

**Norwich Research Park
Development Brief
Supplementary Planning Document**

**Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic
Environmental Assessment**

**SCOPING REPORT
(CONSULTATION VERSION)**

**Prepared for
South Norfolk Council**

**by
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I. INTRODUCTION

- I.1. Norwich Research Park (NRP) at Colney currently includes two hospitals and five research institutes, providing research and training in biological, chemical and environmental sciences, with a particular emphasis on food research. The South Norfolk Local Plan¹ allocates land to the west of Colney Lane, which is adjacent to existing research and academic institutions, and the new Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, for additional research and development uses. 15 hectares of land at Colney Hall is also allocated for these uses. The location of NRP and the allocated sites for additional development are presented in **Figure I.1**.
- I.2. The Local Plan requires a Development Brief to be prepared for NRP, which will set the principles and parameters for the development of NRP on land allocated for additional research and development uses. The Development Brief will eventually be adopted as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Land Use Consultants (LUC) in conjunction with Sheppard Robson Architects were appointed by South Norfolk Council to prepare this Development Brief.

SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL

- I.3. The preparation of the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD is being subject to a full Sustainability Appraisal (SA), in line with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and current planning policy guidance (PPS12). The SA of the SPD will also be in accordance with the requirements of European Directive 2001/42/EC (known as the Strategic Environment Assessment, or SEA Directive).
- I.4. The objective of SEA, as defined in Article 1 of the SEA Directive² is *'to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans....with a view to promoting sustainable development'*.
- I.5. The 2005 Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) guidance on Sustainability Appraisal³ ('SA Guidance') explains the difference between environmental assessments required under the SEA Directive and sustainability appraisal of development plans as required by the UK Government. There are many parallels but also some differences, and the guidance clearly shows how assessment to comply with the SEA Directive can be integrated with current practice on sustainability appraisal. Simply put, sustainability appraisal includes a wider range of considerations, extending to social and economic impacts of plans, whereas SEA is more focussed on environmental impacts. The SA guidance describes how it is possible to satisfy both requirements through a single appraisal process undertaking a combined SA and SEA.

¹ The South Norfolk Local Plan was adopted in 2003 and runs until mid 2006. South Norfolk Council is preparing their Local Development Framework which will eventually replace the South Norfolk Local Plan.

² Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. European Parliament and Council of the European Union (2001).

³ Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents. Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, November 2005.

Norwich Research Park Supplementary Planning Document SA/SEA

Figure 1.1: Context

Key

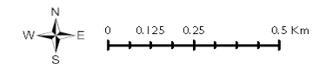
- Existing development
- Allocated sites for research & development uses

Local Plan Allocations:

- Policy EMP1: Employment land allocations
- Policy COL1: research & development uses at NRP
- Policy COL2: Norwich Research Park, contingency reserve
- Policy COL4 Expansion of the new Norfolk and Norwich Hospital

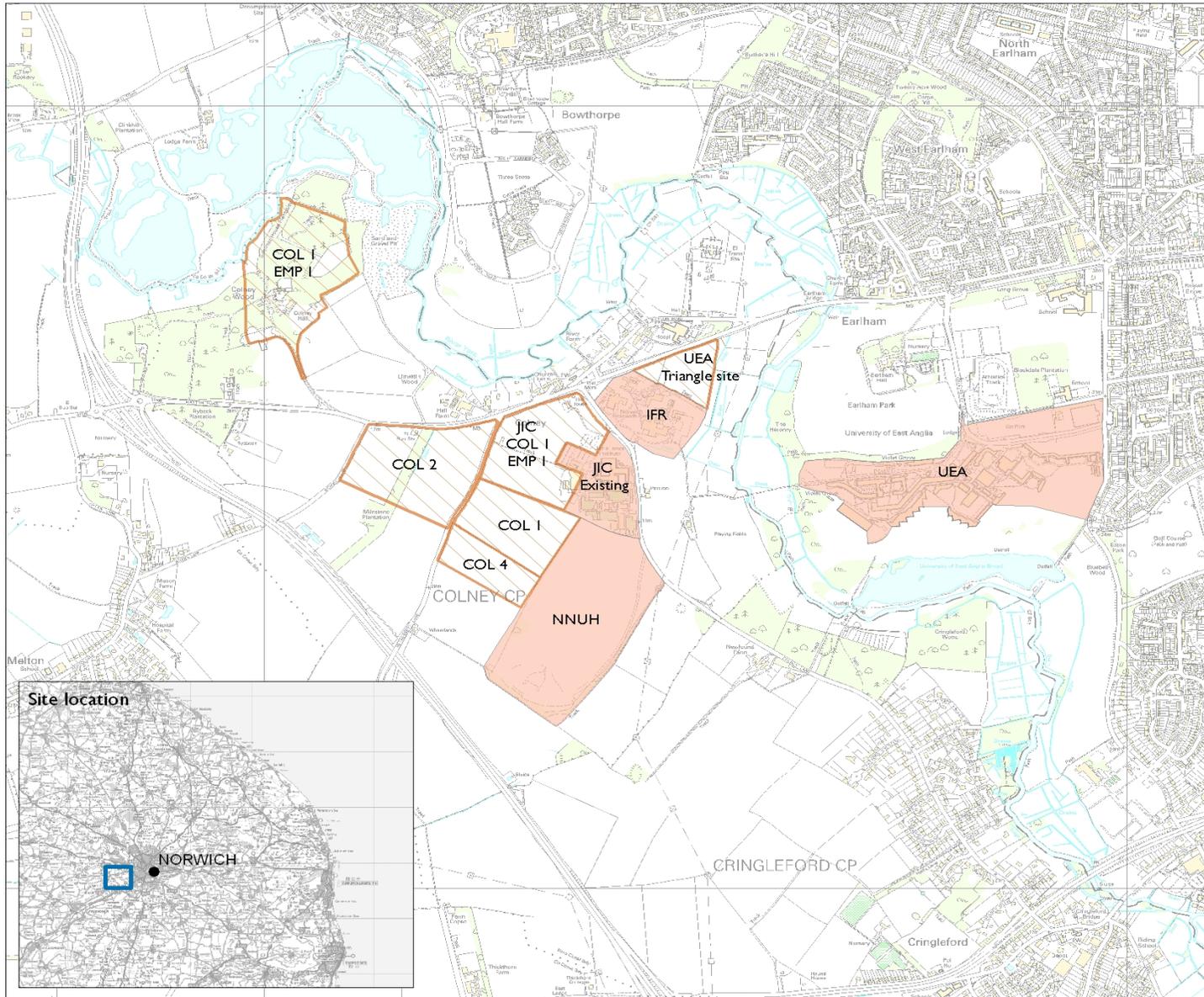
Abbreviations:

- JIC: John Innes Centre
- UEA: University of East Anglia
- IFR: Institute of Food Research
- NNUH: Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital



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- 1.6. In addition to preparing the development brief for NRP, LUC is also undertaking the combined SA and SEA of the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD. The stages of the SA/SEA and tasks involved are described below. To date, LUC has undertaken Stage A and has started preliminary tasks of Stage B.
- 1.7. Throughout this report, the term 'SA' is used to refer to SA incorporating SEA.

Stages and tasks in Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.8. The ODPM's SA Guidance introduces the SA process and explains how to carry out SA as an integral part of the plan-making process. **Table 1.1** sets out the main stages of the plan-making process and shows how these link to the SA/SEA process.

Table 1.1 Corresponding stages in plan-making and SA/SEA

SPD process	Stages and tasks	
SPD Stage 1: Pre-production (Evidence gathering)	Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope	
	A1: Identifying other relevant plans, programmes, and sustainability objectives	To document how the SPD is affected by outside factors and suggest ideas for how any constraints can be addressed.
	A2: Collecting baseline information	To provide an evidence base for sustainability issues, effects prediction and monitoring.
	A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems	To help focus the SA and streamline the subsequent stages.
	A4: Developing the SA Framework	To provide a means by which the sustainability of the SPD can be appraised
	A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA	To consult with statutory bodies to ensure the appraisal covers the key sustainability issues.
SPD Stage 2: Production – Prepare draft SPD	Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects	
	B1: Testing the SPD objectives against the SA Framework	To ensure that the overall objectives of the SPD are in accordance with sustainability principles and provide a suitable framework for developing options
	B2: Developing the SPD options	To assist in the development and refinement of the options, by identifying potential sustainability effects of options for achieving the SPD objectives
	B3: Predicting the effects of the draft SPD	To predict the significant effects of the SPD and SDP options
	B4: Evaluating the effects of the draft SPD	To assess the significance of the predicted effects of the SPD and SPD options and assist in the refinement of the SPD
	B5: Mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects	To ensure all potential mitigation measures and measures for maximising beneficial effects are considered and as a result residual effects identified

SPD process	Stages and tasks	
SPD Stage 3: Adoption	B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the SPD	To detail the means by which the sustainability performance of the SPD can be assessed
	Stage C: Preparing the Environmental Report	
	C1: Preparing the SA Report	To provide a detailed account of the SA process, including the findings of the appraisal and how it influenced the development of the SPD, in a format suitable for public consultation and decision-makers
	Stage D: Consulting on the SPD and SA Report	
	D1: Public participation on the draft SPD and the SA Report	To provide the public and statutory bodies with an effective opportunity to express their opinions on the SA Report and to use it as a reference point in commenting on the SPD
	D2: Appraising significant changes	To ensure that any significant changes to the SPD are assessed for their sustainability implications and influence the revision of the SPD
	D3: Making decisions and providing information	To provide information on how the SA Report and consultees' opinions were taken into account in preparing the SPD
	Stage E: Monitoring implementation of the SPD	
	E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring	To measure the sustainability performance of the SPD in order to determine whether its effects are as anticipated, and thereby inform future revisions
	E2: Responding to adverse effects	Ensure that the adverse effects can be identified and appropriate responses developed

RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SA OF THE CORE STRATEGY

- I.9. South Norfolk Council is preparing the South Norfolk Local Development Framework (LDF), as required, in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act. The Council is currently undertaking the SA of the LDF, including the Core Strategy and Site Specific Proposals. The SA Scoping Report (Consultation Draft) for the LDF was published in December 2005, and a SA Scoping Report Update was prepared in May 2006, which revised the Scoping Report taking into consideration comments made during the consultation period. These documents include much information of relevance to the SA of the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD.
- I.10. The ODPM's SA guidance⁴ states that, in most cases, the SA of SPDs will draw extensively on appraisals undertaken at the higher level of policies within the Development Plan (para. 4.1.10). It is anticipated that when producing the SA on

⁴ *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents*. Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, November 2005.

SPDs, SA material from a RSS revision, DPD or other SPD will be used, particularly for Stage A of the process (**Table I.1**). This approach is being followed in the preparation of the SA Scoping Report for the Draft Development Brief SPD, which draws heavily on the LDF SA Scoping Report prepared by South Norfolk Council. Those elements that are being used to feed into the SA Scoping Report of the Draft Development Brief SPD include:

- The list and review of relevant plans and programmes to the South Norfolk LDF, as presented in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 of the LDF SA Scoping Report.
- Baseline information providing the context of South Norfolk, as presented in Section 3 of the LDF SA Scoping Report.
- Key sustainability issues for South Norfolk, as presented in Section 4.
- The SA Framework presented in Section 5 and Appendices 4-7 of the LDF SA Scoping Report.

I.11. All extracts from the LDF SA Scoping Report are clearly referenced throughout this report.

AIM AND STRUCTURE OF THE SCOPING REPORT

I.12. This Scoping Report sets out the scope of the SA of the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD. The report and its consultation represent the outputs of all tasks in Stage A (**Table I.1**). Stage A of the SA sets the context for the appraisal and involves collection of baseline information, reviewing relevant plans and programmes and identification of significant sustainability issues for the SPD. In addition, an 'SA Framework', or set of sustainability objectives and indicators has been adopted against which the various components of the SPD will be appraised.

I.13. In preparing this Scoping Report, LUC has addressed the requirements set out in Annex I of the SEA Directive for the information that must be provided in the Environmental Report (which will be included in the SA Report as part of this combined SA and SEA). The requirements have been extended to include social and economic characteristics, problems and objectives in accordance with the Government's SA Guidance. The information required in Annex I that has been included in this Scoping Report is as follows⁵:

- (a) *an outline of the contents, main objectives of the plan and relationship with other relevant plans and programmes;*
- (b) *the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan;*
- (c) *the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;*
- (d) *any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as*

⁵ The additional requirements in Annex I will be addressed in subsequent stages of the SA/SEA and included in the Sustainability Report.

areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC [the 'Birds Directive'] and 92/43/EEC [the 'Habitats Directive'];

- (e) the environmental protection objectives, established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation.
- (f) the likely significant effects on the environment [of the strategic options being considered], 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.

- I.14. This Scoping Report is being published for consultation to provide the statutory Consultation Bodies⁶ and stakeholders with an opportunity to express their opinions on whether the scope of the SA covers the key sustainability issues to appropriately assess the environmental, economic and social implications of the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD. The consultation period runs from May to July 2006. Consultees may also identify any significant gaps in the information gathered so that steps can be taken to remedy these before the preferred options are selected and developed within the SPD. Responses from the consultees will be addressed in the subsequent stages of the SA, and documented in the SA Report.

Structure of the Scoping Report

- I.15. This Chapter (**Chapter 1**) describes the purpose and process of the SA and provides the background to the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD preparation to date. The remainder of this report is structured into the following sections:

Chapter 2 – Sustainability requirements of relevant plans and programmes – discusses the review of other relevant international, national, regional, sub-regional and local plans and strategies to identify their key sustainability objectives and their relationship to the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD.

Chapter 3 – Sustainability context for NRP – characterises the key features of NRP from the baseline information gathered and summarises its key sustainability issues.

Chapter 4 – SA Framework – sets out the development and organisation of the SA Framework.

Chapter 5 – Next steps – describes how the SA Framework should be used in the subsequent stages of the SA and sets out a proposed structure for the final SA Report.

THE DRAFT NRP DEVELOPMENT BRIEF SPD

- I.16. The South Norfolk Local Development Scheme (LDS) presents a SPD Schedule (Appendix 3) and summarises the purpose of and process for preparing SPDs. It

⁶ The statutory environmental bodies that are required to be consulted on the scope of SA are the Countryside Agency, English Heritage, English Nature and the Environment Agency.

identifies that a SPD is to be prepared for NRP, which should establish a vision for and guide future development of the research park.

- I.17. Therefore, the draft purpose of the development brief SPD is *to set principles and parameters for the development of NRP on land allocated in the Development Plan*. The SPD needs to provide appropriate over-arching principles without unduly restricting subsequent design. It seeks to answer the question as to the type and quantity of development, its location, the design principles which should be adopted, and any identified limitations.

2. SUSTAINABILITY REQUIREMENTS OF RELEVANT PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Annex I of the SEA Directive requires:

- (a) *‘an outline of the...relationship with other relevant plans or programmes’*, and
- (e) *‘the environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation’*.

- 2.1. The first stage of SA involves identifying plans and programmes which are relevant to the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD. The SA Scoping Report for the South Norfolk LDF identified a large number of international and national level plans and programmes referred to in the SEA Directive, as well as relevant regional and local plans and strategies, in accordance with Annex 5 of the ODPM’s SA Guidance⁷. A small number of additional plans and programmes have been identified in this SA Scoping Report, largely based on comments received from stakeholder feedback on the LDF SA Scoping Report. The full list of plans and programmes considered to be relevant to the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD is summarised in **Table 2.1**.
- 2.2. To fulfil requirement (e) in Annex I of the SEA Directive, plans and programmes considered relevant to the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD need to be reviewed to:
- identify the main purpose of the plan;
 - describe any environmental or sustainability objectives and targets that it contains; and
 - document how the SA will ensure that they have been taken into account in the preparation of the NRP Development Brief SPD.
- 2.3. The majority of the plans and programmes in **Table 2.1** have been reviewed as part of the LDF SA Scoping Report. The LDF SA assumes that higher tier plans direct the content of those below them and so have been specifically addressed as part of the SA of the Draft East of England Plan. Therefore, assessments were not given for these documents. The same approach has been taken in this SA Scoping Report; those higher tier plans for which assessments are not provided are denoted with an ‘R’ in the last column of **Table 2.1**. The documents that were reviewed as part of the LDF SA Scoping Report are denoted with an ‘LDF’ in the last column of **Table 2.1** and their review is presented in **Appendix I**. The plans and programmes that have been reviewed as part of this SA Scoping Report are denoted with a ‘*’ in the final column of **Table 2.1**.

⁷ SA Scoping Report of South Norfolk Council Local Development Framework (December 2005). South Norfolk Council. Pages 41-43.

2.4. The reviews of relevant plans and programmes are presented in **Appendix I** to this SA Scoping Report. The review of those additional plans and programmes identified in this SA Scoping Report are highlighted in light grey in **Appendix I**. Each review includes:

- The key objectives relevant to the Local Development Document and SA;
- Key targets and indicators;
- Implications of the plan for the Local Development Document; and
- Implications for the SA.

Table 2.1 List of plans, programmes and sustainability policy objectives relevant to the NRP SPD

Plan, programme, sustainability policy objective	
International	
The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), Johannesburg Declaration (2002)	LDF
The Kyoto Protocol and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)	R
The UN Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) (2000)	R
The Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)	R
The Bonn Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (1979)	R
The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (1971)	R
EC Council Directive 75/442/EEC: Waste Directive (1975)	R
EC Council Directive 76/160/EEC: Bathing Water Quality (1976)	R
EC Council Directive 79/409/EEC: The Conservation of Wild Birds (1979)	R
EC Council Directive 85/337/EEC and 97/11/EC: Effects of Certain Public and Private Projects on the Environment Directive (1985 and 1997)	R
EC Council Directive 91/271/EEC: Urban Waste Water Treatment (1991)	R
EC Council Directive 91/676/EEC: Water Pollution Caused by Nitrates from Agricultural Sources: Nitrates (1991)	R
EC Council Directive 92/43/EEC: The Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (1992) (The Habitats Directive)	R
EC Council Directive 94/62/EC: Packaging and Packaging Waste (1994)	R
EC Council Directive 96/62/EC: Air Quality Framework Directive (1996) with successive Daughter Directives (1999-2002)	R
EC Council Directive 96/82/EC: Hazardous Substances Directive	R
EC Council Directive 98/83/EC: Drinking Water Directive (1998)	R
EC Council Directive 1999/31/EC: The Landfill of Waste (1999)	R
EC Council Directive 2000/60/EC: Water Framework Directive (2000)	LDF
EC Council Directive 2001/77/EC: The Promotion of Electricity from Renewable Energy (2001)	R
EC Council Directive 2003/30/EC: The Promotion of Bio-Fuels for Transport (2003)	R
National	
Choosing Health Public White Paper (2004)	LDF
Climate Change: the UK Programme (DETR 2000)	R

Plan, programme, sustainability policy objective	
Energy White Paper: Our Energy Future – creating a low carbon economy (DTI 2003)	LDF
Farming and Food Strategy: Facing the Future (Defra 2002)	R
National Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland (Defra 2000)	R
National Service Framework (NSF) for Older People (2001)	LDF
Rural Strategy (Defra 2004)	LDF
Rural White Paper: Our Countryside: The Future - A Fair Deal for Rural England (DETR 2000)	R
Saving Lives: Our Healthier Nation White Paper (DoH 1999)	LDF
Securing the Future: the UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)	LDF
State of Nature – Lowlands – Future Landscapes for Wildlife (English Nature 2004)	R
State of the Countryside Report (Countryside Agency 2005)	LDF
Strategy for Sustainable Farming and Food (Defra 2002)	LDF
Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future (ODPM 2003)	R
Tackling Health Inequalities -A programme for Action (2003)	LDF
Transport Ten Year Plan (Department of Transport 2000)	R
UK Waste Strategy (Defra 2000)	LDF
UK Biodiversity Steering Group – The UK Biodiversity Action Plan	LDF
Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981, as amended)	R
Working with the Grain of Nature – A Biodiversity Strategy For England (DEFRA 2002)	R
National: Planning Policy Guidance Notes and Planning Policy Statements	
Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Communities (ODPM 2005)	LDF
Planning Policy Guidance 2: Green Belts (DoE 1995)	R
Planning Policy Guidance 3: Housing (ODPM 2000)	LDF
Planning Policy Guidance 4: Industrial and Commercial development and Small Firms (2001)	LDF
Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning for Town Centres (ODPM 2005)	LDF
Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Communities (ODPM 2004)	LDF
Planning Policy Guidance 8: Telecommunications (2001)	LDF
Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (ODPM 2005)	LDF
Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management (ODPM 2005)	LDF
Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Development Frameworks (ODPM 2004)	LDF
Planning Policy Guidance 13: Transport (DETR 2001)	LDF
Planning Policy Guidance 14: Development on Unstable Land (1990)	LDF
Planning Policy Guidance 15: Planning and the Historic Environment (DoE 1994)	LDF
Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1993)	LDF
Planning Policy Guidance 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (2002)	LDF
Planning Policy Guidance 21: Tourism (1992)	R
Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy (ODPM 2004)	LDF
Planning Policy Statement 23: Planning and Pollution Control (ODPM 2004)	LDF
Planning Policy Guidance 24: Planning and Noise (1994)	LDF
Planning Policy Guidance 25: Development and Flood Risk (ODPM 2001)	LDF
Regional	
Affordable Housing Strategy: The Provision of Affordable Housing in the East of England 1996-2021 (2003)	R
Culture: A Catalyst for Change; A strategy for cultural development for the East of England	R

Plan, programme, sustainability policy objective	
(Living East 1999+)	
Draft RSS14: East of England Plan (EERA 2004)	LDF
East of England: The State of the Countryside (Countryside Agency 2004)	R
East of England European Strategy 2003-2004 (East of England European Partnership 2003)	R
East of England Regional Social Strategy (2004)	LDF
East of England Regional Waste Management Strategy (East of England Region Waste Technical Advisory Body 2002)	LDF
Framework for Regional Employment and Skills Action (FRESA) (EEDA, 2003)	R
Integrated Regional Strategy 'Sustainable Futures' (EERA 2005)	LDF
International Business Strategy; Consultation Draft (2003)	R
Living with Climate Change in the East Of England (East of England Sustainable Development Roundtable 2003)	R
Our Environment, Our Future: Regional Environment Strategy for the East of England (EERA and EEEF 2003)	LDF
Prioritisation in the East of England (2003)	R
Regional Economic Strategy (EEDA, 2001)	LDF
Regional Emphasis Document SR2004 (2003)	R
Regional Housing Strategy for the East of England: Strategy Document 2005-2010 (EERA 2005)	LDF
Regional Planning Guidance for East Anglia (GOEAST 2000)	LDF
Regional Social Strategy (EERA 2003)	R
Regional Sustainable Development Framework (2001)	R
Regional Transport Strategy (2004)	R
Regional Waste Strategy (Regional Waste Technical Advisory Body 2002)	R
Sustainable Communities in the East of England (ODPM 2003)	LDF
Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England (EERA 2001)	LDF
Sustainable Tourism Strategy for the East of England – Draft (East of England Tourist Board 2004)	LDF
Towards Sustainable Construction, A Strategy for the East of England (EP, CE, GO-E, PECT 2003)	R
Towns and Cities Strategy and Action Plan, Urban Renaissance in the East of England (2003)	R
Water Resources for the future: A Strategy for Anglian Region (Environment Agency, 2001)	R
Woodland for Life: The Regional Woodland Strategy for the East of England (EERA & the Forestry Commission, 2003)	R
County	
Municipal Waste Strategy for Norfolk (2002)	LDF
Norfolk Ambition: The Community Strategy for Norfolk 2003-2023 (2003)	LDF
Norfolk Biodiversity Action Plan (2004)	LDF
Norfolk Biodiversity SPG	LDF
Norfolk Live - Cultural Strategy –2005 – 2010 (2005)	LDF
Norfolk Local Transport Plan 2000-2005	LDF
Norfolk Minerals Local Plan (2004, final publication pending)	LDF
Norfolk Residential Design Guide (1998)	LDF
Norfolk State of the Environment Report (2003)	LDF
Norfolk Structure Plan 2003 (1999)	LDF
Norfolk Waste Local Plan (2000, currently under review)	LDF

Plan, programme, sustainability policy objective	
Shaping the Future: Towards a Strategy for Social Cohesion in Norfolk (2000)	LDF
River catchment	
Broadland Rivers Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP)	*
Broadland Rivers Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (Environment Agency 2006)	*
District	
Crime Reduction Strategy (2003)	LDF
Corporate Equality Plan (2003)	LDF
Economic Development Strategy (2004)	LDF
Empty Homes Strategy (2003)	LDF
Environment Strategy (Draft 2005)	LDF
Health Strategy (Draft 2005)	LDF
Housing Strategy (2004)	LDF
Landscape Assessments by LUC (2000 and updated)	LDF
Leisure/Culture & Countryside Strategy (Draft 2005)	LDF
Local Agenda 21 Strategy (2000)	LDF
South Norfolk Alliance – Community Strategy (2004)	LDF
South Norfolk Cycling Strategy (2005)	LDF
Strategy for travellers and gypsies in Norfolk (2005-2008)	LDF
The Broads Plan	LDF
Tourism Strategy (2004)	LDF
Towards Stronger Communities: South Norfolk's Strategy for Community Cohesion, Diversity, Social Inclusion and Participation (Draft 2005)	LDF

- 2.5. When considering the review of plans and programmes, it is important to recognise that no list of plans and programmes can be exhaustive. New and revised plans and programmes emerge on a regular basis. The review of plans and programmes seeks to identify the key plans and programmes currently in place and to distil key messages from these. Those preparing the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD and undertaking the SA will keep up-to-date with any changes to relevant plans and programmes and the review will be checked and revised later in the SA process.

3. SUSTAINABILITY CONTEXT FOR NRP

Annex I of the SEA Directive requires information to be provided on:

- (b) *The relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan;*
- (c) *The environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected;*
- (d) *Any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC [the ‘Birds Directive’] and 92/43/EEC (the ‘Habitats Directive’).*

- 3.1. As part of undertaking a SA incorporating the requirements of the SEA Directive, the requirement for baseline information has been extended from just addressing the environmental baseline, to also include the relevant aspects of the social and economic current state, characteristics and problems relevant to the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD.
- 3.2. As noted in **Chapter 1: Introduction**, this SA Scoping Report draws heavily on the LDF SA Scoping Report, particularly for Stage A of the SA process. As such, baseline information characterising South Norfolk Council, as presented as part of the LDF SA Scoping Report, is used to provide the context for NRP. Additional information relevant to NRP is also presented, providing a site specific characterisation.

SUSTAINABILITY ISSUES

- 3.3. Collation of existing environmental and sustainability data has helped to identify the sustainability issues that are facing the local area (set out in the following paragraphs), and therefore helps to establish the sustainability context for the appraisal of the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD. The data for NRP is discussed below under the headings of the first three of the five guiding principles of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy:
 - Living within environmental limits.
 - Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society.
 - Achieving a sustainable economy.
- 3.4. It is recognised however that many of the issues are cross-cutting and do not fit neatly into just one of the topics. The aim is not to present all issues relevant to the character of NRP, but to draw out those that are particularly significant and relevant to the preparation of the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD, and the SA process.
- 3.5. The likely implications for the SPD is set out in relation to the key sustainability issues identified in a table at the end of each section.

CHARACTERISATION OF SOUTH NORFOLK

- 3.6. The LDF SA Scoping Report characterises South Norfolk by presenting information on its population, ethnic profile, health and education, crime, employment, deprivation, housing, geographic setting, biodiversity, landscapes, built heritage, climate change and pollution, and reducing the risks from flooding. Information was then tabulated on each sustainability issue, describing the issue and the implications of that issue for the LDF. This baseline information is presented in **Appendix 2**.

South Norfolk Council: Key problems and issues

- 3.7. The key issues for South Norfolk that are relevant to the draft NRP Development Brief SPD, as identified in the LDF SA Scoping Report, are summarised in **Table 3.1** below, along with their implications for the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD.

Table 3.1 Key issues and problems for South Norfolk

Key issue	Likely evolution without the SPD/potential implications for the SPD
Living with environmental limits	
Protect sites of nature and natural conservation interest	Habitat and species loss and degradation associated with agricultural and land management practices could continue at NRP
Facilitate the healthy retention and growth of habitat sites at a time of increasing pressure	Absence of development at NRP could facilitate the retention of habitat sites. At the same time, sensitive landscaping and location of development at NRP could create additional habitat sites
Location of new development will need to consider genuine potential for more sustainable transport improvements in order to reduce contributions to climate change	Development at NRP is likely to improve sustainable transport provision
Reduce the effects of traffic on the environment	Traffic generation is likely to increase as an issue in the local area as population increases
Ensure maximum potential for use of public transport	Development at NRP is likely to improve sustainable transport provision
Minimise risks to development from the effects of climate change	Reducing the vulnerability of development to climate change is likely to continue as an issue in the local and wider area
Promote the installation of renewable energy solutions	The need for the use of renewable energy solutions is likely to continue as an issue in the local area
Avoid the use of currently undeveloped land if at all possible and maximise use of brownfield land	Absence of development at NRP will conserve existing undeveloped land and maintain existing land use as agricultural. However, pressure from population growth could increase demand on this currently undeveloped land
Ensure development retains landscape	Absence of development is likely to maintain

Key issue	Likely evolution without the SPD/potential implications for the SPD
character	the existing quality of the landscape at NRP. However, population growth could increase pressure on landscapes
Protect cultural heritage and consider the implications of new development on the historic nature of the district	The historic environment at Colney Hall is likely to remain as it is in the absence of the SPD
Provide for sustainable use and sources of water supply	There is already a water supply issue in South Norfolk
Promote the sustainable use of natural resources and sustainable disposal of waste	Whilst the absence of development at NRP will conserve existing natural resources, other pressures from population growth could increase demand on natural resources. The production of waste is likely to increase with or without the implementation of the SPD, through pressures of population growth
Ensuring a strong, health and just society	
Support a range of employment types across the whole District	Likely to improve with the implementation of the SPD, through the generation of research and development employment opportunities
Encourage local job opportunities and vocational training resources	The development of allocated sites at NRP is likely to encourage local job opportunities
Facilitate healthy lifestyles through open space provision and walking and cycling	Likely to improve with the implementation of the SPD, through the encouragement of sustainable forms of transport and sensitive landscaping
Support the retention of local facilities	Likely to improve with the implementation of the SPD, providing an additional market for local facilities
Emphasise good design in the built environment	Likely to improve with the implementation of the SPD, through the use of sustainable design principles
Improve access to quality open spaces	Likely to improve with the implementation of the SPD through sensitive landscaping between individual developments and providing links to local footpaths and open spaces
Achieving a sustainable economy	
Ensure adequate employment land resources remain available for existing businesses and attracting new enterprise	Developing allocated land at NRP is likely to provide additional space for existing businesses and attract new enterprise
Recognise the importance of emerging industries and improve prospects for new business start-ups	Likely to improve with the implementation of the SPD

Key issue	Likely evolution without the SPD/potential implications for the SPD
Encourage sustained economic growth	Likely to improve with the implementation of the SPD, through the provision of inward investment, employment opportunities and training opportunities

CHARACTERISATION OF NRP

- 3.8. Whilst the baseline information presented as part of the LDF SA Scoping Report provides the context for the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD, site specific information is also presented to help appraise the effects of the SPD. Following a summary of the context to NRP, the baseline information at the site level is discussed below under the headings of the first three of the five guiding principles of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy.

Context

- 3.9. NRP is located on the urban fringe of Norwich city and lies immediately outside the city boundary on the south-west side of the River Yare opposite the University of East Anglia campus. There are two components which make up NRP. These are presented in **Figure 1.1** and consist of:
1. The existing series of developments; and
 2. Areas allocated for research and development uses as part of the South Norfolk Local Plan.

Existing development

- 3.10. Existing development east of the Yare consists primarily of the John Innes Centre (JIC), Food Research Institute (FRI) and the Norwich and Norfolk University Hospital (NNUH). These developments occupy land to the east of areas zoned for the extension of the NRP.
- 3.11. The JIC is characterised by reasonably high density single to 3-4 storey buildings in a range of styles and ages. The buildings that constitute the FRI have a more integrated expression and are set at lower density in landscaped grounds to the north of the JIC. The Triangle site to the north is currently undeveloped but has road access and is ready for development to proceed. The NNUH is by far the biggest component both in site area and floor space and consists of a single design central spine of buildings with orbital access road and extensive perimeter parking.

Areas allocated as part of the South Norfolk Local Plan

- 3.12. The newly allocated areas for expansion comprise:
- Colney Hall (15ha) (COL1)
 - Land east of John Innes Centre (COL1)

- Land east of Hethersett Lane and south of the Watton Road (COL2)
 - Land zoned for hospital expansion east of the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital (5ha) (COL4)
- 3.13. The Draft NRP Development Brief SPD provides a framework for development for these allocated areas for expansion. The last three allocations are adjacent to each other and are referred to as the *main site* throughout the characterisation. The Colney Hall component is referred to as the *Colney Hall site*.

Living within environmental limits

Landscape

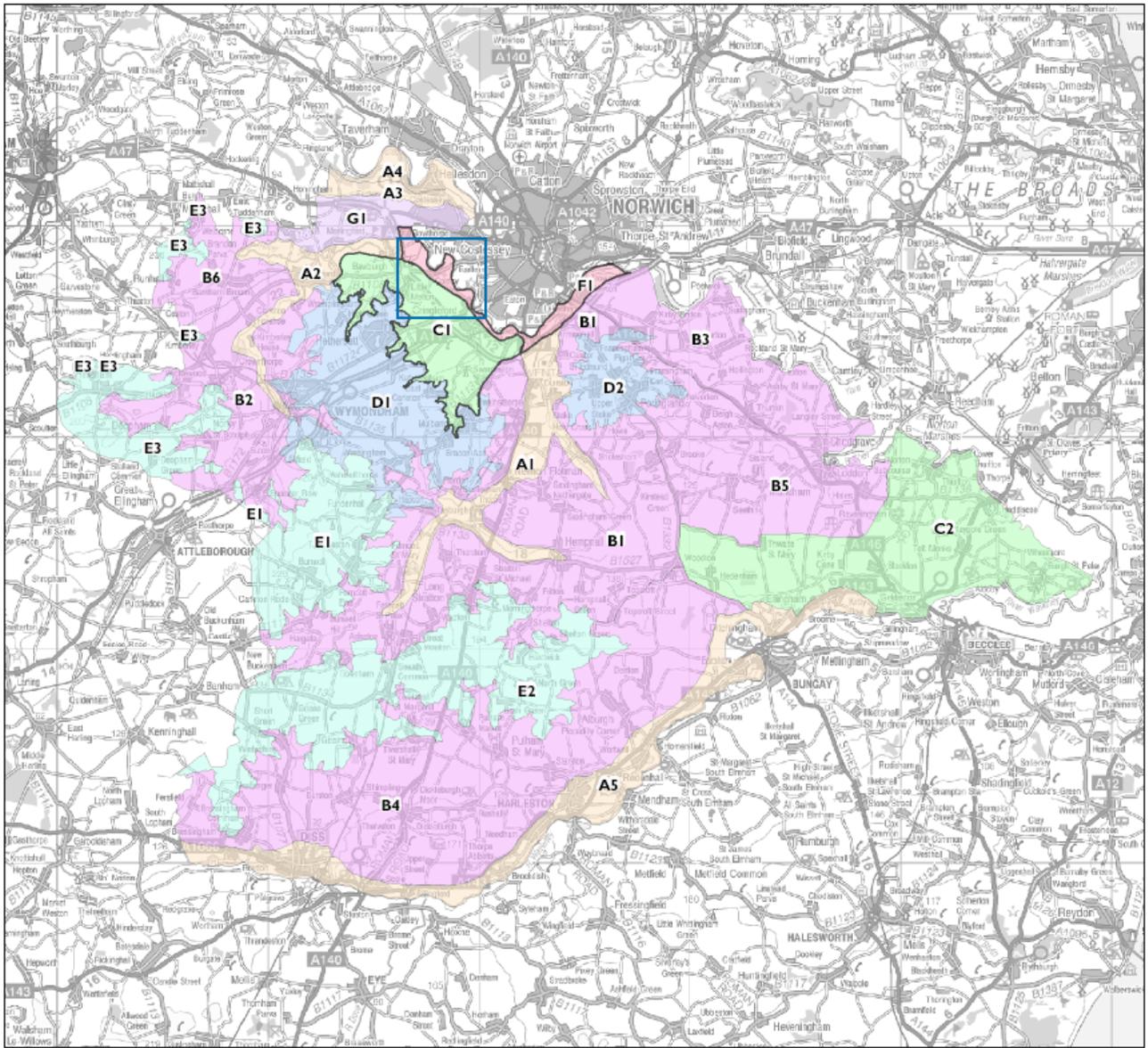
- 3.14. The South Norfolk landscape has been described as one of subtle contrasts and restrained beauty with landscapes ranging from the exhilarating openness of the farmed plateaux to the peaceful rural quality of the valleys. A Landscape Character Assessment for South Norfolk was carried out in 2001, and is currently being updated by LUC. This Assessment identifies Landscape Types (which are generic and share common combinations of geology, topography, vegetation and human influences) and Character Areas (which are single and unique, discrete geographical areas of a landscape type).
- 3.15. According to the Landscape Character Assessment, NRP falls within two Character Areas within two different Landscape Types. These are shown in **Figure 3.1** and are described below:

Yare Valley Urban Fringe Character Area, within the Valley Urban Fringe Landscape Type: this accounts for a small part of the north of NRP. The area is significant in that it provides an open and distinctive boundary with the City boundary. Its particular characteristics are its valley form, which is relatively unusual for South Norfolk, and its woodland and waterways (although no waterways are within the NRP area).

Yare Tributary Farmland with Parkland, within the Tributary Farmland with Parkland: the bulk of the NRP allocation is covered by this character area which is characterised by arable landscapes, intermittent long views to the city of Norwich and a gently undulating topography.

Landscape Character

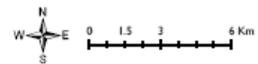
- 3.16. The main site in particular is characterised by its open nature with broad views and relatively little sense of enclosure. This is exacerbated by the open gently rolling topography, relatively large fields and an absence of significant hedgerows. Its character is essentially agricultural although there is awareness of adjacent development – the NNUH and JIC visually, and the A47 and to a lesser extent the Watton Road, acoustically. Despite its urban fringe location, the site has a quiet integrity and is under arable crops.
- 3.17. Colney Hall has a more complex character stemming from a combination of more varied terrain and woodland cover providing a more intimate landscape, although the Hall and its immediate environs enjoy a fine south-easterly prospect.



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Figure 3.1: Landscape

- Key**
-  CI: Yare Tributary Farmland with Parkland
 -  FI: Yare Valley Urban Fringe
- Landscape Character Areas**
-  A: Rural River Valleys
 -  B: Tributary Farmland
 -  C: Tributary Farmland with Parkland
 -  D: Settled Plateau Farmland
 -  E: Plateau Farmland
 -  F: Valley Urban Fringe
 -  G: Fringe Farmland
 -  Development Area



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Landscape structure

- 3.18. The principal structural elements in the NRP area are the shelter belts and, to a lesser extent, the hedgerows of the main site; and the woodland of Colney Hall. These elements have greater significance because of the openness of the landscape. **Figure 3.2** presents the locations of scattered trees and significant hedgerows.
- 3.19. The shelter belts are generally dense mixed woodland of a single age. Milestone Plantation running north-south through the main site is the principal element. However there is a further network of belts planted adjacent to the A47 and to the west of Milestone Plantation. Although recently planted, these belts will have increasing significance in the landscape as they mature. These shelter belts are the result of efforts to mitigate the strong winds of the area. Prevailing winds are as usual from the south-west but the winter northerly and easterly winds have a particular 'bite' given the sea's proximity.
- 3.20. Elsewhere in the main site, specimen mature oaks with or without hedgerows provide a secondary structure giving a strong and distinctive 'countryside' character. A belt of poplars towards the north end of Hethersett Lane is significant but because of their species have lower value and shorter expected lifespan.
- 3.21. These elements have the effect of dividing the main site into a major portion east of Milestone Plantation with a sub area to the rear of the JIC; and a smaller area west of Milestone Plantation hemmed in between recently planted belts.
- 3.22. At Colney Hall woodland forms the principal landscape structure providing a dense envelope to the north and east half of the site. The quality of this woodland is variable with the plantation area at the centre being of significantly lower value. The western part of the site is characterised by the remnants of the Hall's designed landscape and includes a number of significant specimen trees, exotics and strategically placed tree groups.
- 3.23. Broadly speaking this divides Colney Hall into two landscape areas – those more open areas closer to the Hall; and areas of dense woodland to the north and east.

Topography, soils and drainage

- 3.24. With the exception of Colney Hall, all other areas have gentle gradients generally towards the north-east and the River Yare with none of the slopes posing issues for built development. By contrast the Colney Hall site is located on a south-east facing ridge with a relatively steep scarp slope descending to the Yare. Gradients on this scarp would preclude large-scale development.
- 3.25. Soils are generally light and free draining. Consequently there are few ditches or water courses.

River Valley and flooding

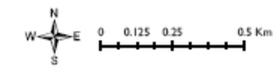
- 3.26. As illustrated in **Figure 3.2**, NRP is located within the Yare Valley and so is located close to the river floodplain. However, none of the existing developments or allocated sites are within flood risk areas according to the South Norfolk Local Plan.

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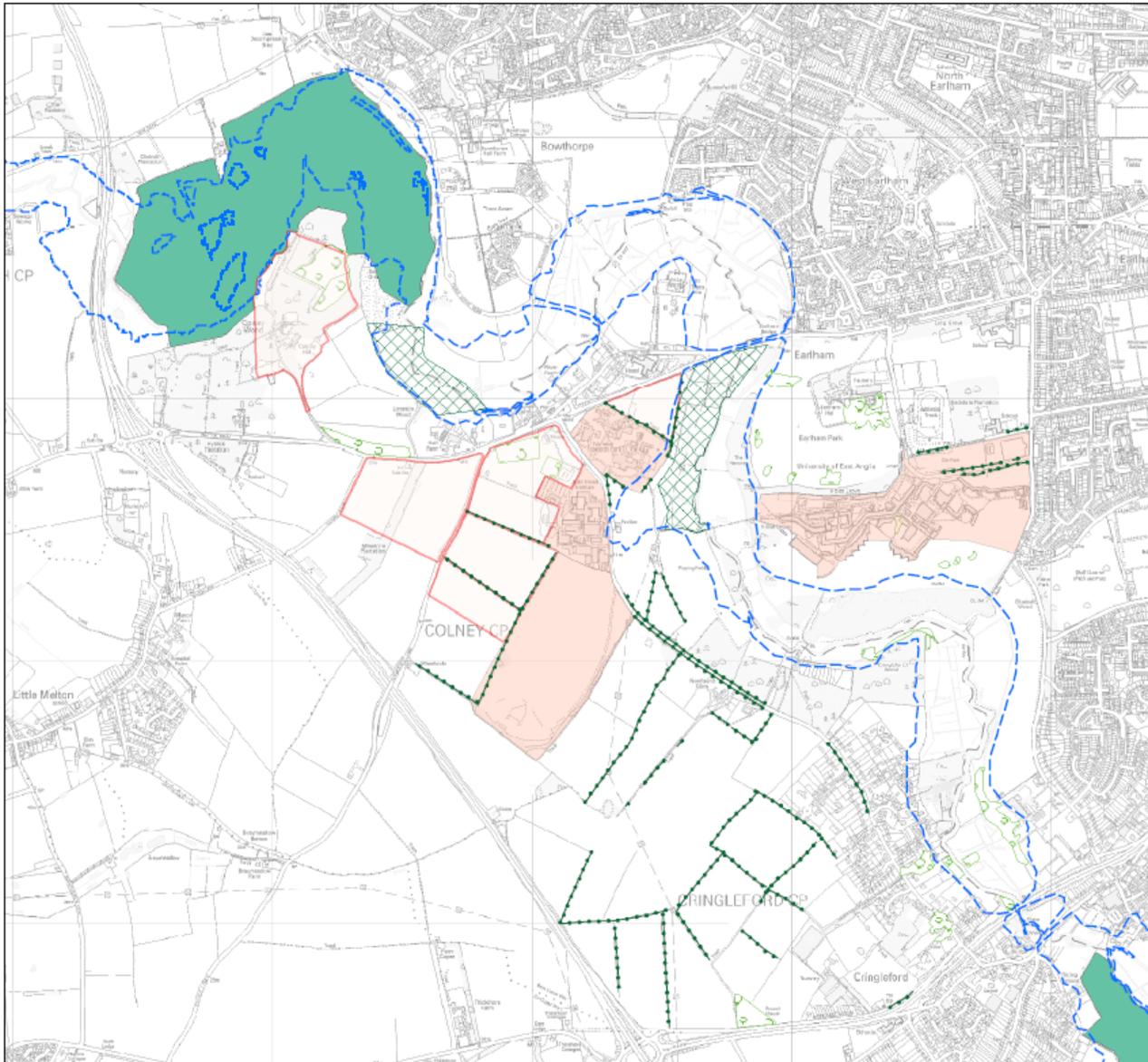
Figure 3.2: Landscape Structure

Key

-  Significant hedgerow
-  Meadow grazing
-  Scattered trees
-  River floodplain
- Policy ENV13:**
-  Sites of regional and local nature conversation interest and geologic/geomorphologic value
-  Existing development
-  Allocated sites for research & development uses



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However, surface run-off is expected to increase from development of the allocated sites, owing to the change in use from free draining fields to buildings and hardstandings.

Sites of nature conservation

- 3.27. Whilst there are no designated habitats of national or European importance that are in close proximity to NRP, the area includes a range of habitats that are important to the local area. These are mapped in **Figure 3.2** and include:
- Sites of regional and local nature conservation interest and geologic/geomorphologic value: there is one of these sites which borders Colney Hall and extends across the river floodplain.
 - Meadow grazing which borders sections of the River Yare.
 - Scattered trees and plantations. Owing to the density of the plantation, there is a relatively poorly developed ground flora, but is still expected to be important for bird life.
 - Significant hedgerows, which provide connectivity between habitats.

Heritage

- 3.28. Colney Hall is a Grade II listed building set within the remnant of a historic landscape, although the latter is not on the English Heritage Register of Parks and Gardens. Some of the parkland trees and exotics in the Hall's vicinity have additional heritage value. The walled garden and remains of ornamental rockwork east of the Hall have heritage value with parts of the former predating the current Hall.
- 3.29. The most significant historic element is, in many ways, the south-easterly prospect from the Hall.
- 3.30. There are no known elements of heritage value in the main site.

Water consumption and water resources

- 3.31. Discussions with Anglian Water have highlighted that the current water supply network in the area around NRP has reached capacity. The Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital has established a priority which identifies the mains water supply to Colney as a back-up should the primary supply and storage become compromised. Should a borehole be considered at NRP for water supply, the filtration of high-levels of nitrate in the ground water is expected to be a key issue.

Living within environmental limits: key problems and issues

- 3.32. The key problems and issues in NRP associated with living within environment limits are summarised in **Table 3.2**, along with their implications for the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD.

Table 3.2 Key issues and problems for living within environmental limits in NRP

Key issue	Likely evolution without the SPD/potential implications for the SPD
Development pressure on the open landscape and intermittent long views.	Whilst pressures on the landscape and long views are not likely to occur at NRP, they are likely to continue in the wider area as a result of other development.
Development pressure on landscape components including shelter belts, woodland, hedgerows and trees	Whilst pressures on landscape components are not likely to occur at NRP, they are likely to continue in the wider area as a result of other development.
Increased surface run-off and potential effects on the water quality of surrounding water bodies.	Surface run-off likely to increase as a result of development in the area. However, unlikely to increase at NRP without the SPD.
Habitat degradation and species disturbance	Habitat and species loss and degradation associated with agricultural and land management practices as well as development likely to continue.
Need to protect and enhance built heritage and its setting	The need to protect the built heritage is likely to continue.
High levels of water consumption	Likely to continue in the absence of policies to reduce water consumption.

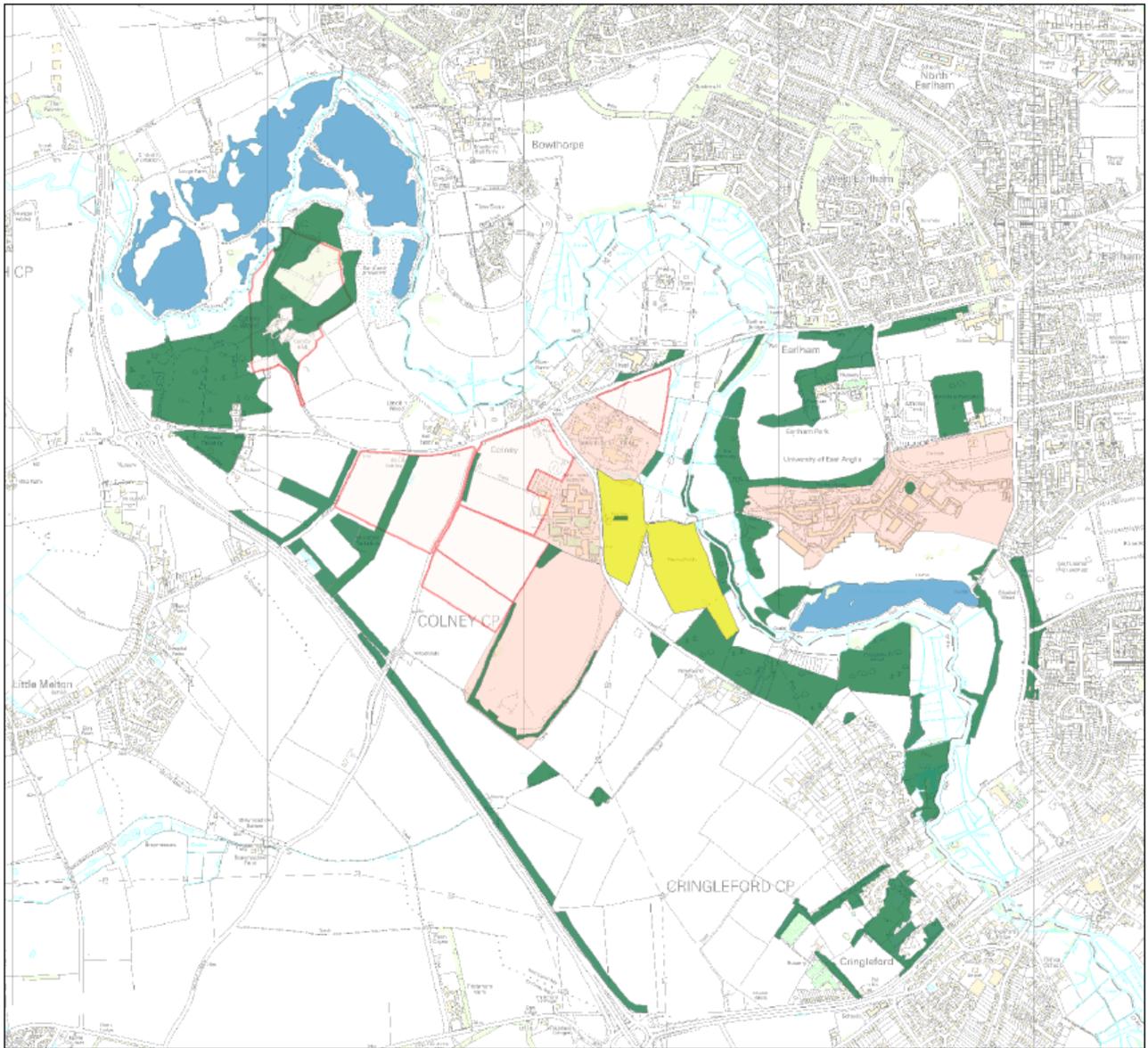
Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society

Access to recreational facilities and open space

- 3.33. There is a general lack of open space for recreational needs within the NRP area. Playing fields and areas of open water and woodland are presented in **Figure 3.3**. These areas are important for quality of life and health of the surrounding population.

Access

- 3.34. The sites are accessed principally by the Watton Road and its side roads, Hethersett Lane and Colney Lane. There is no direct access from the A47 bypass. Colney Hall is accessed by a private drive from the Watton Road. The Watton Road is characterised by relatively high traffic volumes particularly at peak times when it is close to capacity. Eastern parts of this road have been improved with signalised junctions and have an urban character. The western part is a relatively unimproved lane with adjacent hedgerows. There are plans to undertake minor safety-related improvements to this section.
- 3.35. Hethersett Lane is an unimproved lane and suffers from excess vehicle speeds and a 'difficult' junction with the Watton Road. Colney Lane has been upgraded as far as the NNUH entrance east of which the lane is a bus only route. A recently constructed road provides access to the Cringleford roundabout on the A47.



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Figure 3.3: Open Space

Key

- Playing fields
- Open water
- Woodland
- Existing development
- Allocated sites for research & development uses

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- 3.36. The cross valley link provides important pedestrian and cycle access between UEA and JIC/FRI/NNUH and the NRP main site. Whilst there is a further cycle path along the Watton Road to the Colney Lane junction and on parts of Colney Lane north, there is a general discontinuity of cycle paths. There are no known rights of way across either the main site or Colney Hall.

Traffic volumes

- 3.37. Whilst there is potential that additional traffic could be generated from the existing allocations and extensions offered through the SPD, there is potential for the SPD to minimise traffic generation and alleviate current traffic volume issues in the area.

Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society: key problems and issues

- 3.38. The key problems and issues in NRP associated with ensuring a strong, healthy and just society are summarised in **Table 3.3**, along with their implications for the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD.

Table 3.3 Key issues and problems for ensuring a strong, healthy and just society in NRP

Key issue	Likely evolution without the SPD/potential implications for the SPD
Lack of open space for recreational needs.	Likely to continue without the SPD, although this does depend on the landscaping schemes adopted as part of associated development proposals.
High traffic volumes around NRP, specifically on the Watton Road.	Additional traffic could be generated from the existing allocations and extensions offered through the SPD. However, the SPD offers opportunity to minimise traffic generation and alleviate current traffic issues in the area.
Discontinuity of cycle paths.	Likely to be addressed by the SPD, although this largely depends on the approach taken to sustainable forms of transport in the SPD.

Achieving a sustainable economy

Role of NRP in local economy

- 3.39. NRP plays a significant role in the South Norfolk and greater Norwich economy. In South Norfolk, for example, the three institutes at the NRP form part of just 5% of employers district-wide with more than 25 employees. The NRP has been established since the 1960s, growing into East Anglia's third largest employer with over 5000 staff. Together with the UEA, the NRP now jointly represents one of the largest concentrations in Western Europe of such biotechnical expertise.
- 3.40. Any expansion to the site is likely to increase the number of jobs available and enhance the status of the area as a business and research centre. The importance of the NRP to the region as a whole is acknowledged within the draft Regional Spatial

Strategy, being classified as a ‘strategic employment site’ in draft policy NSRI and E4, requiring land for expansion to be reserved ‘to support its role in biotechnology’.

Employment

- 3.41. In the south of the District, most of the land is used for agriculture and food related industry, giving this sector great influence despite employing only 15% of the workforce. Whilst unemployment in the district is low (2.9%) compared to the national average (4.5%), adult earnings are only 85% of the national average earnings, showing the reliance of the district on retail and manufacturing sectors.

Inward investment

- 3.42. Whilst there is a general lack of local information on inward investment in NRP, it is clear that the research park plays a key role in promoting investment in South Norfolk. For example, the district has one of the fastest growing economies in the UK, which is largely building on its strengths in science and technology, healthcare, engineering and food science, principally from the research park at Colney.

Achieving a sustainable economy: key problems and issues

- 3.43. The key problems and issues in NRP associated with achieving a sustainable economy are summarised in **Table 3.4**, along with their implications for the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD.

Table 3.4 Key issues and problems for achieving a sustainable economy

Key issue	Likely evolution without the SPD/potential implications for the SPD
Employment reliant on a few economic sectors.	The SPD is likely to diversify the economic and employment base.
NRP has a key role in inward investment in South Norfolk.	The SPD is likely to further promote inward investment in South Norfolk.

4. SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL FRAMEWORK

DEVELOPMENT OF SA OBJECTIVES

- 4.1. Development of an SA Framework provides a recognised way in which the sustainability effects of a plan can be described, analysed and compared. The SA Framework consists of a set of sustainability objectives which state desired outcomes⁸, accompanied by relevant targets (where these exist) and indicators to measure progress towards the objectives and/or target. SA objectives are distinct from the objectives of the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD (although there may be some overlap).
- 4.2. The SPD's performance in terms of sustainability will be appraised against the SA Framework. To maximise consistency between the appraisal process of the South Norfolk LDF and the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD it was decided, following a review of the SA Framework for the SA of the South Norfolk LDF, that the same SA Framework should be applied in the SA of the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD. **Figure 4.1** describes how the SA Framework for the SA of the South Norfolk LDF was devised.
- 4.3. The draft SA Framework for the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD is set out in **Table 4.1**. **Appendix 3** sets out the SA Framework in detail, including its objectives, sub-objectives and related indicators.

Figure 4.1 Devising the SA Framework⁹

The ODPM SA Guidance (November 2005) states that SA objectives should address the full cross-section of sustainability issues laid down by law or policy or in other plans and programmes and others devised specifically in relation to the context of the plan being prepared. This approach was applied in deriving the SA Framework for the SA of the South Norfolk LDF as the objectives were formulated after consideration of the sources reviewed under Stage A1 of the SA process (section 5.1).

The SA Scoping Report for the South Norfolk LDF sets out a series of 22 SA objectives, including 9 environmental, 8 social, and 5 economic objectives. Investigative questions are listed against each SA objective, to help identify the effects that policies, options or allocation of the South Norfolk LDF will have. It is noted in the Scoping Report of the SA of the South Norfolk LDF that these questions do not necessarily require individual answers and commentary, but rather seek to prompt lines of inquiry.

⁸ According to the ODPM SA Guidance, SA objectives should focus on outcomes (e.g. improved biodiversity), rather than the means of achieving it (e.g. protection of specific wildlife sites).

⁹ Adapted from **South Norfolk District Council Local Development Framework (Draft)**. South Norfolk Council, December 2005.

Table 4.1 NRP SPD Draft Sustainability Appraisal Framework

Draft SA Objective		Draft question/decision-making criteria
Environment		
ENV1	To maintain and enhance biodiversity, geodiversity, species and habitat quality, and avoid habitat fragmentation	Will it protect sites of nature conservation value from inappropriate development?
		Will it increase the number or diversity of sites of nature conservation interest?
		Will it bring negative effects to designated sites and what would this involve?
		Will it adversely affect sites of geological interest?
		Will it contribute to achieving BAP targets?
ENV2	To reduce vulnerability to climate change, including minimising the risks from flooding	Will it adversely affect sites of geological interest?
		Will it contribute to achieving BAP targets?
ENV3	To maximise the use of renewable energy solutions and reduce contributions to climate change	Will it contribute to achieving BAP targets?
		Will it encourage efficient use of energy?
		Is it promoting a sequential approach to the pattern of development?
		Will it reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases, including from traffic?
ENV4	To reduce the effect of traffic on the environment	Will it reduce traffic volumes?
		Will it reduce traffic congestion?
		Will it reduce the effect of HGV traffic on people and the environment?
		Will it increase the % of journeys using non-car modes?
ENV5	To improve air quality and minimise noise, vibration and light pollution	Will it reduce emissions of atmospheric pollution?
		Can it improve the ambiance of local areas?
ENV6	To maintain and enhance the distinctiveness and quality of landscapes, townscapes and the historic environment	Will it protect vulnerable and valued landscapes, or mitigate the effects of inappropriate development?
		Will it ensure that design is complementary to, or able to enhance, the character of local landscapes?
		Will it reduce the amount of derelict, degraded and under-used land?
		Will the District's heritage be preserved or enhanced?
ENV7	To minimise the loss of undeveloped land and conserve and improve the quality of soil resources	Will it avoid the use of productive agricultural land?
		Will it minimise the irreversible use of soil resources?
ENV8	To improve water qualities and provide for sustainable	Does it incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems?

Draft SA Objective		Draft question/decision-making criteria
	sources of supply and sustainable use	Will it reduce water consumption?
		Will the supply of water be efficient in terms of the overall network?
ENV9	To minimise the production of waste and increase recycling?	Will it result in less waste being produced or requiring disposal?
		Will it facilitate better community recycling facilities?
Social		
S1	To provide everybody with the opportunity to live in a decent, suitable and affordable home	Will it reduce homelessness?
		Will it increase the range and affordability and quality of housing stock for all social groups
S2	To reduce poverty, inequality and social exclusion	Will it reduce poverty and social exclusion in those areas most affected?
S3	To offer opportunities for all sections of the population to have rewarding and satisfying employment	Will it reduce unemployment overall?
		Will it improve earnings?
S4	To improve accessibility to essential services, facilities and the workplace, particularly for those most in need	Will it improve accessibility to key local services?
S5	To improve the education and skills of the population overall	Will it improve qualifications and skills of young people?
S6	To improve the health of the population overall	Will it reduce death rates?
		Will it improve access to high quality health facilities?
		Will it encourage healthy lifestyles?
S7	To encouraging local community identity and foster mixed communities with co-operative attitudes, helping to reduce anti-social activity.	Will it reduce actual levels of crime/fear of crime?
		Will it encourage engagement in community activities?
S8	To improve the quality of where people live	Will it improve satisfaction of people with their neighbourhoods?
		Will it increase access to and provision of quality open space?
Economic		
ECI	To encourage sustained economic growth	Will it support emerging employment uses in the District (e.g. Research, tourism)?

Draft SA Objective		Draft question/decision-making criteria
		Will it help retain existing businesses?
		Will it aid farming diversification?
EC2	To encourage and accommodate both indigenous and inward investment promoting a positive image of the District.	Will it provide for a variety of locations for businesses?
		Will it add to a ready supply of employment premises?
		Is it supporting targeted emerging employment types?
EC3	To encourage efficient patterns of movement in support of economic growth	Will it encourage the development of local employment locations?
		Is it located so as to minimise the journey to work?
		Will it enhance a group of existing employment generating uses?
		Will it encourage mixed use or live / work?
EC4	To improve the social and environmental performance of the economy	Will it offer the opportunity for more flexible working?
		Will it operate in a way which seeks to minimise impact on the environment?
EC5	To improve the economic performance in rural areas	Will it encourage rural diversification?
		Will it offer sources of employment in rural areas?
		Will it improve electronic communication potential?

COVERAGE OF SEA TOPICS

- 4.4. Annex I(f) of the SEA Directive requires that information is provided on the likely significant effects on a number of environmental topics. **Table 4.2** sets out the 'SEA topics' and shows that they are all covered by at least one of the draft SA objectives. Coverage of the SEA topics by the SA objectives ensures that each of the topics will be addressed in the sustainability appraisal of the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD. (Adapted from Table 4.3 of the Scoping Report of South Norfolk LDF).

Table 4.2 Coverage of SEA topics by the Draft SA objectives

SEA topic	Covered by Draft SA Objectives
Biodiversity	ENV1
Population	S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6, S7
Human Health	S1, S2, S3, S4, S5, S6
Fauna	ENV1
Flora	ENV1
Soil	ENV7
Water	ENV8
Air	ENV5

SEA topic	Covered by Draft SA Objectives
Climatic Factors	ENV2, ENV3,
Material Assets ¹⁰	ENV7, ENV8, ENV9, S8, E1, E2, E3, E4, E5
Cultural Heritage	ENV4, ENV5
Landscape	ENV6

STAKEHOLDER INPUT

- 4.5. The ODPM SA Guidance recommends that the SA Framework is developed with input from key stakeholders and is open to wider comment and discussion. The SA Framework for the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD has already been subject to stakeholder consultation during consultation on the scope of the SA for the South Norfolk LDF. However, the formal consultation on this Scoping Report will allow further opportunity for stakeholders to comment on the SA Framework and suitability of the draft SA objectives, indicators and targets for the SA of the NRP SPD.

¹⁰ Material assets are considered to include physical infrastructure, settlement pattern, and efficient use of land and resources.

5. NEXT STEPS

- 5.1. This Scoping Report for the SA/SEA of the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD has been undertaken according to the ODPM's SA Guidance and is the outcome of Stage A of the SA process. Following the five week consultation period on this Report, it is likely that some modifications will be necessary to incorporate stakeholder feedback, as noted below:
- The review of relevant plans and programmes should be used to ensure that the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD accords with sustainability objectives and requirements of relevant international, national, regional and local policy guidance, plans and strategies. Additional plans and programmes may need to be incorporated into the review following the consultation period.
 - The SA objectives are the tool against which the options and proposals of the Draft Development Brief SPD will be appraised. Further suggestions may need to be incorporated into the SA objectives following consultation on the Report.
 - Baseline information has been collected, characterising the key features of NRP. Additional data and information will need to be incorporated into the SA process and final SA Report as it becomes available.
- 5.2. The SA Report will document how any consultation responses on the Scoping Report were taken into account.

SUBSEQUENT STAGES

- 5.3. The Stages of SA are set out in **Table I.1** and discussed in the Introduction to this Report (**Chapter I**). Stages B (Appraising the effects of the Draft Development Brief SPD) and C (Preparing the SA Report) of the SA will then run alongside the preparation of the SPD. The SA tasks will continue to be undertaken according to the ODPM's SA Guidance.

STAGE B: APPRAISING THE EFFECTS OF THE OPTIONS AND PREFERRED OPTIONS.

- 5.4. The **broad options** for the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD are being prepared by LUC and Sheppard Robson Architects. These options are focusing on:
- Alternative plot ratios for development within the NRP. These ratios will demonstrate alternative relationships between the gross floor area of non-residential buildings and the net area of the site in non-residential use that could be used to express development at NRP.
 - Transport strategies for NRP. These strategies will show alternatives for car-dependant and sustainable transport strategies to serve development at NRP.
- 5.5. Options for plot ratios and transport strategies will be compared using the SA framework as provided in **Appendix 4** and the scoring system set out in **Figure**

5.1. The aim of the scoring system is to assess the degree to which each option is likely to have a positive or negative effect on sustainability.

Table 5.1 Scoring system to appraise the broad options

Score	Description
++	Option likely to have a significant positive effect on the SA objective
+	Option likely to provide some support for the SA objective
0	Neutral impact/no relationship to the SA objective
-	Option could give rise to some minor conflict with the SA objective
--	Option likely to significantly conflict with the SA objective
/	Option could have a mixed effect (e.g. significant positive effects and significant negative effects would be ++/--)
?	Uncertain effects

- 5.6. In many instances it is likely that it will not be possible to quantify the effects, especially given that the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD will be only one influence on what actually happens on the ground. In light of this, the reasoning for all judgements (especially subjective ones) will be explained, and the assumptions underlying the judgements set out. This will make the appraisal process as transparent as possible and open to scrutiny and challenge.
- 5.7. 'Significance' is a difficult concept to understand, and it can vary in different contexts. Factors that will be taken into account will be:
- The current state of the environment, economy, or social factors that will be affected, and their sensitivity to change (e.g. whether thresholds are close to being exceeded such as transport capacity or water resources, proximity to designated sites, effects on more deprived communities, etc).
 - The extent and duration of the effect (e.g. the geographical scale or size of the population likely to be affected).
- 5.8. It should be noted that the SA will be looking for positive effects (i.e. the achievement of SA objectives, including improving conditions that are currently poor) as well as identifying negative effects. Cumulative (e.g. the combined effects of a number of different types of development), secondary effects (e.g. where one effect has a 'knock-on' effect on something else) and synergistic effects (e.g. where the overall effect of two or more effects is greater than the sum of the parts) will also be considered.

Appraising the effects of preferred options

- 5.9. Preferred Options for the NRP SPD will be prepared by LUC and Sheppard Robson Architects, taking into account stakeholder comments and the findings of the SA. A detailed appraisal of the preferred options will then be undertaken, using the SA objectives and sub-objectives in the SA Framework and recorded using a systematic matrix-based approach. To do this, the effects of the SPD preferred options will be predicted (i.e. what the effect will be on a given SA objective) and assessed (i.e. how significant that effect will be), using baseline data to qualify and quantify effects wherever possible.
- 5.10. Once the preferred broad option for plot ratio and transport strategy has been identified, detailed options will be developed by LUC and Sheppard Robson. These detailed options will describe the expression of the Preferred Option, including items such as building layout, building materials, drainage, lighting, security, etc. Detailed options will also be compared using the framework of SA objectives as appropriate. Given the detail of these options, additional decision-making criteria may need to be developed to assess the degree to which each option is likely to have a positive or negative effect on sustainability.
- 5.11. Consideration will be given to measures that could be introduced to mitigate any significant adverse effects on sustainability and maximise benefits. The SA will also include an assessment of how the preferred options with the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD interact with one another in order to identify any conflicts, and to determine the likely effects of the SPD as a whole.

STAGE C: PREPARATION OF THE SA REPORT

- 5.12. A final SA report will be produced which details the process undertaken and results of the appraisal. This will include an overall assessment of the sustainability effects of the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD on each SA objective. It will also set out in which sections of the SA Report the information required by the SEA Directive is provided. A draft potential format for this report is set out in **Figure 5.1**. This structure may be amended as the SA progresses in order to take account of any local circumstances or specific issues that may arise. The Environmental Report component (i.e. those parts of the Sustainability Report that specifically meet the SEA Directive requirements) will be signposted in a table showing the relevant sections of the SA Report that are considered to meet the SEA Directive requirements.

STAGE D: CONSULTATION ON PREFERRED OPTIONS AND FINAL SA

- 5.13. The draft SA report will be published for public consultation alongside the public consultation draft NRP Development Brief SPD. Consultation will need to comply with the requirements of the SEA Directive by ensuring that any member of the public with an interest or likely to have an interest in the Draft SPD has the opportunity to express their view on the Draft SPD and the SA. Should any significant changes be made to the Draft SPD as a result of the public consultation, additional appraisal work will need to be carried out and the final SA report amended to reflect the results.

STAGE E: MONITORING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPD

- 5.14. The final SA report will set out recommendations for monitoring the sustainability effects of the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD, including a set of proposed indicators.

Figure 5.1 Proposed structure for the Sustainability Appraisal Report

<p>Sustainability Appraisal Report</p> <p>Non-technical summary How to comment on the report</p> <p>1. Introduction Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal (compliance with SEA Directive) Aim and structure of the report</p> <p>2. NRP Development Brief SPD The planning context Preparing the SPD broad options Preparing the SPD detailed options The NRP Development Brief SPD preferred option</p> <p>3. Methodology Approach adopted (including table of SEA requirements and where addressed) Stages of SA Process (when carried out and by who) Limitations and assumptions Consultations and how comments addressed by SA</p> <p>4. Sustainability Requirements of other relevant plans and programmes</p> <p>5. Sustainability Context for NRP Review of other strategies, plans and programmes relevant to South Norfolk and the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD Review of baseline information (<i>NB: as discussed in Section 4 of this Scoping Report, while the baseline information should be updated and added to throughout the SA, limitations with data may still exist at later stages of the SA.</i>) Key sustainability issues</p> <p>6. SA Framework Development of SA objectives</p> <p>7. Assessment of broad options and preferred options for the Draft NRP Development Brief SPD Broad options for the NRP SPD Summary Assessment of broad options against SA Objectives Preferred Option (including reasons for rejection of others)</p> <p>8. Monitoring proposals Proposed indicators to be monitored</p> <p>Appendices</p> <p>A. Summary of consultation responses and how addressed in SA/SEA B. Review of relevant plans, programmes and environmental objectives C. Baseline data D. Assessment matrices</p>
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