

# APPENDICES

## APPENDIX A: Lists of Consultees and Stakeholders

### CONTRIBUTORS PROVIDING INFORMATION ON GI PROJECTS

(Either through the online survey, or directly to the consultant team).

Those marked with a \* also contributed to the development of the exemplar project plans

Name		Organisation
Emma	Arklay	Northampton Borough Council
Chris	Blakeley	West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit
Alan	Borrell*	Friends of Northampton Racecourse
Steve	Ellis	Daventry District Council
Robin	Field	Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area
Scott	Gibson	Northampton Borough Council
Neil	Holland	Northamptonshire Highways
Matt	Johnson*	Wildlife Trust BCN
Simon	Newell	River Nene Regional Park
James	Ogle*	Northampton Borough Council
David	Rowen	Northampton Borough Council
Alan	Smith*	Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire
Dr Victor G F	Smith*	Friends of Eastfield Park
Simon	Tindle	Northampton Borough Council
Heather	Webb	Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area
Simon	Whitton*	River Nene Nature Improvement Area
Colin	Wilkinson*	RSPB

### **NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL STEERING GROUP**

Emma Arkley\*- Planning Officer  
 James Ogle – Senior Regeneration Officer  
 Richard Palmer- Planning Policy Team Leader  
 Jenny Ballinger- Planning Officer (Conservation)  
 Simon Tindle- Planning Officer (Development Management)  
 Nicky Toon- Senior Planning Officer (Development Management)  
 Graham Holmes – Regeneration Officer  
 Clare Berry – Planning Policy and Heritage Manager

\* Client Project Manager

### **DELEGATES ATTENDING STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOP, APRIL 2014**

<b>Name</b>		<b>Organisation</b>
Michelle	Aveyard	NCC- Public Health and Wellbeing- Health Improvement Co-Coordinator
Jenny	Ballinger	Northampton Borough Council
Dermot	Clancy	Joint Planning Unit
Dan	Curtis	Environment Agency
Martin	De Rosario	Disabled People's Forum
Robin	Field	Nene Valley NIA
Francesca	Guglielmi	Environment Agency
Tom	James	Daventry District Council
Simon	Mutsaars	Groundwork
Simon	Newell	River Nene Regional Park
James	Ogle	Northampton Borough Council
Richard	Palmer	Northampton Borough Council
Alan	Smith	Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire
Heather	Webb	Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area
Daryl	Webb	Northampton Borough Council
Ellie	Williams	Northampton Borough Council
Katie	Young	Northampton Borough Council

**DELEGATES ATTENDING INTERACTIVE MAP TESTING SESSIONS, OCTOBER 2014**

Name		Organisation
13 <sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2014		
Jenny	Ballinger	Northampton Borough Council
Claire	Berry	West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit
Mike	Burgess	Northampton Borough Council
Oliver	Burke	Wildlife Trust
Ben	Clarke	Northampton Borough Council
Pater	Hackett	Northampton Borough Council
Tom	James	Daventry District Council
Jane	Jennings	Northampton Borough Council
Paul	Lewin	Northampton Borough Council
James	Ogle	Northampton Borough Council
Richard	Palmer	Northampton Borough Council
Rob	Price	Environment Agency
Kevin	Skerry	Northampton Borough Council
Jason	Toyne	Northampton Borough Council
22 <sup>ND</sup> OCTOBER 2014		
Katheryn	Hardcastle	River Nene Regional Park
Jennifer	Hedges	Groundwork
Graham	Holmes	Northampton Borough Council
John	O'Neill	Environment Agency
Simon	Whitton	River Nene Regional Park

**CONSULTEES ON DRAFT VERSIONS OF THE *GIP***

<b>INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED ON FIRST DRAFT <i>GIP</i>, JULY 2014</b>
Northampton Borough Council Development Management Team
Northampton Borough Council Planning Policy and Heritage Team
Northampton Borough Council Regeneration Team
West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit

<b>ORGANISATIONS CONSULTED ON SECOND DRAFT <i>GIP</i>, AUGUST-OCTOBER 2016</b>
Daventry District Council
Environment Agency
Friends of Eastfield Park/ Eastfield Park Management Committee
Highways England
Historic England
Lead Local Flood Authority
Natural England
Northamptonshire County Council (Access Officer)
Wildlife Trust

## APPENDIX B:

# Results of Interactive Map Consultation Workshops

### Introduction to Workshops

#### **Green Infrastructure Plan: *Creating a Green Infrastructure for the Northampton Related Development Area***

In March 2014 the Borough Council commissioned Fiona Fyfe Associates for the development of a Green Infrastructure Implementation Plan for the Northampton Related Development Area. The Borough Council has been developing an interactive mapping tool in tandem to support the future implementation of the Plan. The range of information included on the map has been specially chosen / developed to assist in the planning of and investment in green infrastructure for the Northampton Related Development Area

On 13<sup>th</sup> October and 22<sup>nd</sup> October testing sessions were undertaken for partners and stakeholders to have a look at the map. The purpose of the session was to test the tool for usability and usefulness and to identify what, if any improvements can be made and what information is missing. It's an opportunity to refine it before it goes live as part of the consultation process for the GI Implementation Plan which is scheduled for early 2015. The table below sets out the findings of the session.

### Findings of Workshops

Usability, usefulness and what's good
1. Speed of navigating the software
2. Comprehensive information provision
3. User-friendly
4. Easy to interpret
5. Web-links from projects to organisations associated with that project
6. The whole thing, the general concept is really good
7. The intention to link the GI Components with their profiles and projects with their project plans will be really useful
8. This tool allows you to see a project within its GI context as a whole
9. This is a great tool given the direction we're all moving in, it will be extremely useful and help avoid duplicated efforts

What's missing?
<p>9. Community Group web-sites</p> <p><b><i>Community Group web-sites will be added if their project, using the Project Plan template, is posted on the Interactive Map.</i></b></p>
<p>10. Neighbourhood Warden Wards</p> <p><b><i>i) It has been decided that it would not be appropriate to include a Neighbourhood Warden Wards layer on the GI interactive 'tab' as this information does not constitute a primary GI function. The layer could be included on the Council's broader interactive mapping platform MyMap which hosts various other information layers. Inclusion on the wider platform would enable use of the layer in conjunction with the GI 'tab', whilst ensuring the GI 'tab' remains focused on GI functions.</i></b></p> <p><b><i>ii) The Neighbourhood Warden Wards GIS layer already exists so no new data capture would be required. If you wish to take this further contact Michael Dunne on 01604 837761 or <a href="mailto:mdunne@northampton.gov.uk">mdunne@northampton.gov.uk</a></i></b></p>
<p>11. Park Ranger Areas</p> <p><b><i>i) Please refer to answer 10 (i) with reference to Park Ranger Areas</i></b></p> <p><b><i>ii) The Park Ranger Areas are not currently mapped; this layer would need to be created. If you wish to discuss this further contact Michael Dunne on 01604 837761 or <a href="mailto:mdunne@northampton.gov.uk">mdunne@northampton.gov.uk</a> who will be able to advise on the next steps</i></b></p>
<p>12. Locations of dog bins</p> <p><b><i>i) Please refer to answer 10 (i) with reference to dog bin locations</i></b></p> <p><b><i>ii) The locations of dog bins are not currently mapped; this layer would need to be created. If you wish to discuss this further contact Michael Dunne on 01604 837761 or <a href="mailto:mdunne@northampton.gov.uk">mdunne@northampton.gov.uk</a> who will be able to advise on the next steps</i></b></p>
<p>13. Locations of litter bins (in streets as well as parks if possible)</p> <p><b><i>i) Please refer to answer 10 (i) with reference to litter bin locations</i></b></p> <p><b><i>ii) The locations of litter bins are not currently mapped; this layer would need to be created. If you wish to discuss this further contact Michael Dunne on 01604 837761 or <a href="mailto:mdunne@northampton.gov.uk">mdunne@northampton.gov.uk</a> who will be able to advise on the next steps</i></b></p>
<p>14. Upton Deserted Medieval Village is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The boundary has changed recently. The map needs updating to reflect this</p> <p><b><i>This layer will be amended to reflect the changes above</i></b></p>
<p>15. Home Farm, Eagle Drive is now listed but this isn't reflected on map</p> <p><b><i>This layer will be amended to reflect the changes above</i></b></p>
<p>16. Consider linking in projects from the River Restoration Centre</p> <p><b><i>It would be advantageous to post projects from other organisations and we would strongly encourage this collaboration. Engaging with stakeholders and partners in this way would maximise the potential to 'market' project opportunities and avoid duplication of efforts.</i></b></p>

<b><i>To retain continuity and consistency projects would need to be submitted using the Project Plan template.</i></b>
17.Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA needs specific mapping <b><i>This layer will be added</i></b>
18.Who to contact to add / update information <b><i>All requests for new information and amendments are welcome and should be directed in the first instance to mdunne@northamptonton.gov.uk</i></b>
19.Is it possible to include data from other sources e.g. WFD and the status of water bodies; flood maps; Council owned land <b><i>This will be investigated. The Environment Agency has been contacted in relation to their available data. Seeking correct contact / Department to progress</i></b>

<b>What could improve it / have you considered?</b>
20.Some projects have links to organisations associated with that project. This needs to be completed as it is a useful aspect. <b><i>This will be completed in due course.</i></b>
21.Could the measuring tool enable measurements in miles as well as km? <b><i>This opportunity will be investigated and progressed if possible</i></b>
22.How will you represent a project covering several km e.g. something linear? Point data will not capture. Perhaps you could use the national grid reference in the centre of the project and let the project plan describe project extents? <b><i>This observation requires further investigation of trial and review. The intention is that that well developed projects will be mapped using a polygon rather than point data. A linear polygon could be used to represent the type of project being described.</i></b>
23.Who will manage and maintain it? How will it be resourced? <b><i>The Planning Policy and Heritage Team have a Planning Technician who will be able to update information on a regular basis. More technical issues will be resolved by the Borough Council's GIS Officer and ICT Development Team.</i></b>
24.How often will it be updated? How long will not started projects remain on the layer? <b><i>It will be updated with new information and project details as this is required / submitted (see Q23). The Interactive Mapping Tool provides data to inform the monitoring process of policies in the Local Plan Part II. Local Plan policies are monitored annually and therefore project progress would need to be monitored annually to support the monitoring process. This will help us manage and maintain the map efficiently</i></b>



25.Can the NBC banner have a 'fade' option as it takes up 10 / 15% of the screen which limits the overview of information

***The NBC banner serves as a reminder that the tool is provided by Northampton Borough Council and provides a constant link to the main website. It is a corporate requirement and must remain.***

26.Rename Northampton History to Heritage Assets and include historical information together i.e. listed buildings, SMs, etc.

***This can be done. Contact Michael Dunne who will willing take guidance on how you want the historical data named /collated / categorised***

27.It's irritating that you can only see one information layer at a time even though you may have a combination of information switched on from several different layers. It would be good to be able to see the listing of layers you have open to be able to turn them on and off without having to go through all the other menus.

***This possibility will be investigated. It might be possible to sit the legend showing active layers under the existing menu but if this cannot be achieved we may end up with an additional legend which would take up valuable screen space that could be filled by the map.***

28.Will this be readily available on the website?

***Yes, it will be publically accessible and there will be supporting web pages enabling you to locate information easily***

29.Could it have a tool for labelling within a specific layer?

***Providing labelling within layers is likely to result in a cluttered map, particularly if several individually labelled layers are turned on together. Instead we have developed a function where clicking on an entity will show any linked information. It is possible this function could be adapted to ensure it contains desired information but each request for such detail would have to be assessed on a case by case basis dependent on whether we have the information required available.***

30.Some of the graphics require hovering the pointer in 'just the right place' to get the fly-over hints up. Ensure each polygon is designed so you can access information from hovering over any part of it.

***This will be investigated and resolved once we've established which layer(s) are experiencing this behaviour***

31.Consider colour coding projects so you can see at a glance if they are 'planned', 'ready to go' or 'started'.

***The intention is that all projects will be supported by a project plan setting out indicative costs and time scales. They should be planned sufficiently to be ready to go if they are on the map. However, this is a good point and would warrant future discussion as the map begins to develop and more projects come on line.***

32. Break component areas into a sub-key. <b><i>The possibility will be investigated and changes made if possible</i></b>
33. Break habitat swathes and corridors into a sub-key. <b><i>The possibility will be investigated and changes made if possible</i></b>
34. Link mapped projects to project specific information on the project owners web-site rather than just their home page. <b><i>An immediate advantage of linking to a project owner's home page is the strength of the link, home pages remain the same where pages within a web site change and links get lost / broken. This is a good point though which warrants future discussion with project owners. Perhaps ensure there is a clear link on their home page to their project work being supported by the map.</i></b>
35. Not all the GI Components and Projects have been linked to their Profiles / Plans respectively. It'll be better when they do. <b><i>This work has already begun and will be a matter of priority to have all the Exemplar Project Plans and Green Infrastructure Component Profiles linked to the map and back again before the map goes live</i></b>
36. The more project detail the better. <b><i>Using the Exemplar Project Plans as a template aims provide a consistent approach to information provision. There may need to be a quality control check on Project Plans before they are uploaded to the map, this is worth future discussion</i></b>
37. The key does not take account of colour blindness. You could use more discernible colours or add a 'code' within the shade. <b><i>The colours are by no means set; these will be amended prior to the layers going live. We will look into avoiding shades of red where possible but given the complexity of the map we may be limited. There will be fly-over hints to provide clarification should there be any doubt to the location in question</i></b>
38. Focuses on public access where a number of GI elements are likely to be in private ownership. <b><i>It is not intended to focus on public access, it is focused on representing projects which are ready to take forward but which lack funding irrespective of location. The projects currently supported by the map were brought forward through a consultation process if they are principally located on public land that is by coincidence. Hopefully landowners will begin to see the benefits of placing their projects on the interactive map as interest in the tool develops as all space has a roll to play in the development of GI</i></b>
39. Operates at a strategic level where a number of GI elements are likely to be small scale e.g. paths <b><i>The map does display strategic features e.g. the Strategic GI Framework and the Biodiversity Network to enable the user to understand the context within which their project sits. It also drills down to the local level through the Local Level GI Network. This uses a components approach to make it possible to understand how the GI Network functions at a local level as these are supported by GI Components Profiles to describe the opportunities that exist within them. The projects posted on the map present 'local action on the ground', what is or could be happening to deliver the Local Level GI Network. It is true that there will be projects planned or happening which won't feature on the map; there will be an onus on project owners to</i></b>

<i>submit theirs for inclusion. The idea though is that we have one platform where a variety of projects, big and small, can be projected to raise awareness of their existence and that this tool will consolidate the vast array of activities in one place to provide a coordinated approach to the delivery of the GI Network.</i>
40. Project locations too specific. The mapping suggests a fixed location of works. In reality some projects are likely to spread across a wide area e.g. Brampton Arm. <b><i>This is an issue we need to iron out. The response in 22 provide our initial thoughts but more work needs to be done</i></b>
41. Using S106 to fund projects needs to be justified against Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) regulations. <b><i>Projects will be funded as and when opportunities arise, this may be as part of a planning condition if a project is located on the development site and its justified or it may form part of a S106 if it can be demonstrated that this is relevant to the development. The intention is that the GI Components will be accepted as strategic elements in CIL. The projects fall out of the Components as a specific opportunity to direct funding on an identified need which makes a contribution towards the development of the local level network</i></b>
42. Add a 'print-screen' feature. <b><i>We will investigate how a printing functionality can be added</i></b>
43. Consider providing satellite view and toggle between satellite and street view. <b><i>We will investigate the use of aerial mapping</i></b>
44. Consider agreeing a standard project description template. <b><i>A Project Plan template has already been created. The Exemplar Project Plans provide an example of what we want Project Plans to look like before they are up-loaded onto the site. A Project Plan template will be available as a download from the web-site</i></b>
45. Some of the layers are quite technical e.g. Strategic GI Framework. Could you make a link from these to an information point (e.g. web-page, the GI Plan) explaining what these features are? <b><i>Yes</i></b>
46. Once the GI layer goes live think whether it should sit under planning or sits as a stand-alone. <b><i>This still need to be agreed</i></b>
47. How will project data be captured? There are issues relating to the vetting of data and consideration needs to be given to the detailing of sensitive and commercial information. <b><i>Project owners will submit their project plans and therefore only information they are comfortable with displaying will be included. However, this is a good point. A project may be identified and submitted by one party but it could be located on land privately owned. There will need to be further discussion on how to deal with this</i></b>
48. It would be useful to know which information layer a piece of information comes from. This is particularly the case when more layers are on and you want to turn them off <b><i>Please refer to the response for item 27, the addition of a legend, which would resolve this issue, would take up valuable screen space that could be filled by the map, the idea of the 'Information Layers' area was to act as a list of layers and a legend in one place.</i></b>

49. I am concerned that this approach will simply encourage developers to shy away from making provision for on-site GI / open space in preference of making an off-site contribution towards an easy option, ready-made project. ***This is by no means the intention. The forthcoming Local Plan Part II will contain policies which will direct for the need of GI on-site but there also needs to be a mechanism in place to allow for strategic planning as well. We intend to develop a guidance document for developers setting out what we expect when providing GI as part of a development proposal. This will enable Planning Officers to use planning conditions to deliver GI on-site. There will be times when a S106 can be used for a tangible project off-site in preference to the provision of a bitty piece of open space on-site. Lastly, as noted in Comment 41, we anticipate the use of CIL for some of the bigger, more strategic projects but without the Green Infrastructure Plan we haven't got a strategic approach to the delivery of GI nor the evidence to demonstrate what and where to meet need***

50. Can you query database by criteria i.e. project cost; projects with a focus on water or access or biodiversity enhancements. This is really important, local people may be looking for projects they can contribute to locally where developers and other providers are looking to fund projects thematically. ***This is a great idea but it is more akin to a GIS query than the function of the Interactive Map. We are unlikely to be able to put a 'query' function on the Interactive Map at this stage but we would be able to run a query like this in-house, providing the right information is logged in the database. We will investigate further by determining what themes should be available to query so we build our data bases to support this need***

51. Could you include an ideas or feedback box? Perhaps set it in the tools layer alongside the measuring tool? ***We will investigate the possibility of taking this idea further***

52. Would it be possible to turn on a buffer zone to give broad indication of distance to a proposed development to negotiate S106 opportunities? ***Technically it would be possible. However, the negotiations for Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and the move closer to its application are having an impact on the application of S106. It is likely in the future that S106 will become more restricted to projects directly relevant to the development as CIL will be looked upon for providing the more strategic provision. Therefore and under the circumstances it might be best to hold this suggestion for the moment rather than create a tool which could be misleading to the user holding hope for a potential funding source.***

## APPENDIX C:

# How the *GIP* Puts National GI Principles<sup>1</sup> into Practice

Principle		How Principle has been achieved through the <i>GIP</i>
1	<b><i>GI needs to be strategically planned to provide a comprehensive and integrated network</i></b>	The <i>GIP</i> has refined the Strategic GI Network into a Local Level GI Network which will be used to inform planning policy.
2	<b><i>GI requires wide partnership buy-in</i></b>	The <i>GIP</i> has been developed through extensive consultation with a range of stakeholders, including neighbouring Local Authorities, and professionals engaged with the natural environment, heritage, health, regeneration, planning etc. Local community groups have also been involved. The Final Draft <i>GIP</i> was subject to a 6-week technical consultation.
3	<b><i>GI needs to be planned using sound evidence</i></b>	The <i>GIP</i> has been informed by up-to –date mapping of nature designations, cultural heritage designations, open space assets, public rights of way and proposed new developments. It has also been informed by current documentation and planning policy.
4	<b><i>GI needs to demonstrate ‘multi-functionality’</i></b>	The <i>GIP</i> gives equal weight to different types of GI projects, and stresses the importance of multi-functionality. Each of the exemplar GI project plans contained in the <i>GIP</i> demonstrates a range of benefits.
5	<b><i>GI creation and maintenance need to be properly resourced</i></b>	The <i>GIP</i> contains a funding strategy to aid the financial resourcing of future GI projects. Recommendations are made regarding developer contributions to GI, through development design and off-site mitigation opportunities.

<sup>1</sup> From *Planning for a Healthy Environment – Good Practice Guidance for Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity* (TCPA and the Wildlife Trusts, 2012)

<b>Principle</b>		<b>How Principle has been achieved through the GIP</b>
<b>6</b>	<b><i>GI needs to be central to the development's design and must reflect and enhance the area's locally distinctive character</i></b>	The <i>GIP</i> divides the Local GI Network into a series of Components. Landscape and townscape character were key considerations in the identification of these Components. Recommendations are made to enable new/ enhanced GI to make a positive contribution to landscape/ townscape character and sense of place. The importance of integrating GI into new development, and to ensuring that new development links with existing GI is stressed throughout the <i>GIP</i> .
<b>7</b>	<b><i>GI should contribute to biodiversity gain by safeguarding, enhancing, restoring, and creating wildlife habitat, and by integrating biodiversity into the built environment</i></b>	The <i>GIP</i> takes account of designated wildlife assets (Internationally, nationally and locally designated sites) and the habitat corridors which connect them. It highlights opportunities to enhance, extend and link biodiversity sites, and (where appropriate) to increase their multi-functionality by (for example) enhancing public access and education opportunities. Suggestions are also made on the integration of biodiversity sites into proposed redevelopment and regeneration schemes.
<b>8</b>	<b><i>GI should achieve physical and functional connectivity between sites at strategic and local levels</i></b>	The <i>GIP</i> takes account of sustainable movement and biodiversity networks, and puts strategic GI corridors into practice at a local level. The importance of connectivity between sites is stressed throughout the document, with opportunities highlighted to improve linkages and connections for people and wildlife.
<b>9</b>	<b><i>GI needs to include accessible spaces and facilitate physically active travel</i></b>	The <i>GIP</i> takes account a wide range of urban open spaces (including public open space and recreation sites) and sustainable movement networks. The <i>GIP</i> highlights opportunities to facilitate connections between different sites and locations, with the aim of achieving a modal shift towards sustainable travel in Northampton.
<b>10</b>	<b><i>GI needs to be integrated with other policy initiatives</i></b>	The <i>GIP</i> has been written to contribute to a range of international, national and local policy obligations, including (for example) policies relating to: sustainable development; biodiversity; flooding and drainage; climate change; protection of heritage assets; the Water Framework Directive; landscape; localism and local regeneration.

# APPENDIX D

## *Profiles for Local GI Network Components*

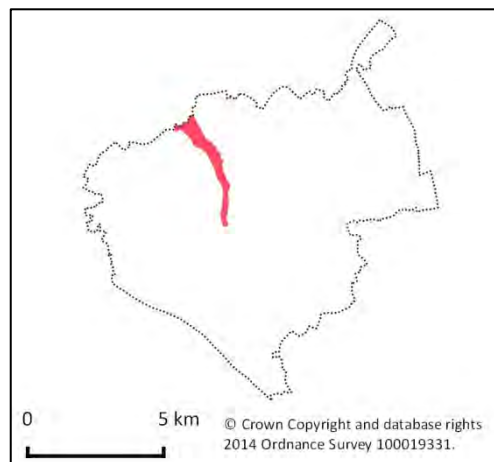


## Northampton Green Infrastructure Local Network Component

### A: BRAMPTON ARM OF THE RIVER NENE

#### Location within Northampton

The Brampton Arm Local GI Network Component forms a corridor approx. 5km long. It follows the valley formed by the Brampton Arm of the River Nene, and runs from the NRDA boundary to the north-west of Northampton into the centre of the town. It is adjacent to the King's Heath SUE, and incorporates the proposed Strategic Greenspace associated with the development. At its southern end it connects with the Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone.



*Valley floor scene in the Brampton Arm, as seen from the Rugby-Northampton railway*

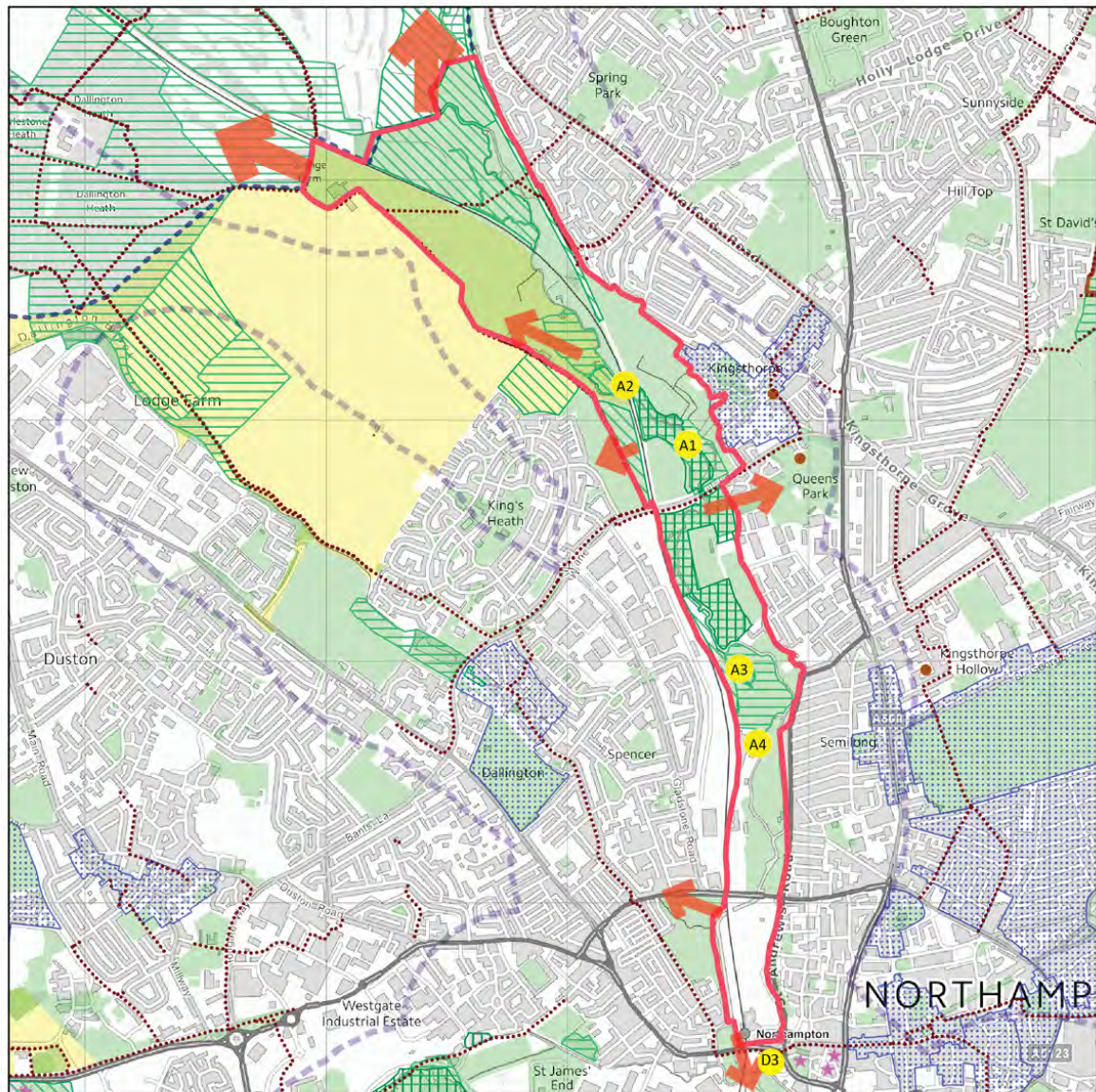
#### Strategic Green Infrastructure Context (See map 2.1)

The Brampton Arm Component is part of the larger Sub-Regional GI Corridor 8 (The Brampton Arm- Northampton to Market Harborough) which continues to the north. It also contributes to Local GI Corridor 6 (Northampton- Daventry) which runs broadly east- west. At its southern end the component connects with Sub-Regional GI Corridors 1 and 2 (The Nene Valley).

#### Identified GI projects within this Local GI Network Component:

- A1: Kingsthorpe Nature Reserve Improvements
- A2: Kingsthorpe Wildlife Trust Reserve to Kingsthorpe North Meadow Linkage Project
- A3: Kingsthorpe Lake Restoration
- A4: Cycle Path extension into the Town Centre





## Northampton Green Infrastructure Plan

Local Green Infrastructure Network

Component A:  
Brampton Arm of the River Nene

May 2016

- Northampton Related Development Area
- Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE)
- A. Brampton Arm of the River Nene
- Public Right of Way / Cycle Route
- Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area
- Local Nature Reserve
- Local Wildlife Site
- Potential Wildlife Site
- Local Geological Site
- Scheduled Monument
- Conservation Area
- Open Space, Sport and Recreation
- Identified Green Infrastructure Project

0 1 2 km

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- Link with Strategic Green Infrastructure Corridor
- Link with adjacent Local GI Network Component

### Functions of the Brampton Arm Local GI Network Component

Existing	Opportunities
<b>Biodiversity</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kingsthorpe Local Nature Reserve (LNR), comprising riverside meadows.</li> <li>Five Local Wildlife Sites including Kingsthorpe Meadows and Kingsthorpe Tussocks.</li> <li>Potential Wildlife Site extending northwards beyond the NRDA boundary.</li> <li>Brampton Arm forms an open water habitat corridor, flanked by a lowland meadow corridor. Both extend beyond the NRDA boundary to the north and join with the wider habitat network, including Pitsford Water.</li> <li>The entire area is within the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area (NIA), which continues north and north-west to encompass Pitsford Water and part of the Brampton Brook.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve management of streams, wetlands and riverside meadows to increase their biodiversity value.</li> <li>Provide better habitat linkages to increase the biodiversity value within the corridor, and strengthen the biodiversity network between town and countryside.</li> <li>Enhance interpretation of the natural environment within the valley.</li> </ul>
<b>Connectivity and Access</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kingsthorpe LNR provides public access to riverside meadow habitats. There is easy access to the Nature Reserve for the communities of Kingsthorpe, King's Heath and Queen's Park.</li> <li>Brampton Valley Way (to Market Harborough) follows an old railway line through northern part of the area and is part of the Primary Movement Network. However, there is no direct connection from the Brampton Valley Way into Northampton Town Centre; instead it leaves the valley floor and follows roads.</li> <li>The public bridleway along the western side of the valley is a popular route for walks to Harlestone Firs.</li> <li>Access into or through the southern part of the area is very limited.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create links between Kings Heath and North of Whitehills SUEs and the Town Centre via the Brampton Valley.</li> <li>Improve public access into the southern part of the area.</li> <li>Extend the Brampton Valley Way into Northampton Town Centre through the Brampton Arm via a new riverside path. Create links into and across the adjacent Enterprise Zone, potentially connecting with Delapre.</li> <li>Connect seamlessly with Structural Greenspace associated with King's Heath SUE</li> <li>Improve accessibility at Kingsthorpe LNR, replacing bridges, benches etc. where necessary.</li> </ul>
<b>Community and Public Health</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allotments on the eastern edge of the area are used by the local community.</li> <li>Kingsthorpe LNR has public access (by road) from King's Heath and Kingsthorpe, but there is no riverside path.</li> </ul> <p><b>(Continued)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage the local community in projects at the LNR.</li> <li>Provide open space exercise opportunities for existing local communities and also future residents of King's Heath SUE.</li> </ul>



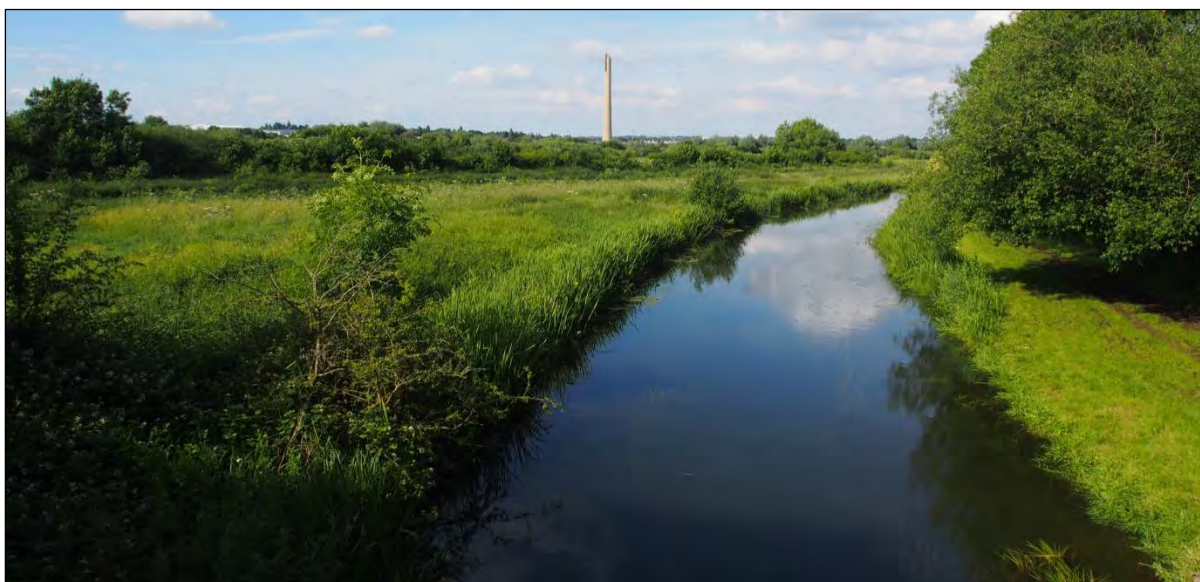
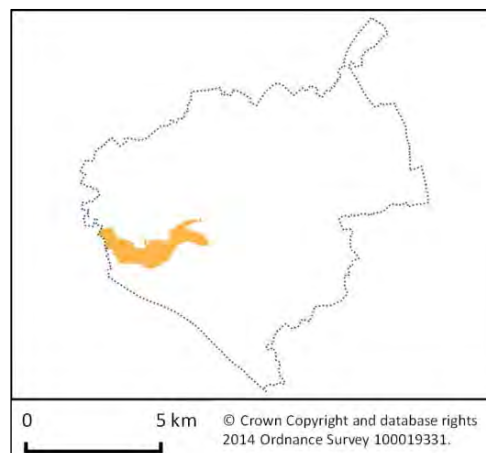
Existing	Opportunities
<i>Community and Public Health (continued)</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Brampton Valley Way contributes to the wider cycle network, providing opportunities for exercise and sustainable transport.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long-term aspiration for a riverside path providing off-road access into the town centre, also used by future residents of SUE.</li> </ul>
<i>Landscape</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The area provides an attractive and open approach into Northampton when approaching by train from the north. It also forms the setting for Kingsthorpe historic core.</li> <li>Entire area is within the 'River Valley Floodplain' Landscape Character Type.</li> <li>High visual quality, and of high sensitivity to change.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further enhance the visual and landscape qualities of the area through positive management.</li> <li>Strengthen the identity of the area, for example through the introduction of gateway features.</li> </ul>
<i>Heritage</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scheduled Monument (site of Saxon Palace) at the southern end of the area. Site of Northampton Castle nearby (now under the railway station).</li> <li>Northampton Heritage Gateway Project aims to open up a new park space near the railway station to celebrate Northampton's rich history. It will focus on the site of Northampton Castle, but will also emphasise other important heritage features in the area (including St Peter's church), and include a heritage trail and interpretation.</li> <li>Conservation area and listed buildings at Kingsthorpe, at the eastern edge of the area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the Heritage Gateway Project to ensure that GI is fully integrated into the project.</li> <li>Investigate opportunities for conservation/ enhancement/ interpretation of heritage assets, e.g. former mill sites</li> </ul>
<i>Flooding and water management</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valley floor is within flood zone 2 and/ or 3.</li> <li>Run-off from the railway line can compound drainage problems and impact on water quality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential for SUDS/ wetland creation schemes to reduce flooding and improve water quality, including any SUDS schemes associated with the SUE at Kings Heath.</li> </ul>
<i>Ecosystem Services (See section 15.7)</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The area makes important contributions to regulating services, particularly with regard to flood risk management, water quality, plant pollination, and climate regulation. Some provisioning services are provided by animals and crops farmed in the area. The area also provides a number of cultural services, including recreation, education and a positive aesthetic experience.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase contributions to a range of ecosystem services through continued good habitat management and improved access.</li> </ul>

## Northampton Local Green Infrastructure Network Component

### B: WESTERN NENE, UPTON AND DUSTON MILL

#### Location within Northampton

This Local GI Network Component is located on the western side of Northampton. It is approx. 4km long, and forms a corridor on both banks of the river Nene from the western boundary of the NRDA into the town centre as far as the Milton Keynes railway line. It also includes part of the Grand Union Canal (Northampton Arm). It encompasses Storton's Pits Local Nature Reserve, Upton Country Park and some of the open spaces associated with the Upton SUE. It is adjacent to (and partially within) the Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone.



*Grand Union Canal near Duston Mill, looking towards Northampton town centre*

#### Strategic Green Infrastructure Context (See Map 2.1)

This Local GI Network Component sits within Sub-Regional GI Corridor 1 (The Nene Valley Newnham- Northampton) which runs east-west. Beyond the eastern end of Component B, Sub-Regional GI Corridor 2 (The Nene Valley Northampton-Wansford) continues eastward. Sub-Regional GI Corridor 8 (The Brampton Arm) continues northwards to Market Harborough. The eastern part of Component B is also within Local GI corridor 10 (the Grand Union Canal Spur) which connects to Nether Heyford and Milton Keynes.

#### Identified GI projects within or close to this Local GI Network Component:

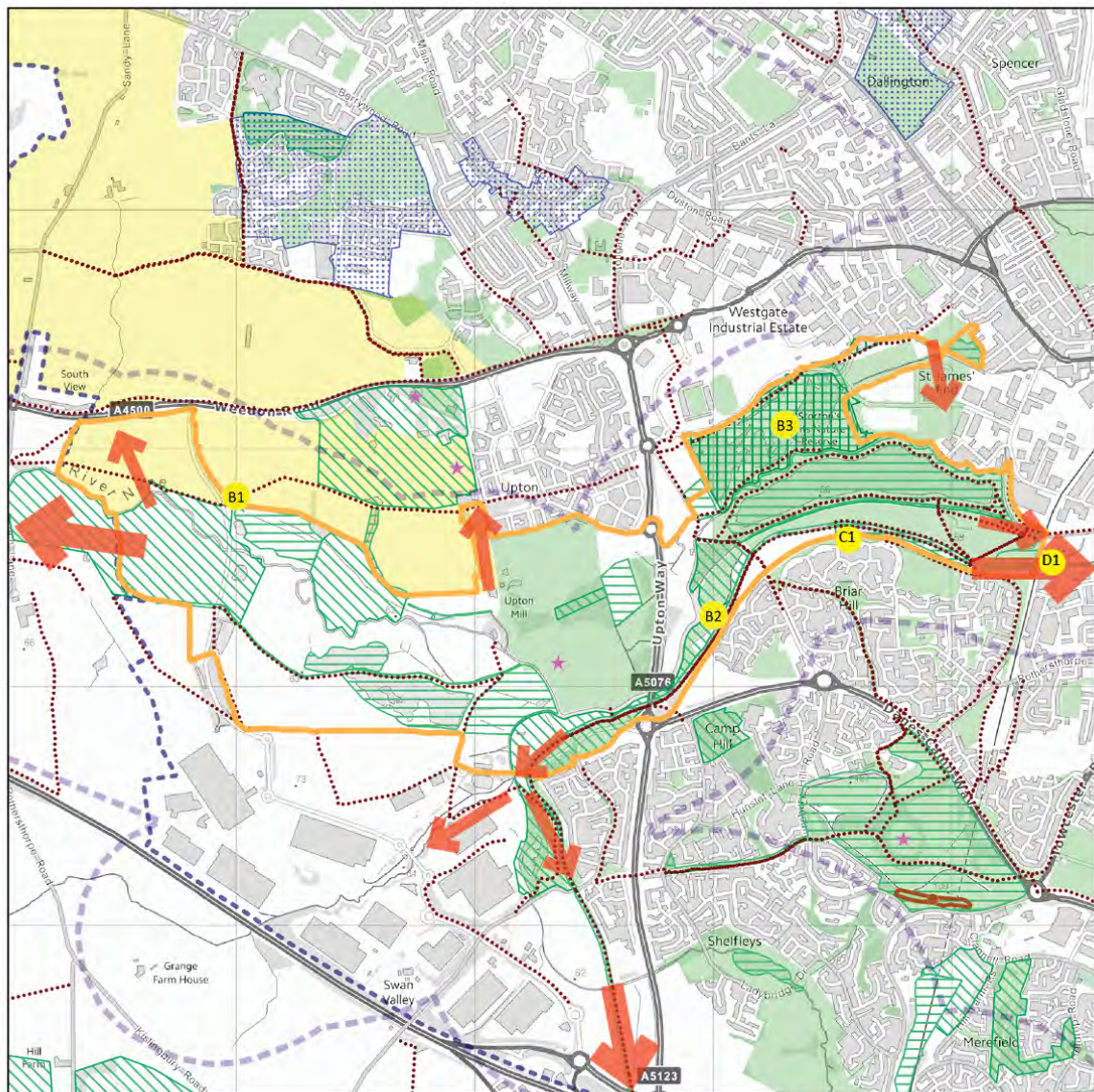
B1: Upton Country Park, Phases 1 and 2

B2: Duston Wetland Creation

B3: Storton's Pits Nature Reserve

C1: East-West Cycle and Footpath Links (Canal towpath and former railway)



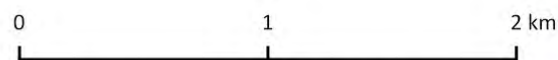


## Northampton Green Infrastructure Plan

### Local Green Infrastructure Network

#### Component B: Western Nene, Upton and Duston Mill

May 2016



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- Northampton Related Development Area
- Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE)
- B. Western Nene, Upton and Duston Mill
- Public Right of Way / Cycle Route
- Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area
- Local Nature Reserve
- Local Wildlife Site
- Potential Wildlife Site
- Local Geological Site
- Scheduled Monument
- Conservation Area
- Open Space, Sport and Recreation
- Identified Green Infrastructure Project

- Link with Strategic Green Infrastructure Corridor
- Link with adjacent Local GI Network Component

### Functions of the Western Nene, Upton and Duston Mill Local GI Network Component

Existing	Opportunities
<b>Biodiversity</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Storton's Pits wetland Local Nature Reserve (LNR).</li> <li>Numerous Potential and Local Wildlife Sites between Upton and Kislingbury (wetland and grassland habitats).</li> <li>Riparian woodland sites, including a heronry at Upton.</li> <li>River Nene, Grand Union Canal (Northampton Arm), and flooded gravel pits contribute to an open water habitat corridor, flanked by a lowland meadow habitat corridor within the floodplain.</li> <li>The majority of the area is of Major Floodplain Biodiversity Character Type.</li> <li>The entire area is within the Nene Valley NIA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve and enhance the wetland, meadow and open water habitat reservoirs to increase biodiversity value and connectivity.</li> <li>Seek opportunities to introduce new wet meadow habitats (instead of further lake creation) to enrich and strengthen the biodiversity value of the Nene Corridor.</li> </ul>
<b>Connectivity and Access</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Located adjacent to (and partially within) the Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone.</li> <li>Nene Way (long distance footpath) runs east-west through the area and the Grand Union Canal Walk also passes through the eastern part of the area. There is good public access via a number of routes including open access at Upton Country Park which provides connectivity with Upton SUE, although there is currently limited public access to the River Nene itself west of Duston Mill. Storton's Pits LNR also has public access.</li> <li>The Nene Way is a component of the Primary Movement Network. Also within the area are Countryside Connectors (elements of the Secondary Movement Network) which link the Nene Valley with the developed areas to the north and south.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create links between Upton Park and Upton Lodge/ Norwood Farm SUEs and Duston Mill via the River Nene.</li> <li>Enhance links between the Enterprise Zone and the river Nene (and its associated valley landscapes), making the river a recreational, environmental and aesthetic asset for businesses, residents and visitors.</li> <li>Improve public access to the River Nene from Duston Mill westwards.</li> </ul>
<b>Community and Public Health</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Storton's Pits LNR provides public and community access to nature conservation sites, and there are significant areas of public open space at Upton Mill and Upton Country Park which provide opportunities for outdoor recreation, and serve the new communities at Upton. The Nene Way long distance route also allows for longer walks, especially in conjunction with other routes such as the Midshires Way and the MacMillan Way.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Link with SUEs on the west side of Northampton, to create a connection through the valley into the town centre.</li> <li>Potential for community-based enterprise at Duston Mill (e.g. café, cycle hire).</li> <li>Improve public awareness of the role and function of the floodplain.</li> </ul>

Existing	Opportunities
<b>Landscape</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The area's 'Broad River Floodplain' landscape character type makes an important contribution to the character of this part of the town, particularly east of the A5076 where wetlands extend into the town centre.</li> <li>West of the A5076 is a working pastoral farming landscape, with few urban fringe influences, and of high visual quality.</li> <li>The area also forms the setting of the new developments at Upton SUE.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain the current character and distinctive qualities of the landscape when designing Country Parks and other Strategic Greenspace associated with SUEs.</li> </ul>
<b>Heritage</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Historic mill buildings (Listed II) on the Nene at Upton, and site of mill at Duston, with associated ponds, leats etc.</li> <li>Section of the Grand Union Canal and associated structures such as towpath, bridges and locks creating a distinctive historic landscape.</li> <li>There are also some areas of ridge and furrow (from Medieval ploughing patterns) on the valley sides around the area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase public awareness of the area's heritage, particularly the mill sites.</li> </ul>
<b>Flooding and water management</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This area is within the Nene Valley floodplain. The majority of the area is within Flood Zone 3, with an annual risk of flooding of 1% or greater.</li> <li>Bunded areas provide important flood storage capacity upstream of Northampton.</li> <li>SUDS scheme at Upton SUE aims to both reduce flood risk and improve water quality on discharge into the river.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the multi-functionality of engineered flood-management solutions e.g. by increasing their range of biodiversity habitats.</li> <li>Remediate surface runoff from development using wetland fringes and filter strips.</li> </ul>
<b>Ecosystem Services (See section 15.7)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sheep grazing on the floodplain contribute to provisioning services of food and textiles. The valley floor plays an important role in regulating flooding, and also contributes to climatic regulation. Cultural services provided by the area include recreation, education and positive aesthetic experiences.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue positive management of the area so it can increase its role in providing a range of ecosystem services.</li> </ul>

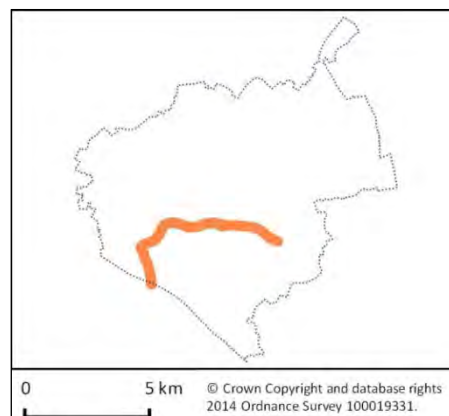


## Northampton Local Green Infrastructure Network Component

### C: EAST-WEST PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLE LINK

#### Location within Northampton

This linear Local GI Network Component is situated to the south of the River Nene. It forms an arc between M1 junction 15A (at the south-west edge of the NRDA area), the town centre, and Brackmills (south-east of Northampton town centre), passing through the Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone at the Avon and Nunn Mills sites. It follows existing routes along the canal towpath in the western section, and a disused railway line in the eastern section.



*Disused railway line looking east towards Brackmills, from the level crossing on London Road*

#### Strategic Green Infrastructure Context (See Map 2.1)

This route links three existing Strategic GI Corridors: Sub-Regional Corridor 1 (The Nene Valley Newnham- Northampton) and Sub-Regional Corridor 2 (The Nene Valley Northampton – Wansford) which run east-west, and Local GI Corridor 10 (Grand Union Canal Spur link to Milton Keynes and Nether Heyford) which runs north-south.

#### Identified GI projects within or close to this Local GI Network Component:

C1: East-west cycle and footpath links (Canal Towpath and former railway)

C2: Northampton London Road- Brackmills Railway Line Redevelopment

B2: Duston Wetland Creation

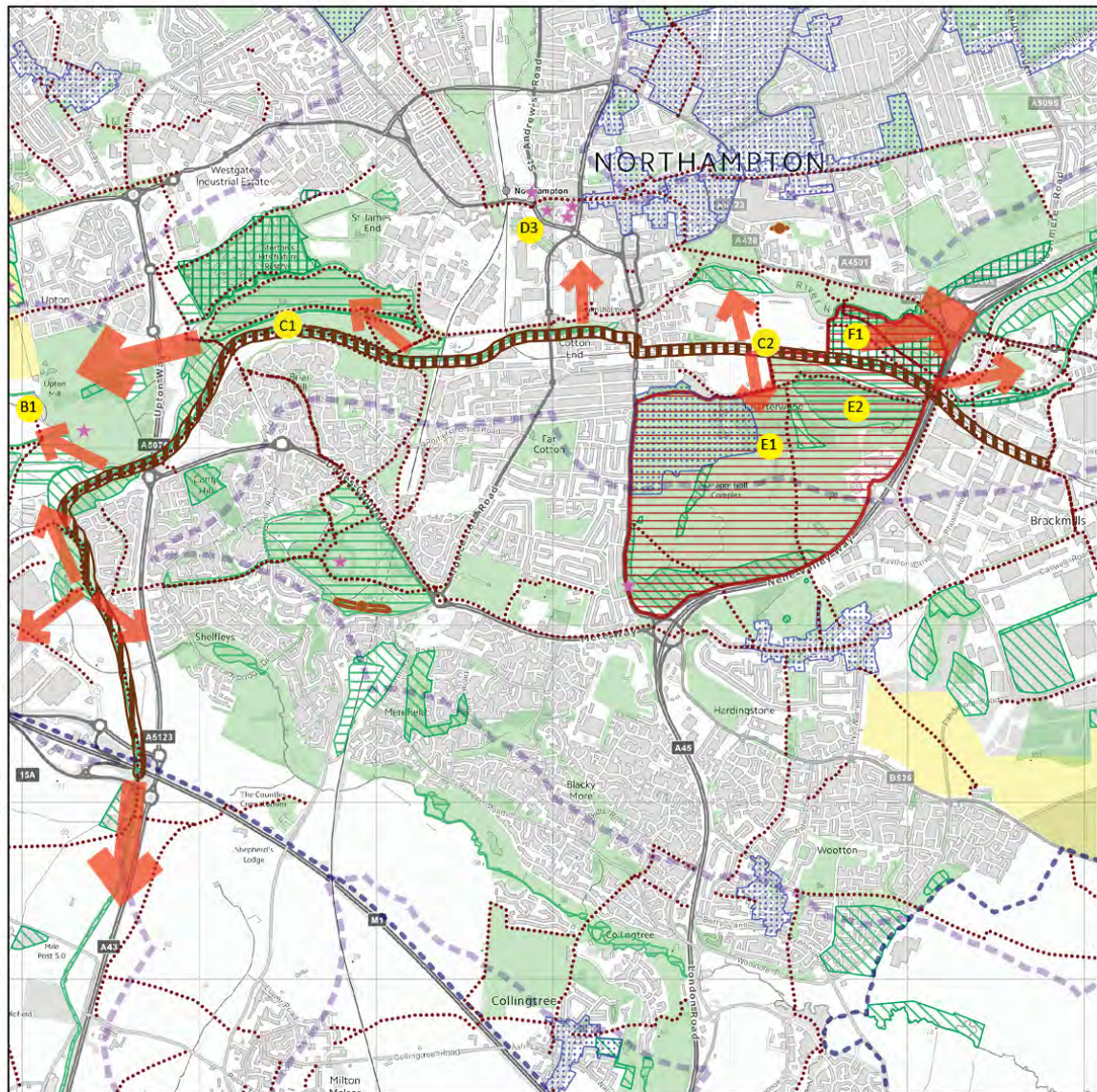
E1: Northampton Battlefield

E2: Delapre Lake Local Wildlife Site

F1: Barnes Meadow Local Nature Reserve

There is also potential to link with the Town Centre Waterside developments, including the new university campus, and other projects associated with the Enterprise Zone.







## Northampton Green Infrastructure Plan

### Local Green Infrastructure Network

















#### Component C: East-West Pedestrian and Cycle Link

May 2016

-  Link with Strategic Green Infrastructure Corridor
-  Link with adjacent Local GI Network Component

0 1 km

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-  Northampton Related Development Area
-  Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE)
-  C. East-West Pedestrian and Cycle Link
-  Public Right of Way / Cycle Route
-  Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area
-  SSSI
-  Special Protection Area
-  Local Nature Reserve
-  Local Wildlife Site
-  Potential Wildlife Site
-  Local Geological Site
-  Scheduled Monument
-  Registered Battlefield
-  Conservation Area
-  Open Space, Sport and Recreation
-  Identified Green Infrastructure Project

### Functions of the East-West Pedestrian and Cycle Link Local GI Network Component

Existing	Opportunities
<b>Biodiversity</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Canal and river are biodiversity assets.</li> <li>Partially within lowland meadow and woodland habitat corridors.</li> <li>Five Local Wildlife Sites, including meadows, scrub and watercourses.</li> <li>Entire route is within the Nene Valley NIA.</li> <li>Route along former railway line will provide sustainable access to Barnes Meadow Nature Reserve.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance wildlife corridors through verge wildflower planting etc. where appropriate.</li> </ul>
<b>Connectivity and Access</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The canal towpath is already open as the Grand Union Canal Walk from M1 Junction 15 to Towcester Road. It forms part of the Primary Movement Network (a blue way, associated with the Grand Union Canal Northampton Arm). The former railway line forms part of the Secondary movement network, as an inter-urban neighbourhood connector, although it does not currently have public access.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop links between the town centre and the River Nene Corridor.</li> <li>Provide a sustainable transport link (for leisure, recreation and work-based travel) between the Enterprise Zone, the M1, and Brackmills.</li> <li>Upgrade the Canal towpath where necessary for use as a cycle path.</li> <li>Link the end of the south bank Canal towpath at Towcester Road and the start of the disused railway line at London Road.</li> <li>Reopen the railway line as a pedestrian/ cycle route to provide a sustainable connection between Brackmills and the town centre.</li> </ul>
<b>Community and Public Health</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The connection will provide recreational and travel-to-work opportunities for exercise, and will contribute to a modal shift towards sustainable forms of transport.</li> <li>It will also provide an opportunity for local communities to engage with historic routes and industrial heritage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider opening up the route (where practical) as a 'linear park', removing physical barriers to access, and making new access points.</li> </ul>

Existing	Opportunities
<i>Landscape</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing routes are currently generally well integrated into the landscape, and are historic landscape features.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance the appearance of the former railway line through linear planting schemes and imaginative design.</li> </ul>
<i>Heritage</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Numerous heritage features (both designated and non-designated assets) associated with historic transport routes (locks, bridges etc.).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrate interpretation and imaginative design so users and local communities can become aware of these historic transport routes.</li> </ul>
<i>Flooding and water management</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Largely within Flood Zone 3 (with an annual chance of flooding greater than 1%).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider using porous paving/surfacing to minimise additional surface run-off and incorporating linear filter strips into the design.</li> </ul>
<i>Ecosystem Services (See section 15.7)</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The extant sections of the Component (ie the canal path) currently contribute to cultural services, including recreation and cultural heritage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrading the canal path for cycle use, and extending the route to Brackmills employment site will enable people to regularly travel by cycle rather than car. This will contribute to a number of regulating services, including climate regulation, hazard regulation, noise regulation and pollution regulation.</li> </ul>



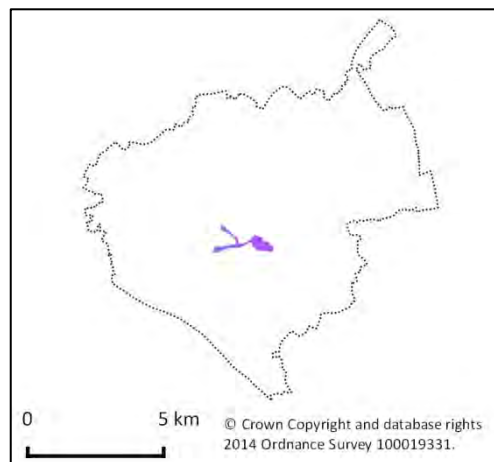
## Northampton Local Green Infrastructure Network Component

### D: TOWN CENTRE WATERSIDE

#### Location within Northampton

This Local GI Network Component is located in the heart of Northampton Town Centre, and is within or adjacent to the Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone. It covers a relatively small area, but includes or adjoins important urban development sites such as the Waterfront Development Area, new University Campus, and sites within the Enterprise Zone.

Component D includes both banks of the River Nene, and part of the Brampton Arm. It connects with five other Local GI Network Components.



*The site of the new University of Northampton Campus, as seen from the north bank of the Nene*

#### Strategic Green Infrastructure Context (See Map 2.1)

This Local GI Network Component is located at the meeting-point of four Sub-Regional GI Corridors, which radiate out from it. To the north is the Corridor 8 (The Brampton Arm) connecting Northampton and Market Harborough; to the south is Corridor 7 (Northampton to Salcey); to the west is the Corridor 1 (The Nene Valley Newnham to Northampton) and to the East is Corridor 2 (The Nene Valley Corridor Northampton to Wansford).

#### Identified GI projects within this Local GI Network Component:

D1: River Nene Meander Reconnection

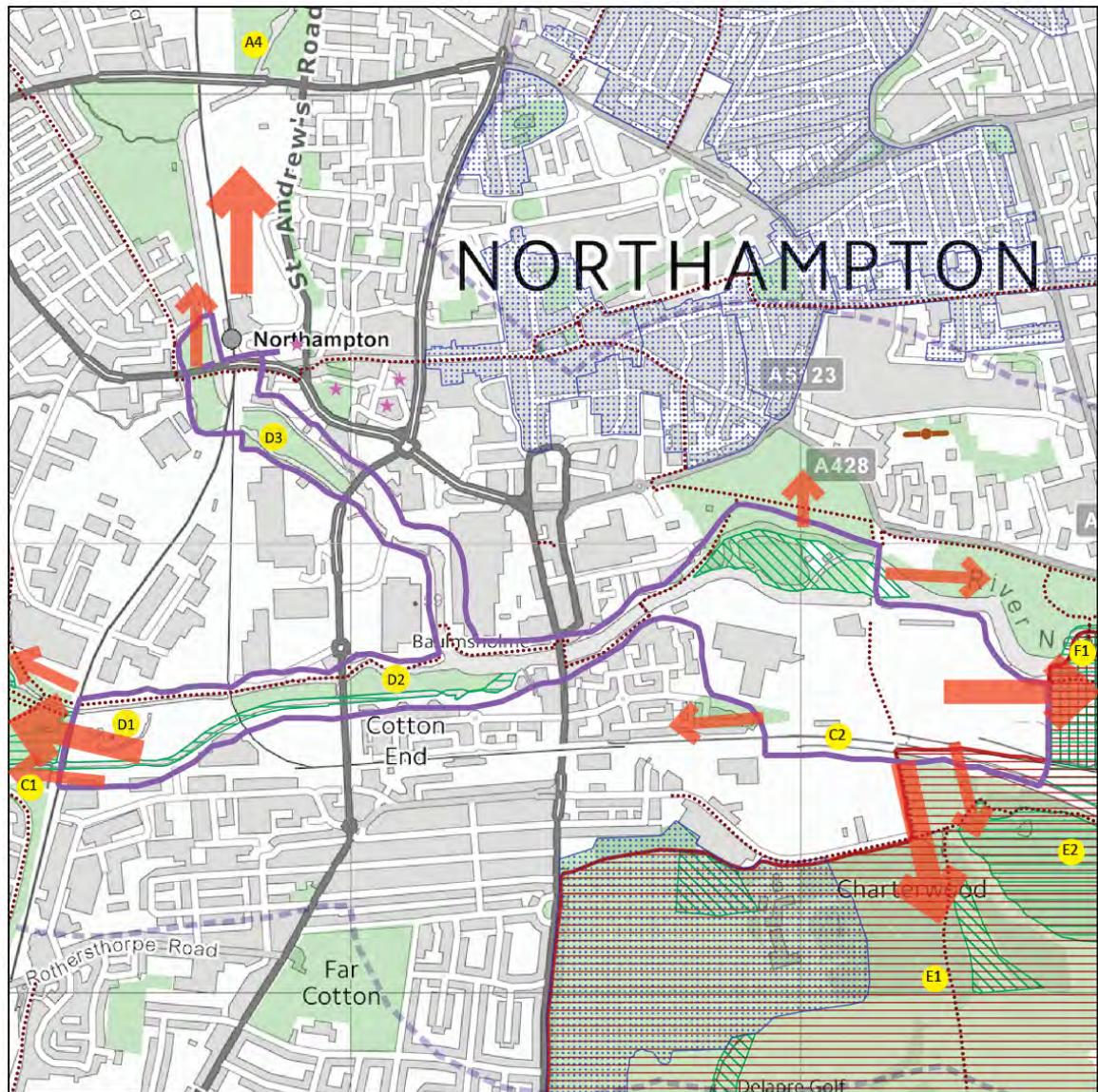
D2: Habitat creation South of Nene Valley Retail Park

D3: Foot Meadow Project

C1: East-West cycle and Footpath Links

C2: Northampton London Road to Brackmills Railway Line Redevelopment

There is also potential to connect with other development projects, such as the new University Campus, and developments associated with the Enterprise Zone.



## Northampton Green Infrastructure Plan

### Local Green Infrastructure Network

#### Component D: Town Centre Waterside

May 2016

Link with Strategic Green Infrastructure Corridor

Link with adjacent Local GI Network Component

0 1 km

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- Northampton Related Development Area
- Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE)
- D. Town Centre Waterside
- Public Right of Way / Cycle Route
- Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area
- Local Nature Reserve
- Local Wildlife Site
- Potential Wildlife Site
- Local Geological Site
- Scheduled Monument
- Registered Battlefield
- Conservation Area
- Open Space, Sport and Recreation
- Identified Green Infrastructure Project



### Functions of the Town Centre Waterside Local GI Network Component

Existing	Opportunities
<b>Biodiversity</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All of this area is within the Nene Valley NIA boundary.</li> <li>• Three Local Wildlife Sites including meadow, scrub and open water habitats. There is also a potential wildlife site on the islands in the River Nene to the south of Becket's Park.</li> <li>• The River Nene itself is an open water habitat corridor. The area is also an important link between the lowland meadow and wetland habitats to the east and west.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Re-profile and/ or soften the river banks in canalised/ artificial bank sections to enhance the green corridors through the town centre.</li> <li>• Follow opportunities for ecological enhancement, especially outside of public realm areas (for example at the western end of the area, on the promontory between the canal and the river Nene).</li> <li>• Address issues of disturbance to over-wintering birds.</li> </ul>
<b>Connectivity and Access</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The area has a strategically-important central location, within / adjacent to the town centre, Enterprise Zone and Waterside Development Area.</li> <li>• Existing GI links along the Nene Valley mean that this area is relatively easy to access from the east and west. The Nene Way and Grand Union Canal Walk follow the north bank of the River Nene. Together, these routes form a blue way in the Primary Movement Network. The area can also be accessed through several inter-urban neighbourhood connectors within the Secondary Movement Network.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance links between sites within the Enterprise Zone and the river Nene, making the river a recreational, environmental and aesthetic asset for businesses, residents and visitors.</li> <li>• Use the redevelopment of Enterprise Zone sites along the Brampton Arm to enable pedestrian/ cycle connections between the Brampton Arm and the River Nene.</li> <li>• Examine ways of improving sustainable access to the north and south GI Corridors (Components A and E), including through the new University campus.</li> <li>• Connect with Local GI Network Component C (East-west pedestrian and cycle route), and aspirational project A4 (extension of cycle route along the Brampton Valley into the town centre).</li> <li>• Reinstall bridges over the river in Foot Meadow to improve accessibility and create helpful through routes e.g. to the railway station.</li> </ul>

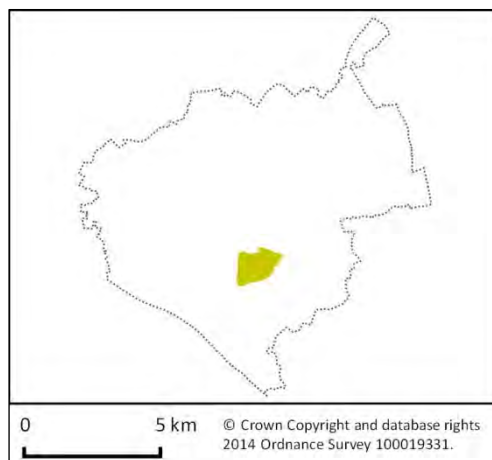
Existing	Opportunities
<i>Community and Public Health</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The long-distance routes along the north bank of the Nene provide opportunities for open-air exercise.</li> <li>Becket's Park (adjacent to this Component) is a popular and well-used urban park adjacent to the river.</li> <li>Waterfront open space can suffer from a lack of maintenance and community ownership.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve community facilities and access to open space in the heart of the town through potential new developments.</li> <li>Rejuvenate 'tired' public realm areas with a legacy of past lack of investment and maintenance.</li> </ul>
<i>Landscape</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The River Nene makes an important contribution to the special character and unique identity of this part of Northampton town centre.</li> <li>This Component provides the setting for big businesses (e.g. Avon and Carlsberg) as well as smaller businesses and employers, and potential new developments associated with the Enterprise Zone. It is therefore important that the Component looks attractive and well cared-for, particularly in public realm areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Further enhance the scenic quality and distinctive landscape of this part of Northampton through enhancements to the river and its surroundings.</li> <li>Careful and imaginative design of new development should celebrate the river rather than turn its back on it.</li> </ul>
<i>Heritage</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This part of Northampton has seen major changes in recent years, and change will continue to happen. A very few historic riverside buildings remain, along with canal and river features such as bridges and locks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use the rich history of this part of Northampton as a source of inspiration when planning for future development.</li> </ul>
<i>Flooding and water management</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The vast majority of the area is within Flood Zone 3 (i.e. the likelihood of it flooding in any one year is more than 1%).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soften river banks, re-grade channels and plant wetlands to slow river flows, especially during periods of heavy rain.</li> </ul>
<i>Ecosystem Services (See section 15.7)</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The presence of water and waterside vegetation in the heart of the town centre plays an important role in regulating services, particularly the local climate (for example through temperature amelioration). It also contributes to cultural services through enhancing the aesthetic experience and providing opportunities for recreation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enable this component to further contribute to ecosystem services through continued careful management.</li> </ul>

## Northampton Local Green Infrastructure Network Component

### E: DELAPRE

#### Location within Northampton

This Local GI Network Component is located to the south of Northampton town centre, on the south side of the River Nene. It encompasses the majority of the Northampton Battlefield site (a small northern section of the Battlefield is included within component F: Northampton Washlands) and the grounds of Delapre Abbey. It is adjacent to the eastern end of the Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone.



*View south from Delapre Abbey, across the Abbey grounds and battlefield*

#### Strategic Green Infrastructure Context (See Map 2.1)

The northern part of the area is within Sub-Regional GI Corridor 2 (The Nene Valley Northampton to Wansford), which runs east-west following the Nene Valley. The southern part of the area is within Sub-Regional GI Corridor 7 (Northampton to Salcey), which runs roughly NW-SE.

#### Identified GI projects within or close to this Local GI Network Component:

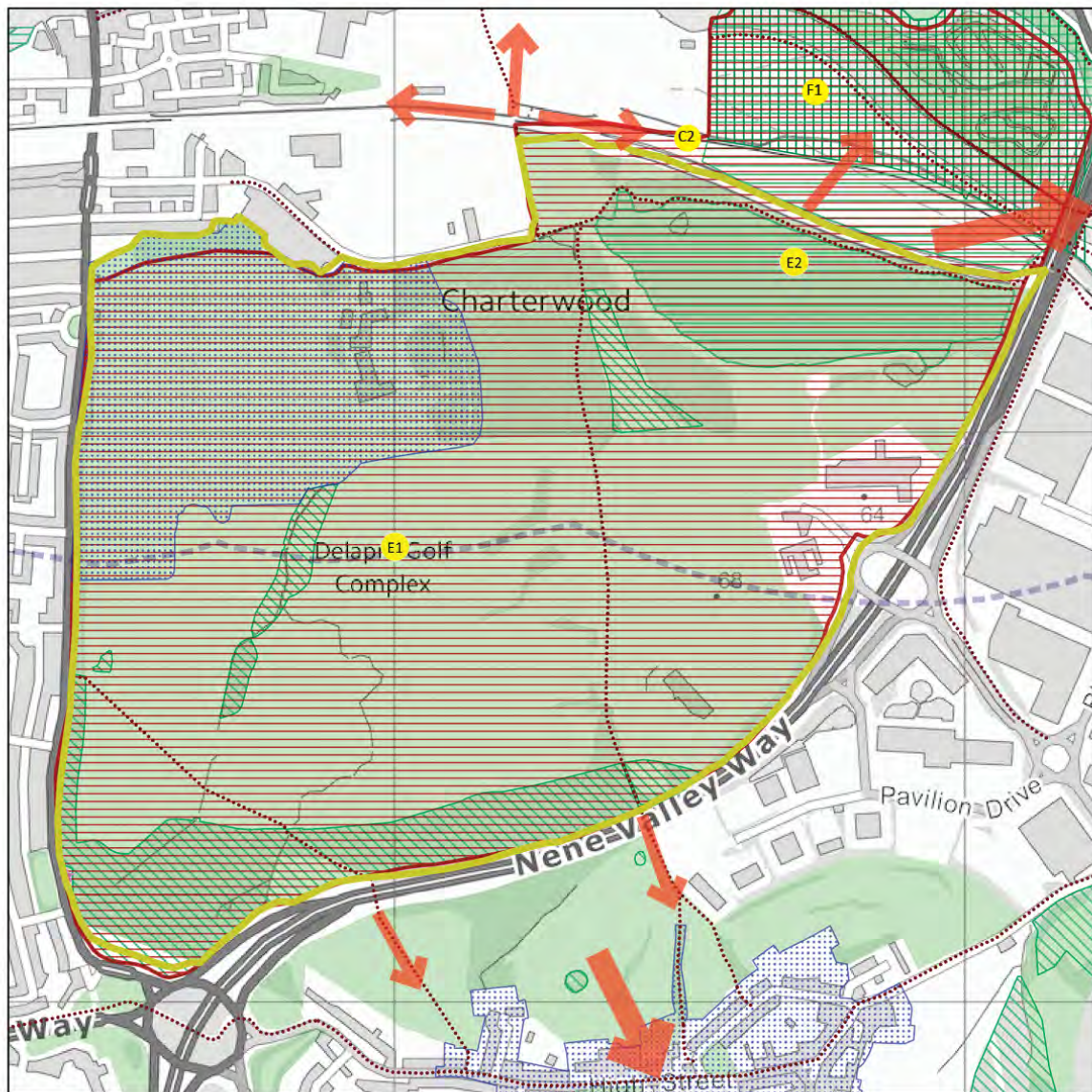
E1: Northampton Battlefield

E2: Delapre Lake

C2: Northampton London Road to Brackmills Railway Line Redevelopment

F1: Barnes Meadow Local Nature Reserve





## Northampton Green Infrastructure Plan

Local Green Infrastructure Network

Component E:  
Delapre

May 2016



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- Northampton Related Development Area
- Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE)
- E. Delapre
- Public Right of Way / Cycle Route
- Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area
- Local Nature Reserve
- Local Wildlife Site
- Potential Wildlife Site
- Scheduled Monument
- Registered Battlefield
- Conservation Area
- Open Space, Sport and Recreation
- Identified Green Infrastructure Project

- Link with Strategic Green Infrastructure Corridor
- Link with adjacent Local GI Network Component

## Functions of the Delapre Local GI Network Component

Existing	Opportunities
<b>Biodiversity</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Wildlife Site at Delapre Lake.</li> <li>Potential Wildlife Sites at Delapre Wood and at an oak stand on peaty soil between Delapre lake and Abbey.</li> <li>Ornamental and veteran trees in parkland.</li> <li>The northern part of the area contributes to open water and lowland meadow habitat corridors associated with the Nene Valley. It is in the 'Major Floodplains' Biodiversity Habitat Type.</li> <li>The southern part of the area contributes to woodland habitat corridors linked to Yardley Chase and Salcey Forest. It is in the 'Limestone Slopes' Biodiversity Habitat Type.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meadow restoration/enhancement in grassland areas.</li> <li>Enhancement of woodland, lake and wetland habitats.</li> </ul>
<b>Connectivity and Access</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The northern part of the Delapre Abbey grounds are public open space and have public access, and a public footpath runs north-south across the area. This footpath forms a green way within the Primary Movement Network, linking Northampton town centre with Salcey Forest.</li> <li>Footpaths across the area also contribute to the Secondary Movement Network, comprising inter-urban neighbourhood connectors and countryside connectors.</li> <li>Delapre Lake is also accessible via a public footpath.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Link with Local GI Network Component C (East-west footpath and cycle link) to improve access into the northern part of this area.</li> <li>Develop direct access between Delapre and the town centre through the Enterprise Zone and new University Campus (Component D). This could also be extended northwards into the Brampton Valley (Component A).</li> <li>Develop opportunities to enhance the sustainable movement network to the south, along the Sub-regional GI corridor which connects Northampton with Salcey Forest, via South of Brackmills SUE.</li> </ul>

Existing	Opportunities
<b>Community and Public Health</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delapre Abbey and grounds, gardens and tea shop are a popular community resource, which has recently received a grant from the National Lottery. The open space is well-used for outdoor recreation, and provides a 'green lung' and open space within the urban area which is important for public health.</li> <li>The golf course which covers the southern part of the site is also used for outdoor recreation, but does not have public access.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Involve the local community in tidying up sites and improve sense of pride and ownership.</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From within the area, the landscape appears as historic parkland, with trees screening the surrounding urban development. Views towards the area are also dominated by trees. The Abbey gardens have a much more designed appearance, and are a popular local attraction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage/ plant trees to ensure their continued presence in the landscape, and to enhance woodland links.</li> </ul>
<b>Heritage</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Entire area is Registered Battlefield (1460)</li> <li>Eleanor Cross Scheduled Monument in south-west of area. Delapre Abbey is Listed Building (Grade II*).</li> <li>Home Farm Farmhouse recently listed (Grade II)</li> <li>Some areas of surviving ridge and furrow in the south of the area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance interpretation of the area's rich history, for example through a heritage trail encompassing the battlefield and Queen Eleanor's Cross.</li> <li>Celebrate cultural assets through the conservation management of parkland.</li> </ul>
<b>Flooding and water management</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Northern (lowest lying) parts of area closest to the River Nene are within Flood Zone 3.</li> </ul>	
<b>Ecosystem Services (see section 15.7)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As an extensive area of grassland and woodland within a built-up setting, this Component contributes to many regulating services, including rainwater infiltration, water quality, air quality and temperature. It also provides a number of cultural services, including cultural heritage, recreation and a positive aesthetic experience.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a range of ecosystem services through continued positive management of the area.</li> </ul>

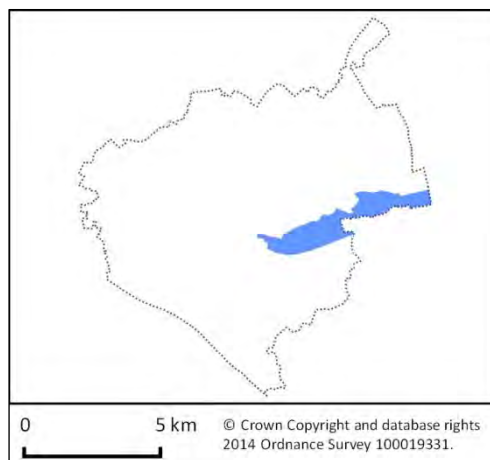


## Northampton Local Green Infrastructure Network Component

### F: WASHLANDS AND EASTERN NENE

#### Location within Northampton

This Local GI Network Component extends from the town centre eastward to the NRDA boundary. The western end of the Component adjoins the Northampton Waterside Enterprise Zone. It follows the Nene Valley for approx. 6km, and encompasses the River Nene and the surrounding meadows, wetlands and lakes. This area has seen extensive aggregate extraction in the past.



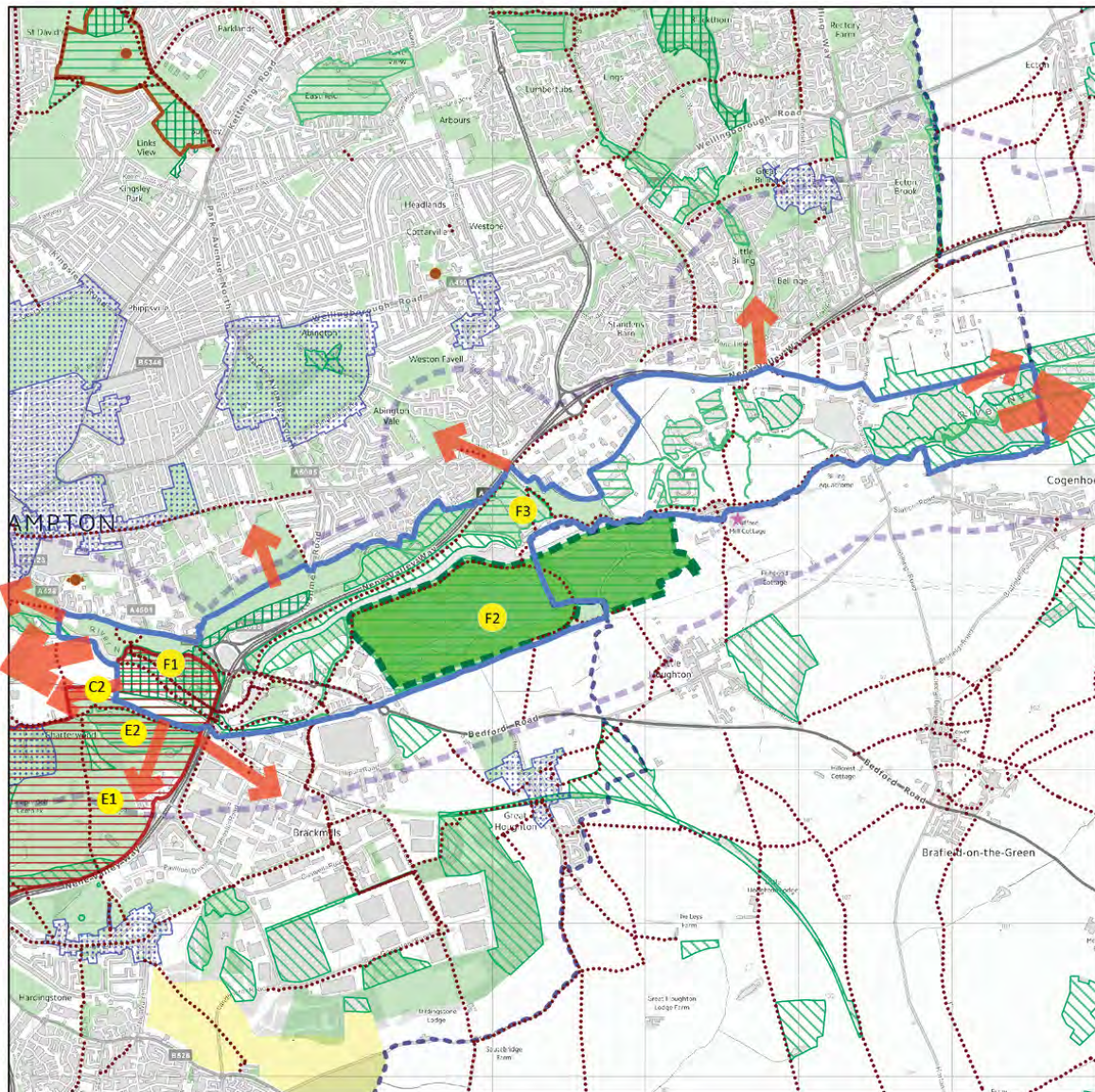
#### Strategic Green Infrastructure Context (See Map 2.1)

This Component includes the western part of the Sub-Regional GI Corridor 2 (The Nene Valley Northampton to Wansford).

#### Identified GI Projects within/ adjacent to this Local GI Network Component:

- F1: Barnes Meadow Local Nature Reserve
- F2: Northampton Washlands
- F3: Abingdon Meadow Improvements
- C2: Northampton London Road to Brackmills Railway Line Redevelopment
- E1: Northampton Battlefield
- E2: Delapre Lake Local Wildlife Site





## Northampton Green Infrastructure Plan

### Local Green Infrastructure Network

#### Component F: Washlands and Eastern Nene

May 2016

Link with Strategic Green Infrastructure Corridor  
Link with adjacent Local GI Network Component

0 1 2 km

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- Northampton Related Development Area
- Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE)
- F. Washlands and Eastern Nene
- Public Right of Way / Cycle Route
- Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area
- SSSI
- Special Protection Area
- Local Nature Reserve
- Local Wildlife Site
- Potential Wildlife Site
- Local Geological Site
- Scheduled Monument
- Registered Battlefield
- Conservation Area
- Open Space, Sport and Recreation
- Identified Green Infrastructure Project

### Functions of the Washlands and Eastern Nene Local GI Network Component

Existing	Opportunities
<b>Biodiversity</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This area is of international importance for its biodiversity.</li> <li>• The Nene Washlands are designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Protection Area (SPA), for their breeding bird populations. There are also extensive open water, wetland and meadow Local Wildlife Sites, and further Potential Wildlife Sites. The whole of the area is within the Nene Valley NIA. It is a key component of the River Nene habitat corridors, comprising open water, wetlands and lowland meadows.</li> <li>• Public access to a range of wetland habitats at Barnes Meadow Local Nature Reserve (LNR).</li> <li>• It is a Major Floodplain Biodiversity Habitat Type.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve management of the area to increase the extent and quality of its wetland and open water wildlife habitats, balancing public access with the needs of wildlife.</li> <li>• Seek opportunities to introduce wet meadow habitats (instead of lake creation) to enrich and strengthen the biodiversity value of the Nene Corridor.</li> </ul>
<b>Connectivity and Access</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Nene Way follows the river bank east-west for the length of the area, connecting this Component with the Town Centre and Enterprise Zone. It occasionally crosses the river using foot bridges.</li> <li>• The Nene Way forms a blue way in the Primary Movement Network. Access from built-up areas to the north (via the Secondary Movement Network) is limited by the provision of foot bridges across the A45.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance links between the Town Centre/ Enterprise Zone and the eastern Nene Valley.</li> <li>• Extend the Nene Way eastwards along the river bank, removing diversion through Cogenhoe village.</li> <li>• Improve the accessibility of the area from residential developments north of A45.</li> <li>• Make visitors feel welcome, but also aware of their responsibilities.</li> </ul>
<b>Community and Public Health</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-quality and extensive natural environments contributing to the environmental quality of the town.</li> <li>• Biodiversity sites are also an important educational resource.</li> <li>• Barnes Meadow LNR enables the public to experience nature close to hand, and possibly to become involved in habitat management as volunteers.</li> <li>• Nene Way path is a long-distance route, encouraging outdoor activities (Walking and cycling) with associated public health benefits.</li> <li>• Water sports facilities are available for local communities to use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase the number of circular walks for local people to enjoy, for example whilst dog- walking.</li> <li>• Reduce incidence of informal access which can damage sensitive habitats and disturb birds.</li> </ul>

Existing	Opportunities
<i>Landscape</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Distinctive valley-floor landscape of lakes and meadows adds to the visual quality of the town, and creates a distinctive landscape setting for the surrounding developed areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plant trees along the A45 to enhance the woodland corridor, and reduce the visual and noise impacts of the road on this area.</li> </ul>
<i>Heritage</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Historic transport routes (Nene Navigation) and routes of former railway line running on embankment alongside.</li> <li>Clifford Hill Motte Scheduled Monument adjacent to the area (just outside NRDA boundary).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through interpretation schemes, show how the landscape of this area has changed through aggregate extraction, and the construction of floodwater storage schemes.</li> </ul>
<i>Flooding and water management</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Entire area is within flood zone three (Probability of flooding in any one year is greater than 1%).</li> <li>Open water and lowland meadows play an important role in providing flood storage capacity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase wetland areas where appropriate, and improve river management to reduce flood impacts.</li> </ul>
<i>Ecosystem Services (see section 15.7)</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Component plays an important role in regulating services within Northampton, particularly with regard to floodwater. Wetlands and flower-rich meadows provide conditions for pollination, and the area also regulates climate and pollution. Cultural services are provided through the area's recreation and educational sites, and its contribution to a positive aesthetic experience.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue positive management of the area, enabling it to provide a range of ecosystem services.</li> </ul>

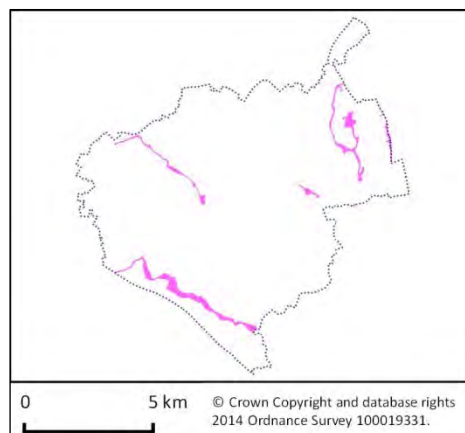


## Northampton Local Green Infrastructure Network Component

### G: URBAN BROOK CORRIDORS

#### Location within Northampton

These Local GI Network Components comprise the narrow corridors of the various brooks which flow through the urban area of Northampton (principally the Wootton Brook, Billing Brook, Abingdon Brook, Ecton Brook and Dallington Brook). All are tributaries of the River Nene. Several of the Urban Brook Corridors overlap with the Strategic Greenspace associated with the SUEs.



*The Billing Brook near Billing Arbours*

#### Strategic Green Infrastructure Context (See Map 2.1)

The lower ends of some of the urban brooks (near to their confluences with the River Nene) are within Sub-Regional GI Corridor 1 (The Nene Valley Newnham to Northampton) or 2 (The Nene Valley Northampton to Wansford). Other parts of the Urban Brooks are outside of the Strategic GI framework, but nevertheless make an important contribution to GI at a local level.

#### Identified GI projects within this Local GI Network Component:

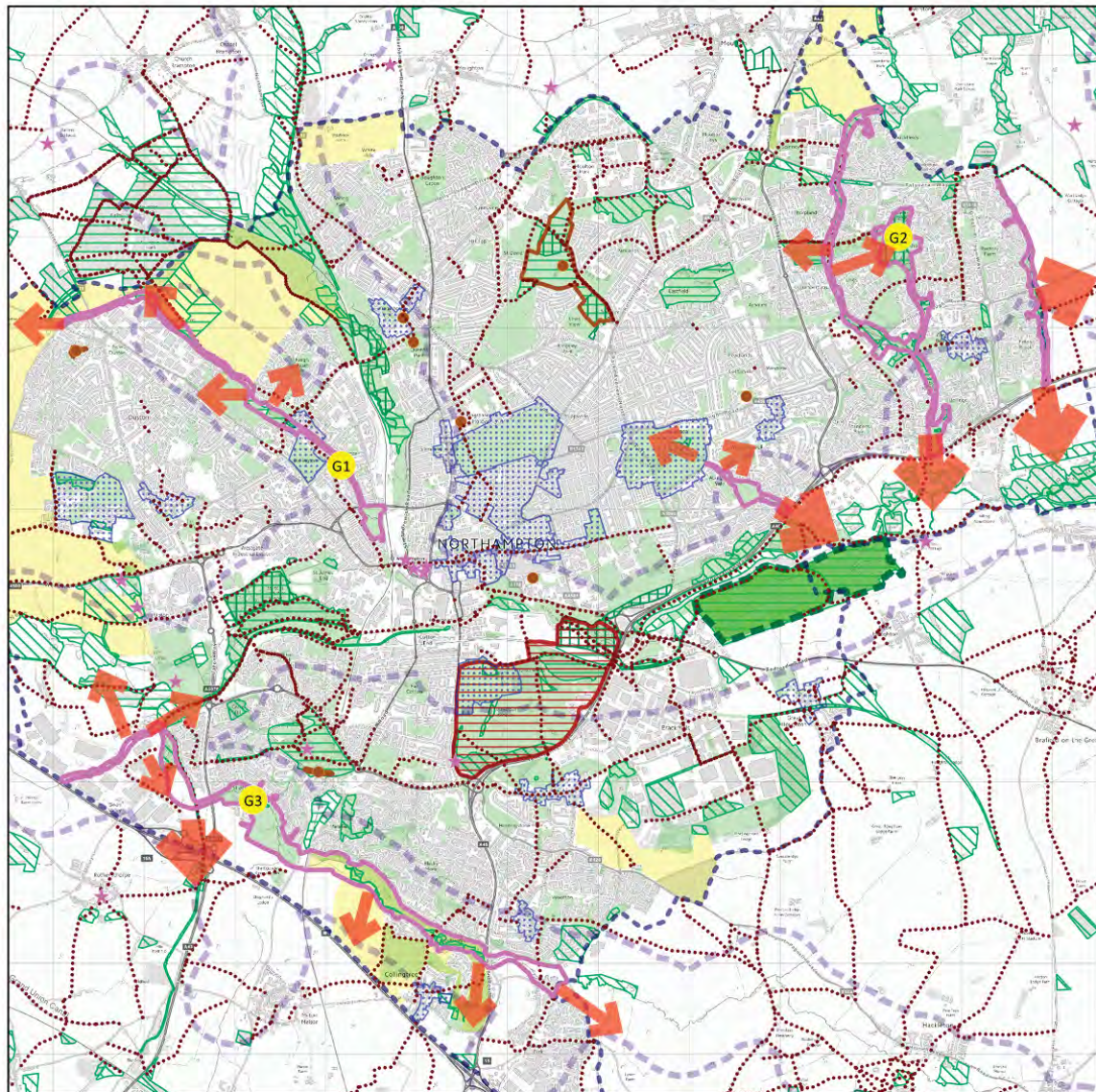
G1: Aberdare Road Park

G2: Lings Wood Nature Reserve

G3: Shelfleys Lake, Wootton Brook

There are also potential future links between the Dallington Brook and the Kings Heath SUE, the Billing Brook and the Northampton North (Overstone Leys) SUE, and the Wootton Brook and the Northampton South (Collingtree) SUE.





## Northampton Green Infrastructure Plan

### Local Green Infrastructure Network

#### Component G: Urban Brook Corridors

May 2016

0 1 2 km

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Link with Strategic Green Infrastructure Corridor  
Link with adjacent Local GI Network Component

- Northampton Related Development Area
- Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE)
- G. Urban Brook Corridors
- Public Right of Way / Cycle Route
- Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area
- SSSI
- Special Protection Area
- Local Nature Reserve
- Local Wildlife Site
- Potential Wildlife Site
- Local Geological Site
- Scheduled Monument
- Registered Battlefield
- Conservation Area
- Open Space, Sport and Recreation
- Identified Green Infrastructure Project

### Functions of the Urban Brook Corridors Local GI Network Component

Existing	Opportunities
<b>Biodiversity</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lings Wood Local Nature Reserve (LNR) (woodland) on a tributary of the Billing Brook provides public access into a nature conservation site.</li> <li>• Several Urban Brook Corridors contribute to the wider biodiversity network, as open water, and/or woodland corridors. Others are partly culverted and currently have little biodiversity value.</li> <li>• Several Local Wildlife Sites, including open water, watercourses and grassland.</li> <li>• Some Urban Brooks are identified as Minor Floodplain Biodiversity Character Types.</li> <li>• All of the Urban Brook Corridors are fully or partially within the Nene Valley NIA.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve management of watercourses and their surrounding habitats to increase their biodiversity value, and water quality.</li> <li>• Enhance the biodiversity of Urban Brook Corridors through sensitive design of the SUEs and their associated structural greenspace.</li> </ul>
<b>Connectivity and Access</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some of the Urban Brook Corridors (e.g. Billing Brook; Ecton Brook) are used for routeways, or are surrounded by public open space. Others are inaccessible.</li> <li>• Several of these routes contribute to the Secondary Movement Network as inter-urban neighbourhood connectors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensitively enhance Urban Brook Corridors as sustainable access routes where appropriate.</li> <li>• Enhance access routes through the design of the SUEs and their associated structural greenspace, including a link between the Northampton North SUE and the Billing Brook.</li> </ul>
<b>Community and Public Health</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Urban Brook Corridors are generally located close to housing areas, and are often accessed (formally or informally) by local people. They also improve the urban environment by introducing trees, wetlands and water.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage community involvement in projects to enhance the Urban Brook Corridors, thereby improving management and reducing anti-social behaviour.</li> </ul>

Existing	Opportunities
<b>Landscape</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban Brook Corridors appear as lines of green within the urban area. They can also add to an area's sense of place, particularly where they have been incorporated into the design of an area (e.g. the Wootton Brook at Shelfleys Lake, and the Billing Brook at Weston Favell).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the visual and biodiversity value of sections of Urban Brook Corridors which are currently culverted, or hidden by buildings, fences or trees.</li> <li>Make Urban Brook Corridors positive features of the landscape/ townscape.</li> </ul>
<b>Heritage</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Historic water features (e.g. the lower lakes on the Dallington Brook appear on the 1833 OS map, associated with nearby Dallington Hall).</li> <li>Some Urban Brook Corridors are associated with the historic cores of settlements (often now Conservation Areas) e.g. Dallington on the Dallington Brook. Others provide more recent examples of naturally-occurring water courses which have been modified and incorporated into the design of residential areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the interpretation of heritage features associated with Urban Brook Corridors.</li> </ul>
<b>Flooding and water management</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Most Urban Brook Corridors are all or in part within Flood Zone 2.</li> <li>Because they discharge into the River Nene, they also impact on its water quality and flood responses.</li> <li>Some Urban Brook Corridors function as flood storage and management infrastructure, e.g. Dallington Brook.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilise the potential for water retention upstream to help reduce flooding further downstream.</li> <li>Where possible, use careful design to obtain additional GI benefits from extant flood management features.</li> <li>Improve water quality and reduce flood risk through small-scale wetland creation and SUDS within developed areas.</li> </ul>
<b>Ecosystem Services (See section 15.7)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban Brook Corridors provide provisioning services in the form of fresh water. Associated regulating services include local-level climate regulation, and regulation of flooding and water quality. In addition they provide a range of cultural services, including recreation, education and a positive aesthetic experience.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue improvements in the management of Urban Brook Corridors (and careful planning of any future development), so they can continue to fulfil a range of ecosystem services.</li> </ul>

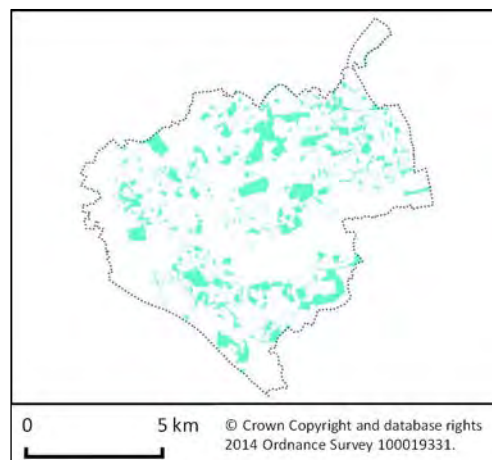


## Northampton Local Green Infrastructure Network Component

### H: Urban Open Spaces

#### Location within Northampton

This Local GI Network Component is scattered throughout the built-up area of Northampton, and comprises a variety of parks, country parks, allotments, cemeteries, playing fields, and other public and non-public open spaces. The Urban Open Spaces range in size from local allotment sites to large country parks, but most are surrounded by residential development. Some (e.g. Becket's Park) are associated with river corridors.



*Paths, mature trees and playing fields at Northampton Racecourse*

#### Strategic Green Infrastructure Context (See Map 2.1)

Some of the Urban Open Spaces (Eastfield Park, for example) are within Local GI Corridors. Others are located outside the Strategic GI Framework, but nevertheless make an important contribution to the town's Green Infrastructure provision, particularly where they are connected by Urban Brook Corridors or other linkages.

#### Identified GI projects within this Local GI Network Component:

H1: Northampton Racecourse

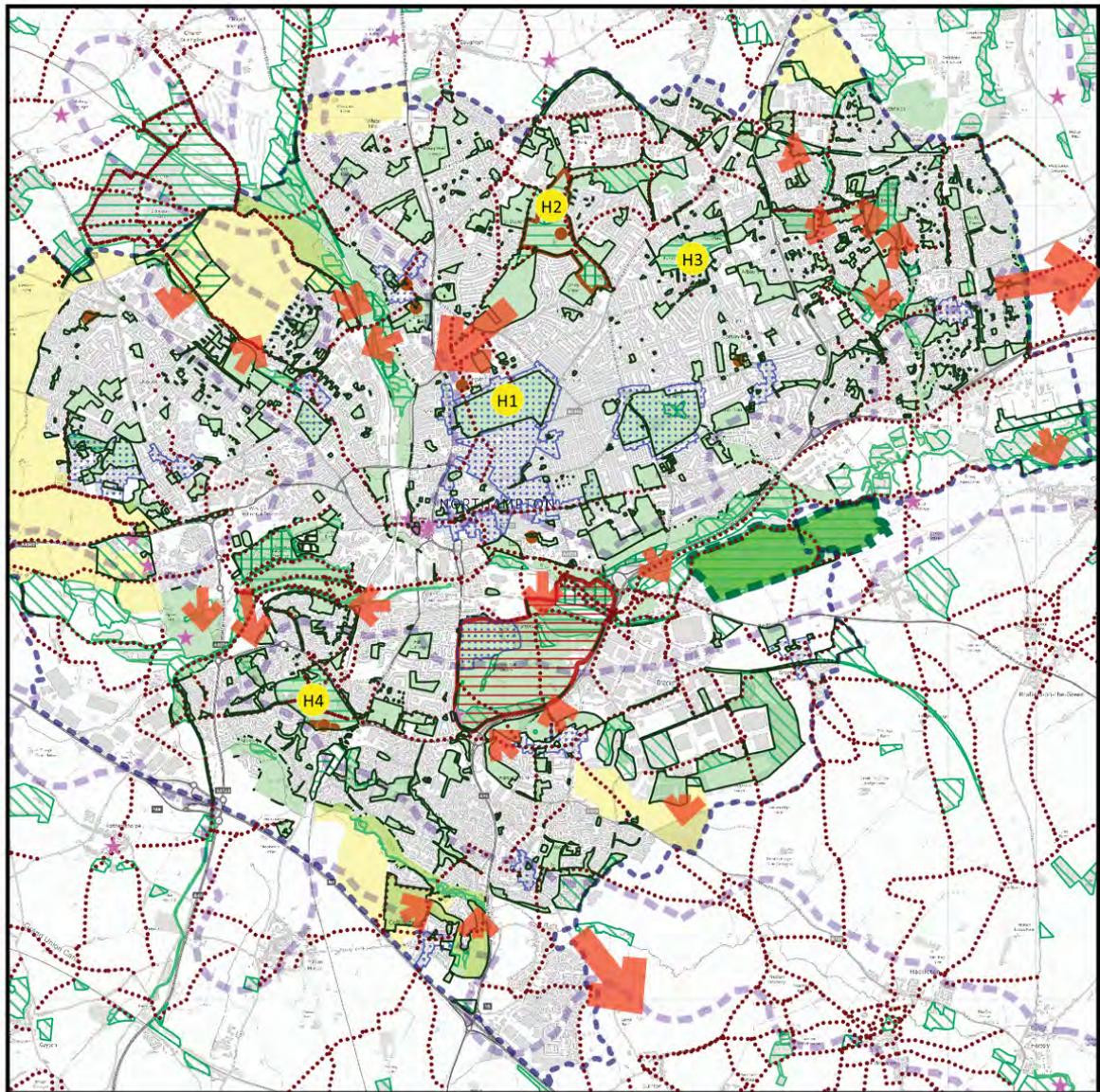
H3: Eastfield Park

H2: Bradlaugh Fields Nature Reserve

H4: Hunsbury Hill Country Park Project

*NOTE: When assessing a specific open space for enhancement, please refer to the most recent Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy to obtain an accurate site-specific overview.*





## Northampton Green Infrastructure Plan

### Local Green Infrastructure Network

#### Component H: Urban Open Spaces

May 2016

0 1 2 km

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Link with Strategic Green Infrastructure Corridor

Link with adjacent Local GI Network Component

- Northampton Related Development Area
- Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE)
- H. Urban Open Spaces
- Public Right of Way / Cycle Route
- Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area
- SSSI
- Special Protection Area
- Local Nature Reserve
- Local Wildlife Site
- Potential Wildlife Site
- Local Geological Site
- Scheduled Monument
- Registered Battlefield
- Conservation Area
- Open Space, Sport and Recreation
- Identified Green Infrastructure Project

### Functions of the Urban Open Spaces Local GI Network Component

Existing	Opportunities
<b>Biodiversity</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Some Urban Open Spaces (e.g. Eastfield Park, Spinney Hill; Hunsbury Hill) are Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), containing a variety of woodland, grassland and wetland habitats. There are also some Potential Wildlife Sites, such as the lake in Abingdon Park.</li> <li>Several Local Geological Sites occur within Urban Open Spaces. The largest is Bradlaugh Fields, designated for its limestone and sandstone formations. Other smaller sites include cuttings (e.g. Hunsbury Hill) and quarries/ cliffs which show sections through Northampton Sands formations.</li> <li>Trees and woodlands within Urban Open Spaces make a valuable contribution to biodiversity.</li> <li>Some Urban Open Spaces are located on woodland or grassland corridors within the wider habitat network.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance the biodiversity value of Urban Open Spaces though increased range &amp; extent of habitats.</li> <li>Increasing the number of LWS through positive conservation management.</li> <li>Explore opportunities for GI provision within urban areas, e.g. green roofs and walls, tree planting, etc.</li> <li>Raise public awareness of Local Geological Sites through increased interpretation.</li> </ul>
<b>Connectivity and Access</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All of the Urban Open Spaces are surrounded by development (mostly residential) and are therefore easily accessed by local residents. Many are directly overlooked by housing. Several parks (e.g the Racecourse) have an exceptionally permeable perimeter, enabling easy access from all directions.</li> <li>The larger sites (e.g Hunsbury Hill) are served by car parks. Many Open Space sites can be accessed by public transport or via footpath links (most are served by inter-urban neighbourhood connectors within the Secondary Movement Network).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage improved access using Urban Brook Corridors and other linkages.</li> <li>Improve signage to sites and within sites where appropriate, including from within the wider urban area.</li> </ul>
<b>Community and Public Health</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban Open Spaces have an important function as 'green lungs' within the town. They enable people to access open space close to where they live, without needing to drive or travel long distances. They are popular amongst all age groups.</li> <li>The opportunities they provide for open air exercise and relaxation are important for public health.</li> <li>Some sites (e.g. the Racecourse) provide sports facilities which can be used by clubs beyond Northampton Borough.</li> <li>Some have associated community facilities/ attractions such as Abington Museum and Hunsbury railway museum which fulfil an educational role.</li> <li>Volunteering in parks, e.g. helping with maintenance can be excellent training for socially-excluded groups.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When opportunities arise, enhance facilities for all age groups using Urban Open Spaces, to encourage fitness and an enjoyment of the outdoors.</li> <li>Build on existing enthusiastic community support, e.g. the 'Friends of' Groups which are associated with many sites.</li> <li>Use a range of publicity to increase public awareness of accessible Urban Open Spaces in Northampton.</li> </ul>



Existing	Opportunities
<b>Landscape</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban Open Spaces contribute to the town's sense of place, and are attractive places to be, encouraging people to enjoy where they live and to take pride in it.</li> <li>They also create a green and open appearance to the town which usually adds to its visual quality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider opening up strategic views (e.g. through selective thinning of secondary woodland at Hunsbury Hill) to enhance visual connectivity between sites and their surroundings.</li> </ul>
<b>Heritage</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hunsbury Hillfort is a Scheduled Monument, and the surrounding Country Park forms its setting.</li> <li>Many of the Urban Open Spaces have interesting histories, including several public open spaces which were formerly the grounds of private estates (e.g. Eastfield Park).</li> <li>The Racecourse and Abingdon Park are fully or partially designated as Conservation Areas, and several Urban Open Spaces have associated Listed Buildings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve interpretation of the heritage of Urban Open Spaces, encouraging residents to engage with the history of where they live.</li> </ul>
<b>Flooding and water management</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Urban Open Spaces are generally located on relatively high ground, and are therefore outside the Flood Zones. However, their size and permeability means that they are important in the storage of rainwater and prevention of flooding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use Urban Open Spaces to help reduce runoff and downstream flooding, for example through tree planting, replacement of hard surfaces with permeable paving, etc.</li> </ul>
<b>Ecosystem Services (See section 15.7)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Urban Open Spaces (and their associated trees, lakes and grassland) function as 'green lungs' within the urban area of Northampton. They contribute to various regulating services, including climate regulation, noise regulation, pollination, water regulation (through absorption of rainwater) and air quality regulation.</li> <li>They also play an important role in providing cultural services, particularly recreation and positive aesthetic experience. Many Urban Open Space sites are rich in cultural heritage.</li> <li>Allotment sites contribute to provisioning services through food production.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase the 'urban forest' resource through careful planting of appropriate tree species in order to build local resilience to climate change, specifically higher temperatures and increased rainfall.</li> <li>Continue positive management of Urban Open Spaces and the habitats within them, so that they can continue to contribute to a wide range of ecosystem services.</li> </ul>

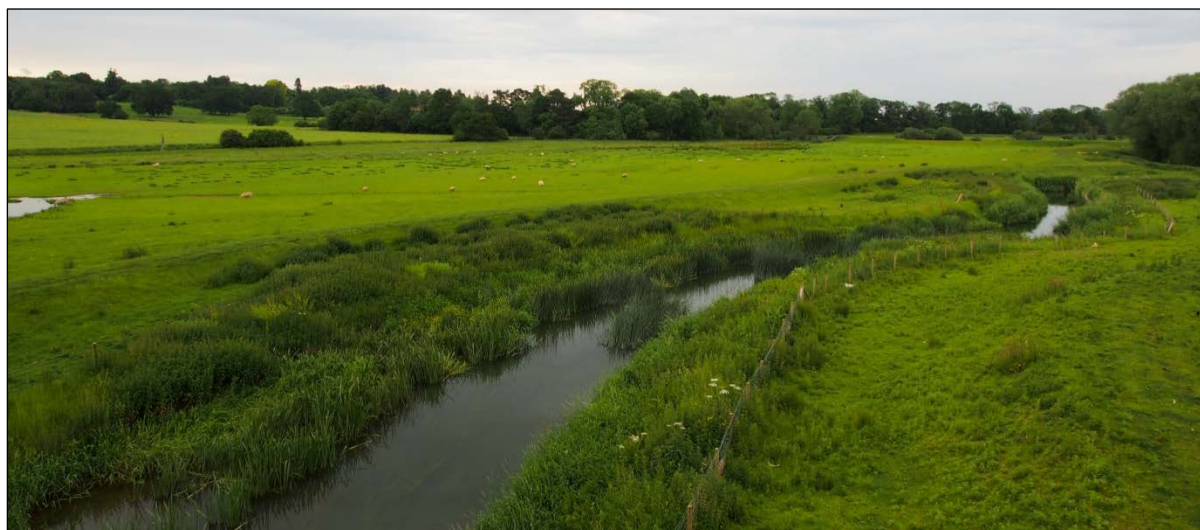
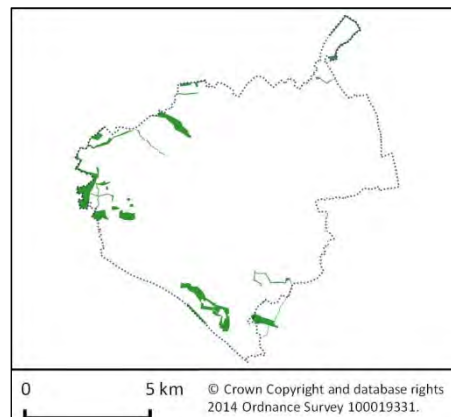
## Northampton Local Green Infrastructure Network Component

### I: STRUCTURAL GREENSPACE ASSOCIATED WITH SUEs

#### Location within Northampton

A series of Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs) are proposed on currently undeveloped land around the peripheries of Northampton. Eight SUEs are proposed, on the north, north-east, south-east, south, west and north-west of the town. Each SUE includes proposed areas of development, and associated Structural Greenspace.

There is some overlap between the SUE sites and other Local GI Network Components, specifically Components A, B and G.



*View towards proposed Country Park site in the Nene Valley associated with Upton Park SUE*

#### Strategic Green Infrastructure Context (See Map 2.1)

Several of the SUE sites are within Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Corridors. The North of Whitehills and Kings Heath SUEs are partially within the Sub-Regional GI Corridor 8 (The Brampton Arm Northampton to Market Harborough). The Upton Park SUE is fully within Sub-Regional GI Corridor 1 (The Nene Valley Newnham to Northampton), and the Upton Lodge SUE is partially within it. The South of Brackmills SUE is partially within Sub-Regional GI Corridor 7 (Northampton to Salcey).

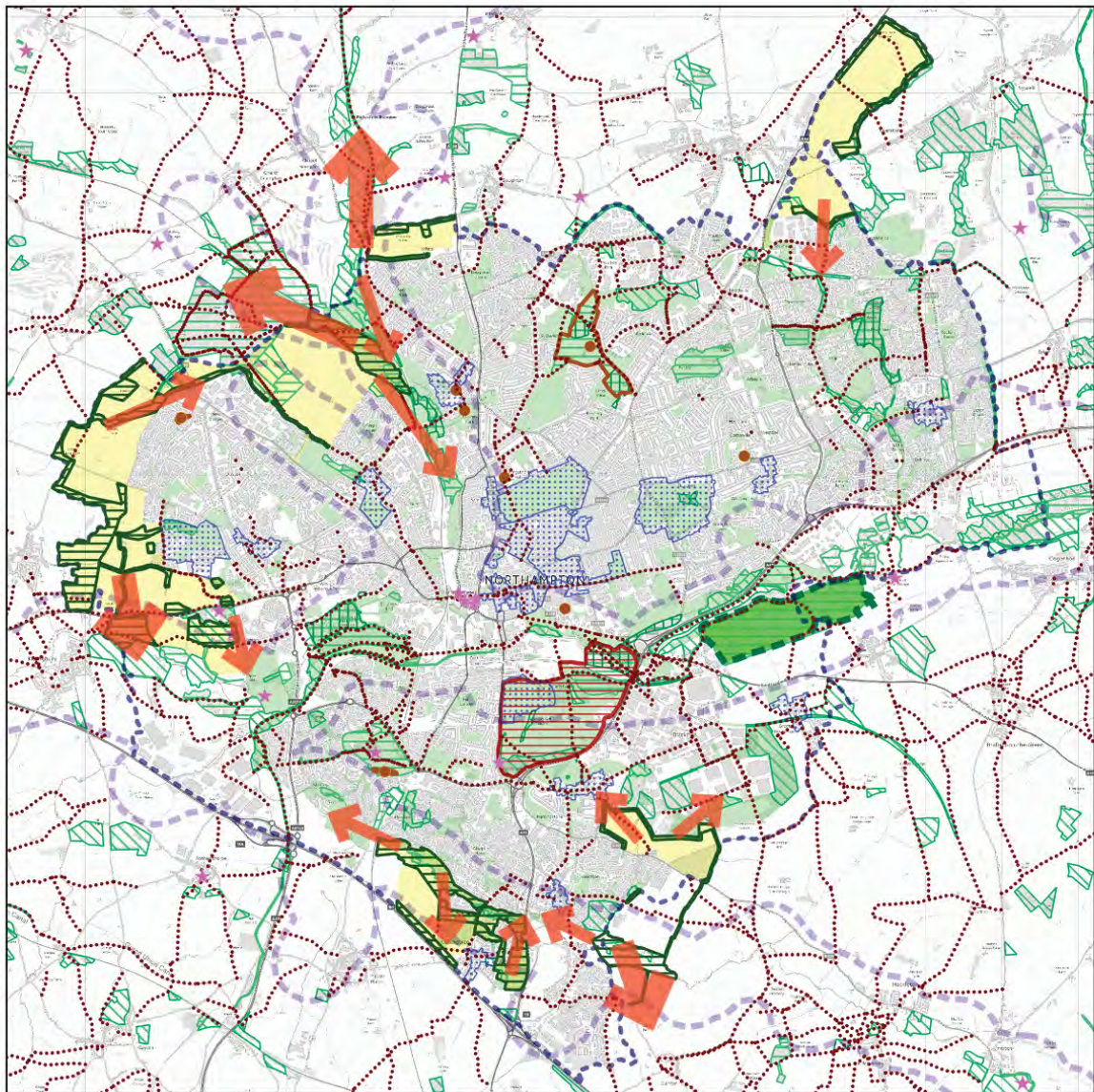
#### Identified GI projects within this Local GI Network Component:

There are eight SUEs currently proposed, at different stages of the planning process.

I:1 Northampton Upton Park SUE	I:5 Northampton North of Whitehills SUE
I:2 Upton Lodge/ Norwood Farm SUE	I:6 Northampton North SUE (Overstone Leys)
I:3 Northampton West SUE	I:7 Northampton South of Brackmills SUE
I:4 Northampton King's Heath SUE	I:8 Northampton South (Collingtree) SUE

*NOTE: See Appendix I for a summary of the proposed Structural Greenspace associated with each SUE. Map 4 shows indicative links between the SUEs and the wider GI Network.*





## Northampton Green Infrastructure Plan

### Local Green Infrastructure Network

Component I:  
Proposed Structural Greenspace  
Associated with SUEs

May 2016

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- Northampton Related Development Area
- Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE)
- I. Proposed Structural Greenspace
- Public Right of Way / Cycle Route
- Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area
- SSSI
- Special Protection Area
- Local Nature Reserve
- Local Wildlife Site
- Potential Wildlife Site
- Local Geological Site
- Scheduled Monument
- Registered Battlefield
- Conservation Area
- Open Space, Sport and Recreation

Link with Strategic Green Infrastructure Corridor

Link with adjacent Local GI Network Component

**Functions of *Structural Greenspace Associated with SUEs* Local GI Network Component**

Existing	Opportunities
<b><i>Biodiversity</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Five of the SUE sites (North of Whitehills, Collingtree, Upton Park, Upton Lodge and King's Heath) are partially within the Nene Valley NIA.</li> <li>There is a Local Wildlife Site within the King's Heath SUE, and Potential Wildlife Sites in the Upton Park, King's Heath, Northampton West and Overstone Leys SUEs, but none are within the areas proposed as Structural Greenspace. The 'Cowpasture Spinney' Wildlife Site at the Overstone Leys SUE is within the proposed area of Structural Greenspace.</li> <li>With the exception of Upton Lodge, all the SUE sites are fully or partially within habitat corridors. Overstone Leys, North of Whitehills, King's Heath and Northampton West SUEs are within acid grassland habitat corridors. Upton Park, Collingtree, King's Heath and South of Brackmills SUEs are within lowland meadow habitat corridors. Overstone Leys and Northampton West are within woodland habitat corridors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate designated wildlife sites into Structural Greenspace areas within SUEs, and protect and manage them appropriately.</li> <li>Bear in mind the SUEs' roles as contributors to habitat corridors throughout the design and planning process, and enhance the sites' functions as future habitat corridors. Therefore corridor width and function should be considered, corridors should be fit for purpose, and adequate space for multifunctionality should be allocated.</li> <li>Enhance the biodiversity of Urban Brook Corridors where they overlap or link with SUE sites.</li> </ul>
<b><i>Connectivity and Access</i></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Three of the SUE sites (King's Heath, Upton Park and South of Brackmills) contain Green Ways within the Primary Movement Network. All the SUE sites except North of Whitehills contain Countryside Connectors within the Secondary Movement Network.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain (and preferably enhance) existing links within the movement network through the development of the SUEs, enabling good connections between Northampton and the surrounding countryside.</li> <li>South of Brackmills SUE can contribute to enhancement of sustainable movement network along Sub-regional GI corridor connecting Northampton (Delapre) with Salcey Forest.</li> <li>South of Brackmills, Northampton West and Upton Lodge/ Norwood Farm SUEs all have opportunities to enhance sections of the local movement network which are currently on roads.</li> </ul>

Existing	Opportunities
<i>Connectivity and Access (Contd.)</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance connectivity/ access of other Local GI Network Components through off-site contributions.</li> <li>Through the masterplanning process, ensure that smaller areas of Structural Greenspace within SUEs connect with the wider GI network.</li> </ul>
<i>Community and Public Health</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collingtree Golf Course (within Collingtree SUE Structural Greenspace) is currently a formal recreation site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a pleasant living environment and outdoor recreation opportunities through the Open Space associated with the proposed SUEs.</li> <li>Make SUE Structural Greenspace accessible for use by the wider community. For example, Overstone Leys SUE can contribute to Open Space, Sport and Recreation opportunities for residents of Moulton village.</li> </ul>
<i>Landscape</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The majority of the proposed SUE sites are currently farmland around the edges of Northampton, and currently contribute to the rural setting of the town. Some of the sites (e.g. King's Heath and Upton Lodge) are on visually prominent slopes.</li> <li>SUE sites fall within several different landscape character areas: <i>Rolling Ironstone Valley Slopes</i> to the north of the town; <i>Undulating Hills and Valleys</i> and <i>Broad River Valley Floodplain</i> to the west, and <i>Undulating Claylands</i> and <i>Limestone Valley slopes</i> to the south.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The development of the SUEs will represent a major change in land use from agriculture to development, with consequent effects on their appearance and impacts on the setting of Northampton.</li> <li>Sensitively design Structural Greenspace to make the SUEs as visually attractive as possible, providing a soft edge to the town, and enabling the new developments to sit comfortably within their wider landscape context.</li> <li>Retain landscape diversity as much as possible, for example through massing of planting and choice of species.</li> </ul>



Existing	Opportunities
<i>Heritage</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scheduled Monument (deserted medieval village) to the north of Upton Park SUE.</li> <li>Overstone Leys, Northampton West, Upton Lodge, Upton Park and Collingtree SUEs all contain small areas of ridge and furrow, resulting from medieval ploughing.</li> <li>Some SUE sites are within the settings of existing Conservation Areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Where appropriate, reflect historic landscape features (e.g. lanes and field patterns) in the design of new development and associated Structural Greenspace, encouraging residents to engage with the history of where they live.</li> <li>Use GI provision to preserve or enhance the immediate settings of existing Conservation Areas.</li> </ul>
<i>Flooding and water management</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The lowest-lying parts of some SUEs are within Flood Zone 2. Most of these are also within Component G: Urban Brook Corridors, and are within the areas of proposed Structural Greenspace.</li> <li>The SUE sites are currently (or have been) farmland and enabled natural infiltration of rainwater, reducing the effects of flooding downstream.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimise future increase in surface water runoff from development by introducing permeable surfaces (where underlying geology is porous), retention ponds, and other SUDS.</li> </ul>
<i>Ecosystem Services (See section 15.7)</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The SUE sites currently provide provisioning services through their use as farmland. They also contribute to regulating services, including regulation of water, flooding, soil quality, air quality, climate and pollination.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SUEs will continue to regulate flooding and contribute to water management through SUDS.</li> <li>Carefully design Structural Greenspace to enable it to fulfil new roles providing cultural services (e.g. recreation).</li> <li>Plant suitable tree species to increase future local resilience against climate change, specifically rising temperatures and increased rainfall.</li> </ul>

## APPENDIX E:

### Identified future Green Infrastructure Projects

Code (letter indicates component)	Project Title	Summary description	Benefits
<b>Component A: Brampton Arm of the River Nene</b>			
A1	<i>Kingsthorpe Nature Reserve Improvements</i>	Improvements to wildlife habitats and visitor facilities (e.g. bridges, access and seating) at the Local Nature Reserve. Also an opportunity to install a SUDS solution to run-off from the railway line.	Biodiversity, Access and movement, Education, Community, Public Health, Flooding and drainage, WFD, Landscape.
A2	<i>Linking Kingsthorpe Local Nature Reserve to Kingsthorpe North Meadow via a restored Kingsthorpe Tussocks</i>	Habitat restoration work to Local Wildlife Site and surrounding land along the Brampton Arm of the River Nene, to link Kingsthorpe WT reserve to Kingsthorpe North Meadow and its lake.	Biodiversity, Access and movement, Education, Landscape.
A3	<i>Kingsthorpe Lake Restoration</i>	This established pond (with associated wetlands and scrub) is drying out and would benefit from restoration, possibly with community involvement.	Biodiversity, Community, Public health, WFD.
A4	<i>Cycle Path extension into the Town Centre</i>	An aspirational project to connect the Brampton Valley Way cycle path with the town centre via a new footpath/ cycle route along the valley floor of the Brampton Arm.	Access and movement, Public health
<b>Component B: Western Nene, Upton and Duston Mill</b>			
B1	<i>Upton Country Park, Phases 1 and 2</i>	The protection and creation of a green route along the floodplain area known as Upton Country Park. Protection of a green wedge of land and its continued management as pasture.	Biodiversity, Access and movement, Education, Community, Public Health, Flooding and drainage, WFD, Landscape.
B2	<i>Duston Wetland Creation</i>	To create a wetland as off-site mitigation for the development of Edgar Mobbs Way, which has affected the nearby 'Storton's Pits' Local Nature Reserve.	Biodiversity, Access and movement, Flooding and drainage, WFD, Landscape.



Code (letter indicates component)	Project Title	Summary description	Benefits
B3	<i>Storton's Pits Nature Reserve</i>	Improvements to habitat management and access.	Biodiversity, Access and movement, Flooding and drainage, WFD, Landscape.
<b>Component C: East-West Pedestrian and Cycle Link</b>			
C1	<i>East-West cycle and Footpath Links</i>	Upgrading and linking the canal towpath to create a footpath and cycle link eastwards from the M1 Junction 15a into Northampton.	Access and movement, Cultural heritage, Public health.
C2	<i>Northampton London Road to Brackmills Railway Line Redevelopment</i>	Creating a cycle and pedestrian route along the disused railway line from London Road to Brackmills	Access and movement, Cultural heritage, Public health.
<b>Component D: Town Centre Waterside</b>			
D1	<i>River Nene Meander Reconnection</i>	The replacement of a 200m-long straightened section of river with a 400m-long meander, the original course of the river.	Biodiversity, Flooding and drainage, WFD.
D2	<i>Habitat creation South of Nene Valley Retail Park</i>	Creating a range of wetland and riparian (river-bank) habitats on the promontory between the canal and River Nene, in an area of limited public access.	Biodiversity, WFD.
D3	<i>Foot Meadow Project</i>	Restoration of habitats, improved access and tackling issues of anti-social behaviour.	Biodiversity, Access and movement, Public Health' Landscape, WFD.
<b>Component E: Delapre</b>			
E1	<i>Northampton Battlefield</i>	To conserve the battlefield site and improve community and visitor understanding of its significance and relation to the wider Nene Valley. To include interpretation and improved access.	Cultural heritage, Access and movement, Community, Public health, biodiversity, Landscape
E2	<i>Delapre Lake Local Wildlife Site</i>	Footpath improvements, willow pollarding and bank re-profiling to improve the lake for wildlife and people.	Biodiversity, Access and movement.

Code (letter indicates component)	Project Title	Summary description	Benefits
<b>Component F: Washlands and Eastern Nene</b>			
F1	<i>Barnes Meadow Local Nature Reserve</i>	Potential to improve access links between the Battlefield site and the Washlands. Also potential to enhance river bank and wetland habitats.	Biodiversity, Access and movement
F2	<i>Northampton Washlands</i>	Reducing the adverse effects of human disturbance on birds at this important site in the Upper Nene Valley Special Protection Area.	Biodiversity, Access and movement, Landscape, WFD.
F3	<i>Abingdon Meadow Improvements</i>	Path works, interpretation materials, monitoring and improved storm drainage at this valuable Local Nature Reserve	Biodiversity, Access and movement, Flooding and drainage, WFD.
<b>Component G: Urban Brook Corridors</b>			
G1	<i>Aberdare Road Park</i>	This is a floodwater storage area managed as a local park. There is an opportunity for community involvement to manage and enhance the brook to create a more diverse wildlife habitat, and great potential to enhance the quality of the area as a visual, community and educational resource.	Community, Education, Flooding and drainage, WFD, Biodiversity.
G2	<i>Lings Wood Nature Reserve</i>	Tree works and woodland habitat management at this popular urban woodland Nature Reserve	Biodiversity, Access and movement
G3	<i>Shelfleys Lake, Wootton Brook</i>	Potential to extend valuable marginal wetland habitats at this urban lake Wildlife Trust site with public access	Biodiversity, Community, WFD.

Code (letter indicates component)	Project Title	Summary description	Benefits
<b>Component H: Urban Open Spaces</b>			
H1	<i>Northampton Racecourse</i>	A series of community-led and practically feasible projects with results visible to the local community. Plans include improving the amenity value of sports pitches, and tree survey and maintenance.	Community, Access and movement, Public health, Biodiversity, Cultural heritage, Landscape
H2	<i>Bradlaugh Fields Nature Reserve</i>	New fencing, gates, scrape works and maintenance at this limestone grassland Nature Reserve.	Biodiversity, community
H3	<i>Eastfield Park</i>	To create a safe and accessible park with well managed facilities and amenities that enhance the well-being of residents living in the area.	Community, Access and movement, Public health, Cultural heritage, Landscape, Biodiversity
H4	<i>Hunsbury Hill Country Park Project</i>	Habitat improvement works to the grassland, woodland and ponds within the Country Park, and link to Acre's Hunsbury Hill Centre for people and wildlife.	Cultural Heritage, Biodiversity, Access and movement, Community, Public Health, Landscape

NOTE: See section 11.0 and *Map 4* of the *GIP* for recommendations on implementing GI within Component I (Proposed Structural Greenspace Associated with SUEs).

# APPENDIX F

## *Exemplar Project Plans*



## LINKING KINGSTHORPE LOCAL NATURE RESERVE TO KINGSTHORPE NORTH MEADOWS VIA A RESTORED KINGSTHORPE TUSSOCKS.

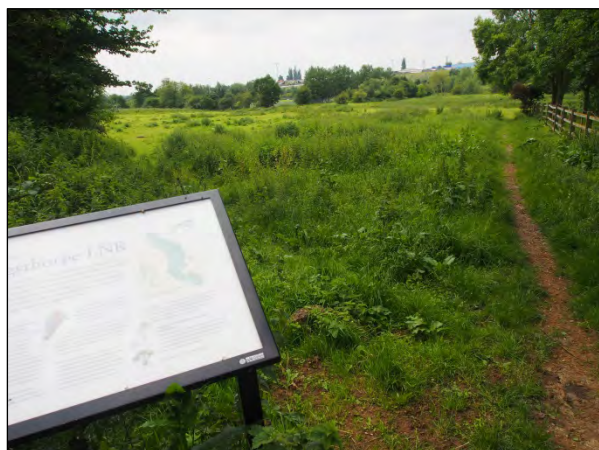
Code on interactive map: **A2**

### Context

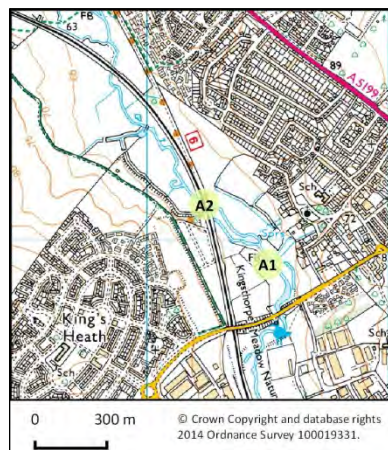
Kingsthorpe is a Local Nature Reserve in the Brampton Valley, on the north side of Northampton. It is a popular site, but has suffered from a lack of investment in recent years. This stretch of the Brampton Arm of the Nene has a number of Local Wildlife Sites surrounded by semi-improved grassland and arable. There are opportunities to restore habitats and improve links with other Wildlife Sites in the vicinity.

### Proposal

Restoration of stream, wetland and meadow habitats in the Kingsthorpe Tussocks Local Wildlife Site and surrounding land along the Brampton Arm of the Nene, to link Kingsthorpe Wildlife Trust Reserve to Kingsthorpe North Meadows and lake.



*Kingsthorpe Nature Reserve, entrance south of Mill Lane*



*Project location map*

**Project Location:** Valley of the Brampton Arm, south of Kingsthorpe Local Nature Reserve

**Project size:** Approx. 40ha

**Possible Delivery Partners:** Wildlife Trust; River Nene Regional Park; Kingsthorpe North Meadows Charitable Trust; Environment Agency.

**Current Status:** An initial project idea.

### Indicative timescale following full award of funding:

Year 1: Landowner engagement, river restoration works

Year 2: Fencing, meadow restoration

Year 3: circular walk, interpretation

SEE NOTE IN SECTION 9.3

## Indicative Project Costings

NOTE: Some items cannot be quantified until landowner engagement has taken place

Item	Approx. no./ length/ area required	Approximate cost
Land advice time	10 days	
River improvements		
Fencing	4500m	£182,000
Meadow Restoration (assuming topsoil strip)	6ha	£643,000
Footpath works		
Interpretation		
<b>Total</b>		

**Green Infrastructure Context** Located within Local Level Component A (Brampton Arm of the River Nene), this project is positioned within the Sub-Regional GI Corridor of the Brampton Arm (Northampton to Market Harborough). Two local GI Corridors (Northampton to Daventry and to Wellingborough) converge to the north of the project site, offering further opportunities to strengthen connectivity for people and wildlife within this important part of Northampton's GI Network.

## Project Benefits

- **Biodiversity benefits:** Conserve and enhance the natural environment through restoration of Kingsthorpe Tussocks Local Wildlife Site, and encourage more sympathetic management of surrounding land to improve connectivity for wildlife. Delivers high-level benefits under EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020.
- **Access and movement benefits:** Improvement to footpaths and interpretation could create a circular walk in conjunction with Brampton Valley Way. There is also potential to link with an aspirational project to extend the Brampton Valley Way towards the town centre.
- **Cultural heritage benefits:** N/A
- **Community benefits:** Enhancement of this site and improved linkages will benefit several local communities in the surrounding area through improved access.
- **Public health benefits:** Improved public access provides an opportunity for open air exercise and to engage with the natural environment.
- **Supporting economic growth:** N/A
- **Drainage and flood reduction:** Creation of wet grassland would create natural flood alleviation. Delivers high-level benefits under WFD and Directive on Assessment and Management of Flood Risks.
- **Landscape benefits:** The project will enhance the distinctive landscape character of the area and contribute to the setting of the surrounding town.

**Other potentially linked projects:** A1: Kingsthorpe Nature Reserve Improvements  
A3: Kingsthorpe Lake Restoration  
A4: Cycle Path extension into the town centre

**Potential sources of funding:**

**Potential Grant funding bodies to approach for this project**

- Big Lottery, Awards for All (£300 - £10k) – revitalising the Local Environment
- Big Lottery, Rethinking parks (up to £100k) – new approaches to helping parks thrive, working on the Wildlife Trust Reserve and the benefits behind linking with the meadows and lake.

**Potential No Cost projects which could be interested in being involved / volunteer support**

- Health walks, Leisure Trust – through the created links
- Changing Minds – Potential to use the nature reserve and walks to improve social interaction and healthy activity
- Northamptonshire Learning Disability Partnership Board – work alongside the partnership to support Learning in an outdoor environment

**EAST-WEST CYCLE AND FOOTPATH LINKS: CANAL TOWPATH UPGRADE**Code on interactive map: **C1****Context**

Sections of the towpath surface are currently overgrown and poorly defined, uneven and not suitable for cyclists. A defined tarmac surface linking the towpath from Pineham, all the way into the town centre, will encourage more people to use this important strategic infrastructure linkage.

**Proposal**

1.9km of towpath improvements and upgrading to provide the final link for the towpath from the M1 Motorway to Northampton's town centre; improvement of the definition of the canal-side; ensure a shared pedestrian and cycle route at least 1.5m wide (tarmac with tar on yellow chippings or similar); improvement and promotion of the connectivity and usability of the canal-side for users; encouragement of new users into the waterside environment through targeted publicity.



*View of the canal towpath from bridge near Duston Mill*



*Project location map.*

**Project Location:** Between M1 Junction 15a and Northampton Town Centre

**Project size:** Sections to be upgraded total approx. 1.9km

**Possible Delivery Partners:** Canal and River Trust; Northampton Borough Council; Northamptonshire County Council; Environment Agency.

**Current Status:** Project brief agreed and funding in place

**Indicative timescale following full award of funding tranche:**

Year 1: Towpath upgrade works completed.

**Indicative Project Costings**

Item	Approx. no./length/ area required	Approximate cost
Upgrade of towpath to shared-use cycle route, and associated publicity	1.9km	£300,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£300,000</b>



### Green Infrastructure Context

This project links three Local Level GI Components: Component B (Western Nene, Upton and Duston Mill); Component D (Town Centre Waterside) and Component G (Urban Brook Corridors). It leads through the Local GI Corridor of the Grand Union Canal Spur, which links Northampton and Milton Keynes and follows the Nene Sub-Regional GI Corridor (Newham to Northampton). It also provides sustainable links with the wider transport network.

### Project Benefits

- **Biodiversity benefits:** A change in transport from cars to cycles will lead to a reduction in traffic pollution, and positive impacts on air quality and biodiversity.
- **Access and movement benefits:** The project will complete a key sustainable transport link between the M1 and the town centre.
- **Cultural heritage benefits:** improved usage of an historic route (canal towpath) and awareness of associated features (canal bridges, locks, etc.).
- **Community benefits:** The route will enable local people to cycle as part of their everyday routine for work or recreation. Within the Town Centre it also contributes to the wider objective of a vibrant waterside edge which provides places to relax and enjoy the canalside.
- **Public health benefits:** Improvements and promotion of cycling activity into and across the town, helping to achieve modal shift towards sustainable transport and improving the health and quality of life of local residents.
- **Supporting economic growth:** The route will help alleviate traffic congestion by offering a viable alternative to car use. Also in improving public health, there are recognised economic benefits in reduced number of sick days, etc.
- **Drainage and flood reduction:** N/A
- **Landscape benefits:** Improved definition of the character of the waterside through use of high-quality materials.

**Other potentially linked projects:** C2 Northampton London Road to Brackmills Railway Line  
Redevelopment  
B1 Upton Country Park  
B2: Duston Wetland Creation

### Existing sources of funding

S016 Agreements,  
Developer contributions  
Canal and River Trust (Capital Programme)  
Integrated Transport Block

### Potential other funding sources for this project

- Sustrans
- EZ Business Rate Uplift
- Further s106 planning contributions

## MEANDER RECONNECTION

Code on interactive map: **D1**

### Context

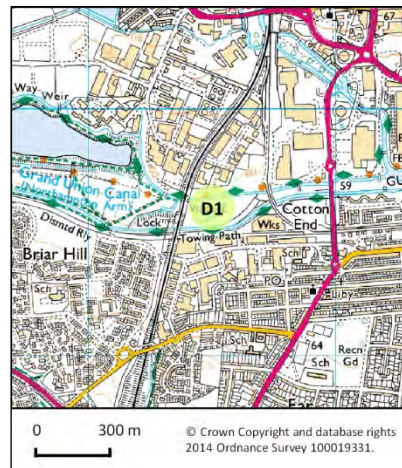
The site consists of a section of the River Nene that was straightened in the late 1990s, following a severe flood event. The reasoning is that straightening would speed up the flow of water, getting it away quicker. As a consequence, however, the straightening of the river has severely reduced the range of habitats present.

### Proposal

The replacement of a 200m-long straightened section of river with a 400m-long meander, the original course of the river. This should help to create areas of fast and slow-flowing water, with associated varied habitats.



*Open water and wetland habitats in the former meander*



*Project location map.*

**Project Location:** On the promontory of land between the River Nene (to the north) and the canal (to the south), to the east of the Northampton-London line railway bridge.

**Project size:** Approx. 400 linear metres

**Possible Delivery Partners:** Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area (NIA); NBC; Environment Agency; River Restoration Centre; River Nene Regional Park; Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire; University of Northampton; Waterside Improvement Group

### Project Status:

Current stage: Project plans developed. Funding being sought.

### Indicative timescale following award of funding:

Not yet known

## Indicative Project Costings

Item	Approximate cost
Capital Works	£80,000
Biological surveys	£20,000
Utility searches	£ free- done via EA
Hydraulic modelling	£20,000
Contaminated land	£ 2,000
Archaeology	£ 5,000
Permissions	£ 500
Project management	£ free (paid separately via NIA)
Bridge load capacity	£ 2,000
Solicitor's fees (for agreements)	£ 500
<b>Total</b>	<b>£130,000</b>

## Project Benefits

- **Biodiversity benefits:** Increasing the in-channel morphological diversity will help to provide habitats for a range of species, increasing the biodiversity value of the site. Delivers high-level benefits under EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020.
- **Access and movement benefits:** N/A, although the site is partially visible from the Nene Way to the north, and the canal path (project C1) to the south.
- **Cultural heritage benefits:** Archaeological investigations undertaken as part of the project may reveal previously unrecorded finds or features.
- **Community benefits:** N/A
- **Public health benefits:** This project is part of a larger group of projects to improve the water quality of the River Nene, which will have wider positive benefits on public health.
- **Supporting economic growth:** Green town centre sites such as this contribute to a positive environment for business, leisure and residential development.
- **Drainage and flood reduction:** The project will slightly increase floodwater storage capacity. Partially reconnecting the meander will allow increased flood storage capacity. Delivers high-level benefits under WFD and Directive on Assessment and Management of Flood Risks.
- **Landscape benefits:** Re-naturalising the river course and the associated riverine habitats will make a positive contribution to landscape character.

**Other potentially linked projects:** D2 Habitat creation south of Nene Valley Retail Park  
C1 East-west cycle and footpath links

## Potential sources of funding

Funding is being sought via HLF bid

## FOOT MEADOW

Code on interactive map: **D3**

### Context

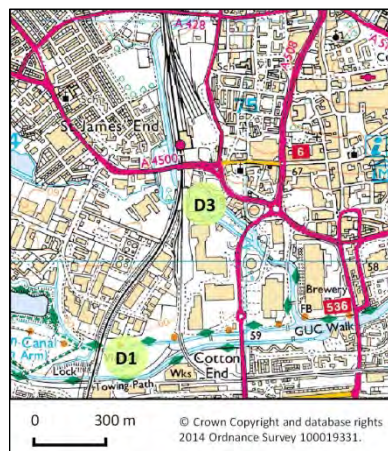
The site comprises an island in the Brampton Arm of the river Nene, to the south of Northampton railway station, and also extends to include the southernmost part of the Brampton Arm, to its confluence with the river Nene. There are several stretches of steep bank which need re-profiling, and some sections which are constructed of vertical sheet piles or bricks. These steep, artificial banks result in a poor river-land interface, reduced marginal habitat, and a potential health and safety risk to residents. There is a footpath along Foot Meadow island, but access is restricted by a lack of footbridges. There is also potential to improve access between the river Nene and the Brampton Arm. An uncared-for appearance and low-level anti-social behaviour (e.g. vandalism and littering) are a deterrent to people visiting the area, as are the subways under the railway lines.

### Proposal

Bank re-shaping to reduce bank gradients around Foot Meadow island and remove exposed rusty sheet piling. Creation of two-stage channels where possible to improve habitats and floodwater capacity. Installation of pre-vegetated coir rolls over vertical sheet-piling and brick banks to improve aesthetic appearance and ecological value. Clearance of invasive bankside vegetation. Improvements to public access and the appearance of the area. Encouragement to potential new developments to focus on the Brampton Arm rather than face away from it.



*Footpath on Foot Meadow island*



*Project location map.*

**Project Location:** Brampton Arm of the river Nene, between the railway station and its confluence with the river Nene.

**Project size:** Approx. 1300 linear metres

**Possible Delivery Partners:** Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area (NIA); NBC; Environment Agency; River Restoration Centre; River Nene Regional Park; Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Northamptonshire; University of Northampton; Waterside Improvement Group

**Project Status:** Current stage: Project plans currently being developed.

**Indicative timescale following award of funding:** Not yet known



## Indicative Project Costings

*NOTE- Indicative costings cannot be quantified until more detailed plans have been drawn up.*

Item	Approximate cost
<b>Total</b>	<b>£</b>

### Green Infrastructure Context

Located within Local Level GI Component D (Town Centre Waterside), this project forms an important link between two Sub-regional GI Corridors: the Brampton Valley (Northampton to Market Harborough), and the Nene (Newnham to Northampton). Its potential importance for connectivity is enhanced by its location within the Central Area Action Plan and adjacent to the Waterside Enterprise Zone.

### Project Benefits

- **Biodiversity benefits:** Bank re-profiling, and facing artificial banks with vegetated coir rolls will help to provide habitats for a range of species, increasing the biodiversity value of the site. Removal of invasive river bank vegetation will enable native species to thrive. Delivers high-level benefits under EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020.
- **Access and movement benefits:** Potential to improve public access into the area, and to enhance the currently poor GI links between the river Nene and the Brampton Arm.
- **Cultural heritage benefits:** Archaeological investigations undertaken as part of the project may reveal previously unrecorded finds or features.
- **Community benefits:** Improved access and enhancement of the area, potentially reducing anti-social behaviour and bringing community benefits.
- **Public health benefits:** This project is part of a larger group of projects to improve the water quality of the River Nene, which will have wider positive benefits on public health. Improved public access to the river and movement network will also encourage outdoor exercise and sustainable transport.
- **Supporting economic growth:** Green town centre sites such as this can be catalysts for redevelopment, creating a positive environment for business, leisure and residential development in which the river is a key part.
- **Drainage and flood reduction:** Creation of a two-stage channel will increase floodwater storage capacity. Delivers high-level benefits under WFD and Directive on Assessment and Management of Flood Risks.
- **Landscape benefits:** Re-naturalising the river banks will greatly enhance their aesthetic appearance, and make a positive contribution to landscape and townscape character.

**Other potentially linked projects:** A4 Cycle Path extension into the Town Centre  
Existing routes along the river Nene  
Development and access improvements through the Central Area Action Plan

### Potential sources of funding

Not yet known

## NORTHAMPTON BATTLEFIELD

Code on interactive map: **E1**

### Context

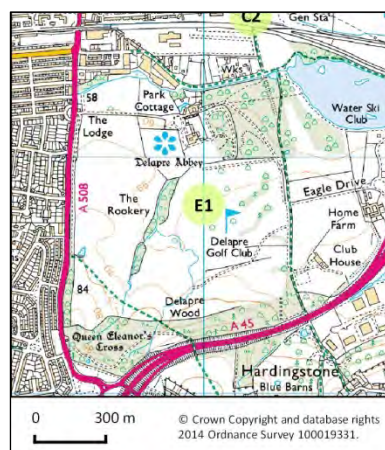
The Battlefield site sits close to the centre of Northampton, and is an important public open space and cultural heritage asset, closely associated with Delapre Abbey. It is a Registered Battlefield, associated with the Battle of Northampton (1460).

### Proposal

To conserve the battlefield site, and improve community and visitor understanding of the significance of the site in Northampton and its relation to the wider Nene Valley. On-site interpretation boards will enable visitors to stand, learn and overlook important historical areas of the site. Access to the site will be significantly improved through improved and new pathways and access points for the local community which will in turn increase the range of visitors to the site.



*View of the Battlefield site from the Carpark at Delapre Abbey*



*Project location map.*

**Project Location:** The Registered Battlefield, which encompasses Delapre Abbey and its associated parkland as well as Barnes Meadow Local Nature Reserve, is located approximately one mile to the south of the town centre of Northampton. The River Nene (Old Channel) flows along its northern boundary and the southern and eastern boundaries are defined by the A45 Nene Valley Way.

**Project size:** Approx. 237 ha

**Possible Delivery Partners:** Northampton Borough Council; Local interest groups such as the Friends of Delapre Abbey; Northamptonshire County Council.

**Current Status:** Project brief agreed

### Indicative timescale following full award of funding tranche:

Year 1: 2016/17 – Footpath Improvements Publicity, Interpretation Design.

Year 2: 2017/18 – Continued repair, construction and improvement to footpaths, interpretation installation.

### Indicative Project Costings (Phase 1)

Item	Approx. no./ length/ area required	Approximate cost
New footpath	685m	£78,980
Repair and conservation	660m	£52,900
Entrance Improvements	x2	£35,000
Publicity and interpretation		£60,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>£226,880</b>

### Green Infrastructure Context

Located within Local GI Network Component E (Delapre), this project is strategically located at the meeting point of two Sub-regional GI Corridors: The Nene Corridor (Northampton to Wansford), and the Northampton to Salcey Corridor (Milton Keynes Link). The latter is also a woodland corridor which extends towards Salcey Forest. In addition, new GI links associated with planned redevelopment will improve access between this site and the town centre. This site therefore contains important opportunities to strengthen access and connectivity both for people and for wildlife within the wider GI Network.

### Project Benefits

- **Biodiversity Benefits:** To conserve and enhance the natural environment through improved parkland management (e.g. meadow restoration) associated with improved access.
- **Access and Movement Benefits,** The access to the site will be significantly improved through improved and new pathways and access points.
- **Cultural heritage benefits:** Awareness of this significant cultural asset will be increased through interpretation, and its condition improved through positive management.
- **Community Benefits:** The local community will benefit from the site improvements, and publicity will increase the range of visitors to the site. The Battlefield will become a community education resource.
- **Public Health Benefits:** Improved public access provides an opportunity for open air exercise and recreation.
- **Supporting economic growth:** Making Delapre Abbey and the surrounding battlefield an improved regional attraction will support tourism and tourism spend in the local economy.
- **Drainage and Flood reduction:** N/A
- **Landscape Benefits:** The local landscape will benefit through the improved management of the parkland, and this will positively enhance landscape/ townscape character.

**Other potentially linked projects:** E2 Delapre Lake Local Wildlife Site  
C2 Northampton London Road to Brackmills Railway Line  
Redevelopment  
F1 Barnes Meadow Local Nature Reserve

**Potential sources of funding**

S016 Agreements

**Potential Grant funding bodies to approach for this project**

- HLF, Parks for People (£100k - £5m) – Promoting the heritage of the site while improving access to the parklands.
- Big Lottery, Rethinking parks (up to £100k) – new approaches to helping parks thrive.

**Potential No Cost projects which could be interested in being involved / volunteer support**

- Health walks, Leisure Trust – through improved access
- Changing Minds – Potential to use the Battlefield Site walks to improve social interaction and healthy activity
- Northamptonshire Learning Disability Partnership Board – work alongside the partnership to support Learning in an outdoor environment
- Change4Life - encourage healthy walks in the Battlefield site and could be used to promote the parklands
- Northamptonshire Centre for Independent Living – promote location as somewhere disabled people and carers can visit with improved access.



## NORTHAMPTON WASHLAND

Code on interactive map: **F2**

### Context

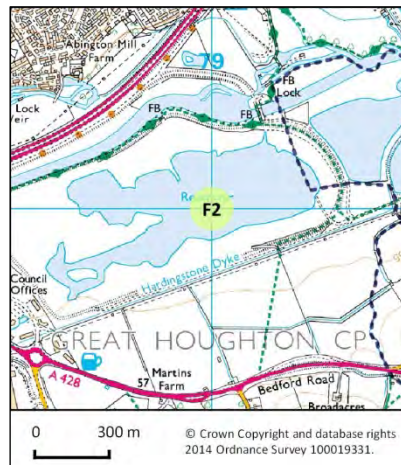
The Northampton Washlands is an important site in the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area (SPA). Research has shown that the wintering birds on this site (golden plovers and wigeon) are being adversely affected by human disturbance. Dogs being exercised off leads inside the basin (i.e. off the public footpath) pose a particular problem, along with people who insist on walking around the lake shore rather than staying on the footpath as requested by signs recently put up on the site. The Nene Valley NIA partners have commissioned a report by Footprint Ecology on access to the whole SPA (February 2014) as well as establishing a community panel to consider the issues and pressures on the Washland.

### Proposal

Community engagement (particularly with dog-walkers) to encourage responsible use of the site. Erection of dog-proof fencing adjacent to the A45 to encourage dog walkers to let their dogs off-lead at a safe distance from sensitive areas. Establishment of a 'friends' group to be involved in site management.



*View east across Northampton Washland from the Nene Way public footpath.*



*Project location map.*

**Project Location:** To the south of the river Nene on the east side of Northampton, immediately east of the County Council's offices at John Dryden House.

**Project size:** c112 hectares

**Possible Delivery Partners:** RSPB; Nene Valley NIA; Natural England; Wildlife Trust; Tenant Farmer; Members of the local community; Environment Agency.

**Project Status:** An initial project idea, with partners committed to deliver.

### Indicative timescale following full award of funding:

Year 1: Set up a new “Friends of Northampton Washland” group involving members of the local community. Agree committee roles and terms of reference. Formulate a work plan for this and subsequent years. Identify funding sources (e.g. Big Lottery Fund “awards for all”)

Year 2: Secure funding. Hold regular administrative meetings. Implement work plan.

Year 3: As year 2. Develop plans for the longer term.

### Indicative Project Costings

Item	Approx. no./ length/ area required	Approximate cost
Dog-proof fencing adjacent to A45 (so that dog walkers feel safer using alternative footpaths away from the Washland)	Up to 1.5km	£91,000
On-site signage and interpretation	Up to 5xA2 boards and fixings, plus a sum for maintenance	£2,250 (installation only)
Re-run of advisory leaflet and distribution to nearby households	4000 leaflets	£80
Budget for administrative costs/refreshments		Annual estimate: £500
Provide additional dog waste bins at entrances and exits to site, plus budget for emptying them (by NCC)	X4	£1,600 (installation only)
<b>Total</b>		<b>£95,430</b>

### Green Infrastructure Context

Located within Local GI Network Component F (Washlands and Eastern Nene), this site is a key GI asset within the Nene Valley Sub-regional GI Corridor (Northampton to Wansford). It offers the opportunity to enhance the area’s internationally-designated wetland wildlife habitats, and also to promote appropriate movement routes for people.

### Project Benefits

- **Biodiversity benefits:** Reduce disturbance of the washlands and particularly wintering birds at this strategic site within the Special Protection Area and Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area. Delivers high-level benefits under EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020.
- **Access and movement benefits:** Enhance access and quality of visitor experience: reduce conflicts between user groups (e.g. birdwatchers and dog walkers).
- **Cultural heritage benefits:** N/A
- **Community benefits:** Improved facilities will improve the visitor experience for all members of the community, as well as dog walkers. Establishment of a ‘friends’ group will promote community engagement with the site and encourage local involvement in its management.
- **Public health benefits:** Improved public access provides an opportunity for open air exercise and engagement with the natural environment.
- **Supporting economic growth:** N/A

- **Drainage and flood reduction:** The proposal will contribute to the positive management of this flood reduction facility. Delivers high-level benefits under WFD and Directive on Assessment and Management of Flood Risks.
- **Landscape Benefits:** Enhancement of this site will contribute to the wider Nene Valley landscape, and positively strengthen landscape character.

**Other potentially linked projects:** F1 Barnes Meadow Local Nature Reserve  
F3 Abington Meadow improvements

### **Potential sources of funding**

Constitution of a “Friends” group might make it easier to secure funding. Such a group could also be affiliated to the Wildlife Trust and take on some voluntary management of the adjacent Wildlife Trust reserve (which currently does not have much community engagement).

### **Potential Grant funding bodies to approach for this project**

- Naturesave Trust (£1,500 - £10k) – helps to fund solutions to environmental and / or conservationist problems.
- Big Lottery Fund “awards for all” grant for tools, materials etc to support their community based activities

### **Potential No Cost projects which could be interested in being involved / volunteer support**

- Health walks, Leisure Trust – Potential to use the Leisure trust to raise awareness of the issues on the wetland.

## ABERDARE ROAD PARK

Code on interactive map: **G1**

### Context

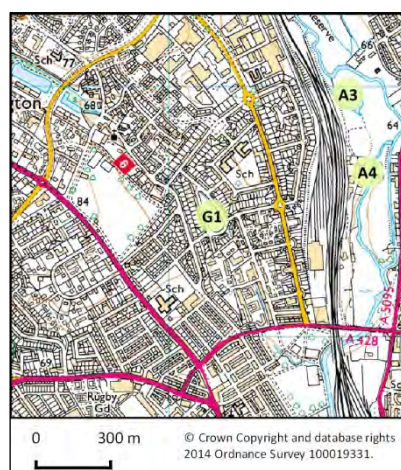
This is a floodwater storage area managed as a local park, with the Dallington Brook running in a canalised channel along its eastern edge. It currently appears to be underused and has a rather 'unloved' feel.

### Proposal

Community involvement to manage and enhance the brook to create a more diverse wildlife habitat, and to fulfil the site's potential to become an attractive community and educational resource. This could be achieved through re-profiling the stream to create a graded bank and associated wetlands, planting trees, and providing paths, benches and children's play equipment. Material excavated during the stream enhancement works could be retained on site and grass-seeded as an informal play area. The appearance of the park could be further softened by hedge planting in front of the peripheral car crash barrier.



*View of Aberdare Road Park, with the Dallington Brook in the foreground*



*Project location map.*

**Project Location:** The site occupies a triangle of land between Aberdare Road, Swansea Road and Tintern Avenue. Grid ref. 742615

**Project size:** Approx.

**Possible Delivery Partners:** Northampton Borough Council; Environment Agency

**Current Status:** Initial Idea

### Indicative timescale following full award of funding:

Year 1: Re-profiling of stream and re-deposition of excavated material on-site; Construction of new paths, access gates and benches

Year 2: Planting of trees, wetland plants and hedges, and installation of play equipment (optional)



### Indicative Project Costings

*Note: the following items are suggestions only to aid costings. Consultation with the local community should be undertaken before formal designs are drawn up. All park improvements must be able to withstand occasional flooding.*

Item	Approx. no./length/ area required	Approximate cost
Construction of new pedestrian access gates	2 no.	£1,100
Path construction (tarmac)	300m	£26,000
Re-profiling of stream, to include removal of concrete channel lining and excavation of bank to create graded elevation.	150m	£6,200
Grass seeding of redeposited material to create informal play area.	625sq.m	£4,900
Hedge planting on inside perimeter of site to hide car crash barrier	250m	£2,400
Planting of willow trees alongside stream	8 no.	£1,000
Planting of wetland plants alongside stream	300 sq.m.	£13,500
Installation of benches	6 no.	£7,800
<b>Total</b>		<b>£62,900</b>
<b>Optional:</b> Installation of children's play equipment (metal/ plastic) and suitable safety surfacing (able to withstand flooding)	Assumed 5 pieces of equipment and surfacing	£35,000

### Green Infrastructure Context

Located within Local GI Network Component G (Urban Brook Corridors), this site is located in the Dallington Brook Corridor. The project is positioned within the Sub-Regional GI Corridor of the Brampton Arm (Northampton to Market Harborough). Two local GI Corridors (Northampton to Daventry and to Wellingborough) converge to the north of it. This project has multiple functions as a community open space and occasional flood storage area, and also has potential to enhance ecological value and connectivity along the Dallington Brook.

### Project Benefits

- **Biodiversity benefits:** Bank re-profiling, wetland creation and tree planting will increase the biodiversity value of the site.
- **Access and movement benefits:** Increasing the permeability of the site and constructing new paths will encourage people to walk through the park rather than around it and open up access.
- **Cultural heritage benefits:** N/A
- **Community benefits:** Enhancing the park will uplift the surrounding area and encourage local residents of all ages to enjoy the site. It can also become a community education resource.

- **Public health benefits:** The project will encourage outdoor recreation and exercise, with positive impacts on public health.
- **Supporting economic growth:** The park will become an asset to the local community, with positive knock-on effects on the economy of the area.
- **Drainage and flood reduction benefits:** The site is already contributing through its purpose as a flood storage area. Re-profiling the stream will increase its retention capacity on small, higher frequency flood events. It will also improve sediment entrapment, with a positive effect on water quality. Delivers high-level benefits under WFD and Directive on Assessment and Management of Flood Risks.
- **Landscape benefits:** The proposed project will create a visually-attractive area, and make a very positive contribution to the local townscape character.

**Other potentially linked projects:** Ongoing management/ improvements in water quality and flood storage capacity of the Dallington Brook, including SUDS and Green Infrastructure associated with the King's Heath SUE.

### Potential sources of funding

#### Potential Grant funding bodies to approach for this project

- Big Lottery, Awards for All (£300 - £10k) – revitalising the Local Environment
- Big Lottery, Rethinking parks (up to £100k) – new approaches to helping parks thrive, improving the environment for both nature and the community
- Naturesave Trust – Deals with specific environmental and/or conservationist problems and encourages sustainability

#### Potential No Cost projects which could be interested in being involved / volunteer support

- Health walks, Leisure Trust – through the created links
- Changing Minds – Use the project to offer workshops to the patients so they can help in the delivery as well as supporting the delivery of health and well-being activities to help improve psychological conditions

## NORTHAMPTON RACECOURSE

Code on interactive map: **H1**

### Context

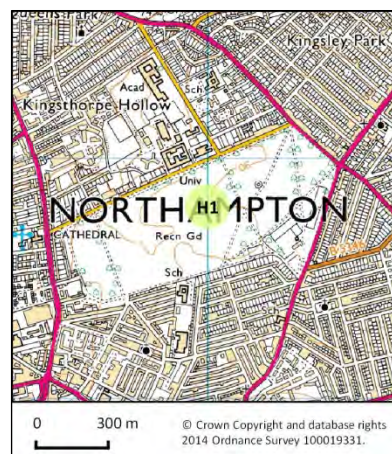
This urban park has a long history as an open space, having been used as a racecourse (until 1904), County cricket pitch, showground, and army camp. More recently it has been used for the Northampton Balloon festival. The park has sports pitches, tennis courts, amenity areas including playgrounds, a bowling green and an extensive path network. It is also well-planted with trees, with many trees now reaching maturity. There is a strong local community group working to positively promote the park and aiming for it to achieve 'Green Flag' status. The park is currently very well used, with over 1000 people taking part in sport/ recreation on Saturdays. The sports pitches are well-drained and use can continue in wet weather.

### Proposal

The friends of Northampton Racecourse are working to deliver a series of community-led and practically feasible projects with results visible to the local community. Plans include improving the amenity value of sports pitches, tree survey, and a longer-term tree management plan.



*View across the Racecourse from St Georges Avenue*



*Project location map.*

**Project Location:** To the north of Northampton town centre, between Barrack Road (to the west) and Kettering Road (to the east). St Georges Avenue runs along the north edge.

**Project size:** Approx. 118 acres

**Possible delivery partners:** Friends of Northampton Racecourse; NBC.

**Current Status:** Initial ideas

### Indicative timescale following award of funding:

Year 1: Improvements to sports pitches; tree survey; tree management plan prepared

Year 2 onwards: Implementation of tree management plan.

### Indicative Project Costings

NOTE: Some items cannot be quantified until more detailed plans have been drawn up

Item	Approx. no./ length/ area required	Approximate cost
Tree survey		
Preparation of tree management plan		
Implementation of tree management plan	Dependent on findings of tree survey and management plan recommendations	
Improvements to sports pitches		
<b>Total</b>		

### Green Infrastructure Context

Located within Local GI Network Component H (Urban Open Spaces), this site is a large urban park, strategically located close to the centre of Northampton. It is positioned on the periphery of the Sub-Regional GI Corridor known as the Brampton Arm (Northampton to Market Harborough). Two local GI Corridors (Northampton to Daventry and to Wellingborough) converge to the north of the project. The site is easily accessed by residents of the surrounding area, and is a popular venue for outdoor sports and recreation. The concentration of mature trees within the site contributes to townscape character, provides a range of habitats, and improves air quality. Surrounding gardens and open spaces provide opportunities for connections with the wider GI network.

### Project Benefits

- **Biodiversity benefits:** Management of trees will result in long-term retention of habitats, particularly for birds and insects.
- **Access and movement benefits:** The edges of the park are very permeable, and it contains a network of paths. The proposed projects will encourage greater use of the park as a destination and through route.
- **Cultural heritage benefits:** The proposed project will enhance an historic open space with a long and varied history of recreational use.
- **Community and public health benefits:** Enhancement of well-used sport and recreation facilities for the benefit of the local community.
- **Public health benefits:** The Racecourse is an important open space and 'Green Lung' in a densely built-up part of Northampton. The proposed projects will encourage local residents to use the Racecourse for outdoor exercise and recreation, bringing further benefits to public health.
- **Supporting economic growth:** The Racecourse makes an important contribution to the quality of urban life in Northampton, which has knock-on effects on the wider economy, for example through promoting the town as an attractive place to live and work.
- **Drainage and flood reduction:** Benefits to drainage, as the racecourse has excellent natural drainage and absorbs rainwater, reducing the load on surface water drainage systems.



- **Landscape benefits:** The proposed project (specifically the tree management elements) will enhance the appearance of the Racecourse, with positive benefits on townscape character.
- **Other Benefits:** Improving the amenity value of the sports pitches will have wider benefits for recreation in the area (for example benefitting the teams which currently play on the Racecourse when their own facilities are waterlogged/ unusable).

**Other potentially linked projects:** Potential future redevelopment of the University of Northampton Campus on St Georges Avenue.

### **Potential sources of funding**

#### **Potential Grant funding bodies to approach for this project**

- Protecting Playing Fields, Sport England (approx. £50k per project) – improving existing pitches
- FA Football Foundation

#### **Potential No Cost projects which could be interested in being involved / volunteer support**

- Changing Minds – Potential to use the pitches to improve social interaction and healthy activity
- Change4Life – promoting the project through a healthier lifestyle opportunity

## IMPROVEMENTS TO EASTFIELD PARK

Code on interactive map: **H3**

### Context

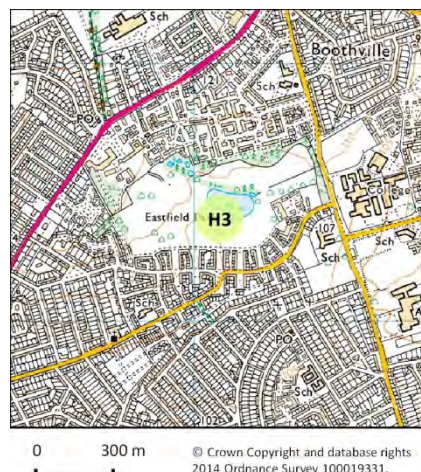
Eastfield Park was formerly part of the grounds of a large house. In the 1950s and 1960s, housing estates were built fronting onto the park, which now have high levels of deprivation. Eastfield Park contains grassland, woodland, a lake and ponds, and amenity areas including a multi-sports arena. A circle of lime trees in the west of the park is known as 'The Bullring'. The Park is owned by Northampton Borough Council and partly managed on behalf of the council by Enterprise Services (Amey Group). It is designated as a Local Wildlife Site for its species-rich grassland habitat.

### Proposal

The Vision of the Friends of Eastfield Park (FoEP) is "To create a safe and accessible park with well managed and maintained facilities and amenities that enhance the well-being of residents living in the area. The park should reflect and retain its natural beauty and heritage and be a place to relax, learn and be inspired."



*View across the lake, Eastfield Park*



*Project location map.*

**Project Location:** North-east Northampton, east of A5123 (Kettering Road), with access from surrounding residential streets and Booth Lane North.

**Project size:** Approx. 23.86 Ha

**Possible Delivery Partners:** Friends of Eastfield Park; Northampton Borough Council; Eastfield Park Management Committee.

**Project Status:** Current stage: Project brief agreed.

### Indicative timescale following full award of funding:

Year 1: Implementation of the park's revised zonation plan; public consultation regarding location of new facilities within context of zonation plan. Development of an Action Plan for the park including day-to-day management and long term goals. Investigation of issues relating to

land drainage within the park and the publication of suitable recommendations (to include a consideration of water levels in lake and ponds). Consultation with experts regarding the long-term development of the Spinney as an area of woodland within the Wildlife Appreciation Area.

Year 2: Provision of play equipment for children aged 3-8 years old in Play and Activities Area.  
 Provision of northern perimeter pathway linking Booth Lane entrance to Apple Tree Walk.  
 Report on the biodiversity and heritage values of the park. Produce educational packs for schools using the park as a resource.

Year 3: Provision of a path around the lake including a board walk at the eastern end.  
 Further dredging of ponds and raising the water level in lake and ponds.  
 Landscaping area around ponds and improvement of paths to provide wheelchair access to the 'front' of the ponds.  
 Provision of information boards describing aspects of the park's heritage and wildlife with recommended walking/jogging routes around the park.

### Indicative Project Costings

NOTE: Some items cannot be quantified until more detailed plans have been drawn up

Item	Approx. no./length/ area required	Approximate cost
Public consultation regarding location of new facilities within context of revised zonation plan.		
Investigation of issues relating to land drainage within the park and the publication of suitable recommendations (to include a consideration of water levels in lake and ponds).		
Consultation with experts regarding the long-term development of the Spinney as an area of woodland within the Wildlife Appreciation Area.		
Provision of play equipment for children aged 3-8 years old in Play and Activities Area.	5 pieces of equipment	£40,000
Provision of northern perimeter pathway linking Booth Lane entrance to Apple Tree Walk.	Hoggin path 750m long	£46,000
Report on the biodiversity and heritage values of the park. Produce educational packs for schools using the park as a resource.		
Provision of a path around the lake including a board walk at the eastern end.	Hoggin path 500m, board walk 100m long	£82,000
Further dredging of ponds and raising the water level in lake and ponds.		£20,000
Landscaping area around ponds and improvement of paths to provide wheelchair access to the 'front' of the ponds.	Hoggin path 300m long	£21,000 (path) £18,000 (l/scape)
Provision of information boards describing aspects of the park's heritage and wildlife with recommended walking/jogging routes around the park.	6 No. boards	£2,800
<b>Total</b>		

**Green Infrastructure Context**

Located within Local GI Network Component H (Urban Open Spaces), this site is an urban park which provides access to greenspace for local communities. It is located on the edge of the Local GI Corridor connecting Wellingborough to Northampton. A wide range of habitats within the site include trees, grassland and open water. Surrounding residential areas, including private gardens and school grounds, provide opportunities to connect with the wider GI network.

**Project Benefits**

- **Biodiversity benefits:** Conservation and enhancement of the natural environment through improved habitat management of the lakes, wetland fringes, parkland and grassland, increasing the value of the site for biodiversity. The species-rich grassland within this Local Wildlife Site could be managed as a meadow.
- **Access and movement benefits:** Enhanced visual guidance of routes through the park, encouraging the park's use for circular walks, and as a through route.
- **Cultural heritage benefits:** Historic parkland features are restored and appreciated, resulting in an improvement of their condition.
- **Community benefits:** Addressing the problems of long-term neglect of the park, which has discouraged potential users and encouraged apathy and anti-social behaviour. The project aims to reverse these trends and encourage positive attitudes in a neighbourhood which has areas with high levels of deprivation.
- **Public Health Benefits:** The park is an improved resource for the local community, providing a place to relax, learn and be inspired. Educational opportunities are improved, along with the heritage value of the park. Sport and active play are encouraged in areas set aside for such activities within the park's revised zonation plan.
- **Supporting economic growth:** A well-managed and attractive park becomes a catalyst for positive social change and economic growth in the area.
- **Drainage and flood reduction:** Subject to investigation.
- **Landscape Benefits:** An attractive park enhances the visual quality of the area, and positively contributes to landscape and townscape character.

**Other potentially linked projects:** Possible future projects associated with the surrounding primary schools and housing estates.

**Potential sources of funding****Potential Grant funding bodies to approach for this project**

- Big Lottery, Awards for All (£300 - £10k) – revitalising the Local Environment
- Big Lottery, Rethinking parks (up to £100k) – new approaches to helping parks thrive

**Potential No Cost projects which could be interested in being involved / volunteer support**

- Health walks, Leisure Trust – through the improved park facility
- Changing Minds – Promoting walks through the parks to improve social interaction and healthy activity
- Northamptonshire Learning Disability Partnership Board – work alongside the partnership to support Learning in an outdoor environment



## HUNSBURY HILL COUNTRY PARK

Code on interactive map: **H4**

### Context

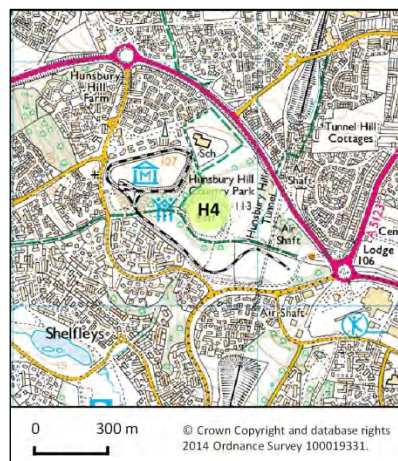
Hunsbury Hill Country Park is centred on an Iron Age Hillfort sometimes known as 'Danes Camp'. This wooded hill is a local landmark. It is situated on the southern side of Northampton, and is surrounded by residential development. The site is a County Wildlife Site (last surveyed in 2011) and a Scheduled Monument, as well as the home of the Northamptonshire Ironstone Railway Trust, a heritage railway using the ironstone quarry track.

### Proposal

The project is for habitat improvement works to the grassland, trees, woodland and ponds within the Country Park and links to the ACRE (Action for Communities in Rural England) Hunsbury Hill Centre for people and wildlife. There is also potential for further engaging visitors in the heritage of the site, and in the provision of improved signage. However, it is important that the special qualities of the site are retained.



*Woodland glade on the east side of Hunsbury Hill*



*Project location map.*

**Project Location:** South-west of Northampton Town Centre, between the A5123 and the A5076. The main carpark and access is from Hunsbury Hill Road. Grid ref. of centre is 738584

**Project size:** Approx. 44ha

**Possible Delivery Partners:** Wildlife Trust; Friends of West Hunsbury Parks; Ironstone Railway Trust; Archaeology Service; ACRE

**Project Status:** Current stage: Initial project idea.

### Indicative timescale following full award of funding:

Year 1: Meadow restoration, woodland management, woodland groundflora planting, scrub clearance on gullet

Year 2: pond restoration, embankment works to fort

Year 3: interpretation, signage

**Indicative Project Costings:***NOTE: Some items cannot be quantified until more detailed plans have been drawn up*

Item	Approx. no./ length/ area required	Approximate cost
Hay Cut	3ha	£46,500
Wildflower Seed	3ha	£190,000
Woodland thinning	1ha	£74,000
Woodland ground flora	1ha	£158,000
Pond Works	3	
Embankment works		
ACRE link/footpath		
Interpretation		
Scrub clearance (gullet)	0.2ha	£5,000
<b>Total</b>		

**Green Infrastructure Context**

Located within Local GI Network Component H (Urban Open Spaces), this is a key site within the local GI Network. Sitting on the periphery of the Nene Sub-regional Corridor (Newnham to Northampton) it is designated for its importance for archaeology and wildlife, and is also a popular Country Park within a built-up area. There are opportunities to further enhance its value for people and for wildlife, and to conserve and interpret its heritage.

**Project Benefits**

- **Biodiversity benefits:** Conservation and enhancement of woodland, wetland, ponds and grassland habitats increasing the biodiversity value of the site. The woodland is in need of management and the wetlands and ponds would benefit from restoration as would the gullet area. The woodland at the Acre centre would also benefit from restoration. There is also potential for management of veteran trees, and enhancing the composition of meadow grasslands through appropriate mowing/ grazing regimes. Delivers high-level benefits under EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020.
- **Access and movement benefits:** Linking the Country Park and Acre Centre to create a wider network for movement across a range of habitats. There is also potential to enhance awareness of the Green Lane drivers' road which runs east-west across the site.
- **Cultural heritage benefits:** Improvement in the condition of the Scheduled Monument and its setting, and enhanced access and interpretation where appropriate. Increased awareness of the prehistoric site, and the C. 19<sup>th</sup> Ironstone Railway.
- **Community benefits:** Working with a variety of community groups on the site, including socially disadvantaged groups.
- **Public health benefits:** Improved public access provides opportunities for open air exercise, and engagement with nature and heritage
- **Supporting economic growth:** N/A
- **Drainage and flood reduction:** N/A

- **Landscape benefits:** Enhancement of habitats and historic landscape features creates a stronger sense of place and contributes to positive townscape character. This site is very prominent, so landscape benefits are visible over a wide area.

**Other potentially linked projects:** Working with the ACRE Hunsbury Hill Centre on Harksome Hill.

### **Potential sources of funding**

#### **Potential Grant funding bodies to approach for this project**

- Big Lottery, Awards for All (£300 - £10k) – revitalising the Local Environment
- Big Lottery, Rethinking parks (up to £100k) – new approaches to helping parks thrive
- HLF, Parks for People (£100k - £5m) – Promoting the heritage of the site while improving access to the parklands.

#### **Potential No Cost projects which could be interested in being involved / volunteer support**

- Health walks, Leisure Trust – through the created links
- Changing Minds – Potential to use walks to improve social interaction and healthy activity
- Northamptonshire Learning Disability Partnership Board – work alongside the partnership to support Learning in an outdoor environment

## APPENDIX G:

### Guidance on Preparing Project Plans

This section provides ‘top-tips’ for community groups and other organisations developing GI projects and writing project plans similar to the exemplar project plans in Appendix F. There are many things to consider when developing a GI project, and the suggestions below should help to focus ideas, and consider the wider context and potential implications of the project.

#### Project identification and description

- **Keep the project idea simple and develop a project plan** using the template in Appendix F.
- **Increase public awareness and funding opportunities by using the Interactive Map.** Contact Northampton Borough Council Planning Team and ask to have your project added to the interactive map and your plan included on the website.
- **Provide a clear summary of the project’s context and your proposals for addressing the issues.** Your proposal should encompass the **aims and objectives** for what you’re trying to do, and how you intend to meet these aims and objectives.

#### Possible delivery partners

- **Develop a project partnership and communicate with other groups/ organisations that might have an interest in what you’re doing.** They may be able to help, e.g. through providing expert advice, local knowledge, funding or baseline data.

#### Indicative Timescales

- **Be realistic** in striking a balance between keeping your project moving forward, and being over-ambitious in your timescale. Things can take a while, particularly where ecological surveys, planning permission or partnership working are involved.

#### Indicative project costings

- **Think about the cost and value for money.** High-impact engineered solutions are more expensive and may not deliver sustainable benefits. Think about the impact of heavy machinery and if it will be needed to remediate the site again sometime in the future.
- **Obtain initial quotations, or research the costs of similar projects undertaken elsewhere.** The resulting figures will not be accurate enough to prepare detailed costings or funding applications, but they should give you a ‘ball park’ figure to indicate approximately how much money you will need to complete the project.

#### Green Infrastructure Context

- **Check the GI Context of your site using the Interactive Map** and record if a) your project is located in a Local Level GI Component and/ or b) one of the Sub-Regional or Local GI Corridors. Profiles for each Local Level GI Component are provided in Appendix D of the GIP, and can also be accessed through the Interactive Map. Sections 14.2 and 14.3 of the *GIP* describe the Sub-Regional and Local GI Corridors.



- **Is your project well connected?** Record whether your project has good public access links into residential areas, or connects other GI assets.

## Project benefits

- **Record how each element of your project brings about project benefits** using the headings provided on the template. You could use the Exemplar project Plans (Appendix F) and the Local Level GI Network Component Profiles (Appendix D) to help you. The project may be beneficial to many different aspects of Green Infrastructure, (e.g. biodiversity, access and movement, cultural heritage, community and education, recreation, public health and hydrology) in both town and adjoining countryside
- **Include as many opportunities as possible to create/restore habitat for wildlife.** Planting trees may not be the only option for your project location. The choice of new habitat should be appropriate for the local area, land use and location within the wider catchment. Restoration of historic habitats may not be feasible if there has been extensive degradation, or the context of that historic feature is no longer relevant in a highly modified landscape.

## Other potentially linked projects

- **Record other potential GI projects which you could link with.** The Interactive Map will be a useful tool for this.

## Potential sources of funding

- **Set out how you're going to fund your project.** Potential funding options / ideas can be found in the Funding Strategy (Appendix H) of the *GIP*.
- Think about sources of income, sponsorship and fund raising activities that could help **support the project in the future.**

## Looking ahead

- **Monitor the success of your project.** Record important details that can show how things are improving, e.g. increasing visitor numbers; increasing numbers of birds; mammals and plants; greater species diversity.
- **Think about the future of the project.** Who will monitor and manage the site? Is there opportunity for community ownership and governance through consortium of partners and users? How will you fund future maintenance?
- **How will you manage risk?** Could an increase in visitors exceed the carrying capacity of the site causing damage to the ecological balance? Could dogs be a threat? What happens if the long term funding expires?

# APPENDIX H:

## Funding Strategy

### Introduction

This Funding Strategy has been developed to support the *GIP* and should be read in conjunction with it. The Funding Strategy sets out a short descriptive profile of Northampton illustrating how GI not only benefits the natural environment, but makes a positive contribution to the health and wealth of the Borough. This approach establishes the connection between funding opportunities which may not have previously been considered to support GI development.

### Northampton

#### Overview

Northampton is the county town of Northamptonshire, located in the East Midlands. Situated on the River Nene, Northampton Town is c. 67 miles (108 km) north-west of London and c. 50 miles (80 km) south-east of Birmingham. It is the County's main employment, retail and cultural centre, providing the main services, facilities and health care for the wider population of Northamptonshire. There is a focus for learning through the University of Northampton and Northampton College. Major employers include Carlsberg, Avon Products, Barclaycard, Nationwide Building Society and Panasonic.

#### Population and Health Profile

The population of Northampton as recorded on the 2011 Census is 212,069. However, it is currently estimated at 214,600. The gender balance is similar to that found across the East Midlands and England: 49% (104,168) of the population is male and 51% (107,901) female. In terms of population structure, 20% (40,547) of the population is aged 0-14, slightly higher than 17% in the East Midlands and 18% nationally. 67% (143,307) of the population is aged 15-64, providing a marginal difference compared to the East Midlands average of 66% and England as a whole with 66%. Six percent (14,841) of the population is aged 65-74 which is lower than the East Midlands average of 9% and the 8% for England as a whole. 7% (13,374) of Northampton's population falls in the range of 75+ which is marginally lower than 8% for the East Midlands and 8% for England as a whole.

With respect to ethnicity the Office for National Statistics (ONS) Mid-Year estimate shows that 88.1% of the population are White British, 3.2% are Asian, 2.8% are White Other, 1.9% are Chinese, 1.8% are Black and 1.1% are White Irish. The faith structure is reflected as 71.7% Christian, 18% have no religion, 7.8% have not stated, 1.2% Muslim, 1.2% Hindu, 0.4% Sikh and 0.3% Buddhist. 0.3% state 'Other'.

The health of people in Northampton is varied compared with the national average. Life expectancy for both men and women is lower than the national average and it is concerning to note that men who live in the most deprived areas of Northampton are likely to live 10.5 years less than those in the least deprived. For woman this figure is 6.4 years lower in the most deprived compared to the least. Over the last 10 years, all-cause mortality rates (the annual number of deaths in a given age group per population in that age group) have fallen. The early death rate from heart disease and stroke has fallen but is still worse than the England average. Physical inactivity is a primary risk factor for coronary heart disease which is the most common cause for premature death in the UK.

In summary, Northampton has a relatively even split with respect to gender, the majority of the population is of working age and there is a high percentage of 0-14 year olds. Despite the majority of the population being White British Christians the demographic is changing which brings greater cultural diversity and changing faith needs. It is noted that life expectancy is lower than the national average which may be connected to the fact that Northampton is the 5<sup>th</sup> fattest county based on 'Percentage of adults classified as overweight or obese with a body mass index of 25 or over' (Public Health England Feb 2014).

Enhancing existing and creating new Green Infrastructure presents an opportunity to work with the changing population of Northampton. By engaging with the high percentage of 0-14 year olds it is possible to educate for a change in patterns of behaviour. For example, better connectivity for walking and cycling would encourage less car dependency from parents and carers. The working population could be encouraged to travel to work on foot or by bike given the average journey to work is less than 5 km in Northampton. Enhancing GI assets like parks and woodlands provide recreational opportunities for all. Open spaces draw members of the community together to appreciate the natural environment regardless of faith or ethnicity. They strengthen the sense of community and encourage increased activity. Active lifestyles improve life expectancy by helping people keep to a healthy weight, thereby decreasing the risk of heart disease and stroke and improving mental health and well-being.

## **Economic Profile**

Northamptonshire has 407 Super Output Areas (SOAs). 44 of these are ranked as being within the 20% most deprived SOAs in the country). Of these SOAs , 12 are ranked within the bottom 10% nationally. Overall, Northamptonshire is ranked 111<sup>th</sup> of 149 Councils in England where 1 is the most deprived. (*Indices of Deprivation 2007*)

Northampton has a higher job density than the East Midlands and Great Britain but conversely a higher percentage of people on Job Seekers Allowance (JSA). The percentage of 'professional' and 'technical' occupations is higher than the East Midlands average, and slightly lower than the national average. The percentage of 'administrative' and skilled professionals is lower than the East Midlands average, and the national average. There is, however, a higher percentage of 'carers, leisure and customer service operatives and elementary' occupation workers in Northampton than in the East Midlands and nationally.

Northampton's Gross Weekly Pay is higher than the average for the East Midlands, but lower than the national average. There is a higher percentage of workers employed full time than for the East Midlands and nationally, but a lower percentage of part time workers.

Northampton has a lower percentage of Micro Businesses (0-9 employees) than East Midlands and Great Britain as a whole, but a higher percentage of Small, Medium and Large enterprises.

The majority of the population is of working age but, despite the high job density, there are a high percentage of JSA claimants; this could be related to the number of SOAs located in Northampton include some of the most deprived in the country. Green Infrastructure can provide leisure and recreational opportunities, attracting inward investment and new businesses to an area, and increasing the number of jobs available. Improving GI provision and the assets within it can provide an opportunity to develop supporting businesses like bike hire, cafes and adventure activities. The positive effects GI has on mental health and well-being could be capitalised- on to support people back to work through volunteer programmes, which in turn could boost self-confidence and self-esteem in support of a full time employment opportunity. GI provides access from home to work as well as other destinations, and is a cheaper option than driving or public transport for people on low incomes.

### **Landscape and Townscape Character**

Northampton today is the largest market town in the UK, with the highest density housing profile across west Northamptonshire. The original structure of Northampton in the 9<sup>th</sup> Century was based around the castle and defence walls. The original growth of the town came later when the centre of the town shifted east. Today there is a relatively low proportion of detached homes (22.6%) and a greater proportion of terraces (34.1%) and flats and maisonettes (13.5%). A common factor of urban living is small gardens, which makes GI provision particularly important in terms of leisure and recreation provision.

The unique geography and historic development of Northampton has created a legacy of parks, open spaces and green areas. The natural and man-made corridors following the Nene Valley, its tributaries, and the Grand Union Canal, are valuable assets. These corridors (together with the legacy of Abington Park, Delapre Park, Becketts Park, Hunsbury Hill and the Racecourse) provide a diverse collection of superb green assets which contribute to a sense of place; ever important in a changing town.

It is now accepted that parks and open spaces contribute to the quality of life of residents within their neighbourhoods. They also provide a link to history of the area, contribute towards its cultural opportunities, and attract visitors. Importantly, the local environment affects the well-being of residents. Open spaces act as the 'green lungs' of the Town; an increasingly important function in the fight against climate change. Open space stimulates community spirit, boosts the local economy and promotes biodiversity. In other words green infrastructure and its associated assets make an important contribution to the social, economic and environmental well-being of the Borough and its people.



## Funding Options

This section looks at the potential funding opportunities which could be used by community and other groups to bring forward projects associated with Green Infrastructure. It is separated into 5 sections:

1. 'No Cost' projects
2. Grants and Community Funding
3. Loans
4. Investment and Partnerships
5. Social Enterprise
6. Tax Incentives - Business Improvement Districts
7. Planning Conditions

### No Cost Projects

'No Cost' projects require your innovation and inspiration. Think about activities that are already taking place, Health Walks through the Leisure Trust; The Changing Minds initiative working to support people with mental health problems; Age UK; Northamptonshire Association for the Blind. Many of these organisations are challenged to secure their own funding but it might be possible to work with them to secure funding through other bodies if your project can demonstrate a direct benefit to the organisation in question. For example, a local disability forum or the Association for the Blind might provide you with experience and expertise when it comes to designing a new route through a local wood which is accessible to wheelchair users or has special features to assist the blind. The time they give you is a free resource but it also demonstrates to a potential funder your determination to lift a project off the ground to benefit a range of users. It may even be that working with local charities could secure you volunteer time to take your project forward on the ground. The endorsement of local organisations could support funding applications to bodies like the NHS who often have small funding 'pots' for community benefit projects.

Table 1 (page 65) sets out some of the more well-known providers but the list is not exhaustive. You may be able to tap into other sources more local to you. The contacts provided may be able to help you find out what's happening in your area.

### Grants and Community Funding

Grants are a good way of raising funds as they are a non-repayable fund usually offered by Government bodies, foundations and trusts. Most grants have specific criteria and objectives that your project will need to meet to secure the grant. It is likely that an application process will be in place which is usually done using the process of form filling either on-line or via email/post. The bodies are usually very helpful in determining whether your project is suited for the grant and it is always worth an initial conversation prior to submitting an application. Some of the grants will have

timescales and deadlines and some will be open-ended so you can apply any time. Many of the grants now require match funding. This can be gained from either physical cash contributions from yourselves or other willing organisations, or as in-kind contributions of time / projects such as the above depending on the funder / fund.

In the current economic climate there are limited funding opportunities. Using *Grantfinder* and other funding searches, grants can be located for specific projects. Examples of potential funding bodies/organisations can be found in Table 2 (page 69) but the list is not exhaustive, as other opportunities are likely to exist.

## **Loans**

Although grants are the preferred way to bring projects forward, loans are also becoming a popular way to deliver schemes. The process for acquiring the loan is generally very similar to that of a grant in terms of making an application. However, the project/business plan will need to prove that the project will be able to repay the money (and the interest). Depending on the organisation, there may be required criteria / outputs but this will vary from one establishment to another. Using *Grantfinder* and other searches, loans can be located for specific projects. Examples of potential organisations which may be able to offer a loan can be found in Table 3 (page 71) but don't treat this list as exhaustive, as other opportunities are likely to exist.

## **Investment and Partnerships**

Another way to fund a project is through partnerships. Networking is a key method of gathering intelligence and potential leads for investment opportunities. Finding a common interest with an individual or organisation can sometimes lead to bringing forward projects using a partnership approach. This will sometimes involve an injection of cash from your partner or perhaps just their time can help to bring a project forward. Think about the organisations you are already involved with to see if there may already be a common ground to bring your project forward, and sign up to local networking events to meet new individuals and organisations. Your employer might be interested in supporting a new initiative if they think it could improve working relations.

## **Social Enterprise**

Setting up a Social Enterprise is another opportunity to attract funding for projects. Social enterprises are businesses created specifically to address an environmental or social need in society. Like other businesses they have to compete in the market to make money, but instead of creating value for shareholders or owners, any profit goes towards benefiting the communities or causes that they serve. The social enterprise model is an increasingly popular way to launch projects to benefit the local community. By combining the flexibility of a business with a commitment to social ideals, it is possible to deliver benefits to both local communities and the environment. For example, setting up a social enterprise could help make carbon saving in a community self-supporting. The

community can sell the power created by a renewable energy installation to fund further energy conservation projects in the area.

The generally accepted principles for a Social Enterprise are:

- Business objective: to overcome poverty, or one or more problems (such as education, health, technology access, and environment) which threaten people and society; not profit maximization
- Financial and economic sustainability
- Investors get back their investment amount only. No dividend is given beyond investment money
- When investment amount is paid back, company profit stays with the company for expansion and improvement
- Environmentally conscious
- Workforce gets market wage with better working conditions
- ...do it with joy

For more information please visit [www.muhammadyunus.org](http://www.muhammadyunus.org)

### **Community Enterprise**

You may wish to consider a 'Community Enterprise'. The UK has a long and proud tradition of community enterprise. The phrase 'community enterprise' goes back many decades, pre-dating the more recent concept of 'social enterprise'. Community enterprise is a significant sub-sector within the wider social enterprise sector. It shares the same definition as social enterprise: an organisation trading for social purpose with profits reinvested rather than going to shareholders.

But a community enterprise is more specific in that it is based in, and provides benefits to, a particular local neighbourhood or community of identity. A community enterprise is owned and managed by members of that community. It is an organisation run by a community as well as for a community.

Some community enterprises go further and develop a range of different enterprises, products, services and projects to meet a range of different social, economic and environmental needs in their community. They provide a more joined-up approach to tackling often deep-rooted and complex issues. This type of community enterprise is called a development trust, and most development trusts aim to acquire and develop local land and buildings.

### **Tax Incentives - Business Improvement Districts**

A Business Improvement District (BID) allows businesses in a defined area to vote for a levy on their rates bill to fund investment in the local trading environment. Although setting up a BID may not be a viable way forward in terms of funding a one off project, you can find out whether there are any BIDs in the locality and approach them with a view of them investing money in the scheme. If they

see the potential benefits for their area / businesses / staff, they may be interested in getting involved with the project.

### **Planning Conditions**

Local authorities can require creation, restoration or enhancement of greenspace as part of the conditions of planning consent for a particular development. These include:

- Section 106 Agreements - the developer agrees with the local authority to fund provision and management of greenspace required by a specific development. These are different for each specific project.
- Roof Taxes – the developer is required by the local authority to pay a standard tariff per new dwelling to fund essential supporting infrastructure, including green infrastructure.
- Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - A charge levied by local authorities on new developments, using formulae based on the size and character of the development, with proceeds to be spent on local or sub-regional infrastructure, including Green Infrastructure, required by the Development Plan.



## Table 1 – No Cost Projects

Activities that are already being undertaken and could potentially be used as match funding.

Activity	What it does	Who runs it	Making the link
<a href="#"><u>Health Walks</u></a>	Health walks are Free, fun, leisurely walks designed for people that currently do little or no exercise. No specialist equipment is required and anyone can turn up on the day.	Leisure Trust / Trilogy Leisure / Volunteers	Talk to the Leisure Trust. What makes a good route? Could your project enhance connectivity, improve access, or provide a suitable route to host Health Walks. If 'yes' you have a positive link to enhancing health in the community. Funders could include local businesses, and/ or the NHS. Possible volunteer support through the Leisure Trust.
<a href="#"><u>Changing Minds - Improving Access to Psychological Treatment Wellbeing Teams</u></a>	<p>The Changing Minds IAPT Wellbeing Teams provide a number of different services and support strategies to help improve personal wellbeing by providing timely interventions for people with common mental health problems.</p> <p>The Wellbeing Team provide targeted short-term interventions at local, easy to access community venues. They offer: Guided self-help, Recovery evaluation and wellbeing plans, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT) skills, Medication management, Psycho-educational groups, Sleep management, Motivational Interviewing, Solution Focused Brief Therapy, Signposting to voluntary and other community-based services, Computerised Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (cCBT)</p>	NHS	Explore opportunities with Changing Minds; could a volunteer programme be developed that would benefit the clients of Changing Minds e.g. delivering small scale interventions like habitat restoration. Opportunity to tap into funders like the NHS or other providers supporting initiatives that benefit mental well-being.

Activity	What it does	Who runs it	Making the link
<a href="#"><u>Age UK Northamptonshire</u></a>	Information, advice and support for older people.	Age UK Northamptonshire	Working with Age UK could help you develop a project that promotes access for the elderly to provide relaxation and recreational opportunities designed with specific needs in mind. You may secure expertise and advice for project development and volunteer time for small scale project interventions.
<a href="#"><u>Deafconnect</u></a>	Local organisation for deaf and hearing impaired people.	Deafconnect	Working with Deafconnect could help you develop designs which would create a space providing a sense of well-being for the deaf or hearing impaired, e.g. a sensory garden. It could lead to volunteer time and attract funding from bodies who are concerned with the welfare of the deaf.
<a href="#"><u>Northamptonshire Association for the Blind</u></a>	Local organisation for blind and partially sighted people.	Northamptonshire Association for the Blind	Exploring opportunities with the Association for the Blind could help you develop designs which would create a space providing a sense of well-being for the blind, e.g. a sensory garden. It could lead to volunteer time and attract funding from bodies who are concerned with the welfare of the blind.
University of Northampton Friends of Network	The University of Northampton, in partnership with River Nene Regional Park, Nene Valley Catchment Management partnership are seeking to develop new a Friends of Network to encourage collaboration, improve community engagement  (Contd.)	University of Northampton  (Dr Janet Jackson, School of Science of Technology)	This project is currently in its early stages, but could nevertheless be helpful to 'Friends of' groups in a variety of ways including skills development, community engagement and expert advice.

Activity	What it does	Who runs it	Making the link
University of Northampton Friends of Network (Contd.)	<p>and inform management of parks and green spaces. An initial forum in November 2015 highlighted that Friends of groups need assistance and training in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.Community engagement/volunteer recruitment– interpretation boards, signage, posters, website development etc.</li> <li>2. Leadership and project management skills</li> <li>3.Long term planning skills – resilience and conservation management goals</li> <li>4. Improve capacity of volunteers – grass cutting, chain saws, laying hedges and surveying</li> <li>5.Improving biodiversity monitoring/conservation management skills</li> <li>6.The University and partner organisations are currently exploring opportunities for funding to create a new information hub – umbrella network to share ideas, promote training and education opportunities, demonstrate the wider benefits of green spaces e.g. health and well-being and enable access to expert advice.</li> </ol>		

Activity	What it does	Who runs it	Making the link
<a href="#"><u>Northamptonshire Carers</u></a>	Help and support for anyone providing unpaid care to a friend or family member.	Northamptonshire Carers	Working with Northampton Carers, you could design a volunteer programme that offers respite to carers with an end product that could benefit the person being cared for.
<a href="#"><u>Northamptonshire Centre for Independent Living</u></a>	Supporting disabled people and carers across Northamptonshire.	Northamptonshire Centre for Independent Living	The Centre for Independent Living could be an opportunity to work on designs for 'inclusion' i.e. developing areas suitable for users with special needs. An opportunity exists to develop a volunteer programme.
<a href="#"><u>Northamptonshire Learning Disability Partnership Board</u></a>	Aims to make Northamptonshire a better place to live for people with learning disabilities	Northamptonshire Learning Disability Partnership Board	As above
<a href="#"><u>Environmental Services</u></a>	Street Cleaning, Parks and Allotments maintenance, Grounds Maintenance	Enterprise	Funding is provided annually for these activities. Exploring opportunities with Environmental Services could help you change an existing maintenance routine to meet the needs of your project. You might be able to re-direct funding or even secure direct funding to bring your project forward if you can demonstrate it will make a contribution to the remit of this provider.
<a href="#"><u>Change4life</u></a>	Encourages people to eat more healthily and take more exercise and helps them learn how to do it in fun and convenient ways.	Government	If you can show how your project ties into the Change4Life programme you may be able to secure funding.



## Table 2 – Grants and Community Funding

Fund Name	Scheme outline	Amount Available	Deadlines
<a href="#"><u>The People's Millions</u></a>	Funding through a competition to find the best new projects in the UK that will improve the lives of people in the community.	£20,000 - £50,000	Application deadlines were not announced at time of writing. Check website for details, usually an annual application opportunity.
<a href="#"><u>HLF - Parks for People</u></a>	<p>Funding is available for the following:</p> <p>The landscape design layout.</p> <p>Surviving or lost historic features or buildings.</p> <p>Natural heritage including priority habitats and species.</p> <p>Archaeological sites, earthworks or features from an earlier phase of design.</p> <p>Collections of plants, trees, objects or documents.</p> <p>Cultural traditions such as stories, festivals, fairs and crafts.</p> <p>People's memories and experiences of the park or cemetery.</p> <p>The history associated with individual features such as memorials or veteran trees.</p>	£100,000 - £5m	Annual deadlines for application: 31 August and 28 February.
<a href="#"><u>Northampton shire Community Foundation</u></a>	<p>Delivers a variety of funding for the local voluntary and community sector in the region of £600,000 per year.</p> <p>A key independent grant-making charity in the area, is has delivered support to communities for the last 12 years.</p>	Various under different schemes but generally up to £3k - £5k	Various

Fund Name	Scheme outline	Amount Available	Deadlines
<a href="#"><u>Reaching Communities Fund BIG Lottery</u></a>	Reaching Communities funding is for projects that help people and communities most in need. Grants are available from £10,000, upwards and funding can last for up to 5 years. If you think you need more than £500,000 you must call the organisation before you apply to discuss why you believe a larger project is appropriate. There is no upper limit for total project costs.	£10,000 - £500,000 (anything over this will need a discussion with the funder)	Currently no deadlines
<a href="#"><u>Rethinking Parks BIG Lottery</u></a>	Through grant funding and a package of non-financial support, the Rethinking Parks programme will back organisations and partnerships to develop, test and scale new approaches to help local parks thrive. The programme will help park managers and those responsible for park funding and maintenance to test new options for generating income and managing their park.	Up to £100,000	Can apply at any time but the decision will be made in early summer.
<a href="#"><u>Awards for All BIG Lottery</u></a>	Awards for All Funds projects which address the issues, needs and aspirations of local communities and people. Awards for All will fund a wide range of community projects aimed at developing skills, improving health, revitalising the local environment and enabling people to become more active citizens.	£300 - £10,000	No deadlines but at least 3 months before the project starts
<a href="#"><u>vinspired Cashpoint Volunteer Charity</u></a>	vinspired Cashpoint gives young people the opportunity to bring their ideas for social action projects to life. The concept is simple. If you're 14-25 and have an idea that will solve a problem in your community they want to help. vinspired are offering grants of up to £500 to turn your ideas into reality, and get your projects of the ground. Once funding's signed off you run your project the way you want to.	£500	No deadline stated
<a href="#"><u>SITA Enhancing Communities Programme</u></a>	Enhancing Communities is the name of SITA Trust's funding programme for community improvement projects. SITA support projects that make physical improvements to community leisure facilities and historic buildings / structures.  Note – there are specific Funding Zones which your project would need to located within to be eligible.	Core Fund – up to £60k  Fast Track Fund – Up to £20k	Core Fund – 3 rounds per year  Fast Track – 6 rounds per year.  Please see website for details

## Table 3 – Loans

Fund Name	Scheme outline	Amount Available	Deadlines
<a href="#"><u>The Co-operative Loan Fund</u></a>	<p>The Co-operative lend money exclusively to co-operatives.</p> <p>The Co-operative Loan Fund is entirely funded and run by co-ops, so they understand and actively support democratically owned and controlled enterprises. The Co-operative reinvest any surpluses into the fund to continue this support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set up as a new co-operative</li> <li>• Expand their size and scope</li> <li>• Assist an employee buyout or company succession</li> <li>• Purchase a property or business</li> <li>• Purchase capital equipment or create working capital</li> </ul>	<b>£10,000 – £85,000 of loan finance</b>	No deadline stated
<a href="#"><u>The South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP)</u></a>	<p>The South East Midlands is a national growth area. Working with local authority and private sector partners, SEMLEP aims to deliver the strategic infrastructure and skills projects that are essential for economic growth.</p> <p>In 2015 SEMLEP secured significant investment via two Local Growth Deals, worth a combined £126m which will enable SEMLEP's Strategic Economic Plan to be delivered.</p> <p>From Spring 2015, voluntary and community groups have been able to pitch for a share of the £5 million 'Building Better Opportunities' fund. SEMLEP have published a <a href="#"><u>Building Better Partnership Opportunities Newsletter</u></a> aiming to inform and update the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector within the SEMLEP area about this opportunity. Advice is also offered on European Funding 2014-2020; the Local Growth Fund 2015-16 and the Growing Places Fund. A <a href="#"><u>Resource Pack</u></a> has been put together to help businesses find appropriate grants, funding streams and finance packages.</p>	<b>Variable</b>	Variable

<p><a href="#"><u>Northampton Enterprise Partnership (NEP)</u></a></p>	<p>NEP's programmes and interventions to support Business and Innovation in Northamptonshire are targeted at small, growing businesses and a range of different sized businesses within the county's four key sectors – High Performance Technologies, Food &amp; Drink, Creative &amp; Cultural Industries and Logistics.</p> <p>Building strong foundations, supporting sustainable business growth and providing advice and investment to help improve performance and productivity are all key actions for NEP. This will lead to greater efficiencies, innovation and the enriched competitiveness of Northamptonshire's SMEs.</p> <p>The <a href="#"><u>Growing Places programme</u></a> is a revolving infrastructure fund designed to kick-start stalled housing and commercial developments and support economic growth.</p> <p>The Growing Places fund is an essential measure to realise the nation's ambition for continued housing and economic growth. NEP was allocated £5.8m to direct towards targeted investment in pieces of infrastructure which unlock development, bring forward stalled sites and create new commercial floorspace and housing across the county.</p>	<p>Projects are considered on a loan, joint venture or other repayable mechanism basis. Applications for non-repayable (grant) funding are not considered unless they deliver exceptional outputs or exceptional value for money.</p>	<p>No deadline stated</p>
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## APPENDIX I:

### Strategic Urban Extensions (SUEs) and their Proposed Associated Structural Greenspace

Project no.	Local GI Network Component	Project Name	Location	Proposed Structural Greenspace Provision (July 2014)	Contact Organisation
I:1	SUE Structural greenspace	Northampton Upton Park SUE	This SUE is located on western side of Northampton, south of the A4500 Weedon Road, to the west of the existing new development at Upton.	Primary open space is proposed along the southern and eastern edges of the site, with smaller areas of secondary open space within the site. SUDs corridors run north-south across the site. Existing wildlife site and woodland/ tree cover are retained.	Planning dept., Northampton Borough Council
I:2	SUE Structural greenspace	Upton Lodge/ Norwood Farm SUE	This SUE is located on the western side of Northampton, to the north of the A4500 Weedon Road, to the south and west of the former hospital site.	Extensive Structural Greenspace is proposed in relation to this SUE, including sensitive urban edges on the west of the site. Greenspace corridors are also proposed alongside an existing stream, with connections to Structural Greenspace in adjacent SUES to the north and south.	Planning dept., Northampton Borough Council
I:3	SUE Structural greenspace	Northampton West SUE	This SUE is located on the north-west edge of Northampton, to the west of Sandy Lane (the current edge of the New Duston estate).	Structural Greenspace is proposed along sensitive edges on the south-west and west of the SUE, and also along the upper reaches of the Dallington Brook.	Planning dept., South Northamptonshire Council & Daventry District Council

Project no.	Local GI Network Component	Project Name	Location	Proposed Structural Greenspace Provision (July 2014)	Contact Organisation
I:4	SUE Structural greenspace	Northampton King's Heath SUE	This SUE is located to the north-west of Northampton, on elevated land between the Kings Heath estate, and Dallington Heath woodland.	Structural Greenspace associated with SUDS proposed along the Dallington Brook, and with flood attenuation along the Brampton valley. Structural Greenspace associated with archaeological area in the north-west, and sports provision in the centre of the site. Links to Brampton Valley Way.	Planning dept., Northampton Borough Council
I:5	SUE Structural greenspace	Northampton North of Whitehills SUE	This SUE comprises land at Brampton Lane, Boughton (between Welford Road and Harborough Road North).	Retention of existing vegetation and provision of new open space (including playing fields), landscaping and bio-diversity features. Provision of routes for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles within the site and financial contributions to off-site public transport and highway works.	Planning dept., Daventry District Council
I:6	SUE Structural greenspace	Northampton North SUE (Overstone Leys)	This SUE comprises land east of A43, between Moulton, Overstone and Southfields.	Retention of existing vegetation and provision of new open space (including playing fields), landscaping and bio-diversity features. Greenspace will provide separation between new residential development and existing industry at Round Spinney.	Planning dept., Daventry District Council

Project no.	Local GI Network Component	Project Name	Location	Proposed Structural Greenspace Provision (July 2014)	Contact Organisation
I:7	SUE Structural greenspace	Northampton South of Brackmills SUE	This SUE is located on the south-eastern side of Northampton, to the north of B526 Newport Pagnell Road, and to the east of Hardingstone village.	Proposed structural Greenspace along the northern boundary of the SUE will merge with existing planting around the Brackmills Industrial development. Open space will be located in the centre of the site, and green spine will follow the footpath running NW-SE across the site.	Planning dept., Northampton Borough Council
I:8	SUE Structural greenspace	Northampton South (Collingtree) SUE	This SUE is located on the south-west of Northampton, between the southern edges of the Collingtree Park, Blacky More and Merefield estates, and the M1.	Proposed Structural Greenspace will separate the site into three parcels of development. Greenspace along the Wootton Brook will accommodate flood attenuation and relocated golf holes. There will be a buffer of greenspace along the motorway, and sports provision in the centre of the site.	Planning dept., Northampton Borough Council

## APPENDIX J:

# Planning Policy Document Summaries

### Primary Documents

Document	Review	Implications for / of a <i>GIP</i>
<b>European Landscape Convention (ELC) (Signed by UK 2006)</b>	This Convention recognises that landscape is an important part of the quality of life for people everywhere: in urban areas and in the countryside, in degraded areas as well as in areas of high quality, in areas as being of outstanding beauty, as well as everyday areas. i.e. <i>all landscapes matter</i> .	The <i>GIP</i> supports implementation of the ELC, particularly through its focus on the distinctive characteristics of a place and the development of landscape quality objectives in partnership with stakeholders.
<b>European Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (2002)</b>	The framework adopted to implement the CBD is known as the 'ecosystems approach' and is defined in the CBD as <i>a strategy for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way</i> . The CBD emphasises that the ecosystem approach can be undertaken within the context of other management or conservation methods, such as within protected landscapes, biospheres, through national, local or site-based policies and approaches. It is a framework for partnerships to use within these contexts, rather than instead of them.	The <i>GIP</i> supports the 'ecosystems approach'. It describes Northampton's GI assets in terms of the ecosystem services which they currently provide, and demonstrates opportunities to enhance them in the future.
<b>EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 (2012)</b>	This is an ambitious new strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. The six targets, which align with those of the CBD, are: Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity; Better protection for ecosystems and more use of Green Infrastructure; More sustainable agriculture and forestry; Better management of fish stocks; tighter controls on invasive alien species; and a bigger EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.	The <i>GIP</i> is able to target appropriate measures to increase biodiversity within Northampton's GI network.
<b>EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000)</b>	The WFD requires the preparation of strategic plans for water management on a catchment scale. One of these will be for the Anglian River Basin District, which will be informed by the <b><i>River Nene Catchment Plan (2014)</i></b> .	The <i>GIP</i> complements work undertaken through the WFD, for example relating to flood management, water quality and biodiversity.



Document	Review	Implications for / of a <i>GIP</i>
<b>EU Directive 2007/60/EC – Assessment and Management of Flood Risks (2007)</b>	Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks entered into force on 26 November 2007. This Directive now requires Member States to assess if all water courses and coast lines are at risk from flooding, to map the flood extent and assets and humans at risk in these areas and to take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce this flood risk. This Directive also reinforces the rights of the public to access this information and to have a say in the planning process.	The <i>GIP</i> complements the work undertaken through this directive, including projects to reduce flood risk.
<b>The Natural Environment White Paper (2011)</b>	<p>This White Paper refers to the role of planning in protecting and improving the natural environment and facilitating coherent and resilient ecological networks that reflect the value of natural systems.</p> <p>Planning is therefore a key element of the institutional framework that will achieve the objectives set out in the White Paper. The aims of the White Paper include halting biodiversity loss by 2020, supporting ‘healthy functioning ecosystems’, and establishing ‘coherent ecological networks’.</p> <p>The White Paper refers to the role of urban GI as completing ‘the links in our national ecological network’ and ‘one of the most effective tools available to us in managing environmental risks such as flooding and heat waves’. It advocates that green spaces should be factored into the development of all communities. The White Paper also introduced a number of policies and initiatives which have led to the development of Northampton’s Local Nature Partnership and the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area.</p>	The <i>GIP</i> presents the framework and tools to develop a Local Level GI Network. This will establish coherent ecological networks that will support healthy functioning ecosystems. By enabling the development and delivery of the Local level Network the Plan will help mitigate and manage environmental effects of climate change such as flooding and the heat island effect
<b>Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England’s wildlife and ecosystem services (2011)</b>	In describing how international and European Union (EU) commitments are to be implemented and achieved, Priority action 3.4 of the Biodiversity Strategy sets out how the approach of the planning system will guide development to the best location, encourage greener design, and enhance natural networks	The <i>GIP</i> provides an evidence base enabling the development of planning policy which will ensure new development is designed and delivered to support wildlife and eco-systems services
<b>The Localism Act (2011)</b>	The reform brought changes to planning from the strategic level through to neighbourhood.	The ability to initiate a Local Green Space designation, and / or a Community Right to Build

	<p>The key measures of the act are grouped under four main headings;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• new freedoms and flexibilities for local government</li> <li>• new rights and powers for communities and individuals</li> <li>• reform to make the planning system more democratic and more effective</li> <li>• reform to ensure decisions about housing are taken locally</li> </ul> <p>Strategically, the Act introduces the ‘duty to co-operate’ requiring local planning authorities to co-operate strategically on plan-making issues that cross administrative boundaries. This is often the case when planning for GI and associated assets. Strategic planning issues can also be addressed through joint planning boards using existing powers under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This means local planning authorities can agree to prepare joint Development Plan Documents such as the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (see below).</p> <p>At a neighbourhood level the introduction of neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to shape their local area. Local communities can now produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan or Neighbourhood Development Order. Once approved by the neighbourhood through a referendum, NDPs and NDOs are adopted as part of the Local Plan.</p> <p>The Plan or Order should be in general conformity with strategic policies in the Local Plan and should have regard to national policy, as well as EU obligations and human rights requirements. A Local Green Space designation, a Community Right to Build Order, and a Community Right to Bid Order have also been introduced.</p>	<p>Order, and / or a Community Right to Bid Order does provide greater opportunities for communities to plan and deliver locally important GI and associated assets. The <i>GIP</i> will be a guide and a toolkit to local communities who engage in Neighbourhood Planning helping them prepare for the development and delivery of GI at a local level</p>
<b>The National Planning Policy Framework (2012)</b>	<p>The NPPF strongly reinforces the plan-led system as the key way to deliver sustainable development over the long term, allowing for proper engagement with communities.</p> <p>The presumption in favour of sustainable development is an operational principle for plan-making and development management. This golden thread reinforces the need for positive, evidence-</p>	<p>The <i>GIP</i> provides an evidenced approach to the planning, development, delivery and management of a Local Level GI Network. It provides a basis for policy formulation and a strategic approach to creating and delivering a GI network</p>

	<p>based plans which objectively meet the development needs of their communities. To be in conformity with the NPPF, Plans (and other development proposals which come forward where Plans are out of date, absent or silent) must fully consider their obligations to protect and enhance the natural environment.</p> <p>The NPPF makes clear that viability and deliverability are key tests of all aspects of decision-making, and requires local authorities to assess the cumulative burden of local requirements and plan policy. In para 173 it states that these burdens should not be as such as to deny ‘competitive returns to a willing land owner and willing developer’. It goes on to state (para 176) that ‘Where safeguards are necessary to make a particular development acceptable in planning terms (such as environmental mitigation or compensation), the development should not be approved if the measures required cannot be secured through appropriate conditions or agreements.’</p> <p>It is important that measures to enhance the natural environment are seen as core planning objectives and are embedded in the decision-making process. Where local requirements for contributions to GI or other measures are set in Local Plans, it is good practice for the long-term benefits of these measures to be considered in determining viability.</p> <p>The NPPF identifies (in paras 6 and 17) sustainable development as the purpose of the planning system and conserving and enhancing the natural environment as a ‘core planning principle’. Section 11 sets out how the planning system should be contributing to, protecting and enhancing the natural and local environment. It highlights that the wider benefits of ecosystem services need to be recognised. It establishes the need to minimise impacts, prevent pollution and employ mitigation where appropriate. Local planning authorities should set criteria based policies which will be used to judge proposals affecting protected wildlife, geodiversity sites or landscape areas. Distinctions should be made between the hierarchies of designated sites so that protection is</p>	locally.
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	<p>commensurate with site status.</p> <p>The ambition of the NPPF is not just to retain protection for existing designations, but to plan ahead for re-creation of habitat where possible. The NPPF states (para. 114) that Local Plans should provide a strategic approach to the creation and management of biodiversity networks and green infrastructure. Policies should plan for biodiversity across local authority boundaries, identify and map components of ecological networks and identify indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the Plan (para 178). Local Planning authorities should consider what types of development can be deemed as appropriate in Nature Improvement Areas (para 114 / 117).</p> <p>Planning policies and decision-making should seek to protect and enhance natural and heritage assets appropriate to their significance. Policies and decisions should also encourage multiple benefits from land use, recognising benefits such as wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, carbon storage, and food production.</p> <p>Para 73 states that to promote healthy communities planning policies need to be based on an up to date assessment of need for open space, sport and recreational facilities, and para 74 goes on to say that existing facilities should be protected unless they are surplus or will be replaced and public rights of way should be protected.</p> <p>Local Plans should take account of climate change over the longer term which includes factors such as changes to biodiversity and landscape. Risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures, including through the planning of Green Infrastructure (para 99).</p>	
<p><b>NPPF Planning Practice Guidance on open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space</b></p>	<p>Paragraph 001 (ID 37-001-20140306) states that Open space should be taken into account in planning for new development and considering proposals that may affect existing open space. Open space, which includes all open space of public value, can take many forms, from formal sports pitches to open areas within a development, linear corridors and country parks. It can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby; have an ecological value and contribute to</p>	<p>Open Space is a key Green Infrastructure asset.</p> <p>Northampton's open space is described in detail within the <i>GIP</i>, specifically within the Local Green Infrastructure Network Components (Appendix D).</p> <p>The <i>GIP</i> is also intended to be used by local communities</p>

	<p>Green Infrastructure as well as an important part of the landscape and setting of built development, and an important component in the achievement of sustainable development.</p> <p>It is for local planning authorities to assess the need for open space and opportunities for new provision in their areas. In carrying out this work, they should have regard to the duty to co-operate when space serves a wider area.</p> <p>Paragraph 005 (ID 37-005-20140306) describes Local Green Space designation as a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities. Local Green space designation occurs through Local Plans or Neighbourhood Plans.</p>	<p>preparing Neighbourhood Plans and considering areas for designation as Local Green Space.</p>
<b>NPPF Planning Practice Guidance on the Natural Environment</b>	<p>Paragraph 008 (ID8-008-20140306) states that Local and neighbourhood plans and planning decisions have the potential to affect biodiversity or geodiversity outside as well as inside designated areas of importance for biodiversity or geodiversity. Local planning authorities and neighbourhood planning bodies should therefore seek opportunities to work collaboratively with other partners, including Local Nature Partnerships to develop and deliver a strategic approach to protecting and improving the natural environment based on local priorities and evidence. Equally, they should consider the opportunities that individual development proposals may provide to enhance biodiversity and contribute to wildlife and habitat connectivity in the wider area.</p> <p>Paragraph 028 (ID8-028-20160211) explains that Green Infrastructure is important to the delivery of high quality sustainable development, alongside other forms of infrastructure such as transport, energy, waste and water. Green Infrastructure provides multiple benefits, notably ecosystem services, at a range of scales, derived from natural systems and processes, for the individual, for society, the economy and the environment. To ensure that these benefits are delivered, green infrastructure must be well planned, designed and maintained. Green Infrastructure should, therefore, be a key consideration in both local plans and planning decisions where relevant.</p>	<p>The <i>GIP</i> is directly relevant to putting the requirements of this guidance into practice. It sets out Northampton's Green Infrastructure assets, and makes recommendations as to how these assets (and the wider Green Infrastructure network) can be protected and enhanced.</p> <p>Section 15.7 of the <i>GIP</i> introduces the concept and terminology of ecosystem services. The GI Local Network Component Profiles (Appendix D) identify the contribution each Component makes to the range of ecosystem services.</p> <p>The <i>GIP</i> also makes recommendations as to how ecosystem services should be taken forward into planning policy.</p>



	<p>Paragraph 029 (ID8-029-20160211) states that Local Planning Authorities may wish to prepare an authority-wide Green Infrastructure framework or strategy. This should be evidence-based by, for example, including an assessment of current Green Infrastructure provision that identifies gaps in the network and the components and opportunities for improvement. The assessment can inform the role of Green Infrastructure in Local and Neighbourhood Plans, Infrastructure Delivery Plans and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) schedules.</p> <p>Local Plans should identify the strategic location of existing and proposed Green Infrastructure networks. Where appropriate, supplementary planning documents can set out how the planning, design and management components of the green infrastructure strategy for the area will be delivered.</p> <p>This strategic approach to Green Infrastructure may cross administrative boundaries. Therefore neighbouring authorities, working collaboratively with other stakeholders including Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), may wish to consider how wider strategies for their areas can help address cross-boundary issues and help meet the Duty to Cooperate.</p> <p>Paragraph 030 (ID 8-030-20160211) describes how Green Infrastructure can help to deliver a variety of planning policies, including building a strong economy, delivering high-quality homes, requiring good design, promoting healthy communities, meeting environmental challenges (e.g. climate change and flooding) and conserving and enhancing the natural environment.</p> <p>Paragraph 031 (ID 8-031-20160211) states that Green Infrastructure requires sustainable management and maintenance arrangements to be in place if it is to provide benefits and services in the long term. Arrangements for managing Green Infrastructure, and for funding its management over the long-term, should be identified as early as possible when planning Green Infrastructure and factored into the way that it is designed and implemented.</p>	<p>The <i>GIP</i> provides Northampton with a Borough-wide Green Infrastructure Strategy. The assessment of Green Infrastructure assets is evidence-based on desk-top study, stakeholder data and fieldwork. The Local Level Green Infrastructure Network that was developed as a result of this work will be used to inform the development of planning policy for the Local Plan and to help local communities in the preparation of their Neighbourhood Plans. The <i>GIP</i> identifies gaps in Green Infrastructure provision and provides a strategy to plug these gaps. Adjacent Local Authorities have contributed to consultations on the <i>GIP</i>, along with other cross-boundary stakeholders including the Wildlife Trust, Northamptonshire County Council, Natural England and the Environment Agency.</p> <p>The multi-functional benefits of Green Infrastructure are emphasised throughout the <i>GIP</i>. The Aims and Objectives (Section 7) recognise the range of potential benefits when Green Infrastructure is successfully implemented.</p> <p>The <i>GIP</i> recognises the need to ensure long-term arrangements for the maintenance of Green Infrastructure. The importance of thinking ahead whilst planning projects is stressed in the Exemplar Project Plans (Appendix F), the Guidance on Preparing Project Plans (Appendix G) and the Funding Strategy (Appendix H).</p>
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	<p>Paragraph 032 (ID 8-032-2160211) describes how Green Infrastructure should be considered in planning decisions. It states that Where appropriate, planning proposals should incorporate Green Infrastructure in line with local and neighbourhood plan policies and site specific considerations. As a component of sustainable development, Green Infrastructure should be considered at an early stage of a planning proposal. Depending on individual circumstances, planning obligations, conditions or the Community Infrastructure Levy may all be potential mechanisms for securing and funding Green Infrastructure.</p>	<p>Integrating the delivery and management of Green Infrastructure into new development also helps to sustain it in the future.</p> <p>The <i>GIP</i> enables Green Infrastructure to be at the heart of planning decisions in Northampton, with the Local GI Network Component Profiles (Appendix D) a particularly valuable tool in this process.</p>
<b>Climate Change Act (2008)</b>	<p>Under the Climate Change Act, Local Authorities are required to have due regard to climate change mitigation and adaptation in carrying out their functions. The UK carbon emissions target for 2050 is aimed to be half that of 1991, achieved through energy efficiency measures or techniques to capture carbon.</p>	<p>The <i>GIP</i> can help with carbon reduction in a number of ways. For example, enhancements to sustainable transport routes will change travel patterns, leading to a reduction in vehicle emissions.</p>
<b>Flood and Water Management Act (2010)</b>	<p>The Flood and Water Management Act (2010) addresses the management of the risk of flooding and the management of surface drainage. It reiterates the duties of all local authorities with regard to sustainable development, including sustainable drainage.</p> <p>In response to legislative obligations, recent years have seen rapid developments in Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS). SUDS represent a wide variety of hard and soft engineering options to retain the surface drainage from peak rainfall events on the landscape for as long as possible. Water may evaporate or infiltrate. Influencing the speed (velocity) and amount (discharge) of urban runoff can be achieved with a range of SUDS mechanisms which can include: green roofs, rain gardens, filter strips, porous paving, swales and retention ponds and wetlands. SUDS are often a linear treatment system, linking into local and regional systems, controlling not only surface drainage but also trapping sediment close to the source, cleansing and filtering pollutants to improve the water quality before it is discharged into the nearest water course. Increasingly, professionals within the SUDS sector are appreciating the ‘added</p>	<p>The <i>GIP</i> encourages multifunctional GI opportunities in association with flood management schemes and sustainable drainage schemes. These could be associated with new development or existing GI.</p>

	value' SUDS can provide.	
<b>Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act (2006)</b>	Section 40 of the NERC Act requires all public organisations, including local authorities ' <i>in exercising its functions must have regard to conserving biodiversity</i> '. Public organisations are also expected to play an important role in education and raising awareness of biodiversity. Section 41 (S41) is a list of habitats and species that require help because they are rare or declining in extent or population numbers. Based on the Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) there are a number of vulnerable habitats that are present within the GI of Northampton, including Orchards, meadows, rivers and lakes, plus several vulnerable species.	The <i>GIP</i> assists in the conservation and enhancement of Northampton's valuable biodiversity in both designated and non-designated sites.
<b>The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015</b>	This Government Statutory Instrument makes the Lead Local Flood Authority a statutory consultee to the planning application process. This means that all new major development must now incorporate sustainable drainage techniques. This was achieved by adding the requirement to Schedule 4 of the Development Management Procedure Order and this came into effect on the 15th April 2015. These statutory changes made by Government have strengthened existing planning policy to ensure that sustainable drainage systems will now be provided in new major developments.	The <i>GIP</i> provides recommendations for the SUEs (and other developments) regarding GI, including SUDS.
<b>Northamptonshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS)</b>	As Lead Local Flood Authority for Northamptonshire, the County Council needs to 'develop, maintain, apply and monitor' a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. The strategy focuses on local flood risk resulting from surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses flooding. The interaction with main river flooding has also been assessed. The LFRMS is therefore an important document that sets out the management of flood risk in Northamptonshire for the coming years. It promotes the use of GI for flood reduction purposes.	The <i>GIP</i> provides practical methods to using GI to reduce local flood risk within Northampton.
<b>Central Area Action Plan (Adopted 2013)</b>	The Central Area Action Plan (CAAP) provides specific planning policy and guidance for the Central Area of Northampton where significant regeneration or investment is proposed.  Its Vision recognises the riverside as strength; there	The <i>GIP</i> complements and supports the CAAP, particularly through enhancements to the river corridors, SUDS, parks/ open spaces and improvements to the sustainable movement

	<p>will be a focus on enhancing the Waterside so it becomes a new destination for employment, living and leisure. When considering GI the CAAP aims to create and enhance a multifunctional network of connected open spaces which will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help to mitigate and adapt to climate change</li> <li>• Enhance and enrich biodiversity habitats</li> <li>• Integrate sustainable urban drainage</li> <li>• Provide recreational opportunities and a movement network for pedestrians, cyclists and wildlife</li> <li>• Create a sense of place, improve air quality</li> <li>• Enhance the river and canal corridor management</li> </ul> <p>The CAAP presents two policy considerations, firstly policies that promote connectivity from the Central Area (CA) to the hinterland and beyond and secondly those policies which have a specific remit to enhance the function and setting of GI.</p> <p>With respect to connectivity, Policy 1 (Design Excellence) requires for coherent links to and from destinations to improve accessibility and permeability in and around the CA; Policy 4 (Green Infrastructure) requires development to incorporate opportunities that enhance and extend the green corridor within and outside the Waterside and for linkages between GI elsewhere and Policy 25 (The Waterside) seeks an environmental and recreational link across and between the CA and the wider West N-shire strategic GI.</p> <p>When considering GI assets, Policy 4 requires development to enhance the setting and function of the GI identified on the 'Proposals Map' (fig XX) and in Appendix D of the CAAP. There are two site specific policies regarding GI assets</p> <p>Beckets Park (Policy 29) which seeks to enable the park to perform its role as the pre-eminent formal Town Centre Park</p> <p>Nene Meadows (Policy 30) which establishes the area as a strategic leisure and recreation destination</p>	<p>network.</p>
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<p><b>Northampton Local Plan (Adopted 1997)</b></p>	<p>This Plan establishes the quality of Northampton's landscape and open space determining the need to maintain and enhance it.</p> <p>Policy E1 stipulates that development detrimental to the character and structure of the landscape is prohibited. The schedule of Green Spaces provided by Appendix 2 are protected from development which would prejudice their function (Policy E6). Policy E9 protects those Locally Important Landscape Areas identified in Appendix 28 from development which would prejudice their character.</p> <p>Appendix 18 sets out a schedule of existing private and public recreational land. Where there is an established need this land is protected from loss unless there is a suitable replacement within or immediately adjacent to the Town. In addition, the loss of existing open space of established value is not acceptable unless development secures the majority of the site for sport and recreation (L1).</p> <p>Policy E2 determines that the visual character of the riverside and landscape along the Nene is to be improved. Development along the river will not be granted unless it is compatible with existing habitats and includes a landscaped and accessible frontage to provide for recreation or waterside activities. The River Valley Policy Area is protected from development other than agriculture, leisure or recreational uses. Where development is permitted it will be required to avoid harm and amenity value to the area, pay due regard to the character, natural features and wildlife and make adequate provision for public access where development is likely to attract visitors (L16)</p> <p>Policy E11 recognises the importance of hedgerows, trees and woodland protecting those of significant environmental value from destruction or substantial damage. In addition, where sites include existing features of significant environmental value provision must be made to incorporate these without detriment to their value (E12). The Plan determines principle Corridors of Travel where Policy E14 seeks to maintain and enhance the landscape alongside these.</p> <p>Policy L6 on S106 requires maintenance of small</p>	<p>The <i>GIP</i> assists NBC with the fulfilment of their obligations with regard to landscape character, recreation, river Nene improvements, the environment and vegetation such as trees and hedgerows.</p>
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	<p>areas of public open space associated with new development providing sufficient maintenance for 40 years upon the completion of the development.</p>	
<p><b>Planning Obligations Strategy Supplementary Planning Document (2013)</b></p>	<p>The Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document outlines the Council's strategy for securing relevant developer contributions in relation to mitigating the impacts of new development.</p> <p>PO4 on Open Space, Sport and Recreation establishes that where housing developments of 15 dwellings or more have an impact on existing open space, sport and recreation or create a need for new provision the Council will obligate this from the developer. On-site provision is preferable followed by off-site provision or, on / off site provision cannot be made financial payments will be sought.</p> <p>Where non-residential development proposals have an impact on open space, sport and recreation the Council will seek obligations from developers for additional provision proportionate to the size and type of development</p>	<p>The <i>GIP</i> (and the NBC Interactive Map) will be useful tools in the identification of potential projects to be funded by developer contributions (both on-site and off-site). It will also guide developers to incorporate suitable GI provision into their planning applications.</p>
<p><b>Northampton Corporate Plan (2012 – 2015)</b></p>	<p>The Corporate Plan sets out the Council's priorities and explains what it wants to achieve over the next 3 years.</p> <p>Priority 1: Northampton on Track: In seeking to achieve the long-term outcomes ways will be identified to exploit the Marina and the Waterways as a tourist attraction</p> <p>Priority 2: Invest in safer, cleaner neighbourhoods: Long term outcomes include 'a place where people want to visit and enjoy Northampton's parks and open spaces'. Partnership working is advocated in a drive to improve standards and facilities within the Town's parks. This will help achieve Green Flag status.</p> <p>Priority 7: Promoting health and well-being: Long term outcomes include improving public health by promoting the health and well-being of residents through continued support of leisure opportunities in leisure clubs and the Leisure Trust. This included the need to complete the development of the skate board park on Midsummer Meadow which has</p>	<p>The <i>GIP</i> is a tool to help enable NBC to deliver the priorities set out in the Corporate Plan. The opportunities associated with each of the Local GI Network Components will be a particularly useful resource.</p>

	subsequently been delivered	
<b>West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Part 1 (Adopted December 2014)</b>	<p>The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (JCS) sets out the spatial vision for West Northamptonshire and addresses key spatial issues for the sub-region.</p> <p>The Vision pictures a blend of urban living with an enhanced network of green spaces, high quality parks and gardens. It goes on to propose that, in response to climate change and for biodiversity and habitat protection, the area will become a national example of low environmental impact development.</p> <p>The JCS is supported by 16 Spatial Objectives to provide direction to the policies. The three of particular relevance are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective 14 (Green Infrastructure) establishes the aim to protect natural species and enhance the existing strategic green infrastructure network</li> <li>• Objective 2 (Infrastructure and Development) includes reference to ensure, inter alia, the provision of green infrastructure</li> <li>• Objective 4 (Protecting and Building Urban Communities) establishes that new development will link new and existing communities physically and socially</li> </ul> <p>Policy S10 (Sustainable Development Principles) provides a key policy direction requiring development to protect, conserve and enhance the natural environment and promote the creation of green infrastructure networks. When considering low carbon and renewable energy S11 (Low Carbon and Renewable Energy) determines that proposals should be sensitively located and designed to minimise potential adverse impacts on inter alia, the natural environment and biodiversity.</p> <p>Green infrastructure consists of public and private assets including public rights of way, cycle-ways and other recreational routes, thereby presenting opportunities to link urban and countryside areas. Therefore, GI has a role in the objective to secure modal shift. Policies C1, C2, C5 and N12 set out the direction to encourage behavioural change. They establish that new development must maximise travel choices from non-car modes; that Sustainable Urban Extensions will be required to</p>	The <i>GIP</i> enables the Borough Council to develop locally - specific policy with respect to GI

	<p>provide access via walking and cycling to local employment, housing and retail facilities. In addition, the creation of new and enhancements to existing walking and cycling networks, including parking provision for bikes is required.</p> <p>Policy RC1 (Delivering Community Regeneration) determines that proposed schemes will be expected to show how they take into account design codes and principles which, inter alia, will improve the quality of green space and create opportunities for modal shift and improved connectivity. Contributions for public open space will be sought from new development as part of policy RC2 (Community Needs). The policy goes on to state that the loss of existing open space will be resisted unless the replacement facility will be of equal or better quality, or the proposal will bring about significant community benefits outweighing the loss or the space can be shown to be surplus.</p> <p>Policy BN1 (Green Infrastructure Connections) determines that the GI corridors of sub-regional and local importance (see fig XX) will be recognised for their contribution to sense of place. New development will need to incorporate existing and identified GI corridors in their proposals. Contributions will be sought for the creation and future management of GI networks. GI will be designed and delivered sustainably, it will mitigate and assist in adaption to climate change; consist of a high quality design in terms of appearance, access and to ensure the protection and enhancement of wildlife and it will reflect local character through the planting of native species and others which are climate appropriate. GI will be supported by a long term management strategy.</p> <p>BN2 (Biodiversity) establishes that development will be supported where it maintains and enhances existing designations and assets or delivers a net gain. Development proposals must be able to demonstrate safeguarding of protected species and priority habitats and conservation methods through design and construction</p> <p>BN3 (Woodland Enhancement) is supportive of measures which will enhance and manage existing woodlands and create new ones. Opportunities to buffer, extend and relink areas of ancient woodland</p>	
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	<p>will be sought. Development resulting in the fragmentation or loss of ancient woodland will not be permitted. BN4 (Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits Special Protection Area) is about protecting the integrity of the site.</p> <p>N5 (Historic Environment) provides a policy direction to conserve, enhance and manage designated and non-designated heritage assets, their settings and landscapes in recognition of their individual and cumulative significance.</p> <p>BN7a (Water Supply, Quality and Waste water Infrastructure) provides a focus on water supply, quality and waste-water infrastructure. Relevant to this review is the entreaty for development to use sustainable urban drainage systems wherever practical</p> <p>BN8 (River Nene Strategic Corridor) establishes that the natural and cultural environment of the Nene will be enhanced and protected in recognition of its contribution to the green infrastructure network.</p> <p>INF1 (Approach to Infrastructure Delivery) establishes that new development will be supported by and have good access to, inter alia, green infrastructure which will integrate with and complement adjoining communities. Policy INF2 (Contributions to Infrastructure Requirements) is about funding infrastructure delivery. New development will not be permitted if the necessary infrastructure isn't already in position to support it unless there is a mechanism in place to ensure its delivery as part of the proposal.</p> <p>The regeneration of Northampton will see the development of sustainable urban extensions (SUE) at Northampton North, Northampton West, Northampton South, Northampton North of Whitehills, Northampton South of Brackmills, Northampton Kings Heath, Northampton Upton Park, and Upton Lodge / Norwood Farm. Policies N3 to N9 and N9A establish the provision each development must make (see Table below).</p>	
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*SUE Policies within the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Part 1 (Adopted Dec. 2014)*

SUE	Walking / Cycling	Green Infrastructure	Additional notes
<b>Northampton North (N3)</b>	An integrated transport network including provision for walking and cycling with strong links to adjoining neighbourhoods, employment areas and town centre	Structural greenspace and wildlife corridors as indicated on proposals map	Incorporate Cow-pasture Spinney and Coleman Leys)
<b>Kings Heath (N7)</b>	As above	As above	Provision of a country park
<b>Northampton West (N4)</b>	As above	As above	
<b>Northampton South (N5)</b>	As above	As above	Open space and leisure provision
<b>North of Whitehills (N8)</b>	As above	As above	As above
<b>Upton Park (N9)</b>	As above	As above	As above
<b>South of Brackmills (N6)</b>	As above	As above	As above and: Creation of a landscape buffer to the SW of the site
<b>Northampton Norwood Farm / Upton Lodge (N9A)</b>	As above	As above	Open space and recreational provision

Document	Review	Implications for / of a GIP
<b>Northampton Local Plan (Part 2)</b>  <b>In Preparation</b>	The local policies within The <i>Northampton Local Plan (Part 2)</i> will complement the strategic policies contained within the JCS. The Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) will cover Northampton and will have the following scope: Site-specific development allocations including residential and employment uses; Detailed development management policies	The GIP forms an important element of the Evidence Base for the Northampton Local Plan (Part 2) and will be used to inform policy development.



	<p>against which planning applications will be determined; Identification, phasing and implementation of local infrastructure (for example the Northampton Northern Orbital Road);</p> <p>Boundaries of retail centres; Historic conservation, open space and nature conservation policies and designations; Policies map.</p>	
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## Secondary Documents

Document	Review	Implications for / of a GIP
<b>Northampton Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment and Audit (2009 Update)</b>	<p>This document provides an audit and assessment of open spaces, sports and recreational facilities in Northampton. It determines the quality, quantity and accessibility standards for open space across the borough. These standards have been carried forward into the Planning Obligations Strategy Supplementary Planning Document (2013) and the Parks and Open Spaces. It enables planners and developers to determine how much open space should be provided as part of a development, what types of open space are needed and the quality expectations.</p>	<p>The audit has informed the development of the Local level Network providing the foundation for Component H</p>
<b>Parks and Open Space Strategy for Northampton (2013) (NBC)</b>	<p>The Parks and Open Space Strategy provides a framework to help the Borough Council and its partners protect, improve and sustain open spaces. It builds on the base line of the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment and Audit. It establishes 4 objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritise the improvement, management, maintenance and retention of open spaces</li> <li>• Establish a framework for community, voluntary sector and partner engagement</li> <li>• Enable the Council and partners to respond strategically and invest resources</li> <li>• Enable Delapre and Abington Parks and the Racecourse to achieve green flag status</li> </ul>	<p>This document has informed the development of the Local Level GI Network by ensuring key assets are included as part of the network</p>
<b>Northampton Playing Fields Strategy (2011 Update) (Neil Allen Ass.)</b>	<p>The Playing Fields Strategy is a local needs assessment setting out a robust and up-to-date picture of pitch supply and demand. It provides an evidence base on which to base policy development. It identifies the key issues for</p>	<p>This document has informed the development of the Local Level GI Network by ensuring key assets are included as part of the network</p>

	football, cricket, Rugby and Hockey in the Borough and uses this to make key recommendations to improve facilities	
<b>Nene Meadows Supplementary Planning Document (2014) (NBC)</b>	This Supplementary Planning Document provides guidance for future proposals and informing developers and investors of appropriate land use proposals for the Nene Meadows Area of the town, which comprises Becket's Park, Nene Meadows and Barnes Meadow. .	The <i>GIP</i> complements the Nene Meadows SPD through its relevant Local GI Network Components Profiles.
<b>River Nene Integrated Catchment Management Plan (2014) (River Nene Regional Park CIC)</b>	This is one of many Catchment Management Plans being produced nationally in response to the European Water Frameworks Directive. It provides a clear framework for partnership working, and brings together background information on the catchment, links to the large body of relevant studies. and also identifies a range of projects which contribute to the achievement of key objectives.	The <i>GIP</i> will help NBC to contribute to relevant objectives of the RNICMP. For example integrating urban and rural areas through GI, and improving access to and within the Nene Valley.
<b>Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan (2008) (Northamptonshire Biodiversity Partnership)</b>	The document contains information about habitats and species of local and national importance and stresses the importance of a landscape-based approach and the role of GI in enhancing biodiversity.	The <i>GIP</i> supports the Biodiversity Action Plan through its recommendations for enhancing wildlife habitats and corridors.
<b>Northampton Landscape Sensitivity and Green Infrastructure Study (2009) (Living Landscapes Consultancy)</b>	This document was prepared for the River Nene Regional Park CIC on behalf of the WNJPU. It contains a review of relevant baseline data relating to Northampton's physical and cultural environment; a sensitivity study and recommendations for the locations of future growth and development; and a GI strategy for Northampton. This latter section considers the opportunities for GI enhancement and makes recommendations for improvements to the GI network.	The <i>GIP</i> is a natural progression from the LSGI study, and puts its recommendations into practice.
<b>River Nene Regional Park <i>Making the Connection</i></b>	This document presents a Strategic GI Framework for West Northamptonshire. It identifies GI components at a strategic level, identifying Sub-Regional and Local GI Corridors. It makes recommendations for enhancing the area's resources (biodiversity, environmental character, movement networks etc.) and identifies priorities for action.	The <i>GIP</i> helps to put into practise the priorities for action identified in <i>Making the Connection</i> for the relevant GI Corridors.

<b>Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area (NIA)</b>	The Nene Valley NIA is one of 12 pilot schemes in England funded by Defra. The NIA initiative is about delivering a strategic partnership approach, designed to deliver key large scale ecological projects in NIA networks that not only enhance and support valuable wildlife, but provide multiple benefits for people and increased resilience to climatic and environmental changes.	The NRDA boundary includes sections of the Nene Valley NIA alongside the Nene and Bampton Arm and tributary valleys.  The <i>GIP</i> helps to deliver multifunctional landscape-scale enhancement of wildlife networks.
<b>In Everyone's Interest: The Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2015-2015) (Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board)</b>	This document reveals Northampton's relatively low numbers of people undertaking physical activity, and the town's relatively low male life expectancy.	This is an important background document to the <i>GIP</i> . GI has an important role to play in improving Northampton's health and wellbeing statistics; by implementing GI projects to provide open space and opportunities for exercise, people are enabled to choose healthier lifestyles and exert greater control over their health and wellbeing.
<b>Regulating for People, the Environment and Growth (Environment Agency, 2014)</b>	This document addresses issues relating to pollution and the impacts of development, and considers how air and water quality can be improved. It advocates a partnership approach to tackling issues that affect the quality of the environment for people and wildlife. Measures to ensure pollution control compliance, repair misconnections and reduce environmental crime are a starting point in protecting and enhancing Green Infrastructure.	The <i>GIP</i> makes practical recommendations to addresses relevant issues, including improving environmental quality and developing partnership approaches to creating and enhancing GI.
<b>Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon: Making Sustainable Transport Happen (Department for Transport White Paper, 2011)</b>	This White Paper aims to deliver short-term solutions at a local level for reducing carbon emissions and improving economic growth.	The <i>GIP</i> helps to deliver sustainable transport solutions, particularly cycle routes, which contribute to the sustainable transport network. Use of these routes will help to achieve a modal shift in transport and reduce the number of short car journeys to work and leisure.

<b>Northampton Cycle Development Plan For Northamptonshire County Council (2010)</b>	<p>Aims to identify missing links in cycle networks and improve existing ones. It was estimated that cycling and walking in Northampton was around the national average however there is much more potential to improve the off road network to encourage more users within existing GI and new developments.</p>	<p>The <i>GIP</i> promotes enhancement to cycle routes and improved connections between them. Improved cycle connections could be achieved through proposed Town-Centre re-development schemes.</p>
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## APPENDIX K:

# How the GIP Supports Delivery of Local Planning Policy

Local Planning Authorities' duties and obligations for GI are set out in European conventions, national legislation and in national and local policy. Recent years have seen significant changes to these duties and obligations in recognition - from every level - that future local planning and economic development needs to be sustainable. This Appendix provides a quick reference table showing how GIP supports the delivery of local planning policy. Because GI and the assets within it are multifunctional resources, relevant policies cover a range of themes.

*How the GIP supports the delivery of local planning policy:*






Supporting the delivery of local planning policy			
Theme	<i>West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy</i>	<i>Central Area Action Plan</i>	<i>Northampton Local Plan</i>
GI and biodiversity policies	Objective 14  Policies S10; RC1; BN1, BN2, BN3, BN4, BN8; INF1; N3; N4; N5; N6; N7; N8; N9; N9A	Policy 4; Policy 25; Policy 29; Policy 30	E1; E2; E6; E9; E11; E12; L1; L16
Climate change policies (Including flood risk and energy)	Objective 1  Policies S10; S11; BN1; BN7a	Strategic Objective 8  Policy 5	
Infrastructure and development policies (S106/ CIL funds)	Objective 2  Policies INF2; RC2	Policy 36	L6
Sustainable travel	Objective 3; Objective 4  Policies S10; C1; C2; C5; N12; RC1	Strategic Objective 4; Strategic Objective 5  Policy 1; Policy 8; Policy 9	E14
Adherence to heritage policies	Objective 16  Policy BN5	Strategic Objective 2  Policy 1	









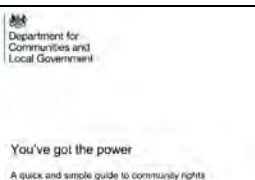



## Appendix L:

### References and Sources of Further Information


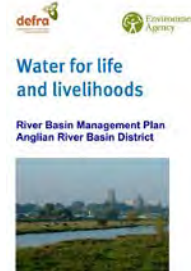



Planning Legislation and guidance	
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning Act (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011</a>	
<a href="#">The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations (2012)</a>	
<a href="#">Localism Act 2011</a>	
<a href="#">Climate Change Act 2008</a>	
<a href="#">Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (2004)</a>	
<a href="#">Planning Practice Guidance – a web based resource</a>	
<a href="#">The Natural Choice: Securing the value of Nature Natural Environment White Paper (2011).</a>	
<a href="#">Supporting Sustainable Growth (2014)</a>	
<a href="#">Creating Growth, Cutting Carbon (2001)</a>	
NBC Planning for the Future e.g.: <a href="#">Northampton Central Area Action Plan (2013)</a>	
<a href="#">West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (Part 1) Adopted December 2014</a>	
Promoting Sustainable Transport	
	Improving movement networks; promotion of walking and cycling
<a href="#">Local Transport Act 2008, Chapter 3</a> <a href="#">Power to Promote Wellbeing: Economic, social, environmental well being.</a>	
<a href="#">Transport Act 2000, Part II, Local Transport Plans</a>	
<a href="#">Door to Door: A strategy for improving sustainable transport integration (DoT 2013)</a>	

<a href="#">Manual for streets (DfT/CLG 2007)</a>	
<a href="#">Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (HA 1993) (Corrections 2009)</a>	
<a href="#">Northampton Cycle Development Plan (2010)</a>	
<a href="#">Guidelines for Cycle Audit and Cycle Review (IHT et al.1998)</a>	
<a href="#">Local Transport Note 1/12 Share use by cyclists and pedestrians (DoT 2012)</a>	

<b>Promoting Healthy Communities</b>	GI; Health and Wellbeing; Open Space, heritage
<a href="#">Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004</a>	Section 38(1) Section 36 (6)
<a href="#">Town and Country Planning Act 1990</a>	Section 70 (2)
<a href="#">Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990</a>	
<a href="#">Local Government Planning and Land Act 1980</a>	
<a href="#">Local Green Infrastructure: Helping communities make the most of their landscape (Landscape Institute 2011)</a>	
<a href="#">The essential role of green infrastructure: eco-towns green infrastructure worksheet (TCPA, HCA and NE 2008)</a>	
<a href="#">Green Infrastructure: connected and multifunctional landscapes (Landscape Institute Position Statement 2009)</a>	
<a href="#">Planning for a Healthy Environment – good practice for Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity (TFPA 2012)</a>	
<a href="#">Multi-functional Urban Green Infrastructure (CIWEM 2010)</a>	
<a href="#">National Well being – Life in the UK 2012</a>	

<a href="#">Air quality and emissions</a>	
<a href="#">Noise Policy Statement for England (2010)</a>	
<a href="#">Secure by design</a>	
<a href="#">Guidance on managing litter</a>	
<a href="#">Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005</a>	
<a href="#">You've got the power : A quick and simple guide to community rights (2013)</a>	
<a href="#">Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs Assessment and Audit (2009)</a>	
<a href="#">Northampton Play Fields Strategy (2001)</a>	
<a href="#">The Nene Meadows Supplementary Planning Document (2014 and Masterplan (2010)</a>	
<a href="#">Northamptonshire Community Greenspaces</a>	

<b>Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change</b>	<b>Flood risk, resilience and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)</b>
<a href="#">Adapting to Climate Change: UK Climate Projections. Defra, June 2009</a>	
<a href="#">EU Water Framework Directive – Integrated River Management for Europe</a>	
<a href="#">EU Directive 2007/60/EC – Assessment and Management of Flood Risks</a>	
<a href="#">Environmental Protection Act 1990</a>	
<a href="#">Flood and Water Management Act (2010)</a>	

<a href="#">The Natural Choice: Securing the value of Nature Natural Environment White Paper (2011).</a>	
<a href="#">The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2016</a>	
<a href="#">Northamptonshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy</a>	
<a href="#">River Basin Management Plan, Anglian River Basin District (2009)</a>	
<a href="#">River Nene Integrated Catchment Management Plan (RNRP June 2014)</a>	
<a href="#">River Nene Integrated Catchment Pilot- An overview of Water Framework Directive improvement opportunities in Northampton Borough (also known as the 'Northampton Urban Study').</a>	
<a href="#">Technical guidance on Flood Risk (CLG 2012)</a>	
<a href="#">Guidance for Misconnections</a>	
<a href="#">British Standard: Code of Practice for the investigation of Potentially Contaminated Land.</a>	BS10175 (2001)
<a href="#">British Standard: Code of Practice for Surface Water Management for Development sites</a>	BS8582 (2013)
<a href="#">Sustainable Drainage Systems: Maximising the potential for People and Wildlife (RSPB and WWT 2012)</a>	
<a href="#">CIRA SUDS Guidance</a>	
<a href="#">Northampton Central Area Action Plan: Flooding and drainage: Developer Guidance Notes.</a>	Policy 5
<a href="#">Central Bedfordshire Sustainable Drainage Guidance (2014)</a>	

Conserving and enhancing the natural environment	Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services, Nature Improvement Areas
<a href="#">European Landscape Convention (ELC)(ETS No. 176) Articles 5 and 6</a>	
<a href="#">The Wild Birds Directive (1979)</a>	
<a href="#">European Network: Natura 2000</a>	
<a href="#">Bern Convention</a>	
<a href="#">Bonn Convention (Migratory species)</a>	
<a href="#">EU Habitats Directive</a>	
<a href="#">The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010)</a>	
<a href="#">The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Species and Habitats of Principle Importance)</a>	
<a href="#">The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</a>	
<a href="#">Part IIA Environmental Protection Act 1990</a>	
<a href="#">The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010)</a>	
<a href="#">Government Circular: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation – STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS and their impact within the planning system</a>	
<a href="#">The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981</a>	
<a href="#">The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (Species and Habitats of Principle Importance)</a>	
<a href="#">The Natural Choice: Securing the value of nature. Natural Environment White Paper (2011)</a>	
<a href="#">Think BIG How and why landscape-scale conservation benefits wildlife, people and the wider economy (NE309) (2011)</a>	
<a href="#">Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystems services</a>	
<a href="#">Making Space for Nature(2010)</a>	



<a href="#"><u>Local Authority Services and Biodiversity: Your statutory obligations: Section 40 (WT 2006)</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Guidance for Local Authorities on Implementing the Biodiversity Duty (2007)</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Northampton Landscape Sensitivity and Green infrastructure Study (2009)</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Nature Improvement Area (NIA) Best Practice Network</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Nene Valley NIA</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Northamptonshire Biodiversity Action Plan (2008)</u></a>	
<a href="#"><u>Green Infrastructure- Making The Connection (River Nene Regional Park)</u></a>	

**Northampton Borough Council**  
Planning and Regeneration  
The Guildhall  
St Giles Square  
Northampton  
NN1 1DE

(01604) 838668

[www.northampton.gov.uk](http://www.northampton.gov.uk)

**Fiona Fyfe Associates**  
Grasmere House  
39 Charlton Grove  
Beeston  
Nottinghamshire  
NG9 1GY

(0115) 8779139

[www.fionafyfe.co.uk](http://www.fionafyfe.co.uk)

[info@fionafyfe.co.uk](mailto:info@fionafyfe.co.uk)