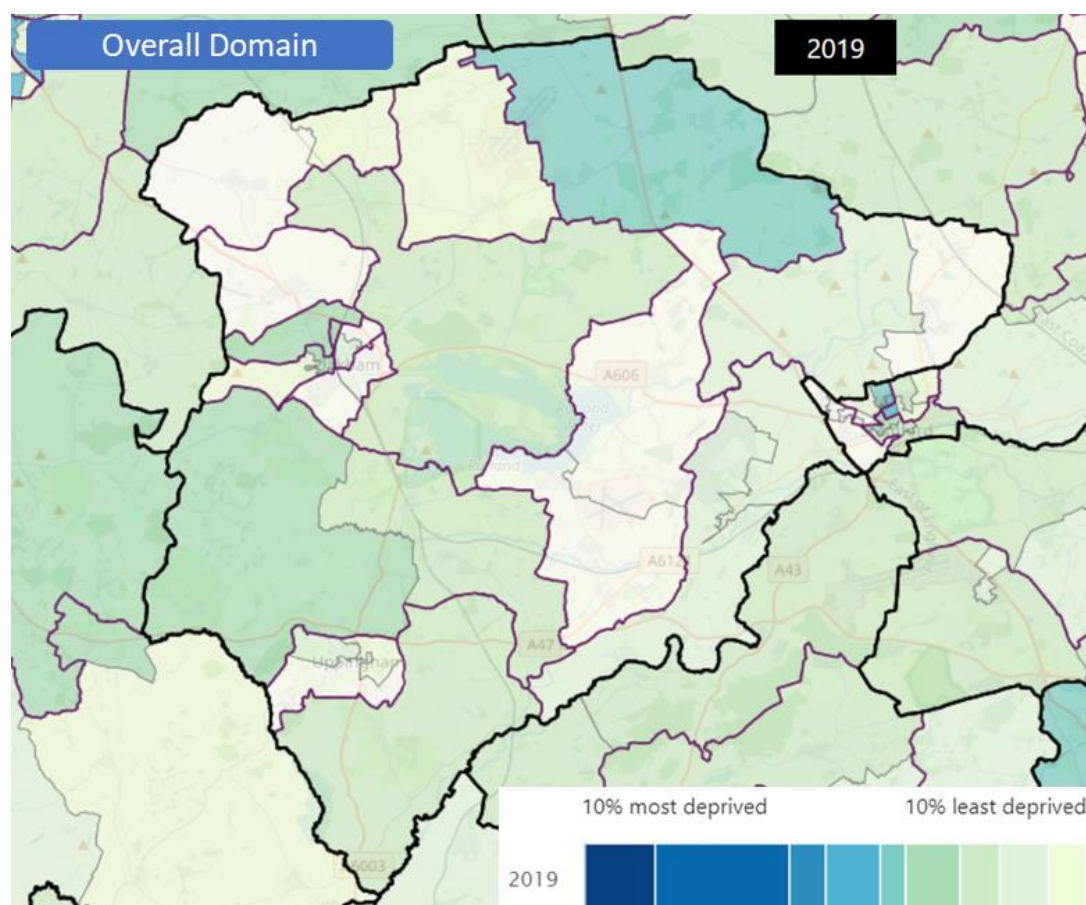


Figure 7.1: Overall deprivation levels in Rutland

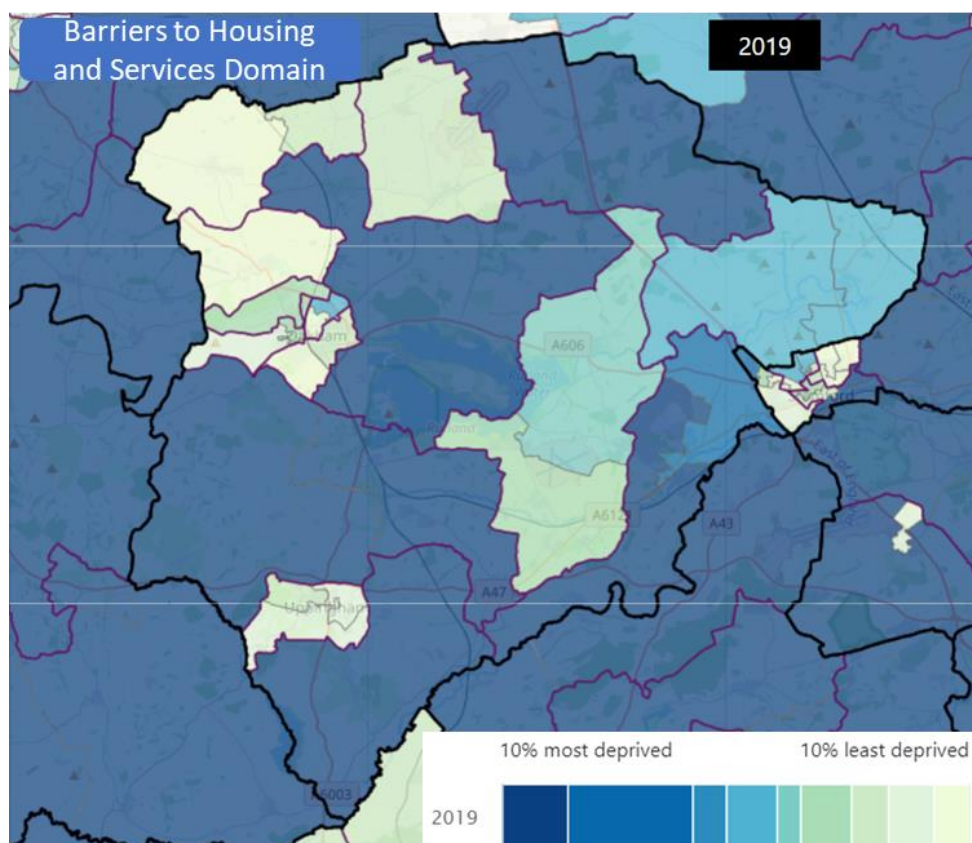


Figure 7.2: Barriers to housing and services in Rutland

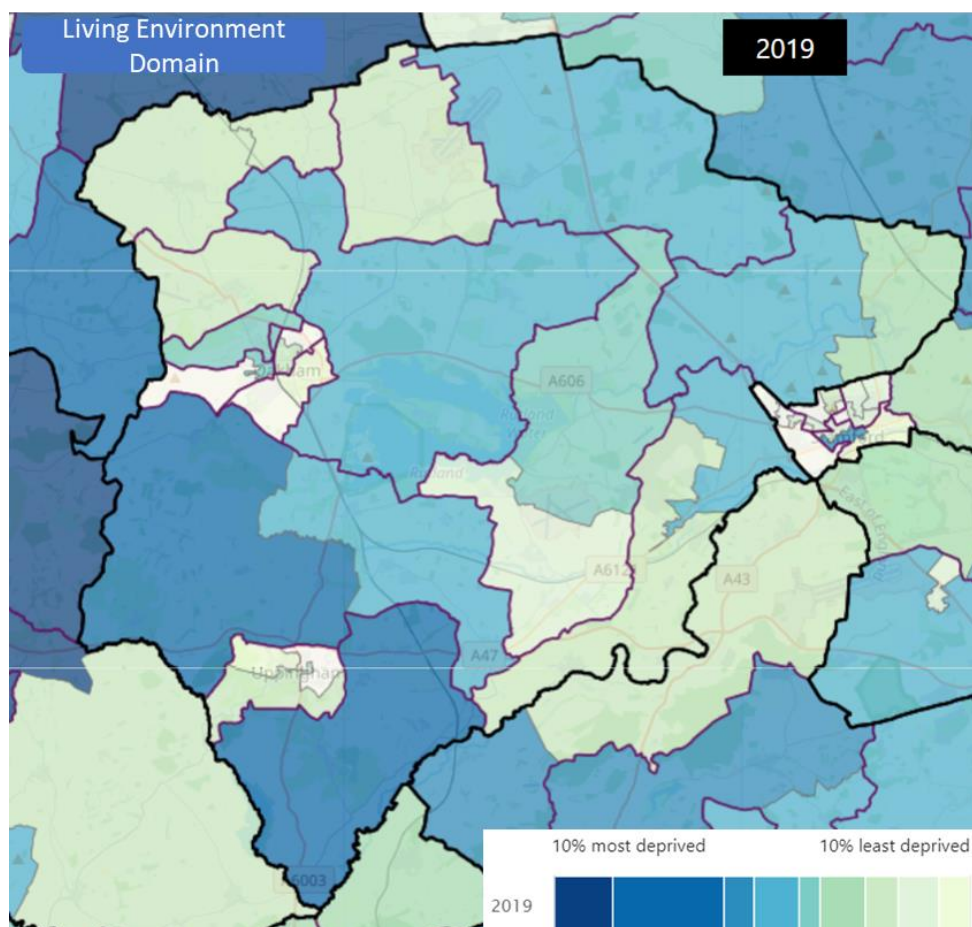


Figure 7.3: Living environment in Rutland

## Services and facilities

- 7.22 Rutland has a range of community facilities which serve the needs of the local community and play a vital role in supporting the area's vitality. This includes a significant number of public houses, churches, supermarkets, and important open spaces (as shown in the figure at the end of this chapter).
- 7.23 There are several leisure and cultural facilities<sup>4445</sup>, including Rutland County Museum, Oakham Castle, The Grainstone Brewery, sports and community centres<sup>46</sup> (in Casterton, Catmose, Greetham, Ketton, Oakham, Uppingham, and Market Overton), and Rutland Water (later discussed), to name a few.
- 7.24 Rutland County Council also manages farmers markets in Oakham and Uppingham. Each week traders and craftspeople sell a range of goods, including fruits, vegetables, and meats, at these markets.
- 7.25 Based on a high-level review via Google Maps, health facilities in Rutland (i.e. GP surgeries) are available in Oakham, Uppingham, Empingham, Barrowden, Market Overton, and Barleythorpe. The Rutland Memorial Hospital (NHS) is in Oakham. However, it is likely that residents also utilise the Stamford and Rutland Hospital located in the neighbouring South Kesteven District (just beyond the eastern border of Rutland).

## Green and blue infrastructure networks

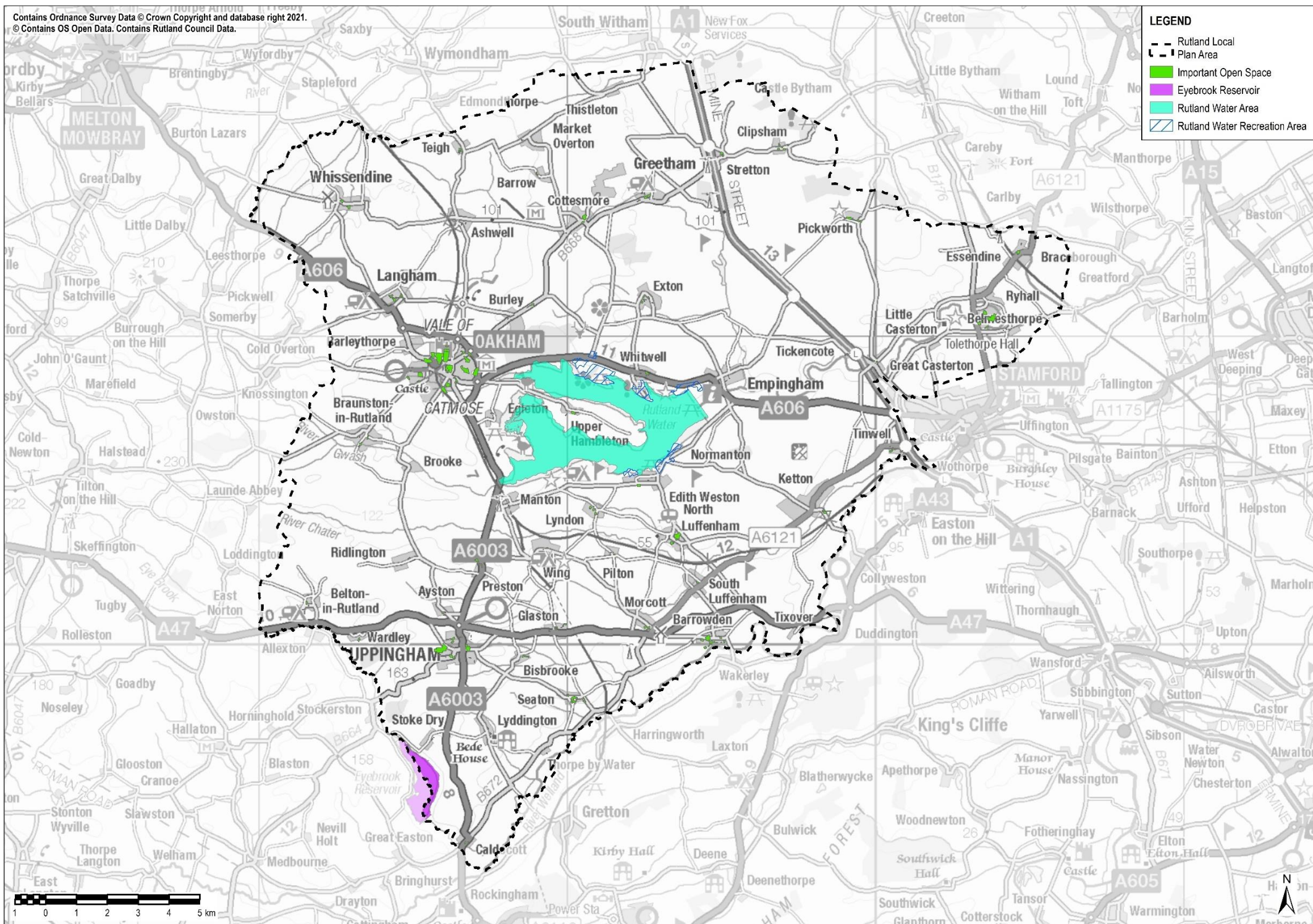
- 7.26 Green infrastructure provides space – including natural green space – for recreation and relaxation, and access to nature has been evidenced to improve people's health and wellbeing, through encouraging healthy outdoor recreation and relaxation. In Rutland, there are over 240 important open spaces in total, as shown in the figure at the end of this chapter. The settlements within the most important open spaces are as follows: Oakham (19); Uppingham (17); Langham (14); Barrowden (11); and Greetham (7).
- 7.27 Additionally, the following settlements have at least three important open spaces: Barrow, Belmesthorpe, Tixover, Ridlington, Ayston, Preston, Tinwell, Whissendine, Belton, Clipsham, Morcott, North Luffenham, Lyndon, South Luffenham, Hambleton, Ashwell, Stoke Dry, Exton, and Seaton.
- 7.28 As discussed within the Biodiversity and Geodiversity chapter of this SA Scoping Report, Rutland Water is a reservoir which (by area) is the largest water body in England, and the second largest by capacity. Covering a total area of approximately 1,540 ha. A popular tourist destination, visitors enjoy activities such as water sports, sailing, and fishing, with routes around the reservoir also popular with walkers and cyclists. Additionally, Eyebrook Reservoir straddles the boundary between Rutland and Leicestershire, and is also popular with walkers and cyclists. These areas, along with the important open spaces in Rutland, can be observed in the figure below.

<sup>44</sup> Rutland County Council (2022): 'Leisure and Culture', [online] available to access [here](#)

<sup>45</sup> Rutland County Council (2022): 'Arts and Heritage', [online] available to access [here](#)

<sup>46</sup> Rutland County Council (2022): 'Sports Facilities', [online] available to access [here](#)







## Health and wellbeing indicators

### Public Health Profile

7.29 Prepared by Public Health England, the profiles are designed to act as a ‘conversation starter’, to help local government and health services understand their community’s needs, so that they can work together to improve people’s health and reduce health inequalities. In this context, the latest summary report for Rutland was released in 2019, and is accessible [here](#). Key trends include:

- The health of people in Rutland is generally better than the average for England.
- Rutland is one of the 20% least deprived unitary authorities in England, however about 6.5% of children are in low income families.
- Life expectancy for both men and women is higher than the average for England.
- In Year 6, 13.7% of children are classified as obese, better than the average for England.
- The rates (per 100,000 population) of violent crime, under 75 mortality rates from cardiovascular diseases and under 75 mortality rates from cancer are better than the England averages.

## Summary of future baseline

7.30 As the population of Rutland continues to age, this could potentially negatively impact upon the future vitality of the local community in certain areas, whilst also placing additional pressures to existing services and facilities. Similarly, ongoing cuts to community services have the potential to lead to effects on health and wellbeing to key population groups (i.e. elderly population).

7.31 The suitability (e.g. size and design) and affordability of housing for local requirements depends on the implementation of appropriate housing policies through the new Local Plan. Unplanned development may have wider implications in terms of transport and access to infrastructure, or the natural environment.

7.32 The longer-term impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic are as yet unclear. However, in the context of Rutland, it is likely to impact (positively and negatively) on the vitality and viability of town centres, contribute to changes in demand for housing, employment land and retail, and on community provision in smaller centres.

## Key sustainability issues

7.33 The following key issues have been identified through the baseline review for this theme:

- Rutland is experiencing an ageing population, with many more residents likely to hit retirement age during the new Local Plan period. This has the potential to place extra burden on care facilities and health services.

- The population of Rutland has increased by approximately 7.7% between 2011 and 2020, slightly higher than the observed increases for East Midlands (7.3%), and England (6.7%).
- The populations of Oakham and Uppingham (the two largest settlements in Rutland) have observed modest increases in population between 2011 and 2020, but it is recognised that future growth in these locations is likely to put added strain on the capacity of local services and facilities.
- Outside of the key settlements of Oakham, Uppingham, and the LSOAs in the north west (which includes Langham, Whissendine, Market Overton, and Cottesmore), most of Rutland is deprived within the 'barriers to housing and services' IMD domain and within the 'living environment' IMD domain.
- Housing affordability, and the availability of appropriate dwellings for residents, are key concerns.
- The services, facilities, and amenities within Rutland supports community vitality and the quality of life of residents, with the availability of community assets essential for continued growth within the area.
- There are over 240 important open spaces in Rutland, with the following settlements having the greatest offer: Oakham (19); Uppingham (17); Langham (14); Barrowden (11); and Greetham (7).
- The recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic will have direct and indirect implications for Rutland's residents in terms of their physical and mental wellbeing.

## SA objectives and appraisal questions

Table 7.3: Proposed SA objectives and assessment questions for the communities, health, and wellbeing theme

| SA objective  | Appraisal questions  |
|---|--|
| 14. Provide everyone with the opportunity to live in good quality, affordable housing | <p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Support the timely delivery of an appropriate mix of housing types and tenures?</li> <li>b) Ensure delivery of high-quality, affordable and specialist housing that meets the needs of all Rutland's residents?</li> <li>c) Provide quality and flexible homes that meet people's needs?</li> <li>d) Promote the use of sustainable building techniques, including use of sustainable building materials in construction?</li> <li>e) Provide housing in sustainable locations that allow easy access to a range of local services and facilities?</li> </ul> |

| SA objective  | Appraisal questions  |
|---|--|
| 15. Delivery of infrastructure to meet the foreseeable needs of the varied communities of Rutland | <p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Meet the needs of a growing population?</li> <li>b) Meet the needs of those living in rural areas?</li> <li>c) Address the needs of all age groups and communities in Rutland (including residents with protected characteristics)?</li> <li>d) Maintain or enhance the quality of life of all residents?</li> </ul>  |
| 16. Support the quality of neighbourhoods as a place to live                                      | <p>Will the option / proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Help remove barriers to activities and reduce social isolation?</li> <li>b) Enhance community infrastructure?</li> <li>c) Support the energy efficiency of new and existing development, including in reducing fuel poverty?</li> </ul>   |
| 17. Improve the health and well-being of Rutland's residents                                      | <p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Reduce the impacts of pollution on health?</li> <li>b) Reduce health inequalities?</li> <li>c) Enhance the provision of, and access to, open spaces and green and blue infrastructure provision in Rutland?</li> <li>d) Improve access to the countryside for recreation?</li> <li>e) Encourage healthy lifestyles and active travel modes, including walking and cycling?</li> </ul> |

## 8. Transportation

### Focus of theme

- Transportation infrastructure
- Traffic flows and congestion
- Accessibility and connectivity
- Public rights of way

### Policy context

8.1 **Table 8.1** below presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the new Local Plan. The key messages emerging from the review are then summarised after the table.

Table 8.1: Plans, policies, and strategies reviewed in relation to the transportation SA theme

| Document title  | Year of publication |
|---|---------------------|
| International   |                     |
| <a href="#">Directive 2002/49/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise</a> | 2002                |
| National  |                     |
| <a href="#">National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</a>   | 2021                |
| <a href="#">National Infrastructure Strategy</a>  | 2020                |
| <a href="#">Planning Practice Guidance</a>  | 2019                |
| <a href="#">Future of Mobility: Urban Strategy</a>  | 2019                |
| <a href="#">Transport Investment Strategy</a>   | 2017                |
| <a href="#">Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE)</a>   | 2010                |
| <a href="#">The Environmental Noise (England) Regulations</a>   | 2006                |
| Local   |                     |
| <a href="#">Rutland County Council Corporate Plan 2019-2024</a>   | 2019                |
| <a href="#">Moving Rutland Forward - Local Transport Plan 4</a>   | 2019                |
| <a href="#">Rutland Local Plan - Core Strategy Development Plan Document</a>  | 2011                |
| <a href="#">Rutland Local Plan - Supplementary Planning Documents</a>   | Various             |

8.2 Chapter 9 of the NPPF is dedicated to promoting sustainable transport. The NPPF states the following:

- Transport issues should be considered from the earliest stages of plan-making and development proposals. This is to allow for potential impacts on transport networks to be addressed, for opportunities from existing or proposed transport infrastructure to be realised, for opportunities to promote sustainable travel to be identified and pursued, for the



identification and assessment of environmental impacts and the consideration of movement, street and parking patterns.

- Significant development should be focused on locations which are or can be made sustainable, through limiting the need to travel and offering a genuine choice of transport modes. This can help to reduce congestion and emissions and improve air quality and public health. However, opportunities to maximise sustainable transport solutions will vary between urban and rural areas, and this should be taken into account in both plan-making and decision-making.

- 8.3 National Planning Practice Guidance identifies the importance of local planning authorities undertaking an assessment of the transport implications in developing or reviewing their local plan. This ensures a robust transport evidence base is developed to appropriately support the preparation and/or review of that local plan.
- 8.4 The National Infrastructure Strategy states that transport networks are vital for jobs, businesses, and economic growth and that the Government will continue with its decarbonisation process within the transport sector to meet its net zero emissions target by 2050.
- 8.5 The Department for Transport published the 'Future of Mobility: Urban Strategy' in 2019, which sets out the national approach to maximising transport innovation in cities and towns. It focuses on a model shift towards sustainable modes of transport (walking, cycling and public transport) which are accessible to all, in order to tackle pollution and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- 8.6 The Transport Investment Strategy sets out investment priorities to improve the connectivity, effectiveness and reliability of transport network whilst simultaneously reducing impacts on the natural environment. Furthermore, the document places great emphasis on making cycling and walking the natural choice for shorter journeys, or as part of a longer journeys.
- 8.7 The Noise Policy Statement for England states that the implementation of transport planning systems aids in reducing environmental noise, which left unmanaged can cause an increased risk of health effects.
- 8.8 The Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 apply to environmental noise, mainly from transport. The regulations require regular noise mapping and action planning for road, rail and aviation noise and noise in large urban areas (agglomerations). They also require the production of noise action plans based on the maps for road and rail noise and noise in agglomerations. These plans identify areas that are exposed to the highest levels of noise and provide suggestions as to how to reduce these.
- 8.9 The new Local Plan will need to have regard for the Rutland County Council Corporate Plan. In particular, Strategic Aim 1.5 concerns transport – ensuring that development is supported by appropriate transport infrastructure.
- 8.10 The Moving Rutland Forward - Local Transport Plan 4 document outlines the vision for a transport network in Rutland that supports sustainable growth, meets the needs of the most vulnerable residents, and helps to improve health and wellbeing. The document is built around five themes:

- Population growth: planning for the future and meeting the needs of a growing Rutland.
- Working in Rutland: meeting the needs of new and existing Rutland businesses, their customers, and their workforce.
- Learning in Rutland: helping the residents reach their full potential.
- Living in Rutland: helping Rutland residents to access essential services and supporting their health and wellbeing; and
- Visiting and enjoying Rutland: helping tourists, visitors, and residents to access and enjoy Rutland's towns, villages, and countryside.

## Summary of current baseline

8.11 A summary of the key transport corridors within Rutland is provided below and shown in the figure at the end of this chapter.

### Rail network

8.12 Oakham railway station is operated by East Midlands Rail, and is located on the Birmingham New Street to Stansted Airport rail line. Westbound journey times from Oakham include as follows: Melton Mowbray, 11 minutes; Leicester, 28 minutes; Nuneaton, 47 minutes; Coleshill Parkway, 62 minutes; and Birmingham New Street, 77 minutes. Eastbound journey times include as follows: Stamford, 14 minutes; Peterborough, 28 minutes; Ely, 68 minutes; Cambridge, 84 minutes; and Stansted Airport, 120 minutes.<sup>47</sup>

### Bus network

8.13 According to the RCC's website, there are 16 bus services operating in Rutland<sup>48</sup> - details of which can be found in **Table 8.2** below.

**Table 8.2: Bus services operating in Rutland**

| Service Number         | Service Provider | Destinations within Rutland   |
|------------------------|------------------|---|
| <a href="#">29/29A</a> | Centrebus        | Ashwell, Essendine, Greetham, Langham, Oakham, Ryhall, Whissendine  |
| <a href="#">RF1</a>    | Centrebus        | Ashwell, Barleythorpe Caldecott, Gunthorpe, Langham, Lyddington, Manton, Oakham, Preston, Whissendine, Wing                                       |
| <a href="#">47/47B</a> | Vectare          | Barleythorpe, Barrowden, Glaston, Langham, Manton, Morcott, Oakham, Preston, South Luffenham, Uppingham, Whissendine                              |
| <a href="#">184</a>    | Bland's          | Barleythorpe, Barrow, Cottesmore, Empingham, Exton, Great Casterton, Greetham, Langham, Market Overton, Oakham, Stretton, Tickencote, Whissendine |
| <a href="#">185</a>    | Bland's          | Barleythorpe, Burley, Cottesmore, Empingham, Great Casterton, Greetham, Langham, Oakham, Whissendine, Whitwell                                    |
| <a href="#">RF2</a>    | Centrebus        | Barrow, Burley, Cottesmore, Exton, Greetham, Market Overton, Oakham, Teigh  |

<sup>47</sup> Live departures and arrivals for Oakham station can be accessed [here](#).

<sup>48</sup> Rutland County Council Bus times and travel webpage can be accessed [here](#).

| Service Number | Service Provider | Destinations within Rutland   |
|----------------|------------------|---|
| <u>12</u>      | Bland's          | Barrowden, Edith Weston, Glaston, Ketton, Morcott, North Luffenham, South Luffenham, Tinwell, Uppingham |
| <u>747</u>     | Centrebus        | Belton in Rutland   |
| <u>R47</u>     | Centrebus        | Belton in Rutland   |
| <u>9</u>       | Centrebus        | Empingham, Great Casterton, Oakham, Tickencote, Whitwell  |
| <u>182</u>     | Bland's          | Empingham, Great Casterton, Whitwell  |
| <u>4</u>       | Callconnect      | Essendine, Ryhall   |
| <u>183</u>     | Bland's          | Essendine, Great Casterton  |
| <u>202</u>     | Delaine          | Essendine, Ryhall   |
| <u>146</u>     | Centrebus        | Oakham  |
| <u>747</u>     | Centrebus        | Uppingham   |

8.14 In addition to the bus services outlined in **Table 8.2** above, there is an additional CallConnect bus service<sup>49</sup>. This service allows residents of hamlets, villages, and market towns to travel throughout Rutland and neighbouring counties by booking their journey online or through the phone. This enables the use of public transport in areas that are not as well served by the current public transport network.

### Road network and congestion

8.15 The A1 is a long-distance north-south route connecting London and Edinburgh. The road, which runs through the east of the county is managed by National Highways and provides links with Peterborough, Grantham, Newark and Cambridge and to the north of England. It has frequent traffic congestion and several fatal accidents occur along this road each year – between 2001-2016 there were 35 serious casualties and 13 fatalities. National Highways has conducted a detailed study on the A1 and are analysing the data to identify possible future improvements to lessen congestion and make the road safer<sup>50</sup>.

8.16 The A606 connects Oakham with Stamford and Melton Mowbray and also provides access to the A1 and the A6003. Generally, the route runs at the national speed limit, but it does slow to 40mph through Empingham and 30mph through Whitwell.

8.17 The A6003 provides a strategic link between Oakham and Corby and provides access to the A14, the A47 and the A606. Generally, the route runs at the national speed limit but is limited to 50mph between Oakham and Lyndon Road and to 40mph either side of this junction. It is also 30mph through Preston, Uppingham and Caldecott.

8.18 The A47 connects Leicester and Peterborough. It generally runs at the national speed limit but has differing speed restrictions at various points along it – including 30mph, 40mph and 50mph.

8.19 In addition to the above, the A6121, B664, B668, B672, B1081 and B1176 are within Rutland's boundaries.

<sup>49</sup> Information about CallConnect can be accessed [here](#).

<sup>50</sup> Davies, Coun Richard (2019) Continual loss of life on the A1 must stop. (online) available at: [here](#).

## Public Rights of Way network

- 8.20 Rutland has an extensive Public Rights of Way (PRoW) network which includes numerous footpaths, bridleways, and byways.
- 8.21 According to Discover Rutland<sup>51</sup>, the villages of Exton, Braunston, Empingham, Ryhall and Wing have created a number of village walks. There are two walks around Rutland Water – one at 27km and the other at 37km. Fineshade Wood offers three trails; Dales Wood (4.8km), Mill Wood (9.7km) and The Smelter's Walk (3.2km). The website states that Burghley House and Rockingham Castle also offer walking trails.
- 8.22 The Discover Rutland's Walks and Trails website<sup>52</sup> also outlines longer and shorter routes, including the Rutland Round, the Uppingham Round, the Melton Round, Eggleton Nature Reserve, Rutland Water and Exton. In addition, there are two heritage trails located in Oakham and Uppingham. Four national routes cross through Rutland; the Macmillan Way, the Viking Way, the Hereward Way, and the Jurassic Way.

## Additional transport baseline

- 8.23 The baseline information can be supplemented by the Rutland Authority Monitoring Report 2020/21<sup>53</sup>. The report states that delivering the required transport infrastructure necessary to support growth, sustainable transportation and appropriate impact mitigation is a priority. The report also lists a number of implemented transport schemes, including bikeability in schools, the 'My Bike' scheme where reconditioned bikes are provided for low income families, and an electric bike scheme.
- 8.24 According to the Moving Rutland Forward - Local Transport Plan 4 document, there are ten locations within Rutland that can facilitate electric car charging, including Oakham and Uppingham town centres, hotel establishments and businesses around the county.

## Summary of future baseline

- 8.25 The cumulative impacts of new development have the potential to increase traffic and cause congestion within Rutland, especially on key routes like the A1, A606, A6003 and A47. This is likely to continue to be more pronounced during peak times (i.e. rush hours).
- 8.26 However, development within Rutland has the potential to lead to enhancements to the transport network in order to promote more sustainable modes of travel, such as the existing PRoW network.
- 8.27 Additionally, there are opportunities to improve public transport networks within Rutland to facilitate the use of more sustainable modes of transport whilst alleviating pressures on main road networks. Similarly, the provision of infrastructure to promote at home (i.e. remote) working is likely to positively contribute towards these aims.

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<sup>51</sup> Discover Rutland Walks and Trails can be accessed [here](#).

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> Rutland Authority Monitoring Report 2020/21 can be downloaded [here](#).



8.28 Whilst the negative effects of new development on the transport network are likely to be mitigated in part by new infrastructure, there will be a continuing need for development to be situated in accessible locations.

8.29 The ongoing effects of the Covid-19 pandemic have the potential to continue to affect travel patterns, including linked to increased levels of working from home and lower traffic flows at peak times.

## Key sustainability issues

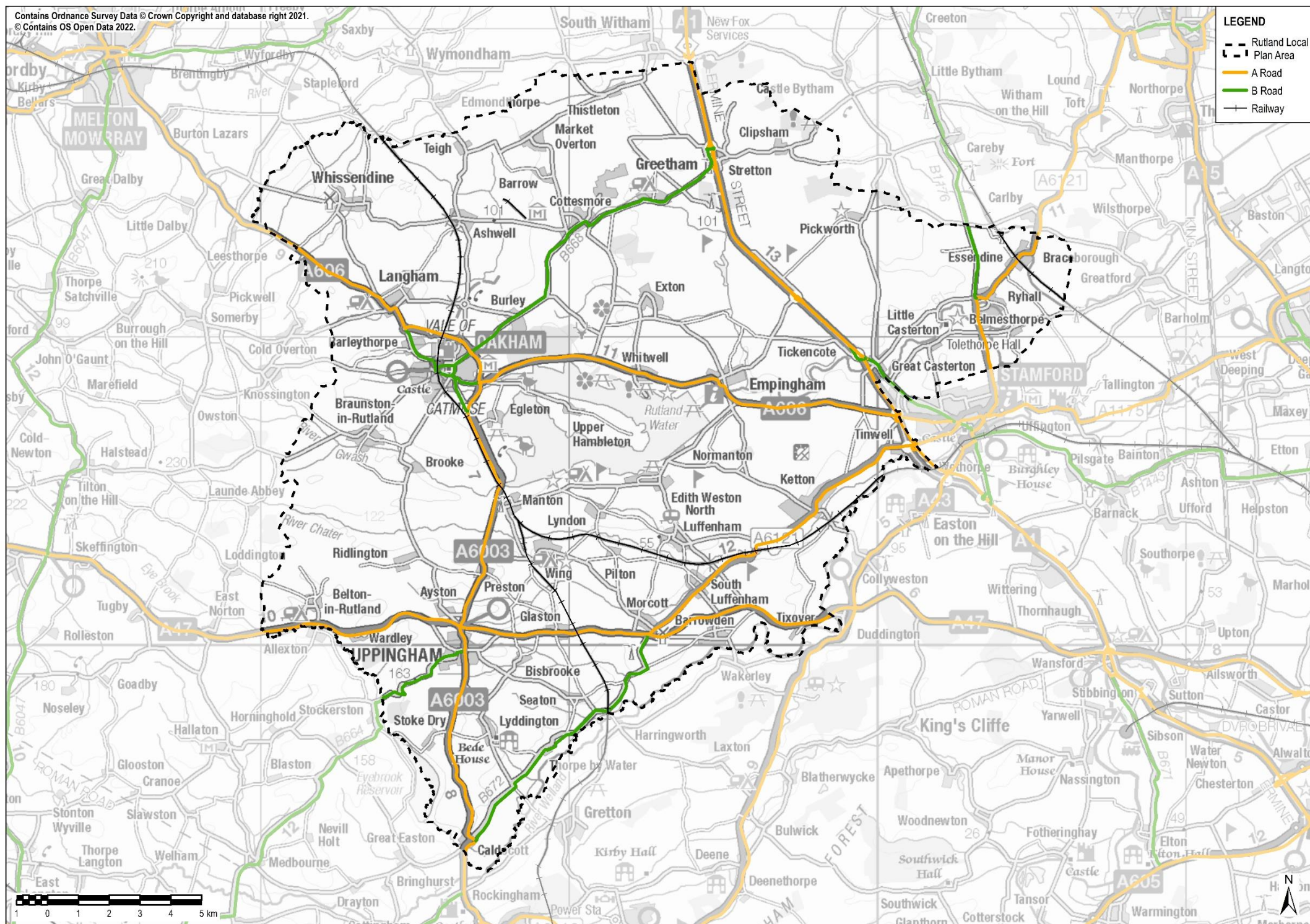
8.30 The following key issues have been identified through the baseline review for this theme:

- Rutland has a relatively limited rail network but a well-connected bus network.
- The county has a comprehensive road network, including the A1, A47, A606 and A6003. There are multiple B roads and alternative roads and there is provision for electric vehicles.
- A number of routes have road safety issues, including the A1.
- There are sustainable transport schemes in place at present, including bikeability in schools, the 'My Bike' scheme where reconditioned bikes are provided for low income families, and an electric bike scheme.
- Rutland has many PRoWs, including four national routes. This allows for access to the open countryside and its associated settlements and views.
- The recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic has the potential to change travel patterns in the short, medium and (potentially) longer term.

## SA objectives and appraisal questions

Table 8.2: Proposed SA objectives and assessment questions for the transportation theme

| SA objective  | Appraisal Questions   |
|---|---|
| 18. Promote sustainable transport use, encourage accessibility, and reduce the need to travel | <p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Support the key objectives within the local transport plan and encourage more sustainable transport options?</li> <li>b) Improve access to and quality of sustainable transport modes for all communities to encourage modal shift?</li> <li>c) Promote improved local connectivity and pedestrian and cyclist movement?</li> <li>d) Reduce the number of journeys made and the need to travel?</li> <li>e) Improve accessibility to services, facilities, and amenities?</li> <li>f) Reduce the impact on residents and the built environment from the road network?</li> </ul> |





## 9. Economic Vitality

### Focus of theme

- Current and emerging economic sectors
- Employment, education, and skills
- Productivity and growth

### Policy context

9.1 **Table 9.1** below presents the most relevant documents identified in the policy review for the purposes of the new Local Plan. The key messages emerging from the review are then summarised after the table.

Table 9.1: Plans, policies, and strategies reviewed in relation to the economic vitality SA theme

| Document title   | Year of publication |
|--|---------------------|
| National   |                     |
| <a href="#">National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)</a>                    | 2021                |
| Local  |                     |
| <a href="#">Future Rutland Vision</a>  | 2022                |
| <a href="#">Rutland County Council Corporate Plan 2019-2024</a>              | 2019                |
| <a href="#">Employment Land Assessment Update</a>                            | 2016                |
| <a href="#">Rutland Retail Capacity Assessment Update</a>                    | 2016                |
| <a href="#">Economic Growth Strategy</a>                                     | 2015                |
| <a href="#">Rutland Local Plan: Background Paper - Employment Review</a>     | 2015                |
| <a href="#">Rutland Local Plan - Core Strategy Development Plan Document</a> | 2011                |
| <a href="#">Rutland Local Plan - Supplementary Planning Documents</a>        | Various             |

9.2 Key messages from the NPPF include:

- Planning policies should help build a strong, responsive, and competitive economy by ensuring that sufficient land of the right types is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth, innovation, and improved productivity; and by identifying and coordinating the provision of infrastructure.
- Local Plans should:
  - Encourage sustainable economic growth within their clear economic vision and strategy.
  - Set criteria and identify sites for local investment to match the community needs.
  - Address investment barriers such as inadequate infrastructure, services/housing or poor environment.



- Incorporate flexibility to account for unanticipated circumstances, allow new working practices and enable rapid responses to economic changes.
- Ensure that there is a ‘sufficient choice of school places’ and taking a ‘proactive, positive and collaborative approach’ to bringing forward ‘development that will widen choice in education’.

## Summary of current baseline

### Employment and economy

9.3 The following key statistics have been collated from the findings of the Employment Review Background Paper (2015), the Economic Growth Study (2015), the Employment Land Assessment Update (2016), and the Rutland Retail Capacity Assessment Update (2016), as referenced in **Table 9.1** above. Information has also been collated from Rutland’s Economic Profile and from the statistical data report available on Rutland County Council’s webpages (accessible [here](#)):

- Out of the approximate 18,000 residents in Rutland who are economically active (based on 2018 data), 77.4% are in employment, slightly higher than the totals for the East Midlands (74.7%) and England as a whole (75.1%).
- The public sector generates around a third of all the jobs, more than double the national average. Most public sector employment is in public administration, defence and social security and education.
- Approximately 50% of economically active residents in Rutland work in the following occupation categories: associated professional and technical (20.7%), professional (16.8%), and skilled trades (13.0%).
- The population of Rutland is relatively self-contained, with almost two thirds of the resident population also working in the county. However, Rutland is also a net exporter of labour to neighbouring settlements, including South Kesteven, Leicester and Peterborough.
- There are 1,955 business in Rutland (2,165 units), and the average (median) salary in Rutland is £28,708, in line with the UK average.

9.4 Key employment sites in Rutland are shown in the figure at the end of this chapter, and include areas at:

- Hanson Cement Works, Ketton
- Market Overton Industrial Estate, Market Overton
- Oakham Office Park, Oakham
- Oakham Enterprise Park, Oakham
- Pilings Road Industrial Estate / Lands’ End Way, Oakham
- Uppingham Gate, Uppingham; and
- Wireless Hill, South Luffenham.

9.5 In terms of Rutland’s retail offer, Oakham is the main town centre and the focus for convenience and comparison goods shopping and Council services. The

centre also has an important tourism role, with Oakham Castle located within the town centre and Rutland Water – a popular destination for water sports, walking and cycling – located to the south of the town. Uppingham is the second largest town in Rutland, with a range of job opportunities, convenience shopping, education, community, and health facilities but with more limited public transport links in comparison to Oakham.

- 9.6 The visitor economy is a central element of Rutland's economy, with the county attracting over 1.7 million visitors a year, generating over £113 million and supporting 1,600 jobs. Tourism data available on Rutland County Council's webpages (accessible [here](#)) states that during 2018, tourism employed over 1,700 full time equivalents in the county, had an economic impact of £135.6 million and generated over 2.5 million visitor days - an increase of 3.9% compared to 2017.
- 9.7 Given the distinctive geology of Rutland (including limestone (crushed rock), sandstone, and ironstone) minerals workings are an important part of the county's economy. The agricultural sector is also a key contributor.
- 9.8 The necessity for a large proportion of the population to work remotely during the Covid-19 pandemic has the potential to drive a considerable acceleration in the (already upwards) trend in flexible working practices. For Rutland, this could mean higher levels of inward migration from other regions in the UK.

## Education and skills

- 9.9 With regards to the education offer within Rutland, there are 17 primary schools and five secondary schools, as follows:

- Brooke Hill Academy
- Catmose Primary
- Cottesmore Primary
- St Nicholas C of E Primary
- Edith Weston Primary
- Empingham C of E Primary
- English Martyrs Catholic Primary
- Exton & Greetham C of E Primary
- Great Casterton C of E Primary
- Ketton C of E Primary
- Langham C of E Primary
- Leighfield Primary
- Oakham C of E Primary
- Ryhall C of E Primary
- St Mary & St John C of E Primary
- Uppingham C of E Primary
- Whissendine C of E Primary
- Casterton Business & Enterprise College (Casterton Campus)
- Uppingham Community College
- Catmose College
- Oakham School
- Uppingham School

- 9.10 Over 81% of residents in Rutland have at least a level 2 qualification or above, compared with the UK average of 74.9%. The percentage of residents with a level 3 qualification or above (66.4%) and a level 4 qualification or above

(43.8%) is also higher than the UK averages<sup>54</sup>. Along with the employment data presented above which states that almost 50% of economically active residents in Rutland work in either professional, technical, or skilled trade occupations, this suggests that Rutland has a highly skilled workforce.

## Summary of future baseline

- 9.11 As the requirements of the working population continue to change, particularly in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, there is likely to be a requirement for adaptable dwellings which can accommodate more flexible working practices. This is echoed within the place making principles outlined in the UK Government's proposed planning reforms (see the [Planning for the Future](#) White Paper, for more information).
- 9.12 Additionally, the facilitation of high-quality and superfast broadband in rural areas will be required to ensure that everyone has equal opportunities and access to the digital economy. Furthermore, the regeneration of redundant or underutilised brownfield land across Rutland (including the densification of existing areas) will help to support local employment opportunities and reduce the need to commute to surrounding areas.
- 9.13 A greater focus on the functionality and purpose of local centres is likely to be required in response to the changing habits of consumers as they continue to shop online. Maintaining the quality and supporting the retail offer within local centres is key, alongside encouraging opportunities for diversification where appropriate.

## Key sustainability issues

- 9.14 The following key issues have been identified through the baseline review for this theme:
- Oakham and Uppingham are key employment centres for Rutland.
  - Rutland is a net exporter of labour to neighbouring settlements, including South Kesteven, Leicester and Peterborough.
  - The facilitation of high-quality and superfast broadband in rural areas will be required to ensure that everyone has equal opportunities and access to the digital economy.
  - A greater focus on the functionality and purpose of town and local centres is likely to be required in response to the changing habits of consumers.
  - The regeneration of redundant or underutilised brownfield land across Rutland (including the intensification of existing areas) will help to support local employment opportunities.
  - Rutland has a highly skilled workforce, with almost 50% of economically active residents in Rutland work in either professional, technical, or skilled trade occupations. The tourism industry, mineral workings, and agriculture are also important sectors of Rutland's economy.

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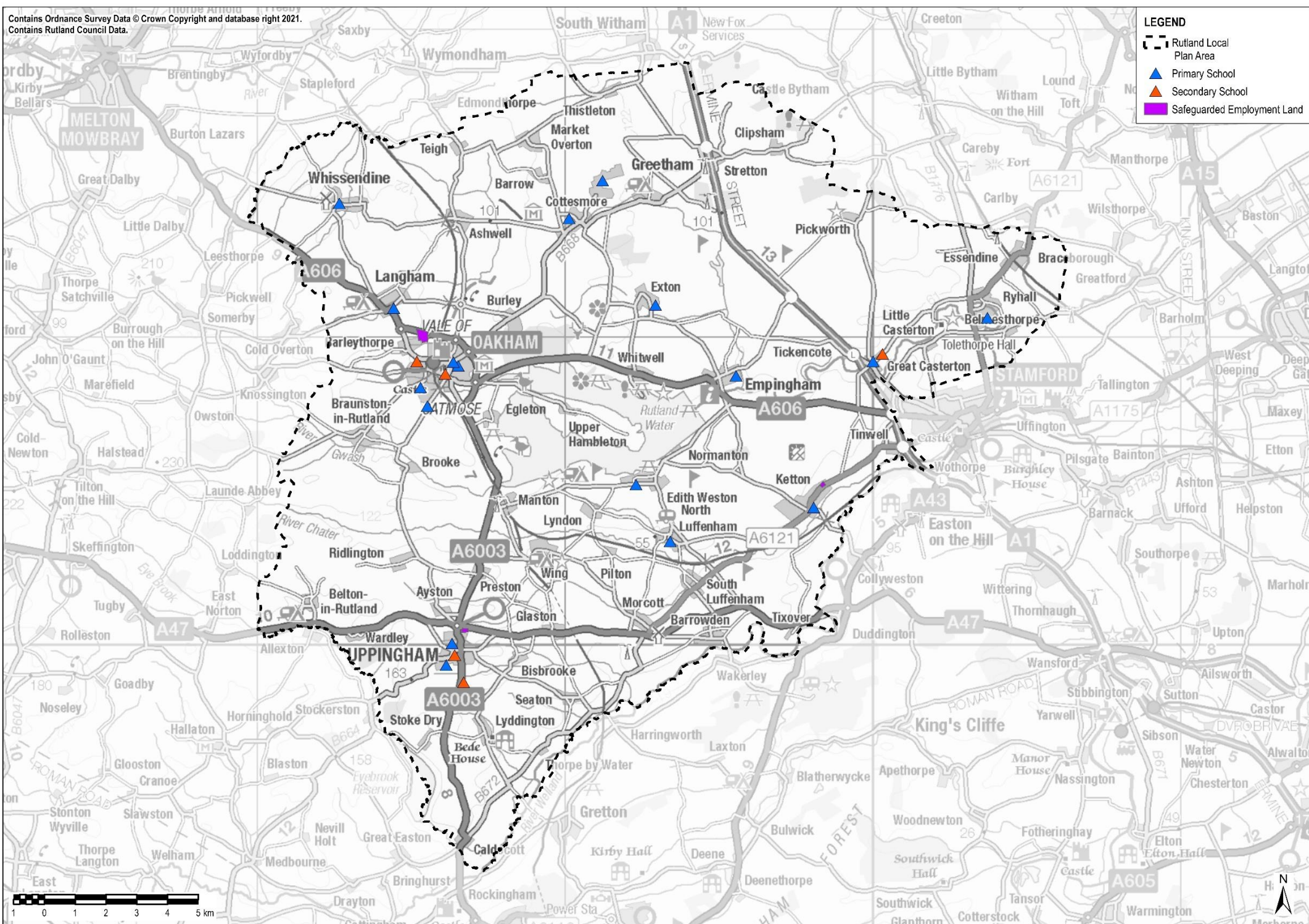
<sup>54</sup> Rutland County Council (2019): 'Rutland's Economic Profile', [online] available to access [here](#)

## SA objectives and appraisal questions

Table 9.2: Proposed SA objectives and assessment questions for the economic vitality theme

| SA objective  | Appraisal questions  |
|---|--|
| 19. Support sustainable economic development in Rutland | <p>Will the option/proposal help to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Meet local employment land requirements?</li> <li>b) Support traditional and emerging sectors of Rutland's economy?</li> <li>c) Improve internet connectivity to support the digital economy and facilitate flexible working practices?</li> <li>d) Enhance the vitality of Rutland's local centres?</li> <li>e) Support rural diversification?</li> <li>f) Improve accessibility to employment opportunities?</li> <li>g) Enhance training and educational opportunities?</li> </ul> |





# 10. Next Steps

## Subsequent stages for the new Local Plan and SA

- 10.1 **Figure 1.1** in Chapter 1 highlights the stages of the SA process in conjunction with the development of the new Local Plan.
- 10.2 In association with these stages, a number of SA reports will be released for consultation alongside the new Local Plan at key stages of plan development. These are anticipated to include as set out in **Table 10.1** below.

Table 10.1: Key outputs for the new Local Plan, and SA

| Key new Local Plan output   | SA output  |
|---|--|
| Regulation 18 consultation on Issues and Options for the new Local Plan             | Interim SA Report to accompany Issues and Options consultation   |
| Regulation 18 consultation on the draft version of the new Local Plan               | SA report to accompany Regulation 18 consultation on the draft plan  |
| Regulation 19 consultation on the proposed submission version of the new Local Plan | SA report to accompany Regulation 19 consultation on the proposed submission version of the new Local Plan |
| Submission version of the new Local Plan  | SA report to accompany the submission version of the new Local Plan  |
| The new Local Plan as modified following examination                                | SA report addendum   |
| Adopted version of the new Local Plan   | SA adoption statement  |

- 10.3 The next stage following this scoping stage will involve developing and appraising reasonable alternatives for the new Local Plan. This will consider alternative policy approaches for the plan, including relating to alternative development strategies. The findings of the appraisal of these alternatives will inform the ongoing development of the new Local Plan.

## Consultation on the Scoping Report

- 10.4 Public involvement through consultation is a key element of the SA process. At this scoping stage, the SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies but not full consultation with the public.
- 10.5 The statutory consultation bodies are the Environment Agency, Historic England, and Natural England. The Scoping Report has been released to these three statutory consultees.
- 10.6 Consultees are invited to comment on the content of this Scoping Report, in particular the evidence base for the SA, the identified key issues, and the proposed SA framework of objectives and appraisal questions.
- 10.7 The consultation period runs from **XX to XX**. Comments on the Scoping Report should be sent to:
- Ryan Putt, AECOM
- Email address: [ryan.putt@aecom.com](mailto:ryan.putt@aecom.com)
- 10.8 All comments received on the Scoping Report will be reviewed and will influence the development of the SA where appropriate.

