

THE SITE & ITS SETTING

NS/3 – The site for Northstowe				
The policy text defines the footprint of the settlement, setting housing capacity and the need for associated 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	++	++	++	Inherited from initial review of potential sites. Maximises use of brownfield military land (plus land currently occupied by the golf course).
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	(–)	(—)	(—)	As for policy NS/2, the development is not sustainable in absolute terms as it increases energy consumption, however the use of efficient technology can help to reduce consumption per capita (or per household), and the overall relative impact must be assumed to be neutral if the requirement to expand the housing stock is a pre-requisite of national, regional and county policies.
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	(–)	(—)	(—)	As above.
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	?	?	?	Supporting text advocates avoiding damage to national nature designations, though the objective should be to avoid or mitigate impacts on 'lesser' designations. This issue is addressed by policies NS/20 and NS/21.
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	~	~	~	Addressed by NS/2 and NS/5 and NS/6; this policy focuses on the built 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	(+)	(+)	(+)	As for 2.1, although the supporting text refers to the need for green separation from Longstanton and Oakington.
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	~	~	~	
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	(+)	(+)	(+)	Implicit in references to the guided busway and other linking services within the settlement.
4.2 Minimise waste production and support recycling	(-)	(—)	(—)	As for 1.2 and 1.3.
4.3 Limit or reduce vulnerability to flooding and other climate change impacts	(+)	(+)	(+)	Addressed by NS/2 and NS/5, and also mentioned in supporting text.
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	+	+	+	Refers to range of facilities that are considered essential to creating a sustainable community (though this list is considerably shorter than that in policy NS/12).
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	~	~	~	Mentions only overall size and need to contain the size of the settlement to limit its impact on neighbouring villages. However housing requirements are addressed by other policies.
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	+	+	+	Limited mention of scope of employment (this is addressed in NS/2 and NS/11) but the supporting text provides rationale for

				education requirements, focusing specifically on secondary schooling needs.
7.2 Support appropriate investment in people, places, communications and infrastructure	~	~	~	
7.3. Improve the efficiency, competitiveness, vitality and adaptability of the local economy	?	?	?	Relationship with surrounding local economy – ie. as service and employment centre – is addressed in passing.
Summary of assessment: Little to comment on as the selection of the site is predicated on earlier sustainability assessment undertaken for the Cambridgeshire Structure Plan, and the supporting text is consistent with the objectives of creating a sustainable new community.				
Summary of mitigation proposals: None.				
Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: None identified.				

NS/4 – Extended Cambridge Green Belt

Establishes that the northern Cambridge Green Belt will be extended to surround Northstowe to help preserve the openness of the remaining land in the area and ensure the settlement will not merge with the adjacent villages.

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	+	+	+	Incorporates re-designation of Green Belt reflecting the exceptional nature of development at Northstowe will respecting the need to maintain separation between settlements.
1.2 Reduce the use of non-renewable resources including energy	~	~	~	
1.3 Limit water consumption to sustainable levels	+	+	+	Intrinsically supportive since it maintains the open aspect of the landscape, limiting the interference of built development with the natural recharge of groundwater.
2.1 Avoid damage to designated sites and protected species	~	~	~	

2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	+	+	+	Supportive.
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	(+)	(+)	(+)	Not stated explicitly but an implicit objective of Green Belt policy.
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	++	++	++	One of the primary objectives of Green Belt policy.
3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	+	+	+	Implicitly supportive.
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	+	+(+)	++	Also implicitly supportive. Preserving the open aspect of the landscape will help to maintain air quality provided appropriate controls are in place to minimise dust contamination, etc. Green separation will also help to limit noise and other impacts on the adjacent villages.
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	(+)	(+)	(+)	Beneficial provided there are public rights of way for exercise across the Green Belt.
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	?	?	?	As for 5.1.
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 sustainable policy extending the Green Belt to maintain strategic separation of Northstowe from the surrounding settlements.

Summary of mitigation proposals: None identified.

Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: The LDF involves re-designating Green Belt land in the vicinity of Northstowe and also in the Cambridge East and Cambridge Southern Fringe areas. Collectively re-designation weakens the perception of the Green Belt status as a constraint on development, and implies that concerted development pressure in the longer term could result in further changes. However, it is recognised that the changes proposed here implement the proposals of both RPG6 and the Structure Plan and involve an extension to the Green Belt as a response to an exceptional circumstance, namely the building of a new town.

NS/5 – Landscaping the setting of Northstowe

Establishes the need for a Landscape Strategy which will ensure that landscaping of the settlement and its periphery is consistent with the visual appearance of other settlements set in the open and largely arable landscape of the surrounding landscape character area. The policy places equal weight on landscaping to mitigate visual impact of the settlement, and to provide vegetation resources for the benefit of residents and local wildlife.

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	~	~	~	Containment is provided by other policies including NS/4.
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	~	~	~	Not mentioned explicitly.
2.2 Maintain / enhance range and viability of characteristic habitats and species	++	++	++	Importance of appropriate landscaping to maintaining and re-establishing biodiversity is clearly stated.
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	++	++	++	The role of green spaces and other landscaped features in providing for recreation within and beyond the edge of the settlement is clearly stated.
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	~	~	~	Any benefits subsumed by 3.2.
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	++	++	++	Very clearly the principal objective of this policy, to ensure that the setting of the new settlement is consistent with that of older established villages in the local area.
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	+	+	+	Clause vii refers to providing opportunity for formal recreation.
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 that ensures the setting and physical appearance of the new settlement within its surroundings is in harmony with the setting and appearance of other local communities.				
Summary of mitigation proposals: None.				
Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects: None identified.				

NS/6 – Green separation from Longstanton and Oakington

Defines the purpose of maintaining, and minimum extent of separation, between Northstowe and the closest settlements of Longstanton and Oakington, and the nature of landscaping and vegetation that will be provided.

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	(++)	(++)	(++)	Implicitly supportive provided the green separation limits visual impact <u>and</u> prevents the settlements coalescing in the longer term.
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	++	++	++	Biodiversity value is implicit in the policy, which also requires the preservation of natural vegetation features and additional planting with locally representative species and stands.
2.3 Improve opportunities for people to access the countryside and wild places	++	++	++	Policy makes specific reference to the role of separation areas for appropriate levels and types of public access, but excluding inappropriate uses (eg. formal recreation) which would adversely affect tranquillity and be likely to disturb local wildlife.
3.1 Avoid damage to designated historic sites and their settings	(+)	(+)	(+)	Assumed to be positive.
3.2 Maintain diversity and distinctiveness of landscape and townscape	++	++	++	Policy clearly aims to reproduce the vegetation and landscape patterns typical of the surrounding character area and apply them to Northstowe, its setting and periphery.

3.3. Create places and spaces that look good and work well	++	++	++	Particularly important in terms of minimising impact on residents of Longstanton and Oakington.
4.1 Reduce emission of greenhouse gases and other pollutants	~	~	~	(Although separation spaces implicitly help air quality by allowing dispersal of contaminants).
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	++	++	++	Benefits from public access rights to leisure walks through these areas and air quality benefits mentioned against 4.1.
5.2 Reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	~	~	~	
5.3 Improve the quantity and quality of publicly accessible open space	+	+(+)	++	Adds to informal open space provision around the settlements. Also we assume public rights of way will be created within the green wedges where none exists at present.
6.1 Improve the quality, range and accessibility of services and facilities	+	+	+	Contributes to readily accessible leisure facilities.
6.2 Redress inequalities in age, gender, race, location, faith, disability, etc.	?	?	?	In principle the facilities are readily available to all local residents and we assume design of these spaces would ensure convenient access for the less mobile.
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	~	~	~
<i>Summary of assessment:</i> Another sustainable policy aiming to ensure the setting and appearance of the new settlement is consistent with the setting of other villages in the local landscape character area.			
<i>Summary of mitigation proposals:</i> None.			
<i>Secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects:</i> None identified.			