

Borough of Oadby & Wigston

Directorate of Community Services

Oadby and Wigston Core Strategy

Appropriate Assessment Scoping Report



**Directorate of Community Services
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council
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1 Introduction

- 1.1 Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora requires that any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a designated habitats site, but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is to be subject to an Appropriate Assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives.
- 1.2 Where significant negative effects are identified, alternative options should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects. Part IV of the *Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) Regulations 1994* implements this for specified planning and other similar consents. In October 2005 the European Court of Justice ruled that this requirement extended to land use plans, such as Local Development Frameworks. This has now been set out in the *Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007* which inserts a new Part IVA into the 1994 Regulations and came into force on 21 August 2007.
- 1.3 The purpose of an Appropriate Assessment is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European Site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity of that site. Where significant negative effects are identified, alternative options should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects.
- 1.4 European Sites are more commonly known as the Natura 2000 network of protected areas. These are made up of Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation. Special Protection Areas relate to sites where the important features are bird species whilst Special Areas of Conservation refer to sites where particular habitats are considered important.
- 1.5 Land use plans to which Appropriate Assessment is applicable include Regional Spatial Strategies, transitional plans, Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents. Therefore, Oadby and Wigston Borough Council is responsible for assessing whether an Appropriate Assessment is necessary for land use plans they prepare, and carrying out an Appropriate Assessment, if required.

2 Background to the Oadby and Wigston Core Strategy

- 2.1 The Oadby and Wigston Core Strategy aims to deliver the regeneration of the centres of Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston and their associated communities and to achieve the objectives of the Leicester Principal Urban Area.
- 2.2 It makes provision to allocate land for a minimum of 1,800 new dwellings (90 dwellings per annum) between 2006 and 2026. This is in conformity with the amount of housing growth allocated to the Borough in the Regional Plan for the East Midlands. Of this total, just over 1000 dwellings are to be provided between 2008 and 2026, of which it is proposed to locate about 450 dwellings in a Direction for Growth adjoining the Leicester Principal Urban Area to the south east of Wigston.
- 2.3 The Core Strategy makes provision for a small amount of new employment land in conformity with the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area Employment Land Study. It makes provision for 5,800 square metres of office floor space to be provided in the centres of Wigston and Oadby and 1.3 hectares of industrial and warehousing land between 2008 and 2026.
- 2.4 The Core Strategy seeks to work in partnership with other agencies and organisations to identify and coordinate the provision and funding of infrastructure and facilities (including Green Infrastructure) required to meet the needs of planned development and to safeguard and enhance key existing biodiversity, environmental, social, cultural and economic assets.
- 2.5 The Core Strategy is accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal Report and is based on a Borough wide Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report. Further information on this is provided in Appendix 1.

3 Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation relevant to the Borough of Oadby and Wigston

- 3.1 For consistency with other Habitats Regulations Appropriate Assessment Screening Reports for adjacent authorities, a similar methodology will be followed to that used by Leicester City Council.
- 3.2 The regulations relating to Appropriate Assessment set no distance threshold for screening purposes and encourage local authorities to create a long list of all sites on which the plan may or may not have an impact. Therefore, this assessment considers sites within 25km of the boundary of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston. This is consistent with the range used by Leicester City Council.
- 3.3 Three Natural 2000 sites therefore fall within approximately 25km (as the crow flies) of the administrative boundary of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston. These are:
- Rutland Water Special Protection Area
 - River Mease Special Area of Conservation

- Ensor's Pool Special Area of Conservation
- 3.4 Rutland Water is also protected under the RAMSAR convention, which is an international treaty for the conservation and sustainable utilisation of wetlands.
- 3.5 The River Mease lies 27km away from the administrative boundary of the Borough of Oadby and Wigston. Given that this is only just beyond the 25km threshold it has also been taken into account in this assessment. The locations of the relevant sites in relation to Oadby and Wigston is shown in figure 1. Figure 2 provides detailed assessments of each of the relevant Natura 2000 sites.

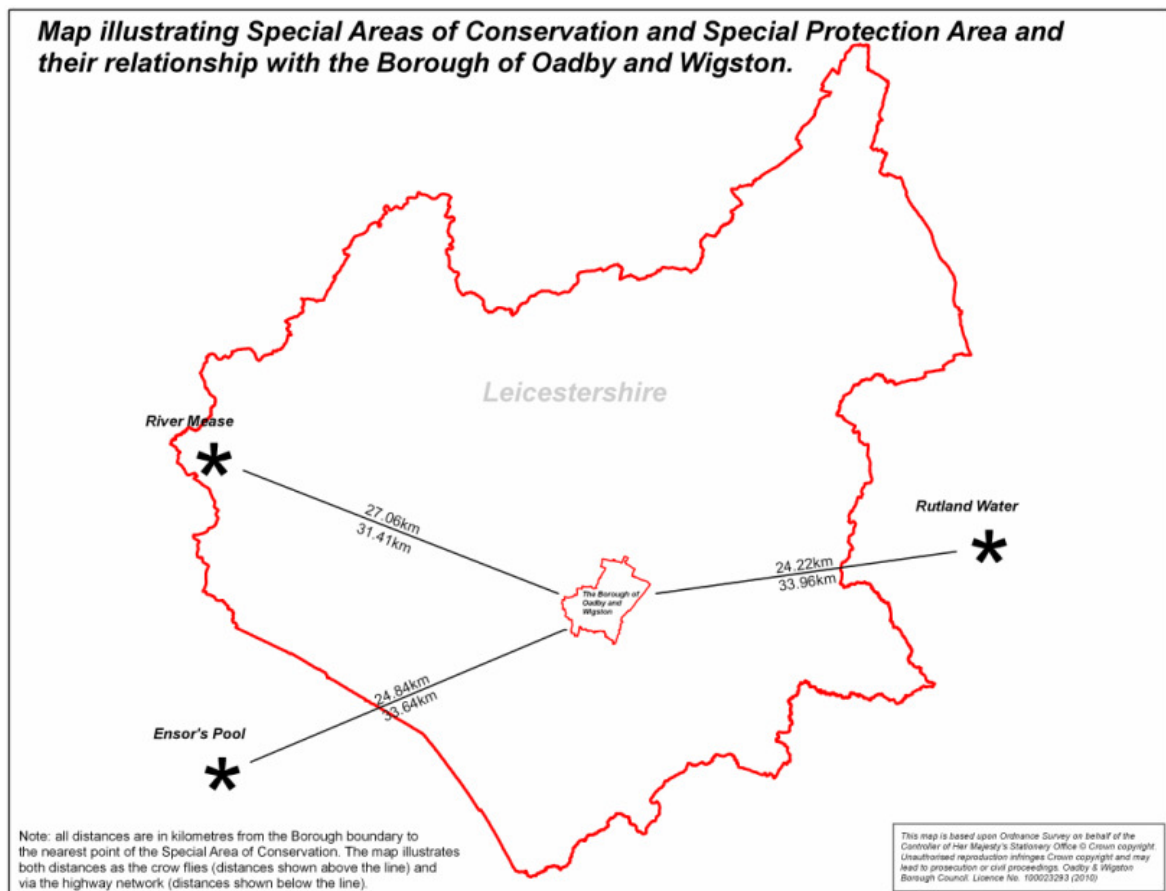


Figure 1: Map illustrating Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Area and their relationship to the Borough of Oadby and Wigston

- 3.6 Certain sites, specifically coastal Special Protection Areas, have the potential to be affected by development some distance away. However, due to the moderate amount of development required to be provided in the Borough of Oadby and Wigston, the strategic nature of the Core Strategy and the distance of the Borough from such sites it is considered that any impact would be negligible.

Name and location	Rutland Water SPA (SK928070) 1,556.9 ha Lying between Oakham and Stamford (approximately 1.4km west and 5.8km east respectively).
Reasons for designation	Wintering populations of the following species: Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> Teal <i>Anas crecca</i> Wigeon <i>Anas penelope</i> Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i> Tufted Duck <i>Aythya fuligula</i> Goldeneye <i>Bucephla clangula</i> Mute Swan <i>Cygnus olor</i> Coot <i>Fulica atra</i> Goosander <i>Mergus merganser</i> Great Crested Grebe <i>Podiceps cristatus</i> A wintering bird assemblage regularly supporting 25,037 waterfowl, including Great Crested Grebe, Wigeon, Gadwell, Teal, Shoveler, Tufted Duck, Goldeneye, Goosander and Coot.
Conservation Objectives	To maintain the designated interest features in favourable condition
Key factors affecting site integrity	Maintenance of the current extent, connectivity and quality of feeding habitats with areas of open water of varying sizes and depths, suitable levels of benthic, aquatic and surface invertebrates, a fish presence which does not impact on the dominant macrophyte assemblages, and open habitats incorporating suitable feeding pastures with 50m of the water. Maintenance of characteristic water quality and quantity is important with seasonal changes in levels occurring slowly. Maintenance and extent of roosting habitat including mature trees and areas of scrub. Levels of disturbance should be maintained within necessary noise levels.
Existing trends and pressures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree regeneration ability has been reduced through deer browsing although this is now being managed through appropriate fencing • Inappropriate weed control • High phosphate levels • Overgrazing • Low levels of water abstraction

Name and location	River Mease SAC (SK260114) 21.86 ha Crossed by the A42 and aligned beside the A513 to the west. The closest significant settlement is Ashby de-la-Zouch. The river feeds into the Tame and ultimately the Trent.
Reasons for designation	Annex I habitats: Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation. Annex II species: Spined loach <i>Cobitis taenia</i> Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> White-clawed crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>
Conservation Objectives	To maintain the designated interest features in favourable condition.
Key factors affecting site integrity	General requirements: maintenance of water quality and availability requires management to minimise pollution inputs and inappropriate water abstraction. The river's natural structure and form should be maintained to support a natural flow regime, including the avoidance of constriction of the river or blockage of its floodplain. Watercourse (<i>Ranunculus</i>) habitat: a natural flow regime is required for maintenance of natural erosion and sedimentation processes and hence the channel morphology. Riparian areas and the wider catchment need to be managed to avoid excessive run-off of soil particles and nutrients into the river. The structure and composition of bankside and aquatic vegetation should be maintained. All species: maintenance of suitable habitat and appropriate management helps to ensure the provision of habitat suitable for spawning and shelter, including gravel –dominated substrate with areas of sand and silt, patchy vegetation cover provided by submerged and marginal macrophyte assemblages, slack water resting pools for fish, a presence of submerged woody debris, and presence of artificial barriers. Any exploitation of fish population or other native animals or plants should be at a sustainable level, without manipulation of the river's natural capacity to support them or augmentation by excessive stocking. The absence of introduced/ alien species is important.

	Otter; maintenance of terrestrial habitat with cover and holt sites provided by dense scrub mature trees along river banks. Maintenance of suitably low levels of disturbance.
Vulnerability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality and quantity are vital to the European interests, whilst competition for water resources is high. • Diffuse pollution and excessive sedimentation are catchment-wide issues which have the potential to affect the site.
Name and location	Ensor's Pool SAC (SP348903) 3.8 ha Lies on the outskirts of Nuneaton.
Reasons for designation	Annex II species: <i>Crayfish Austropotamobius pallipes</i>
Conservation Objectives	Protection of habitat for native crayfish.
Key factors affecting site integrity	The crayfish population has developed in a flooded brick-pit that has been abandoned for fifty years. The area was unmanaged and was used as <i>de facto</i> public open space. The crayfish would be vulnerable to pollution and introduction of non-native crayfish, through uncontrolled access. To address this, since 1995 the area has been leased by Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and is managed as a Local Nature Reserve.
Vulnerability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution • Introduction of non-native crayfish

Figure 2: Detailed Assessments of each of the identified Natura 2000 sites
Source: Leicester City Council's Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

4 Policy Assessments

- 4.1 The key sensitivities of the Natura 2000 sites identified in Section 3 on which the Core Strategy could have an impact are as follows:
- Growth, particularly additional housing, could result in an increase in visitors for recreational and tourism. This is particularly relevant to Rutland Water Special Protection Area
 - Renewable energy developments can disturb and potentially harm protected birds
 - Water quality can be affected by increase surface run off
 - Increased air pollution can impact upon the species and habitats that the sites support.
- 4.2 Figure 3 sets out the potential effects of each Core Strategy policy on Natura 2000 sites, with particular regard to the key sensitivities identified above.

Policy Area	Potential Effects of Policy Objectives on Natura 2000 Sites
<p><i>Policy 1: Spatial Strategy for Development in the Borough of Oadby and Wigston</i></p> <p>This policy sets out the overall approach to development. It sets out proposals for the allocation of land for development of 1,800 new dwellings and significant employment development as well as the location of this development. It focuses development within the centres of Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston and within Leicester Principal Urban Area. It also sets out proposals to allocate land for one Direction for Growth on greenfield land to the south east of Wigston to accommodate mixed use development, including housing, employment and supporting services.</p>	<p>The quantum of development proposed for Oadby and Wigston is relatively low in the context of the Housing Market Area and reflects the Borough's size. It therefore also reflects any impact that such development may have on a Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>Due to its appeal as a recreational resource, of the three Natura 2000 sites impact is likely to be greatest on Rutland Water SPA. However, the Oadby and Wigston Core Strategy places a strong emphasis on green infrastructure. With the existing Brocks Hill Visitor Centre and Country Park, the Botanic Gardens, the parks and gardens in Leicester City and proposals to strengthen links between the Direction for Growth and Kilby Bridge/The Grand Union Canal there will be a net gain in local recreational opportunities available for people. The Grand Union Canal, for example, will fulfil needs for activities such as fishing, birdwatching and cycling adjacent to a watercourse at a local level.</p> <p>Rutland Water is a 'honeypot' within the East Midlands region and therefore it might be anticipated that an increase in housing in the region would bring more visitors to Rutland Water. Anglian Water and Natural England have worked in partnership to create zoned areas for sporting activity which prevents disturbance to birds. Informal recreation space has been designed to ensure that all sensitive areas are screened from 'on foot' visitors. It should also be taken into account that Natural England and Anglian Water have a management plan in place which addresses the additional impact from increased tourism.</p> <p>It would be difficult to quantify exactly the extent to which the growth of the Borough might impact upon Rutland</p>

	<p>Water. However, it is considered that the mitigation already in place is adequate to mitigate against any increase in visitors to Rutland Water arising from the comparatively moderate/low amount of new housing allocated to the Borough.</p> <p>In addition, at a Regional and Housing Market Area level, locating development in Oadby and Wigston will have less of an impact on Natura 2000 sites than it would if located in a District or Borough closer to them.</p>
<p>Policy 2: Development in the centres of Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston This policy will encourage mixed use development in the centres of Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston and seek to maintain local facilities within local centres.</p>	<p>With the main objective of Policy 2 being the concentration of development within the existing centres of the Borough, it is felt that there will not be any negative impacts on the Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Area in question. Isolating development to within the Borough's urban areas, specifically the centres of Oadby, Wigston and South Wigston, will encourage the facilitation of existing infrastructure and green infrastructure networks.</p>
<p>Policy 3: Regeneration Schemes This policy requires Masterplans / Development Briefs /and or other appropriate plans or strategies to be produced for regeneration schemes / areas of large scale changes and sets out what these documents should cover.</p>	<p>This policy requires the creation of Development Briefs and Masterplan's for large scale redevelopment proposals. The briefs and masterplan's will enable the Borough Council to encourage the creation of new green open space networks and the use of existing infrastructure. It is therefore felt that Policy 3 will have no impact on the Special Areas of Conservation in question and Special Protection Area.</p>
<p>Policy 4: Sustainable Transport and Accessibility This policy addresses the location and design of new development and essential services to reduce the need to travel, enhance pedestrian and road safety and improve accessibility. The policy also includes a requirement for travel plans for larger developments and highlights the need to protect land identified for development / enhancement of transport infrastructure.</p>	<p>This policy aims to make the Borough more accessible to its population by encouraging development to be integrated better with the existing infrastructure. In turn, this will make the Borough safer for pedestrians and road users through further encouraging 'green' travel modes such as public transport, walking and cycling before the provision of less sustainable growth in the form of additional highways capacity to accommodate an increase in journeys by car. Car based</p>

	emissions are quite localised and therefore the growth in the Borough over the plan period is not likely to be significant enough to have an impact upon the Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Area.
<p>Policy 5: Green Infrastructure This policy outlines how a net gain in green infrastructure will be sought. In particular it states that the existing green infrastructure corridors will be safeguarded and enhanced and new green infrastructure created. It also identifies a need to protect and conserve species and sites of ecological and geological significance.</p>	<p>Policy 5 of the Borough's Core Strategy seeks to enhance the existing Green Infrastructure network, by seeking net gains in green open space. The retention and creation of new areas of green open space will improve access and will provide the Borough's resident population with a wider variety of choice. It is therefore felt that if resident need is catered for locally within the Borough, there will be a lesser need to travel outside of the Borough, thus lessening the impact on the Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Area in question.</p> <p>With regard to Rutland Water, given that Natural England and Anglian Water have already addressed the management of the site to ensure that conflict between nature conservation interest and the recreational needs of the site have been lessened, it is considered that the mitigation already in place is adequate to mitigate against any increase in visitors to Rutland Water.</p>
<p>Policy 6: Green Wedges This policy sets out the objectives of the Green Wedges within the Borough and identifies the types of development that would be considered appropriate in areas designated as Green Wedges.</p>	<p>This policy is specific to Green Wedges in the Borough. The policy will have no impact upon the Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Area.</p>
<p>Policy 7: The Countryside This policy aims to protect the countryside and outlines the criteria that will be applied to any development that is considered to be acceptable in the countryside. While the policy does allow some development in the countryside, it aims to ensure that environmental and historic resources are not adversely</p>	<p>The aim of this policy is to promote good management of the countryside and to ensure any development that is permitted is in context with its surroundings and where there is a justifiable need for its development.</p> <p>The policy will ensure that no development that will have an adverse impact upon the countryside is</p>

<p>affected by this. As well as ensuring protection of the environment, this policy will also help to ensure the needs of the local community are met through allowing certain types of development, such as provision of affordable housing, essential services and employment.</p>	<p>permitted and therefore, this policy will have no impact upon the Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Area.</p>
<p>Policy 8: Climate Change and Renewable Energy This policy sets out a number of requirements for new developments to demonstrate their sustainability credentials, including energy efficiency, resource use, renewable energy and mitigation of climate change. The policy also includes a requirement for new residential development to achieve energy efficiency standards as set out within the Code for Sustainable Homes beyond current building regulations. The policy sets out indicative renewable energy targets for the Borough. In addition, the policy encourages all development to incorporate on-site renewable energy generation, which will help to develop renewable energy technologies and tackle climate change. The policy also encourages the achievement of the BREEAM ‘Very Good’ standard for non – residential development. This may also lead to more sustainable buildings within the Borough.</p>	<p>This policy would secure positive effects for the Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Area because its objective is to reduce the negative impacts of development through mitigation and adaptation to climate change and reducing green house gases. This policy aims to contribute towards national efforts to reduce the impacts of climate change and will therefore secure benefits for other things such as local flora and fauna. The result would be marginal positive benefits for the Special Protection Area at Rutland Water.</p> <p>In terms of renewable energy, there is little potential for a wide variety of renewable energy generation facilities within the Borough. There is more scope to exploit building integrated renewable or low carbon energy facilities. This is likely to result in minimal impact to Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Area.</p> <p>One site at Tythorn Hill has been identified with the potential to accommodate large scale wind energy generation facilities (between 2-4mw). However, Rutland Water is far enough away to avoid any significant threat to protected birds nesting at the Special Protection Area.</p> <p>It would also help to improve air quality by promoting sustainable transport, walking, cycling and reducing car use.</p> <p>This policy would create overall positive benefits for the natural and built environment both locally and by</p>

	<p>contributing to national efforts to reduce the impact of climate change.</p>
<p>Policy 9: Flood Risk and the Water Environment This policy outlines how flood risk and protection of the water environment will be taken into consideration in proposals for new development.</p>	<p>The Core Strategy provides a framework for increased levels of development in urban areas and primarily on previously developed land. This may increase the chance of surface water run-off in the Borough, thus the potential to affect water quality also. However, concentrating development in urban areas will help to steer development and land use change away from areas at risk of flooding or likely to increase flooding elsewhere. Any impact will also be mitigated by policies promoting Sustainable Drainage Systems within the Core Strategy. It is unlikely that any flooding incident would impact on any of the Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Area.</p> <p>This policy is also positive in that it would secure measures to limit the rate of surface water run-off by attenuation within the site, reducing overall flood risk.</p>
<p>Policy 10: Community Infrastructure This policy sets out a requirement for developer contributions to secure provision of community infrastructure to support new developments and compensate for the impact of new development on existing community interest.</p>	<p>This policy is specific to Community Infrastructure in the Borough. The policy will have no impact upon the Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Area.</p>
<p>Policy 11: Affordable Housing This policy sets out a requirement for the provision of affordable housing as part of new developments. It sets a minimum threshold for sites of 10 dwellings or more, of 30% affordable housing in Oadby, 20% in Wigston and 10% in South Wigston, in line with the current viability assessment.</p>	<p>The Core Strategy provides a framework for increased levels of development in urban areas and primarily on previously developed land. All new residential development will likely include an element of affordable housing. This may increase the chance of surface water run-off in the Borough, thus the potential to affect water quality also.</p> <p>Development within urban areas would also help to improve air quality by promoting sustainable transport, walking, cycling and reducing car use.</p>

	<p>Provision of affordable housing in the Borough is unlikely to affect species disturbance in the Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Area.</p>
<p>Policy 12: Housing Needs of the Community This policy requires new housing development to include a range of types, sizes and tenures, with dwellings designed to be adaptable, and supports housing proposals that meet the identified needs of specific groups. The policy requires that such housing has access to a range of essential services and public transport routes. The policy also requires that proposals to meet specific local housing needs are integrated into the existing wider community.</p>	<p>The Core Strategy provides a framework for increased levels of development in urban areas and primarily on previously developed land. All proposals for new residential development will be expected to take account of differing housing needs of the community. This may increase the chance of surface water run-off in the Borough, thus the potential to affect water quality also.</p> <p>Development within urban areas would also help to improve air quality by promoting sustainable transport, walking, cycling and reducing car use.</p> <p>Meeting the differing housing needs of communities within the Borough is unlikely to affect species disturbance in the Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Area due to the distance from each area</p>
<p>Policy 13: Provision of Gypsy and Traveller Sites This policy identifies the need for designation of one Gypsy and Traveller pitch in the Borough. The policy also sets out criteria which will ensure Gypsy and Traveller sites have good access to facilities and services.</p>	<p>Meeting the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers will be localised within the Borough of Oadby and Wigston. The current scale of provision (one residential pitch for up to three caravans) is very low and will therefore, have no effect.</p>
<p>Policy 14: Design and Sustainable Construction This policy will help to encourage high quality design and sustainable construction principles in all new developments in the Borough.</p>	<p>This policy sets out the localised strategy in terms of the design and sustainable construction of all new development in the Borough and as such is unlikely to have an impact on the Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Area.</p>
<p>Policy 15: Landscape and Character This policy seeks to protect and enhance the distinctive landscape and</p>	<p>This policy is specific to landscape and character in the Borough. The policy would not have any impact on the Special Areas of Conservation and</p>

historic character of the Borough.	Special Protection Area.
<p>Policy 16: Community Facilities and Places of Worship</p> <p>This policy supports the provision of community facilities and places of worship. The policy sets out criteria for development of such facilities, including a need for buildings to positively reflect the character and appearance of their surroundings. In addition, the policy seeks to ensure that community facilities and places of worship are provided in accessible locations.</p>	<p>This policy is specific to Community Facilities and Places of Worship in the Borough. The policy would not have any impact on the Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Area.</p>
<p>Policy 17: Open Space and Facilities for Leisure, Recreation and Tourism</p> <p>This policy sets out the requirements for provision of open space and built leisure facilities to meet the needs of local residents. The policy also identifies the need for enhancement and protection of Rights of Way. In addition, the policy seeks to encourage sustainable tourism growth and outlines proposals for restoration of the Grand Union Canal and tourism development around Kilby Bridge. In addition, the policy encourages the protection and enhancement of the Borough's industrial and architectural heritage and restoration of the Grand Union Canal, which would have a beneficial effect upon historic assets in the Borough.</p>	<p>The basis of Policy 17 is to ensure the Borough's resident population has adequate access to open space and facilities for leisure, recreation and tourism, to cater for their needs. By ensuring provision of open space and facilities for leisure, recreation and tourism is, at a minimum, adequate for needs of the Borough, there will be a lesser need to travel outside of the Borough to fulfil local recreational, leisure and tourism opportunities, thus reducing the impacts on the Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Area in question.</p>

Figure 3: Potential Effects of Policy Objectives on Natura 2000 Sites

- 4.3 Whilst figure 3 sets out the potential effects of the Oadby and Wigston Core Strategy policies on Natura 2000 sites, regard should also be had to the cumulative effects of plans. In terms of the East Midlands, the Core Strategy for Oadby and Wigston is in full conformity with the East Midlands Regional Plan, for which Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken. Therefore, growth within the East Midlands up to 2026 as set out in the East Midlands Regional Plan does have full regard to the three Natura 2000 sites relevant to Oadby and Wigston.
- 4.4 The nearest adjoining region to Oadby and Wigston is the West Midlands which is relevant in the context of the River Mease and Ensor's Pool. However, the River Mease is separate to any water courses in Oadby and Wigston and Ensor's Pool is considered to have a self contained Eco-system. Therefore, development within Oadby and Wigston will not have any adverse impacts on these sites.

5 Conclusion

5.1 This report has shown that the Oadby and Wigston Core Strategy alone, or in combination with other plans, is unlikely to have a detrimental impact on any of the Natura 2000 sites within approximately 25km of the boundary of Oadby and Wigston Borough. The main reasons for this are:

- There are no Natural 2000 sites within the Borough of Oadby and Wigston
- The mitigation already in place is adequate to mitigate against any increase in visitors to Rutland Water arising from the comparatively moderate/low amount of new housing allocated to the Borough.
- In terms of renewable energy, there is little potential for a wide variety of renewable energy generation facilities within the Borough. There is more scope to exploit building integrated renewable or low carbon energy facilities.
- It is unlikely that any flooding incident would impact on any of the Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Area. The river network in Oadby and Wigston is not directly connected to any of the Natura 2000 sites considered as part of this Scoping Report
- The Core Strategy will help to improve air quality by promoting sustainable transport, walking, cycling and reducing car use.

5.2 Therefore, it is concluded that a full Appropriate Assessment is not required.