

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT POLICIES

NE/1 – Energy efficiency

Prescribes a range of measures to improve the energy efficiency of new and re-developed properties which will be adopted as an SPD at a later date. Encourages developers to seek 10% improvement on CO₂/m² emissions compared to minimum Building Regulations.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives [abridged in some cases]	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	~	~	
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	+	+(+)	++	The principal objective of this policy. Benefit accumulates as more energy efficient properties are built or converted. The 'start point' for the trend depends on the proportion of existing properties that already meet Building Regulations. We assume that the relatively recent adoption of efficiency standards means this will not be particularly high.
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	Not addressed – but see mitigation proposals.
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	~	~	~	
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	~	~	~	
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	~	~	~	
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	~	~	~	
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	~	~	~	

4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	+	+(+)	++	The main objective of this policy, though as with 1.2 the benefit will grow over time from a relatively low starting point. However the positive rating must be qualified by the relatively 'light touch' of the proposals. See mitigation proposals for details.
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	+	+(+)	Addresses issue of vulnerability of properties to long-term temperature change, though again the starting point is low.
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	~	~	~	
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	~	~	~	
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	~	~	~	
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	~	~	
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	?	?	?	There are some concerns that the cost of energy efficiency and other sustainability measures effects the price of new housing and this may have an effect on developers' willingness or ability to provide affordable housing. The significant of this impact cannot be calibrated on the information available at present.
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~	
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~	
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	~	~	
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~	

Summary of assessment: Supports *reduction in energy consumption and emission of greenhouse gases*. The Council appears to have set a fairly low and easily achievable threshold for this policy. There is clear potential long-term impact on energy consumption if there is a large-scale growth in housing and other forms of development during the lifetime of the initial LDF, and this policy must maximise positive impacts.

Summary of mitigation proposals: The policy has four components: the stipulated threshold; the calculation method; the assessment structure (Building Regulations); and the policy requirement ('encouragement' rather than obligation). Our initial assessment has proposed that the Council should adopt an alternative policy approach to enforce more stringent targets. However the Council has advised us that it limited scope to implement higher targets and that the main mechanism for this would be through changes to the Building Regulations.

Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: Potential increase in the stock of energy-inefficient buildings if new requirements do not keep pace with projected change in sustainable construction standards.

NE/2 – Renewable energy

Renewable energy developments will be permitted where these do not infringe district-wide development criteria, where there is ready access to the National Grid, and the land can be redeveloped subsequently for other purposes.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives [abridged in some cases]	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	~	~	No obvious impact, although the policy and text does not mention biomass energy, which is one solution to renewable fuel provision and farm diversification.
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	(+)	+	+(+)	Benefit through replacement, although the potentially slow rate of equipment of solar panels, etc., and reluctance to permit wind farms suggests slow incremental growth.
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	~	~	~	
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	+	+	+	Limited size of windfarms may have some benefits (removes potential impact on birds though farms can be sited appropriately with RSPB guidance), and limits visual impact.

2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	~	~	~	
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	+	+	+	Smaller windfarms are assumed to have less visual impact, although this assumes cumulative development would be controlled.
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	~	~	~	
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	(+)	+	+(+)	As for 1.2.
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	+	+(+)	Contributes to reduced emission from energy generation sources.
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	~	~	~	
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	~	~	~	
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	~	~	~	
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	~	~	
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~	
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~	
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~	

7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	~	~
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~
Summary of assessment: Clearly supports reduced reliance on non-renewable sources, however the incremental provision of technology suggests benefits will grow slowly. Baseline data does not enable comparison of current performance with national average, and any shift in target generation levels may require reconsideration of the position on windfarms and other approaches.			
Summary of mitigation proposals: No mention of biomass as a way of meeting targets while also supporting farm diversification and keeping farmland under agricultural use.			
Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: None identified in the policy as proposed.			

NE/3 – Renewable energy technologies in new development

Developments larger than 1000m² or 10 dwellings will include technology enabling at least 10% of their energy to be derived from renewable sources.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives [abridged in some cases]	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	~	~	
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	+	+(+)	++	Clearly supportive.
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	~	~	~	
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	~	~	~	
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	~	~	~	
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	

3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	+?	+?	+?	Indirect benefit it is obviates need for windfarms and other solutions with visual impacts, although this must be balanced against the same incremental capacity of each new unit.
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	~	~	~	
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	~	+	+(+)	Incremental benefit from reduced consumption of energy from power stations.
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	+	+(+)	As for 4.1.
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	~	~	~	Minor, incremental background changes that would only become significant with nationwide switch to renewable energy.
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	~	~	~	
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	~	~	~	
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	~	~	
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	?	?	?	Possible impact of technology on cost of new housing, and the knock-on effect on the provision of affordable homes. We also recognise that policy NE/1 advocates a more stringent position on providing energy efficient technology which might turn this into a negative assessment.
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~	
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~	
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	~	~	

7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~
Summary of assessment: Policy encourage developers to build energy-efficiency into the housing stock, and this is clearly valuable given the scale of growth that will occur in the plan period. The baseline data suggests the District performs well against regional and national comparators, but this should not mean a slackening of the promotion of renewables. One concern is the possible impact of technology cost on the price of new units, and the impact this might have on affordable housing provision however we recognise that a balance must be struck between the suggestion for NE/1 or more stringent targets for providing this technology and its impact on house prices.			
Summary of mitigation proposals: None.			
Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: Obvious long-term impact on the District's energy consumption although limited provision suggests this will be an incremental change.			

NE/4 – Landscape character areas				
The areas will be defined on the Proposals Map, and development within these areas will only be permitted if it is sympathetic to local character and distinctiveness. Design policies will be detailed in an SPD to be produced at a later date.				
Sustainability Appraisal Objectives [abridged in some cases]	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	+	+	+	Policy specifically refers to the land management regime and not just built development.
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	~	~	~	
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	~	~	~	
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	+	+	+	Vegetation is a component of landscape character and therefore this is implicitly supportive.
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	~	~	~	

3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	+	+	+	Again, implicitly supportive.
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	+++	+++	+++	The principal objective of this policy. Supporting text acknowledges the care needed at the urban fringe, though this is addressed through policies GB/4, GB/5 and GB/7.
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	++	++	++	Supports 3.2.
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	~	~	~	
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	~	~	
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	~	~	~	
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	~	~	~	
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	~	~	~	
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	~	~	
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~	
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~	
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~	
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	~	~	

7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~
Summary of assessment: Supports objectives of respecting <i>landscape character</i> and (indirectly) maintaining the natural features of the landscape that sustain and <i>enhance biodiversity</i> . Some problems may be experienced with expansion of settlements, however these will be addressed in part by other policies in this DPD, notably those supporting the Green Belt.			
Summary of mitigation proposals: None.			
Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: None identified.			

NE/5 – Countryside enhancement areas				
Takes forward Cambridgeshire Structure Plan policy 7/3 to identify areas for enjoyment of the countryside and to take steps to enhance their natural characteristics while preserving tranquillity.				
Sustainability Appraisal Objectives [abridged in some cases]	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	~	~	
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	~	~	~	
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	~	~	~	Effect assumed to be neutral as designated areas are already subject to access controls and enhancement programmes by other agencies.
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	+	+(+)	++	Policy supports Biodiversity Strategy and provides for enhancement of specific areas. Difficult to calibrate impact as scope of work is not evident.
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	+	+(+)	++	As above.
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	

3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	+	+	+	Supportive.
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	+	+	+	Objective tends to be assessed in urban setting, but equally importance in the countryside.
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	~	~	~	
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	~	~	
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	(+)	(+)	(+)	Provides areas for quiet relaxation. Proximity to urban areas is not clear and will probably vary from site to site. Nevertheless, provision does not guarantee use. Implicitly supportive.
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	+	+(+)	++	Assessment may be slightly optimistic as it is not clear yet how much space will be provided, but it is clearly beneficial.
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	+	+	+	Supports quality of leisure facilities; accessibility is not addressed by the policy text.
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	~	~	
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~	
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~	
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~	
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	~	~	
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~	

Summary of assessment: Supports the District's Biodiversity Strategy and is consistent with other policies (eg. GB/8) although the degree of overlap is not clear.

Summary of mitigation proposals: None.

Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: The supporting text envisages implies synergistic effects from combining enhancement programmes in certain localities. Presumably this will enable cost-effective provision of improvement of sustainable access.

NE/6 – Biodiversity

Overarching commitment to maintaining and where possible enhancing biodiversity that prioritises prevention over mitigation and compensation.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives [abridged in some cases]	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	~	~	
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	~	~	~	
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	+++	+++	+++	Clearly supportive. In practice the policy is more concerned with protecting biodiversity broadly, recognising that designated sites have specific protection measures overseen by other agencies. The policy also clearly prioritises measures to support BAPs and achieve their targets.
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	+++	+++	+++	The principal objective of this policy.
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	~	~	~	Addressed by other policies, and clearly needs to be balanced against conservation objectives (see GB/8 for example).
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	Objective refers primarily to human/built artefacts and sites.
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	+	+	+	Contributes to this objective especially due to the predominantly rural nature of the county.

3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	~	~	~	
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	(+)	(+)	(+)	Vegetation benefits carbon-fixing.
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	~	~	
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	~	~	~	
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	~	~	~	
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	~	~	~	
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	~	~	
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~	
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~	
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~	
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	~	~	
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~	
Summary of assessment: A clear statement of support for supporting and <i>enhancing biodiversity</i> which is pragmatic insofar as it recognises the need to weigh conservation and development objectives in certain locations. It establishes a clear priority based on scarcity/importance (development will be resisted) and the measures used to resolve clashes between development and conservation, and also establishes the principle of using Section 46 developer contributions to fund appropriate measures.				

Summary of mitigation proposals: Replace reference in supporting text to Section 106 with Section 46/47 (change has been made in policy NE/6). See also comments for NE/7.

Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: It is difficult to identify specific benefits. Much concern with biodiversity change has focused on the loss of woodland and farmland bird species. Clearly this will be addressed by this very broad policy, with specific activities dictated by other policies such as GB/8 and NE/5.

NE/7 – Sites of biodiversity importance

Establishes the controls on development that reflect the relative biodiversity importance of sites, corresponding to the strength of conservation designation.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives [abridged in some cases]	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	~	~	
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	~	~	~	
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	+++	+++	+++	The joint-primary objective of this policy.
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	+++	+++	+++	As above.
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	~	~	~	
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	Objective refers to built environment designations.
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	(+)	(+)	(+)	Implicitly supports maintenance of natural landscape features.
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	~	~	~	
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other	~	~	~	

pollutants			
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	~	~
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	~	~	~
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	~	~	~
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	~	~	~
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	~	~
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	~	~
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~
Summary of assessment: The policy establishes a basic protection policy for sites covered by a range of designations, reflecting their scarcity and importance, and consistent with PPG9. In fact the inclusion of protective measures to County Wildlife Sites suggests a greater degree of protection that might be warranted by the status of these sites, but it is within the Council's discretion to do this. The policy also makes specific reference to scrutiny of applications affecting SACs/SPAs/SSSIs, and the need for careful assessment of any indirect effects.			

Summary of mitigation proposals: The supporting text states that policy NE/6 suggests additional planning controls to ensure that development does not prevent people enjoying wildlife sites. This is not evident in the text for NE/6 and it is not clear, therefore, whether this is actually a reference to NE/7.

The supporting text notes that barbastelle bats occupying the cSAC at Eversden Woods have been recorded at other locations up to 11kms away. A number of the housing allocations in policy SP/1 and one employment land allocation in SP/4 lie within this range. As a precautionary measure it would be advisable that a bat survey is required as part of any planning application to ensure that the development will not interfere with flight lines.

Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: None identified.

NE/8 – Natural Areas

Prohibits development that would adversely affect biodiversity and nature conservation value of designated Natural Areas.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives [abridged in some cases]	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	~	~	
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	~	~	~	
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	++	++	++	Clearly supportive. The Natural Area designation effectively extends conservation beyond the relatively small sites or point locations covered by the main wildlife designations.
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	++	++	++	As above.
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	(+)	(+)	(+)	Implicitly preserves biodiversity for public enjoyment.
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	+	+	+	Implicitly supportive.

3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	~	~	~
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	~	~	~
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	~	~
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	~	~	~
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	~	~	~
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	~	~	~
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	~	~
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	~	~
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~
Summary of assessment: Extends the scope of conservation beyond the boundaries of designated sites to cover the broader Natural Areas (a non-statutory designation). The main problem with this policy is that it sets an overall objective without making it clear how biodiversity harm would be assessed consistently from one site to the next.			
Summary of mitigation proposals: Consider removing this policy or merging it with NE/6.			

Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: None identified.

NE/9 – Regionally important geological and geomorphological sites

Affords protection to natural features although no such designated sites exist in the district at present.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives [abridged in some cases]	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	~	~	
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	~	~	~	
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	+	+	+	Supportive. Low rating merely reflects the lack of such sites in the district at present.
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	~	~	~	
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	+	+	+	
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	+	+	+	Particularly true of geomorphological features.
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	~	~	~	Assumed neutral; any benefit subsumed by comment for 3.2.
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	~	~	~	
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	~	~	

5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	~	~	~	
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	?	?	?	Supportive in principal, though sites may be less popular than, say, wildlife reserves.
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	~	~	~	
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	~	~	
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~	
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~	
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~	
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	~	~	
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~	
Summary of assessment: A safety net policy to ensure the natural physical features are afforded protection comparable to that given to biodiversity assets.				
Summary of mitigation proposals: The policy text refers to Section 46 agreements which needs to be qualified by additional text. Whereas biodiversity can be compensated by translocation and habitat recreation, the loss of physical landscape features is more final and difficult to compensate. This issue should be taken into account when reviewing planning applications, balancing the loss of the feature against the importance of or need for the development.				
Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: None identified.				

NE/10 – Groundwater

Prohibits development that threatens groundwater resources.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives	Assessment	Comments / Proposed Mitigation
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[abridged in some cases]	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	~	~	
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	~	~	~	
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	?	?	?	Not strictly relevant as the policy protects the quality and quantity of groundwater supply rather than addressing demand.
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	~	~	~	
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	~	~	~	
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	~	~	~	
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	~	~	~	
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	~	~	~	
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	+++	+++	+++	Explicitly protects groundwater resources from potential pollution.
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	(+)	(+)	(+)	Very indirect support in terms of the effect of maintaining the water table in clay areas to prevent shrinkage and potential increase in subsidence problems.
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	+	+	+	Pollution protection is included in policy objectives.
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	~	~	~	

6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	~	~	~	
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	~	~	
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~	
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~	
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	?	?	?	Groundwater controls should also affect farming practices; their effect on farm diversification opportunities is difficult to quantify.
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	~	~	
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~	
Summary of assessment: Sustainable in providing overarching protection of groundwater resources.				
Summary of mitigation proposals: None.				
Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: The supporting text refers to the need to recharge groundwater and clearly the large scale developments included in the LDF will have substantial effects on local rates which need to be addressed. However policies NE/11 and NE/14 deal with preventative and mitigation measures and have parallel policies in the corresponding AAPs. All address the supply-side issues which mirror the demand-side focus of this policy.				

NE/11 – Water and drainage infrastructure

States the requirement that development proposals must show adequate provision for water supply, removal of foul water, and other drainage that is consistent in scale with the phasing of the development. The policy makes clear the Council's obligation to coordinate these matters for large-scale development, but that developers must liaise with water companies for smaller sites.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

[abridged in some cases]

Assessment

Comments / Proposed Mitigation

Short Med. Long

1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings

~ ~ ~

1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	~	~	~	
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	(++)	(++)	(++)	Policy does not actually restrict consumption but ensures supply and demand are coordinated.
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	~	~	~	Policy states this objective is the responsibility of other agencies.
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	~	~	~	As above.
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	~	~	~	
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	~	~	~	
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	~	~	~	
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	(+)	(+)	(+)	Does not reduce pollutant levels directly but aims to ensure it does not occur as a result of the lack of treatment and/or removal infrastructure.
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	~	~	
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	++	++	++	Ensures supply of water for new development.
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	~	~	~	
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	~	~	~	
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location,	~	~	~	

faith, disability, etc.				
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~	
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~	
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~	
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	+++	+++	+++	The principal objective of this policy.
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~	
Summary of assessment: Little to consider as this policy makes clear it is essential that development and provision of the supporting infrastructure (in this case water supply) are coordinated from the outset.				
Summary of mitigation proposals: None.				
Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: Clearly the principal cumulative effect concerns the demands made of local water supply by the scale of development that will occur in the district over the next 10-15 years. That is not addressed by this policy which is primarily concerned with ensuring the timing of supply. It is assumed modelling of water demand has been undertaken already, and that supply rates will be monitored during development to ensure supply and demand are matched.				

NE/12 – Foul drainage: alternative drainage systems

Defines requirements for providing sewerage facilities for most forms of development including structures and the road system, and for special provision for sites producing slurry or effluents.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives [abridged in some cases]	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	~	~	
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	~	~	~	
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	++	++	++	Does not address water supply / consumption but makes

				provision to protect groundwater from contamination.
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	~	~	~	Relevant comments subsumed under 2.2 below.
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	+	+	+	Intrinsically aims to prevent leakage, spills and other problems of foul materials that would adversely affect humans and the natural environment.
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	~	~	~	
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	~	~	~	
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	~	~	~	
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	++	++	++	Deals with removal of domestic and industrial pollutants.
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	Materials handled by these systems cannot be recycled.
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	~	~	
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	++	++	++	The principal objective of this policy.
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	~	~	~	
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	~	~	~	
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	~	~	
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~	

6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	~	~
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~
Summary of assessment: Clearly a sustainable policy requiring the provision of adequate and appropriate infrastructure to remove solid and liquid effluents, or for their storage, supporting maintenance of good water quality.			
Summary of mitigation proposals: None; policy DP/6 also provides for protection of ground and surface water resources from contamination during construction.			
Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: See above.			

NE/13 – Flood risk

Proposes to restrict all development in designated high flood risk areas, and development in some areas where the lower level of risk cannot be substantiated and / or minimised, and to prevent development which might contribute to flood risk.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives [abridged in some cases]	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	(+)	(+)	(+)	Indirect / tenuous link insofar as run-off impacts of development could be cited as a reason for declining planning permission in rural areas.
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	~	~	~	
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	+	+	+	Could help to reduce threats to habitats that are sensitive to changes in water levels.
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	+	+	+	As above.

2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	~	~	~	
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	~	~	~	
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	~	~	~	
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	~	~	~	
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	+++	+++	+++	Clearly the principal objective of this policy.
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	~	~	~	
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	~	~	~	
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	~	~	~	
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	~	~	
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~	
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~	
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~	
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	~	~	

7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~
Summary of assessment: Given the district's position at the edge of the fens, an essential policy prohibiting development in risky locations. The policy wording and supporting text provide flexibility in permitting development in areas of lower risk provided that appropriate defensive or mitigation measures are provided, and that these are appropriate to the estimated risk/			
Summary of mitigation proposals: None.			
Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: The main potential issue is the increase in impermeable surface areas as a result of the major new development, although this is addressed by policy NE/14.			

NE/14 – Sustainable drainage systems				
Requires the use of SUDS where appropriate and establishes the right to seek Section 46 contributions for this infrastructure.				
Sustainability Appraisal Objectives [abridged in some cases]	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	~	~	Additional land required for these systems is assumed to be negligible and use of brownfield land is assumed to be a priority.
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	~	~	~	
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	+	++	Supports objective by limiting the impact of development on the pattern and rate of run-off.
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	?	?	?	Impact of water release onto fluvial systems and nearby habitats is assumed to be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	+	+	+	As above. Moreover development proposals for Cambridge East and Northstowe integrate these features into the open space and green corridor strategy.
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	+	+	+	As above.
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape	(+)	(+)	(+)	Depends on design, but supportive in principle – see also 2.2.

and townscape				above.
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	(+)	(+)	(+)	As for 3.2.
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	~	~	~	SUDS assumed to be separate from foul water systems.
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	+++	+++	+++	The principal objective of this policy.
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	~	~	~	
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	+	+	+	Can contribute, provided facilities do not constitute a safety hazard and there are rights of way.
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	~	~	~	
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	~	~	
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~	Space for SUDS assumed to have no effect on land available for other purposes.
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~	
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~	
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	~	~	
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~	
Summary of assessment: Another policy stating an essential measure required by the vulnerability of parts of the district to flooding, and the need to address water shortages by maximising the rate at which groundwater resources can be recharged.				
Summary of mitigation proposals: None.				

Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: None identified.

NE/15 – Water conservation

Mandates the incorporation of water-efficient and water-saving technologies into new development, while ensuring this does not adversely affect the water environment.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives [abridged in some cases]	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	~	~	
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	~	~	~	
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	+++	+++	+++	Clearly the principal objective of this policy is to minimise the impact on water resources of the significant development in the district in the immediate future.
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	+	+	+	Need to avoid damage to the natural environment in general is stated.
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	+(+)	+(+)	+(+)	As above.
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	~	~	~	
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	~	~	~	
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	++	++	++	Meets design standards that are evolving to deal with climate-change related problems.
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	+	+	+	States requirement for measures that will not pollute water courses.
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	+	+(+)	Clearly an aim of this policy although the benefit will take time to

				build without retrofitting of technology to existing properties
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	(+)	(+)	(+)	Implicitly supportive.
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	+	+	+	As for 4.1 and this is assumed to have implications for human health also, particularly as technologies include greywater recycling.
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	~	~	~	
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	~	~	~	
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	~	~	
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	?	?	?	Neutral provided that technology does not significantly increase new house prices affecting the provision of affordable property.
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~	
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~	
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	+	+	+	Supports provision of a type of infrastructure essential for dealing with climate change problems.
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~	
Summary of assessment: A further sustainable policy necessitated by limitations on the district's water supply. One slight concern is the impact of technology costs on the price of new housing, however this should be offset by the scale of new construction which should mean the unit cost per home is lower than, say, retrofitting to an existing property.				
Summary of mitigation proposals: None.				
Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: None identified.				

NE/16 – Hazardous installations

States a procedural and legal requirement to consider human health risks and other impacts when considering planning applications for developments where hazardous substances will be present.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives [abridged in some cases]	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	~	~	
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	~	~	~	
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	~	~	~	
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	(+)	(+)	(+)	Implicitly aims to prevent spills, leaks, etc. by appropriate preventative measures.
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	~	~	~	
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	~	~	~	
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	+	+	+	Provides a control mechanism for ensuring people are not at risk from nearby hazardous materials or facilities.
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	+	+	+	Aims to reduce accidental emissions and their consequences.
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	~	~	
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	+++	+++	+++	The principal objective of this policy.

5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	~	~	~
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	~	~	~
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	~	~
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	□	□	□
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	□	□	□
Summary of assessment: A further largely procedural policy reflecting the Council's obligations to prevent development in locations where the nature of the materials or activities constitute an unacceptable risk to human health and/or safety.			
Summary of mitigation proposals: None.			
Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: None.			

NE/17 – Lighting proposals

Identifies five requirements for external lighting (implicitly for both routes and sites).

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives

[abridged in some cases]

Assessment

Comments / Proposed Mitigation

Short

Med.

Long

1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings

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1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	?	?	?	Proposals to limit times when lighting is permissible can also be used to control consumption, indirectly supporting this objective.
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	~	~	~	
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	+	+	+	Supporting text acknowledges potential impact of night-time light pollution on some species though the significant of this impact cannot be determined at this stage.
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	~	~	~	
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	(+)	(+)	(+)	Implicitly beneficial in terms of night-time effects, particularly in rural areas where excessive light pollution reduces remoteness.
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	(+)	(+)	(+)	Supports 3.2 implicitly.
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	+	+(+)	++	Given the substantial light pollution at present, application of the policy to new development will introduce only incremental change, though clearly this is desirable.
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	~	~	
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	~	~	~	
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	++	++	++	Policy balances need to reduce pollution with its role in providing a secure environment.
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	~	~	~	
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	~	~	~	

6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	~	~
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	~	~
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~
Summary of assessment: Addresses issue of increased awareness of the impact of light pollution on the character of the area, and the particular impact in rural areas. Applying policy to new development limits its overall impact in an area where skyglow is already a problem.			
Summary of mitigation proposals: Is it practical to consider measures to address the problem with existing light sources, or to survey where the problems are worst.			
Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: The existing problem is the principal cumulative effect; the policy proposals will limit further problems but not redress the root cause.			

NE/18 – Noise pollution

Establishes policy principles to prevent unacceptable noise from new development; to prevent new development where ambient noise levels might be unacceptably high; and general conditions under the EPA to prevent noise nuisance.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives [abridged in some cases]	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	~	~	
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	~	~	~	

1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	~	~	~	
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	~	~	~	
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	~	~	~	
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	?	?	?	Policy deals with noise but not vibration, and mentions the impact of traffic. Development should not lead to an increase in road traffic that might adversely affect listed properties that may be at risk or in susceptible locations.
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	~	~	~	
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	+	+	+	Eliminating noise nuisance and controlling ambient noise levels should contribute to residents' satisfaction with their environment.
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	+++	+++	+++	The principal objective of this policy which deals with noise from new development. It is assumed that noise nuisance from existing sources is addressed through the EPA.
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	~	~	
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	(+)	(+)	(+)	There must be an implicit health benefit from reducing noise where it is a nuisance, even if this does not correspond directly to the criteria for this objective.
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime				
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	?	?	?	Other policies (including NE/5) address provision of recreational space and tranquil rural areas. The policy text is primarily concerned with urban areas and these other sites are not identified as potentially sensitive receptors.

6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	~	~	~	
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	~	~	
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~	
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~	
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~	Noise constraint on development could limit the availability of sites (although the policy makes provision for B1(a) uses which may subsume much of the demand in the district. This is a long-term cumulative impact that is hypothetical at present and difficult to quantify.
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	~	~	
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~	
Summary of assessment: Policy establishes measures to prevent increases in ambient and point-based noise from new development, and to ensure new development will not be subjected to noise from existing sources.				
Summary of mitigation proposals: The policy and supporting text appear to refer principally to noise in settlements. Other Natural Environment policies propose establishing areas of tranquil countryside and it appears appropriate that this over-arching policy should include measures (at least in outline) that support NE/5 for example.				
Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: None identified.				

NE/19 – Emissions

Requires development proposals to identify and mitigate / minimise emissions to prevent impacts on the surroundings, and to comply with relevant pollution control regulations.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives
 [abridged in some cases]

Assessment
 Short Med. Long

Comments / Proposed Mitigation

1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	~	~	
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	~	~	~	
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	(+)	(+)	(+)	Implicitly supportive.
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	(+)	(+)	(+)	As above.
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	~	~	~	
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	(+)	(+)	(+)	As for 2.1 / 2.2.
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	~	~	~	
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	(+)	(+)	(+)	Implicitly beneficial if it limits nuisance from fumes, dust, etc.
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	++	+++	++(+)	The joint-primary objective of this policy. The time trend reflects the potential impact during the construction of Northstowe and Cambridge East
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	~	~	
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	++	+++	++(+)	As for 4.1. The policy mentions air quality and pollutants, and it might be help to make clear that this includes dust, which will be a significant potential problem during construction of the new settlements.
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	

5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	~	~	~
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	~	~	~
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	~	~
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	~	~
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~
Summary of assessment: An essential policy outlining the need to prevent contamination by pollutants, whether airborne or carried by other media, and which is particularly necessary given the potential impacts of major phases of construction at Northstowe and at Cambridge East.			
Summary of mitigation proposals: Possibly make clear the controls apply to dust also. Policies in the Transport section mandate the provision of a Transport Assessment, should the Council encourage good/best practice by suggesting that developments likely to generate pollutants or emissions should be supported by a Health Impact Assessment. In order for this to be practicable we assume there would need to be a size threshold above which this option might apply.			
Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: Clear impacts from the scale of development, although this would be mitigated to some degree by the phasing of development on both of the principal sites.			

Comment: in terms of logical grouping should policy NE/16 be placed next to NE/19 and NE/20 as all three concern emissions or forms or risks of contamination by materials?

NE/20 – Land contamination

States the procedural requirement to investigate the nature and extent of contamination in all development proposals where there are reasonable grounds to assume this is an issue, and to implement appropriate treatment and monitoring of the site.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives [abridged in some cases]	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	
1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	~	~	~	
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	~	~	~	
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	~	~	~	
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	~	~	~	
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	~	~	~	
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	~	~	~	
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	~	~	~	
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	++	++	++	Procedural requirement to ensure unforeseen contamination does not occur, and which is necessitated by the high proportion of brownfield land being used for new housing development in the district over the plan period.
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	~	~	~	

5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	++	++	++	Clearly the principal objective of this policy.
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	~	~	~	
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	~	~	~	
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	~	~	
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~	
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~	
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~	
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	~	~	
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~	
Summary of assessment: A high-level statement of the Council's obligation to ensure new development does not constitute a risk to human health, and which is given added weight by the large volume of housing development in the district that will occur on former military and industrial land.				
Summary of mitigation proposals: None.				
Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: None identified.				

NE/21 – Protecting high quality agricultural land

Establishes a blanket ban on any development that takes Grade 1, 2 or 3a agricultural land without providing scope to return it to its current use.

Sustainability Appraisal Objectives [abridged in some cases]	Assessment			Comments / Proposed Mitigation
	Short	Med.	Long	

1.1 Minimise irreversible loss of undeveloped land and productive agricultural holdings	+++	+++	+++	The principal objective of this policy.
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	~	~	~	
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	~	~	~	
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	~	~	~	
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	+	+	+	Limited provision for alternative reversible change provided this retains the openness of the area.
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	?	?	?	In absolute terms, retaining land under agriculture limits public access, however intensive cultivation means these areas have degraded biodiversity value, and keeping them in agricultural use as a national resource has a much higher priority.
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	+	+	+	As for 2.2
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	~	~	~	
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	?	?	?	Difficult to assess in the light of the adverse impact of intensive farming practices on water quality. Baseline data indicates river quality is improving and does not refer to any nitrate or phosphate problems although much of the district is a Nitrate Sensitive Zone NBED check Magic down on Friday night!
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	~	~	~	
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	?	?	?	Possibly prevents development that could interfere with groundwater recharge, although this would be localised and its impact on flooding, etc., negligible.
5.1 Maintain and enhance human health	~	~	~	
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	

5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	~	~	~	
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	~	~	~	
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	~	~	~	
6.3 Ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing	~	~	~	
6.4 Encourage and enable active involvement of local people in the community	~	~	~	
7.1 Help people gain access to satisfying work appropriate to skills, potential and location	~	~	~	
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	~	~	
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	~	~	~	Only potential threat is supply constrain on development land and the impact this may have on the ability to bring through enough stock of land for employment. This cannot be quantified at this stage.
Summary of assessment: Clearly an essential policy to safeguard one of the district's strategic resources.				
Summary of mitigation proposals: None.				
Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: There is a potential impact of land shortages on provision of housing and employment land in the longer term, though this cannot be quantified at present. However the policy does allow for a pragmatic position, recognising some loss of land will occur in the current plan period.				