

# Milton Keynes Local Plan (Plan:MK)

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Milton Keynes Council

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background to the Project

AECOM was appointed by Milton Keynes Council to assist the Council in undertaking a Habitats Regulations Assessment of its Local Plan (hereafter referred to as the 'Plan' or 'Local Plan'). The objective of this assessment was to identify any aspects of the Plan that would cause an adverse effect on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites, otherwise known as European sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and, as a matter of Government policy, Ramsar sites), either in isolation or in combination with other plans and projects, and to advise on appropriate policy mechanisms for delivering mitigation where such effects were identified.

### 1.2 Legislation

The need for Appropriate Assessment is set out within Article 6 of the EC Habitats Directive 1992, and interpreted into British law by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. The ultimate aim of the Directive is to "maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of Community interest" (Habitats Directive, Article 2(2)). This aim relates to habitats and species, not the European sites themselves, although the sites have a significant role in delivering favourable conservation status.

The Habitats Directive applies the precautionary principle to European sites. Plans and projects can only be permitted having ascertained that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the site(s) in question. Plans and projects with predicted adverse impacts on European sites may still be permitted if there are no alternatives to them and there are Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) as to why they should go ahead. In such cases, compensation would be necessary to ensure the overall integrity of the site network.

In order to ascertain whether or not site integrity will be affected, an Appropriate Assessment should be undertaken of the plan or project in question:

#### Box 1: The legislative basis for Appropriate Assessment

##### **Habitats Directive 1992**

Article 6 (3) states that:

*"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives."*

##### **Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010**

The Regulations state that:

*"A competent authority, before deciding to ... give any consent for a plan or project which is likely to have a significant effect on a European site ... shall make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that sites conservation objectives... The authority shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site".*

Over time the phrase 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' (HRA) has come into wide currency to describe the overall process set out in the Habitats Directive from screening through to IROPI. This has arisen in order to distinguish the process from the individual stage described in the law as an 'Appropriate Assessment'.

Throughout this report, we use the term HRA for the overall process and restrict the use of Appropriate Assessment to the specific stage of that name.

### 1.3 Scope of the Project

There is no pre-defined guidance that dictates the physical scope of an HRA of a Plan document. Therefore, in considering the physical scope of the assessment, we were guided primarily by the identified impact pathways (called the source-pathway-receptor model) rather than by arbitrary 'zones'. Current guidance suggests that the following European sites be included in the scope of assessment:

- All sites within the Milton Keynes Borough boundary; and,
- Other sites shown to be linked to development within the district boundary through a known 'pathway' (discussed below).

Briefly defined, pathways are routes by which a change in activity provided within a District Plan document can lead to an effect upon an internationally designated site. An example of this would be new residential development resulting in an increased population and thus increased recreational pressure, which could then affect European sites by, for example, disturbance of wintering birds. Guidance from the former Department of Communities and Local Government states that the HRA should be '*proportionate to the geographical scope of the [plan policy]*' and that '*an AA need not be done in any more detail, or using more resources, than is useful for its purpose*' (CLG, 2006, p.6). More recently, the Court of Appeal<sup>1</sup> ruled that providing the Council (competent authority) was duly satisfied that proposed mitigation could be '*achieved in practice*' to satisfy that the proposed development would have no adverse effect, then this would suffice. This ruling has since been applied to a planning permission (rather than a Core Strategy document)<sup>2</sup>. In this case the High Court ruled that for '*a multistage process, so long as there is sufficient information at any particular stage to enable the authority to be satisfied that the proposed mitigation can be achieved in practice it is not necessary for all matters concerning mitigation to be fully resolved before a decision maker is able to conclude that a development will satisfy the requirements of Reg 61 of the Habitats Regulations*'.

There are no European sites that lie within the Milton Keynes Borough boundary. Outside the district, the nearest European site is Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pit SPA and Ramsar site, which is located 5.8km to the north of the district boundary but 9.5km from the main population centres of Milton Keynes and Newport Pagnell and 16.5km from Olney; outside of the main population centres the District is largely rural with a sparsely distributed population. Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar site is therefore the only European site discussed in the analysis.

The following sites were considered but dismissed from the analysis due to a combination of distance and absence of impact pathways linking them to the district:

- Chilterns Beechwoods SAC is located 16.5km south of Milton Keynes Borough boundary and from the nearest substantial settlement within the district. The site is primarily designated for representing a very extensive tract of *Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forest in the centre of the habitat's UK range and for forming an important part of a grassland-scrub-woodland mosaic. It is also designated for two qualifying features, the presence of semi-natural dry grassland and scrubland on calcareous substrate, known for supporting orchids, and an important population of stag beetles (*Lucanus cervus*). This site is vulnerable to recreational disturbance and air pollution. However, roads within 200m of the SAC are unlikely to form a 'journey to work' route for residents of Milton Keynes Borough<sup>3</sup> and given the 16.5km minimum distance the SAC will be too far away for Milton Keynes Borough to fall within the core recreational catchment.

As such this site is not discussed further. The reasons for designation of Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar site, together with current trends in habitat quality and pressures on the sites are indicated in Chapter 5.

<sup>1</sup> No Adastral New Town Ltd (NANT) v Suffolk Coastal District Council Court of Appeal, 17<sup>th</sup> February 2015

<sup>2</sup> High Court case of R (Devon Wildlife Trust) v Teignbridge District Council, 28 July 2015

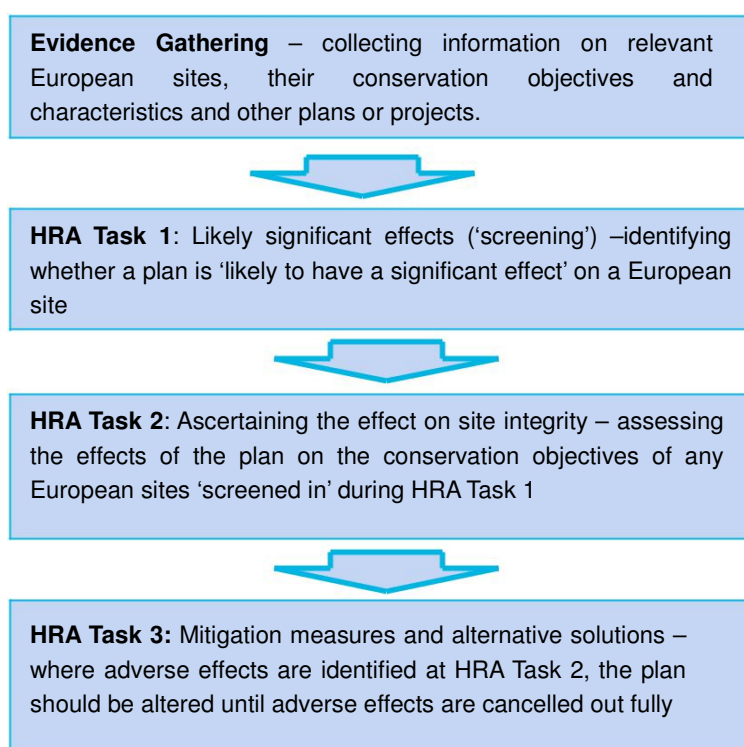
<sup>3</sup> For example, the 2011 Census indicates that less than 2% of journeys to work originating from Milton Keynes Borough end in Dacorum District, within which the relevant parts of the SAC are located, and many of the small number of journeys to work that do end in Dacorum would not involve using roads within 200m of the SAC.

## 2. Methodology

### 2.1 Introduction

The HRA has been carried out in the continuing absence of formal central Government guidance, although general EC guidance on HRA does exist<sup>4</sup>. The former Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) released a consultation paper on the Appropriate Assessment of Plans in 2006<sup>5</sup>. As yet, no further formal guidance has emerged. However, Natural England has produced its own internal guidance<sup>6</sup> as has the RSPB<sup>7</sup>. Both of these have been referred to alongside the guidance outlined in paragraph 1.2.3 in undertaking this HRA.

Figure 1 below outlines the stages of HRA according to current draft DCLG guidance. The stages are essentially iterative, being revisited as necessary in response to more detailed information, recommendations and any relevant changes to the plan until no significant adverse effects remain.



**Figure 1: Four Stage Approach to Habitats Regulations Assessment. Source CLG, 2006.**

### 2.2 HRA Task 1 – Likely Significant Effects (LSE)

Following evidence gathering, the first stage of any Habitat Regulations Assessment is a Likely Significant Effect (LSE) test - essentially a risk assessment to decide whether the full subsequent stage known as Appropriate Assessment is required. The essential question is:

*“Is the Plan, either alone or in combination with other relevant projects and plans, likely to result in a significant effect upon European sites?”*

The objective is to ‘screen out’ those plans and projects that can, without any detailed appraisal, be said to be unlikely to result in significant adverse effects upon European sites, usually because there is no mechanism for an adverse interaction with European sites.

<sup>4</sup> European Commission (2001): Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.

<sup>5</sup> CLG (2006) Planning for the Protection of European Sites, Consultation Paper

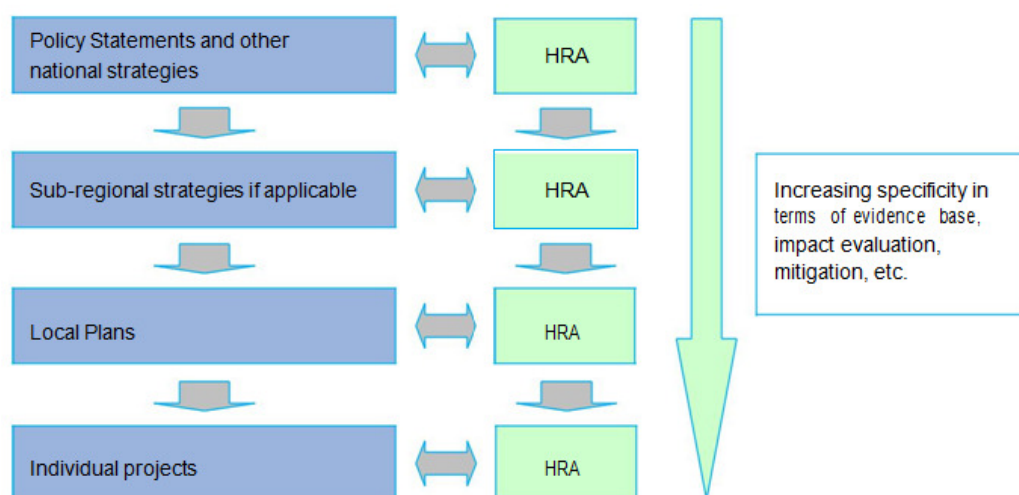
<sup>6</sup> [http://www.ukmpas.org/pdf/practical\\_guidance/HRGN1.pdf](http://www.ukmpas.org/pdf/practical_guidance/HRGN1.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Dodd A.M., Cleary B.E., Dawkins J.S., Byron H.J., Palframan L.J. and Williams G.M. (2007) *The Appropriate Assessment of Spatial Plans in England: a guide to why, when and how to do it*. The RSPB, Sandy.

In evaluating significance, AECOM have relied on our professional judgement as well as the results of previous stakeholder consultation regarding development impacts on the European sites considered within this assessment.

The level of detail in land use plans concerning developments that will be permitted under the plans will never be sufficient to make a detailed quantification of adverse effects. Therefore, we have again taken a precautionary approach (in the absence of more precise data) assuming the default position that if an adverse effect cannot be confidently ruled out, avoidance or mitigation measures must be provided. This is in line with the former Department of Communities and Local Government guidance and Court rulings that the level of detail of the assessment, whilst meeting the relevant requirements of the Conservation Regulations, should be 'appropriate' to the level of plan or project that it addresses. This 'tiering' of assessment is summarised in Box 2.

#### Box 2: Tiering in HRA of Land Use Plans



When discussing 'mitigation' for a Local Plan document, one is concerned primarily with the policy framework to enable the delivery of such mitigation rather than the details of the mitigation measures themselves since the Local Plan document is a high-level policy document.

### 2.3 Principal Other Plans and Projects That May Act 'In Combination'

In order to fully inform the screening process, a number of surrounding plans have been consulted to determine likely significant effects that could arise from the Milton Keynes Local Plan in combination with these other plans. These were selected because they were the other plans that either surrounded Milton Keynes Borough or were for an authority that included one of the European sites discussed (e.g. Dacorum, within which the Chilterns Beechwoods is partly located). They are:

- Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (Pre-submission draft 2016)
- Bedford Borough Council Core Strategy & Rural Issues (adopted 2008)
- Central Bedfordshire Local Plan (Pre-submission draft, July 2017)
- South Northamptonshire Local Plan (Pre-submission draft, January 2017)
- North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (adopted 2016)
- West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (adopted 2014)
- Dacorum Borough Council Core Strategy (adopted 2013)



## 3. Likely Significant Effects: Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA and Ramsar sites

### 3.1 Introduction

The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits (hereafter referred to as 'Upper Nene SPA/Ramsar') are a cluster of disused sand and gravel pits that extend for approximately 35km along the alluvial deposits of the River Nene floodplain from the southern outskirts of Northampton, downstream to Thorpe Waterville, in Northern Northamptonshire. These pits form an extensive series of open water habitats associated with marginal features such as shorelines, gravel bars, sparsely vegetated islands, marshes, reed-swamp, rough grassland, rush pasture, wet ditches and scattered scrub. The varied topography of the Upper Nene SPA/Ramsar site has formed lagoons, providing valuable habitat for large concentrations of wintering waders and waterfowl. The Upper Nene SPA/Ramsar regularly supports internationally important numbers of great bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*), golden plover (*Pluvialis apricaria*), gadwall (*Anas strepera*).

### 3.2 Features of European interest<sup>8</sup>

The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits qualify as an SPA due to its waterbird assemblage and specifically its internationally important wintering populations of great bittern, golden plover and gadwall. The waterbird assemblage includes populations comprising 2000 or more individuals of the following species: wigeon (*Anas penelope*), mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), northern shoveler (*Anas clypeata*), pochard (*Aythya ferina*), tufted duck (*Aythya fuligula*), great-crested grebe (*Podiceps cristatus*), mute swan (*Cygnus olor*), great cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo*), lapwing (*Vanellus vanellus*) and coot (*Fulica atra*). The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits supports an assemblage of waterbirds greater than 20,000 and internationally important populations of over-wintering great bittern, golden plover and gadwall, thus qualifying as a Ramsar designation.

### 3.3 Conservation objectives

The conservation objectives of the SPA are to ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely
- The populations of qualifying species, and,
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site

### 3.4 Principal Risks to Site Integrity

- Public disturbance
- Planning permission
- Fisheries management
- Change in land management

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<sup>8</sup> JNCC (2015) Natura 200 Standard Data Form: Epping Forest SAC

## 3.5 Potential Effects of the plan

### 3.5.1 Likely Significant Effects

A detailed policy by policy analysis is presented in Appendix A. In summary, the Local Plan expects a minimum of 29,000 dwellings to be delivered over the Local Plan period. Approximately 21,850 of these consist of existing commitments, with 7,230 dwellings needing to be met through Local Plan allocations:

- Approximately 1,900 within Central Milton Keynes and Campbell Park residential area
- Approximately 1,000 through brownfield developments, infill, regeneration and redevelopment opportunities
- Approximately 3,000 in the South East Growth Area (expected between 2026 – 2031)
- Approximately 1,330 dwellings to be allocated under Windfall Allowance
- Land has been reserved for delivery post-2031 on land East of M1 (Land north of J13)

The Local Plan also expects to increase gypsy/traveller pitches (Policy HN11) (7 new permanent resident pitches will add to the already allocated 12 pitches) and increase employment sites (Policy ER1) on vacant employment land throughout the District for B1/B2/B8/C2/D1 developments. In addition to this, Policies SD12, ER1, HN4, HN5, HN8, HN10 allow for provision (under certain conditions) of residential and employment site developments within existing urban areas or rural areas which have not already been allocated within the Local Plan. Planned development sites for residential dwellings and employment sites are included within Policies SD3, SD6, SD7, SD8, SD9, SD10, SD13, SD14, SD15 and SD16. A total of seven new local centres are proposed for new and existing residential developments, all of which vary in size, up to a maximum of 20 retail units (Policy ER15).

The main pathways, or impact mechanisms, through which Local Plan development could theoretically affect Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Ramsar and SPA are through recreational pressure, drawdown for public water supply and (possibly) air quality impacts on terrestrial parts of the SPA that provide feeding and roosting locations for SPA birds. These are considered in turn below.

#### **Recreational activity**

Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits is too far from the main population centres for growth within the Milton Keynes Borough to affect recreational pressure on the SPA. The Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits is located approximately 5.8km from the north-east of the district boundary, and the main population centres are located much more distant. Work undertaken by the North Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit to support the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy identified that a 3km radius around the SPA was the zone within which a net increase in dwellings could affect the integrity of the SPA 'in combination' without mitigation. This has been reflected in the adopted SPA Mitigation Strategy. Given this, Milton Keynes Borough is located too far from the SPA to be a material source of visitors.

#### **Water quality and resources**

Surface water quality could be affected by development within close proximity to the SPA/Ramsar site but that will not apply to any development sites in Milton Keynes Borough. Increased treated sewage effluent could have water quality implications on designated sites that are receiving watercourses. However, the Nene Valley Gravel Pits do not receive any treated sewage effluent. Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits are hydrologically linked to the River Nene, a core part of the Anglian Water supply network. This is the supply network that provides the majority of Public Water Supply to Milton Keynes Borough<sup>9</sup>. The Anglian Water Resource Management Plan underwent a Habitat Regulations Assessment in 2015 based on a 25-year strategy (to 2040). Anglian Water's Water Resource Management Plan indicates that Ruthamford North Regional Zone (RZ) is expected to operate a surplus which is supplied to South Ruthamford RZ, the regional zone in which Milton Keynes Borough is located. As such additional abstraction from water sources such as the River Nene is not required. The HRA screening of the

<sup>9</sup> The Ruthamford South RZ enters deficits under dry annual average conditions in 2026/27. The RZ is supplied from a combination of sources including surface water from the River Ouse and Grafham Reservoir, and groundwater from the Lower Greensand. Connectivity within the RZ allows for resources to be shared.

Resource Management Plan confirmed this by concluding that no adverse effect on the site integrity for the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar is likely<sup>10</sup>.

### **Functionally-linked land**

There are areas of terrestrial habitat within the SPA boundary that could be used by SPA waterfowl as feeding, roosting and loafing areas. Following the HRA of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy, it was determined that previously undeveloped farmland sites (2ha or larger) within 4km of the designated site could support designated bird features such as golden plover and should be subject to wintering bird survey (if the land within the site is suitable) as part of a planning application, to confirm presence of an important population (i.e. the land supports more than 1% of population golden plover for which the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar site is designated). Since Milton Keynes Borough is located almost 6km from the SPA at its closest, with the main population centres being considerably more distant, there is no risk of loss of important functionally-linked land due to development in the Borough.

### **Air quality**

The UK Air Pollution Information System does not provide any Site Relevant Critical Loads for the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA. The birds for which the SPA and Ramsar site is designated are only indirectly affected by atmospheric nitrogen deposition via their habitats and very large habitat changes would be required to render these habitats unsuitable. Such changes may result from land management (or its absence) but are very unlikely to result from increased nitrogen deposition (for example). For these reasons, air quality was screened out of the HRAs for the adopted North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy. As such this impact pathway can be screened out from further consideration and will not be discussed further within this document.

## **3.5.2 Other Plans and Projects**

Analysis of other plans and projects becomes of particular relevance where pathways of impact exist that link development in a particular Local Plan area with a European site; however, the contribution of that Local Plan is small. In addition, even the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy concluded that it would have no likely significant effect on Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar as long as all new developments are built under the specific standards to conserve water, detailed within Policy SC1 Sustainable Construction. In the case of Milton Keynes Borough, no realistic impact pathways have been identified to Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar. It therefore follows that there would be no adverse effect of the Milton Keynes Local Plan 'in combination'.

## **4. Conclusions**

It is possible to conclude that development in the Milton Keynes Local Plan will not have a likely significant effect on any internationally important wildlife sites either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. These conclusions are based on the findings of this screening which conclude that no Natura 2000 sites are located within the district and no impact pathways have been identified linking Natura 2000 sites outside of the district e.g. Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar to development within Milton Keynes Borough. Therefore an Appropriate Assessment is not required.

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<sup>10</sup> [http://www.anqlianwater.co.uk/assets/media/2015\\_WRMP\\_HRA\\_Main\\_Report.pdf](http://www.anqlianwater.co.uk/assets/media/2015_WRMP_HRA_Main_Report.pdf) [Accessed 31/08/2017]

## Appendix A Initial Policy Sift

The table below presents an initial sift of policies and allocations within the Local Plan, from the point of view of HRA. This exercise identifies those policies (shaded orange) whose implications are then discussed further in the main body of the report.

Policy	Potential for Likely Significant Effects?
MK1 Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	No LSE – by definition sustainable development must be that which does not adversely affect internationally important wildlife sites. The NPPF makes this clear.
DS1 Settlement Hierarchy	Possible LSE requiring consideration in the main body of the report, since this controls either the quantum or location of new development.
DS2 Housing Strategy	Possible LSE requiring consideration in the main body of the report, since this controls either the quantum or location of new development.
DS3 Employment Development Strategy	Possible LSE requiring consideration in the main body of the report, since this controls either the quantum or location of new development.
DS4 Retail and Leisure Development Strategy	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; provision of new retail and leisure space does not affect European sites.
DS5 Open Countryside	Possible LSE requiring consideration in the main body of the report, since this controls either the quantum or location of new development.
DS6 Linear Parks	Possible LSE requiring consideration in the main body of the report, since this controls either the quantum or location of new development.
SD1 Place-making Principles for Development	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; development design standards do not affect European sites.
SD2 Central Milton Keynes – Role and Function	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; promoting an area for retail, office, residential and leisure activities does not affect European sites.
SD3 Central Milton Keynes – Growth and Areas of Change	Possible LSE requiring consideration in the main body of the report, since this controls either the quantum or location of new development.

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SD4 Central Milton Keynes – Connectivity	Possible LSE requiring consideration in the main body of the report, since this controls either the quantum or location of new development.
SD6 Eastern Expansion Area (formerly Policy EA3 in the Milton Keynes Local Plan)	Possible LSE requiring consideration in the main body of the report, since this controls either the quantum or location of new development.
SD7 Western Expansion Area (formerly Policy EA6 in the Milton Keynes Local Plan)	Possible LSE requiring consideration in the main body of the report, since this controls either the quantum or location of new development.
SD8 Strategic Land Allocation	Possible LSE requiring consideration in the main body of the report, since this controls either the quantum or location of new development.
SD9 Newton Leys	Possible LSE requiring consideration in the main body of the report, since this controls either the quantum or location of new development.
SD10 Linford Lakes Area	Possible LSE requiring consideration in the main body of the report, since this controls either the quantum or location of new development.
SD11 General Principles for New Strategic Urban Extensions	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; strategising urban extensions of the local area does not affect European sites.
SD12 Delivery of Strategic Urban Extensions	Possible LSE requiring consideration in the main body of the report, since this controls either the quantum or location of new development.
SD13 South East Milton Keynes Urban Extension	Possible LSE requiring consideration in the main body of the report, since this controls either the quantum or location of new development.
SD14 Milton Keynes East	Possible LSE requiring consideration in the main body of the report, since this controls either the quantum or location of new development.
SD15 Land at Eaton Leys, Little Brickhill	Possible LSE requiring consideration in the main body of the report, since this controls either the quantum or location of new development.
SD16 Strategic Employment Allocation, Land South of Milton Keynes, South Caldecotte	Possible LSE requiring consideration in the main body of the report, since this controls either the quantum or location of new development.

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SD17 Place-Making Principles for Sustainable Urban Extensions in Adjacent Local Authorities	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; future planning for sustainable urban extensions in adjacent local authorities does not affect European sites.
ER1 Employment Sites within the Borough of Milton Keynes	Possible LSE requiring consideration in the main body of the report, since this controls either the quantum or location of new development.
ER2 Protection of Existing Employment Land and Premises	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; the existing main employment areas are many kilometres from any European sites.
ER3 Retailing on Employment Land	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; the refusal for retail development on employment land poses no risk to European sites.
ER4 Working from Home	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; working from home does not affect European sites.
ER5 Protection of Small Business Units	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; protection of small business units does not affect European sites.
ER6 Sites for Bad Neighbour Uses	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; development of community facilities does not affect European sites.
ER7 Controlling the Risk of Pollution	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; reducing and mitigating the effects of pollution does not affect European sites.
ER8 Places of Worship on Employment Sites	No LSE – no mechanism exists; whether or not places of worship are present on employment sites does not affect European sites.
ER9 Employment Uses and the Rural Economy	No LSE – no mechanism exists; support for employment use in the rural economy does not affect European sites.
ER10 Character and Function of the Shopping Hierarchy	No LSE – no mechanism exists; the character and function of the existing and proposed shopping hierarchy does not affect European sites.
ER11 Assessing Edge of Centre and Out of Centre Proposals	No LSE – no mechanism exists; the assessment of proposals does not affect European sites.
ER12 Protection of Shops, Post Offices, Banks and Public Houses and Community Facilities	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; protection of shops, post offices, banks and public

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	houses does not affect European sites.
ER13 New Village Shops in the Rural Area	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; development of village shops does not affect European sites.
ER14 Non-Retail Uses in Local Centres	No LSE – no mechanism exists; the presence of non-retail uses in local centres does not affect European sites.
ER15 New Local Centres	Possible LSE requiring consideration in the main body of the report, since this controls either the quantum or location of new development.
ER16 Car-Related Retail Uses	No LSE – no mechanism exists; development of car-related retail uses does not affect European sites.
ER17 Hotel and Visitor Accommodation	No LSE – no mechanism exists; the promotion of new hotel and visitor accommodation does not affect European sites.
ER18 Tourism, Visitor and Cultural Destinations	No LSE – no mechanism exists; development of tourism, visitor and cultural industries does not affect European sites.
ER19 Non-Retail Uses on Ground Floors in Town Centres	No LSE – no mechanism exists; non-retail uses on ground floors in town centres do not affect European sites.
HN1 Housing Mix and Density	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; housing density and mix does not affect European sites.
HN2 Affordable Housing	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; whether or not housing is affordable does not affect European sites.
HN3 Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; whether or not housing is self-built or custom does not affect European sites.
HN4 Supported Housing	Possible LSE requiring consideration in the main body of the report, since this controls either the quantum or location of new development.
HN5 Specialist Housing	Possible LSE requiring consideration in the main body of the report, since this controls either

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	the quantum or location of new development.
HN6 Accessible and Adaptable Homes	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; whether or not housing is accessible and adaptable does not affect European sites.
HN7 Houses in Multiple Occupation	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; whether or not houses are in multiple occupation does not affect European sites.
HN8 Purpose Built Student Accommodation	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; supporting the development of purpose built student accommodation does not affect European sites.
HN9 Loss and Conversion of Residential	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; the loss of residential dwellings through demolition or conversion does not affect European sites.
HN10 Rural Exception Sites	Possible LSE requiring consideration in the main body of the report, since this controls either the quantum or location of new development.
HN11 Gypsies and Travellers	Possible LSE requiring consideration in the main body of the report, since this controls either the quantum or location of new development.
HN12 Travelling Show People	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; assessing the need for new sites for travelling show people does not affect European sites.
CT1 Sustainable Transport Network	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; sustainable transport does not affect European sites.
CT2 Movement and Access	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; minimising the need to travel and promoting sustainable transport does not affect European sites.
CT3 Walking and Cycling	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; designing developments to meet the needs of pedestrians and cyclists does not affect European sites.
CT4 Crossover on Redways	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; the protection and enhancement of Redways does not affect European sites.
CT5 Public Transport	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; the design of, and improvements to public transport



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	do not affect European sites.
CT6 Low Emission Vehicles	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; promoting the use of low emission vehicles does not affect European sites.
CT7 Freight	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; promoting the development of freight infrastructure does not affect European sites.
CT8 Grid Road Network	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; conserving the existing iconic road system and supporting extensions does not affect European sites.
CT9 Digital Communications	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; the development of new digital communication infrastructure does not affect European sites.
CT10 Parking Provision	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; the requirements for new parking developments do not affect European sites.
EH1 Provision of New Schools – Planning Considerations	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; the criteria required for new school developments and/or the expansion of existing schools does not affect European sites.
EH2 Provision of New Schools – Site Size and Location	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; the site size and location criteria required for new school developments does not affect European sites.
EH3 Reserve Sites to Enable Future School Expansion	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; reserving areas of land for potential future use in schooling expansions does not affect European sites.
EH4 Further and Higher Education Provision	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; support for the development and expansion of the Borough's Universities and Further Education College does not affect European sites.
EH5 Health Facilities	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; ensuring the delivery of essential health care does not affect European sites.
EH6 Delivery of Health Facilities in New Development	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; the requirement for a Health Impact Assessment of residential developments does not affect European sites.
EH7 Promoting Healthy Communities	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; promoting healthy communities does not affect

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	European sites.
EH8 Hot Food Takeaways	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; the proximity of hot food takeaways to schools does not affect European sites.
INF1 Delivering Infrastructure	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; the assessment of new infrastructure developments does not affect European sites.
FR1 Managing Flood Risk	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; managing flood risks does not affect European sites.
FR2 Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and Integrated Flood Risk Management	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; the requirement for sustainable drainage systems within new developments does not affect European sites.
FR3 Protecting and Enhancing Watercourses	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; protecting and enhancing watercourses does not affect European sites.
NE1 Protection of Sites	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; protection of nature conservation sites has the potential to enhance local biodiversity and value of these designations to European sites.
NE2 Protected Species and Priority Species and Habitats	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; protection of protected species, and priority species and habitats does not affect European sites.
NE3 Biodiversity and Geological Enhancement	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; the provision of biodiversity and geological enhancement features does not affect European sites.
NE4 Green Infrastructure	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; the provision of green infrastructure does not affect European sites.
NE5 Conserving and Enhancing Landscape Character	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; conserving and enhancing landscape character does not affect European sites.
NE6 Environmental Pollution	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; preventing an increase in environmental pollution does not affect European sites.
HE2 Development Proposals Directly or Indirectly Affecting Heritage Assets	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; promoting the sustaining and enhancement of heritage assets does not affect European sites.

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L1 Facilities Acceptable in the Parks	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; the provision of leisure and recreation facilities within the parks system does not affect European sites.
L2 Protection of Open Space and Existing Facilities	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; the protection of public open spaces and existing features does not affect European sites.
L3 Change of Use Amenity Open Space	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; the criterion to allow for change of use of amenity spaces does not affect European sites.
L4 Public Open Space Provision in New Estates	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; providing open space on new estates can reduce recreational pressure on European sites.
L5 Horse Related Development	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; assessing horse related developments does not affect European sites.
L6 Criteria for the Location of Water Sports	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; assessing the location of water sports developments does not affect European sites.
L7 Criteria for the Location of Noisy Sports	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; assessing the location of noisy sports developments does not affect European sites.
L8 Milton Keynes Bowl	No LSE – the Milton Keynes Bowl is 23km from the nearest sensitive European site (Chiltern Beechwoods SAC).
D1 Designing a High Quality Place	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; development design standards do not affect European sites.
D2 Creating a Positive Character	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; the character design of a development does not affect European sites.
D3 Design of Buildings	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; the appearance and design of buildings does not affect European sites.
D4 Amenity and Street Scene	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; the requirement for amenity space and the protection of said space on new developments does not affect European sites.

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D5 Granny Annexes	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; the criterion for granny annex developments does not affect European sites.
D5 Canalside Development	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; assessing canalside developments does not affect European sites.
D6 Mains and Telecommunications Services	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; the requirement for new electricity, telecommunications or broadband services to be provided underground does not affect European sites.
D7 Temporary Buildings	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; assessing the need for temporary buildings does not affect European sites.
CC1 Percent for Art	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; the percentage capital cost allocated to the arts via new developments does not affect European sites.
CC2 Location of Community Facilities	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; development of community facilities does not affect European sites.
CC3 Protection of Community Facilities	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; the protection of community facilities does not affect European sites.
CC5 New Community Facilities	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; development of new community facilities does not affect European sites.
CC4 Childcare Facilities	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; development of childcare facilities does not affect European sites.
CC6 Burial and Memorial Grounds	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; assessing planning applications for burial and memorial grounds does not affect European sites.
SC1 Sustainable Construction	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; promoting sustainable construction does not affect European sites.
SC3 Community Energy Networks and Large Scale Renewable Energy Schemes	No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; community energy schemes do not affect European sites.

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SC4 Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Generation

No LSE – no impact mechanism exists; promoting low carbon and renewable energy generation that avoids significant harm to wildlife species or habitats does not affect European sites.

