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Date: 5th July 2023

Dear Sir/Madam,

Borough Plan Committee – 12th July 2023

I refer to Item 6 'Borough Plan Review Update' on the Agenda for the Borough Plan Committee scheduled for Wednesday, 12 July 2023 and attach copy of Appendices A,B,C,G,H,I,J,K,L,M,N and P previously marked as 'To Follow'.

Yours faithfully,



BRENT DAVIS

Chief Executive

To: Members of the Borough Plan Committee

Councillors R. Smith (Chair), R. Baxter-Payne, L. Cvetkovic, J. Kennaugh,
K. Kondakor, N. Phillips, J. Singh, R. Tromans and M. Walsh.

Borough Plan Committee - 12th July 2023

Appendix A

Borough Plan Review

Publication Draft Plan – Regulation 19 July 2023



Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council

Borough Plan Review Publication Draft Plan – Regulation 19 Consultation

2021-2039
July 2023



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1.0 Introduction

What is the Borough Plan Review?

- 1.1 The Borough Plan Review is the key document that provides the framework to guide future development in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough up to 2039. It will influence what development will take place, how much and where it will be located within the borough. It sets out an ambitious vision and objectives, followed by a development strategy for the borough which is focused on delivering growth in a sustainable manner. It includes thematic policies for managing development and protecting the environment to ensure that the Borough Plan's vision can be delivered.
- 1.2 The Borough Plan Review includes a number of measures to monitor the progress being made in achieving the objectives of the plan on an annual basis.
- 1.3 The proposed publication plan represents what the Borough Council considers to be the final version of this plan, in accordance with Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended).
- 1.4 The publication plan allows interested parties to comment on the plan before it is submitted to the Secretary of State. After responses are received, they are sent, along with the plan and its evidence, to the Secretary of State and the examination in public will follow. Once adopted, the Borough Plan Review will replace the previous Borough Plan, which was adopted in 2019.

Context for the Borough Plan Review

- 1.5 The content of the Borough Plan has been informed by a number of documents, as is required by Government.

National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance

- 1.6 The [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF) (2021) sets out government policy on planning matters, seeks to create sustainable communities and foster sustainable development. The policies in the NPPF provide the national framework within which local policy should be prepared. The [Planning Practice Guidance](#) (PPG) provides, among other things, direction in preparing evidence to inform the Borough Plan Review. The Borough Plan Review has been prepared in accordance with the NPPF and PPG.

The Council's Corporate Plan

- 1.7 The Borough Plan Review is a delivery document for the Council's Corporate Plan – '[Building a Better Borough](#)'. The policies within the Borough Plan Review support the Council's vision of the borough being the place of choice to live, work and visit.

Evidence

- 1.8 The Borough Plan Review is based on a comprehensive and robust evidence base. A number of detailed and technical assessments have been prepared to inform and justify the policies and proposals within this plan. All of the evidence base can be viewed on the Borough Council's website.

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.9 To ensure the Borough Plan Review is effective in meeting the needs of future generations, in a sustainable manner, a Strategic Environmental Assessment and a Sustainability Appraisal have been undertaken alongside each stage of the Borough Plan Review. This will ensure that the plan positively contributes to the economic, social and environmental considerations of the borough. The outcomes of this work, during each stage of the process, have been presented in separate reports which are available via the Council's website.

Infrastructure Delivery Plan

- 1.10 The Infrastructure Delivery Plan sits alongside the Borough Plan Review. It provides information about the infrastructure that needs to be delivered to support the policies and growth targets set in the Borough Plan Review. It outlines the sources of funding for projects and those who will be responsible for the delivery of the infrastructure.

Duty to cooperate

- 1.11 Introduced through the Localism Act 2011, the duty to cooperate is a legal requirement of the plan making process. The NPPF states that, "Local planning authorities and county councils (in two-tier areas) are under a duty to cooperate with each other, and with other prescribed bodies, on strategic matters that cross administrative boundaries". Throughout the preparation of the Borough Plan Review, the Council has positively engaged with partner organisations, such as statutory consultees and other relevant local authorities, under the duty to cooperate.

Preparation of the Borough Plan Review

- 1.12 The process of reviewing the Borough Plan began in 2021 and has been broken down into a number of stages, which are as follows:
- [Issues and Options](#) - this document was the first stage of the process consulted on between June and August 2021. It set out the issues facing the borough and presented a range of options to address them.
 - [Preferred Options](#) – this document was consulted on between May and June 2022 and sets out the Council's preferred approach to addressing the strategic issues facing the borough. This included specific locations and

Borough Plan Review - Publication Draft Plan

sites to address the future development needs and planning policies of the borough.

- Publication draft plan (this stage) - this Regulation 19 document represents the Council's view of the contents of the Borough Plan Review, published for consultation prior to submission and examination in public.

2.0 Local context of the borough

- 2.1 The borough of Nuneaton and Bedworth is most famous for being the birthplace of the author George Eliot (Mary Ann Evans). It is one of five boroughs / districts within Warwickshire. It is the smallest in size, at 7,895 hectares, but has the third largest population at 134,200 (2021)¹. Largely urban in character, the borough has two market towns - Nuneaton and Bedworth, as well as the large village of Bulkington to the east of Bedworth. Several smaller settlements are located in the south of the borough between Bedworth and Coventry.
- 2.2 The borough is located between Coventry and Hinckley, and benefits from good road links. Nuneaton and Bedworth are both easily accessible from the M6, which gives access to the M1, M5, M42 and the M69. The A5 runs along the northern boundary of the borough and the A444, A4254 and the B4114 are the major routes within the borough. The borough is a 19-minute drive to Birmingham International Airport and a 37-minute drive to Nottingham East Midlands Airport.
- 2.3 Nuneaton is also well connected by the rail network. Nuneaton has direct links to London (60-80 minutes) via the West Coast mainline, alongside Birmingham, Leicester, Cambridge and Stansted Airport. A branch line also provides direct services from Nuneaton, Bermuda Park and Bedworth stations to Coventry Arena, Coventry and Leamington Spa. As part of the NUCKLE² north-south rail project, facilities at Bedworth Station have been improved and a new station has been created at Bermuda. The vision for the NUCKLE project is to improve services from hourly to half hourly services.
- 2.4 Historically, industries in the borough included coal mining, other extractive industries and heavy engineering. The borough still has a high proportion of employees working in manufacturing compared to the Great Britain average³. Other significant employment sectors are wholesale and retail trade, and human health and social work⁴. In terms of the business base of the borough's local economy, micro enterprises make up 89%, small enterprises 9%, medium enterprises 1.5% and large enterprises 0.5%⁵.
- 2.5 Most employment is concentrated on a number of industrial estates. The main sites are at Attleborough Fields, Bayton Road, Bermuda and Prologis Park but smaller estates are located across the borough. The town centres of Nuneaton and Bedworth also provide a significant number of jobs.
- 2.6 Nuneaton Town Centre is the main retail and commercial centre serving the whole borough as well as further afield, whereas Bedworth Town Centre serves a more local role. Nuneaton Town Centre includes the Ropewalk and Abbeygate shopping centres, the borough's main library, council offices and

¹ Office for National Statistics (2023). *How life has changed in Nuneaton and Bedworth: Census 2021*.

² SLC Rail (2018). *Coventry to Nuneaton Upgrade*.

³ Office for National Statistics (2022). *Labour Market Profile – Nuneaton and Bedworth*.

⁴ Office for National Statistics (2022). *Labour Market Profile – Nuneaton and Bedworth*.

⁵ Office for National Statistics (2022). *Labour Market Profile – Nuneaton and Bedworth*.

railway station. Bedworth Town Centre has a large superstore, independent shops and branches of high street stores, a library, emergency services, the Civic Hall and Bedworth Arts Centre. In addition to the town centres are a number of district and local centres supporting smaller neighbourhoods.

- 2.7 Bermuda Park to the south of Nuneaton provides a multiplex cinema, bowling alley and other leisure facilities. In terms of sports facilities, The Pingles Leisure Centre and Etone Sports Centre are noteworthy facilities, both located in Nuneaton. Bedworth also has a leisure centre and a number of local facilities and sports pitches which provide places for sport and exercise. Other key community facilities include the George Eliot Hospital and North Warwickshire and Hinckley College.
- 2.8 There are over 500 hectares of accessible green space in the borough. Notable parks in the borough include Riversley Park, Miners Welfare Park and Whittleford Park, all of which are destination parks, serving the whole borough. A number of smaller community and local parks also serve the open space needs of local communities.
- 2.9 The borough contains the only European designated site (Special Area of Conservation) in Warwickshire at Ensor's Pool. This and Griff Quarry are both Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). There are also locally designated wildlife sites and areas of ancient woodland. Additionally, three local nature reserves are located at Ensor's Pool, Galley Common and Bedworth Sloughs.
- 2.10 Historic legacies of the coal mining industry are present within the borough, along with the historic transport network of the Coventry and Ashby de-la-Zouch canals. The canals are heritage assets in their own right, as well the buildings and structures that are closely associated with them⁶. They form recreational green and blue links and wildlife corridors along with the disused Nuneaton Ashby Railway (Weddington Walk) through the centre, east and north of the borough.
- 2.11 The River Anker, River Sowe, Harrow Brook, Wem Brook, Breach Brook and Change Brook act as the main rivers flowing through the borough.
- 2.12 Located in the borough is Arbury Hall, a Grade I listed building with grounds which are classified as Grade II* registered park and gardens. The Arbury Estate also contains a number of other listed buildings and structures. Overall, the borough contains 92 listed buildings and has five conservation areas which are located in Abbey, Nuneaton Town Centre, Bedworth Town Centre, Bulkington Village, and at Hawkesbury Junction. There are also two scheduled monuments, one at the Moated Site at Exhall Hall and the other at Nuneaton Priory.
- 2.13 Nuneaton and Bedworth has the highest levels of deprivation across Warwickshire and ranks as the 101st most deprived local authority district

⁶ Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council. *Conservation*.

nationally (out of 317)⁷. Within Nuneaton and Bedworth there is also a divide between the east and west, with the most deprived areas located in the west. Five Super Output Areas within Nuneaton and Bedworth are in the top 10% most deprived nationally⁸. Bar Pool North and Crescents is in the top 3% deprived Super Output Areas in England⁹.

- 2.14 Specific areas where the borough falls behind the Warwickshire average include deprivation, crime rates and life expectancy¹⁰. This has resulted in a significant gap separating Nuneaton and Bedworth from the rest of the county.

⁷ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019). *England indices of deprivation 2019*.

⁸ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019). *England indices of deprivation 2019*.

⁹ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2019). *England indices of deprivation 2019*.

¹⁰ Warwickshire County Council (2022). *Warwickshire Insights*.

3.0 Key issues facing the borough

Background

- 3.1 This section summarises the key issues and challenges within the borough. The Borough Plan aims to address these issues in order to achieve its vision for Nuneaton and Bedworth by 2039.
- 3.2 One of the fundamental issues that policy makers, including all Local Authorities, face over the coming years is resilience and adaptation to climate change alongside measures to protect and improve the environment¹¹. This includes achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, improving air and water quality, sustainable use of resources and promoting nature recovery. Whilst national legislation is still emerging on this, the reviewed Borough Plan treats this as integral to all policies. As such, rather than these issues being dealt with by a standalone policy or development planning document, the Council has taken the opinion and decision (at this current time) that this is to be treated as a key thread running throughout its policies. This includes consideration of the climate change risks and opportunities, identified within the region, to align policies where appropriate with the regional Climate Change Adaptation Plan¹².
- 3.3 The Borough Plan Review will aim to align and promote the requirements of the Levelling up White Paper, introduced in February 2022, to:
- a. Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging.
 - b. Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest.
 - c. Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost.
 - d. Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency.
- 3.4 It is acknowledged that more recently the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic has impacted the way the borough functions. However, at this stage, the long-term implications are still unknown. The Council will continue to keep under review any implications on the issues identified in this plan. The objectives and policies in this plan seek to improve each of the issues listed below.

¹¹ HM Government (2018). *A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment and Environment Act (2021)*.

¹² Sustainable West Midlands (2021). *Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Plan 2021-2026*.

Issues associated with the local economy

3.5 The following issues have been identified:

- The population and the number of households is growing, and this is projected to continue¹³.
- There are fewer knowledge-based employment opportunities. If this does not change, there will be fewer jobs in the future and more people will have to look for work outside the borough.
- A large number of residents commute out of the borough each day to work in Coventry, Leicestershire and elsewhere in Warwickshire¹⁴.
- Within the borough there is a divide between the east and west, with the most deprived areas located in the west.
- Household earnings are lower than the Warwickshire average¹⁵. This contributes significantly to poverty and deprivation.
- Access to some employment sites such as Attleborough Fields, Prologis and other employment sites outside the borough is difficult without a car.
- Car ownership in the borough is lower than the Warwickshire average¹⁶. Improvements in public transport along the north-south corridor are required to improve accessibility to job opportunities.
- Some residents have a poor skills base. 28% of those of working age have no qualifications at all¹⁷.
- There is a need to tackle low aspirations in parts of the borough as this can limit educational achievement and contribute to low wages, deprivation and a dependency on benefits.
- The quality and diversity of retail provision in Nuneaton is limited. The town has a strong market but the challenge will be for it to remain attractive and competitive in the future in the face of growing online retail.
- Nuneaton does not have a strong evening or night-time economy, with a relatively limited offer in terms of restaurants and bars. There is limited transport provision after 6pm.
- Office provision in Nuneaton is limited, basic and is reducing economic opportunities in the town centre. There are also few residential properties in the town centre which affects the town's diversity and vibrancy.
- Bedworth Town Centre struggles to compete for retail trade and its office sector is small. This is due to its proximity to the larger centres of Coventry and Nuneaton. The town centre has little residential or leisure provision other than the Civic Hall, and therefore the evening economy is weak. The ways in which Bedworth can best compliment Nuneaton, in the future, needs to be addressed.
- The quality, popularity and variety of retail provision offered, at local and district centres, varies greatly.

¹³ Warwickshire County Council (2022). *Warwickshire Insights*.

¹⁴ GL Hearn (2016). *Employment Land Study: Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council - Final Report*.

¹⁵ Warwickshire County Council (2022). *Warwickshire Insights*.

¹⁶ Warwickshire County Council (2022). *Warwickshire Insights*.

¹⁷ Warwickshire County Council (2022). *Warwickshire Insights*.

- Traffic congestion is high across the borough and Nuneaton has experienced the highest rate of traffic growth across Warwickshire¹⁸. Particular problems occur on the A444, The Long Shoot (A47), Lutterworth Road (B4114), Camp Hill / Tuttle Hill (B4114) and Coventry Road (B4109).

Issues associated with the local community

3.6 The following issues have been identified:

- The current housing stock is predominately semi-detached and terraced.
- The mix of housing tenure, types and sizes for different parts of the borough is uneven.
- Population and household projections suggest an on-going need for family accommodation¹⁹.
- There is a need to cater for an increasing number of young people and older people living on their own. There is a particular need for housing options to enable older people to live independently²⁰.
- The areas around Bulkington and the south-west of the borough are not well served by green corridors. This reduces biodiversity and opportunities for leisure activities in these areas.
- Access to some leisure facilities is restricted for people without a car. Public transport to Bermuda Park, for instance, is limited and there are no public footpaths along the A444.
- Life expectancy is lower than the Warwickshire average²¹. Links can be made to poor health, lack of physical activity and obesity, all of which are high in the borough.
- Investment has taken place to bring 85% of homes in line with the Decent Homes Standard²² but there are still homes which need to be upgraded.
- Improvements to provide more walking and cycling networks, cycle parking facilities, pedestrian priority areas and crossing facilities along with the need to address issues such as the frequency, reliability, integration and cost of public transport, is required to facilitate benefits to the environment and health.
- Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) are designated at the Leicester Road Gyratory and at Central Avenue / Midland Road in Nuneaton.
- Previous development has not always been well designed. Too much development in the past has failed to positively contribute to the character of the area or to local distinctiveness.
- Crime is the highest in Warwickshire²³.

¹⁸ Warwickshire County Council (2011). *Warwickshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026*.

¹⁹ Icen Projects (2022). *HEDNA Nuneaton and Bedworth*.

²⁰ GL Hearn (2013). *Coventry and Warwickshire Joint SHMA: Executive Summary*.

²¹ Warwickshire County Council (2022). *Warwickshire Insights*.

²² Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2017). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Housing Strategy 2017-22*.

²³ Warwickshire County Council (2022). *Warwickshire Insights*.

Issues associated with the local environment

3.7 The following issues have been identified:

- Extreme weather events, such as those experienced in Warwickshire in 1998, 1999, 2005, 2007, 2008 and 2012, are becoming more frequent. (Climate Change predictions, including the UK Climate Projections 2018 (UKCP18), refer to the likely increase in temperatures and warmer wetter winters and drier summers.)
- If future growth needs to be accommodated outside the existing urban areas, this has the potential to impact on sensitive landscapes and biodiversity.
- The legacy of coal mining, quarrying and heavy engineering has had a negative impact on the landscape. The borough has over 100 hectares of derelict land and more than 3000 potentially contaminated sites.
- There are a limited number of historic buildings of national importance but many others are important to local history.
- Some built heritage has suffered from poor quality modification and a lack of maintenance and repair. Two listed buildings are on Historic England's Buildings at Risk Register²⁴.
- On 4th December 2019, the Council declared a climate emergency.

²⁴ Historic England (2021). *Search the Heritage at Risk Register*.

4.0 Vision and objectives

Vision for the borough

By 2039, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough will be a place of sustainable economic growth with diverse job prospects, offering quality housing to meet all our residents needs and supported by an integrated infrastructure network. People in the borough will live in healthy, safe and inclusive communities which provide opportunities for people to be active and healthy.

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough will be a place where businesses want to invest and people want to live, work and visit. The natural and built environment of the borough will be improved through greater sustainable transport options, more accessible and higher quality open spaces and leisure facilities, increased tree planting and reduced pollution levels, whilst conserving and enhancing the historic environment. The borough will have addressed the climate change emergency as far as possible through the planning process.

Objectives

Objective 1: Economic Growth

To use economic growth to regenerate the borough, including town centres, and raise its profile as a more attractive place to live, work and invest in.

Objective 2: Employment Opportunities

To seek employment opportunities that will support the diversification of the borough's economy and improve job opportunities for residents.

Objective 3: Town Centres

To develop town centres so that they offer a mix of uses that retains their primary function for retail but diversifies this to include residential, commercial and leisure uses in order to improve their vibrancy, vitality and ensures their long-term sustainability.

Objective 4: Housing

To provide a steady and adequate level of suitable housing which meets the needs of existing and new residents.

Objective 5: Infrastructure

To ensure that all new development and investment contributes to a significant improvement in infrastructure and facilities that serve the borough.

Objective 6: Sustainable, healthy and safe communities

To improve public transport, cycling and walking networks and promote and support healthier choices and environments by increasing open space and leisure access, and reducing crime.

Objective 7: Historic and Natural Environment

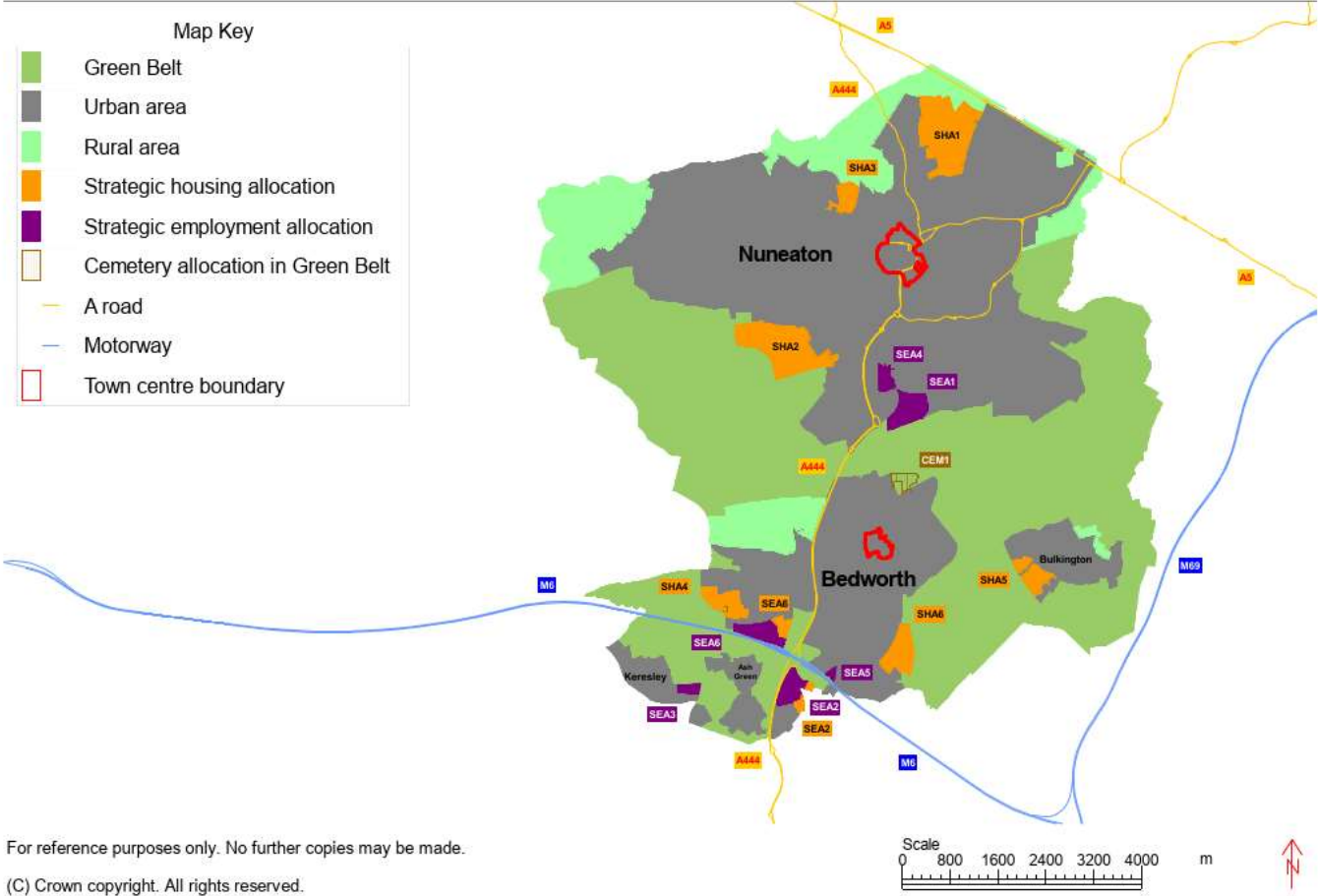
To ensure that new development sustains and enhances the historic and natural environments.

Objective 8: Climate Change

To address climate change by driving sustainability in all new development.

5.0 Key diagram

Borough Plan Key Diagram



6.0 Development strategy

- 6.1 The following policies set out the strategic development strategy and general principles for the growth of the borough through to 2039. The policies will enable the delivery of the overarching vision for the borough and strategic objectives of the plan.

Policy DS1 – Presumption in favour of sustainable development

When considering development proposals, the Council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the NPPF and United Nations (UN) Sustainable goals²⁵. It will always work proactively with applicants to jointly find solutions which mean that proposals can be approved wherever possible. Development will need to secure development that provides net gains to the economic wellbeing of the right type, in the right place and at the right time and social progress, by supporting strong, vibrant healthy communities and environmental protection²⁶. Developers should get in contact with utilises including Severn Trent as early as possible in the planning process in order to ensure infrastructure is provided in a timely manner. Development will need to address the prudent use / safeguarding of natural resources, adaptation to climate change and transition to a net zero carbon economy. This will include the planting of trees and orchards, protecting grasslands and sustaining and enhancing the historic environment. Car-free neighbourhoods will be encouraged.

Planning applications that accord with the policies in this Borough Plan Review (and where relevant, with policies in neighbourhood plans, other adopted Development Plans and adopted supplementary planning documents (SPDs)) will be approved without delay, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Where there are no policies relevant to the application or relevant policies are out of date at the time of making the decision, then the Council will grant permission unless material considerations indicate otherwise – taking into account whether any adverse impacts of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the NPPF taken as a whole; or specific policies in the Framework that indicate development should be restricted.

- 6.2 The NPPF sets out the presumption in favour of sustainable development and the need for sustainable economic growth. There are three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. These dimensions give rise to the need for the planning system to perform a number

²⁵ United Nations General Assembly (1987). 42/187. *Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development*.

²⁶ United Nations. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*.

of roles. These roles should not be undertaken in isolation because they are mutually dependent. Therefore, to achieve sustainable development, economic, social and environmental gains should be sought jointly and simultaneously, through the planning system.

- 6.3 Sustainable development is at the heart of local planning and the Borough Council has a key role to play in reducing carbon emissions, seeking improvements in the quality of the built, natural and historic environment and managing and adapting to changes in the borough, such as new housing, economic requirements and associated infrastructure. Managing change in a sustainable manner is key to achieving the objectives of the NPPF and the presumption in favour of sustainable development should be fundamental to both plan-making and decision-taking.

Policy DS2 – Settlement hierarchy and roles

The hierarchy of the borough's settlements are:

1. Nuneaton has the primary role for employment, housing, town centre, leisure and service provision.
2. Bedworth has the secondary role for employment, housing, town centre, leisure and service provision.
3. Bulkington has the tertiary role for housing, shopping, leisure and local services. Bulkington is served by a district centre.
4. 'Northern fringe' of Coventry. This includes Keresley and Ash Green / Neal's Green. These areas have supporting roles for housing, shopping and local services. Ash Green is served by a local centre.

The majority of new development over the plan period will be directed to Nuneaton as the primary town. Development will be directed to other settlements, at a scale that reflects the role and function of the settlement and its order in the hierarchy, as well as the settlement's ability to accommodate change.

- 6.4 A key priority for the development strategy is to direct growth to the most sustainable locations which make full use of public transport, walking and cycling.
- 6.5 A settlement hierarchy study of Nuneaton and Bedworth proposed a settlement hierarchy for the borough. The order of the hierarchy is set out within the policy. This was based on an analysis of the size of each settlement in the area, accessibility to a range of services and facilities, as well as public transport provision. The report places Nuneaton at the top of the hierarchy, as the most sustainable settlement in the borough, whilst Bedworth and Bulkington have a secondary and tertiary role respectively.
- 6.6 In considering the roles of the settlements, it is also necessary to consider the wider context in which the borough is located. Of particular relevance is the close proximity of other settlements outside the borough boundary. To the south

of the borough there is the city of Coventry and to the north of the borough the A5 corridor and its surrounding settlements.

- 6.7 The main spatial areas of Nuneaton, Bedworth, Bulkington and the northern Coventry fringe are the most sustainable locations for growth. The locations for growth enable them to connect to, and utilise, the existing infrastructure in these areas. Objectives 1 and 2 aim to drive economic growth and diversify the borough's economy to enable the business base to become more competitive, and less exposed to economic shocks that may affect specific sectors. The borough has a history of high out-commuting. It is therefore vital that employment land is allocated through the planning process. The geographic spread of housing and employment development contributes to the viability and vitality of the borough's economy, town centre and housing choices. It also contributes to economic growth in deprived areas, as well as potentially rationalising and enhancing public transport corridors. Furthermore, the delivery of new development, under the allocations, will deliver critical masses of development to enable significant development contributions towards community and transport infrastructure. The Council's Economic Development Strategy and action plan will also help to deliver the Council's and the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership's economic vision for the borough and wider sub-region. The Economic Development Strategy has a key focus on fostering an environment for advanced manufacturing, professional services, research and development and small and medium enterprises.

Borough Plan objectives

- 6.8 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

- Objective 1.
- Objective 2.
- Objective 3.
- Objective 4.

Evidence base

- 6.9 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2011). *Accessibility and Settlement Hierarchy Study 2011*.

Delivery mechanisms

- 6.10 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

- Delivery of urban sites for employment and housing.
- Delivery of strategic sites for employment and housing.
- Delivery of new district centres where appropriate.
- The Economic Development Strategy and action plan will include a work programme to assist in the delivery of strategic employment sites and town centre projects, as well as proactively attracting investment.

Monitoring

6.11 The indicator and target that will be monitored for this policy is outlined in Table 1.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
DS2a	The amount of employment land and housing completions by settlement.	Scale of major development in settlements proportional to position in settlement hierarchy.

Table 1: Indicator and target to be monitored for Policy DS2.

Policy DS3 – Development principles

The Council will secure sustainable development by requiring all new development to contribute towards the national need to achieve net zero carbon emissions (including tree and orchard planting). Development must be adaptable / resilient to climate change, of a high quality, fully supported by infrastructure provision; as well as provide environmental mitigation and enhancement, whilst at the same time sustaining and enhancing the historic environment in line with policies set out within this plan. New development should also achieve national standards for highway design and sustainable transport infrastructure.

Climate change adaption includes building new developments in line with water resource efficient design to 110 litres / person / day, as well as environmental mitigation such as sustainable urban drainage systems.

The re-use of previously developed land will be encouraged for new development and schemes will be supported where underutilised land and / or buildings are brought into a more efficient use.

New development within the settlement boundaries, as shown on the policies map, will be acceptable subject to there being a positive impact on amenity, the surrounding environment and local infrastructure.

New unallocated development outside the settlement boundaries, as shown on the policies map, is limited to agriculture, forestry, leisure and other uses that can be demonstrated as appropriate, to require a location outside of the settlement boundaries.

6.12 This policy underpins the Borough Plan Review and sets out the key development principles against which development proposals will be assessed.

6.13 Both national policy and the Borough Plan Review are clear that new developments must take into account the implications of climate change. Through the plan making process it was recognised that trees / orchards should

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be encouraged but other carbon zero initiatives were equally important including the retention of existing trees. Many also considered that future maintenance would be an issue. Whilst there is no doubt that tree and orchard planting can provide a number of benefits, the habitat value of the land has to be considered first as this could potentially have more value than tree planting. Therefore, tree planting and orchards have been included within a number of the policies. This is also required within the Council's Open Space SPD, but no targets requirements have been set in order that good value habitat is not sacrificed. This is to ensure each site is assessed on a site-by-site basis.

- 6.14 The principles for determining where new development will take place and what development is acceptable inside and outside of the settlement boundaries have been formed following careful consideration of the issues for the borough and the identified strategic objectives. As part of the plan making process the settlement boundaries have been reviewed and where necessary amended in line with the methodology set out in the Settlement Boundary Paper (2023). Within the borough, settlement boundaries define Nuneaton, Bedworth, Bulkington, Ash Green / Neal's Green and Keresley.

Borough Plan objectives

- 6.15 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

- Objective 1.
- Objective 2.
- Objective 3.
- Objective 4.

Evidence base

- 6.16 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2023). *Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment*.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2023). *Settlement Boundary Paper*.

Delivery mechanisms

- 6.17 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

- Set up and monitor a phasing and delivery strategy to ensure a five-year supply and delivery of the housing target for the plan period.
- Work in partnership with landowners and agents.

Monitoring

- 6.18 The indicator and target that will be monitored for this policy is outlined in Table 2.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
DS3a	Development outside defined settlement boundaries.	Zero new unallocated development (except those considered acceptable in the policy) outside development boundaries.

Table 2: Indicator and target to be monitored for Policy DS3.

Policy DS4 – Overall development needs

By 2039, as a minimum, the following levels of housing and employment development will be planned for and provided within Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough:

- 9,810 homes based on 545 dwellings per annum.
- 68.45ha of employment land for local industrial and distribution / warehousing development (including 5.35ha for replacement provision).
- 19.4ha of employment land for strategic B8 warehousing and distribution development (indicative).
- 2ha of employment land for office space.

A further 5.6ha of land will be allocated as future cemetery land (burial space) (allocation CEM1) to meet the borough’s needs up to 2039 and beyond.

For Gypsy and Traveller pitches and Showperson plots, reference should be made to the requirements set out in Strategic Policy GT1 (Overall Need) of the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document (due to be adopted 2023).

Housing land

6.19 The starting point for determining the housing target for the borough is the NPPF and the associated PPG. The NPPF states that to determine the minimum number of homes needed, strategic policies should be informed by a local housing need assessment, conducted using the standard method in national planning guidance, unless exceptional circumstances justify an alternative approach which also reflects current and future demographic trends and market signals. In addition to the local housing need figure, any needs that cannot be met within neighbouring areas should also be considered in establishing the amount of housing to be planned for.

6.20 The ‘standard method’, set out in the PPG, utilises the 2014 household projections over a 10-year period and applies the most recent affordability ratios. In December 2020, the PPG was updated to apply a 35% uplift to the 20 most populated urban authority areas in England. Coventry is subject to the 35% uplift. The ‘standard method’ figure for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough

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is 435 dwellings per annum which incorporates the affordability ratios released in March 2022.

- 6.21 The Preferred Options document identified a housing target of 9,690 dwellings (646 dwellings per annum). These figures were derived from the draft Nuneaton and Bedworth Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) (May 2022) which was prepared by IcenI to support the Preferred Options consultation and was calculated using an 'alternative standard projection' based on more detailed analysis of household projections and demographics. The detailed analysis undertaken by IcenI considers that recent population growth is higher for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough than reflected in the 2014 based household projections. Given that concerns had been raised regarding the accuracy of the Office for National Statistics' population estimates for Coventry, leading to the population being overestimated, the analysis in the draft HEDNA utilises dwelling completions since 2011 and data from the Patients Register.
- 6.22 In addition to the draft HEDNA (May 2022), the Council, alongside Coventry and Warwickshire authorities, appointed IcenI to prepare a sub-regional HEDNA to provide a more up-to-date assessment of local housing need for each authority. In accordance with the exceptional circumstances set out in PPG, the sub-regional HEDNA also derives away from the standard methodology and models new demographic projections which take into account the 2021 census data, which was not published at the time the draft HEDNA was prepared, across a 10-year period which allows for a longer economic cycle.
- 6.23 Using the trend-based projections, the housing need figure for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council in the sub-regional HEDNA was calculated at 409 dwellings per annum. Table 3 shows this figure comparatively with the other authorities in the housing market area and compared with the standard method requirement as set out within the sub-regional HEDNA.

Local authority	Standard method annual requirement (2014 household projections with March 2023 affordability ratios)	Trend-based
Coventry	3,118	1,964
North Warwickshire	176	119
Nuneaton and Bedworth	435	409
Rugby	516	735
Stratford-on-Avon	564	868
Warwick	675	811

Table 3: Local Authorities' housing need within the Coventry and Warwickshire Housing Market Area.

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- 6.24 The vision and objectives articulated in the plan reflect the Council's ambitions in achieving sustainable growth and regeneration to become a thriving borough where people want to live, work and visit. Given, that the housing figure for the borough in the sub-regional HEDNA is lower than both the standard method and the figure consulted on in the Preferred Options document, there was concern that this level of growth did not reflect the aspirations for the borough over the plan period.
- 6.25 Therefore, the Council commissioned Icenl to prepare a bespoke report 'Towards our Housing Requirement' to supplement and be read alongside the sub-regional HEDNA. The report considers the objectively assessed housing need set out within the HEDNAs as well as other considerations which may influence the Council's decision on an appropriate housing and employment requirement. These include the affordable housing need in the borough and the delivery of affordable housing, which is influenced by the overall housing provision and development viability, the levelling up agenda to ensure opportunity for the north of the county and potential issues of unmet housing need from other parts of the Housing Market Area.
- 6.26 The report models a Planned Economic Growth Scenario which would require the delivery of 545 dwellings per annum, over the plan period to 2039, to support the borough's economy and align planning for homes, jobs and infrastructure. In accordance with national policy and planning practice guidance, where authorities can show an alternative approach identifies a need higher than using the standard method, and that it reflects current and future demographic trends and market signals, then the approach can be considered sound as it will exceed the minimum starting point. This is the case for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council.
- 6.27 A figure of 545 dwellings per annum over the plan period equates to 9,810 dwellings. This will comprise of housing completions in the plan period, housing allocations, existing sites with full and outline planning permission, prior notification / approvals, strategic and non-strategic housing allocations, with an allowance for windfall developments.

Housing delivery

- 6.28 As set out above, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough will make provision for 9,810 dwellings between 2021 and 2039.
- 6.29 The delivery of housing development are broken down through the following means (base date 31th March 2023):
- Strategic Sites: 3,264.
 - Non-strategic sites: 689.
 - Net completions (2021 - March 2023): 1,790.
 - Committed supply (full, outline and prior notifications): 4,282.

- Windfall sites: 336²⁷.
- 6.30 The Council will regularly review the housing trajectory. The trajectory identifies that 10,370 dwellings will be developed by 2039, in addition 1,790 have been built between 2021 and 2023. This is more than the identified requirement and the additional provision in supply will provide a degree of flexibility in the unforeseen event that some of the identified sites do not come forward as predicted.

Employment land

- 6.31 In May 2022 the Council published the Nuneaton and Bedworth Draft HEDNA²⁸ to inform the Borough Plan Review Preferred Options. The employment land need assessment was informed by work undertaken for the emerging sub-regional HEDNA. In line with the PPG²⁹, the assessment used a range of modelling techniques including labour trend models, floorspace trends informed by Valuation Office Agency statistics and completions data. In drawing conclusions, the assessment used the most appropriate modelling technique for different sectors. In the final analysis, the Draft HEDNA proposed for the period 2021-2039, a requirement for 82.5ha of employment land.
- 6.32 IcenI have modelled employment land needs over the proposed plan period. Economic forecasts project economic growth of almost £800m between 2021-2039, with an increase of 5,000 jobs in the borough. This sees employment in the borough recovering to pre-pandemic levels in 2024 and growing broadly in line with the long-term trends, with 3,800 jobs created between 2024-2039.
- 6.33 IcenI's analysis indicates a very strong demand for industrial and warehouse / distribution premises in the borough over the plan period. Utilising a five-year 'completions trend' projection, this indicates a need of 35,300m² for industrial land and 293,900m² of warehousing / distribution land. Accounting for a 0.5 ratio of developable land for industrial land and a 0.4 ratio for warehousing and distribution, this delivers a total need of 7.1ha of industrial land and 73.5ha of warehousing / distribution, equating to an overall warehouse and industrial employment land need for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough of 80.5ha, including a provision for strategic B8 need.
- 6.34 IcenI's analysis indicates relatively weak demand for office development in the borough, with likely demand for occupation by small and medium sized enterprises. This is due to the availability of high quality office space in other authority areas, with limited demand and delivery of office space in the borough over the last 10 years. IcenI's analysis estimates a potential office need for the borough of 2ha up to 2039.

²⁷ Windfall sites only include the years 2023-2039 to avoid double counting.

²⁸ IcenI Projects (2022). *Nuneaton & Bedworth Housing & Economic Development Needs Assessment*.

²⁹ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2020). *Guidance – Housing and economic development needs assessment*.

- 6.35 In November 2022 the Council published, alongside other Coventry and Warwickshire local authorities, a sub-regional assessment of the need for housing, economic growth potential and employment land needs³⁰. The outcome of the sub-regional HEDNA for the employment land requirement in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough was 47.7ha (2021-2041) or 69ha (2021-2050), significantly lower than that set out in the draft HEDNA. This was primarily due to release of the 2021 Census data and the completions data considering a 5-year period rather than 10 years as in the draft HEDNA. The sub-regional HEDNA, in addition, identifies a need for 606ha (subsequently reviewed by IcenI to 436ha) of land to 2041 to accommodate the need for growth of the strategic warehousing (Class B8) sector across Coventry and Warwickshire.
- 6.36 'Towards a Housing Requirement for Nuneaton'³¹ was published alongside the sub-regional HEDNA and intended to be read alongside the findings of the sub-regional HEDNA. The report takes into account the findings from the Draft Nuneaton and Bedworth HEDNA and other relevant local considerations which need to be considered in setting the housing and employment target. The report recommends the Draft HEDNA as a suitable basis for determining employment land need as it:
- Utilised more up-to-date employment completions data than the sub-regional.
 - Allowed for the provision of strategic B8 warehousing and distribution.
- 6.37 'Towards a Housing Requirement for Nuneaton' followed the conclusions of the draft HEDNA, that 82.5ha of employment land would be an appropriate minimum level of provision, including contributing to the sub-regional need for strategic B8 warehousing and distribution development.
- 6.38 The NPPF³² states that planning policies and decisions should recognise and address the specific locational requirements of different sectors including storage and suitably accessible locations. The PPG³³ also requires that authorities assess the stock of land for employment uses within the area, patterns of supply losses, evidence of growth, market demand and market failure.
- 6.39 To gain a greater understanding of employment requirements of different sectors and the current status of employment land, in May 2023 the Council commissioned IcenI Projects to review the employment land portfolio in the

³⁰ IcenI Projects (2022). *Coventry & Warwickshire Housing & Economic Development Needs Assessment*.

³¹ IcenI projects (2022). *Towards a Housing Requirement for Nuneaton & Bedworth*.

³² Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2021). *National Planning Policy Framework*.

³³ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2020). *Guidance – Housing and economic development needs assessment*.

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borough³⁴. The review assessed existing employment sites in the borough to determine if the sites are of sufficient quality to serve the economic needs of the borough for the duration of the Borough Plan, and if any employment land should be removed from the supply portfolio. The document also brought together the previous HEDNA studies to determine the need for employment land in the borough and to segment the contribution of strategic B8, identified in the Draft HEDNA, and provide an indicative figure. The employment land portfolio study calculated, over the plan period of 2021 – 2039, the employment land need as:

	Developable Land (ha)
Office needs	2
Local Industrial and Warehouse needs	61.1
Indicative minimum provision for strategic B8 needs	19.4
Replacement provision for site losses	5.35
Total employment land needed (2021-2039)	87.85

Table 4: Employment land need (2021-2039).

Employment land supply

6.40 To understand the level of employment need in the borough, the Council asked Icen Projects to calculate the pipeline supply of employment land. The assessment considered:

- Employment land completed in 2021-22.
- Extant planning permissions.
- Supply from existing floorspace.
- Vacant plots within existing employment sites.
- Windfall potential.
- Extant Borough Plan allocation.

6.41 In assessing extant Borough Plan allocations, the analysis was able to consider the actual developable area from planning applications to ensure the figure was the most accurate available. Supply from existing floorspace factored a 7.5% vacancy rate to ensure there is a functioning market. Employment land completions utilised data from the Council's Authority Monitoring Report for the period 2021-22. Extant planning permissions were considered to April 2022. The windfall assessment was based on Icen's analysis of gross completions of employment land within the borough over the last 10 years, with a 30% reduction to ensure delivery was not overly reliant on windfall, and considered a reduced delivery period to ensure no overlap

³⁴ Icen Projects (2023). *Review of Nuneaton & Bedworth Employment Land Portfolio*.

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with extant planning permissions. The overall assessment concluded there is a total employment land supply of 107ha.

	Land (ha)
2021/22 completions	0.87
Extant planning permissions - April 2022	35.9
Reuse of vacant floorspace	0
Vacant plots within employment areas	2.99
Extant allocations - April 2022	52.15
Windfall allowance	15.1
Total supply	107.0

Table 5: Employment land supply.

Supply demand balance

6.42 Calculating the identified employment land need and the supply position there is an over provision of 19.15ha of employment land.

	Land (ha)
Total employment land needed (2021-2039)	87.85
Total identified supply	107.0
Surplus	19.15

Table 6: Surplus employment land.

Further considerations

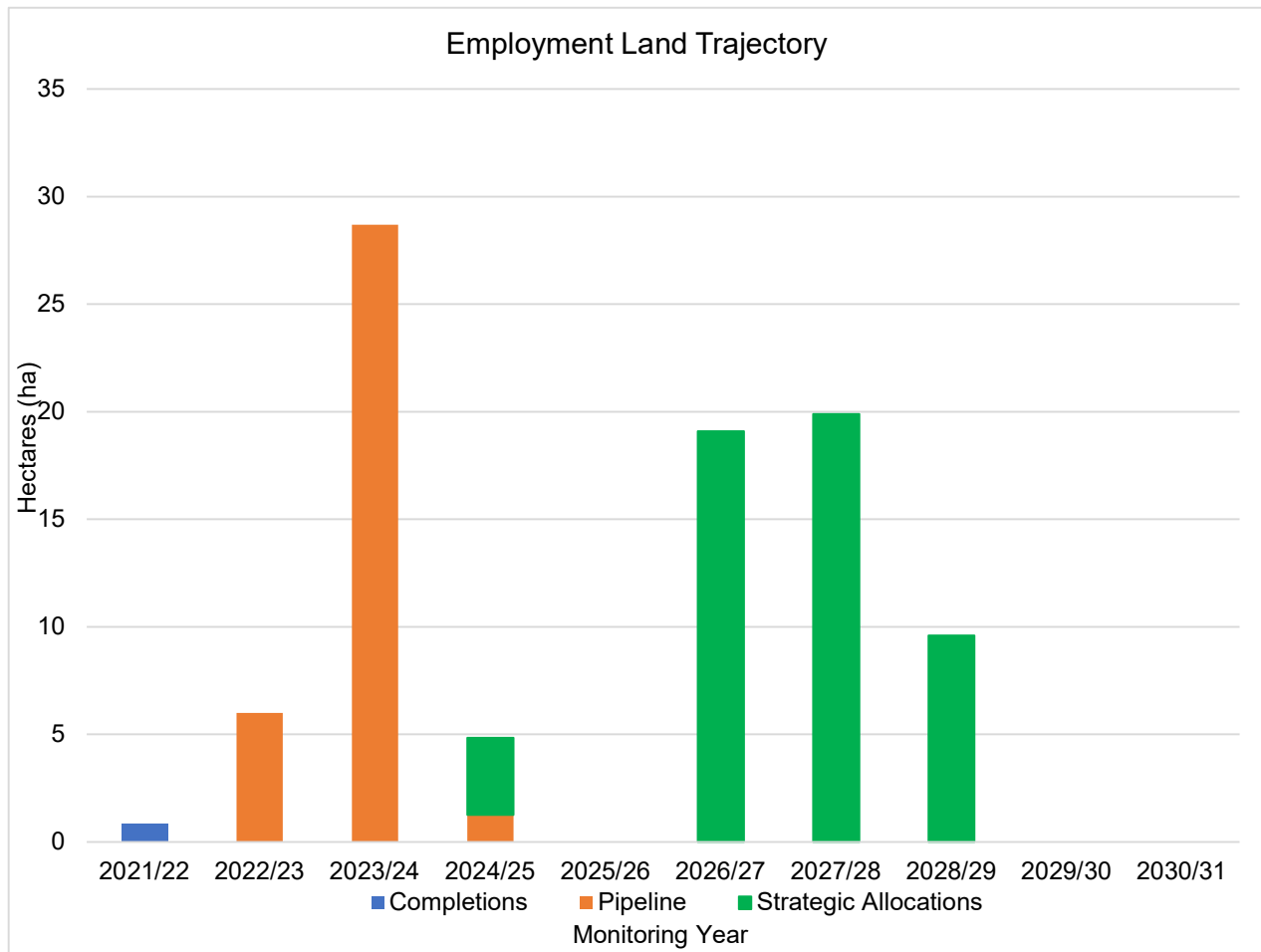
6.43 Office employment land need is modest and the viability for solely office-based schemes in the borough can be challenging. Mixed use development in Nuneaton Town Centre, or standalone development on employment sites, are most likely to deliver office schemes. The Transforming Nuneaton scheme of a library and business centre could contribute towards office need.

6.44 The strategic B8 need is being met through the Faultlands development. There are other allocations at Wilsons Lane, Prologis Extension, Coventry Road and Bowling Green Lane which could provide further large B8 units or smaller units for local warehouse or industrial needs.

6.45 The windfall allowance provides additional employment land to offer capacity/resilience should there be demand. It is likely that this will go towards meeting the needs of SME in the borough.

Employment Trajectory

6.46 The Council will regularly review the employment trajectory and is informed by the findings of the employment land review³⁵. Delivery will not be consistent over the plan period as proposed schemes tend to deliver large units. The positive progress regarding applications is reflected in the trajectory with delivery anticipated in the short to medium term.



Gypsies and Travellers

6.47 Under the 2004 Housing Act, the Council is required to produce an assessment of the current and future accommodation needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, and then identify and plan for the provision of

³⁵ Icen Projects (2023). *Review of Nuneaton & Bedworth Employment Land Portfolio*.

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permanent and transit sites to meet those needs.

- 6.48 The 2021 Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment has been used to calculate the number of pitches and plots required by 2036/37 and the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document (due to be adopted in 2023) uses this as the basis for setting out the need and where the need will be met. The accommodation assessment will be updated every five years and these subsequent updates will be used to calculate the number of pitches and plots required in the future and, if necessary, these will in turn be used to update this separate development plan document.

Cemetery Land

- 6.49 The Burial Space Capacity Data (November 2022) identified there is insufficient burial space capacity to meet the borough's needs over the plan period. It is therefore proposed that land is allocated for burial space over the plan period and beyond. This is address further in Policy CEM1.

Borough Plan objectives

- 6.50 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

- Objective 1.
- Objective 2.
- Objective 4.

Evidence base

- 6.51 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- Icen Projects (2022). *Draft HEDNA for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough.*
- Icen Projects (2022). *Sub-regional HEDNA for Coventry and Warwickshire Local Authorities.*
- Icen Projects (2022). *Towards a Housing Requirement for Nuneaton and Bedworth.*
- Icen Projects (2023). *Review of Nuneaton & Bedworth Employment Land Portfolio.*
- Arc4 (2021). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment.*
- Cushman and Wakefield (2022). *Retail, Leisure and Office Study Update.*
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2022). *Burial Space Capacity Analysis.*
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2023) *Small Sites Study*

Delivery mechanisms

- 6.52 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

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- The Economic Development Strategy will include a work programme to assist in the delivery of strategic employment sites and town centre projects as well as proactively attracting investment.
- Gypsy and Traveller Site Development Plan Document (due to be adopted in 2023 and as per any subsequent updates).
- Maintenance of a five-year supply and delivery of the housing target for the plan period.
- Work in partnership with landowners and agents.

Monitoring

6.53 The indicators and targets that will be monitored for this policy are outlined in Table 7.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
DS4a	Housing completions.	545 dwelling completions per annum.
DS4b	Development of employment land.	87.85ha of land is developed for employment uses.
DS4c	Housing land supply.	Continuous five-year land supply of housing.

Table 7: Indicators and targets to be monitored for Policy DS4.

Policy DS5 – Residential allocations

The following strategic sites will be allocated for residential development and associated infrastructure uses, as shown on the proposals map. Further specific policies for each of the strategic allocations are detailed within Chapter 7.

Strategic Allocations for Housing Land

Strategic Housing Allocation (SHA)	Site name	Approximate Dwellings
SHA1	Top Farm	1700
SHA2	Arbury	1525
SHA3	Tuttle Hill	350
SHA4	Hospital Lane	445
SHA5	West of Bulkington	348
SHA6	Hawkesbury Golf Course (remaining land)	176
Adjacent to the employment allocation (SEA6)	Bowling Green Lane	150 (remainder as employment)

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Adjacent to the employment allocation (SEA2)	Wilsons Lane	75 (remainder as employment)
Total Strategic Allocations		4769

Along with the Strategic Development Allocations listed above and identified on the policies map, the following non-strategic sites are allocated for residential development within the plan period. Some of the non-strategic housing sites have site specific considerations, which are outlined in the supporting text below. These include the loss of playing fields which might require compensation, or biodiversity and heritage considerations, including the setting of the Coventry Canal. Opportunity should be taken to use, enhance and sustain these assets, or in exceptional circumstances, compensate, where possible, as part of any development proposal. Any planning applications that come forward on non-strategic development sites must follow the recommendations of Nuneaton and Bedworth's Heritage Sites Assessment.

Non-strategic Allocations for Housing Land

Non-strategic Residential Allocation (NSRA)	Site name	Approximate Dwellings
NSRA1	Former Bedworth Rugby Club, Smarts Road, Bedworth	124
NSRA2	Former Manor Park Community School, Nuneaton	123
NSRA3	West of Coventry Road / Wilsons Lane, Exhall	95
NSRA4	Vicarage St Development Site, Nuneaton	65
NSRA5	Land rear of Burbage Lane	47
NSRA6	Land at Bucks Hill, Nuneaton	40
NSRA7	Abbey Street, Nuneaton	33
NSRA8	Land rear of Lilleburne Drive and Willow Close, Nuneaton	29
NSRA9	Former New Inn Public House, Bulkington	25
NSRA10	Land at Bermuda Road, Nuneaton	25
NSRA11	Upper Abbey Street, Nuneaton	22
NSRA12	Kingswood Road, Nuneaton	20
NSRA13	Armson Road, Exhall	16
NSRA14	Mill Street / Bridge Street, Nuneaton	15
NSRA15	Bennetts Road, Kerseley	10
Total Non-strategic Allocations		689

6.54 The non-strategic development sites allocated for housing, through Policy DS5 – Residential Allocations, are detailed below.

NSRA1: Former Bedworth Rugby Club

- Site Area: 3.7ha.
- Dwellings: 124.
- Alternative Site Reference: EXH-1.



- 6.55 The site is a former playing field located to the east of Bedworth Road.
- 6.56 The Play Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy outlines that mitigation has been earmarked for Bedworth Rugby Football Club located at Nicholas Chamberlaine School.
- 6.57 The site previously contained two rugby pitches, two bowling greens, a clubhouse and car park. Any development proposals for the site will need to provide evidence that these facilities are no longer required, in line with Sports England requirements. If this cannot be provided, a contribution towards replacement facilities will be required.
- 6.58 Development should consider retaining established trees along the site boundaries, providing pedestrian routes through the site which connect to the public right of way to the south and another which runs through the tree belt to the north, ensuring dwellings front onto the public right of way to the south of the site as development off Smarts Road backs onto it (this would prevent it becoming undesirable to use), enhancing boundary vegetation with new planting and complementary habitats, setting development back from the flood plain in the north-west corner of the site, and establishing new public, open space to provide recreational space for the local community.

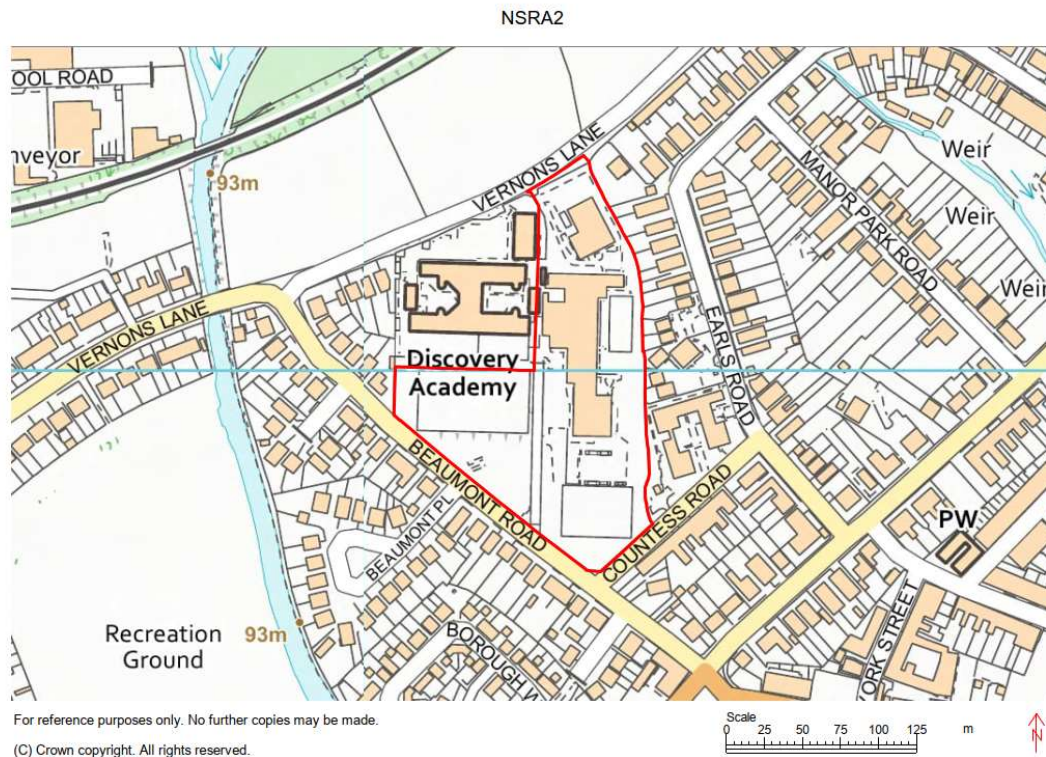
6.59 Key Ecological Features:

- Hedgerows.
- Woodland screening.
- Habitat connectivity and ecological corridor.

6.60 Hedgerows and linear woodland features should be retained and enhanced at the ecoduct locations. Biodiversity rich habitat should be incorporated into any design adjacent to the disused railway line to the north of the site. Some habitats would act as a stepping stone and support the significant green infrastructure link function.

NSRA2: Former Manor Park Community School

- Site Area: 2.3ha.
- Dwellings: 123.
- Alternative Site Reference: ABB-4.



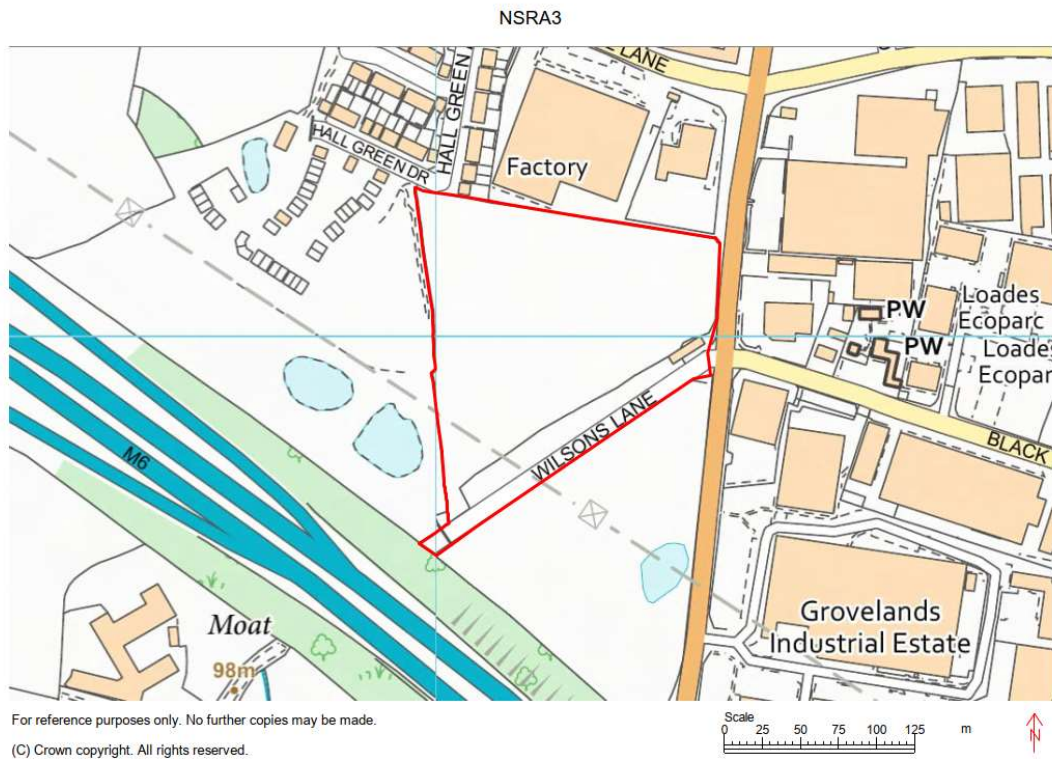
6.61 The site is a former community school located in a primarily residential area. It adjoins Beaumont Road and Vernons Lane.

6.62 The site contains a redundant redgra playing pitch. Any development proposals for the site will need to provide evidence that this facility is no longer required, in line with Sports England requirements. If this cannot be provided, a contribution towards replacement facilities will be required.

- 6.63 Opportunity exists to create a new positive frontage to Vernons Lane, retain views from the north of the site towards Mount Judd, retain established trees and boundary hedges wherever possible, ensure development is sensitive to its location adjacent to the conservation area, that development reflects the characteristics of the surrounding townscape and that built development sits outside the small area of flood zone located in the south of the site.
- 6.64 The site benefits from resolution to grant outline permission for 46 houses, 12 flats and 65 extra-care units subject to the signing of a section 106 agreement (Application Reference 035587).

NSRA3: West of Coventry Road / Wilson Lane

- Site Area: 2.9ha.
- Dwellings: 95.
- Alternative Site Reference: EXH-3.



- 6.65 The site is located to the south of Bedworth and formed part of HSG6 – School Lane in the Borough Plan (2011-2031), which was adopted in 2019.
- 6.66 The site was historically marked out for football pitches and an artificial cricket wicket. Any development proposals for the site will need to provide evidence that these facilities are no longer required, in line with Sports England requirements. If this cannot be provided, a contribution towards replacement facilities will be required.

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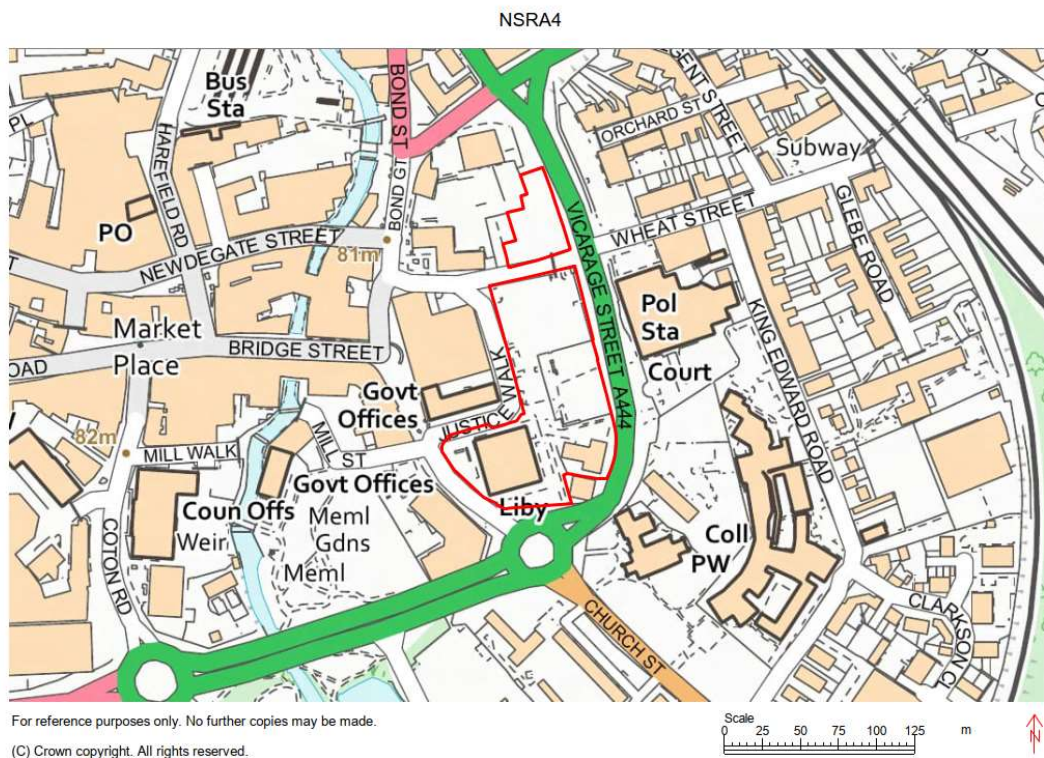
6.67 Opportunities exist to retain established trees within any proposed development and retain and enhance existing hedgerows. Where development is required to be set back from electricity pylons in the south of the site, this space could be used to establish a landscape buffer to include retained and proposed planting. Finally, woodland and tree planting could be included to reduce the development's prominence within the landscape.

6.68 Key Ecological Features:

- Semi-improved grasslands (modified grassland and other neutral).
- Habitat connectivity and ecological corridor.

NSRA4: Vicarage Street Development

- Site Area: 1.2ha.
- Dwellings: 65.
- Alternative Site Reference: ABB-8.



6.69 The site consists of Nuneaton Library, car parks and vacant land. The site is bound by the A444 to the south and east, Leicester Road to the north and Justice Walk to the west.

6.70 Key Ecological Features:

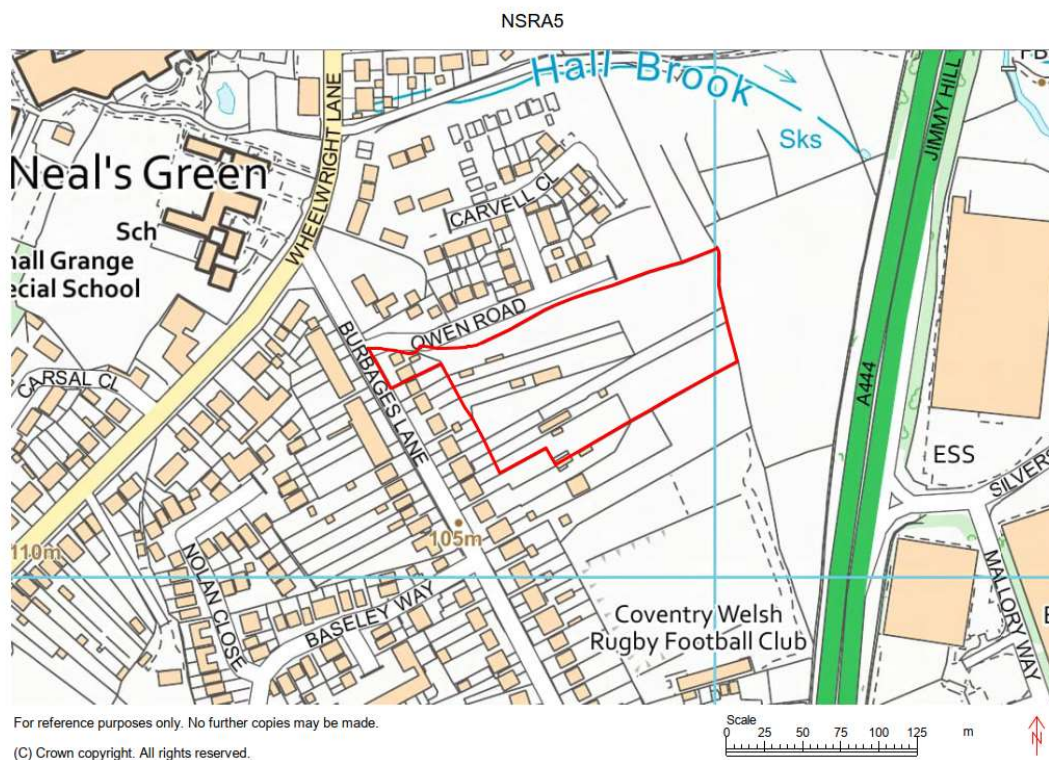
- Old Mosaic Habitat (a UK priority habitat).
- Woodland block.

- Habitat connectivity and ecological corridor.

6.71 The site has significant potential to connect the existing green infrastructure, from the south and west, to the north leading to the railway station and the ecological corridor of the rail network. Landscaping will be important to achieve biodiversity net gain as well as meet urban climate change mitigation objectives. Such features may include green roofs and walls.

NSRA5: Land rear of Burbages Lane, Ash Green

- Site Area: 1.6ha.
- Dwellings: 47.
- Alternative Site Reference: EXH-8.



6.72 The site comprises of a pasture enclosed by hedges and trees, along with part of the rear residential gardens of properties off Burbages Lane.

6.73 Where possible existing established trees, particularly to the site boundaries, should be retained, and enhanced planting to site boundaries, especially to the eastern boundary, should be implemented to strengthen the settlement boundary. The existing public right of way should be incorporated into the layout of any proposed development.

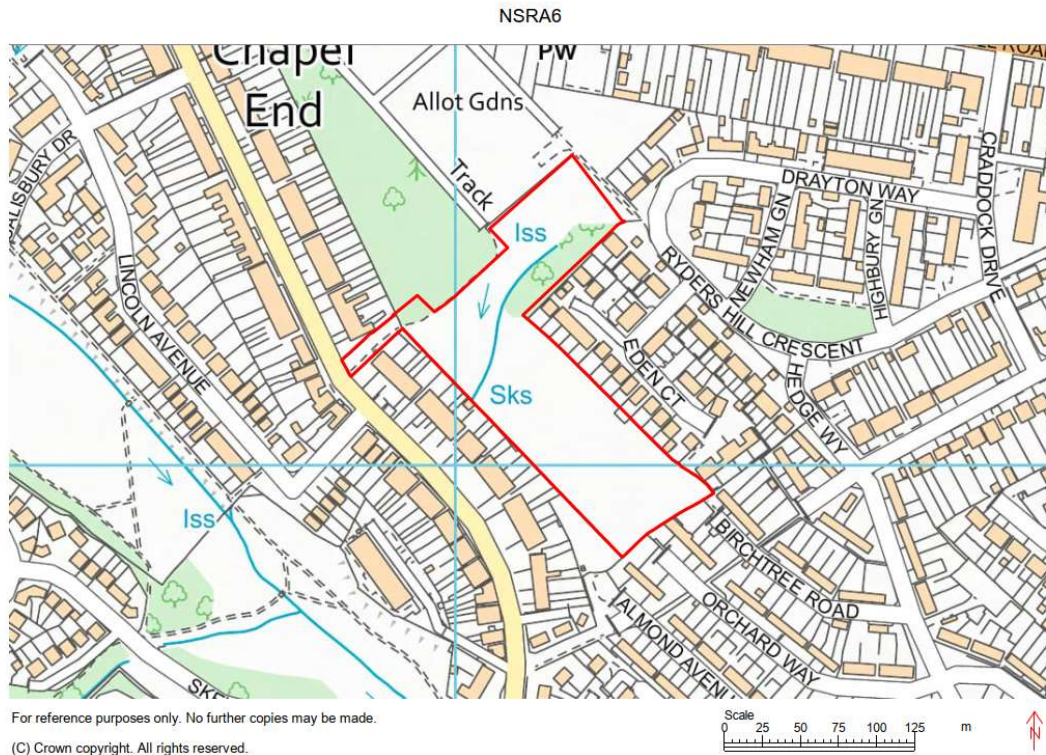
6.74 Key Ecological Features:

- Semi-improved grasslands (modified grassland and other neutral).
- Habitat connectivity and ecological corridor.

6.75 It will be important to establish the size of the slow worm population and how these important and rare species in Warwickshire can be protected and enhanced on the site and in the wider environment.

NSRA6: Land at Bucks Hill, Nuneaton

- Site Area: 1.9ha.
- Dwellings: 40.
- Alternative Site Reference: CAM-1.



6.76 The site is situated between Bucks Hill Road and Eden Court in the Chapel End areas of Nuneaton.

6.77 Given the topography of the site careful consideration needs to be given to the design of any development.

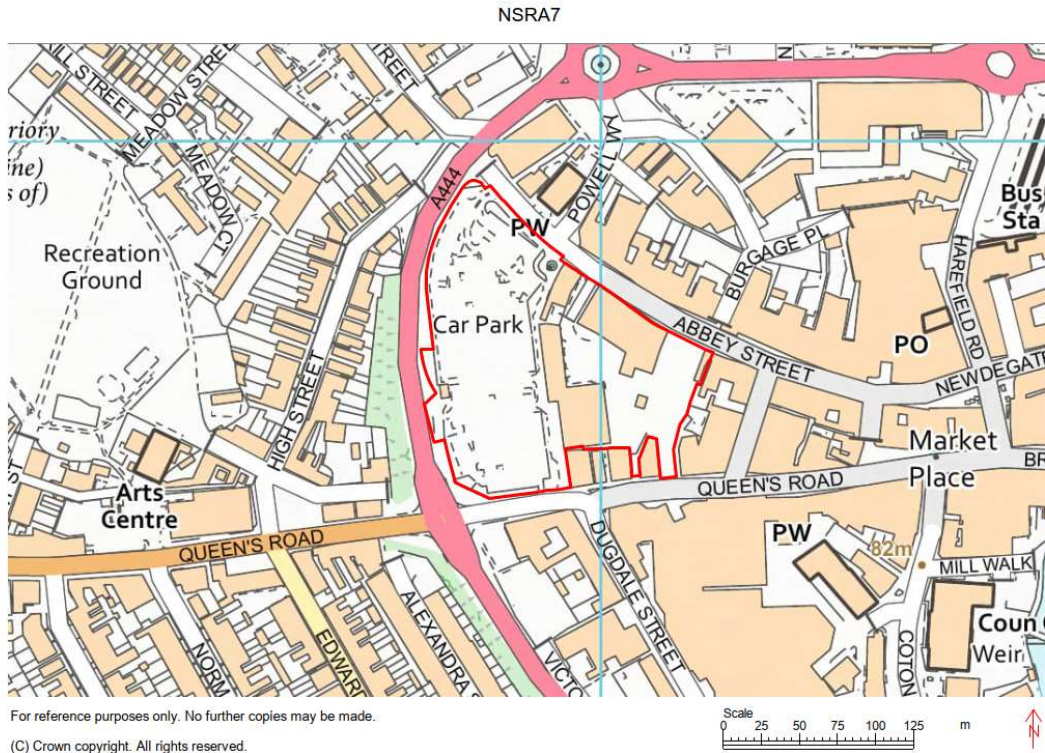
6.78 Key Ecological Features:

- Remnant Other Neutral Grassland.
- Stream.
- Habitat connectivity and ecological corridor.

6.79 Areas of 'High' and 'Very High' Distinctiveness categories (values 6 and 8) are to be avoided and those of 'Medium' category (value 4) should be retained and enhanced within any proposal.

NSRA7: Abbey Street, Nuneaton

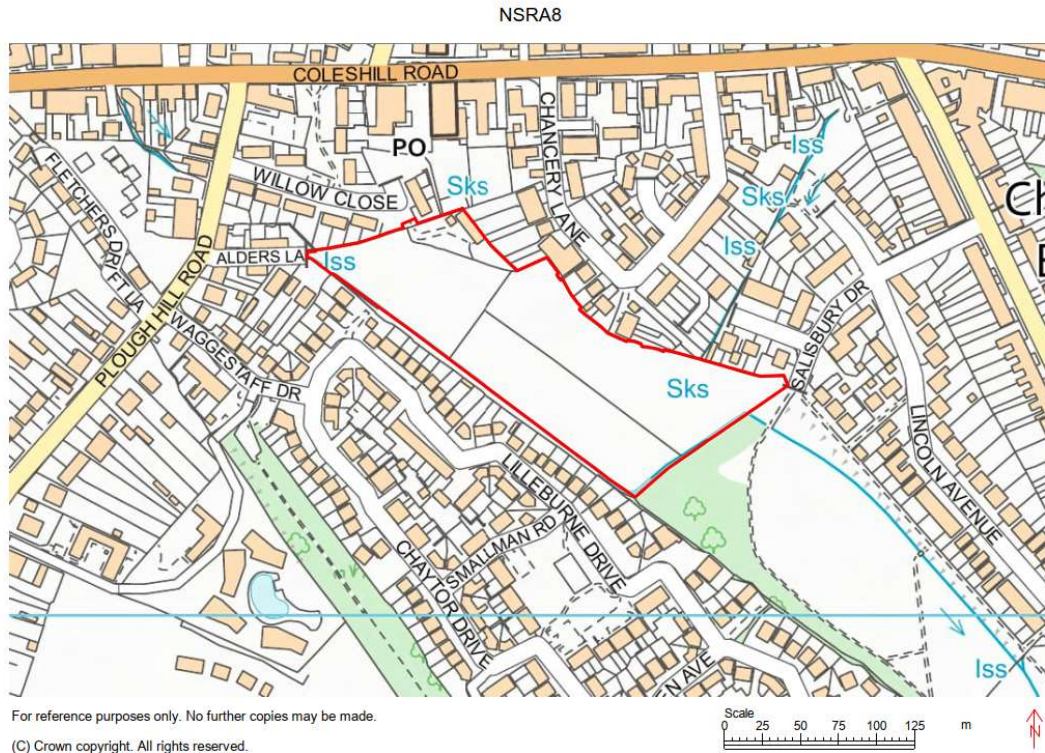
- Site Area: 2.4ha.
- Dwellings: 30.
- Alternative Site Reference: ABB-6.



- 6.80 The site is located in Nuneaton Town Centre between Abbey Street and Queen's Road and is bound to the west by the A444. The land comprises of a car park, commercial buildings and underdeveloped land.
- 6.81 The site benefits from outline permission for 30 dwellings along with Class E uses (Application Reference 037658 - Approved January 2022).
- 6.82 Key Ecological Features:
- Line of trees.
 - Habitat connectivity and ecological corridor.
- 6.83 The site presents the opportunity to green the urban fabric of Nuneaton through landscaping. Such opportunities include green roofs, landscape planting and green walls. The site presents the opportunity to link the Nuneaton Recreation Ground with the town centre, and potential to link with the urban renewal project further to the east.

NSRA8: Land rear of Lilleburne Drive and Willow Close

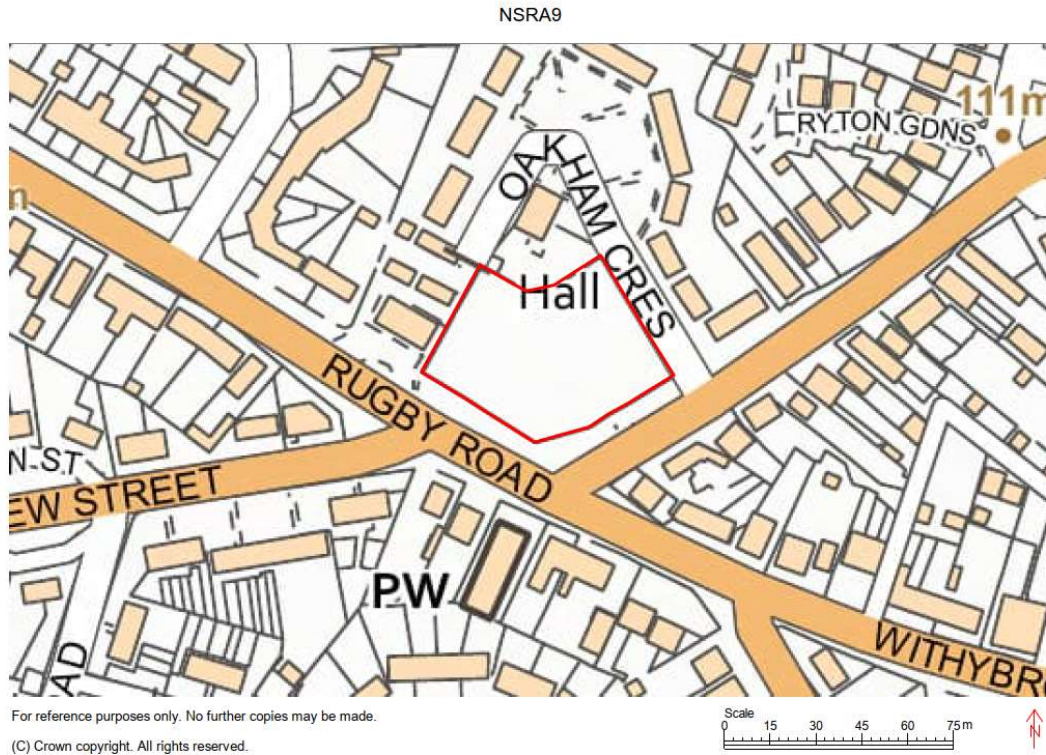
- Site Area: 2.1ha.
- Dwellings: 29.
- Alternative Site Reference: GAL-7.



- 6.84 The site is located on the north-west edge of Nuneaton town and lies on the border between the administrative boundaries of Nuneaton and Bedworth and North Warwickshire.
- 6.85 Opportunities exist to set development back from Bar Pool Brook to protect its function as a wildlife corridor and to continue a sense of undeveloped character along the valley bottom. The existing public right of way should be retained and integrated within any proposed development and existing vegetation should be retained wherever possible. New tree planting should be used to soften the appearance of any development, complementary habitats should be provided adjacent to Bar Pool Brook and any open space proposed, within the site, should link harmoniously with that at Nuneaton Common.
- 6.86 The access to the site is located within the North Warwickshire Council boundary. The development within Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council benefits from a resolution to grant outline permission (Application Reference 038144).

NSRA9: Former New Inn Public House, Bulkington

- Site Area: 0.3ha.
- Dwellings: 29.
- Alternative Site Reference: BUL-9.



- 6.87 The site is located in the urban area of Bulkington bound by Rugby Road and Wolvey Road to the south and Oakham Crescent to the north.
- 6.88 The site will need to be developed in a sensitive manner to ensure biodiversity net gain.

NSRA10: Land at Bermuda Road, Nuneaton

- Site Area: 0.9ha.
- Dwellings: 25.
- Alternative Site Reference: ARB-1.

NSRA10



- 6.89 The site is partially community use and partially vacant land. Due to previous land uses in the area (Bermuda Landfill Site - a former landfill site that accepted waste material) there may be potential for landfill gas to be generated. Developers may be required to carry out a comprehensive risk assessment due to the risks the former landfill site poses. The local authority's Environmental Health and Building Control departments would wish to ensure that any threats from landfill gas have been adequately addressed in the proposed development. This may include building construction techniques that minimise the possibility of landfill gas entering any enclosed structures, on the site, to be incorporated into the development.
- 6.90 The site has planning consent for a GP surgery (Application Reference 031064). Any application will need to demonstrate that there is no longer a need for this.
- 6.91 The Phoenix Centre will be retained and car parking reconfigured to accommodate new residential development.
- 6.92 Any re-provisioning of car parking should not take place on the adjoining playing field land nor should the proposed residential development prejudice the use of the playing field site in accordance with Sports England requirements.
- 6.93 Opportunities exist to retain existing drainage features and associated vegetation in the west of the site. New hedgerows should be introduced to the site to provide structure to the landscape and new habitats and linkages should be provided to the public right of way to the east and open space to the north. Any open space or car park within the development should have pedestrian links to community facilities to the north and appropriate landscape treatment.

6.94 Key Ecological Features:

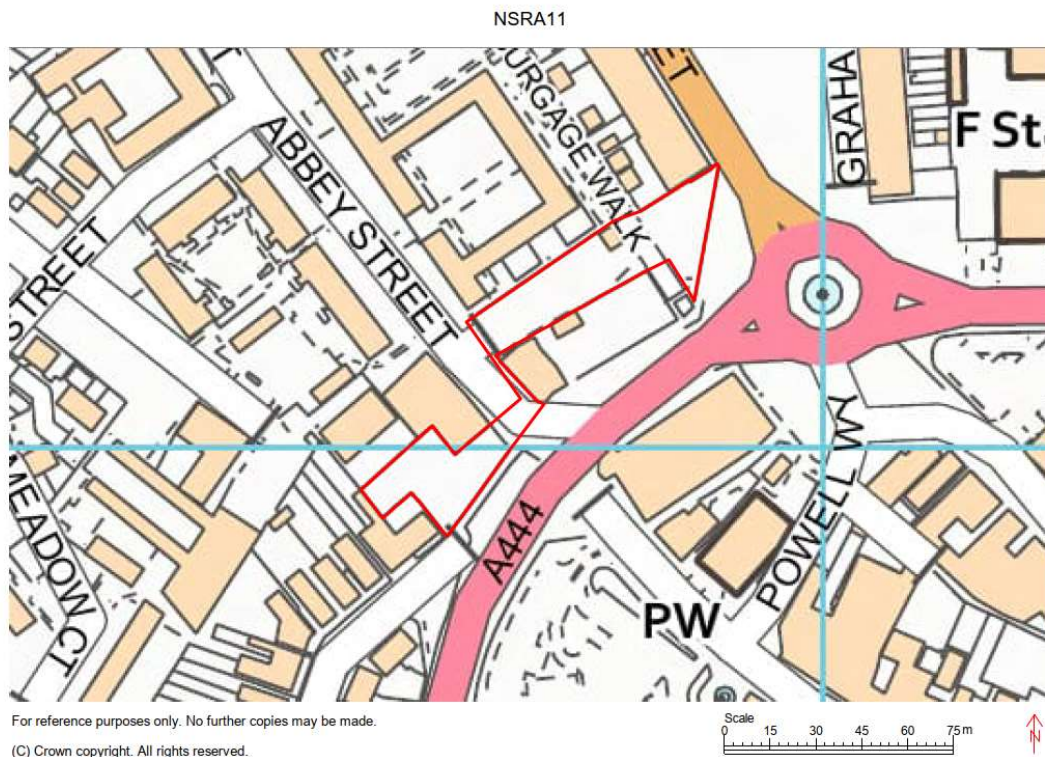
- Other Neutral Grassland both managed for amenity and other successional to scrub.
- Scattered trees and small blocks of Woodland.
- Tall ruderal.
- Marshy grassland.
- Habitat connectivity and ecological corridor.

6.95 The site has local ecological value, that if managed sensitively, has the potential to become of county importance in the short-term. The Bermuda Phoenix Recreation Ground also has this potential.

6.96 Maintain and enhance the connectivity between Harefield Lane with the Bridleway.

NSRA11: Upper Abbey Street, Nuneaton

- Site Area: 0.2ha.
- Dwellings: 22.
- Alternative Site Reference: ABB-5.



6.97 The site comprises Upper Abbey Street car park and undeveloped land.

6.98 Key Ecological Features:

- Urban – Introduced Shrub.

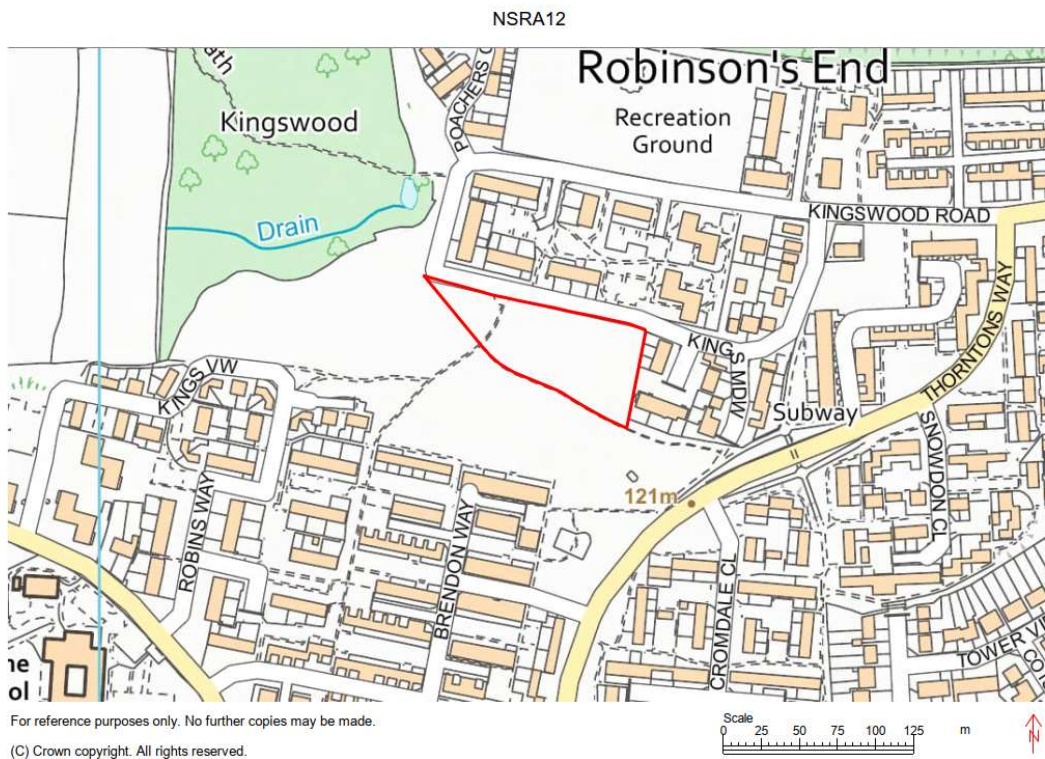
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- Habitat connectivity and ecological corridor.

6.99 Any development on this site will need to deliver biodiversity net gain and this could be achieved through soft landscaping and enhancing connections with Abbey Green Park and Nuneaton Recreation Ground.

NSRA12: Kingswood Road, Nuneaton

- Site Area: 0.6ha.
- Dwellings: 20.
- Alternative Site Reference: KIN-2.



6.100 The site is triangular shaped grassland and bound by residential development to the north and east.

6.101 Key Ecological Features:

- Newly planted woodland.

NSRA13: Armson Road, Exhall

- Site Area: 0.2ha.
- Dwellings: 16.
- Alternative Site Reference: EXH-2.

NSRA13



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6.102 The site comprises of residential garage parking.

6.103 Key Ecological Features:

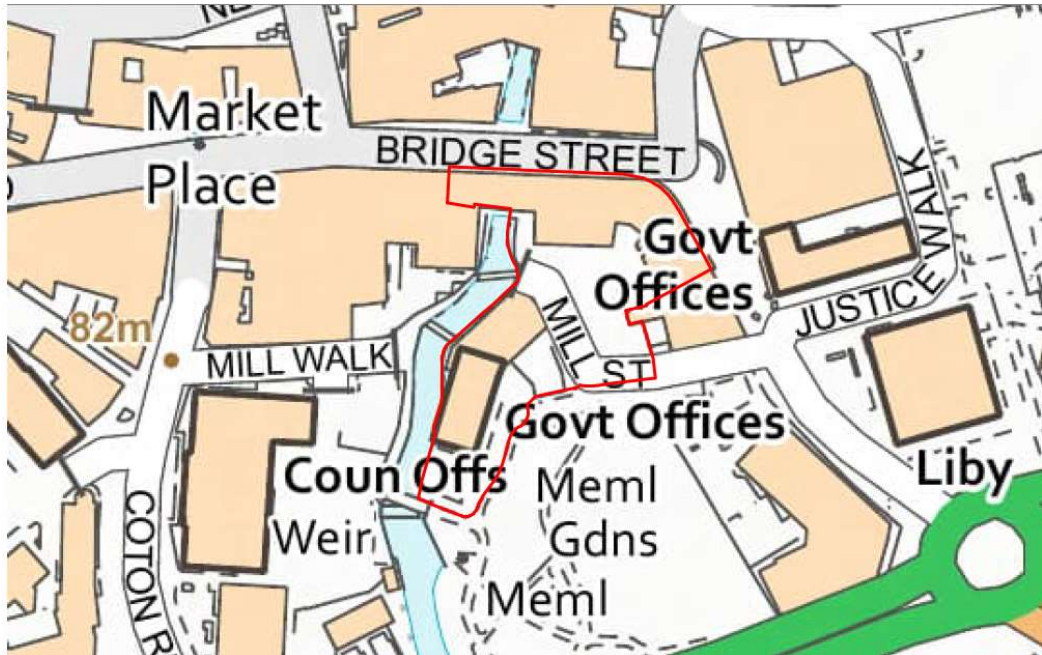
- None.

6.104 There is an opportunity to increase the biodiversity of the site and create a green lung within the Grant Road area.

NSRA14: Mill Street / Bridge Street, Nuneaton

- Site Area: 0.5ha.
- Dwellings: 15.
- Alternative Site Reference: ABB-7.

NSRA14



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6.105 The site is located within Nuneaton Town Centre and partially lies within the conservation area. The site could form part of a mixed-use scheme which incorporates commercial and residential development.

6.106 Key Ecological Features:

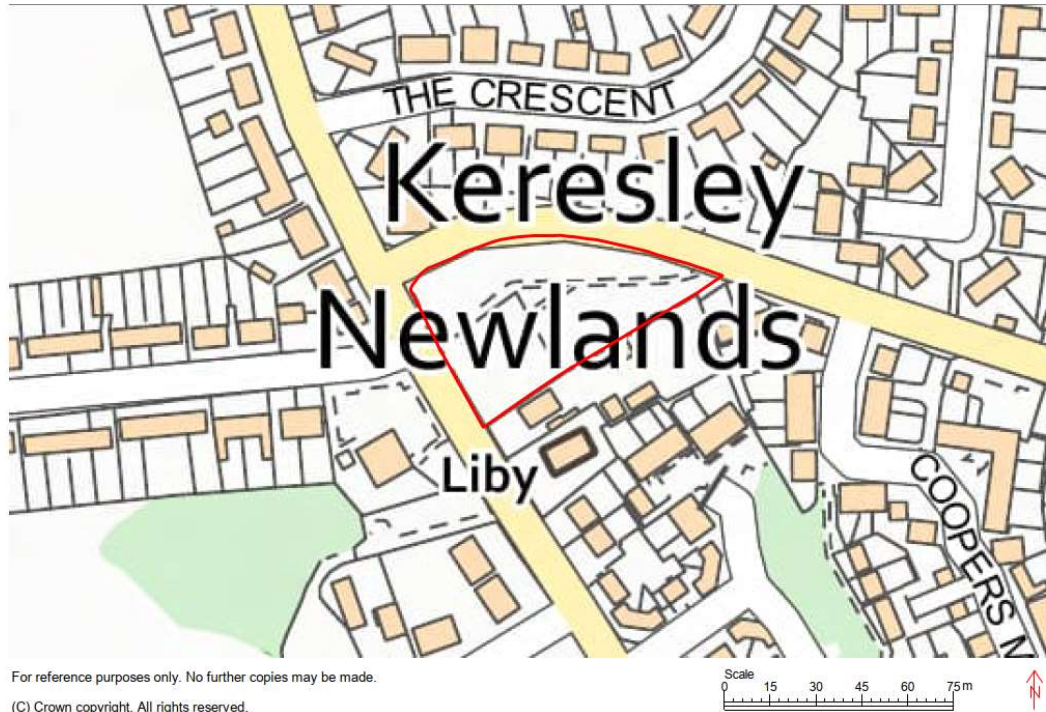
- Woodland: groups.
- Individual trees.
- Watercourse: River Anker.
- Habitat connectivity and ecological corridor.

6.107 The site has the potential to compliment the River Anker and memorial gardens through the incorporation of green landscape features including green walls and green roofs.

NSRA15: Bennetts Road, Keresley

- Site Area: 0.4ha.
- Dwellings: 10.
- Alternative Site Reference: EXH-14.

NSRA15



6.108 The site is vacant land. There are a number of Tree Preservations Orders within the site.

6.109 Key Ecological Features:

- Individual trees.
- Habitat connectivity and ecological corridor.

6.110 The site should continue to act as a stepping stone to connect with gardens and open spaces within Keresley to the east, and Bunsons Wood and the wider countryside to the west.

Borough Plan objectives

6.111 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

- Objective 1.
- Objective 2.
- Objective 4.

Evidence base

6.112 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- Icen Projects (2022). *Draft HEDNA for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough*.

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- Icen Projects (2022). *Sub-regional HEDNA for Coventry and Warwickshire Local Authorities.*
- Icen Projects (2022). *Towards a Housing Requirement for Nuneaton and Bedworth.*
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2022). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Authority Monitoring Report 2021/22.*
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2023). *Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment.*

Delivery mechanisms

6.113 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

- Set up and monitor a phasing and delivery strategy to ensure a five-year supply and delivery of the housing target for the plan period.
- Work in partnership with landowners and agents.

Monitoring

6.114 The indicator and target that will be monitored for this policy is outlined in Table 8.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
DS5a	Monitor the supply and delivery of allocated sites and report annually through the Authority Monitoring Report.	All dwellings completed.

Table 8: Indicator and target to be monitored for Policy DS5.

Policy DS6 – Employment allocations

The following sites will be allocated for employment development and associated infrastructure as shown on the proposals map.

Strategic Employment Allocation	Site name	Site ref	Size (ha)
SEA2	Wilsons Lane	EMP2	19.09
SEA3	Prologis Extension	EMP3	3.58
SEA4	Coventry Road, Nuneaton	EMP4	9.59
SEA6	Bowling Green Lane	HEA-1 / HEA-2	19.89

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Of the 6 employment allocations in the Preferred Options Borough Plan, SEA 1 (Faultlands) and SEA5 (School Lane/Longford Road) are under construction and form part of the pipeline supply.

The wider Bermuda Park area, south of Nuneaton, including Faultlands and SEA4, is an employment location of regional significance for inward and local investment.

Borough Plan objectives

6.115 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

- Objective 1.
- Objective 2.
- Objective 4.

Evidence base

6.116 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- Icenis Projects (2023). *Review of Nuneaton & Bedworth Employment Land Portfolio*.
- Icenis Projects (2022). *HEDNA for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough*.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2021). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Authority Monitoring Report 2020/21*.
- Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (2018). *Updated Strategic Economic Plan*.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2023). *Draft Economic Development Strategy*.

Delivery mechanisms

6.117 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

- The Economic Development Strategy will include a work programme to assist in the delivery of strategic employment sites and town centre projects, as well as proactively attracting investment.
- Work in partnership with landowners and agents.

Monitoring

6.118 The indicator and target that will be monitored for this policy is outlined in Table 9.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
DS6a	Monitor the supply and delivery of allocated sites and report annually	87.85ha of land is developed for employment uses.

	through the Authority Monitoring Report.	
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Table 9: Indicator and target to be monitored for Policy DS6.

Policy DS7 – Green Belt

Development in the Green Belt

To ensure the Green Belt across the borough continues to serve its fundamental aim and purpose, and maintains its essential characteristics, it will be protected by restricting development to only that which is considered by national planning policy as not inappropriate Green Belt development, except where very special circumstances can be demonstrated.

Proposals on previously developed sites in the Green Belt will be restricted to the limited infilling and redevelopment of previously developed land and will be assessed in accordance with national planning policy.

Any development proposals considered not inappropriate for locating within the Green Belt should demonstrate how their plans will retain the five key purposes of the Green Belt. Any proposed development in the Green Belt will need to maintain openness and demonstrate compensatory improvements to the environmental quality and accessibility of the land.

Opportunities to enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt will be approved, including opportunities to provide access, provide outdoor sport and recreation, retain and enhance landscapes, provide visual amenity and biodiversity, or to improve derelict or damaged land.

6.119 Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough sits within the wider West Midlands Green Belt which was initially established in 1975 and covers almost 1,500sq.m. surrounding the Black Country, Coventry, Birmingham and Solihull. The borough contains large amounts of Green Belt land, most of which is located to the south of Nuneaton, and also surrounds the main areas of Bedworth, Bulkington and Ash Green.

6.120 Nationally, the Government attaches great importance to the Green Belt, which serves the main goal of preventing urban sprawl and keeping land permanently open.

6.121 The five key purposes of Green Belts are:

- to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas.
- to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another.
- to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment.
- to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns.

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- to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

Alterations to the Green Belt boundary

- 6.122 Alterations to the Green Belt boundary are only approved in exceptional circumstances and must be done during the local plan making process.
- 6.123 For the adopted Borough Plan (2019), Green Belt release was considered necessary to meet the overall housing and employment needs determined at the time. The objectively assessed need for the borough, which was informed by demographic based need, supporting economic growth, improving affordability and accommodating overspill from Coventry's unmet need, delivered an average housing need figure of 735 dwellings per annum. Based on the limited capacity / few approved planning applications available and the need to deliver a sustainable development strategy for the borough with the Coventry overspill, the Inspector considered that there were exceptional circumstances to justify Green Belt release at the time. The main evidence base used to base decisions on Green Belt release was the Joint Green Belt Study (2015), which assessed all Green Belt parcels in the sub-region and the contribution they made to the five purposes of the Green Belt as set out in national guidance.
- 6.124 Sites that were released from the Green Belt through the 2019 Borough Plan offer significant housing and employment capacity for the Borough Plan Review plan period. Having regard to those sites, existing permissions, sites submitted through the Call for Sites process and the up-to-date assessment of housing need, it is considered that exceptional circumstances do not exist to justify further Green Belt release.
- 6.125 One of the sites to the east of Bulkington, released from the Green Belt through the adopted Borough Plan, is no longer proposed to be allocated for residential development as part of the Borough Plan Review. A New Green Belt Technical Report has been prepared to establish whether there are exceptional circumstances to justifying the designation of sites removed from the Green Belt as part of the Borough Plan as Green Belt. The report concluded that in line with national policy no exceptional circumstances can be demonstrated to create new green belt given that the development management policies within the adopted plan, which are retained in the Borough Plan Review, are sufficiently strong to resist development outside of settlement boundaries. Therefore, it is not proposed that the green belt boundaries around Bulkington are altered as Policy DS3 – Development principles, which sets the parameters for acceptable development located inside and outside of settlement boundaries, will apply to any development proposals.

Development in the remaining Green Belt

- 6.126 Inappropriate development is harmful to the Green Belt and should not be considered except in very special circumstances. Very special circumstances will not exist unless the potential harm to the Green Belt by reason of

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inappropriateness, and any other harm, is clearly outweighed by other considerations.

6.127 Types of development that may not be deemed inappropriate within the Green Belt include those which are considered essential to:

- Agriculture and forestry.
- Cemeteries and burial grounds.
- Allotments.
- Outdoor recreation and outdoor sport.
- Extensions or alterations to buildings that would not result in disproportionate additions to the original building.
- The replacement of a building, provided that the new building is for the same use, is not materially larger than the one that it replaces and will have no greater impact on the openness of the Green Belt.
- Limited infilling in villages or the partial or complete redevelopment of previously developed land, whether redundant or in continuing use (excluding temporary buildings), providing no greater impact on openness.

Borough Plan objectives

6.128 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

- Objective 7.
- Objective 8.

Evidence base

6.129 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- LUC (2015). *Joint Green Belt Study*.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2016). *Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment*.
- Arup (2023). *New Green Belt Technical Report*.

Delivery mechanisms

6.130 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

- The Green Belt policy will provide a framework against which planning applications will be determined.
- Where relevant, site-specific policies have been developed for the strategic sites which include land being released from the Green Belt in order to minimise harm to remaining Green Belt land.

Monitoring

6.131 The indicator and target that will be monitored for this policy is outlined in Table 10.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
DS7a	Number of applications granted planning permission in Green Belt land although considered inappropriate development.	Zero.

Table 10: Indicator and target to be monitored for Policy DS7.

Policy DS8 – Monitoring of housing delivery

The Council will monitor the delivery of housing and publish progress against the trajectory. Where it is apparent that delivery rates are falling short of what was anticipated, then the Council will take the necessary action to address any shortfall. Such action may include (but are not limited to):

- Working with developers and site promoters, particularly of the two largest strategic sites, to review the requirements and phasing of infrastructure provision, where such re-phasing would assist with viability.
- Working with developers, site promoters and other interested parties to help unlock potential sources of funding for identified infrastructure, or;
 - considering the use of compulsory purchase powers to help address known land acquisition issues; or
 - bringing forward additional sites where it can be demonstrated that such sites will assist with delivery to address short-term needs.

Where additional housing sites need to be brought forward, initial priority will be given to sustainable sites, including town centre redevelopment opportunities in Nuneaton and edge of settlement sites, unless the adverse impacts of doing so would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits.

Policy DS9 – Review

The plan will be reviewed (either wholly or partly) in accordance with the requirements set out in government guidance. In the event of one or more of the following circumstances, a quicker review may be required:

- If there is clear evidence that the borough’s local housing need or employment need has changed significantly since the adoption of the plan. Updated evidence or changes to national policy suggest that the overall development strategy should be significantly changed.
- Any other reason that would render the plan, or part of it, significantly out of date.

6.132 The Council acknowledges that there could be changes to Local Plan guidance and regulations which may see the need for an early review of this plan, or that such a review could be required because of planning circumstances in the Coventry and Warwickshire Housing Market Area. Current government guidance requires that plan reviews should be completed no later than five years from plan adoption.

7.0 Strategic allocations

- 7.1 Policies have been developed for each of the strategic site allocations to outline the specific requirements at each site. A strategic policy also outlines the requirements which apply to all strategic site allocations.
- 7.2 The site-specific policies establish a strategic context for planning applications and set a baseline position in terms of assessing future schemes which will contain more detailed proposals.
- 7.3 They also ensure that development is brought forward in a strategic and comprehensive manner. Alternative solutions and land use arrangements may come forward as part of the planning application process, but these should explain the reasons for any significant differences in approach.
- 7.4 The site-specific policies establish the following matters for each site:
- Land uses.
 - Development principles.
 - Infrastructure delivery.
 - Form of development.
- 7.5 The work undertaken to prepare the strategic policies has identified the key infrastructure and amenity requirements for each of the sites and the outcomes of this have been summarised within the policies. The infrastructure provision has been informed by discussions with key stakeholders and service providers such as Warwickshire County Council's Education and Highways departments, Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire Integrated Care Board (ICB). The Infrastructure Delivery Plan sets out details on these on-site items and will be expected to be fulfilled by each site.
- 7.6 Detailed site concept plans exist for some of the strategic sites and should be used in conjunction with the policies where relevant. In addition, after the adoption of the Borough Plan Review, the Council's SPDs will be reviewed, but in the interim they remain valid and are relevant to the strategic sites where they are consistent with new Borough Plan policy.

Policy SA1 – Development principles on strategic sites

Proposals on all strategic sites will meet the following requirements:

1. Residential development must meet 95% M4(2) and 5% M4(3) Building Regulations standards for access, the Nationally Described Space Standards and the principles set out within the relevant SPDs (including Building for a Healthy Life and the Future Homes and Buildings Standard; or for non-residential buildings, BREAM requirements or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), where technically and financially feasible). Where assessment methods are changed or superseded, the appropriate replacement standards will be used.
2. Landscape features and blue infrastructure should be incorporated into the scheme design and areas of open space, rather than separate areas of isolated green space, existing internal hedgerow trees, hedgerows and specimen trees should be retained and enhanced as well as habitat corridors and green infrastructure pedestrian / cycle routes. Development should provide appropriate trees including street trees, orchards of mixed native species and make use of stepping stones to provide a wider connection for habitat in relation to trees, wooded areas and grassland.
3. Existing watercourses and drainage ditches, which can provide vital corridors for wildlife and be useful in providing available outfalls of surface water connections, to avoid future connections into the combined sewer network, should be protected.
4. Appropriate siting of built form to create variation and use of varied materials to further breakup the mass of development in views.
5. Maximise the use of sustainable materials including green roofs and living walls.
6. Heritage assets should be conserved and enhanced, with focus placed on the assets most at risk from neglect, decay or other threats.
7. Potential local wildlife sites within or affecting the site will be surveyed for their ecological importance whilst designated local wildlife sites will be protected.
8. Areas of high distinctiveness (value 6) should be retained and enhanced³⁶ along with other habitat retention, creation and enhancement required to achieve a minimum of 10% net biodiversity gain. Existing high quality biodiversity features must be retained and enhanced, including financial contributions for long-term management.
9. Existing public rights of way must be incorporated into green / open space networks wherever possible; and new pedestrian and cycle links should be included to provide linkages to the wider area. If these cycle links require the use of the existing adopted highway or are to be offered for highway adoption, these should accord with Warwickshire County Council's design guide and current national guidance. Secure cycle parking and shaded areas, to allow cooling for users, should also be provided.

³⁶ Habitat Biodiversity Audit Partnership for Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and Ecological Services (2022). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council Ecology and Geodiversity Assessment (EGA) Borough Plan Publication Version*.

10. Doors and windows to housing should overlook all streets and public spaces in order to provide natural surveillance.
11. On sites where ridge and furrow is present, green spaces should be positioned so as to retain these areas wherever possible.
12. Community, sport, physical activity, play and open space facilities should relate well to each other and to existing areas, and the new facilities and spaces should be safe, convenient, accessible, well designed, easy to maintain and function well. Proposals shall be assessed against Sport England's Active Design Guidance and its checklist.
13. New proposals will need to ensure that the development includes fundamental mitigation for climate change, carbon reduction leading to neutral carbon emissions by 2050 and for a nature recovery strategy. For example, new developments should be built in line with water resource efficient design standards (110 litres / person / day).
14. In the event of a part submission of a strategic site, the proposal will need to illustrate that the applicant has worked with owners of the other parts of the allocation in order to ensure the entire site will ultimately provide a cohesive scheme, including contiguous linkages without ransom strips to ensure the allocation can be provided in their entirety. Any infrastructure provided within a staged submission such as road widths and visibility splays must be suitable for the provision of the entire allocation.
15. Service bays on employment sites, adjacent to housing, will need to have loading areas set away from residential properties or any other sensitive noise receptors and car parks at least 50m from residential properties.
16. Proposals should comply with the requirements of the relevant Concept Plan SPD and Design Code for the site (where extant / adopted).

Where any of the requirements of this policy or those in the site-specific policies are deemed unviable, an independent viability assessment must be submitted with the planning application.

Landscape and open space

- 7.7 The Council's adopted open space and green infrastructure SPD will provide a basis for open space, landscape and biodiversity requirements³⁷. The development of each of the strategic allocations will seek to incorporate existing landscape features into areas of open space where possible. Retention of existing boundary woodland, trees and hedgerows will form a base to enhance site landscape buffers where proposed.
- 7.8 Existing features, green spaces for landscaping and informal open space will be incorporated into each of the proposed housing allocations. The usable green space will be located to provide areas of either community parks or local parks, linked by a network of footpath and cycle routes. Areas with biodiversity value should be protected, buffered from noise and busy through flow, to retain ecological functionality.

³⁷ Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council. *Adopted Borough Plan (2011-2031)*.

Edge treatments

- 7.9 Existing boundary hedgerows will be retained and strengthened. These trees and hedgerows will form an integrated part of scheme design rather than separate areas of isolated green space. The boundary of each site will be designed to form a defensible boundary.

Biodiversity

- 7.10 Existing high quality biodiversity features will be retained and enhanced as part of the overall development of each of the strategic sites, including financial contributions for long-term management. Development proposals being brought forward on each of the strategic allocations, will be accompanied by an ecological assessment that will confirm how each site will deliver a minimum of 10% net biodiversity gain and will make use of Warwickshire County Council's biodiversity offsetting metrics until such time this is superseded by the mandatory use of the national metrics.
- 7.11 The development of each of the strategic allocations will seek to create areas of greenspace to enhance existing habitats on the site. Sustainable drainage system features should also be utilised as potential wildlife habitat.

Footpaths and cycleways

- 7.12 Opportunities should be pursued to enhance and develop new footpath and cycleway links as part of new housing and mixed-use development, in order to improve connectivity between the site and the local area. An internal network of paths will be required linking key destinations and entrance points, and the delivery of infrastructure or contributions, as agreed by Warwickshire County Council, will be required to the cycle network linking to the site, in accordance with Warwickshire County Council's Cycle Network Development Plan for the borough.

Movement and highway access, including wider road improvements

- 7.13 Planning must support a pattern of development which facilitates and promotes the use of sustainable modes of transport. The Strategic Transport Assessment (2023), prepared by Warwickshire County Council, is a document which considers the potential impacts of all proposed strategic housing and employment allocations within the borough until 2039. This assessment sets out a number of strategic road improvements for each of the strategic allocations and / or the local area.
- 7.14 The submission of a transport assessment will be required as part of any planning application to develop each of the strategic allocations, alongside some of the non-strategic residential sites. The transport assessment will also identify what measures will be taken to deal with the anticipated transport impacts of the scheme, and to improve accessibility and safety for all modes of travel, maximising alternatives to the car such as walking, cycling and public transport.

- 7.15 Any transport improvements / upgrades required by the strategic transport assessment or transport assessment will be secured by planning condition attached to the grant of any planning permission. The development of each of the strategic allocations may also be expected to contribute financially towards wider road improvement schemes, proposed within the borough, during the development plan period, in order to ensure that the local highway network is able to accommodate all strategic housing and employment sites.

Surface water drainage and flooding

- 7.16 Environment Agency mapping has indicated that parts of the strategic allocations, usually following existing field drainage ditches, have a higher potential risk from surface water flooding. In order to ensure that the development of these sites remains at low risk of flooding and does not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere, the development of each of the strategic allocations will include a comprehensive sustainable drainage system scheme.

Community, sports and physical activity facilities

- 7.17 The provision of new facilities or the enhancement of existing facilities will be brought forward as part of each of the strategic allocations.
- 7.18 These facilities will include, but are not limited to, local centres, community halls, sports and physical activity facilities, play and open space provision and playing pitches within the Council's Open Space Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy.
- 7.19 Sport, physical activity, play and open space facilities should relate well to each other and to existing areas, and the new facilities and spaces should be safe, convenient, accessible, well designed, easy to maintain and function well.
- 7.20 The sports and physical activity facilities, identified in the housing site-specific policies, as requiring contributions have all been justified through relevant strategies, have been costed and contributions from each housing site have been calculated. Details of the justification for the sports facilities, their costs and Community Infrastructure regulation compliance is provided in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
- 7.21 If it is unviable to provide facilities on site, then financial contributions to enhance or expand existing local facilities will be sought.

Education requirements

- 7.22 Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough has a two tier education system of primary and secondary schools. Educational requirements have been based on sufficient school provision being available to meet the overall housing numbers proposed with the strategic housing allocations.

- 7.23 New school provision will be met either by the expansion of existing school facilities or the development of new facilities on the strategic sites. The developers of each of the strategic allocations are encouraged to engage in dialogue early, with the local education authority, in order to determine what level of financial contributions are required towards school expansions to address the demand for school places.

Safety and security

- 7.24 Design has a crucial role in delivering a safe and secure environment in residential areas. Natural surveillance should be provided in the form of doors and windows to housing overlooking streets, public spaces and parking areas, with the creation of an environment which is legible to residents and visitors alike. Existing and proposed footpaths shall be clear and legible to promote their active use.

Noise and air quality

- 7.25 The development of each of the strategic allocations will need to take account of potential noise from neighbouring uses and road traffic noise. The precise nature of noise mitigation measures on each site will be established through the undertaking of a Noise Impact Assessment. Air quality mitigation will be required as per the outcomes of the assessment and requirements within the Council's adopted Air Quality SPD³⁸.
- 7.26 If required, suitable noise mitigation should be incorporated into any proposed informal open space or landscape buffer.

Housing densities

- 7.27 The dwelling numbers for each site are based on an overall net density of 35 dwellings per hectare of the developable land on each site. Some of the site-specific policies have noted where alternative densities would be suitable due to site specific circumstances.

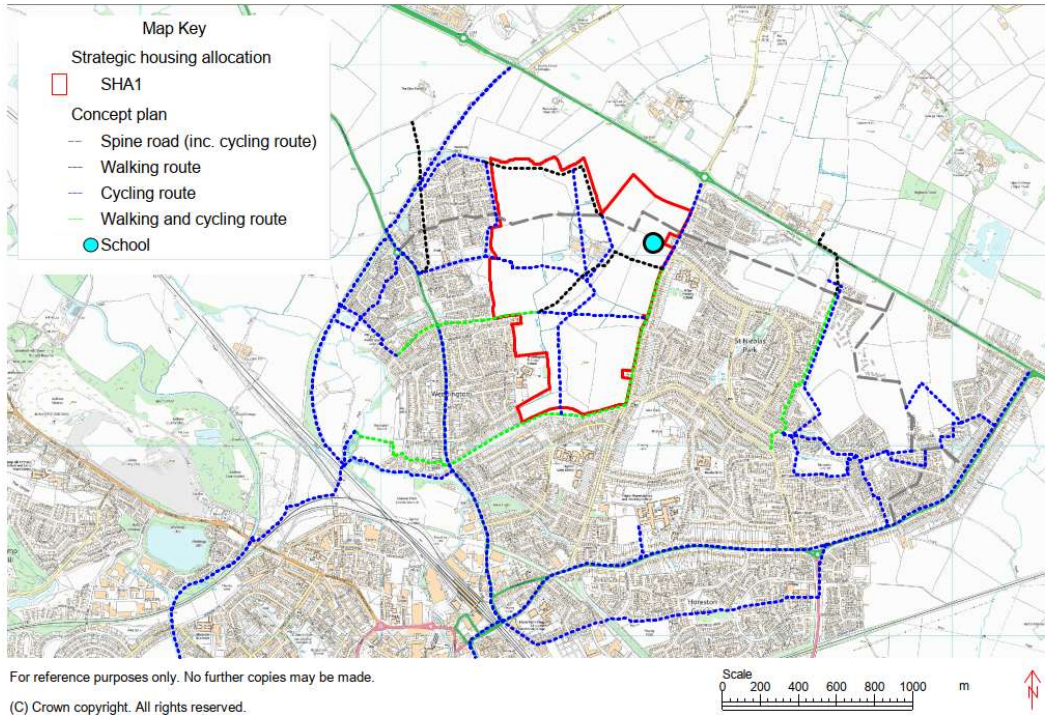
Policy SHA1 – Land at Top Farm, North of Nuneaton

Introduction

- 7.28 Strategic housing allocation SHA1 is a sustainable and deliverable urban extension to Nuneaton. The site covers approximately 94ha, adjoining the northern edge of Nuneaton in the Weddington area of Nuneaton. The site forms part of the wider HSG1 'North of Nuneaton' allocation in the extant 2019 Borough Plan which is allocated for 4,419 dwellings. The concept plan for HSG1 is shown below. The vast majority of the other HSG1 land parcels already benefit from planning permission, with some now under construction.

³⁸ Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2020). *Air Quality SPD*.

SHA1 concept plan



Policy SHA1 – Land at Top Farm, North of Nuneaton

Strategic housing site SHA1 will be developed for a mix of residential, schools, district centre and community uses.

Key development principles

1. Provision of at least 1,700 dwellings in a mix of dwelling types and sizes.
2. Potential on-site GP surgery or financial contribution to new GP practice to serve the north Nuneaton area.
3. Provision of a district centre including community facilities.
4. Provision of a 2 form entry primary school (approximately 210 pupils) and funding, including provision for early years.
5. Financial contribution towards and provision of a new secondary school located off Higham Lane, with community use sports provision to include 6 grassed football pitches for youth / junior provision with changing facilities, full-sized floodlit artificial grassed pitch, indoor 6 court sports hall, changing facilities and indoor health and fitness facility with minimum of 100 station gym and dance studio.
6. Accessible cycling routes to the school site from housing developments, with secure cycle storage facilities for community use.
7. Provision of formal and informal open space areas throughout the site to complement and enhance existing landscape features and to deliver surface water improvements.
8. Provision of a large area of public open space in a north-south spine to provide ecological connections and corridors through the site.

9. Provision of public open space adjacent to and serving as an extension to Coronation Walk Park.
10. Provision of new equipped areas of play including a central Neighbourhood Equipped Area of Play (NEAP) and 5 Locally Equipped Areas of Play (LEAP).
11. Provision of land for new allotments towards the south-west of the site.
12. Financial contribution towards appropriate management and maintenance of play and open space.
13. Financial contribution towards the upgrading of play facilities at the Change Brook Open Space.
14. Financial contributions towards sport and physical activity based on the requirements of the Council's Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (2023) for pitch sport improvements works, including off-site swimming pool provision, cycling facilities at Bedworth Physical Activity Hub, rugby pitch provision at Nicholas Chamberlaine School and community centre, outdoor tennis facilities and athletics facility at Pingles, Nuneaton.
15. Provision of a strategic access road / spine road through the site, with integrated footway and cycleway provision across the strategic site.
16. Provision of on-site bus infrastructure and contribution to secure diversion of local bus services to access the strategic housing site based on dialogue with Warwickshire County Council and bus operators.
17. Transport improvements / upgrades required to alleviate impacts of the development including along Higham Lane, A47 Hinckley Road, Weddington Road, the A5 and the Long Shoot.
18. Financial contributions towards borough-wide strategic highway infrastructure works identified within the Nuneaton area.
19. Contribution to local sewage network improvements to improve biological treatment capacity to accommodate the development.

Form of development

20. Incorporate the Change Brook and existing public right of way (N29) within the green / open space network.
21. Local informal public open space along the northern edge of the development along with appropriate landscape treatment. Dwellings should address the open space from the south.
22. Use lower densities and 1 - 2 storey dwellings toward the northern edge of development with a maximum height of 3 storeys, located toward the existing urban edge.
23. Lower densities concentrated toward the new urban edge.
24. Retain visual presence of historic farmsteads (particularly from the urban edge) and where possible retain a buffer of fields in order to preserve the isolated character.
25. A historic building appraisal will need to be undertaken where development will affect a historic farmstead.
26. The southern boundary should complement the Coronation Walk that adjoins the boundary.
27. Green spaces should reflect the irregular field patterns and boundaries.
28. Ponds should be retained and more created, to secure the adjacent great crested newts population. These ponds should be connected using suitable habitats such as sustainable urban drainage features, hedgerows and their margins.

29. Enhance the National Cycle Route 52 / Weddington Country Walk local wildlife site with regards to access, ecological function and historic setting.
30. There is strong east-west connectivity along various hedgerows within the proposed area, and these should be retained and enhanced in order to form green infrastructure corridors throughout the site.
31. Protected species surveys will be required, with their habitat requirements retained, as well as their connectivity enhanced within any development layout.
32. Development will be required to come forward in accordance with the HSG1 concept plan above, as well as the extant HSG1 Concept Plan SPD.

7.29 The SHA1 site will deliver 1,700 new dwellings in a mix of sizes and tenures. The site is currently in single ownership and adjoins a number of sites with planning approvals for new houses accessed off Weddington Road to the west and Higham Lane to the east. The policy seeks to ensure that the development of the allocation, whilst the subject of individual applications, will be brought forward in an integrated manner in order to deliver wider community and infrastructure benefits for existing and future residents in the north Nuneaton area. The allocation is likely to be delivered on a phased basis across the plan period and progressed by various developers.

Transport and access

7.30 A new distributor link road through the allocation will be provided to include primary access points from Higham Lane through to Weddington Road. This should be delivered in line with the indicative route shown on the above concept plan. The start and end points have already been provided as part of extant planning permissions in these areas. New bus infrastructure will also be required. The width of the main distributor road within the development site must be sufficient to cater for two-way bus movement, in order to allow effective penetration of the site. The distributor road should ensure that:

- all households within the individual developments are within 400m of a bus stop;
- a highway link connects all the separate developments to each other and also the adjoining local highway network and;
- the minimum width of the road is 6.75m to effectively cater for bus turn movements in order to complement flexible bus routing options.

7.31 The Transport Modelling Report, commissioned by Warwickshire County Council, sets out a number of strategic road improvements in order to mitigate potential cumulative impacts of all proposed strategic housing and employment allocations within the Borough Plan. The development of the site is expected to contribute financially towards the Nuneaton area road improvement schemes, set out in the Transport Modelling Report, via planning obligation.

School provision

- 7.32 A key aspect of the allocation will be the delivery of new amenity facilities, including school provision to meet the educational needs of future residents and existing residents in the north Nuneaton area.

District centres

- 7.33 The proposed allocation will bring forward a district centre. The centre will provide important local services / facilities (including GP provision) for residents and, in turn, reduce the need to travel.

Open space and green infrastructure

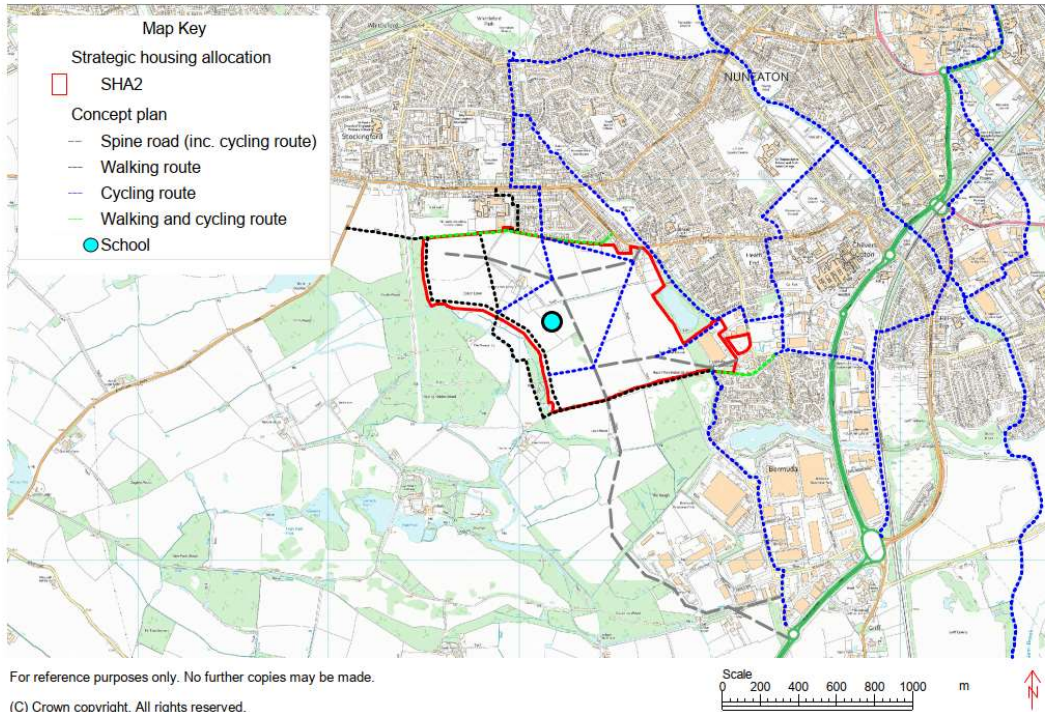
- 7.34 The residential development will be integrated with informal open space that either forms an extension to existing areas or consists of new community parks. Green linkages and paths between the areas of open space and the public right of way network will be incorporated within, and through, the residential areas.

Policy SHA2 – Arbury

Introduction

- 7.35 Strategic housing allocation SHA2 (Arbury) is located on the southwestern boundary of Nuneaton and forms part of the Arbury Estate. The strategic site covers approximately 86ha and is bordered by residential buildings to the north and east, with undeveloped areas of the Arbury Estate and park to the west and south.

SHA2 concept plan



Policy SHA2 - Arbury

Strategic housing allocation SHA2 will be developed for a mix of residential, schools and community uses.

Key development principles

1. Provision of at least 1,525 dwellings in a mix of dwelling types and sizes.
2. Financial contribution to the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire ICB.
3. Provision of a local centre, including community facilities.
4. Community Park (including the proposed strategic play area) to be provided, forming an open space and habitat corridor linking Ensor's Pool and the local wildlife sites to the south, as well as appropriate management and maintenance arrangements.
5. Provision of a distributor link road through the site with integrated footway / cycleway provision in accordance with the concept plan. The distributor link road will need to secure a connection that links the site to the A444.
6. Provision of a 1 form entry primary school and funding, including provision for early years.
7. Provision of footway / cycleway linkages to the existing footway / cycleway network, including linkage to Bermuda Park Station, enhancement of Harefield Lane to reach the Bermuda Village area to the east, as well as contributions towards links to the north and east, mapped in the Cycle Network Development Plan.

8. Provision of on-site bus infrastructure and contribution to secure diversion of frequent local bus services to access the strategic housing site, based on dialogue with Warwickshire County Council and bus operators.
9. Financial contributions towards borough-wide strategic highway infrastructure works identified within the A444 corridor.
10. Contribution to local sewage network improvements to improve biological treatment capacity to accommodate the development.
11. Provision of allotment site extension and facilities.
12. Financial contributions towards sport and physical activity based on the requirements of the Council's Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy for pitch sport improvements, including off-site swimming pool provision, cycling facilities at Bedworth Physical Activity Hub, rugby pitch provision at Nicholas Chamberlaine School and community centre, outdoor tennis facilities and athletics facility at Pingles, Nuneaton.
13. An asset management plan for The Arbury Estate which includes measures to be taken and commitments to the repair and maintenance of the Park Farmhouse, Tea House, Bath House and Arbury Mill.

Form of development

14. Provision of a landscape buffer on the southern and western edge of the site.
15. Improvements to the urban edge through, and use of, a woodland planting belt in order to screen the urban edge. New woodland should be buffered on its eastern side by open space, which the existing houses should face.
16. Utilise woodland planting elsewhere within the new development, with particular consideration given to views from Centenary Way and the existing residential urban edge.
17. Broadleaved woodland should have a minimum buffer of 30m of appropriate habitat in order to safeguard their integrity from imposed health and safe management (tree fall), garden floral escapes and garden refuse tipping.
18. Incorporate Centenary Way and watercourses within the open space framework.
19. Higher density housing should be concentrated toward the current urban edge.
20. Use a maximum building height of two storeys, with the aim of screening views of the urban edge entirely behind woodland.
21. Development should be of a height and density which can be screened by the existing planting within and around the registered park and gardens.
22. Any lighting should not exceed the height of the development and should be designed with regards to minimising light pollution.
23. Ensor's Pool should have a minimum buffer zone of 100m as well as any appropriate mitigation measures in order to ensure that the hydrological pathways to the pool are not compromised.
24. Create a significant area of grassland habitat between Ensor's Pool and Bermuda Clay Pits in order to strengthen a south-north natural flow around the west of Nuneaton.
25. All ponds within the development should be subject to a local wildlife site survey in co-ordination with great crested newts, white-clawed crayfish and water vole surveys. Additionally, protected species surveys for bats, hedgehog, lizards and grass snake, plus surveys for birds and important invertebrates as well as plants should be undertaken.

26. Areas of high distinctiveness (values 4 to 6) should be retained.
27. Enhancements to the footpath along Harefield Lane towards Seeswood Pool.
28. Creation of a footpath link to Ensor's Pool from Harefield Lane.
29. Access to any development within the strategic site should avoid approaching the site from the north. No access should be taken from North Drive, and designs should avoid introducing new approaches parallel to North Drive which would detract from its prominence.
30. As part of any design proposals, suitable measures should be specified to protect Spring Kidden and North Woods ancient woodlands from any significant impact.
31. Development will be required to come forward in accordance with the concept plan above.
32. Development proposals must submit a comprehensive masterplan for the site.
33. Development proposals should comply with the requirements of the latest adopted Concept Plan SPD and Design Code SPD.

- 7.36 The site will deliver approximately 1,525 new dwellings in a mix of sizes and tenures. The site is in a single ownership and is expected to be delivered through an over-arching outline permission.
- 7.37 The allocation will be delivered on a phased basis across the plan period and will commence within the first 5 years after adoption.

Landscape and open space

- 7.38 Any development will be of a height and density which can be screened by the existing planting within and around the registered park and gardens. The existing trees and hedgerows will be retained in order to screen views to and from the strategic site, and where necessary, enhanced. The use of green corridors and low-rise residential development may help to minimise the visual impact of any change within the strategic site.
- 7.39 Development will be restricted to the northern and eastern boundaries in order to minimise light and noise pollution, as well as to maintain an undeveloped landscape buffer of land between the registered park and gardens and residential edge.
- 7.40 New development will be designed to provide an enhanced informal amenity / open space adjacent to the Ensor's Pool special area of conservation (Appendix G). New footway / cycleway linkage will be provided through the site to the existing footway / cycleway network, including to the Bermuda Village area to the east, via Harefield Lane.

Historic environment

- 7.41 Any development should take the opportunity to secure an asset management plan for The Arbury Estate which includes detailed measures for the repair and maintenance of Park Farmhouse and the Tea House, both Grade II* listed

buildings, included on the heritage at risk register. Consideration for the repair and maintenance of the Bath House and Arbury Mill should also be undertaken.

- 7.42 Alternatively, a listed building heritage partnership agreement could be agreed in relation to Park Farmhouse and the Tea House. Any heritage partnership agreement would not replace a requirement to prepare an asset management plan for The Arbury Estate, unless the heritage partnership agreement would do the same.
- 7.43 Arbury Hall registered park and garden is located to the west of the strategic site, with the western boundary of the strategic site located between approximately 60m, at its closest point, and 600m, at its furthest point, from the eastern boundary of the registered landscape. This park and garden form the focus of the Arbury Hall Estate which includes numerous listed buildings. Ensor's Pool special area of conservation adjoins the eastern boundary.

Transport and access

- 7.44 A new distributor link road through the allocation will be provided to include primary access points on Heath End Road, Hazell Way and Walsingham Drive. New bus infrastructure will also be required. No access will be taken from North Drive and detailed site layouts will avoid introducing new approaches parallel to North Drive which would detract from its prominence.
- 7.45 The Transport Modelling Report, commissioned by Warwickshire County Council, sets out a number of strategic road improvements in close proximity to SHA2 in order to mitigate potential cumulative impacts of all proposed strategic housing and employment allocations within the Borough Plan. The development of SHA2 is expected to contribute financially towards the A444 corridor road improvement schemes, set out in the Transport Modelling Report, via planning obligation.

Flooding

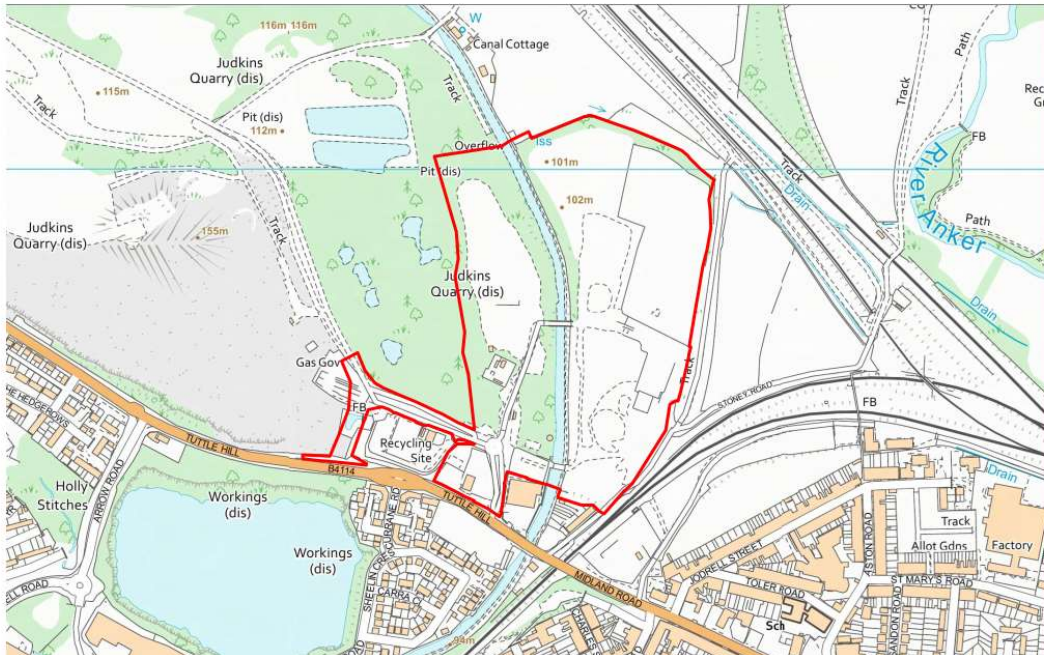
- 7.46 Developers should consider reservoir flooding during the planning stage, using the Environment Agency's reservoir inundation mapping. Where possible, developers should consider using areas at possible risk as public open space.

Policy SHA3 – Land at Tuttle Hill (Judkins Quarry)

Introduction

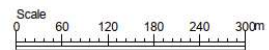
- 7.47 Strategic housing allocation SHA3 is a sustainable and deliverable housing allocation in the Camp Hill area of Nuneaton. The site encompasses HSG11 to the east of the canal which was allocated for 200 dwellings in the extant 2019 Borough Plan.

SHA3



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Policy SHA3 – Land at Tuttle Hill (Judkins Quarry)

Strategic housing allocation SHA3 will be developed for a mix of residential uses.

Key development principles

1. Provision of at least 350 dwellings in a mix of dwelling types and sizes.
2. Financial contribution to the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire ICB.
3. Financial contribution to off-site play and open space at Sandon Park / Stanley Road and to Whittleford Park, as well as appropriate management and maintenance arrangements and provision of on-site play area for under 12s.
4. Financial contribution to Warwickshire County Council towards primary and secondary school places.
5. Replacement bridge or bridges across the canal will be required at the developer's expense. The applicant should have early discussions with the Canal and River Trust (any works will require the express consent of the Trust to ensure that the works will not affect the canal structure). Provision will need to be made by the developer to provide pedestrian and cycle access to the tow path from the site.
6. Provision of a new access onto Tuttle Hill, as well as improvements to the existing access in order to provide segregation between proposed and existing uses.
7. Financial contributions towards a full specification cycle path along Stoney Road using the railway underbridge to link to the NCN52 and Sandon Park / Weddington Meadows play and open space.

8. Financial contributions towards borough-wide strategic highway infrastructure works identified within the Nuneaton area.
9. Financial contribution towards local bus services, including new bus infrastructure if required, based on dialogue with Warwickshire County Council and bus operators.
10. Financial contributions towards sport and physical activity.
11. Financial contributions will be required to upgrade the towpath surface in the area.

Form of development

12. Retain and enhance the wooded character of Coventry Canal, including new planting close to the industrial areas through taller hedgerows and linear woodland. New woodland should be linear and along field margins, reducing the prominence of the development from the wider landscape to the north.
13. Retain views towards the man-made mound (Mount Judd) as a feature and landmark within the landscape.
14. Development should use the canal as the key reference and focal point to the design and should take the opportunity to improve the setting of the canal, which should include better public access and interpretation.
15. Retention and enhancement of green infrastructure along the canal and disused railway corridors so that they remain as wildlife corridors.
16. Protected species surveys will be required at the site.
17. Retention and enhancement of areas of biodiversity value where possible, with appropriate biodiversity offsetting provision where necessary.
18. Enhance accessibility and the structural condition of heritage assets along Coventry Canal including retention of the heritage buildings including the locally listed beehive kiln³⁹.
19. New housing should address the canal. A detailed light contour map, of proposed lighting, will be required to ensure no light spill to the canal wildlife corridor, alongside a construction management plan to reduce the effects of the development on the Coventry Canal. This should include sufficient evidence that the stability of the canal infrastructure, including the cutting, will not be affected during or after construction.
20. Enhancements to canal towpath.
21. Building heights nearest the canal should be limited to 2 storeys in order to limit their visual impact above and through the canal-side woodland corridor.

- 7.48 Strategic housing allocation SHA3 is allocated for at least 350 dwellings and is subject to an outline application (035595) which is yet to be determined. The site comprises previously disturbed former mining land associated with the adjacent Judkins Quarry. Both land parcels are considered deliverable. The land to the west of the canal includes part of the designated Judkins Quarry local wildlife site, which supports a number of valuable habitats and species including great crested newts. This will be a constraint for site delivery, with the proposal required to demonstrate that impacts have been avoided, mitigated or

³⁹ Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2012). *Local Heritage Assets - Criteria for Assessment and Identification*.

compensated as a last resort under Policy NE3. The land to the east of the canal is of less ecological value.

- 7.49 The site is approximately 350m away from Abbey Green district centre. The district centre has facilities to meet day-to-day local needs including retail shops, a public house, health facilities, cafes, hairdressers and hot food takeaways. Nuneaton Town Centre is approximately 800m to the south-east of the site, which offers a wider range of retail, commercial and recreational uses.
- 7.50 The site is understood to be in two ownerships, but the landowners see the value in working together to bring the site forward in a comprehensive and integrated manner. It is essential that landowners come to a voluntary agreement based on sharing the cost of off-site and on-site infrastructure requirements.
- 7.51 The allocation will be delivered on a phased basis across the plan period and will commence within the first 5 years after adoption.

Transport and access

- 7.52 The principal access to the site will be via the existing quarry entrance onto Tuttle Hill located to the west of the canal. Following discussions with the highway's authority, a secondary access onto Tuttle Hill will also be required to provide segregation between proposed and existing uses. Access to the land to the east of the canal will be via the existing quarry land only and will require the construction of a new link bridge over the canal. The opportunity for this bridge to form a green link across the site, and linking to existing public rights of way, should be considered.
- 7.53 Previous transport modelling, commissioned by Warwickshire County Council, sets out a number of strategic road improvements in close proximity to SHA3 in order to mitigate potential cumulative impacts of all proposed strategic housing and employment allocations within the Borough Plan. The development of SHA3 is expected to contribute financially towards the Nuneaton area road improvement schemes, set out in the Transport Modelling Report, alongside contributing to any other improvements that will be required, via planning obligations.

Canal improvements

- 7.54 The development of the site will take the opportunity to improve the setting of the canal, including better public access and interpretation. The canal offers the opportunity to become part of green infrastructure for the strategic site and a sustainable transport route with an existing towpath, which should be upgraded to encourage access.

Flooding

- 7.55 Developers should be aware that any site that is at or below canal bank level may be subject to canal flooding, and this should be considered when building

resilience into low level properties. Due to the potentially numerous locations for failure scenarios, a detailed site-specific investigation will be needed to determine possible flood risk implications to the site.

Future Development Potential

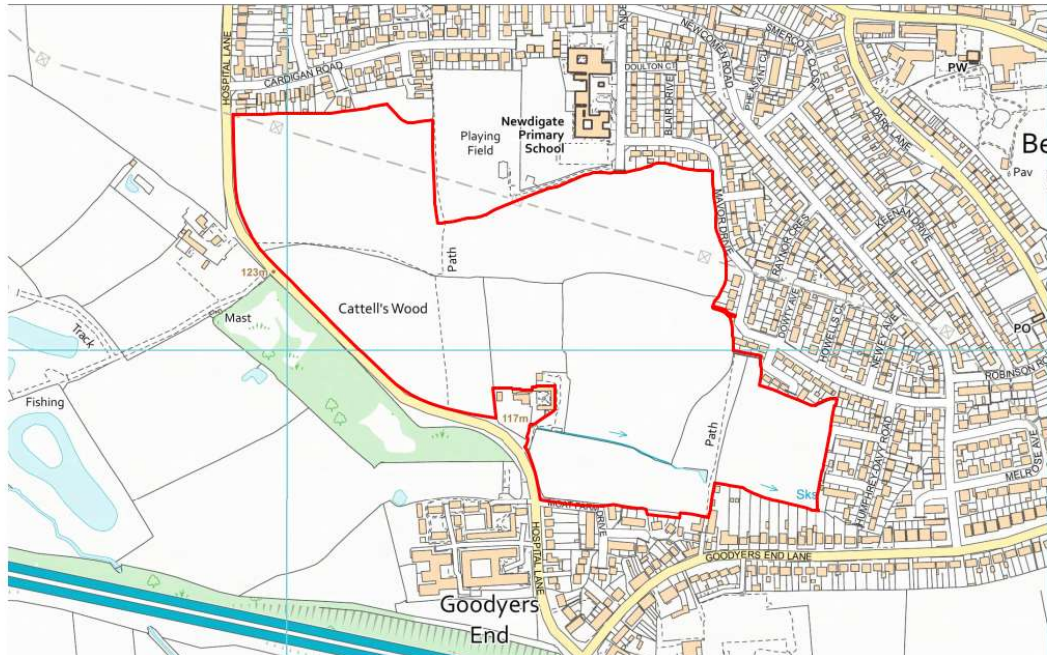
- 7.56 There is potential for land at the wider Judkins Quarry (adjacent the allocated site) to come forward for development within the plan period. The site presents a unique opportunity for the re-development of a major brownfield site, within the borough, to deliver a mix of uses including housing and employment land to meet the longer term needs of the borough beyond the plan period. Given the historic use of the site there is a significant amount of remediation and mitigation required, before the site could come forward for development. Therefore, whilst the land is not allocated within the plan for development, the Borough Council are supportive of initiatives which would help redevelop the site in the longer term. Investment opportunities are being investigated with Partner organisations to open up this land for development.

Policy SHA4 – Hospital Lane

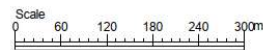
Introduction

- 7.57 Strategic housing allocation SHA4 is a sustainable and deliverable extension to Goodyers End, on the western edge of Bedworth. The site was previously allocated as HSG5 in the adopted Borough Plan for at least 398 units and benefits from a resolution to grant outline permission for 445 units.

SHA4



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Policy SHA4: Hospital Lane

Strategic housing allocation SHA4 will be developed for a mix of residential and community uses.

Key development principles

1. Provision of approximately 445 dwellings in a mix of dwelling types and sizes.
2. Potential on-site GP surgery or financial contribution to a new GP or expanded surgery in the western Bedworth area (Goodyers End, Newdigate, Bedworth Woodlands).
3. Provision of outdoor green gym, as well as older and younger equipped children's play facilities.
4. Play and open space are to be provided with appropriate management and maintenance arrangements.
5. Financial contribution towards the upgrading of the existing sports pitches at Anderton Road and facilities at Newdigate Recreation Ground and Miners Welfare Park.
6. Allocation of land on site for the expansion of Newdigate Primary School to increase capacity to a 2 form entry school, if demonstrated through discussions with Warwickshire County Council.
7. Financial contribution towards secondary level education to expand existing secondary provision in the area to an additional 3.5 form entry.
8. Provision of on-site bus infrastructure and contribution to secure diversion of frequent local bus services to access the strategic housing site based on dialogue with Warwickshire County Council and bus operators.

9. Any transport improvements / upgrades required along Hospital Lane, Smorrall Lane, Goodyers End Lane and surrounding streets because of the development.
10. Financial contributions towards borough-wide strategic highway infrastructure works identified within the Bedworth area, including improvement works to junction 3 of the M6.
11. Provision of a footway / cycleway network through the site and contributions to the wider cycle path network, including links towards Bedworth Town Centre.
12. Financial contribution towards the expansion of the police's Safer Neighbourhood Team, in line with requirements within the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Schedule.
13. Provision of a new district centre.
14. Local sewage network improvements to improve capacity to accommodate the development.
15. Provision of wayleave for electricity pylons, which should consist of a corridor of open space between existing and new housing.
16. Financial contributions towards sport and physical activity based on the requirements of the Council's Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy for pitch sport improvements, including off-site swimming pool provision, cycle facilities at Bedworth Physical Activity Hub, Pingles athletic facility, rugby pitch provision at Nicholas Chamberlaine School and community centre and outdoor tennis facilities in Miners Welfare Park, Bedworth.
17. A strategy for responding to the National Grid gas transmission pipelines, present within the site, is required, demonstrating the National Grid Design Guide and Principles have been applied at the Masterplanning stage and how the impact of the asset has been reduced through good design.

Form of development

18. Maximum building height of 2 storeys, given the nature of existing built form.
19. Ensure new high quality houses face onto the northern side of Hospital Lane in order to form an attractive urban edge to southwest Bedworth.
20. A buffer of fields should be preserved so as to retain the isolated character of Moat Farm on Hospital Lane.
21. Retain and improve the hedgerows along the field edges and consider creating wildlife buffer strips along footpaths to improve connectivity.
22. The layout of the development should be designed to reflect the irregular field patterns and boundaries.
23. Provision of landscaping to the northern side of Hospital Lane in order to soften and limit views of the new urban edge.
24. Improve areas along the edge of the current built up area and proposed development site to maintain footpaths, scrubland and grassland areas to open countryside beyond Hospital Lane.
25. Retain public rights of way and complement with new pedestrian routes and links. Hospital Field local wildlife site (rejected) should be considered as a biodiversity offsetting site for restoration as a community woodland or local nature reserve.
26. Incorporate a wildlife area for Newdigate Primary School at the southern end of the playing field which runs alongside a public footpath.

- 7.58 The site covers 22.4ha and is defined to the west by Hospital Lane and residential properties to the south, east and north. Newdigate Primary School and Anderton Road Playing Fields are also located to the north of the site.
- 7.59 The site will deliver approximately 445 new dwellings in a mix of sizes and tenures. The site is in a single ownership and is being delivered through an overarching outline permission.
- 7.60 The allocation will be delivered on a phased basis across the plan period and commence within the first 5 years after adoption.

District centre

- 7.61 The nearest local centre in Goodyers End is on Smorrall Lane, approximately 950m, at the closest point, to the site. A new district centre will be developed in the north-eastern corner of the site to serve existing and future residents of Goodyers End and reduce the need to travel.

School provision

- 7.62 Land adjacent to the existing Newdigate Primary School boundary will be retained to accommodate expansion of the primary school premises, if demonstrated necessary through discussions with Warwickshire County Council.
- 7.63 At secondary level, financial contributions are anticipated in order to expand existing secondary provision up to an additional 3.5 form entry. The contribution would be part of a pool of contributions from other strategic and non-strategic housing allocations, where pupils are expected to attend local secondary schools in the Bedworth / Ash Green area.

Footpaths and cycle routes

- 7.64 Two north-south footpaths and an east-west footpath run across the site, linking in with nearby residential streets. The existing footpaths will be retained and integrated into the site via the provision of a footway / cycleway network through the site, linking Hospital Lane and Goodyers End Lane with Mavor Drive, Anderton Road and the existing / expanded recreation ground. There will also need to be a contribution towards a cycle path link towards Bedworth Town Centre and to schools in the vicinity.

Transport and access

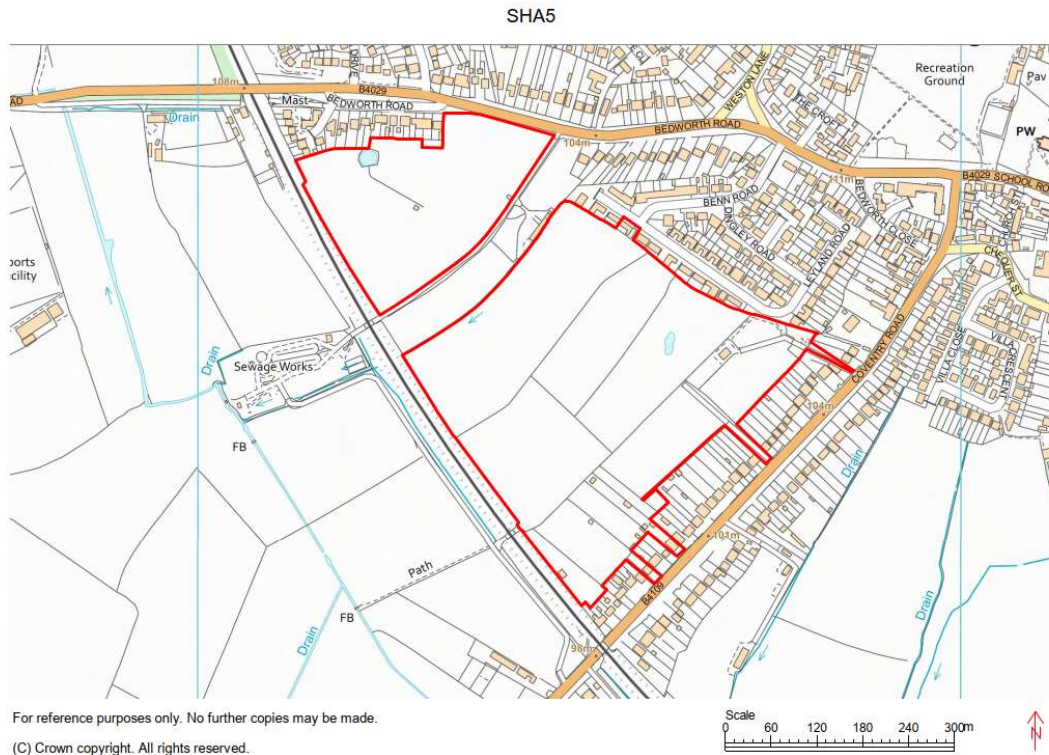
- 7.65 Primary access for vehicles will be provided from Hospital Lane, with additional secondary vehicular access possible from Mavor Drive, Maynard Avenue and Jeffrey Close. Contributions towards associated improvements to Hospital Lane, Smorrall Lane, Goodyers End Lane and bus infrastructure will be sought.

7.66 The Transport Modelling Report, commissioned by Warwickshire County Council, sets out a number of strategic road improvements in close proximity to SHA4 in order to mitigate potential cumulative impacts of all proposed strategic housing and employment allocations within the Borough Plan. The development of SHA4 is expected to contribute financially towards road improvement schemes in the Bedworth area, as set out in the Transport Modelling Report, via planning obligation.

Policy SHA5 – West of Bulkington

Introduction

7.67 Strategic housing allocation SHA5 is a sustainable and deliverable extension on the western edge of Bulkington. The site was allocated as HSG8 in the adopted plan with a further parcel to the north for 495 dwellings (this parcel is now under construction).



Policy SHA5: Land West of Bulkington

Strategic housing site SHA5 will be developed for a mix of residential and community uses.

Key development principles

1. Provision of at least 348 dwellings in a mix of dwelling types and sizes.

2. Play and open space to be provided with appropriate management and maintenance arrangements.
3. Financial contribution towards the upgrading of sports facilities and teenage play provision at Bulkington Recreation Ground, as well as financial contribution towards facilities at Miners Welfare Park in Bedworth, a destination park within the Council's Open Space Strategy.
4. Financial contribution towards community allotments.
5. Financial contribution in order to meet anticipated demand for primary school places.
6. Financial contribution towards secondary level education in order to expand existing secondary provision, in the area, to an additional 3.5 form entry.
7. Bus infrastructure improvements within or adjacent to SHA5, with a potential contribution to secure diversion of frequent local bus services to access the strategic housing site based on dialogue with Warwickshire County Council and bus operators.
8. Any transport improvements / upgrades required for a right turn bay on the B4112 Nuneaton Road southbound approach to the B4112 Nuneaton Road/Weston Lane junction and along Bedworth Road, Coventry Road and surrounding streets as a result of the development.
9. Financial contributions towards highways infrastructure identified in the Strategic Transport Assessment for Bulkington.
10. Provision of a footway / cycleway network through the open space on the site, linking Coventry Road with Bedworth Road would be encouraged.
11. A toucan crossing on Bedworth Road between the northern parcel and the housing development north of Bedworth Road.
12. Financial contributions towards the development of a dedicated cycle path along the B4029 between Bulkington and Bedworth.
13. Potential local sewage network improvements to improve capacity to accommodate the development, subject to discussions with Severn Trent Water.
14. Financial contributions towards sport and physical activity based on the requirements of the Council's Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (2023) for pitch sport improvements, including off-site swimming pool provision, cycling facilities at Bedworth Physical Activity Hub, Pingles athletics facility, rugby pitch provision at Nicholas Chamberlaine School and community centre and outdoor tennis facilities in Miners Welfare Park, Bedworth.
15. Financial contribution towards community facilities.
16. Financial contribution for primary medical care to be given to the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire ICB.

Form of development

17. Landscape buffer along Bedworth Road to enhance the character and approach into the village from the west.
18. Development along Bedworth Road should mirror the existing landscape treatment and scale of development and should be designed so as to frame views towards the church and refrain from dense planting which may limit views towards the church.

19. Creation of substantial hedgerows with hedgerow trees along the western and southern boundary (to be maintained as a Green Belt defensible boundary).
20. The hedgerows provide ecological links from Bulkington Recreational Ground and the railway line, and thereafter into the countryside. These features should be safeguarded and strengthened.
21. Enhancement of linear woodland along the railway line.
22. Conserve and enhance the pattern of small and medium sized fields bounded by intact hedgerows where possible.
23. Retain and enhance field ponds through incorporating them into a network of interconnected open spaces and undertake related protected species surveys including for great crested newts.
24. Creation of a green corridor along public right of way B41 as part of an interconnected network of open spaces.
25. All site boundaries should be enhanced through new planting of trees whilst maintaining adequate distances from housing, and all veteran hedgerows should be retained and surveyed prior to development. Species rich hedgerows should be incorporated within areas of open space.
26. Any applications will require a concept framework or plan to ensure that all the parcels that make up the allocation can come forward in a comprehensive and cohesive manner. Development proposals should be in accordance with the extant HSG8 Concept Plan SPD and ensure access arrangements including widths of access points and spine roads are sufficient to ensure the delivery of all of the sites. Any links must also be contiguous to the adjacent development parcel, as far as reasonably practicable.

7.68 The site covers 18.2ha and is effectively split into two parcels. The site will deliver approximately 348 new dwellings in a mix of sizes and tenures.

7.69 The allocation will be delivered on a phased basis across the plan period and commence within the first 5 years after adoption.

Open spaces

7.70 Formal and informal public open space will be concentrated along the western edge of SHA5. These spaces would contain new combined pedestrian and cycle routes in order to create green routes for pedestrians, cyclists and wildlife. Play provision will need to be delivered in accordance with the Open Space and Green Infrastructure SPD.

Footpaths and cycle routes

7.71 Linkages between the northern and southern parcels should be explored to ensure a comprehensive and integrated redevelopment of the strategic housing site, and to provide permeability through the development, however, this involves third party land not included in the allocation.

7.72 In order to improve connectivity, a 3m wide combined footpath and cycleway will be provided from within the areas of open space, in order to create new car-

free green routes through the site. The routes will link Coventry Road with Bedworth Road. A new toucan crossing on Bedworth Road will allow pedestrians and cyclists to cross Bedworth Road between the northern and central parcels of SHA5.

- 7.73 SHA5 is expected to contribute financially towards the development of a dedicated cycle path along the B4029 Bedworth Road between Bulkington and Bedworth. This will encourage new residents to access Bulkington District Centre, Bedworth Town Centre and Nicholas Chamberlaine School via alternative car-free modes of transportation.
- 7.74 Off-site works include upgrading the existing sports facilities and teenage play provision at Bulkington Recreation Ground and the improvement of facilities at Miners Welfare Park in Bedworth.

School provision

- 7.75 Educational contributions will be sought to ensure that the expansion and reorganisation of both Arden Forest Infant and St James Academy Junior schools are appropriate in order to meet demand. At secondary level, financial contributions are anticipated in order to expand existing secondary provision up to an additional 3.5 form entry. The contribution would be part of a pool from other strategic and non-strategic allocations in the Bedworth and Bulkington area, where pupils are expected to attend local secondary schools in the Bedworth / Ash Green area.

Transport and access

- 7.76 Primary access for vehicles will be provided from Bedworth Road for the northern parcel of the site. The southern parcel of SHA5 has two potential access points from Coventry Road. Additional secondary vehicular accesses are possible from Leyland Road (southern parcel). Contributions towards highway improvements and bus infrastructure will be sought.
- 7.77 The Transport Modelling Report, commissioned by Warwickshire County Council, set out a number of strategic road improvements in close proximity to SHA5 in order to mitigate potential cumulative impacts of all proposed strategic housing and employment allocations within the Borough Plan. The development of SHA5 is expected to contribute financially towards road improvement schemes in the Bedworth area, as set out in the Transport Modelling Report, via planning obligations.

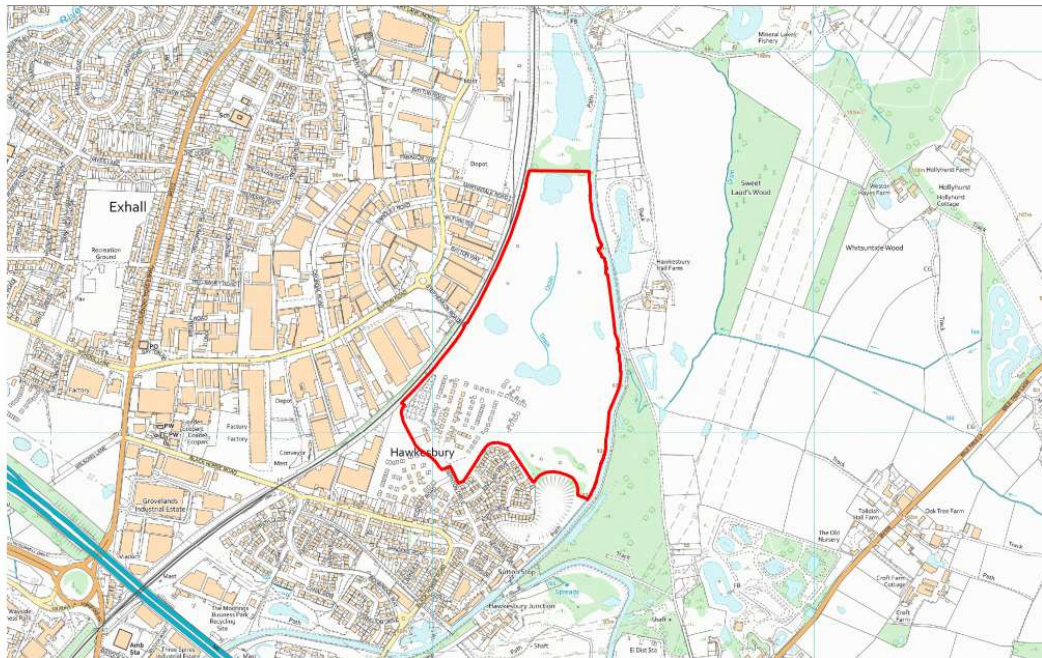
Policy SHA6 – Land at former Hawkesbury Golf Course

Introduction

- 7.78 Strategic housing allocation SHA6 is a sustainable and deliverable urban extension to Bedworth. The site was allocated in the adopted Borough Plan as

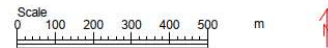
HSG12 for 380 dwellings. The eastern part of the site benefits from permission for 204 dwellings.

SHA6



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Policy SHA6: Land at former Hawkesbury Golf Course

Strategic housing site SHA6 will be developed for a mix of residential and community facilities.

Key development principles

1. Provision of 176 dwellings in a mix of dwelling types and sizes (accounting for approval 036870 for 204 dwellings).
2. Provision of a community building.
3. Financial contributions to Warwickshire County Council, towards the provision of the expansion of primary and secondary school places.
4. Provision of public open space, including a public park around the existing and proposed pools.
5. Accessible cycle routes and footpaths to neighbouring facilities, including schools.
6. Provision of allotments.
7. Financial contributions towards appropriate management and maintenance of the public open space.
8. Financial contribution towards sport and physical activity.
9. Financial contribution towards bus services in the area, based on dialogue with Warwickshire County Council and bus operators.
10. Transport improvements / upgrades to local and wider strategic highway infrastructure.

11. Provision of a new cycle / footbridge crossing the canal north of Hawkesbury Junction to facilitate the extension of NCN52 along the canal towpath and into site SHA6. Improvements should then follow, to the towpath between Hawkesbury Junction and the bridge, provided to a standard appropriate to encourage greater use by cyclists.

Form of development

12. Retention of the valuable existing natural landscape, ponds and trees.
13. Dwellings should address areas of open space both formal and informal, as well as the canal, where appropriate and make use of the opportunities the canal can provide. Canalside housing should be a traditional design, no more than 2 storeys high and face the canal across gardens, access drives and canalside landscaping. A 10m building-free buffer zone should also be provided along the canal frontage.
14. Protected species are likely to be found on site, and surveys will be required, with any habitat requirements retained and connectivity enhanced, within any development layout.
15. Development shall not occur within the prescribed easements around mine shafts on the site.
16. Any proposed development should look to enhance and expand on the Bayton Road Lakes Local Wildlife Site.
17. Any proposed development should look to enhance the canal to the east and enable connectivity to Hawkesbury Spinney and Old Tip Local Wildlife Site.
18. Any proposed development should look to enhance the railway linear corridor to the west.

- 7.79 The overall site covers 29ha to the south-east of Bedworth and runs alongside the Coventry Canal. The red line plan shows the site in its entirety, which includes the western parcel, which is already permitted for 204 dwellings. The eastern part of the site will deliver 176 dwellings in a mix of sizes and tenures. The site is within a single ownership and is expected to be delivered by an overarching planning permission.

Footpaths and cycleways

- 7.80 There are public footpaths which cross the site, which should be maintained, enhanced and integrated within the site. An upgrade and completion of the National Cycle Network Route 52 will be provided through the site, with connections to the wider cycle network.

Landscape and open space

- 7.81 The northern portion of the site will be utilised as open space. Valuable existing natural landscape, ponds and trees will be retained. This will include the existing pools on the site. Existing public footpaths and rights of way, across this portion of the site, will remain and will be enhanced to ensure public access to the land.

School provision

7.82 Educational contributions will be required to ensure the expansion and reorganisation of both primary and secondary provision. Developers are encouraged to engage in early dialogue with the local education authority to determine what level of financial contributions are required towards school expansion, in order to address demand for school places.

Sport and physical activity

7.83 Developers are encouraged to engage in dialogue with the Borough Council to determine what level of contributions are required towards improvements to sport and physical activity.

Transport

7.84 The site will require two points of access from the strategic road network and will be accessed from Sephton Drive. Financial contributions towards strategic highway improvements and bus infrastructure will be sought, recognising that the implications for the wider highway network will involve consideration of relevant junctions within the wider B4113 Longford Road corridor. This will require dialogue with Warwickshire County Council and Coventry City Council, as the relevant authorities responsible for the corridor.

Policy SEA2 – Wilsons Lane

Introduction

7.85 Strategic site SEA2 will contribute to meeting the strategic employment needs of the borough, job creation objectives of the Borough Plan and the delivery of new homes in a mixed-use allocation. A cross boundary outline application has been made with conditional approval granted by Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council but refused by Coventry City Council. An appeal is scheduled early August 2023.

Policy SEA2: Wilson Lane

Strategic employment site SEA2 will be developed for employment, comprising use classes E(g) (ii and iii), B2 and B8, as well as residential uses.

Key development principles

1. Provision of approximately 19.09ha of employment land.
2. Provision of approximately 73 dwellings in a mix of dwelling types and sizes

Employment

The strategic employment site will deliver the following infrastructure and facilities:

3. Any transport improvements / new junctions and upgrades required along Phoenix Way and Pickards Way.
4. Financial contribution towards the management and enhancement of the wildlife areas to the south of the site.
5. Developer contribution towards diverting existing frequent local bus service(s) into the employment site in order to enhance accessibility for local residents or developer contribution to secure provision of bus infrastructure at prominent locations to the employment site.

Housing

The strategic housing site will deliver the following infrastructure and facilities:

6. Transport improvements and upgrades required along Wilsons Lane, including the junction with the A444, and appropriate provision for pedestrians and cyclists.
7. Play and open space to be provided with appropriate management and maintenance arrangements, or a financial contribution towards the upgrading of local play / sports facilities.
8. Financial contribution towards primary education at local schools in order to meet anticipated demand for school places, if demonstrated through discussions with Warwickshire County Council.
9. Financial contribution towards secondary level education in order to expand existing secondary provision in the area to an additional 3.5 form entry.
10. Financial contributions towards borough-wide strategic highway infrastructure works.
11. Potential local sewage network improvements in order to improve capacity to accommodate the development, subject to discussions with Severn Trent Water.
12. Contribution towards the delivery of Sustrans' proposal to provide an enhanced cycle route along Coventry / Longford Road.
13. Financial contribution for primary medical care to be given to the NHS Coventry and Warwickshire ICB.

Form of development

14. Locate larger B2 and B8 uses to the west of the landscape corridor on the lower ground, with smaller scale development on the more visible higher ground next to the housing site and existing residential development on Wilsons Lane.
15. Scale and massing of building form, around the eastern edge of site, should demonstrate that there would be no material detrimental impact caused, on existing residential amenity.
16. Retain areas of ridge and furrow within open spaces.
17. Retain and enhance the pond to the south of the site.
18. For the housing sites, provide appropriate tree planting in the street scene and rear gardens, to help the development integrate into the landscape.
19. Maintain an appropriate landscape buffer to western and northern boundaries.
20. Provide an appropriate landscape treatment to the eastern boundary of the site with a mix of open ground, shrubs and trees in order to provide a mix of open and filtered views westwards across the River Sowe Valley.
21. Seek to retain the section of public right of way routed through the middle of the site within a landscape corridor (with appropriate tree and shrub planting and open ground) and maintain views from the public right of way towards the western side of the River Sowe Valley, or if necessary, appropriately divert the public right of way along a route that does not materially inconvenience the public.
22. Provide ecological enhancements and maintenance to the River Sowe and its floodplain, in the south-west corner of the site, as well as a vehicular access route to Sowe Meadows local wildlife site to allow maintenance of the site's wildflower meadows.
23. Where possible, retain and strengthen the central hedgerow in order to maintain an east-west network of green infrastructure, or if necessary, compensate any loss in hedgerow through extensive replacement planting on the site.
24. Provide a wayleave for the electricity pylons through the site.
25. A strategy for responding to the National Grid gas transmission pipelines, present within the site, is required, which demonstrates the National Grid Design Guide and Principles have been applied at the Masterplanning stage and how the impact of the asset has been reduced through good design.

7.86 The strategic allocation is located in the south of the Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough area to the south-east of the M6 and A444 junction. An overhead power line runs in a west-east direction across the northern part of the site.

7.87 The site is bounded by residential development to the east and industrial uses to the south-east. The land to the south known as Sowe Meadows is owned by Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and managed as a designated local wildlife site.

7.88 The site is 23ha and will deliver a local growth point including approximately 73 dwellings and 19.09ha of employment uses over the plan period, with integrated landscaping, open space and drainage mitigation. The final net figure will be determined by the design and layout of the site.

- 7.89 Residential development will be focussed in the north-eastern and south-eastern parts of the site, adjacent to the existing residential areas. The remainder of the site will be brought forward for employment uses.
- 7.90 Ancillary offices E(g) should be focused on the eastern part of the site, adjacent to the existing and proposed residential properties. B2 and B8 uses will be focussed on the western part of the site. Scheme layouts need to take into consideration potential stand-offs and easements associated with the overhead power line, and early discussions with National Grid are essential in informing any detailed layout, but it is considered that parking and storage areas will be provided in the vicinity of the power line.

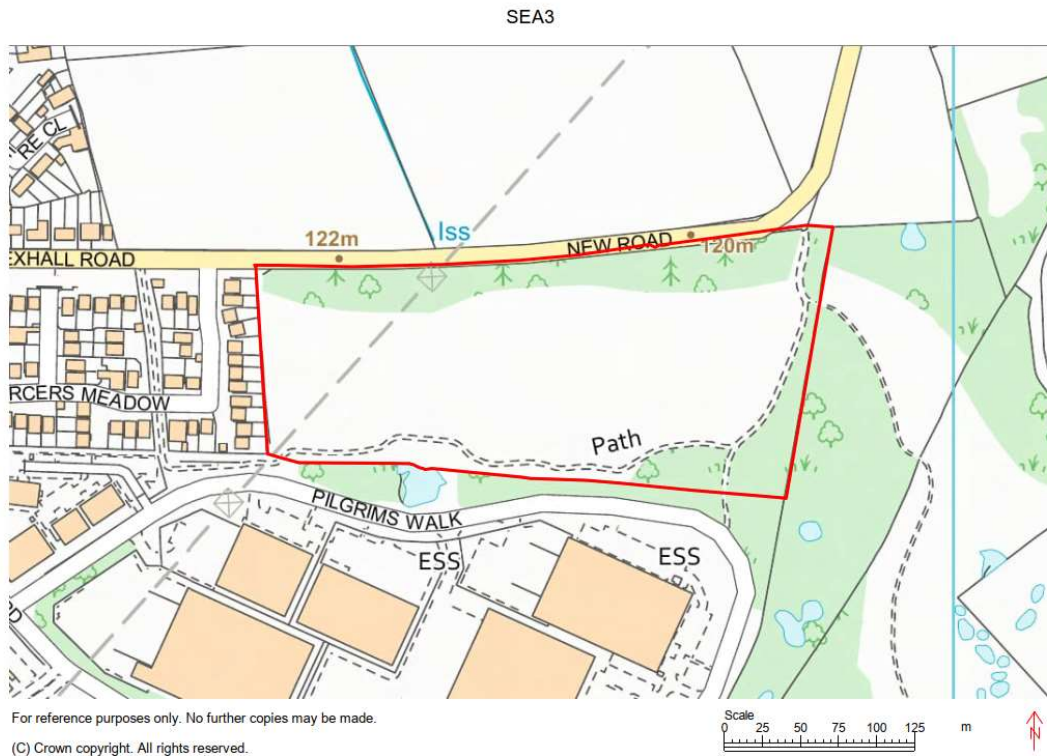
Transport and access

- 7.91 It has been agreed with the highways authority that separate access points will be created for the proposed employment and residential uses on the site. All HGV parking and servicing areas, associated with the employment uses on the site, will be accessed via a new entrance onto the B4113. The final junction solution will be agreed following the completion of a transport assessment.
- 7.92 Access to the residential areas will be via two new access points onto Wilsons Lane. The existing pedestrian access to public footpaths B23 and B25 will be retained. Contributions towards associated improvements to Wilsons Lane, the B4113 and bus infrastructure will be sought.
- 7.93 The Transport Modelling Report, commissioned by Warwickshire County Council, sets out a number of strategic road improvements in close proximity to the site in order to mitigate potential cumulative impacts of all proposed strategic housing and employment allocations within the Borough Plan. The development of the site is expected to contribute financially towards road improvement schemes in the Bedworth area, as set out in the Transport Modelling Report, via planning obligation.

Policy SEA3 – Prologis extension

Introduction

- 7.94 Strategic employment site SEA3 comprises of an extension to an existing employment park and will contribute to meeting the strategic employment needs of the borough and job creation objectives of the Borough Plan. The site received outline consent in July 2022. Two reserved matters schemes are being considered in tandem, one large single unit (c. 14,000sq.m.) and another two smaller units (c. 6,000sq.m. and c. 7,000sq.m.) with potential for additional mezzanine space.



Policy SEA3: Prologis Extension

Strategic employment site SEA3 will be developed for employment, comprising use classes E(g) (ii and iii), B2 and B8 uses.

Key development principles

1. Provision of approximately 3.58ha of employment land.
2. Crushed stone public footway from Pilgrims Walk to New Road / country park, running along the eastern side of the site.

Form of development

3. Retention / enhancement of landscape screening to the northern and southern boundaries (plantation woodland) and eastern boundary (hedgerow).
4. Provision of new landscape screening on the western boundary and enhancements to existing structural planting on the site.
5. Habitat creation, enhancement and subsequent sympathetic management, along the northern, western and southern boundaries to maintain and increase suitable breeding and terrestrial habitats for great crested newts, and to provide sustainable habitat connectivity with Prologis Country Park (local wildlife site) to the east/south-east:
 - a. Retention of existing waterbody (southern boundary) and creation of new waterbodies.
 - b. New hibernacula.
 - c. Management of retained grassland; and

- d. Access roads to have appropriate connective measures for amphibians to allow their safe passage along the southern boundary.
6. Retention of existing surfaced path to the New Road.
7. Retention of mown footpath link from Pilgrims Walk (at south-west corner of site) to existing surfaced path linking to New Road and the Prologis Country Park (at north-east corner of site).
8. Vehicular access to be provided from Pilgrims Walk.
9. Building height to be restricted to 15m to ridge closest to the western boundary.
10. Loading area to be positioned so as to not face onto residential properties and car parking spaces to be at least 50m away from neighbouring residential properties.
11. Suitable sewage connection to the existing foul drainage network.
12. Provision of an integrated surface water management scheme.

- 7.95 The site is located to the north of Plot H, at Prologis Park, and its southern boundary borders Pilgrims Walk, which also serve Plot H. It mainly comprises poor semi-improved grassland, together with plantation woodland along the northern and southern boundaries, including a pond to the south.
- 7.96 The site will deliver approximately 5.3ha (gross) for employment uses, including access, parking, servicing and landscaping / habitat enhancement. The final net figure will be determined by the design and layout of the site. The final scheme layout will need to provide a wayleave for the overhead power lines.

Biodiversity

- 7.97 Land to the east / south-east of the site is subject to a non-statutory local wildlife site designation (Prologis Country Park local wildlife site). A key feature of the local wildlife site is the meta-population of great crested newts (a European protected species) that it supports, which the on-going management of the country park has specific objectives for.
- 7.98 The SEA3 site itself includes a small pond which supports breeding great crested newts, and to ensure that the favourable conservation status of the local great crested newt population is maintained, the site will require on-site mitigation and additional off-site mitigation in the adjacent country park.
- 7.99 Beyond the mitigation measures for great crested newts, development of SEA3 will result in an overall loss of habitat, but much of this will be poor semi-improved grassland of low biodiversity distinctiveness. However, to ensure that there is no net loss of biodiversity, the proposed development will be subject to a Warwickshire Biodiversity Impact Assessment to identify the level of compensatory habitat creation / enhancement that will be required, either within the Prologis Country Park or at another appropriate off-site location.

Transport and access

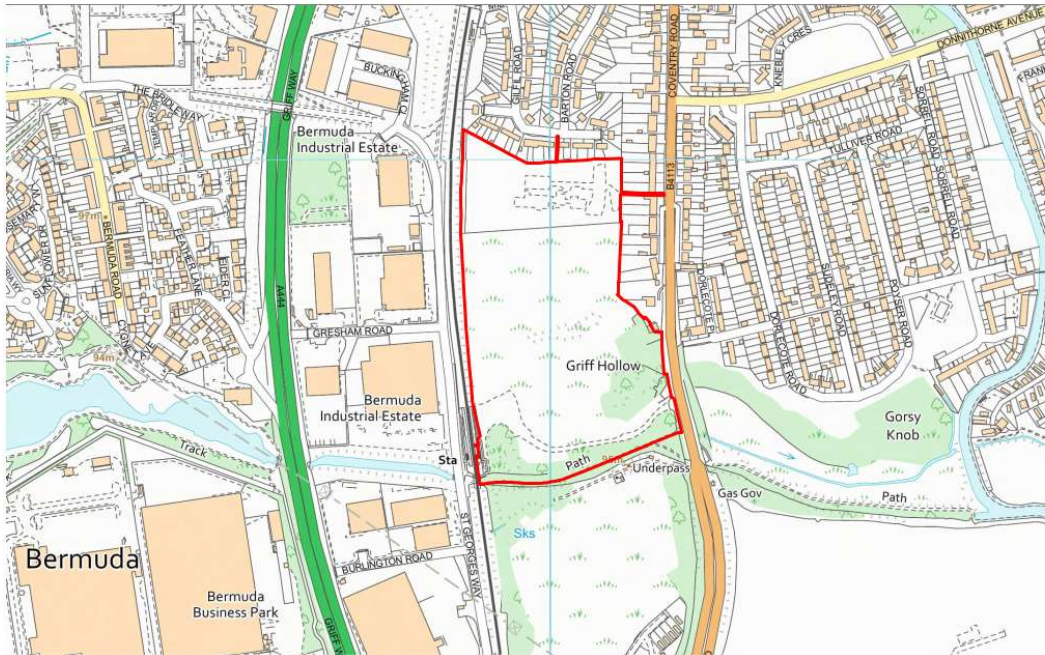
- 7.100 Access to the site will be via the existing road infrastructure within Prologis Park (Winding House Lane / Central Boulevard) with access points taken from Pilgrims Walk. Existing footpath routes will be retained. There is potential for separate access points for HGVs and cars. However, this needs to take existing landscape and ecological constraints into account.
- 7.101 The Transport Modelling Report, commissioned by Warwickshire County Council, sets out a number of strategic road improvements in close proximity to SEA3 to mitigate potential cumulative impacts of all proposed strategic housing and employment allocations within the Borough Plan. The development of SEA3 is expected to contribute financially towards the A444 corridor road and Bedworth area improvement schemes, set out in the Transport Modelling Report, via planning obligation.

Policy SEA4 – Coventry Road

Introduction

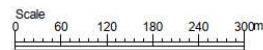
- 7.102 Strategic employment site SEA4 will contribute to meeting the strategic employment needs of the borough, as well as the job creation objectives of the Borough Plan. The site is located on the south-eastern edge of the Hill Top area of Nuneaton and comprises derelict land formally in use as the Griff granite quarry. An outline planning application is under preparation, with potential for up to 22,000sq.m. of employment floorspace. This is currently due to be submitted to the Council in Autumn 2023.

SEA4



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Policy SEA4: Coventry Road

Strategic employment site SEA4 will be developed for employment uses comprising use classes E(g) (ii and iii), B2 and B8.

Key development principles

1. Provision of approximately 9.59ha of employment land.
2. Upgrade of existing access onto Coventry Road (B4113).
3. Financial contributions towards borough-wide strategic highway infrastructure works identified within the A444 corridor.
4. Financial contribution towards the delivery of biodiversity enhancements on land to the south of Centenary Way (Griff Hollows local wildlife site), as well as biodiversity offsetting.
5. Financial contribution towards the reopening of the culverted Griff Brook.
6. Financial contribution towards delivery of an area wide green infrastructure SPD (or equivalent) that promotes species movement along identified green corridors.
7. Suitable sewage connection to the existing foul drainage network.
8. Creation of cycle path link between Bermuda Station and Coventry Road, as well as a contribution to a crossing point for Coventry Road.
9. Reinforce connectivity through the creation of footpath and cycle connections through the site from Coventry Road B4113 to the Griff Brook to the north and the canal towpath to the east.

Form of development

10. Provision of landscape screening along the northern, eastern, western and southern boundaries.
11. Broadleaved woodland should be retained and restored where possible.
12. Smaller scale (and height) development (similar scale to the adjacent Bermuda Industrial Estate) will be located nearer to the residential edge to the north and east.
13. Shorter side or gable end of building form to front onto Centenary Way in order to reduce perceived effects of scale and massing of any proposed development on any retained public open space.
14. Use of colour graduation on elevations from darker colours to base, and lighter colours nearer to rooflines in order to better integrate development into the landscape.
15. Maintain an open corridor to the south of the site accommodating Centenary Way, with appropriate tree and shrub planting in order to limit effects to views along this public right of way.
16. Opportunities to improve the heritage features of the area and their link to the work of George Eliot should be pursued where possible. The Canal and River Trust requires that opportunities are given to restore part of the industrial heritage of the locality and re-establish the canal branch through the site, linking it to the remaining portion to the east.
17. Areas of high distinctiveness should look to be preserved to form part of a network of natural habitats. Habitat connectivity to the south should be maintained and enhanced to allow connections to the wider local wildlife site, including along the southern boundary of the site.

7.103 Land directly to the south of SEA4 was part of the Griff granite quarry and was extensively quarried throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The site is now restored and designated as the Griff Hollows local wildlife site. The Centenary Way long distance footpath crosses the south of the site. Griff Brook runs, in culvert, parallel with Centenary Way.

7.104 The site will deliver approximately 9ha gross (8.6ha net) for employment uses, including parking and servicing areas. The site is in two ownerships, but all landowners see the value in working together to bring the site forward in a comprehensive and integrated manner. It is essential that landowners come to a voluntary agreement based on sharing the cost of off-site and on-site infrastructure requirements. The final net figure will be determined by the design and layout of the site.

Local wildlife site and biodiversity

7.105 Land to the south of the developable area of SEA4 forms part of the Griff Hollows local wildlife site. The site is being brought forward for development in combination with on and off-site ecological mitigation as well as wider biodiversity enhancement. This will result in the enhancement of the habitat connectivity of the Griff Hollows local wildlife site and will create wider linkages to Bermuda Balancing Lake local wildlife site and Coventry Canal. A key element of this will be the reopening of the culvert to enable mammals to connect along ecological corridors. The Griff Hollows local wildlife site should

be re-surveyed and this should include the water vole survey project being undertaken by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust.

Transport

7.106 The Transport Modelling Report, commissioned by Warwickshire County Council, sets out a number of strategic road improvements in close proximity to SEA4 in order to mitigate potential cumulative impacts of all proposed strategic housing and employment allocations within the Borough Plan. The development of SEA4 is expected to contribute financially towards the A444 corridor road improvement schemes, set out in the Transport Modelling Report, via planning obligation.

Historic environment

7.107 SEA4 and its surrounding area is associated with the works of the writer George Eliot. Development of SEA4 provides an opportunity to improve this association and establish connections of the Griff Hollow area to the former section of the canal branch. This could be achieved via the following:

- Re-establishing the canal branch through the site and linking to the remaining portion to the east, in order to restore part of the industrial heritage of the locality as well as creating a continuous wildlife corridor habitat.
- Selection of appropriate planting as demonstrated in historic photos and George Eliot's description of Red Deep in *The Mill on the Floss*.
- Connecting the site to the wider landscape through the use of a heritage / literary trail.
- Establishing a walking route between the proposed George Eliot Visitor Centre at Griff Hotel and Griff Hollow

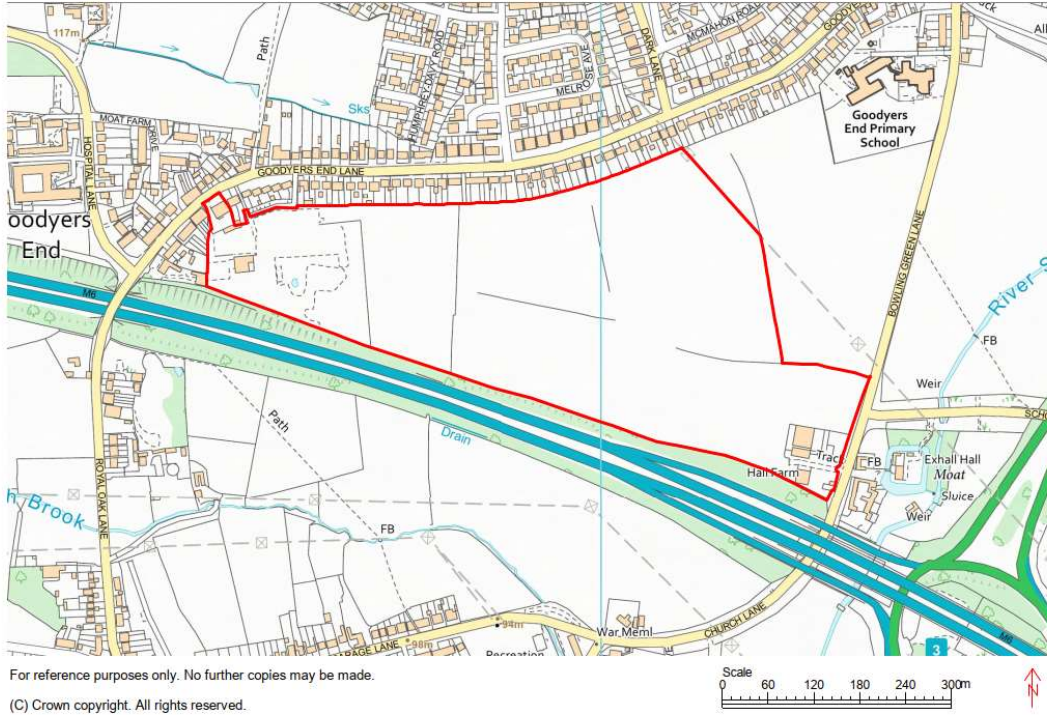
Policy SEA6 – Bowling Green Lane

Introduction

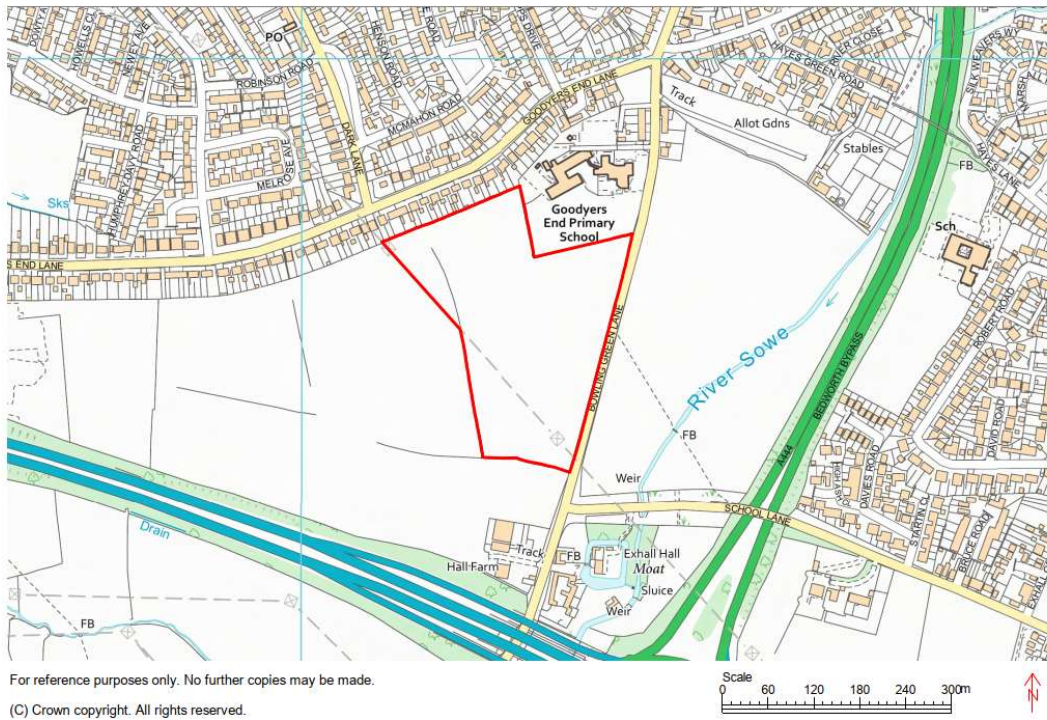
7.108 Strategic employment allocation SEA6 will contribute to meeting the strategic employment needs of the borough, as well as the job creation objectives of the plan, delivering some residential dwellings to contribute towards the borough's needs. An outline application for the site's development has been submitted for the demolition of all existing structures on site, the development of up to 60,000sq.m. of commercial / industrial floorspace (Use Classes B2/B8/E(g)(ii and iii) including ancillary office space (Use Class E(g)(i)).

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SEA6 employment area



SEA6 housing area



Policy SEA6: Bowling Green Lane

Strategic employment site SEA6 will be developed for employment uses comprising use classes E(g)(ii and iii), B2 and B8 and residential uses.

Key development principles

1. Provision of approximately 19.89ha of employment land.
2. Provision of approximately 7ha of land to deliver at least 150 dwellings.
3. Provision of a new junction onto Bowling Green Lane at the School Lane junction, with associated traffic lights and any transport improvements / new junctions and upgrades required along Bowling Green Lane and School Lane (in conjunction with both the development on School Lane and either by agreement with the landowner or securing the transfer of the land to the highway authority to facilitate the use of highway powers for land outside of the School Lane site. The developer will be expected to submit for agreement an HGV routing strategy which will show HGVs accessing / egressing the site from the School Lane direction and avoiding the local schools on Bowling Green Lane, Ash Green Lane and Wheelwright Lane).
4. Financial contributions towards borough-wide strategic highway infrastructure works, identified within the Bedworth area, and provision of a cycle network within the site, including contributions to links beyond the site to residential areas and toward Bedworth Town Centre.
5. Developer contribution towards local bus service(s) to serve the employment site in order to enhance accessibility for local residents.
6. Developer delivery, or contribution, as agreed within Warwickshire County Council, to secure provision of bus infrastructure to complement the point above.
7. Suitable sewage connection to the existing foul drainage network.

Form of development

8. Provision of landscape buffer along northern boundary (minimum width of 15m) and western boundary.
9. Ecological enhancements to existing boundary on southern and eastern edges of the site.
10. Provision of enhanced buffer in the south-eastern corner to protect the setting of the Exhall Hall scheduled monument and listed buildings, as well as ensuring that the scale of development does not detract from the prominence and importance of the listed buildings.
11. Retain existing hedgerows and trees as part of the green infrastructure for any development. Enhance existing hedgerows with new planting where they have become fragmented. Retention of the public right of way within a landscape enhancement area either side of the route in order to form a strategic landscaping area through the centre of the site.
12. Protected species assessment of areas of tall ruderal around field gate.
13. Habitat adjoining the motorway should be retained as an important wildlife corridor.
14. Provision of landscape screening consisting of small groups of specimen trees interspersed amongst grassed areas and wildflower meadows.

15. New development should be accompanied by woodland and tree planting to reduce its prominence within the landscape. Opportunities should be taken to enhance the urban edge through planting new trees and woodland.
16. Scale and massing of building form around northern edge of site should be reduced due to proximity to residential properties.
17. Orientate employment buildings to limit visual effects.
18. Explore opportunities to retain views towards Bedworth Water Tower.

7.109 The site is located on the south-western edge of Goodyers End. The allocation is triangular in shape and defined by Bowling Green Lane to the east, Goodyers End Lane to the north and the M6 to the south. The land slopes gradually from north to south. A public right of way links Bowling Green Lane with Goodyers End Lane, following the site's southern boundary before crossing the site in a north-westerly direction. A 400kv overhead line crosses the north-eastern part of the site in a north-west to south-east direction.

7.110 The site comprises 26ha of open land and will deliver 19.89ha for employment uses, including parking and servicing areas, and approximately 7ha for the residential uses. The site is owned by 2 landowners.

7.111 The allocation will be delivered within the first 5 years after adoption.

Transport and access

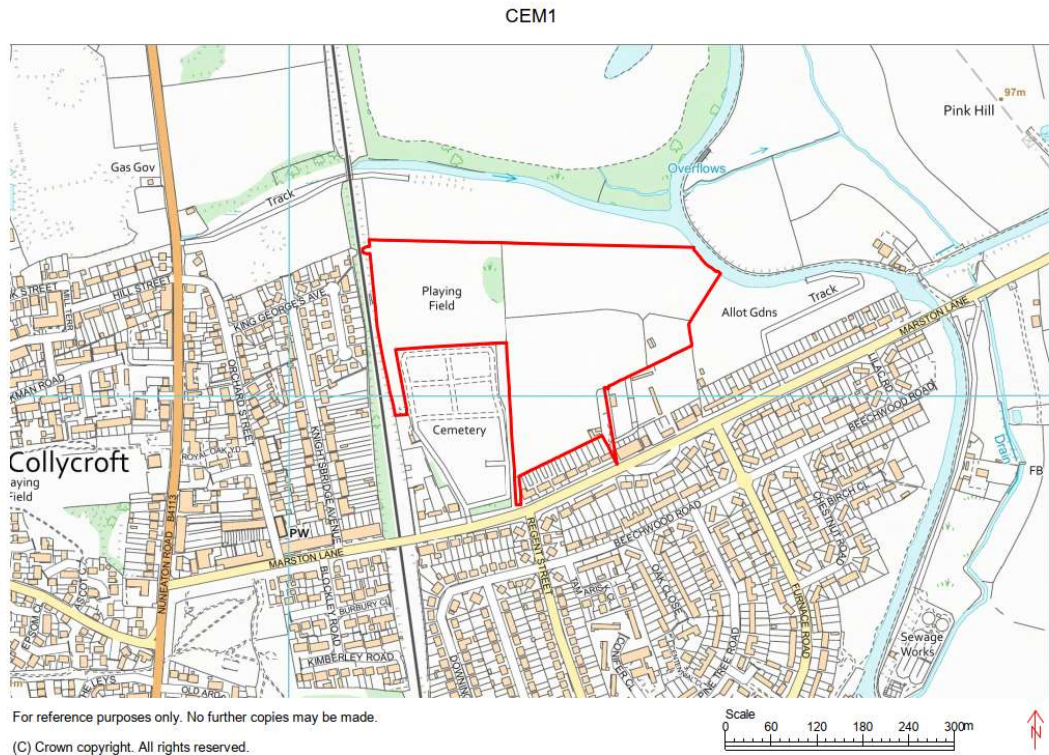
7.112 Primary access for vehicles to the employment parts of the site will be provided from a new signalised junction on Bowling Green Lane, together with any upgrades required along Bowling Green Lane and School Lane (in conjunction with the new residential development on School Lane). Should a secondary access be required to serve the areas reserved for employment uses, this should be served from Goodyers End Lane, and should be limited to provide access for emergency vehicles, car parking, and cycle and pedestrian linkages. All HGV parking and delivery areas are to be served from the primary access point leading from Bowling Green Lane. The residential parts of the allocation should be served by its own access(es) from Bowling Green Lane.

7.113 The Transport Modelling Report, commissioned by Warwickshire County Council, sets out a number of strategic road improvements in close proximity to the site in order to mitigate potential cumulative impacts of all proposed strategic housing and employment allocations within the Borough Plan. The development of the allocation is expected to contribute financially towards the corridor road improvement schemes in the Bedworth area, as set out in the Transport Modelling Report, via planning obligation.

Policy CEM1 – Land north of Marston Lane, Bedworth

Introduction

7.114 To ensure that there is sufficient burial space to meet the borough’s need up to 2039 and beyond, it is necessary to safeguard land for use as cemetery burial grounds.



Policy CEM1 – Land north of Marston Lane, Bedworth

Allocation CEM1 will be safeguarded for use as cemetery burial grounds to serve the borough’s long-term burial needs. Alternative green-belt compatible uses that preserve the openness of the Green Belt, such as playing pitch provision, will be considered acceptable where they will facilitate the development of the wider land allocation for burial space.

Key development principles

1. Phasing of the development commencing from the north of the site.
2. Provision of a suitable stand-off of at least 10m buffer from the Coventry Canal. This buffer is to be planted with native species in order to enhance the benefits of the canal as a wildlife corridor.
3. Retention of existing hedgerows and hedgerow trees where possible.
4. Sensitive design and location of ancillary infrastructure (e.g. roads, pathways etc) in order to preserve the openness of the Green Belt.

- 7.115 Latest evidence shows that there is around 7 years' worth of operational burial space left in the borough. Therefore, additional provision is required.
- 7.116 In the event that the existing playing pitch provision, immediately north of Marston Lane Cemetery, is required to be used to deliver burial space in the short-term, the use of the CEM1 land to deliver alternative playing pitch provision will be consider an acceptable use. However, this should be delivered prior to the loss of the existing playing field site to the north of Marston Lane Cemetery, unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the use is no longer required in the area. Consideration should also be given to visitor parking, in relation to any increase in playing field provision in terms of size and / or use for formalised sports facilities.

8.0 Housing

- 8.1 The following policies set out the requirements for housing provision, including meeting the needs for Gypsies and Travellers.

Policy H1 – Range and mix of housing

General market housing

Development is required to provide an appropriate mix of housing types and sizes based on the need and demand identified in the most up-to-date HEDNA or equivalent. There is currently an imbalance of dwelling types within the borough which the Council will seek to re-address by actively promoting the delivery of housing schemes, where the housing mix is aligned, that sets out the latest assessment of housing needs in the district.

Homes for older people

Development of extra care housing, residential care homes and other housing options, which allow older people to stay in their own homes, will be approved where a local need can be demonstrated. These types of buildings will need to comply with M4(3) higher Building Regulations standards and will be strongly encouraged to adhere with the emerging Warwickshire County Council Technical guidance for Specialised Supported housing and Housing with Care developments.

Other specialised housing

Development proposals for specialised housing and care accommodation will be approved where a local need can be demonstrated. These types of buildings will need to comply with M4(3) higher Building Regulations standards and will be encouraged to adhere with the emerging Warwickshire County Council Technical guidance for Specialised Supported housing and Housing with Care developments.

Self-build and custom build homes

Development proposals for self-build and custom build homes will be supported where they are sustainably located and subject to compliance with the development plan policies as a whole.

All housing provisions need to provide private outdoor amenity space unless justification is provided to illustrate the need would be more appropriately provided through communal space, such as accommodation providing shared living spaces. Housing is required to consider the fundamentals of climate change and achieving carbon neutral emissions by 2050, within their design.

- 8.2 The NPPF indicates that the Council should plan for a mix of housing based on current and future demographic trends, market trends, the needs of different

groups in the community and for new and flexible working practices. The Council should identify the size, type and range required by the local population over the plan period.

- 8.3 This policy gives guidance on the size and type of dwellings for general market housing, the housing needs of the older population and the population with specific needs.

General market housing

- 8.4 A range of types and sizes of housing is needed to redress imbalances of specific types and sizes in order to meet the needs of changing household structures and to meet the aspirations for the borough.
- 8.5 The sub-regional HEDNA (2022) makes recommendations about the size of dwellings for market and affordable housing in the borough, taking account of a range of factors that influence demand including demographic changes and market factors. It suggests the following requirements:

	1 bedroom	2 bedrooms	3 bedrooms	4+ bedrooms
Market	10%	35%	45%	10%

Table 11: Market housing (%) – sub-regional HEDNA (2022).

- 8.6 In terms of market housing, the most significant demand is for two and three-bedroom properties, but it is acknowledged that in the market sector, households are able to buy or rent property of any size subject to what they can afford. Development proposals should deliver a housing mix in line with the recommendations in the most up-to-date version of the HEDNA.
- 8.7 In the past, the business community have raised concerns about the lack of ‘executive’ or ‘aspirational’ homes in the borough, and the impact that this has on attracting potential business investors to the area. This is reflected in the comparatively low number of properties in higher council tax bands in the borough, although housing developments in recent years have delivered more 3, 4 and 5-bedroom houses. Such housing will be considered favourably, provided that the mix of housing is within the ranges indicated in the HEDNA.
- 8.8 Developers will also need to consider the character of the local area, surrounding the site, in terms of the types and sizes of new housing.

Older people

- 8.9 The number of older people, both in absolute numbers and as a proportion of the population, is increasing significantly and is expected to continue to do so. The draft HEDNA (May 2022) projects the following population changes in the borough for those over 60.

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	2021	2039	Change in households	% change
60-64	4,711	4,786	75	1.6%
65-69	4,434	5,401	967	21.8%
70-74	4,640	5,668	1,027	22.1%
75-79	3,691	4,700	1,010	27.4%
80-84	2,599	3,549	950	36.5%
85 and over	2,090	3,620	1,530	73.2%

Table 12: Projected population changes – Draft HEDNA (2022).

- 8.10 It is important to provide appropriate local housing options for an increasingly older population who may have poor health. Maintaining independence and giving people the choice to remain in their own homes is a national and local aim. Many will want to remain in their existing homes, but others may want to downsize to general market housing, or to use supported specialist housing such as sheltered housing, extra care housing or residential care.
- 8.11 In recent years, nationally there has been a move away from a reliance on residential and nursing care and a focus on providing households with care in their own home through the provision of care within general needs housing or extra-care housing. Extra care housing is safe, secure, well designed and attractive self-contained accommodation for older people aged 55 and over, who require varying levels of care and support, designed to enable them to live independently in a home environment. Therefore, the higher building regulations of M4(3) is considered appropriate as well as adherence to the emerging Warwickshire County Council Technical guidance for Specialised Supported housing and Housing with Care developments.
- 8.12 The HEDNA provides an indicative assessment of specialist housing need for 2022 – 2023. It indicates that the borough would need to make provision for 647 dwellings with support and 506 dwellings with care, which includes a higher affordable housing need in Nuneaton and Bedworth compared with the other Warwickshire authorities in the HMA. There is also a need for 503 additional nursing and residential care bedspaces. ‘Policy H2 – Affordable housing’ sets out the requirement for affordable housing provision and will apply to extra care housing.
- 8.13 As set out in ‘Policy TC3 – Hierarchy of centres’, homes for older people should be located in close proximity to town centres and key services, such as hospitals, and should have access to the public transport network.

People with a disability

- 8.14 Data from the 2011 Census indicates that the borough has the highest proportion (35.4%) of households across Coventry and Warwickshire with one or more persons with a long-term health problem or disability. It is recognised that the level of people with health or disability problems is closely linked to the level of the older population, with 57.1% of the population aged 65 having a long-term health problem or disability within the borough. ‘Policy BE3 –

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Sustainable design and construction' addresses the need for housing which is wheelchair accessible.

Self and custom-built housing

8.15 In line with the Self-Build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015, the Council maintains a register of sites suitable for self and custom-built housing. The Council will continue to maintain its register and support appropriate proposals to deliver service plots for self-build and custom build housing in sustainable locations.

Borough Plan objectives

8.16 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

- Objective 4.

Evidence base

8.17 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- Icen Projects (2022). *Draft Nuneaton and Bedworth HEDNA*.
- Icen Projects (2022). *Coventry and Warwickshire Sub-regional HEDNA*.

Delivery mechanisms

8.18 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

- Work with the Council's Housing team to identify a suitable mix of dwelling types and sizes for individual sites.
- Work with the Council's Housing team to update the Housing Strategy.
- Work with the Council's Housing team, Warwickshire County Council and other service providers to identify specific needs for the older population, vulnerable adults and young people with disabilities.
- Maintain a register of suitable sites for those interested in self and custom-built homes.

Monitoring

8.19 The indicators and targets that will be monitored for this policy are outlined in Table 13.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
H1a	Number of bedrooms in new dwelling completions.	Completions in line with percentages set out in the most recent HEDNA.
H1b	Number of dwellings completed to provide	Completions to meet shortfall set out in the most recent HEDNA.

	supported housing and care homes.	
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Table 13: Indicators and targets to be monitored for Policy H1.

Policy H2 – Affordable housing

Proportion of affordable housing

The Council is committed to improving housing affordability in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough. The Council will seek at least 25% of new dwellings to be delivered as affordable where residential development proposals consist of 15 dwellings or more. For residential development proposals that consist of between, 11 to 14 dwellings, a contribution of two affordable housing units will be required, irrespective of any demolitions.

Tenure Mix and First Homes

National policy requires 10% of the total number of homes on a development site to be allocated for affordable home ownership (unless the proposal meets one of the exemption tests in the NPPF). Accounting for the contribution from First Homes, the remainder of the affordable home ownership is to be delivered as shared ownership, or as specified in the Council’s latest published Affordable Housing SPD.

Current national requirements are that 25% of the total affordable housing requirement are provided under the First Homes scheme. The Council has the following local eligibility criteria for First Homes:

- Have lived in the borough for at least 6 out the last 12 months, or 3 out of the last 5 years.
- Have immediate family in the borough, with the family members concerned currently living in the borough and have done so for at least 5 years or more. This would normally be parents, adult children, brothers or sisters provided there are sufficiently close links in the form of frequent contact, commitment and dependence. Other family associations such as grandparents and adoptive parents would also be considered if sufficiently close links are evidenced.
- Work permanently in the borough; or
- Give to, or receive support from, a close family member who is a resident in the borough. Applicants will need to supply supporting evidence from a medical professional or social worker together with full details of the support that is being given / received.

In addition to the first home requirement set out above, the remainder of the affordable housing requirement is to be delivered as social or affordable rent. For schemes of 11 to 14 dwellings, one First Home and one social rent / affordable rent property is to be provided.

The tenure split and affordable housing mix sought will be based upon evidence and agreed on a site-by-site basis by the Housing Team.

Design standards

The Council will require developments to incorporate and suitably integrate affordable and market housing to a high design standard.

All affordable housing must meet the requirement for 95% of new dwellings to be M4(2) compliant and 5% to meet the M4(3) Building Regulations standards. All affordable units must include outdoor private amenity space for each property.

On-site provision

All affordable housing need should be met on-site, unless it can be robustly justified that on-site provision is neither feasible nor viable. Where developers consider applying the affordable housing policy is unviable, or where it is considered that a different mix would better suit local needs and site-specific circumstances, evidence and a Viability Statement must be included with the planning application stating the reasons.

Exceptions

Proposals which boost affordable housing delivery will be considered constructively in line with any updates to national policy. This includes First Home Exception Site proposals as set out in national guidance.

Outside of settlement boundaries, housing development, in addition to those allocated within the Borough Plan Review, will be supported on small rural exception sites, where affordable homes can be delivered to meet the needs of local people within the local community, where there is no conflict with other Borough Plan Review policies and the following criteria are met:

- The site is adjacent to existing settlement boundaries.
- The proposed development is considered suitable by virtue of its size and scale in relation to the surrounding settlement and its services and proximity to public transport links and infrastructure.
- The initial and subsequent occupancy of affordable homes is controlled through planning conditions and legal agreements, as appropriate, to ensure that the accommodation remains available in perpetuity to local people in affordable housing need.
- The majority of the homes provided are affordable and where an element of market housing is required to enable the delivery of significant additional affordable housing, the element of market housing is the minimum amount required to enable the delivery of the proposed affordable housing.

Affordable housing SPD

Proposals must consider how they accord with the requirements set out in the Council's latest published Affordable Housing SPD.

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- 8.20 The HEDNA assesses the Coventry and Warwickshire housing market area and outlines the affordable housing requirements for the borough.
- 8.21 Evidence shows that whilst the cost of private market housing and rents across the housing market area are generally lowest in Nuneaton and Bedworth (and Coventry) there is still a significant affordable housing need in the borough.
- 8.22 In addition, six of the eight super output areas in Warwickshire, ranked within the top 10% most deprived nationally, are located in Nuneaton and Bedworth⁴⁰. Such high levels of disadvantage are reflected by the level of demand for Council owned housing in the borough, which in May 2023 had a register of 3,205 applicants.

Proportion of affordable housing

- 8.23 Work undertaken by DixonSearle Partnership in 2023 identified that an affordable housing target of 25% was viable on developments of 15 dwellings or more. DixonSearle Partnership are undertaking an updated Viability Assessment and will be testing whether a higher affordable housing requirement is viable.
- 8.24 Where the calculation would result in a fraction of a dwelling, the number will be rounded up. Based on the findings, the Council will also require two affordable units on sites where 11-14 dwellings are proposed.
- 8.25 In accordance with the latest national guidance, affordable housing contributions are not sought from developments of 10 dwellings or less.

Tenure split

- 8.26 To keep this policy up-to-date and flexible, the current targets for tenure split, as well as affordable housing mix, have been outlined in the supporting text rather than the policy itself. These targets may change over time to reflect new evidence and any changes in government policy regarding alternative affordable housing options.
- 8.27 Based on the latest levels of housing need, evident from the Council's Housing Register, the outputs of the HEDNA and national guidance, the most appropriate mix of affordable housing provision is considered to be First Homes, shared ownership and affordable rent / social rent. Typically, social and affordable rent are broadly grouped, as both tenure types are likely to be provided by registered providers (or the Council) with some degree of subsidy and will be targeted at the same groups of households.
- 8.28 It is expected that in order to calculate the tenure levels, the 25% requirement under First Homes is first subtracted from the affordable housing requirement followed by any additional affordable market housing 'top up' required to ensure that the site maintains a total of 10% affordable home ownership provision

⁴⁰ Warwickshire County Council (2022). *Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019*.

(exceptions apply). The remaining homes are to be prioritised as affordable or social rent (the mix to be agreed on a site-by-site basis by the Housing Team).

Affordable housing mix

8.29 With regards to affordable housing sizes for Nuneaton and Bedworth, the Coventry and Warwickshire sub-regional HEDNA provides the modelled need for different types of affordable housing:

	1 bedroom	2 bedrooms	3 bedrooms	4+ bedrooms
Affordable rent / social rent	20%	40%	30%	10%
Affordable home ownership	25%	35%	30%	10%

Table 14: Modelled need for different types of affordable housing – sub-regional HEDNA (2022).

8.30 The emerging Housing Strategy for 2023 to 2028 is anticipated to be finalised by autumn 2023 and will also feed into these requirements. Developers are therefore encouraged to undertake pre-application consultation with the Council’s Housing Strategy Team to determine the most appropriate affordable housing mix for new developments.

On-site provision

8.31 The NPPF promotes the creation of mixed and balanced communities, and to enable this, considers the provision of affordable housing is best met on-site, unless off-site provision or a financial contribution of broadly equivalent value can be robustly justified.

8.32 Whilst the provision of affordable housing on-site is the Council’s preferred delivery mechanism, alternative delivery mechanisms may therefore be acceptable, where it can be robustly justified, and providing such alternatives can reasonably be expected to contribute to the creation of successful mixed communities.

8.33 In such cases the Council and the developer may jointly agree on either one or a combination of the following:

- An alternative site to be provided by the developer for the provision of affordable housing.
- A financial contribution from the developer, to the Council, to be used in connection with the development of affordable housing. The financial contribution will broadly be the equivalent value of providing the affordable homes on-site.

First Homes Initiative

- 8.34 On 24th May 2021 the Government announced its First Homes Initiative⁴¹ to help meet the housing needs of first-time buyers: this came into effect on 28th June 2021. Under this scheme the first 25% of all affordable housing units must be delivered via this option and that is 'topped up' to ensure that 10% of the total number of houses on a site are provided in this method (exceptions apply). First Homes are a specific kind of discounted market sale housing. First Homes are discounted market sale units which:
- a. Must be discounted by a minimum of 30% against the market value.
 - b. Are sold to a person or persons meeting the First Homes eligibility criteria.
 - c. On their first sale, will have a restriction registered on the title at HM Land Registry to ensure this discount (as a percentage of current market value) and certain other restrictions are passed on at each subsequent title transfer.
 - d. After the discount has been applied, the first sale must be at a price no higher than £250,000.
- 8.35 First Homes will be secured via a Section 106 Legal Agreement in order to secure the delivery of the First Homes and to ensure the legal restrictions are maintained under these requirements.
- 8.36 Local eligibility has been included to ensure these First Homes are designed to allow local people to get on the housing ladder in the local area, and in particular to ensure that key workers, providing essential services, are able to buy homes in the area.

First Homes exception sites

- 8.37 There are exceptions to the First Homes Initiative. An exception site must be proportionate to the existing settlement and is where a housing site comes forward on unallocated land outside of the strategic and non-strategic sites. These 'Windfall' sites can be within Green Belt and may use the First Homes Initiative exception test, defined within national guidance, in order to provide primarily First Homes. The requirement for any non-discounted market housing within this, would require the submission of a Viability Assessment demonstrating that these are required.
- 8.38 The Council has sought to ensure this policy can be revised in the future if substantial changes are required.

Rural exception sites

- 8.39 National planning policy allows new affordable housing to be permitted on rural exception sites to meet identified local needs. These sites would not normally be released for market housing and should seek to address the affordable housing need of the local community. A small number of market homes may be permitted at the discretion of the Borough Council, where essential to enable

⁴¹ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2021). *Guidance: First Homes*.

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the delivery of affordable units without grant funding. This would need to be supported by local housing need evidence. The provision of affordable housing on any 'exception sites' would need to continue in perpetuity and would prevent these sites becoming part of the private housing market over time.

Affordable housing SPD

8.40 The adopted SPD provides guidance on:

- The design and location of affordable housing on site.
- The provision of affordable housing that is not on site.
- The use of Section 106 agreements and / or the Community Infrastructure Levy (or any new mechanism that may come into force).

8.41 After the adoption of the Borough Plan Review, SPD's will be reviewed and updated but in the interim they remain valid where they are consistent with the Borough Plan Review policy.

Borough Plan objectives

8.42 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

- Objective 4.

Evidence base

8.43 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- Dixon Searle Partnership (2023). *Local Plan Viability Assessment*
- Icen Projects (2022). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Draft HEDNA*.
- Icen Projects (2022). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Coventry and Warwickshire Sub-regional HEDNA*.

Delivery mechanisms

8.44 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

- Adopted SPD on affordable housing.
- Work with the Council's Housing team to seek to negotiate with developers for suitable tenure, types and sizes of affordable housing that are viable and meet current local need.

Monitoring

8.45 The indicators and targets that will be monitored for this policy are outlined in Table 15.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
H2a	Developments of 11 to 14 dwellings and 15+ dwellings, where 2 units and 25% respectively, of affordable housing is negotiated.	100%.
H2b	Intermediate affordable housing completions.	Percentage of intermediate dwellings per annum as required.
H2c	Social or affordable rented housing completions.	Percentage of social or affordable rented dwellings per annum as required.

Table 15: Indicators and targets to be monitored for Policy H2.

Policy H3 – Gypsies, Travellers and Showpersons

Provision for Gypsy and Traveller pitches and Showperson plots, is expected to be delivered in line with the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD).

- 8.46 The Council has a duty under the Housing Act 2004 to assess the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and to demonstrate how that need will be met.
- 8.47 The Government’s Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2015) document aims to ensure fair and equal treatment for Gypsies and Travellers in a way that enables their traditional and nomadic way of life, while respecting the interests of the settled community.
- 8.48 The 2021 Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment showed a need to find an overall requirement for 20 permanent pitches for the period up to 2036/37 and no need for transit pitches for the same period⁴². This need and how it would be met through the allocation of land for new pitches is set out in a separate Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD. This separate DPD sets out a strategy for the location of new gypsy and traveller pitches and the locations within which it is preferred that new pitches are provided.

Borough Plan objectives

8.49 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

⁴² Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2021). *Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment 2021 Update*.

- Objective 4.

Evidence base

8.50 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- Arc4 (2021). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Show person Accommodation Assessment 2021*.

Delivery mechanisms

8.51 The delivery mechanisms for this policy will be as per the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation DPD (due to be adopted in 2023).

Monitoring

8.52 The indicators and targets that will be monitored for this policy are provided within the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocation DPD (due to be adopted in 2023).

Policy H4 – Nationally Described Space Standards

The Nationally Described Space Standards (NDSS) were first introduced in 2015 by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, focusing on internal space standards within new dwellings. The standards can be viewed in the Technical Housing Standards (2015)⁴³ or the Council's Sustainable Design and Construction SPD (2020)⁴⁴. Where assessment methods are changed or superseded, the appropriate replacement standards should be used.

All residential dwellings should comply with the NDSS including any dwelling which does not fall within a C3 use class; for example, extra care accommodation, assisted living housing or houses in multiple occupation; or from change of use or conversion.

Where this requirement is believed to be unviable, written robust justification as to why this policy cannot be achieved, should be provided to the Council.

New residential development should also be designed with sufficient private outdoor amenity space to promote health and wellbeing.

8.53 The PPG states that where internal space standards are identified and justified by a local planning authority, the need, viability and timing of implementing these internal space standards should be considered.

⁴³ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2015). *Technical Housing Standards*.

⁴⁴ Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2020). *Sustainable Design and Construction SPD*.

- 8.54 In order to validate a planning application, relating to new residential development, the following should be submitted to the Council to ensure compliance with this policy:
- Unit numbers.
 - Number of persons that can be accommodated (according to the number of single and double bedrooms).
 - The number of floors in the dwelling.
 - The minimum required floor space (according to the NDSS).
 - The proposed floor space.
- 8.55 In terms of need, there has been growing public concern about the quality of new homes. House prices have risen in recent years, whilst a lack of choice and intense competition for new homes has become evident. Concerns have been raised regarding developers reducing dwelling sizes in order to maximise value. In response to these concerns the NDSS was introduced in 2015, representing a benchmark for all new dwellings across the country and across tenures. However, concerns regarding internal space standards have persisted since the introduction of the NDSS.
- 8.56 In 2015, RIBA undertook a study entitled *Space Standards for Homes*⁴⁵ which reported that half of all new homes remain ‘too small’ when measured against the minimum standards of the NDSS, whilst the size of 3 bedroom dwellings in the West Midlands averaged 85.7sq.m, 7.3sq.m. smaller than the recommended NDSS size of 93sq.m, and 2.3sq.m. smaller than the average for England of 88sq.m. Furthermore, in 2017 Julia Park⁴⁶ set out a comprehensive study of the importance of space in dwellings, reporting on the need for minimum space standards to ensure dwellings and bedrooms are large enough for the intended level of occupancy.
- 8.57 Focusing on the effects of space on health and wellbeing, the following themes were identified in several studies since 2015:
- Mental health – There are strong links between small, cramped living conditions and poor mental health.
 - Physical health – Studies have identified links between overcrowded housing and a number of health conditions.
 - Family relationships – Stress and tensions between family members are worsened where insufficient space is available.
 - Education – Adequacy of space helps children to engage in uninterrupted private study and achieve their potential.
 - Work from home productivity – Adequacy of space helps with the effectiveness of working from home but also helps separate work and home life.
 - Changing physical requirements over people’s lifetimes – Homes need space to respond to changing needs and lifestyles. A 3-bedroom home with

⁴⁵ Royal Institute of British Architects (2019). *Space Standards for Homes*.

⁴⁶ Julia Park (2017). *One hundred years of housing space standards*.

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under-sized bedrooms may seem fine for pre-school children but turns out to be wholly inadequate for older children as the family matures.

- Aggressive and anti-social behaviour is associated with overcrowding.

- 8.58 From a health and wellbeing point of view, the need for minimum internal space standards, at a national level, is evident.
- 8.59 The Council's Borough Plan policies seek to maximise development potential and utilise available land in the most efficient way, whilst achieving sustainable development and respecting local character and heritage. However, it is also important to ensure that achieving higher density development does not compromise space standards and living conditions for residents. The Borough Plan Review sets a housing provision requirement of at least 9,690 homes to be brought forward, in the borough, over the plan period to 2039.
- 8.60 Evidence on the borough's objectively assessed housing need indicates that for market housing and affordable housing (affordable rent and shared ownership) the majority of future demand is likely to be for two and three bedroom homes (35% and 45% respectively) reflecting demand for housing from younger people and families. There is also likely to be some demand for medium sized homes from older households looking to downsize but still retain flexibility for friends and family to come and stay. The analysis also indicates that the demand for smaller one bedroom dwellings and four-bedroom dwellings is lower (10% in both cases). Therefore, the current development trends in the borough indicate a need for strong policy to ensure that new residential development meets minimum internal space standards, as set out in the NDSS.
- 8.61 In terms of viability, this has been established in the Viability Assessment, produced by DixonSearle Partnership (2023).
- 8.62 In terms of timing, the NDSS was first mentioned in Nuneaton and Bedworth's Sustainable Design and Construction SPD (2020) and during the preferred options stage of the Borough Plan Review, in June 2022. These documents set out the intention to introduce the NDSS in the borough, as part of local planning policy. It is considered that the internal space standards will form part of the reviewed Borough Plan, once adopted, and the requirement to comply with the NDSS will come into force in 2024. The Council considers this to provides a sufficient transition and notice period for developers, to consider the impacts of this new requirement in the borough.

Borough Plan objectives

- 8.63 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:
- Objective 4.

Evidence base

- 8.64 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2015). *Technical Housing Standards*.
- Royal Institute of British Architects (2019). *Space Standards for Homes*.
- Julia Park (2017). *One hundred years of housing space standards*.
- DixonSearle Partnership (2023). *Viability Assessment*.

Delivery mechanisms

8.65 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

- Consider preparing a Design Code SPD as per National design coding and guidance.
- Reference to the Council’s Sustainable Design and Construction SPD (2020) in order to provide greater detail for developers and decision makers.

Monitoring

8.66 The indicator and target that will be monitored for this policy is outlined in Table 16.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
H4a	Developers of new residential developments should submit a completed Sustainable Design and Construction Checklist (section 5 of the SPD) showing compliance with the NDSS.	100% of new residential developments comply with the NDSS.

Table 16: Indicator and target to be monitored for Policy H4.

Policy H5 – Accessible and Adaptable Homes

New major residential developments should include the following proportions of accessible and adaptable dwellings as defined in Part M Volume 1 of the Building Regulations⁴⁷:

- 95% of all new dwellings should meet M4(2) standards.
- 5% of all new dwellings should meet M4(3) standards.

All new dwellings should meet these M4(2) and M4(3) standards unless robust justification can be provided as to why these types of dwellings would be unviable or physically impossible, due to a lack of level access, on the development site (for example, due to steep topography or the cost of lift installation). Flood Risk

⁴⁷ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2021). *Approved Document M: access to and use of buildings, volume 1: dwellings*.

Assessments should be utilised, in order to understand the most viable location of M4(3) dwellings, in areas of lowest flood risk, and how the safety of occupiers can be ensured.

The mix, size, type and tenure of M4(3) dwellings should reflect the rest of the dwellings, to be brought forward on the development site, unless local need indicates otherwise.

M4(3) dwellings should normally be built to an 'adaptable' standard, unless the Council will be nominating an occupier, in which case they should be accessible for a wheelchair using occupier.

If the required number of M4(3) dwellings, to be built on a development site, produces an even quantity, it would be appropriate for half to be affordable housing and half to be market housing. Where an odd quantity is to be developed, affordable housing provision should be favoured – evidence indicates a higher need for wheelchair users in the social sector (50% for affordable and 19% for market⁴⁸). For example, if 15 M4(3) dwellings are proposed, 7 should be provided for market housing and 8 for affordable housing provision. This preference will always be subject to the viability of the development.

Drawings must be submitted illustrating the M4(2) and M4(3) dwellings, including the adaptable or accessible measures implemented on-site, alongside their location on the development site.

- 8.67 The Council believes that people should have the opportunity to stay in their family homes for as long as possible. Making homes adaptable for changing and unforeseen circumstances provides families and individuals with the choice of staying in their existing home, whilst reducing the burden of excessively high building costs to retrofit properties, in order to meet such needs and reduce the need to relocate.

Part M Volume 1 of the Building Regulations: M4(2) Standards

- 8.68 In Nuneaton and Bedworth, 8.5% of people, classified as disabled under the Equality Act (2010), indicated that their day-to-day activities were limited a lot, in the 2021 Census⁴⁹, whilst 10.9% reported that their day-to-day activities were limited a little. Additionally, in Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough, 27% of households are home to 1 disabled person, under the Equality Act (2010), and 6.6% are home to 2 or more disabled people⁵⁰. This compares to 25.7% and 6.8% respectively in Coventry and 25.4% and 6.6% in England. In August 2022, 2,819 people claimed Attendance Allowance, in the borough, whilst 3,124 claimed Disability Living Allowance and 7,861 claimed Personal Independence Payment (January 2023)⁵¹.

⁴⁸ Icen (2022). *Coventry and Warwickshire HEDNA Final Report*.

⁴⁹ Office for National Statistics (2023). *Census 2021 – Disability age standardised*.

⁵⁰ Office for National Statistics (2023). *Disability, England and Wales: Census 2021*.

⁵¹ Stat-Xplore (2022). *Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance and Personal Independence Payment*.

- 8.69 In 2023, 19.7% of Nuneaton and Bedworth's population was reported to be over 65⁵². This is projected to increase to 20.9% in 2030 and 21.9% in 2035 before slightly decreasing to 21.7% in 2043. It is becoming increasingly important to provide housing for older people, with life expectancies increasing and in turn, the quantity of older people in the population. Offering older people a better choice of accommodation to suit their changing needs can help them live independently for longer, feel more connected to their communities and help reduce costs to the social and health care systems.
- 8.70 In 2011, 35.4% of Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough's households had at least one resident with a long-term limiting illness or disability compared with 29.8% for Warwickshire, 35.3% for the West Midlands and 32.7% for England⁵³. Furthermore, large increases in the number of older people with dementia (increasing by 21%) and mobility problems (up 20%)⁵⁴ are projected between 2022-2032.
- 8.71 The data presented suggests that there is a clear need to increase the supply of accessible and adaptable dwellings and wheelchair user dwellings, as well as providing specific provisions for older persons housing. Given the evidence, the Coventry and Warwickshire HEDNA⁵⁵ suggested that the Council could consider requiring 95% of dwellings (of all tenures) to meet the M4(2) standards and 5% of homes to meet M4(3) standards. These are the standards required in this Borough Plan policy. Furthermore, in seeking M4(2) compliant homes, the Council should be mindful that such homes could be considered as 'homes for life' and would be suitable for any occupant, regardless of whether or not they have a disability at the time of initial occupation.

Part M Volume 1 of the Building Regulations: M4(3) Standards

- 8.72 The English Housing Survey showed that in 2011/12 there was 184,000 households in England with a wheelchair user and the oldest person in the household was aged under 60⁵⁶. In turn, the 2011 Census showed a household population of 40.6 million people aged under 60⁵⁷ and therefore, a base prevalence rate of 0.005 – essentially for every 1000 people aged under 60 there are around 5 wheelchair user households.
- 8.73 In Warwickshire, the estimated number of wheelchair users was 8,755 in 2022, projected to increase to 10,437 by 2032⁵⁸. However, this does not indicate how many homes might be needed for this group – some households will be living in a home that is suitable for wheelchair use, whilst others may need improvements to accommodation or a move to an alternative home. The

⁵² Office for National Statistics (2020). *Census 2021 - Subnational population projections for England: 2018-based*.

⁵³ NOMIS (2011). *Census 2011 – Long-term health problem or disability*.

⁵⁴ PANSI (2022). *Projecting Adult Needs and Service Information*.

⁵⁵ Icen (2022). *Coventry and Warwickshire HEDNA Final Report*.

⁵⁶ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2013). *English housing survey 2011: homes report*.

⁵⁷ Office for National Statistics (2011). *2011 Census*.

⁵⁸ Icen (2022). *Coventry and Warwickshire HEDNA Report*.

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Coventry and Warwickshire HEDNA (2022)⁵⁹ suggests that the current annual need for wheelchair user homes, in Nuneaton and Bedworth, is 58 with a projected need of 35, for the period 2022-2032. This equates to 24.5% of Nuneaton and Bedworth's housing need.

- 8.74 The estimated need for wheelchair user homes, for 2022-2032, is projected to be 19% for market housing and 50% for affordable housing (affordable rent and shared ownership). This Borough Plan requires 95% of new residential developments to comply with M4(2) building standards and 5% with M4(3) building standards. In both the market and affordable sectors, dwellings should be delivered as M4(2) adaptable dwellings, unless the Council is nominating a potential occupier and then the dwelling should be made M4(3) accessible. It is recognised however, that this will not be possible on all development sites and this policy should be applied flexibly.
- 8.75 The Coventry and Warwickshire HEDNA⁶⁰ states that the Council could seek a requirement of 10-15% for M4(3) compliant dwellings, in relation to new market housing, whilst around a third of affordable housing could potentially meet this requirement. These figures reflect that not all sites would be able to deliver homes of this type but are shown to be higher than the requirements of this planning policy. The Borough Plan Review Viability Assessment (2023), produced by DixonSearle Partnership, analyses the viability of providing M4(2) and M4(3) compliant dwellings, on new residential developments. The Viability Assessment tested and found sound, a requirement of 95% M4(2) dwellings and 5% M4(3) dwellings. This policy (Policy H5) reflects the Viability Assessment's findings, ensuring the viability of this policy over the plan period.
- 8.76 Overall, this policy ensures that adaptable homes will be available for all individuals with a temporary or permanent physical impairment, providing people with choice, flexibility and independence, as well as promoting high quality and thoughtful housing design for the general population.

Borough Plan objectives

8.77 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

- Objective 4.

Evidence base

8.78 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2021). *Approved Document M: access to and use of buildings, volume 1: dwellings*.
- Office for National Statistics (2023). *2021 Census*.
- Office for National Statistics (2011). *2011 Census*.
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2013). *English housing survey 2011: homes report*.

⁵⁹ Icen (2022). *Coventry and Warwickshire HEDNA Final Report*.

⁶⁰ Icen (2022). *Coventry and Warwickshire HEDNA Final Report*.

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- Icení (2022). *Coventry and Warwickshire HEDNA Final Report*.
- Dixon Searle Partnership (2023) *Viability Report*

Delivery mechanisms

8.79 The delivery mechanism for this policy is as follows:

- Confirmation of M4(2) and M4(3) standards implemented on-site, through supporting evidence and drawings submitted with the associated planning application.

Monitoring

8.80 The indicator and target that will be monitored for this policy is outlined in Table 17.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
H5a	Drawings must be submitted illustrating the M4(2) and M4(3) dwellings, including the adaptable or accessible measures implemented, on any new major residential development, alongside their location on-site.	95% of new major residential dwellings for M4(2) and 5% for M4(3).

Table 17: Indicator and target to be monitored for Policy H5.

9.0 Employment

9.1 The following policies outline the requirements for employment growth and proposals.

Policy E1 – Nature of employment growth

Applications for economic uses, focusing particularly on use classes E(g)(ii and iii), B2 and B8 on the strategic employment sites and the portfolio of existing employment sites will be approved subject to them satisfactorily meeting the policies in the plan. Applications which can demonstrate the following will be considered favourably:

1. Inward investment development, providing high quality and high-density employment opportunities.
2. Employment sectors in line with those prioritised in the Economic Development Strategy, which include:
 - a. Advanced manufacturing and sustainable technologies, particularly electric vehicle and battery production.
 - b. Professional services.
 - c. Research and development.
 - d. Small to medium enterprise manufacturing.
3. The generation of permanent jobs that will help diversify the local economy.
4. Major planning applications for new employment development (including change of use and the expansion of existing operations) should demonstrate how job opportunities arising from the proposed development will be made accessible to the borough's residents, particularly those areas identified as the most income deprived in the borough. In this regard applicants will be expected to give consideration to a range of measures including:
 - a. Enhancement of the accessibility of the development to residents by a choice of means of transport.
 - b. Developments must be well designed to accommodate the needs of all transport modes and must be fully integrated with existing transport networks.
 - c. The provision of support to residents in applying for jobs arising from the development.
 - d. The provision of training opportunities to assist residents in accessing employment opportunities and address skill deficits in the local population.
 - e. Childcare provision which enables residents to access employment opportunities.
 - f. measures to assist those with physical or mental health disabilities to access employment opportunities.

E(g(i)) office proposals in the first instance should be directed to Nuneaton and Bedworth town centres. Ancillary E(g(i)) office proposals outside of these town centres, but within an employment site, will be approved.

Where applications for non-B and E(g(ii and iii)) use class proposals are put forward the following should be addressed:

1. Level of economic development being generated (economic development uses cover a wide spectrum of areas but excludes housing). It should be noted that in the first instance main town centre uses should be directed to the town centres in line with 'Policy TC3 – Hierarchy of centres'.
2. Impact on neighbouring uses.

Applications which include proposals for education establishments, that provide training opportunities to assist in up-skilling will be approved.

Proposals that promote appropriately located tourism or cultural activities, to attract and sustain visitor numbers, will be supported.

- 9.2 Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough is a £2 billion economy which accounts for 7% of the Gross Value Added (GVA) of the sub region of Coventry and Warwickshire. Since 2012 the GVA growth of the borough has outperformed that of the Coventry and Warwickshire sub-region. Important sectors of the local economy are manufacturing, transport, warehousing, and retail. Manufacturing accounts for 22% of GVA within the borough with similar contributions for logistics and retail⁶¹.
- 9.3 The automotive sector has contributed 26% GVA growth over the 2012-19 period, highlighting the historic and geographical links the borough has with the car industry. Other key growth areas in the period are public administration, education and health, utilities, motor vehicle trade and logistics⁶².
- 9.4 The borough had approximately 54,800 jobs in 2019 accounting for 10.4% of jobs in the sub-region. Manufacturing accounts for 11.2% of employment in the borough. Compared to the sub-region there is a higher proportion of employment from public administration and health, possibly signifying a weaker private sector business base. Higher value service sectors are under-represented when compared to the sub-region, indicating the difficulty in attracting these sectors to the borough from areas such as Coventry and Stratford-on-Avon. The under representation of these high value sectors affects the borough's overall productivity performance.
- 9.5 GVA economic growth in the borough has been strong. However, economic productivity is GVA per job of £36,800 which is the lowest in the region which

⁶¹ Icen Projects (2022). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment Final Report*.

⁶² Icen Projects (2022). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment Final Report*.

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has an overall average of £51,400⁶³. This is a measure of the relative productivity of the local economy and quality of jobs. As such, a key focus for Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council is improving the socio-economic prospects of the borough's residents through economic initiatives and the Council's revised Economic Development Strategy.

- 9.6 The type of growth that will deliver employment development is also significant for the Borough Plan. The borough has high levels of out-commuting, an over dependency on manufacturing and distribution, as well as a low skills base⁶⁴.
- 9.7 The NPPF⁶⁵ states economic policies should have regard to Local Industrial Strategies and other local policies for economic development and regeneration. The Council has an adopted Economic Development Strategy which sets out the Council's vision, objectives, and priorities for the borough's economy. The document is being updated and is due to be published in 2023. The draft Economic Development Strategy identifies several key economic objectives which are addressed in the policy, these include:
- Assist local businesses to benefit from and adapt to central government policies regarding CO₂ reduction.
 - Promote a high level of connectivity including a strong transport network.
 - Ensure a range of flexible industrial space is available balancing competing demands across industries.
- 9.8 The Council will also seek to attract wider investment through the Economic Development Strategy.
- 9.9 An on-going issue for the borough is its skills base, although there has been a level of improvement. Therefore, the policy seeks to support the development of education establishments in order to assist with the continual improvement by ensuring facilities are in place during the plan period.
- 9.10 Economic disparity between the wards in the borough is an issue to be addressed. According to the Office of National Statistics⁶⁶, in 2019 13.6% of the population of Nuneaton and Bedworth was income deprived. Of the 316 local authorities in England, Nuneaton and Bedworth is ranked 97th most income deprived. 15 of the 81 neighbourhoods in Nuneaton and Bedworth were among the 20% most income deprived in England. Conversely, 14 neighbourhoods were among the 20% least income deprived in England. The most income deprived neighbourhoods are located in the wards of Abbey, Camp Hill, Galley Common, Kingswood, Poplar and Wembrook. Therefore, the Council will seek to ensure applicants engage with local stakeholders and community groups and

⁶³ Icen Projects (2022). *Coventry & Warwickshire Housing & Economic Development Needs Assessment*.

⁶⁵ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2021). *National Planning Policy Framework*.

⁶⁶ Office for National Statistics (2021). *Exploring local income deprivation*.

to actively promote vacancies and training opportunities in income deprived areas.

- 9.11 Within the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority's Strategic Transport Plan (2016), there are a number of policies promoting 'Economic Growth and Economic Inclusion'. These promote improvements in transport infrastructure including Rapid Transit, improved bus services and enhanced walking and cycling measures, alongside policies to improve junction pinch points. Investments in such infrastructure are considered throughout this plan and will serve new employment sites, to enable new travel demands to be met successfully through sustainable forms of travel. As such, new development must be well designed to accommodate the needs of all transport modes and must be fully integrated with existing transport networks. Sustainable travel improvements will then allow employment sites to be developed, enabling new travel demand to be met by sustainable forms of travel.
- 9.12 In Nuneaton and Bedworth 35.4% of households have at least one resident with a long-term limiting illness or disability compared with 29.8% for Warwickshire, 35.3% for the West Midlands and 32.7% for England. In August 2022, 2,819 people claimed Attendance Allowance, in the borough, whilst 3,124 claimed Disability Living Allowance and 7,861 claimed Personal Independence Payment (January 2023)⁶⁷. The Council will encourage applicants to engage with local stakeholders and community groups to actively promote vacancies and training opportunities and assist those with physical or mental health disabilities in applying for vacancies.
- 9.13 The Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 was updated on 1 September 2020. Use classes were modified and the previous B1 uses can now be found in a more general commercial, business and service class, use class E. Within this new use class are retail and leisure uses, that by virtue of being in the same use class, could be converted to offices and vice versa. The Council will monitor the impact of the new use class regarding the amount of office space lost or gained. The removal of this permitted change may have to be considered to retain offices for that specific use in order to ensure that office availability is maintained⁶⁸.

Borough Plan objectives

- 9.14 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:
- Objective 1.
 - Objective 2.
 - Objective 7.

⁶⁷ Stat-Xplore (2022). *Attendance Allowance, Disability Living Allowance and Personal Independence Payment*.

⁶⁸ Cushman and Wakefield (2022). *Retail, Leisure and Office Study Update*.

Evidence base

9.15 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- Icen Projects (2022). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment*.
- Icen Projects (2023). *Review of Nuneaton and Bedworth Employment Land Portfolio*.
- BBP Regeneration (2019). *Coventry and Warwickshire Sub-Regional Employment Market Signals Study*.

Delivery mechanisms

9.16 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

- Economic Development Strategy, inclusive of:
 - Reviewing the promotion of suitable employment and associated actions, e.g. the marketing of the sites.
 - Actively working with partner organisations that can assist in attracting new businesses.

Monitoring

9.17 The indicators and targets that will be monitored for this policy are outlined in Table 18.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
E1a	The number of applications granted in line with the Economic Development Strategy.	Zero applications conflicting with the Economic Development Strategy.
E1b	The number of applications granted for non-economic development uses on strategic employment sites.	Zero.
E1c	Jobs growth within the borough by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of national statistics to track the numbers employed. However, it should be noted that the data is out of date by around 2 years, and can be inconsistent, as Government has recently changed the data source which is only published once a year. • Commissioning work to get more regular and up-to-date data, benchmarked against other areas. 	Jobs growth over the plan period to be in line with 'Policy DS4 - Overall development needs'.

Table 18: Indicators and targets to be monitored for Policy E1.

Policy E2 – Existing employment estates

The redevelopment and/or expansion of existing employment sites, listed in Table 19 (as shown on the policies map), for use class E(g)(ii) and B use classes will be approved.

Where existing sites become vacant or are unlikely to serve a role for employment, the Council will work in partnership to secure an appropriate alternative re-use. The partnership working will be driven by the Council's Economic Development Strategy.

The sites listed in Table 20 and shown in Appendix I (as well as on the policies map), will not be protected from non-economic development type proposals. These sites are considered acceptable for alternative uses during the plan period.

Proposals on protected employment sites for non-employment uses must demonstrate how they meet the following tests:

- a. Is the site allocated for employment land?
- b. Is there an adequate supply of allocated employment sites of sufficient quality in the locality (the relevant settlement within the borough) to cater for a range of business requirements?
- c. Is the site capable of being serviced by a catchment population of sufficient size?
- d. Is there evidence of active marketing for a period of at least 24 months?
- e. Could employment redevelopment be brought forward, taking account of site characteristics (including physical factors, accessibility and neighbouring uses) and would redevelopment be viable? If employment redevelopment is not viable, could mixed use redevelopment be brought forward?
- f. If firms are likely to be displaced through redevelopment, is there a supply of alternative suitable accommodation in the locality to help support local businesses and jobs? Would this promote or hinder sustainable communities and travel patterns?

- 9.18 To support existing businesses located in the borough, it is important to protect and enhance existing employment estates. In May 2023, as part of the 'Review of Nuneaton and Bedworth Employment Land Portfolio'⁶⁹, Icen Projects assessed the employment sites in the borough of 0.25ha and above. The assessment identified those employment sites which are fit for purpose over the plan period or require investment to remain part of the employment land portfolio, and those which should be removed from the portfolio. Those assessed as high quality estates or in need of investment, are identified as existing employment estates on the proposals map and are listed in Table 19. These sites will be given protection against non-economic type development.

⁶⁹Iceni Projects (2023). *Review of Nuneaton and Bedworth Employment Land Portfolio*.

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Estates identified as not being suitable for future employment purposes, listed in Table 20, will not be protected⁷⁰.

Site reference - Review of employment land portfolio	Site name	Size of site (ha)
E1-E2	Pool Road	8.12
E3	Midland Road Network Rail	2.2
E7	Weddington Terrace	3.03
E8	Oaston Road	0.9
E9	Whitacre Road	9.88
E10	Attleborough Fields	32.56
E11	Hemdale Business Park	5.79
E13-E14	Trident Business Park	2.34
E15-E18	Caldwell & Shepperton	10.71
E19	Marston Jabbett	2.56
E20-E21	Bayton Road Industrial Estate	74.3
E22	Grovelands	7.22
E23	Black Horse Road	2.24
E24	School Lane	1.08
E25	The Moorings	3.64
E28	Gallagher Business Park	9.88
E29	Prologis Park	21.6
E30-E32	Bermuda Business Park	94.72
E31	Eliot Business Park	6.18
E33	Hazell Way	8.6
E34	Tenlons Road	4.14
E35	Haunchwood Park	6.19
E36	King Edward Road	0.73
E37	Justice Centre	1.25
E40	Hope Aldridge Business Centre	0.23
E41	Weddington Road	0.68
E42	Ashbrook Court	1.87
E43	Tuttle Hill	0.54
Total:		323.18

Table 19: Portfolio of protected existing employment estates.

⁷⁰ *Iceni Projects (2023). Review of Nuneaton and Bedworth Employment Land Portfolio.*

Site reference - review of employment land portfolio	Site name	Size of site (ha)
E4	Aston Industrial Estate	0.58
E5	Bath Road	0.57
E6	St Mary's Road	1.76
E12	Seymour Road	1.1
E26	Black Horse Road	0.23
E27	Hawkesbury Lock	0.28
E38	Anker Street	0.44
E39	Newtown Road, Bedworth	0.39
Total		5.35

Table 20: Employment estates suitable for alternative uses.

9.19 During the life of the Borough Plan, it was expected that approximately 5.35ha⁷¹ of employment land could be lost by 2039 as a consequence of this policy. Therefore, this was added to the allocation of the employment land target.

9.20 The NPPF states that policies should be ‘flexible enough to accommodate needs not anticipated in the plan, allow for new and flexible working practices (such as live-work accommodation), and to enable a rapid response to changes in economic circumstances⁷²’. The policy allows for alternative uses on employment sites, that are not protected, in accordance with the Borough Plan. However, for proposals on protected employment sites for non-employment uses, the assumption is that these sites are protected. To assist in the determination of this, a number of criteria are contained within the policy which will assist in ensuring that employment estates maintain their employment integrity.

9.21 The Coventry & Warwickshire Sub-Regional Employment Market Signals Study⁷³ (2019) was commissioned to provide a high-level analysis regarding the market for employment land within the Coventry and Warwickshire sub-region. The Study recommended several key points which are addressed in the policy:

- Strengthening the rules such that policies across all Authorities would prohibit a change of use from employment unless it can be evidenced.
- Consideration should also be given to improving / expanding existing estates, rather than a change of use.

⁷² Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2021). *National Planning Policy Framework*.

⁷³ BBP Regeneration (2019). *Coventry and Warwickshire Sub-Regional Employment Market Signals Study*.

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9.22 When considering evidence of active marketing of employment sites, proposed for non-employment sites, there is a requirement for active marketing for two years. In addition, how the size and quality of space matches local demand should be demonstrated, taking account of market conditions and expected future trends.

Borough Plan objectives

9.23 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

- Objective 1.
- Objective 2.

Evidence base

9.24 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- Icen Projects (2023). *Review of Nuneaton and Bedworth Employment Land Portfolio*.
- Ben Cave Associates (2014). *Health Impact Assessment – Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Plan*.
- Icen Projects (2022). *Coventry & Warwickshire Housing & Economic Development Needs Assessment*.
- Icen Projects (2022). *Nuneaton & Bedworth Housing & Economic Development Needs Assessment*.
- Icen projects (2022). *Towards a Housing Requirement for Nuneaton & Bedworth*.
- BBP Regeneration (2019). *Coventry and Warwickshire Sub-Regional Employment Market Signals Study*.

Delivery mechanisms

9.25 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

- Component of the Council's Economic Development Strategy to cover:
 - Facilitation of improvement of existing employment estates in need of investment.
 - Assessment of sites in Table 20 for suitable alternative uses, and development of action plan to facilitate their re-use.
 - Five-yearly review of the Council's Employment Land Review, inclusive of business survey on issues affecting existing estates.

Monitoring

9.26 The indicators and targets that will be monitored for this policy are outlined in Table 21.

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Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
E2a	<p>Monitor the loss of employment land to alternative uses and report annually through the Authority Monitoring Report. The indicator will be assessing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amount of appropriate economic development on estates (this would be in conformity with the policy). • Development approved which results in non-conformity with policy. 	<p>Qualitative monitoring will be undertaken through the Authority Monitoring Report. Consequently, the analysis of this monitoring within the Authority Monitoring Report will determine the impact and effectiveness of the policy.</p>
E2b	<p>Monitoring of any new employment estates which should be protected from alternative uses – this will be reported through the Authority Monitoring Report.</p>	<p>There is no specific threshold determining what a new estate should be. However, anything below 0.25ha will not be considered a sufficient size for a new employment estate. The Authority Monitoring Report will report anything above this threshold and include analysis regarding the proposal.</p>
E2c	<p>Annual monitoring of losses to employment sites that are not to be protected. This will include a review of whether they are redeveloped in line with alternatives identified in the Economic Development Strategy.</p>	<p>All sites should be developed in line with Economic Development Strategy recommendations.</p>
E2d	<p>Monitor the supply and delivery of employment uses and report annually through the Authority Monitoring Report.</p>	<p>87.85ha of employment land over the plan period.</p>

Table 21: Indicators and targets to be monitored for Policy E2.

10.0 Town centres

- 10.1 These policies outline the requirements in and around Nuneaton and Bedworth town centres.

Policy TC1 – Town centre requirements

This policy is to be read in conjunction with any future Town Centre SPDs.

Development within the town centres will need to support the aspirations of the Transforming Nuneaton⁷⁴ and Transforming Bedworth initiatives.

Use classes defined in Appendix 2 of the NPPF⁷⁵ as 'main town centre uses' will be considered acceptable for the town centres.

Proposals delivering new retail, leisure and office floor space will be supported where they contribute to the delivery of the requirements and recommendations set out in the Retail, Leisure and Office Study (2022) or any more up-to-date studies.

Town centre requirements

- 10.2 The NPPF states that planning policies should support the role of town centres, as well as setting out policies for the management and adaptation of town centres over the plan period. As the previous town centre growth figures, proposed in the Borough Plan, were based on the Regional Spatial Strategy, it was necessary to assess whether these figures were still appropriate for the borough.
- 10.3 The Council commissioned Cushman and Wakefield to undertake an updated Retail, Leisure and Office Study (2022). This took account of the latest data, trends and analysis covering issues such as the Covid-19 global pandemic, Brexit and more localised (sub-regional, borough wide and local) market trends and changes.
- 10.4 For Nuneaton Town Centre, the study⁷⁶ identifies a need for 1,050sq.m. of convenience retail floorspace and predicts a potential loss of 3,100sq.m. of comparison retail floorspace, up to 2039. This indicates a need to reconsider the role and function of Nuneaton town centre and move away from more traditional comparison retail uses to ensure its future vitality and viability. The study also identifies potential to expand the food and beverage offer (including but not limited to pubs / bars and restaurants), within the borough, potentially enhancing the night-time economy of Nuneaton town centre. Current provisions

⁷⁴ Warwickshire County Council. *Transforming Nuneaton*.

⁷⁵ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2021). *National Planning Policy Framework*.

⁷⁶ Cushman and Wakefield (2022). *Retail, Leisure and Office Study Update*.

are mostly limited to independent cafes, takeaways and restaurants. However, recent demand has shifted to more experience-based activities, such as bars offering additional entertainment elements, e.g. bowling or golf, alongside 'pop-up' restaurants and street food traders / halls. Furthermore, the study states that the leisure offer in Nuneaton Town Centre could diversify, complementing the Transforming Nuneaton initiatives such as the Abbey Street development comprising of a hotel, cinema and food hall. In terms of office requirements, the study concludes that there is a requirement for high quality "easy in / easy out" flexible office space for its existing small business population, to suit their operational needs, as well as more conventional "front door" office space for local businesses / small and medium sized enterprises to grow into or consolidate. Cushman and Wakefield also conducted a household telephone survey, as part of the Retail, Leisure and Office study (2022), comprising of 1,203 telephone interviews across 12 catchment zones. Suggested improvements to Nuneaton's existing leisure offer by respondents, focused on providing more activities for children, enhancing greenspaces and facilitating more cafes, restaurants and bars.

- 10.5 For Bedworth Town Centre, the study identifies a slightly higher need for 1,550sq.m. of convenience retail floorspace and a potential predicted loss of 500sq.m. of comparison retail floorspace, up to 2039. Like Nuneaton, the study concludes that the town centre would benefit from a more comprehensive food and beverage offer, particularly to improve the night-time offer, as well as more activity or leisure-based uses to complement existing facilities. The future visioning work for Bedworth town centre should assist in enhancing Bedworth's leisure offer. In terms of office need, this was not specified for Bedworth given existing provision, but any additional office space could feasibly improve the vibrancy and vitality of the town centre. Suggested improvements to Bedworth's existing leisure offer, by respondents to the household telephone survey conducted, focused on providing more activities for children, enhancing facilities such as cafes, restaurants and bars and improving car parking facilities / lower charges.

Borough Plan objectives

- 10.6 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

- Objective 1.
- Objective 2.
- Objective 3.
- Objective 5.
- Objective 6.
- Objective 8.

Evidence base

- 10.7 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- Cushman and Wakefield (2022). *Retail, Leisure and Office Study Update*.

Delivery mechanisms

10.8 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

- Prepare a Town Centres SPD in order to identify sites for development, identify specific requirements such as the design and infrastructure requirements and address the evening and night-time economy.
- Partnership working with developers and landowners to ensure delivery of the proposals in line with the emerging SPDs to encourage investment.
- Monitoring of the health of the town centres.
- Delivery of aspirations through the Economic Development Strategy.

Monitoring

10.9 The indicators and targets that will be monitored for this policy are outlined in Table 22.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
TC1a	Additional floor space for town centre uses.	Increase in E(a) (prior to 1 Sept 2020 use A1), E(c) (formally A2), E(g) (formally B1(a)) and community uses e.g. cinemas, concert halls etc (formally D2) floor space in Nuneaton and Bedworth town centres.
TC1b	Additional floor space for town centre offices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton: no target specified. • Bedworth: no target specified.
TC1c	Additional floor space for convenience retail.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton: 1050sq.m. - 2,500sq.m. • Bedworth 460sq.m. - 540sq.m.
TC1d	Additional floor space for cafés, restaurants, bars and other leisure uses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuneaton: no target specified. • Bedworth: no target specified.

Table 22: Indicators and targets to be monitored for Policy TC1.

Policy TC2 – Nature of town centre growth

Development principles

Development within Nuneaton and Bedworth town centres will be expected to create a more accessible, well-connected and well-designed centre, with particular emphasis on linkages by walking, cycling and public transport. New development should mitigate and adapt for climate change; for instance, in response to potential for increased flooding and by reducing potential heat islands. Design that includes green areas for cooling, use of technology and materials for zero carbon emissions will be encouraged.

Developments relating to the evening and night-time leisure offer should demonstrate how they will create a safe and secure town centre environment.

Within the town centre, appropriate enhancements will be promoted and sought to build upon existing green infrastructure assets and tackle climate change impacts, including urban heat island concerns. These enhancements will complement existing natural and historic assets that help define the town centres' sense of place and overall brand and identity.

Defined town centres and primary shopping areas

The town centre boundaries and primary shopping areas of the town centres are to be protected as defined in Appendix B and Appendix C. The aim in defining boundaries will be to retain the predominance of town centre uses within these centres and sustain their primary shopping areas.

Proposals for use classes defined in Appendix 2 of the NPPF⁷⁷ as 'main town centre uses' will be approved within the defined town centres. Other uses will be permitted within the town centres where they do not undermine or adversely impact, either individually or cumulatively, the vitality, viability, character of the area and overall vision for the town centres.

Proposals that promote appropriately located tourism and heritage activities, to attract and sustain visitor numbers, will be supported.

Proposals should be in line with any future town centre SPD for Nuneaton and Bedworth town centres and deliver the aspirations of the Transforming Nuneaton⁷⁸ and Transforming Bedworth initiatives.

10.10 It is likely that a hybrid of town centre uses will be most appropriate in order to ensure the towns can readily react to the changes in trends and economy.

⁷⁷ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2021). *National Planning Policy Framework*.

⁷⁸ Warwickshire County Council. *Transforming Nuneaton*.

- 10.11 Town centres are recognised by the NPPF as the heart of communities and the Framework seeks to support their viability and vitality⁷⁹. Planning policies should be positive, promote competitive town centre environments and encourage economic activity. Policies should be set for the management and growth of centres over the plan period. The town centre boundaries and primary shopping areas should be defined. It is important that needs for retail, including markets, leisure, office and other main town centre uses are met in full, and are not compromised by limited site availability.
- 10.12 The NPPF states that applications for main town centre uses, that are not in an existing centre, should follow a Sequential Test. This means that town centre uses should in the first instance be directed to locations within the town centre boundary, before locations at the edge of the centre, and only if suitable sites are not available, should out of centre sites be considered. In addition, for sites outside the town centre boundary, an Impact Assessment must be undertaken. This should be proportionate to the scale and nature of retail and / or leisure development proposed. Therefore, an Impact Assessment is required on proposals over 1,000sq.m. within the borough. The Borough Plan does not need to repeat these requirements. The policy identifies the town centre boundaries, and in so doing, assists in carrying out any Sequential and Impact Assessments by identifying the locations of centres, and appropriate uses in these centres.
- 10.13 The Retail, Leisure and Office Study (2022)⁸⁰ updates the previous Retail and Leisure Study Update (2014), Town Centre Office Requirements (2013) and the Convenience Goods Retail Study (2011). The study provides a more up-to-date strategic assessment of the quantitative and qualitative need for new retail (comparison and convenience goods) floor space, commercial leisure use and office space, in order to help maximise the potential of the borough, particularly in terms of the main town centres. The updated study provides recommendations that reduce the figures provided, from previous studies, to more realistic but still aspirational figures, in line with paragraph 16 of the NPPF.

Borough Plan objectives

- 10.14 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:
- Objective 1.
 - Objective 2.
 - Objective 3.
 - Objective 5.
 - Objective 6.
 - Objective 8.

Evidence base

- 10.15 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

⁷⁹ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2021). *National Planning Policy Framework*.

⁸⁰ Cushman and Wakefield (2022). *Retail, Leisure and Office Study Update*.

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- DTZ (2013). *Town Centre Office Requirements*.
- Roger Tym and Partners (2011). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council Town Centres Study*.
- Strategic Perspectives (2011). *Convenience Goods Retail Study*.
- Strategic Perspectives (2014). *Retail and Leisure Study Update 2013*.
- Cushman and Wakefield (2022). *Retail, Leisure and Office Study Update*.

Delivery mechanisms

10.16 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

- Prepare a Town Centres SPD in order to identify sites for development, identify specific requirements such as the design and infrastructure requirements and address the evening and night-time economy.
- Partnership working with developers and landowners to ensure delivery of the proposals in line with the SPD.
- Monitoring of the health of the town centres.
- Delivery of aspirations through the Economic Development Strategy⁸¹.

Monitoring

10.17 The indicators and targets that will be monitored for this policy are outlined in Table 23.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
TC2a	Relevant planning permissions inside and outside of identified centres.	Increase in town centre uses given permission in defined centres and a reduction in town centre uses given permission outside of defined centres.
TC2b	The net gain and losses of commercial floor space.	Minimise the loss of retail units to non-retail uses within the defined district centre boundaries.
TC2c	The diversity of uses (e.g. retail, leisure and service offers).	Maintain a good mixture of uses in the town centres.
TC2d	Retailer representation and demand.	Increase the number of national retailers present in the town centres.
TC2e	Commercial property indicators (such as prime zone A rents).	Increase the number of prime zone A rents.

⁸¹ Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2016). *Economic Development Strategy*.

TC2f	Changes in vacancy levels.	Maintain a low rate of vacant retail premises in all centres.
TC2g	Accessibility and parking provision.	Maintain availability of parking provision and improve provision for sustainable transport.
TC2h	The quality of the town centre environments.	Maintain the current standards of the town centres and seek to improve where necessary.
TC2i	Town centre footfall.	Increase town centre footfall in both centres.

Table 23: Indicators and targets to be monitored for Policy TC2.

Policy TC3 – Hierarchy of centres

The hierarchy set out in Table 24 should be used to undertake any Sequential Assessments for town centre uses.

Any new residential development should be within:

1. 800m walking distance of a district or local centre (existing centre's threshold can be outside the borough's administrative boundaries); and
2. 8 minutes motor vehicle drive time to a district centre. Applications must demonstrate this on the basis of:
 - a. Post development impact.
 - b. During peak drive time.

Where new residential development is proposed and the above thresholds are not met, the application should include the provision of a new district / local centre.

Development within district or local centres will be considered acceptable in principle, subject to the following:

1. The function, vitality and viability are maintained or improved.
2. Contributes positively to the range of services on offer.
3. Does not harm the amenities of local residents.
4. Does not result in the loss of ground floor retail / commercial floor space to residential use.

Type of centre	Name of centre	Function	Appropriate uses
Principal town.	Nuneaton.	Principal focus for shopping, leisure and business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail E(a) to E(c) (formally A1, A2 and A3) and pub or

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Type of centre	Name of centre	Function	Appropriate uses
		activity in the borough.	<p>drinking establishments and takeaways (both now sui generis - formally A4 and A5).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Office. • Leisure. • Entertainment. • Hotels. • Restaurants / eating establishments. • Residential (in areas that conform with flood risk requirements). <p>See 'Policy TC1 – Town centre requirements' and 'Policy TC2 – Nature of town centre growth' for more detail.</p>
Town centre.	Bedworth.	Contribute to the main shopping facilities of the borough. Specifically, the town centre should provide day-to-day shopping and commercial activity for Bedworth, as well as the immediate surroundings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retail E(a) to E(c) (formally A1, A2 and A3) and pub or drinking establishments and takeaways (both now sui generis - formally A4 and A5). • Office. • Leisure. • Entertainment. • Residential. • Restaurants / eating establishments. <p>See 'Policy TC1 – Town centre requirements' and</p>

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Type of centre	Name of centre	Function	Appropriate uses
			‘Policy TC2 – Nature of town centre growth’ for more detail.
District centre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abbey Green. • Attleborough. • Bulkington. • Camp Hill – Copper Beech Road. • Horeston Grange. • Queens Road. 	Provide for the day-to-day shopping and service needs of local people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hairdressers. • Newsagents. • Small supermarkets. • Post offices. • Banks. • Building societies. • Laundrettes. • Libraries. • Restaurants / eating establishments.
Local centre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arbury Road. • Bulkington Road. • Chapel End. • Church Road North. • Church Road South. • Coventry Road / School Lane. • Crow Hill. • Kingswood Road. • Lutterworth Road. • Newtown Road. • Nuneaton Road. • Pine Tree Road. • Smorrall Lane. • St Nicolas Park Drive. • Tomkinson Road / Croft Road. • Weddington Road (corner of Brook Lane). • Weddington Road (between Shanklin Drive and Kingsbridge Road). • Weddington Terrace. 	Provide for the day-to-day top-up shopping needs of local people on a smaller scale than a district centre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hairdressers. • Newsagents. • Small convenience store. • Sub-post offices.

Table 24: Hierarchy of centres.

- 10.18 The NPPF recognises centres as the heart of communities and seeks to support their viability and vitality. The Framework states that there should be a defined network and hierarchy of centres that can respond to rapid changes in the retail and leisure industries by allowing a suitable mix of uses (including housing)⁸².
- 10.19 The Retail, Leisure and Office Study Update (2022) assists in identifying Nuneaton as the primary shopping centre in the borough. However, Bedworth is also a very important part of the retail hierarchy in the area. The study does identify differences in the number of facilities and units within each centre. Consequently, the hierarchy differentiates the two centres based on the evidence.
- 10.20 The Local Shopping Study (2012) identified an existing network of 6 district centres and 18 local centres within the borough, as well as numerous neighbourhood centres and stand-alone shops. The provision of easily accessible shops and services such as convenience stores, pharmacies and post offices, play an important role in meeting the day-to-day shopping needs of residents. The district and local centres are monitored annually to understand how they change year-on-year and to ensure evidence indicates that they are still fit for purpose and meet the day-to-day shopping and service needs of local communities.
- 10.21 In relation to the NPPF, applications for town centre uses are required to follow a sequential approach. This means that town centres uses are first directed to locations within the town centre boundary, before locations at the edge of the centre and then to other centres such as district centres. In addition, for sites outside the town centre boundary, an Impact Assessment must be undertaken. This should be proportionate to the scale and nature of retail and / or leisure development proposed. Therefore, an Impact Assessment is required on proposals over 1,000sq.m. within the borough⁸³. The Borough Plan does not need to repeat these requirements. The policy identifies the hierarchy, and in so doing, assists in carrying out any Sequential and Impact Assessments by identifying the locations of centres and appropriate uses within them.
- 10.22 Work has been carried out to assess where there are deficiencies in retail provision and to identify appropriate distances to local and district centres. This work has fed into the needs of each strategic site, identified in this Borough Plan, and helped to shape the policy. The National Design Guide defines walkable local facilities as “local facilities [that] are within walking distance, generally considered to be no more than a 10-minute walk (800m radius)”⁸⁴. The NPPF (paragraph 134) states that “development that is not well designed should be refused, especially where it fails to reflect local

⁸² Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2021). *National Planning Policy Framework*.

⁸³ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2021). *National Planning Policy Framework*.

⁸⁴ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2021). *National Design Guide*.

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design policies and government guidance on design”⁸⁵. This threshold has been applied to the policy in respect of accessing local centres. In relation to district centres, it is considered acceptable to drive to these, and an 8-minute drive time has been applied⁸⁶.

10.23 Applications within district or local centres that include the following will be considered favourably:

- Provision of healthy eating establishments.
- Environmental improvements, such as street furniture, signage, street tree planting and sustainable transport management.
- Improvements to sustainable transport links.

10.24 The boundaries of the district and local centres are set out in Appendix D and Appendix E.

Borough Plan objectives

10.25 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

- Objective 2.
- Objective 3.

Evidence base

10.26 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- Cushman and Wakefield (2022). *Retail, Leisure and Office Study Update*.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2011). *Local Shopping Study*.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2012). *Local and District Centres Study*.
- Peter Brett Associated (2013). *Nuneaton and Bedworth District Centre Accessibility Assessments*.
- Warwickshire County Council (2011). *Warwickshire Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2026*.

Delivery mechanisms

10.27 The delivery mechanism for this policy is as follows:

- Adopted SPD ‘Planning for a healthier area – hot food takeaways (2020)’⁸⁷.

⁸⁵ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2021). *National Planning Policy Framework*.

⁸⁶ Department for Transport (2011). *Accessibility Statistics 2011*.

⁸⁷ Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2020). *Planning for a healthier area – hot food takeaways*.

Monitoring

10.28 The indicators and targets that will be monitored for this policy are outlined in Table 25.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
TC3a	Health of district and local centres. Bi-annual review of the local centres study to cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health check of centres (this includes district and local centres). • Site assessment of any new district or local centres. 	District and local centres remain healthy in terms of their function, viability and vitality.
TC3b	Delivery of new district and local centres.	New district or local centres as set out in the strategic site policies.

Table 25: Indicators and targets to be monitored for Policy TC3.

11.0 Healthy, safe and inclusive communities

11.1 The following policies set out the requirements that contribute to creating healthy, safe and inclusive communities.

Policy HS1 – Ensuring the delivery of infrastructure

Development will be required to provide infrastructure appropriate to the scale and context of the site in order to mitigate any impacts of the development, and address the needs associated with the development. It may be related to social, economic and / or environmental provision. Supplementary Planning Guidance and documents will be used to guide provision where relevant. Where this provision is considered unviable, the applicant should provide clear evidence to demonstrate this.

Development needs to consider the cumulative impacts to existing infrastructure and for any potential large scale transport facilities required for the wider economy (including adequate overnight lorry parking).

New infrastructure must be resilient to climate change and demonstrate how development considers carbon neutral emissions by 2050. New infrastructure must promote public safety and the wider security and defence requirements.

Infrastructure delivery should be suitably phased within the associated development, and where appropriate, arrangements should be made for subsequent maintenance. Applications which provide new facilities will be approved, subject to agreement with appropriate service delivery partners.

All developments must consider the impact on provision of services and facilities and where there is an impact this must be addressed. The delivery of infrastructure provision and / or improvement will be secured through the use of planning obligations / agreements (e.g. Section 106, Section 278 and any future adopted mechanisms) and / or conditions. All development will be expected to contribute proportionately and in compliance with national policy, statute and relevant SPDs and guidance to infrastructure provision.

The Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan identifies the key infrastructure requirements associated with the Borough Plan, and planning proposals should have regard to this.

11.2 Ensuring infrastructure provision keeps pace with new development is a key component of delivering the Borough Plan Review. It is important that growth meets the needs of existing and future communities. Where possible, the proposed growth seeks to take advantage of existing infrastructure provision.

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This is important because it will assist in ensuring that proposed developments are viable and as sustainable as they can be.

11.3 New development will create pressures on existing infrastructure which will therefore need to be upgraded. The provision of new infrastructure will also be needed to bring development sites forward.

11.4 Infrastructure provision also helps to mitigate any negative impacts the development may have on the borough's ability to provide services and facilities and include but are not restricted to:

- Sustainability and ability to drive carbon neutrality.
- Educational attainment.
- Accessibility to services and jobs.
- Health, social and cultural wellbeing of its communities.
- Community safety and emergency services.
- Heritage and the natural environment.
- Biodiversity.
- Flood risk mitigation.
- Telecommunication and broadband provision.
- Refuse and recycling facilities.

11.5 This policy identifies generic infrastructure considerations. A number of other policies in the plan refer to specific infrastructure requirements and the delivery mechanisms used to deliver them, such as via planning obligations. The infrastructure requirements for each of the strategic sites are outlined in the site-specific policies, although discussions with the infrastructure providers are ongoing. In the event that additional on-site infrastructure is required, or planning obligations are required to go towards off-site infrastructure, these will be included in the updated Infrastructure Delivery Plan / Schedule.

Borough Plan objectives

11.6 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

- Objective 5.
- Objective 6.
- Objective 8.

Evidence base

11.7 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2021). *Infrastructure Delivery Plan*.

Delivery mechanisms

11.8 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

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- Annual update of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
- Use of planning obligations / agreements to bring in funds for infrastructure.
- Continued co-ordination of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan Group.
- Continued engagement with infrastructure service delivery partners and other partnership working, e.g. membership of the A5 group.
- Identification of infrastructure requirements for all sites set out within the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
- Maintenance of infrastructure provided on-site or built / improved as part of the development will be achieved through adoption by a public body, with appropriate maintenance payments or other secure arrangements.

Monitoring

11.9 The indicators and targets that will be monitored for this policy are outlined in Table 26.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
HS1a	Delivery of infrastructure set out within the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.	Where infrastructure on sites is not being delivered in line with the Infrastructure Delivery Plan, this will trigger a review with appropriate service delivery partners.
HS1b	Applications granted in line with advice of infrastructure service delivery partners.	Where applications are granted contrary to advice of infrastructure service delivery partners, it is expected that suitable planning justification is provided by the Council. Where advice from partners leads to mitigation, this is considered positive.
HS1c	Monitoring of planning obligations / agreements that are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed • Implemented • Amended 	Qualitative monitoring of this indicator will take place in the Authority Monitoring Report. The purpose is to enable an understanding of how well the Council is performing in terms of the obligations / agreements.

Table 26: Indicators and targets to be monitored for Policy HS1.

Policy HS2 – Strategic accessibility and sustainable transport

Transport proposals in line with those identified in the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan, Warwickshire County Council Local Transport Plan 2011 - 2026 (or subsequent updates), Warwickshire County Council Cycle Network Development Plan / Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) will be approved.

Where a development is likely to have transport implications, planning applications are required to clearly demonstrate how the following issues are addressed:

1. How the development ensures adequate accessibility in relation to all principal modes of transport to drive carbon neutrality and resilience to climate change.
2. Whether the development identifies suitable demand management measures.
3. Proposals must consider how they accord with the Council's adopted Transport Demand Management Matters (2022) and Air Quality (2020) SPDs. Development must consider the cumulative impact on air quality and measures proposed to ensure impact is not exacerbated. The Council will require measures for new development to provide infrastructure to deal with the issues of air quality, which at its minimum, development will need to provide electric vehicle charging points and dust management plans.
4. The connectivity of the development to strategic facilities.
5. How the development maximises sustainable transport options such as safe walking and cycling links to the wider transport network. Development needs to include the provision of secure cycle parking, easier access to rental bikes, e-bike hubs, lockers and showers in new workplace developments and appropriate shelter or cooling along the walking and cycling links.
6. Whether the proposal will meet acceptable levels of impact on existing highways networks and the mitigation measures required to meet this acceptable level.
7. Transport elements need to reflect the National Design Guide, the National Model Design Code and Warwickshire Design Guide⁸⁸.
8. Development will need to be designed to provide safe and suitable access for all users.
9. Proposals for dedicated lorry parking facilities will be supported where they form extensions to, or are adjoining, existing employment land comprising of predominantly B8 uses or as part of a new predominantly B8 use development.

⁸⁸ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2021). *National Design Guide*.
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2021). *National Model Design Code*.
Warwickshire County Council (2022). *Warwickshire Design Guide*.

Proposals should target a minimum 15% modal shift to non car-based uses by including provisions which promote more sustainable transport options.

The Council supports the provision and integration of emerging and future intelligent mobility infrastructure that will help to deal with the issue of air quality.

The Council will work proactively with Midlands Connect in order to support a new sustainable train station and parkway within the Nuneaton area.

- 11.10 Nuneaton and Bedworth are subject to high levels of congestion, particularly during peak times. This includes the A5, which forms part of the strategic road network, and is an important corridor of movement and growth to the north and east of the borough. Accessibility to some industrial estates without a car (such as Bermuda) can also be difficult. Improvements to increase the use of sustainable transport modes are therefore important for economic growth, as well as for social and environmental reasons. This is supported by aspirations at a national and sub-regional level.
- 11.11 Proposals outlined in the Warwickshire Local Transport Plan 2011 - 2026 and the Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership Strategic Economic Plan have been incorporated into the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
- 11.12 The West Midlands Metropolitan Transport Emissions Framework and its associated policies, set out transport's role in tackling air quality issues for the wider region, which in combination with the policies in the Borough Plan, will further help air quality.
- 11.13 The Council is part of the A5 Transport Partnership Group regarding strategic objectives for the A5 corridor. This group comprises of officers representing Councils along the route of the A5 between Gailey, Staffordshire and Weedon, Northamptonshire.
- 11.14 The Council also works with the Getting West Nuneaton Moving: Bermuda Connection scheme, which is focused on tackling congestion in and around west Nuneaton by creating a direct link between west Nuneaton and the Griff roundabout⁸⁹.
- 11.15 Warwickshire County Council is responsible for planning improvements to the strategic cycle network across Warwickshire. The Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Study and Open Space Strategy: 2011 - 2021 identify further potential green links that should be pursued through the Borough Plan. This is considered in more detail in 'Policy NE1 - Green infrastructure'.
- 11.16 The Strategic Transport Assessment (2023) highlighted the transport implications of bringing forward the strategic allocations. The 2023 Strategic Transport Assessment: identified that the strategic site allocations should adopt

⁸⁹ Warwickshire County Council (2022). *Bermuda Connection*.

a 15% modal shift target⁹⁰. Without the 15% modal shift the transport network was considered unlikely to operate to a satisfactory level⁹¹.

- 11.17 The 2023 updated Strategic Transport Assessment supports the Borough Plan Review and identifies potential impacts of allocations and proposals on the highway network, having regard to the latest available transport modelling. The assessment will also recommend the infrastructure required to make the developments acceptable in planning terms. This work is expected to be completed for the final Publication stage.
- 11.18 An updated Air Quality Assessment for the Borough Plan Review has been prepared to assess the impacts of the proposed allocations on air quality.
- 11.19 A proposal for a new train station between Nuneaton and Hinckley came about from a study into direct Coventry to Leicester services that might not call at Nuneaton station (the business case for Coventry to Leicester direct services currently include options which either serve or bypass the town's station). Not only would the new station enable access to the new service, but it would also provide a more accessible station for those living on the eastern side of Nuneaton and potentially support major housing development plans in the surrounding area. Depending on the site, it could also provide a 'Parkway' function with good access to the A5. This would reduce the number of cars currently accessing Nuneaton and Hinckley stations on local roads and intercept longer-distance journeys on the strategic roads network.

Planning applications

- 11.20 Paragraphs 112 and 113⁹² of the NPPF set out requirements, at the planning application stage, for all proposals that will generate significant amounts of movement. This includes the requirement for a Transport Statement / Transport Assessment, as well as a travel plan document.
- 11.21 Planning applications will also be required to demonstrate how the proposals address the issues outlined in the policy. In relation to issue 1, the proposal should make best use of existing transport networks; for issue 2, demand management measures should include adequate car parking; and in relation to issue 4, some examples of key strategic facilities should be included, for example, local shopping, education and health facilities.
- 11.22 The NPPF refers to local areas setting car parking standards. Designs should adhere to the Council's Transport Demand Management Matters SPD (2022) and Warwickshire Design Guide.
- 11.23 The NPPF supports the provision of lorry parking facilities taking into account any local shortages and to reduce the risk of parking in locations that lack

⁹⁰ Warwickshire County Council (2023). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council Strategic Transport Assessment: Borough*.

⁹¹ Warwickshire County Council (2023). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council Strategic Transport Assessment*.

⁹² Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2021). *National Planning Policy Framework*.

proper facilities or results in adverse impacts on amenity. New or expanded distribution centres should make provision for sufficient lorry parking to cater for their anticipated use.

Borough Plan objectives

11.24 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

- Objective 5.
- Objective 8.

Evidence base

11.25 The existing evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- A5 Transport Liaison Group (2012). *A Strategy for the A5: A449 Gailey (Staffordshire) to A45 Weedon (Northamptonshire)*.
- Air Quality Consultants (2017). *Air Quality Assessment: Development Associated with the Borough Plan, Nuneaton and Bedworth*.
- Coventry and Warwickshire Local Enterprise Partnership (2016). *Updated Strategic Economic Plan*.
- Warwickshire County Council (2011). *Warwickshire Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2026*.
- Warwickshire County Council (2023). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council Strategic Transport Assessment*.

Delivery mechanisms

11.26 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

- The Transport Demand Management Matters SPD (2022) covers:
 - Standards for car parking.
 - Sustainable transport standards and considerations, e.g. cycle parking requirements, safety and accessibility.
- The Air Quality SPD (2020) covers:
 - Requirements for air quality mitigation.
- Nuneaton town centre transport study, to be led by Warwickshire County Council.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Plan Sustainable Transport Strategy to be led by Warwickshire County Council.
- Actively work with Warwickshire County Council, National Highways, Network Rail and transport operators in the development of any new projects that will result in better connectivity, as well as being involved in any bids for funding.
- Actively work with the borough's cycling forum to inform and influence delivery and prioritisation.
- Continue membership of groups such as the A5 Transport Partnership.
- Air quality action plans.

Monitoring

11.27 The indicators and targets that will be monitored for this policy are outlined in Table 27.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
HS2a	Applications in conformity / non-conformity with Warwickshire County Council and / or National Highways advice: monitor the number of applications granted which are not mitigated against, following objection on transport grounds by either Warwickshire County Council and / or National Highways.	It is expected that applications will not be granted contrary to Warwickshire County Council and / or National Highways advice.
HS2b	Monitor number of applications granted which result in a negative outcome when assessed against the criteria set out in the policy.	Qualitative assessment of this indicator will take place in the Authority Monitoring Report. It is expected that the policy will be conformed with, however analysis of individual circumstances on each application will be required to understand whether criteria were conformed with.
HS2c	Conformity with the Council's Transport Demand Management Matters SPD (2022).	Qualitative assessment of this indicator will take place in the Authority Monitoring Report. It is expected that the SPD will be conformed with, however analysis of individual circumstances on each application will be required to understand whether the SPD was adhered to.

Table 27: Indicators and targets to be monitored for Policy HS2.

Policy HS3 – Telecommunications and broadband connectivity

Broadband

Development must facilitate the provision of superfast broadband infrastructure including fibre to premises (in line with the latest Government target) in order to enable the delivery of broadband services across the borough. Connections within developments must be easily accessible for repairs and upgrades. Evidence will need to be provided where this is impractical or economically unviable.

Telecommunications proposals

When considering telecommunications proposals, the Council will have regard for the operational requirements of the telecommunications networks and the technical limitations of the technology, including any technical constraints on the location of telecommunications apparatus.

Proposals for telecommunications development will be permitted provided that the following criteria are met:

1. The siting and appearance of the proposed apparatus and associated structures must seek to minimise impact on the visual amenity, character or appearance of the surrounding area.
2. The colour, shade and finish of the paint / coating, to be applied to the mast and cabinet, should be chosen carefully, with consideration to the surrounding landscape.
3. Methods to disguise telecommunications proposals and enhance their design, should be sufficiently explored.
4. Where possible the proposed apparatus and associated structures should be sited on a building and designed in order to minimise impact to the external appearance of the host building. Where siting is not possible on a building, the supporting evidence should indicate why this is unviable or unfeasible.
5. If proposing a new mast, evidence must be provided that demonstrates that mast or site sharing is not feasible, and the possibility of erecting apparatus on existing buildings or other appropriate structures has been explored.
6. If proposing development in a sensitive area, the development should not have an unacceptable effect on areas of ecological interest, areas of landscape importance, archaeological sites, conservation areas or buildings of architectural or historic interest.
7. Full details of all new landscaping, screening and the retention of any trees or vegetation on the site should be provided.
8. Proposals must include details of a satisfactory scheme to return the site to its former or improved condition once operations have ceased and any apparatus is no longer required. If considered appropriate by the Council, the applicant may be requested for a bond to be provided under a planning obligation to cover the cost of decommissioning and / or restoration of the site.

9. Proposals should adhere to government advice on the health effects of radio waves and consider the effects of the proposal on the amenity of local residents.

11.28 Telecommunications is defined as the infrastructure needed to provide fixed and mobile telephone, broadband and digital services. For information, the Code of Practice for Wireless Network Development in England should be used to assist Mobile Network Operators and wireless infrastructure providers in creating policy compliant telecommunications proposals. The document provides information on general siting and design principles, planning considerations and natural environment and heritage assets for example.

11.29 Mobile communications are now considered an integral part of the success of most business operations and individual lifestyles. With the growth of services such as mobile internet access, demand for new telecommunications infrastructure is continuing to grow. The Council is keen to facilitate appropriate expansion whilst at the same time minimising any environmental impacts. It is our policy to reduce the proliferation of new masts by encouraging mast sharing, as well as siting equipment on existing tall structures and buildings.

11.30 Paragraphs 115, 116 and 117⁹³ of the NPPF contain detailed planning application requirements associated with communications infrastructure. It is expected that all planning applications will consider the requirements of the NPPF, as well as those within this policy.

11.31 The decommissioning of telecommunications apparatus is often an afterthought, but it is critical that this apparatus is taken down responsibly. Conditions will be applied to planning consents for telecommunications development, requiring that the land be restored when the operation of the telecommunications apparatus has expired. Full restoration may require the removal of all apparatus and ancillary structures, as well as restoration of appropriate vegetation, depending on the nature of the site.

Broadband connectivity

11.32 The Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire (CSW) broadband project, of which the Council is a member, is funded by Central Government and local authority money, and aims to achieve 98% coverage at superfast broadband speeds across the area, in line with Government and European connectivity targets⁹⁴.

11.33 The CSW broadband project is advocating for new development to install Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) technology to future proof the delivery of broadband. FTTP technology can be more costly and disruptive to retrofit, particularly in new developments where newly laid roads would have to be taken up upon

⁹³ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2021). *National Planning Policy Framework*.

⁹⁴ Coventry City Council, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council (2017). *Coventry, Solihull, Warwickshire Superfast Broadband*.

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completion of the whole site. The fitting of FTTP technology is therefore most effective when implemented on new developments during the initial construction phase, alongside wider utilities provision or highways construction.

11.34 In February 2016 an agreement was made between BT and the National Housebuilders Federation where BT will provide on-site infrastructure free of charge and will in some circumstances subsidise access to the fibre spine, which provides superfast broadband. Consequently, the cost to developers would be minimal on a pence per metre basis. FTTP technology also allows the end user to choose their internet service provider, bringing cost savings to the public through effective competition.

11.35 All new major development, both residential and non-residential, will therefore be required to facilitate and contribute to the provision of superfast broadband infrastructure in order to enable the delivery of broadband services across the borough, giving particular attention to the inclusion of FTTP. If a developer is of the view that this would be unviable, an independent Viability Assessment should be submitted with the application.

Borough Plan objectives

11.36 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

- Objective 5.

Evidence base

11.37 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- Coventry City Council, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and Warwickshire County Council (2017). *Coventry, Solihull, Warwickshire Superfast Broadband*.

Delivery mechanisms

11.38 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

- Use of planning obligations / agreements to deliver telecommunication infrastructure requirements on new developments.
- Delivery of the CSW broadband project.

Monitoring

11.39 The indicator and target that will be monitored for this policy is outlined in Table 28.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
HS3a	The number of new telecommunications developments permitted	It is expected that applications approved for telecommunications

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
	in conformity / not in accordance with the policy.	infrastructure will be in line with this policy. Where this does not occur, detailed analysis will need to be undertaken to ascertain whether the policy is effective.

Table 28: Indicator and target to be monitored for Policy HS3.

Policy HS4 – Retaining community facilities

Proposals for development which would lead to the loss of community facilities will only be permitted where:

- adequate alternative facilities and services are available locally; or
- access to locally alternative facilities are enhanced; or
- better replacement facilities are proposed nearby; or
- it can be clearly demonstrated that there is no longer a demand or is surplus to requirements for the use. Alternatively, the use is no longer viable / appropriate and that there is a greater benefit to the area resulting from the proposed use.

New development serving a local community or business need (especially in rural areas or where not served by public transport) will be encouraged unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

11.40 This policy seeks to ensure existing facilities are not detrimentally impacted upon as part of any development proposal. The provision of new facilities will primarily be delivered through the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and ‘Policy HS1 – Ensuring delivery of infrastructure provision’.

11.41 Community facilities have an important role within the local community, contributing towards community cohesion, health and wellbeing, delivering sport and physical activity, as well as the sustainability of the local area. The loss of existing community facilities will be resisted to ensure that suitable provision remains spread across the borough. Examples of community facilities are listed below (however, it should be noted that this list is not exhaustive):

- Sports centres and multi-use halls.
- Allotments.
- Public houses.
- Health facilities.
- Places of worship.
- Cultural facilities.
- Schools.
- Open space.

- Green spaces / parks.
- Indoor sports and recreational buildings and land.
- Sports and playing fields.
- Play areas.
- Community centres.
- Local shops.

11.42 There is already some protection afforded to community facilities if they are designated as an asset of community value⁹⁵, or through the community right to bid⁹⁶ process. This allows defined community groups to ask the Council to list certain assets as being of community value. This is designed to give communities an opportunity to take control of the assets and facilities important to them.

11.43 If an asset is listed and then comes up for sale, the right could give communities, who would like to take ownership of the asset, a total of six months to put together a bid to buy it (including a six-week cut-off for an initial proposal to be put forward).

11.44 The following organisations are eligible to nominate assets:

- Properly designated Neighbourhood Forums.
- Parish Council or neighbouring Parish Councils.
- Community interest groups with a local connection.
- Unincorporated groups.

11.45 An asset of community value can be any land or building which does not fall into the categories below:

- Residence together with land connected with that residence, as defined in the regulations.
- Let holiday dwelling or hotel principally used for letting or licensing accommodation to paying occupants.
- Land in respect of which a site licence is required under Part 1 of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960.
- Operational land as defined in section 263 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

11.46 Once an asset is listed, the owner cannot then dispose of it without:

- letting the local authority know that they intend to sell the asset or grant a lease of more than 25 years.
- waiting until the end of a six-week interim moratorium period if the local authority does not receive a request from a community interest group to be treated as a potential bidder; or

⁹⁵ The Assets of Community Value (England) Regulations 2012.

⁹⁶ Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (2012). *Community Right to Bid: Non-statutory advice note for local authorities*.

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- waiting until the end of a six-month full moratorium period if the local authority receives a request from a community interest group to be treated as a potential bidder.

11.47 Please note that once the above has been carried out, the owner does not then have to sell the asset to the community interest group.

Borough Plan objectives

11.48 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

- Objective 5.
- Objective 8.

Evidence base

11.49 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2013). *Local Hierarchy Study*.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2011). *Accessibility and Settlement Hierarchy Study 2011*.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2020). *Indoor Leisure Facilities Needs Assessment Strategy*.
- Strategic Leisure Ltd (2023). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council – Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy*.

Delivery mechanisms

11.50 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

- Actively work with Warwickshire County Council in assessing the impact of community facility losses.
- Work with partners on the Infrastructure Delivery Plan Group in identifying any community facility requirements and in turn, identifying these in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.
- Work with community and voluntary action groups.

Monitoring

11.51 The indicator and target that will be monitored for this policy is outlined in Table 29.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
HS4a	Loss of community facilities.	Applications granted which result in the loss of community facilities will need to be assessed in consultation with Warwickshire County Council. The impact of the

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
		loss(es) will determine the effectiveness of the policy.

Table 29: Indicator and target to be monitored for Policy HS4.

Policy HS5 – Health

All major development proposals will be required to demonstrate that they would have an acceptable impact on health and wellbeing. This should be demonstrated through a:

- Health Impact Assessment Screening Report which demonstrates that the proposed development would not overall give rise to negative impacts in respect of health and wellbeing; or
- Health Impact Assessment where significant impacts on health and wellbeing would arise from that proposal.

All Health Impact Assessments shall be undertaken in accordance with the Council’s adopted Health Impact Assessment SPD (2021).

Where a development has significant negative or positive impacts on health and wellbeing, the Council may require applicants to provide for the mitigation or provision of such impacts through planning conditions and / or financial / other contributions secured via planning obligations.

11.52 Health and wellbeing are key issues at the national and local level. Alcohol abuse, obesity⁹⁷, mental health, dementia and cardiovascular disease⁹⁸ are all health concerns for the borough. Nuneaton and Bedworth ranked the lowest of the districts and boroughs in Warwickshire for overall vulnerability to the rising cost of living. The borough was lower on the poverty-based vulnerability rank than the work-based vulnerability rank, meaning that there is a higher relative risk of those who are already struggling being pushed into destitution relating to fuel poverty, food insecurity and child poverty⁹⁹. Health is not simply about access to medical facilities; it is also about lifestyle and the ability to make healthier choices that are not restricted by cost. Physical activity can also play an important part of health and wellbeing. This element is dealt with through ‘Policy HS6 – Sport and exercise’. This policy focuses on elements of health that are not picked up elsewhere in the plan.

11.53 Applications requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment are likely to impact health. Planning applications not requiring an Environmental Impact Assessment are still likely to create impacts on health. However, identifying an

⁹⁷ Ben Cave Associates (2014). *Health Impact Assessment – Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Plan*.

⁹⁸ Warwickshire County Council. *Joint Strategic Needs Assessment*.

⁹⁹ Warwickshire County Council (2022). *Health and the high cost of living in Warwickshire*.

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appropriate scale of application is challenging. Ultimately the impact is likely to vary even for applications of similar use classes. Consequently, the policy recommends a screening process be undertaken by the applicant to assist in determining the need for a Health Impact Assessment.

11.54 The Council's SPD assists in determining how a Health Impact Assessment should be undertaken, as well as the criteria that should be included as part of any assessment. Warwickshire Public Health recommends the use of either the London Healthy Urban Development Unit (HUDU) Health Impact Assessment tool¹⁰⁰, or the Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (WHIASU) tool¹⁰¹. The submitted Health Impact Assessment will be assessed by Warwickshire Public Health during the determination period. Warwickshire Public Health's preferred approach is to use the tools outlined within this document (HUDU and WHIASU). In light of the recommendations from Warwickshire Public Health, the Council has adapted an assessment matrix from the HUDU. Applicants should use this Development Health Assessment (Appendix B) as a Health Impact Assessment Screening Report and it should be submitted with planning applications for major development.

11.55 The Development Health Assessment is designed to be used early in the planning process to aid decision-making in relation to impacts on health. It provides an overview of some of the broad determinants of health and wellbeing and it provides a means of recording the consideration given to impacts on health. The intention is that it complements the other policies in the Borough Plan that can impact on the wider determinants of health.

Borough Plan objectives

11.56 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

- Objective 8.

Evidence base

11.57 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- Ben Cave Associates (2014). *Health Impact Assessment – Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council*.

Delivery mechanisms

11.58 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

- Agreement with Warwickshire Public Health to be developed regarding assessment of Health Impact Assessment.

¹⁰⁰ NHS London Healthy Urban Development Unit (2019). *HUDU Planning for Health – Rapid Health Impact Assessment Tool*.

¹⁰¹ Wales Health Impact Assessment Support Unit (2021). *Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and Local Development Plans (LDPs): A Toolkit for Practice*.

- Adopted SPD entitled ‘Planning for a healthier area – hot food takeaways (2020)’.
- Continue partnership arrangements with healthcare providers and Warwickshire Police.

Monitoring

11.59 The indicators and targets that will be monitored for this policy are outlined in Table 30.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
HS5a	Monitor the number of applications granted contrary to the Health Impact Assessment recommendations.	Zero.
HS5b	Monitor the number of planning obligations received, associated with health matters.	Monitoring analysis will compare the overall monetary requirements identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan against what the Council receives.

Table 30: Indicators and targets to be monitored for Policy HS5.

Policy HS6 – Sport and exercise

Proposals which assist in creating a healthier environment across the borough, using sports, leisure and recreational facilities and / or opportunities to exercise, will be approved.

Existing local sports pitches and playing fields should be retained unless justification can be provided as to why they are no longer required or that proves alternative suitable provisions can be provided.

New developments including strategic housing sites, will be required to plan from the outset for the integrated planning of a healthy environment for its communities. This includes the provision and maintenance for sport, physical activity and community facilities, as well as green infrastructure, open space, allotments and walking and cycling routes in line with policies NE1 – Green infrastructure and NE2 – Open space. New facilities, links and spaces should relate well to other areas, and be safe, convenient, accessible and functional. Spaces should be resilient to and mitigate for climate change, and include natural planting to provide shaded outdoor spaces and to help with air filtration.

Where justified on-site, housing sites will need to provide the land for the facility at no cost, in a suitable location within the site. Where provision is justified, but not on-

site, then an off-site contribution will be required to fund the facility and the land required for the facility. Where requirements stated in the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (2023) cannot be met off-site, provisions may be required on-site.

In ensuring the timely delivery of infrastructure requirements, development proposals must demonstrate that full regard has been paid to the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and all other policies and relevant strategies, including the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy; Sport, Recreation and Community Facilities Strategy; Open Space Strategy; Green Infrastructure Strategy; Indoor Leisure Facilities Needs Strategy and Allotment Strategy, or documents that formally superseded them. The on-site provision, maintenance and management of sports and recreation facilities provided, will be secured through planning obligation, as they will be needed to make the development acceptable in planning terms.

The scale, design and specification of facilities sought will be calculated and provided based on provision standards, facility specifications and needs, and costs as set out in relevant strategies. Additionally, the facilities will need to meet the Regulation 122 Tests set out in The Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 or subsequent amendments.

- 11.60 Developers will be expected to collaborate on the provision of infrastructure which is needed to serve more than one site.
- 11.61 The sport, physical activity and healthy communities' policies directly relate to the NPPF paragraphs 92, 93 and 98; noting that to deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:
- plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as sports venues to enhance the sustainability of communities), and residential environments, and
 - ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services.
- 11.62 The Council has undertaken studies to identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required, and to set strategic priorities for the area.
- 11.63 Paragraph 99 of the NPPF contains detailed planning application requirements associated with open space and sports, recreational buildings and land, including playing field losses. These are identified below:
- Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:
 - an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or

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- the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

11.64 The policy does not repeat these requirements; however, it is expected that applications take account of this policy and the wider NPPF requirements. In any case, approval and sign off from Sports England will be required.

Maintenance

11.65 Where there is provision of new on-site sports and recreation facilities these will also require contributions for maintenance. This also applies to open space, green infrastructure, playing fields and allotments. Open space and other green infrastructure will be funded for 20 years. Developments which have facilities that can reasonably be expected to fund their own maintenance will not pay for the maintenance of these facilities. This includes facilities within leisure / sports centres (swimming pools, sports halls, gyms, studios), artificial grass pitches, tennis courts, facilities in community halls and cycle tracks. The current sports facilities priorities are listed in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan. Financial contributions for physical activity will not require contributions for maintenance. If future facilities do require maintenance, contributions for these will be funded for 20 years.

11.66 The requirement for the maintenance of on-site facilities will be based on the whole strategic housing site area, so the co-operation of landowners / developers / house builders is required to ensure this cost is met fairly.

Borough Plan objectives

11.67 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

- Objective 5.
- Objective 6.
- Objective 7.
- Objective 8.

Evidence base

11.68 In addition to the policies above, the evidence base related to and directly informing this policy is as follows:

- Strategic Leisure Ltd (2023). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy Assessment Report or as per any updates.*
- Strategic Leisure Ltd (2023). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy and Action Plan.*
- Warwickshire Museum and Natural Environment (2013). *Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy.*

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- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2020). *Indoor Leisure Facilities Needs Assessment Strategy*.
- Warwickshire Museum and Natural Environment (2013). *Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy*.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2020). *Indoor Sports Facility Needs Assessment and Strategy 2019-2034*.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2021). *Open Space and Green Infrastructure SPD*.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2020). *Sports Facility Needs Assessment and Strategy 2019-2034*.

Delivery mechanisms

11.69 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

- Continue to work with the Sports Development and Parks and Open Space teams, seeking their advice on planning applications and the updating of policies and strategies.
- Identification through all stages of the planning application process on all strategic and non-strategic housing sites of the on-site and off-site requirements for sport, recreation, playing fields, physical activity, community facilities, green infrastructure, open space, allotments and walking and cycling.
- Delivery of relevant strategies including: Indoor Sports Facility Needs Assessment and Strategy 2019-2034; Open Space and Green Infrastructure SPD (2021) and Sports Facility Needs Assessment and Strategy 2019-2034.
- Ongoing input into, and updating of, the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

Monitoring

11.70 The indicators and targets that will be monitored for this policy are outlined in Table 31.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
HS6a	Monitor the number of planning obligations received, associated with sports and exercise off-site, and the on-site provision of relevant facilities.	Monitoring analysis will compare the overall monetary requirements identified in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan against what the Council receives, for off-site provision. Increases in the resources secured for, and the provision of, relevant facilities on-site.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
HS6b	Loss and gain of playing pitches.	As identified within the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy.
HS6c	Loss of open space.	No net loss of open spaces, destination parks, community parks, playing pitches, parks or allotments to development.
HS6d	Improvements to open space.	Improvements in the total numbers of residents with adequate access to the different forms of open space provision as well as improvements in the quality of the open spaces.

Table 31: Indicators and targets to be monitored for Policy HS6.

Policy HS7 – Creating a healthier food environment

To limit development of environments that encourage obesity, hot food takeaways (now use class sui generis, formerly use class A5), should be directed to town centres as set out in Policy TC3 – Hierarchy of centres.

Outside of Nuneaton and Bedworth town centres, hot food takeaway proposals will be permitted in district or local centres providing the proposal does not increase the number of units of hot food takeaways to over 20% of the centre's total usage.

Outside of the defined town, district and local centres, hot food takeaways will only be approved where:

- It is demonstrated that the proposal will not have a significant adverse impact on residential amenity through odour, noise and litter.
- Deliveries or customer visits by car would not have an unacceptable impact on existing or proposed public transport provision, traffic movements, road or pedestrian safety.
- The proposal is not within a 400m radius, of the boundary, of an existing primary or secondary school (including any special school, sixth form college or academy). This will not apply when the buffer zone overlaps with a town or local centre.
- The proposal does not jeopardise the provision of an essential local service.
- A Sequential Assessment is provided, which demonstrates that there are no other sequentially preferable sites.

Proposals should be in accordance with the Council's adopted Planning for a healthier area – hot food takeaways SPD (2020) or as updated. Support will be given for opportunities to tackle obesity through other means, or any further SPDs as evidence or initiatives evolve.

11.71 A Health Impact Assessment was undertaken to inform the adopted Borough Plan and recommended the inclusion of a restrictive policy regarding fast-food outlets. Whilst there is evidence to suggest obesity levels may be higher in areas of high numbers of fast-food outlets, there is no conclusive evidence of this relationship. However, the Council aims to contribute to creating healthy environments where possible and has therefore introduced criteria which must be adhered to for any future fast-food proposals both within and outside of town centres.

11.72 Implementing a 400m fast-food buffer around primary and secondary schools has proven to be a successful measure for other local authorities. A 400m buffer is chosen as this is thought to equate to a five-minute walking time.

Borough Plan Objectives

11.73 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

- Objective 8.

Evidence base

11.74 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- Ben Cave Associates (2014). *Health Impact Assessment – Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Plan*.

Delivery mechanisms

11.75 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

- Adopted SPD entitled 'Planning for a healthier area – hot food takeaways (2020)'.
- Planning applications for hot food takeaway uses will be determined based on the above criteria.

Monitoring

11.76 The indicators and targets that will be monitored for this policy are outlined in Table 32.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
HS7a	Monitor the number of applications for hot food takeaways within 400m,	Zero.

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	of the boundary, of existing primary and secondary schools (including any special school, sixth form college or academy), excluding applications falling in town, district or local centres.	
HS7b	Monitor the number of units for hot food takeaway use as a percentage of each local and district centre's units.	20% maximum.

Table 32: Indicators and targets to be monitored for Policy HS7.

12.0 Natural environment

12.1 The following policies focus on protecting, conserving and enhancing the natural environment.

Policy NE1 – Green and blue infrastructure

The borough's green and blue infrastructure assets will be protected, managed, enhanced or created to provide nature recovery networks. New development proposals will enhance, sustain and restore existing and create green (including wildbelts) and blue infrastructure (including canals); whilst at the same time protecting and enhancing rights of way.

Climate change will be fundamental to new development and green and blue infrastructure must play a part in delivering long-term mitigation and adaptation to this, including installation of retro-fit sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) such as rain gardens, bio-retention and tree pits.

Development should comply with the Council's adopted Open Space and Green Infrastructure SPD (2021) and any emerging studies.

The historic environment should be valued as an important asset in contributing to the multi-functionality of green-blue infrastructure via cultural heritage, recreation and tourism, utilising assets such as historic parks, gardens and canals.

Where development proposals have a watercourse classified as a main river within their boundary, as a minimum, developers should set back development 8m from the top of the bank or landward toe of any flood defence. The same easement will also be required on smaller watercourses to maintain water elements, ecology and wildlife corridors. Greater widths are appropriate where forming green infrastructure, open space or ecological corridors such as 50m buffers for ancient woodland, 30m buffers around all semi-natural woodland and broad-leaved plantation woodland and 5m buffers either side of intact hedgerows.

12.2 Green and blue infrastructure is the living network of green spaces, water and other environmental features in both urban and rural areas. The Green Infrastructure Plan identifies the range of such features in the borough as follows:

- Green links – right of ways, long distance paths, national cycle routes and river and canal network.
- Amenity green space – village greens, playing fields and sports pitches.
- Parks and gardens – open space hierarchy of local, community and destination parks, cemeteries and churchyards, and allotments.
- Natural and semi-natural green spaces – local and designated wildlife sites, local nature reserves, woodlands, quarries, disused railway lines, floodplains and productive farmland.

- Cultural heritage – historic parks and gardens, scheduled monuments and historic landscapes.
- 12.3 There are multiple benefits of green infrastructure to residents, wildlife and the economy, for example in terms of health and wellbeing, connecting wildlife habitats, flood protection, carbon storage and presenting an attractive location are recognised at both national and local levels.
- 12.4 The NPPF points to a strategic need to plan positively to create, protect, enhance and manage networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure.
- 12.5 The Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy collates evidence about green infrastructure for Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull¹⁰². It focuses on landscape, biodiversity and accessibility to natural green space. The strategy's main messages are to identify for the sub-region:
- The main strategic areas of opportunity for strengthening landscape character.
 - Biodiversity assets and strategic areas for reconnecting habitats.
 - Accessibility assets and deficiencies using Natural England's Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard and the Woodland Access Standards.
- 12.6 The Green Infrastructure Plan looks at the benefits and interlinkages of the multi-functions of green infrastructure for the borough. It analyses the functions - accessible green space, biodiversity, landscape character and distinctiveness, water quality, flooding, climate change, food, fuel, cultural heritage, health and wellbeing, and sustainable active travel. From this analysis, the Green Infrastructure Plan identifies key messages and landscape zones as a framework for projects for the long-term planning of the borough's green infrastructure especially in relation to climate change and nature recovery. The following landscape zones are identified:
- Forest of Arden landscape enhancement.
 - Post-industrial and geological heritage.
 - Urban waterways and wetlands.
 - Urban greening.
 - Strategic and local greenways and corridors.
- 12.7 Warwickshire County Council is developing strategic cycle network plans for Nuneaton and Bedworth and for Nuneaton to Coventry. These will be an important consideration in terms of delivering a linked network of signed strategic and local greenway routes for walking and cycling.

Blue infrastructure

- 12.8 The water component of green infrastructure is often referred to as blue infrastructure, and the two can often be interlinked to provide additional

¹⁰² Warwickshire Museum and Natural Environment (2013). *Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy*.

benefits. Green spaces can be used to reduce flood risk by managing flood flows and creating flood storage areas. They can also be used to improve accessibility to watercourses, support regeneration and improve opportunities for leisure, economic activity and biodiversity. In addition, river corridors identified as functional floodplains should be protected, as they provide opportunities for the linkage of green infrastructure, can provide storage during a flood event and can also provide specialist habitat areas.

- 12.9 Where development proposals include a watercourse within their site boundary, providing an easement between the development edge and the watercourse can help contribute to the delivery of green corridors. An 8m easement is typically used and should be included in proposals wherever possible.
- 12.10 Blue infrastructure also includes SuDS. 'Policy NE4 – Managing flood risk and water quality' states that SuDS must be incorporated within all development in order to reduce surface water run-off, as well as provide biodiversity and water quality benefits. All development proposals and public realm improvements should consider the use of urban wetlands and street rain gardens as part of sustainable drainage schemes, particularly where there are known surface water flooding problems, or where wildlife habitat connectivity could be enhanced and restored.

Borough Plan objectives

12.11 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

- Objective 1.
- Objective 5.
- Objective 6.
- Objective 7.
- Objective 8.

Evidence base

12.12 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- Warwickshire County Council (2013). *Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy*.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2011). *Open Space Strategy: 2011 – 2021* (currently being updated).
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2013). *Allotment Strategy: 2012 – 2022* (currently being updated).
- Warwickshire Museum and Natural Environment (2013). *Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy*.

Delivery mechanisms

12.13 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

- Green infrastructure requirements and mitigation for strategic housing sites.

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- Implementation of the following policies: HS2 – Sustainable transport, HS5 – Health, NE3 – Biodiversity and geodiversity, NE4 – Managing flood risk and water quality, NE5 – Landscape character, as well as site specific policies.
- Delivery of Open Space Strategy.
- Delivery of Green Infrastructure Plan.
- Delivery of Allotment Strategy.
- Delivery of the proposed strategic cycle network plans.

Monitoring

12.14 The indicators and targets that will be monitored for this policy are outlined in Table 33.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
NE1a	Green infrastructure.	Provision of green infrastructure to support development in line with the green infrastructure framework.
NE1b	Distance of strategic network cycle routes.	Delivery towards strategic cycle network plans.

Table 33: Indicators and targets to be monitored for Policy NE1.

Policy NE2 – Open space and playing fields

New development will create an improved green network of publicly accessible and linked open spaces to support growth by:

1. Protecting and enhancing the hierarchy of open spaces which are made up of destination parks, community parks and local parks. This includes:
 - a. Improving open spaces at Change Brook Close, Buttermere Recreation Ground, St Giles, Blackberry Lane and Anderton Road in order to create community parks.
 - b. Providing new community parks at Whitestone, The Long Shoot and Bulkington.
2. Creating new open spaces and links for the strategic housing sites.
3. Improving access to nature where there is a deficit of space.
4. Addressing open space through new provision or improving existing provision in line with standards set out in the Open Space Strategy.
5. Providing new allotments or improving existing allotments in order to enable communities to grow food where deficiencies exist, in line with standards set out in the Allotment Strategy.
6. Providing new or improving existing children’s play facilities and facilities for young people in line with the standards in the Open Space Strategy.
7. Providing new playing fields in line with the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy.

8. Creating a network of strategic and local walking and cycling routes in order to increase the connectivity of open spaces.
9. Climate change will be fundamental to new development, including open spaces which must play a part in delivering long-term mitigation and adaptation.
10. Open space should provide areas of tree planting of a mix of predominantly native trees, street trees of appropriate species and where appropriate community orchards.

New open space can be used multi-functionally as flood storage except for formal children's play areas or sports pitches.

12.15 The NPPF recognises that access to high quality open spaces for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and wellbeing of communities. Landscaping within open spaces can also make a valuable contribution to help reduce greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and to build resilience and adaptation for climate change.

12.16 The NPPF also sets out criteria for the loss of existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields. 'Policy HS4 – Retaining community facilities', sets out the local approach to the loss of such facilities. Where losses are proposed, the Council will consider the criteria in the NPPF as well as relevant standards and assessments set out in the Open Space Strategy¹⁰³ and Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy¹⁰⁴ (or as per any updates) in terms of using 'Policy HS4 – Retaining community facilities.'

12.17 The Open Space Strategy defines a typology and hierarchy of sites and standards for the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space. The strategy identifies the areas where there is a surplus or deficit of open space in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility, as well as those open spaces to be given priority for improvement and investment in order to meet access and quality standards. The overall aim is to create a publicly accessible green network of open spaces.

12.18 A key element of the Open Space Strategy is to ensure that all properties in the borough have access to a community park. This means that all residents will be within 600m or 10-12 minutes walking distance of a community park. To achieve this aim, current deficiencies will be addressed by:

- Improving open spaces to create community parks at Change Brook Close, Buttermere Recreation Ground, St Giles, Blackberry Lane and Anderton Road.
- Providing new open space in Whitestone, The Long Shoot and Bulkington.
- Providing new community parks and / or improving existing community parks in order to meet the needs of residents of the strategic housing sites.

¹⁰³ Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2011). *Open Space Strategy: 2011 – 2021*.

¹⁰⁴ Strategic Leisure Ltd (2023). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council - Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy*.

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- 12.19 Proposed community parks will be removed from Green Belt as part of the related development proposals.
- 12.20 In terms of access to nature, the Council will take account of the standards proposed by Natural England, the Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard and the Woodland Trust's Woodland Access Standard.
- 12.21 The Open Space Strategy recognises the need for children and young people to have access to play provision and teenage facilities to meet their needs. Quantity, quality and accessibility standards are linked to the hierarchy of open space standards.
- 12.22 The Allotment Strategy identifies areas where there are deficiencies of allotments and quantity, quality and accessibility standards¹⁰⁵. New allotments will be provided in line with the standards in the Allotment Strategy.

Borough Plan objectives

12.23 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

- Objective 5.
- Objective 6.
- Objective 7.
- Objective 8.

Evidence base

12.24 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- Strategic Leisure Ltd (2023). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council – Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy*.
- Warwickshire County Council (2013). *Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy*.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Plan (2011). *Open Space Strategy: 2011 – 2021*.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Plan (2013). *Allotment Strategy: 2012 – 2022*.
- Warwickshire Museum and Natural Environment (2013). *Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy*.

Delivery mechanisms

12.25 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

- Open space requirements for strategic housing sites.
- Delivery of Open Space Strategy.
- Delivery of Green Infrastructure Plan.

¹⁰⁵ Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2013). *Allotment Strategy: 2012 – 2022*.

- Delivery of Allotment Strategy.

Monitoring

12.26 The indicator and target that will be monitored for this policy is outlined in Table 34.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
NE2a	Change to open space.	No net loss of open spaces, made up of destination parks, community parks, neighbourhood parks or allotments, to development.

Table 34: Indicator and target to be monitored for Policy NE2.

Policy NE3 – Biodiversity and geodiversity

The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006, protected species, the Government’s 25 Year Plan and Environment Act 2021¹⁰⁶ are all key national legislation that must be adhered to. Development proposals need to ensure ecological networks, services and biodiversity and geological features are conserved, enhanced, restored and created to assist in nature recovery. The use of mechanisms to improve biodiversity such as green roofs or green walls are encouraged.

Ecological network

Sites on international, national and local levels (including existing and potential local wildlife sites) will be protected from development. The level of protection sought for the site will be at an appropriate scale to the site’s designation status, and the contribution it makes to the ecological network.

Fragmentation of habitats

Development proposals will ensure species are able to positively respond and adapt to the impacts of climate change by preventing the fragmentation of existing habitats. Links and habitats should be created where there are gaps to the ecological network of wildlife sites, wildbelts, stepping stones, wildlife and canal corridors, and green spaces, regardless of whether they are of international, national or local importance. Watercourses should be joined up to provide natural linkages for ecological networks and to improve water quality.

¹⁰⁶ HM Government (2018). *A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment and Environment Act 2021*.

Biodiversity offsetting

Biodiversity offsetting will be required as a last resort once all available options in the mitigation hierarchy have been explored. Developers must use Warwickshire County Council's biodiversity offsetting metrics (until such time this is superseded by the mandatory use of the national metrics) to quantify the impact, and to calculate an appropriate level of compensation to replace the lost habitat. If the habitat loss cannot be replaced on site, the replacement habitat should be provided, in the borough, in the following order:

- A biodiversity strategic location.
- A location adjoining and / or linking a biodiversity strategic location.
- A location which significantly increases connectivity between LBAP habitats – and / or any emerging Nature Recovery network location that aligns with targeted areas and corridors for increased ecological connectivity.

Geological diversity

Development proposals will avoid adversely impacting sites of geological interest and, where appropriate, conserve and enhance such features for the enjoyment of residents, and for reasons of advancing local geological education.

Ecological and geological assessment

Development proposals affecting the ecological network and / or important geological features will be accompanied by a Preliminary Ecological Assessment and / or, where relevant, a Geological Assessment.

Where the assessment indicates an adverse impact, the assessment must set out a mitigation strategy to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity, indicate how it will create biodiversity net gains and where relevant, how it will reduce its geological impact.

Any proposal that directly or indirectly impacts on a highly distinctive ecological site must show that less distinctive ecological sites have been considered first and explain why those sites were not suitable. The assessment must demonstrate that the benefits of the development proposal will outweigh the immediate loss of biodiversity and / or geodiversity before development is permitted. The assessment must also demonstrate that the combination of proposed habitat retention, enhancement and any biodiversity offsetting, results in a minimum of a 10% net gain in biodiversity and where appropriate enhance 'at risk habitats' identified in the Biodiversity Action Plan, Green Infrastructure Strategy and any emerging Nature Recovery Plans. The assessment should include retention, enhancement and creation of ecological habitats and nature recovery. Developments that create new habitat should seek to accommodate a mix of predominantly native trees, including fruit trees as well as suitable species of street trees.

Where there is evidence of deliberate neglect, clearance or damage to biodiversity prior to the submission of an application, the Council will assess the acceptability and biodiversity calculations on what was considered to be the original condition.

Special Areas of Conservation and Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Development that would adversely affect Special Areas of Conservation or cause significant harm to SSSI will not normally be granted planning permission.

12.27 The NPPF provides opportunities to help redress biodiversity losses from new development, as it promotes the concept of biodiversity net gains. The Environment Act 2021 takes this further and sets a legal requirement for planning permission to exceed the pre-development biodiversity value of the onsite habitat by at least 10%.

12.28 The NPPF states that Councils should plan positively to create, protect, enhance and manage recovery networks for biodiversity. It also states that distinctions should be made between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites so that protection is appropriate with their status and gives appropriate weight to their importance and the contribution that they make to the wider ecological networks.

12.29 Sites which are awarded protection include:

- International sites (such as Special Areas of Conservation).
- National sites (such as SSSI).
- The Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Habitats and Species.
- Local nature reserves.
- Local and potential wildlife sites and local geological sites.
- Sites with a high distinctiveness score.

12.30 The 2016 maps produced by the Habitat Biodiversity Audit Partnership for Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull¹⁰⁷ show habitat provision, connectivity and access to nature are particularly poor on the east side of the borough, whilst to the west, provision is relatively good, but connectivity and access is also poor. Additionally, the borough only has a small number of statutory protected wildlife and geological sites (one Special Area of Conservation, two SSSIs and three local nature reserves).

12.31 A small element of the borough's ecological network consists of statutory designated sites, including Special Areas of Conservation, SSSIs and local nature reserves. One site, Ensor's Pool, is currently designated all three. The majority of the network is made up of non-statutory local wildlife sites and potential local wildlife sites, as well as priority habitats and species, woodland and ancient woodland, rivers and canals, and green corridors and stepping stones. In line with this, coherent physically connected habitat corridors and networks, linking sites of higher ecological value are now recognised as essential. Additionally, non-statutory sites contribute to the greater good of

¹⁰⁷ Warwickshire County Council (2015). *Grassland connectivity 2015, Hedgerow connectivity 2015, Local wildlife sites 2015, Phase 1 currency 2015, Phase 1 distinctiveness 2015, Phase 1 habitats 2015, Woodlands connectivity 2015.*

conserving biodiversity and geodiversity and are viewed as an integral component of the ecological network.

12.32 To distinguish between habitats with greater ecological importance, both the Ecology and Geodiversity Assessment¹⁰⁸ and Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy¹⁰⁹ score habitats on their distinctiveness. High distinctiveness scores equate to areas of highest biodiversity, including all unimproved and semi-improved habitats. High distinctiveness will also incorporate statutory sites, local wildlife sites and the Biodiversity Action Plan habitats. The high distinctiveness category for linear habitats includes species-rich hedgerows.

12.33 The protection, enhancement and creation of ecological habitats has the opportunity to help ameliorate the effects of climate change through carbon capture. As such, habitats can serve dual purposes and opportunities should be taken to enhance not only biodiversity but the ability to capture carbon (but the latter not at the expense of the biodiversity of the land). Areas of increased biodiversity interest can also ameliorate the effects of overheating, from rising temperatures, through tree planting and by providing shade. Fruit trees should form part of this planting.

Biodiversity offsetting

12.34 The mitigation hierarchy should be applied where relevant, which follows the order of avoid, minimise, restore and offset.

12.35 Biodiversity calculations will be required (except for householders) at the time of any planning application submission. Biodiversity offsetting metrics have been provided by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Natural England in order to calculate the value of biodiversity in monetary terms. Warwickshire County Council have modified the metrics to take account of local considerations and provide advice to developers in making their calculations¹¹⁰. Applying the metrics ensures that the losses resulting from development and the gains achieved through biodiversity offsetting, are measured in the same way. Warwickshire County Council's biodiversity offsetting metric is to be used until such time that this is superseded by the mandatory use of the national metrics.

Borough Plan objectives

12.36 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

- Objective 6.

¹⁰⁸ Habitat Biodiversity Audit Partnership for Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull (2022). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council Ecology and Geodiversity Assessment (EGA) Borough Plan Publication Version*.

¹⁰⁹ Warwickshire Museum and Natural Environment (2013). *Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy*.

¹¹⁰ Warwickshire County Council. *Biodiversity Offsetting Activities*.

Evidence base

12.37 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- Warwickshire County Council (2015). *Grassland connectivity 2015, Hedgerow connectivity 2015, Local wildlife sites 2015, Phase 1 currency 2015, Phase 1 distinctiveness 2015, Phase 1 habitats 2015, Woodlands connectivity 2015.*
- Habitat Biodiversity Audit Partnership for Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull; (2022). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council Ecology and Geodiversity Assessment (EGA) Borough Plan Publication Version.*
- Warwickshire Museum and Natural Environment (2013). *Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy.*

Delivery mechanisms

12.38 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

- Work closely with the Habitat Biodiversity Audit Partnership, Natural England, Warwickshire Geological Conservation Group and Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, amongst others, to ensure that the borough’s ecological, geological and landscape assets are conserved, restored and, where necessary, created.
- Delivery of the Green Infrastructure Plan and the Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy.

Monitoring

12.39 The indicators and targets that will be monitored for this policy are outlined in Table 35.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
NE3a	Deterioration in SSSI, Special Area of Conservation and local wildlife sites.	No deterioration; maintain at favourable status.
NE3b	Development causing habitat net losses (prior to mandatory requirement for 10% net gain).	Zero.
NE3c	Development causing a loss of Local Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species.	Zero.
NE3d	Planning permission granted on designated statutory sites and sites with high biodiversity distinctiveness.	Zero.

NE3e	Local wildlife sites in positive management.	All local wildlife sites.
NE3f	Increase or decrease in connectivity of ecological network. This could be monitored through planning applications and the Habitat Biodiversity Audit.	Year on year increase.

Table 35: Indicators and targets to be monitored for Policy NE3.

Policy NE4 – Managing flood risk and water quality

Managing flood risk

New development should be prioritised to areas of lowest flood risk and must not increase flood risk elsewhere. This should consider the risk from all sources including fluvial, surface water, groundwater and sewer flood risk, making use of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessments (SFRAs) (both Level 1 and Level 2) available public mapping such as the Flood Map for Planning and the Flood Risk from Surface Water map and historic flood information (which is available from the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) and other partners).

Flood risk should be considered proportionately for all development. A site-specific Flood Risk Assessment will be required to support planning applications for large developments or those in areas at risk of flooding, in order to demonstrate that the risk both within the site and to surrounding / downstream sites is not increased. Submitted Flood Risk Assessments should refer to the recommendations of the SFRA: Level 2, the Humber and Severn Flood Risk Management Plans and Warwickshire County Council’s Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. Notwithstanding the requirement for a Flood Risk Assessment for large developments to be submitted, all developments will require a drainage strategy which demonstrates how surface water will be managed in accordance with the drainage hierarchy and flood risk will not be increased downstream.

New development proposals must account for climate change in their plans to ensure that the site will be safe over its lifetime. This should consider the potential for exceedance events, for example due to extreme events beyond design standards or through failure of assets, and how such overland flows are directed safely through a development without exposing new or existing property to greater flood risk.

A sequential approach to the layout of the development should be taken so that buildings and access routes are located in areas of lowest flood risk. Modification of ground levels / compensation works may be undertaken in order to reconfigure land located within flood zone 3a. However, modifications to increase land available for development is not permitted. With any changes in ground levels, detailed consideration should be given to exceedance / overland flow routes.

For development located in areas at risk of flooding, mitigation measures should be provided up to the 1% annual probability plus climate change flood event. Safe access and egress must also be demonstrated. Finished floor levels in areas at risk of flooding should be set no lower than 600mm above the 1% annual probability plus climate change flood level.

All new developments should contribute to creating space for water through use of blue and green infrastructure, and where relevant, restoring functional floodplains (flood zone 3b). New developments should also seek opportunities for river restoration and enhancement, e.g. de-culverting, removing structures and reinstating a natural, sinuous river channel. As a minimum all developments are required to provide an 8m wide undeveloped buffer strip from the watercourse (from the top of the bank or the centreline of the culvert) to allow access for routine maintenance and emergency clearance.

In terms of the risks to traditional buildings from flooding, care must be taken not to introduce inappropriate retrofitted measures which would prevent effective drying and shorten the life of the building.

Flood risk management schemes (flood defences)

Proposals for new developments should not detrimentally impact upon existing and planned flood risk management schemes. New developments that will benefit from existing flood risk management schemes will be required to contribute towards their ongoing maintenance, in line with the requirements of the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

Land that is required for current and future flood management will be safeguarded from development.

SuDS

New development will be required to implement appropriate, above-ground, SuDS techniques in order to manage surface water run-off. For all sites, surface water discharge rates should be no greater than QBar (or QMed) site-specific greenfield run-off rates, unless otherwise agreed by the LLFA. Greenfield runoff rates should also be provided, with a minimum of 50% betterment if evidence for why greenfield runoff rates cannot be met, whilst brownfield sites should also provide a 50% betterment. Warwickshire County Council's Local Guidance for Developers¹¹¹ should be referenced for drainage design and guidance on discharge rates.

Surface water run-off should be managed as close to its source as possible and discharged in line with the surface water drainage hierarchy. Opportunities to utilise rainwater harvesting or reuse should be explored, to have benefits for both flood risk and water scarcity. Discharge via any sewer network is considered the last resort and where discharging into 3rd party assets (e.g. sewer network), written confirmation from the asset owner of the acceptance of such connection will be required. All redevelopment of brownfield sites should seek to remove existing connections to the public sewer for surface water drainage.

¹¹¹ Warwickshire County Council. *Land Drainage: Rights and Responsibilities*.

Developers are encouraged to contact Severn Trent, regarding sewer capacity, at an early stage of planning, to ensure adequate time is available to assess the risk and develop any network improvements should they be required.

Above ground SuDS features must be included within all development in order to bring wider sustainability benefits including improved water quality, enhanced biodiversity and amenity / leisure value. SuDS should be dispersed across a development (e.g. not concentrated in a single attenuation feature) with consideration given to design for and retaining the first 5mm of rainfall.

SuDS should be designed so that they do not impact on archaeology. Impacts can be caused by draining waterlogged archaeology or introducing surplus water and pollution from surface runoff into archaeological sediments via soakways. Consideration should be given to the most appropriate course of action to protect buried waterlogged archaeology through the design of SuDS features.

Details of the SuDS proposed to be used, including operation and maintenance, must be agreed at the earliest possible stage with the LLFA.

Water quality

New developments must demonstrate that they will not result in adverse impacts on the quality of waterbodies, groundwater and surface water, will not prevent waterbodies and groundwater from achieving a good status in the future and contribute positively to the environment and ecology, in and adjacent to the borough.

All attempts must be made to separate surface water and foul water, ensuring that surface water connections are not made to the foul / combined sewer network.

The management and improvement of water quality should be considered hand-in-hand with the provision of SuDS across a development. Proposals should be accompanied by a proportionate assessment (e.g. simple index approach) outlining the risks of a development proposal and how the proposed surface water drainage system will manage and mitigate those risks.

Proposals will benefit the river network by restoring the functional floodplain and reinstating a natural meandering river channel where it has previously been lost. In doing so, development proposals should refer to the principles of the EU Water Framework Directive and the associated actions and objectives of the Humber and Severn River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs).

Management schemes supported by the RBMPs will be encouraged within development proposals, such as the use of tree planting to reduce soil run-off into watercourses, standing water bodies and groundwater.

Groundwater quality

Where development has the potential to directly or indirectly pollute groundwater, a Groundwater Risk Assessment demonstrating that the development proposal and

subsequent works required will not lead to deterioration in groundwater quality and quantity is needed to support the planning application.

If a deterioration in groundwater quality cannot be avoided, there will be a presumption against the development proposal.

All new housing and employment allocations with piled foundations or basements, within 1km of Ensor's Pool Special Area of Conservation, should undertake a hydrogeological study to confirm that it will not affect groundwater flows or quality at the Special Area of Conservation.

12.40 The NPPF promotes a sequential approach to identifying new land for development. This ensures that flood risk to people and property is avoided by selecting land at least risk of flooding considering the risk of flooding from all sources. Site layout and design are recognised as ways to influence the risk and impact of flooding, and to provide resilience for climate change.

12.41 Climate change is a key threat in terms of flooding. It is expected that peak rainfall intensity and peak river flow will increase during the plan period. This will increase both the size of the flood zones associated with rivers and the amount of flood experienced from other sources. The SFRA: Level 2 for Nuneaton and Bedworth updated previous flood zone maps to consider climate change¹¹². The maps show that climate change will increase flood risk over time. The SFRA is being updated to inform the review process in order to consider new legislation, further climate change predictions and better modelling.

12.42 Monitoring of the chemical and ecological status of the water bodies in the Humber and Severn River basin districts indicates that improvements in water quality are needed to reach the environmental objectives that have been set across each of the districts¹¹³.

12.43 This policy, and the legal obligations imposed by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the EU Water Framework Directive will help to address flood issues, adapt to climate change and reverse the decline in the chemical and ecological status of water bodies.

Flood risk

12.44 Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council lies in the River Trent Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP), Upper Soar and Upper Anker sub-region where policy option 4 has been allocated¹¹⁴. Policy 4 requires further action to sustain the current level of flood risk into the future (responding to the potential increases in risk from urban development, land use change and climate change). 'Policy NE4 – Managing flood risk and water quality' aims to support

¹¹² JBA Consulting (2016). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council SFRA – Level 2: Final Update Report*.

¹¹³ Environment Agency (2015). *Humber and Severn River Basin District, RMBPs*.

¹¹⁴ Environment Agency (2010). *River Trent Catchment Flood Management Plan*.

this aim of the River Trent CFMP by effective management of future development.

12.45 The River Trent CFMP and the Humber and Severn Flood Risk Management Plans indicate the following measures are required to reduce the risk of flooding:

- Directing development away from the floodplain.
- Slowing rates of run-off in the upstream catchment in order to reduce surface water flooding (particularly in Bedworth).
- Better understanding of the interaction between river and surface water flooding in order to help identify solutions in urban areas.
- Assessing long-term opportunities to move development away from the floodplain and create green river corridors.
- Considering future climate change and urban growth.
- Returning watercourses to a more natural state, increasing biodiversity and opening up green river corridors.
- Protecting and increasing the amount of Biodiversity Action Plan habitat in the catchment.
- Making more space for rivers through urban areas via blue corridors, e.g. restoring access for floodwater onto key strips of floodplain.

12.46 The Environment Agency is also in the process of drafting revised Flood Risk Management Plans which will span the period of 2021 – 2027. These are due to be published in Summer 2022.

12.47 Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council's Level 1¹¹⁵ and Level 2¹¹⁶ SFRAs are a borough-level assessment of potential flood risk from all sources. All proposals should have regard to the findings of these assessments. These studies are currently draft versions but will be updated further during the review process in order to consider new legislation, further climate change predictions and better modelling.

12.48 Warwickshire County Council, in their role as LLFA, have published a Local Flood Risk Management Strategy. The strategy ranks Nuneaton as number 10 in the top 40 combined (historic and predictive) flood risk sites across Warwickshire through ordinary watercourses, surface water and sewer capacity. Bedworth is ranked as number 7, with the nature of flood risk listed as the main river area of Delamere Road (addressed by Environment Agency scheme) and surface water. Nuneaton Centre is ranked as number 24 with the main river, ordinary watercourse, surface water and sewer flooding all listed as the sources¹¹⁷.

12.49 The Water Cycle Study (2010) identified that there are no absolute barriers to development across Nuneaton and Bedworth. The study also highlights

¹¹⁵ JBA Consulting (2022 and 2023). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Final Report*.

¹¹⁶ JBA Consulting (2023). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Final Report*.

¹¹⁷ Warwickshire County Council (2016). *Local Flood Risk Management Strategy*.

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constraints regarding water resources, flood risk management, surface water management, wastewater infrastructure and water quality which would need to be addressed should development occur. The Water Cycle Study (2016) update assessed the constraints for each of the strategic site allocations, and where applicable, these have been addressed within the site-specific policies. However, an update to the Water Cycle Study is imminent and may have very different results from the 2016 Water Cycle Study.

- 12.50 Section 10 of the Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan outlines the infrastructure requirements across the borough regarding flooding and drainage, and states that "where development does occur in areas of flood risk, financial contributions obtained from planning applications may be used to mitigate the risk associated with the development".

Flood risk management schemes (flood defences)

- 12.51 The SFRA: Level 2 also assessed the borough's flood defences. Details of the flood defences, their standard of protection and condition were provided by the Environment Agency and should be taken into consideration where development may compromise the condition and function of the flood defence.

SuDS

- 12.52 In accordance with the NPPF and the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, SuDS are required to be implemented at all scales of development.
- 12.53 As of 15th April 2015, Warwickshire County Council are statutory consultees on major planning applications for surface water.
- 12.54 Surface water run-off should be managed at source at a discharge rate no greater than the QBar greenfield rate, for all events up to the 1% annual probability plus climate change flood event.
- 12.55 Surface water drainage systems should discharge in line with the drainage hierarchy, first considering the potential for rainwater harvesting and reuse then, in descending order of priority, considering infiltration, discharge to surface water bodies such as watercourses and finally discharge to the public sewer network. Consideration should be given to the capacity of the receiving body, including an appreciation of any downstream assets e.g. culverts which may provide an additional constriction of flows.
- 12.56 Where connecting into a 3rd party asset, such as a public sewer, written acceptance of the connection from the asset owner will be required. This should confirm location and discharge rates are acceptable. Whilst higher capacities may be allowed by an asset owner, discharge rates should be in line with the policy set out above.
- 12.57 The Environment Act (2021)¹¹⁸ also sets out changes to the water environment. Each sewerage undertaker now has a statutory requirement to prepare a

¹¹⁸ HM Government (2021). *Environment Act*.

Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan (DWMP) setting out the capacity of a sewer system, future demands, resilience and other measures. The Severn Trent DWMP¹¹⁹ has now been published (2023).

12.58 An increasing focus is also being put upon reducing Storm Overflows from sewer networks. The Environment Act sets out how the Secretary of State must prepare a plan for the purpose of reducing discharge from storm overflows. The Severn Trent Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan (SODRP) (2023)¹²⁰ has now been published. The DWMP outlines how the plan aligns with the SODRP.

12.59 The policy measures set out how, by reducing discharge amounts to the QBar greenfield runoff rate and discharging to water bodies other than sewer infrastructure, this has benefits as it meets the potential of the Environment Act objectives.

12.60 Above-ground SuDS are required with all development. Well-designed SuDS, integrated with a development's landscaping and green infrastructure can provide multiple benefits thereby meeting many national and local policy objectives:

- Flood risk: the controlled discharge of surface water runoff will aid the downstream management of flows within a watercourse and thereby mitigate and potentially improve the risk of flooding.
- Water quality: many SuDS features provide water quality improvements by slowing flows thereby allowing the deposition of pollutant-carrying sediment and the filtration of water through vegetation such as reedbeds.
- Amenity: there can be many facets of amenity through which SuDS provide benefits including improved air quality, reducing urban temperatures, sequestering carbon, providing educational and recreational spaces where everyone can interact with water, reducing noise through sound-absorption by vegetation and finally improving health and wellbeing.
- Biodiversity: SuDS provide excellent habitats for aquatic and non-aquatic flora and fauna, thereby helping to meet biodiversity net gain targets under the Environment Act (2021).

Where this is not possible, developers should contact the LLFA at the earliest convenience, and ideally during the master planning process, for advice on suitable surface water drainage techniques. The Warwickshire County Council LLFA standing advice design guide should be taken into consideration when designing SuDS.

Water quality

12.61 A key requirement of the EU Water Framework Directive is the management and prevention of deterioration of the environment. This sits alongside the

¹¹⁹ Severn Trent (2023). *DWMP*.

¹²⁰ Severn Trent (2023). *DWMPs– Appendix 6 – Alignment to the Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan*.

Government's 25 Year Environment Plan¹²¹ to improve the environment within a generation. All development has a role to play in meeting these objectives and paragraph 174 of the NPPF supports this statement and policy.

12.62 RBMPs are prepared by the Environment Agency under the direction of the EU Water Framework Directive. The RBMPs indicate that the chemical and ecological status, in relation to the quality of surface water bodies and groundwater quality, are below current accepted standards. The RBMPs indicate that a number of measures are required to improve water quality, including:

- Reducing the impact of diffuse pollution from rural and urban sources, including the use of SuDS.
- Remediating contaminated land.
- Improving and protecting habitats.

12.63 The Environment Agency is also in the process of drafting revised Flood Risk Management Plans which will span the period of 2021 – 2027.

12.64 As outlined earlier, the Environment Act (2021) places additional statutory duties on sewerage undertakers to understand and manage sewer capacity and for Government to plan for reducing storm overflows. This highlights the importance for development proposals to use sewer networks as a last resort for surface water drainage.

12.65 The Council will work in conjunction with Severn Trent with regards to water quality modelling in order to determine the potential for deterioration as a result of the growth and increased sewage discharges across the borough. Severn Trent will also consider the impact on concentrations in the rivers related to percentage deterioration, impact on current EU Water Framework Directive classifications, and potential for future EU Water Framework Directive failures.

12.66 Development proposals must therefore consider the impacts they may have on the water quality environment and how the proposals mitigate those impacts. For most development, an assessment utilising the Simple Index Approach, as outlined in The SuDS Manual¹²², could be considered appropriate. However, for complex development or potentially contaminated sites, more detailed assessments, through escalating Land Contamination Risk Assessments, may be more appropriate.

Groundwater quality

12.67 Groundwater accounts for around a third of public water supply in England and Wales. Unfortunately, it is also under threat from unsustainable levels of abstraction for drinking water, exceeding the rate at which rainfall can recharge aquifers. This in turn causes further problems, as lower groundwater levels can affect river flows, wetlands and is seen as one of the causes for not achieving

¹²¹ HM Government (2018). *A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment*.

¹²² CIRIA (2015). *The SuDS Manual (C753)*.

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good ecological status in some rivers, lakes and estuaries. The higher building regulations requirements for water efficiency, as set out in Policy BE3 – Sustainable design and construction, will contribute towards ensuring sustainable water supply and abstraction.

Borough Plan objectives

12.68 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

- Objective 6.
- Objective 7.

Evidence base

12.69 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- AECOM (2017). *Joint Warwickshire Partnership Water Cycle Study*. To be reviewed.
- Halcrow Group Limited (2008). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council SFRA for Local Development Framework: Level 1, Volume 1 – FINAL*. To be reviewed.
- Halcrow (2010). *Warwickshire sub-regional Water Cycle Study: Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council Final report*. To be reviewed.
- JBA Consulting (2022 and 2023). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Final Report*.
- JBA Consulting (2023). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council Level 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Final Report*.
- Warwickshire County Council (2016). *Local Flood Risk Management Strategy*. To be reviewed.

Delivery mechanisms

12.70 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

- Using the Council's SFRA: Level 2 and Warwickshire County Council's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy to identify sites for development, at least risk of flooding, in the Borough Plan and other development plan documents.
- Developing new flood defences and SuDS to allow development to take place.
- Delivery of projects set out in the Green Infrastructure Plan relating to flood alleviation.
- Review the SFRA on a five-yearly basis.

Monitoring

12.71 The indicators and targets that will be monitored for this policy are outlined in Table 36.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
NE4a	The number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency and LLFA on grounds of flood risk.	Zero.
NE4b	The number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on grounds of risk to water quality.	Zero.
NE4c	The number of planning permissions granted contrary to the advice of the Environment Agency on grounds of risk to groundwater quality.	Zero.
NE4d	Number of developments including SuDS.	100%.

Table 36: Indicators and targets to be monitored for Policy NE4.

Policy NE5 – Landscape character

Major development proposals must demonstrate how they will conserve, enhance, restore or create a sense of place, as well as respond positively to the landscape setting in which the development proposal is located. Developers must take account of the Land Use Designations Study and landscape guidelines when preparing their landscape strategy.

Key characteristics and distinctiveness

Major development proposals must demonstrate that they are in balance with the setting of the local landscape and historic environment, respect the key characteristics and distinctiveness of that landscape, and in particular show how the proposal will:

1. Conserve or enhance important landmark views.
2. Conserve, enhance or create boundary features and field patterns including ridge and furrow topography.
3. Conserve and where necessary enhance the strength of character and landscape condition.

Landscape hierarchy

Major development proposals must take account of the landscape strategy set out in the Landscape Character Assessment (2023). Outside of the strategic sites and

urban area, developers must show they have sequentially considered development opportunities in areas of least landscape value first, prior to any development proposals being permitted in higher value landscape character areas. The areas of search will follow the landscape hierarchy in the order set out below:

1. Restore and create.
2. Enhance and restore.
3. Enhance.
4. Conserve and enhance.
5. Conserve.

12.72 The NPPF says that valued landscapes should be protected and enhanced. Landscape planning policies should be informed by Landscape Character Assessments in order to help determine the likely impacts new development proposals will have on the landscape, against which development proposals will be judged.

12.73 This policy will ensure that any suitable development will take account of landscape character and that the Land Use Designations Study will be used to determine decisions in this respect.

12.74 The Land Use Designations Study consists of several documents:

- Stage 1, Volume 1: Landscape Character Assessment (TEP, 2012) – This study assesses and describes the landscape character and quality of the borough and establishes the landscape’s sensitivity and capacity to accommodate change.
- Stage 1, Volume 2: Policy Recommendations (TEP, 2011) - This study assesses the merits of carrying over the ‘Area of Restraint’ and ‘Countryside’ designations from the Local Plan 2006 into the Borough Plan, against a more flexible Landscape Character Assessment approach to regulate new development.
- Stage 1, Volume 3: Site Analysis and Selection (TEP, 2011) – This study identifies the likely constraints to development, including reference to the Landscape Character Assessment and the landscape’s capacity to accommodate change.
- Stage 2: Individual Site Assessment (TEP, 2012) - This study involves an individual landscape and visual appraisal of potential development areas across the borough.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Landscape Character Assessment (2023).

12.75 In 2016, TEP carried out site-specific Landscape Character Assessments. These were updated by FPCR in 2023¹²³. In order to assess the landscape character and mitigation required for the identified strategic and some non-strategic sites.

12.76 The landscape of Nuneaton and Bedworth is covered by 13 landscape character areas, none of which have national designation status. Only one of

¹²³ FPCR (2023). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Landscape Character Assessment*.

the landscape character areas, Arbury Parklands, is considered to have a high landscape quality. The concept of landscape character areas will help to identify and understand local landscapes in terms of their diversity, character, distinctiveness and sensitivity to change, as well as where landscapes need to be conserved, enhanced, restored or created.

Key characteristics

12.77 In the Land Use Designations Study and FPCR 2023 updates, the 13 identified local landscape character areas each have their own set of key characteristics and key features. Some character areas have retained much of their characteristics and features, and have developed higher levels of strength of character, resulting in better landscape conditions. Other character areas have lost much of their key characteristics and features to development, intensive agricultural practices and other human activities. New development proposals therefore will need to take full account of the development guidelines set out in the Land Use Designations Study and updated site-specific landscape sensitivity studies¹²⁴.

Landscape hierarchy

12.78 It is recognised that some areas in landscape terms are less able to adapt to accommodating development than others. This is reflected in the landscape strategies. Landscape Character Assessments assume that all landscapes have the potential to accommodate development, provided it is in keeping with their key characteristics. However, changes which do not respect the landscape's key characteristics and features are likely to be detrimental to the local landscape character. Mitigation therefore is likely to be least achievable / sympathetic in high quality landscapes, and more achievable where the landscape character is of a lesser quality. For this reason, the Council will take a more restrictive approach to development in the highest quality landscapes, and direct development to landscapes of lesser value.

12.79 The overall aim of a Landscape Character Assessment, and ultimately the planning, design and management of landscapes, is to achieve sustainable landscapes that are visually diverse, culturally rich and provide potential biodiversity opportunities, as well as being able to meet social, economic and environmental needs. By conserving and creating landscape characteristics and features, Landscape Character Assessments become less about restricting development and more about how development can fit into the landscape by creating a distinct sense of place.

Borough Plan objectives

12.80 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

- Objective 6.

¹²⁴ FPCR (2023). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Landscape Sensitivity Study*.

Evidence base

12.81 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- TEP (2011). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Land Use Designations Study, Volume 2: Policy Recommendations.*
- TEP (2011). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Land Use Designation Study, Volume 3: Site Analysis and Selection.*
- TEP (2012). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Landscape Character Assessment.*
- TEP (2012). *Nuneaton and Bedworth: Stage 2 – Individual Site Assessment.*
- TEP (2017). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Landscape Capacity Study.*
- FPCR (2023). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Landscape Character Assessment.*
- FPCR (2023). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Landscape Sensitivity Study.*

Delivery mechanisms

12.82 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

- Work with developers, Historic England and Warwickshire County Council's Archaeological Information and Advice Team, as well as others, to ensure that landscape character is considered when planning and designing new development.
- Use the Land Use Designations Study as evidence to ensure that this policy is implemented.
- Maintaining a five-year housing land supply will ensure the borough's valued landscapes will be protected.

Monitoring

12.83 The indicators and targets that will be monitored for this policy are outlined in Table 37.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
NE5a	Development given planning permission in highly valued landscape areas.	Zero.
NE5b	Maintain five-year housing land supply.	Maintain a minimum of five years housing land supply.

Table 37: Indicators and targets to be monitored for Policy NE5.

13.0 Built environment

13.1 These policies outline requirements relating to the built environment.

Policy BE1 – Contamination and land instability

Development proposals located on or adjacent to land which may have been subject to contamination and / or land instability or are likely to risk creating land instability that could adversely affect nearby land and / or infrastructure will need to demonstrate the following:

1. That the site is suitable for its proposed use and that measures can be taken to mitigate effectively the impacts arising from land contamination and instability on public health, environmental quality, the built environment and general amenity.
2. That the development site is or will be made suitable for the proposed final use and will need to provide, as a minimum, the following documents with the planning application (often referred to as a Preliminary Risk Assessment and / or desk study):
 - a. Detailed site history identifying contaminative uses and land instability.
 - b. The nature and agent of the contamination, land instability and the hazards and risks posed.
 - c. That any risks of creating land instability likely to adversely affect nearby land or infrastructure have been adequately mitigated.

Development proposals should also demonstrate consideration of pollution prevention measures during construction.

13.2 The NPPF provides guidance on how to deal with land contamination and instability. It states that the planning system is the process by which areas of land contamination and instability will be effectively remediated in relation to its location and use. However, the responsibility for securing a safe development rest with the developer and / or landowner.

13.3 Nuneaton and Bedworth's long history of coal mining, quarrying and heavy engineering has left behind a legacy of land contamination and land instability, hazardous to human health and safety. This is reflected in the identification of over 3,100 potentially contaminated sites across the borough, and a Coal Authority development high risk area that stretches across the borough from Hawkesbury / Bedworth / Bermuda / Stockingford / Whittleford / Nuneaton Common through to North Warwickshire¹²⁵. Despite this there are no sites within the borough identified on the Contaminated Land Register, nor have any 'special sites' (highly toxic sites transferred to the Environment Agency for remediation) been identified in the borough.

¹²⁵ Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2010). *Contaminated Land Strategy: Phase 2*.

Applying the precautionary principle

- 13.4 The possibility of contamination should be assumed by developers when considering planning applications in relation to all land subject to or adjacent to previous industrial use. The precautionary principle should especially be applied where land uses are particularly sensitive to contamination, for example, housing, schools, hospitals and children's play areas.

Risk Assessment

- 13.5 Part IIA of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 states that the standard of remediation to be achieved through the granting of planning permission for new development (including permission for land remediation activities) is the removal of unacceptable risk and existing contaminant linkages, as well as to ensure the site is suitable for its new use. All receptors relevant to the site should be protected to an appropriate standard. It is essential therefore to ensure that the development of these sites leaves them safe and suitable for the new uses.
- 13.6 The need for the type and complexity of reports to accompany planning applications will depend on the specific site, and the level of contamination / land instability. This is particularly relevant where a planning condition is imposed prior to the granting of planning permission that requires a detailed remediation scheme.
- 13.7 Such a local policy is necessary to support the Council's Development Management Team in continuing to require, where relevant, the submission of contaminated land / land instability and coal mining risk assessments in support of planning applications. This will ensure that the legacy of past contaminative uses, coal mining activity and any resulting issues of land instability are afforded due consideration as part of new development proposals.

Borough Plan objectives

- 13.8 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:
- Objective 6.

Evidence base

- 13.9 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2010). *Contaminated Land Strategy: Phase 2*.

Delivery mechanisms

- 13.10 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

- Work with Development Management, Environmental Health, the Environment Agency and the Coal Authority to identify contaminated sites and bring about remediation.

Monitoring

13.11 The indicator and target that will be monitored for this policy is outlined in Table 38.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
BE1a	Development of a potentially contaminated or unstable site.	Remediation is suitable for new use and is no longer considered contaminated.

Table 38: Indicator and target to be monitored for Policy BE1.

Policy BE2 – Renewable and low carbon energy

The Council is committed to supporting low carbon developments to help tackle the climate emergency that was declared in the borough on 4th December 2019. To address this emergency, schemes providing renewable and low carbon technologies will be approved unless material considerations indicate otherwise. These include schemes that promote biomass energy, ground and air source heat pumps, solar thermal and solar photovoltaic.

Development should connect to any existing community / district heating schemes where appropriate or consider installing new combined systems, and should also consider the viability of biomass heating, combined heat and power, and utilising surplus heat.

Wind Energy

Land within the borough is highly constrained and is not suitable for large scale wind energy.

Proposals for small scale wind energy will be approved where appropriate in conjunction with the below criteria.

1. No significant harm to the amenity of and safety of residential areas, particularly in relation to:
 - a. Noise pollution, proximity and / or highway safety.
 - b. Electromagnetic interference.
 - c. Unacceptable shadow flicker.
 - d. Impacts on aviation.
2. Certified accreditation or similar evidence of the wind turbine meeting the RenewableUK Small Wind Turbine Performance and Safety Standard should

be provided, with the planning application, prior to the granting of planning permission.

3. A decommissioning scheme is in place. The applicant should expect that the Council will request that a bond be provided under a planning obligation to cover the cost of decommissioning and / or restoration of the site.

When considering proposals for wind turbines, the Council will balance conflicting objectives, such as the need to increase renewable energy uptake, against the need to protect attractive landscapes, heritage, nature conservation and local amenity. Whilst some of these issues may be reduced through mitigation, the overall impact might still be unacceptable. Consequently, any benefits arising from wind turbine proposals will be weighed against their potential harm.

13.12 The NPPF states that the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy should be increased through policies, in order to maximise renewable and low carbon energy development while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily, including cumulative landscape and visual impacts. The deployment of renewables will help tackle climate change by reducing emissions of carbon dioxide and help the country move towards a low carbon sustainable economy.

13.13 The EU Renewable Energy Directive (2009) committed the UK to source 15% of its total energy from renewable sources by 2020, increasing its renewable energy uptake by 12% from 2010. Furthermore, on 27th June 2019 the UK Government amended the Climate Change Act 2008 so that the UK will be required to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050. Both of these legal requirements are a direct result of climate change and a fear that a five degree increase in global temperature will cause devastating impacts on global water supplies, food production, the economy, loss of life and a complete and unprecedented overturn in the way people live their lives.

Energy efficiency

13.14 Development must reflect the Climate Change Act 2008, zero carbon emissions by 2050, the Environment Act 2021 and subsequent emerging Acts. Therefore, new development must make use of sustainable transport, sustainable materials, minimise waste materials, make use of low carbon technologies, renewable energy and energy efficiency measures. The use of the higher Building Regulation requirements will be encouraged and supported.

Residential and non-residential

13.15 This policy supports the use of a range of renewable, low and zero carbon energy sources and technologies which is essential to reduce energy waste, reduce fuel poverty, adaptation for climate change and by contributing to the Government's commitment for the UK to become carbon neutral.

13.16 Renewable and low carbon energy solutions include:

- Biomass energy.
- Ground and air source heat pumps.
- Solar water heating.
- Solar photovoltaics.
- Combined heat and power / Combined cooling heat and power.
- District heating network.

13.17 The Feed-in Tariff and Renewable Heat Incentive are current Government schemes to encourage the use of renewable energy technologies. These incentives make the use of renewable and low carbon energy more viable.

13.18 A study conducted by Camco¹²⁶ indicates that renewable energy and low carbon energy has the potential to deliver between 9.5% and 12% of Nuneaton and Bedworth's energy demand, summarised in the Table 39.

Energy type	GWh (%)	Potential percentage of borough's energy demand met (%)
Wind	20.8 - 36.	1.3 - 2.3
Biomass	40.8	2.56
New build (mix of sources)	28.4 - 31.5	1.8 - 2.0
Existing built stock (mix of sources)	61.4 - 79.8	3.85 - 5.0

Table 39: Potential renewable and low carbon energy generation by 2026 (Camco, 2010).

13.19 Proposals for retrofitting microgeneration technologies in existing developments will be approved, subject to a suitable assessment of the potential impacts to the local area.

13.20 Community led initiatives for renewable and low carbon energy schemes will be approved.

Small-scale wind turbine energy

13.21 Large-scale wind energy development is significantly constrained in the borough. This is because land areas are restricted due to the potential proximity of wind turbines to housing and other buildings (based on a 600m buffer distance)¹²⁷.

13.22 In comparison to large-scale wind energy, small-scale wind energy development is far less imposing, being less visually intrusive and requiring less distance between wind turbines and buildings. This makes small-scale wind energy development a sustainable and appealing source of renewable energy in both the borough's urban and rural context. Consequently, the uptake of

¹²⁶ Camco (2010). *Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Resource Assessment and Feasibility Study*.

¹²⁷ Camco (2010). *Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Resource Assessment and Feasibility Study*.

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small-scale wind turbines will be promoted and encouraged to contribute to the overall renewable energy mix in the borough.

13.23 The RenewableUK Small Wind Turbine Standard provides an assured level of safety, power performance and acoustic noise measurements. The standard aims to provide consumers with a measure of confidence in small wind turbine products. The Council will therefore insist on receiving evidence of compliance with this standard in advance of granting planning permission.

13.24 The decommissioning of wind turbines is often an afterthought, but it is critical that turbines are taken down responsibly. Conditions will be applied to planning consents for wind turbines requiring that the land be restored to its previous use when the operation of the wind turbines has expired (for example, after 25 years). Full restoration may require the removal of turbines, ancillary structures and restoration of appropriate vegetation, depending on the nature of the site.

Borough Plan objectives

13.25 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

- Objective 6.
- Objective 7.

Evidence base

13.26 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- Camco (2010). *Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Resource Assessment and Feasibility Study*.
- SQW (2011). *Renewable energy capacity study for the West Midlands: A final report to Telford and Wrekin Council*.

Delivery mechanisms

13.27 The delivery mechanism for this policy is as follows:

- Work with developers on strategic sites to deliver renewable and low carbon energy.

Monitoring

13.28 The indicator and target that will be monitored for this policy is outlined in Table 40.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
BE2a	Proposals for small wind turbines in conformity with criteria.	100%.

Table 40: Indicator and target to be monitored for Policy BE2.

Policy BE3 – Sustainable design and construction

Development proposals must be:

1. Designed to a high standard and meet the ten characteristics of the National Design Guide and National Model Design Codes¹²⁸.
2. Designed to meet the requirements specified in any relevant extant Concept Plan SPD.
3. Able to evidence efficient use and protection of natural resources.
4. Able to evidence that new developments are water efficient, incorporating water efficiency and re-use measures and that the estimated consumption of wholesome water per dwelling is calculated in accordance with the methodology in the water efficiency calculator, not exceeding 110 litres / person / day (or any future reduction stated within an updated version of the Building Regulations 2010).
5. Able to evidence that new development will maximise energy efficiency and meet the optional higher standard for Building Regulations in regard to energy use. Development should adhere to the Future Homes and Buildings Standard, prior to its introduction in 2025, by promoting a fabric first approach, including the use of passive design principles where possible.
6. Minimise the use of both non-renewable resources and waste and avoid pollution.
7. Adaptable, resilient and minimise climate change impacts and to achieve the nation's carbon net zero emissions by 2050.
8. Able to reduce crime and fear of crime by demonstrating where the principles of Secured by Design have been incorporated into the design including consideration of wider security and defence.
9. Able to promote sustainable transport.
10. Able to promote placemaking strategies for an inclusive, safe, accessible and healthy living environment for all.

Urban character

All development proposals must contribute to local distinctiveness and character by reflecting the positive attributes of the neighbouring area and respecting the sensitivity to change of the generic character types within each urban character area. Development must take a comprehensive and co-ordinated approach, respecting existing constraints, including utilities, situated within each site. Key characteristics to review include:

1. Current use of buildings.
2. Ownership / tenure.
3. Street layout.
4. Patterns of development.
5. Residential amenity.
6. Plot size and arrangement.

¹²⁸ Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2021). *National Model Design Code*.
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (2021). *National Design Guide*.

7. Built form.

Heritage assets

Heritage assets can be a valuable aid to achieving sustainable development, in both climate change mitigation and adaptation. For example, retaining, repairing, refurbishing, retrofitting and reusing heritage assets, and especially historic buildings, can contribute to reducing carbon emissions. The historic environment is also important in respect of the embodied carbon value of buildings. In particular, the contribution that the retention and reuse of old buildings makes, together with the sustainability of traditional building materials and design.

Residential

In addition to the above, major development proposals must provide a statement with their application showing how their proposal will:

1. Meet all of the 12 considerations in Building for a Healthy Life. Where it is not possible to positively meet all considerations, a statement of justification must be provided to explain why it is not possible, and what mitigation measures will take place to offset this.
2. Install rainwater harvesting and greywater recycling systems in the curtilage of all new buildings.
3. Integrate the principles of passive solar design.
4. Contribute to reducing crime and fear of crime by meeting the principles of Secure by Design.
5. Minimise the potential for pollution of air, soil, noise and light, and in particular not contribute to unacceptable levels of air pollution.
6. Able to accommodate the flexible needs of occupants.

Where a developer considers meeting any of the above requirements is unviable or can demonstrate that they are not suited to local circumstances, an independent Viability Assessment must be submitted with the application.

Commercial

Major non-domestic development proposals must meet the Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) very good standard for new construction projects, using the most up-to-date new construction version of BREEAM, or equivalent LEED standard, where technically and financially feasible.

- Applicants must submit a pre-assessment as part of the application demonstrating the proposed design will meet the BREEAM very good standard.
- Applicants are also required to submit certificates once the development has been completed at post construction.

Where assessment methods are changed or superseded, the appropriate replacement standards will be used.

Sustainable construction

Development must minimise or re-use waste generated during the construction phase. This should be done by using materials and construction techniques that generate the least waste and minimise emissions. Waste should be treated as a resource to be re-used, recycled or recovered, and should only be disposed of when all other options have been explored.

On-site management of waste will be preferred, unless the activities would result in unacceptable harm through impacts on the environment, transport, neighbouring uses or that management elsewhere would have wider sustainability benefits.

The retention and re-use of designated or non-designated heritage assets can contribute to reducing carbon emissions and will be strongly encouraged.

SPDs

Detailed information, to help developers comply with this policy, is set out in the adopted Sustainable Design and Construction SPD (2020). Proposals will need to be delivered in accordance with the adopted Concept Plan SPDs for strategic housing and employment sites (where applicable), as well as any relevant Design Code SPDs.

13.29 The NPPF states that good design is a key aspect of sustainable design by creating better places for communities. This includes individual buildings, public and private spaces, and wider area development schemes. Paragraph 110 specifically refers to the requirement for development proposals to reflect current national guidance which includes the ten characteristics of the National Design Guide and National Model Design Codes. Therefore, this has been included within Policy BE3.

13.30 There are a number of key issues in Nuneaton and Bedworth that would benefit from the sustainable design and construction of new development. These issues include:

- Existing AQMAs.
- Low levels of car ownership.
- Poor health and lower life expectancy.
- High crime and perception of crime.
- High levels of fuel poverty.

13.31 This policy will help to address these issues by ensuring development is of a high quality; minimises the release of air pollutants into the atmosphere; is not unreasonably noisy or otherwise obtrusive; is accessible to local shops, services and public transportation; meets the existing or future circumstances of residents, workers and visitors; is safe; is energy and water efficient; and is equipped to adapt to climate change and aid zero carbon emission developments.

13.32 In the unlikely event that buildings are proposed which contain two or more dwellings, or educational accommodation, and meet the height condition of 18m or more, or 7 or more storeys, the Planning Gateway One¹²⁹ must be adhered to and details submitted with the application.

Water efficiency

13.33 The NPPF states that local authorities should take water supply and demand into full account in their strategies and local plans. The West Midlands Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Plan (2021-2026)¹³⁰ identifies that the Severn Trent Water region is already seriously water stressed and supply is likely to become more constrained with drier summers and increasing population. The Water Cycle Study (2017) also identifies a number of wastewater treatment works, across the sub-region, which are currently operating at capacity, or will be at some point across the plan period¹³¹. As a result, the Council aims to help the sub-region achieve a water neutral position and is therefore requiring that new developments meet the optional higher Building Regulations (currently 110 litres per person per day) for water efficiency.

13.34 In 2021 the Environment Agency classed the Severn Trent region as Seriously Water Stressed¹³². This new approach includes the impact of climate change, pressure on the environment and how to meet the challenges they create. The updated water stress method takes a long-term view of the availability and the demand for public water supply, rather than a snapshot of shorter or peak periods. It accounts for future population growth, climate change, environmental needs and increased resilience. The results of this revision in classification, categorises the Severn Trent region as 'seriously water stressed' justifying the need for new developments, in the borough, to meet the optional higher Building Regulations of 110 litres / person / day.

13.35 The Humber RBMP¹³³ covers the Severn Trent region. Section 3.2 identifies measures to prevent deterioration and protect the water environment and the benefits it provides. The section titled 'Changes to natural flow and levels of water' identifies a role that regulators, operators, influencers and project undertakers have, to make sure water is used efficiently. Under the role of local government, it specifically advises that Council's set out local plan policies requiring new homes to meet the tighter water efficiency standards of 110 litres per person per day as described in Part G of Schedule 1 to the Building Regulations 2010.

¹²⁹ Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (2021). *Fire safety and high-rise residential buildings*.

¹³⁰ Sustainability West Midlands (2021). *Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Plan 2021-2026*.

¹³¹ AECOM (2017). *Joint Warwickshire Partnership Water Cycle Study*.

¹³² Environment Agency (2021). *Water stressed areas – final classification 2021*.

¹³³ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2015). *Part 1: Humber River basin district – RBMP*.

Passive solar design and energy use

- 13.36 Passive solar design is a technique that exploits local climate and site conditions in order to minimise the need to use energy. It uses free renewable sources of energy such as sun and wind to provide heating, cooling, ventilation and natural lighting, reducing the need to use conventional space heating and cooling. Because passive solar design lessens the need to use traditional heating systems, annual energy bills can be cut by a third and carbon emissions reduced, with cost savings paid back in two years.
- 13.37 Including passive solar concepts into the design is not difficult to apply; it simply requires consideration at the preliminary stages of design. When used correctly, passive solar buildings are comfortable, economically efficient, durable, aesthetically appealing and environmentally responsible.
- 13.38 With the introduction of the Environment Act, emerging legislation, carbon neutrality by 2050 and climate change predictions, it is considered that the higher building regulations for energy efficiency, Future Homes and Building Standards should be included in the Borough Plan review policy, from its adoption, rather than waiting for the new Building Regulations to come into force. This is to promote a fabric first approach and passive design principles and therefore, will invoke the spirit of the Environment Act 2021 as early as possible.
- 13.39 Integrating passive solar design, passive house concepts and energy efficiency into new developments will have significant economic benefits for people buying or renting new properties in the borough. This will also result in better social conditions and improve the environment and carbon emissions.

Crime and fear of crime

- 13.40 A survey of Nuneaton and Bedworth residents in 2020¹³⁴ found that 92% of respondents had not been either a victim or witness of a crime in the last 12 months of the survey. However, a high proportion of respondents were worried about having their home broken into and something stolen (75%) or having their car stolen (69%). 92% of respondents felt that anti-social behaviour was a problem in their area. Therefore, crime and fear of crime still remain a significant factor in undermining residents' quality of life. Nuneaton and Bedworth also has the highest level of offences per thousand households across Warwickshire¹³⁵.
- 13.41 Despite some improvements in peoples' perception of crime and burglary rates, there still remains a significant threat to property and the safety and welfare of residents and visitors. Consequently, new development proposals must consider the robustness of buildings, so that they can withstand unwanted intrusions, as well as consider the safety of residents and visitors in terms of accessibility and visibility within the surrounding area.

¹³⁴ Business Intelligence (2020). *Your Say on Community Safety Survey Results Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Residents*.

¹³⁵ Warwickshire Observatory (2014). *Warwickshire Domestic Burglary Analysis*.

BREEAM

13.42 BREEAM is a credit-based assessment system that aims to reduce the environmental impacts throughout construction and operation of a building. BREEAM considers all areas of sustainability, such as ecology, energy use, water consumption, waste management, lighting and location, resulting in a best practice approach to developing sustainable buildings which are adaptable to climate change.

13.43 As well as these environmental benefits, meeting at least a very good BREEAM standard can reduce energy and running costs, demonstrate environmental credentials to potential customers and create an improved image for the company.

13.44 As an alternative to BREEAM, development can use the alternative scheme LEED certification.

Sustainable construction

13.45 To ensure that the construction of new buildings does not have a negative impact on the environment, proposals are required to consider minimising waste and emissions that are generated as a result of construction.

13.46 Developers should use the waste hierarchy when dealing with waste resulting from construction, in the order of re-use, recycle or recover and disposal should be a last resort measure when the other options are not suitable. Wherever possible, on-site management of waste should be pursued.

Borough Plan objectives

13.47 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

- Objective 6.
- Objective 7.
- Objective 8.

Evidence base

13.48 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

- AECOM (2017). *Joint Warwickshire Partnership Water Cycle Study*.
- Halcrow (2010). *Warwickshire sub-regional Water Cycle Study: Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council Final Report*.
- Sustainability West Midlands (2021). *Climate Change Risk Assessment and Adaptation Plan 2021-2026*.

Delivery mechanisms

13.49 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

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- Consider preparing a Design Code SPD as per National design coding and guidance.
- Reference to the Council’s Sustainable Design and Construction SPD (2020) in order to provide greater detail for developers and decision makers.

Monitoring

13.50 The indicators and targets that will be monitored for this policy are outlined in Table 41.

Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
BE3a	New homes incorporating Building for a Healthy Life 12 (12 greens).	100% of new dwellings.
BE3b	New homes installing rainwater harvesting systems in the curtilage of all new buildings.	100% of new dwellings.
BE3c	New residential and commercial developments integrating Secure by Design principles.	100%.
BE3d	Commercial applications achieving BREEAM very good standard.	100%.

Table 41: Indicators and targets to be monitored for Policy BE3.

Policy BE4 – Valuing and conserving our historic environment

Development proposals which sustain and enhance the borough’s heritage assets including listed buildings, conservation areas (Appendix A), scheduled monuments (Appendix F), registered parks and gardens, archaeology, historic landscapes and settings of townscapes including canals, will be approved.

Development affecting a designated or non-designated heritage asset and its setting will be expected to make a positive contribution to its character, appearance and significance.

To conserve and enhance the borough’s heritage assets, development proposals must:

1. Understand the asset and its setting

Applications affecting the significance of a heritage asset will be required to provide sufficient information and assessment (such as desk-based appraisals, field

evaluations and historic building reports) of the impacts of the proposal on the significance of heritage assets and their setting, in order to demonstrate how that proposal would contribute to the asset's conservation. This assessment must determine the significance of the archaeological remains and assess the implications of the development on those remains. The level of detail should be proportionate to the importance of the asset and should comply with any relevant supporting local plan documents.

The Warwickshire Historic Environment Record, the borough's Conservation Area Character Appraisals and Management Plans, the local list of non-designated heritage assets and Historic Landscape Characterisation Project are examples of sources of information that will be used to inform the consideration of future development, including potential conservation and enhancement measures.

Applicants should take account of the heritage asset's communal, aesthetic, evidential and historical values.

2. Conserve the asset and its setting

Great weight will be given to the conservation of the borough's heritage assets and their settings, with greater weight being given to assets of higher importance. Any harm to the significance of a designated or non-designated heritage asset must be justified. Proposals causing harm will be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal in the following ways:

- Whether it has been demonstrated that all reasonable efforts have been made to sustain the existing use, find new uses or mitigate the extent of the harm to the significance of the asset.
- Whether the works proposed are the minimum required to secure the long-term use of the asset.

Scheduled monuments and other non-designated archaeological sites of equivalent importance should be preserved in-situ. Development proposals that would result in the removal or destruction of remains of archaeological interest that are considered to be of equivalent significance to a scheduled monument will not normally be permitted, as substantial harm or loss should be wholly exceptional.

Development that would adversely affect other important archaeological remains will only be acceptable where:

- the benefits of development outweigh the harm to the remains and the value of retaining them in situ.
- the degree of disturbance has been minimised.
- satisfactory provision is made for the evaluation, excavation, recording and interpretation of the remains before commencement of the development.

Where there are likely to be valuable archaeological remains, archaeological evaluation, which may include geophysical survey and / or trial trenching, are likely to be required prior to the determination of any planning application.

The advice of Warwickshire County Council Archaeological Information and Advice should be sought prior to any submission.

Where harm to any heritage assets can be fully justified, and development would result in the partial or total loss of the asset and / or its setting, the applicant will be required to secure a programme of recording and analysis of that asset, archaeological excavation where relevant, and ensure the publication of that record to an appropriate standard.

Where applicable, further investigation into archaeological remains may need to be undertaken prior to determination of planning applications and mitigation measures proposed need to be included within the submitted documents. Planning conditions will be utilised to ensure the continued protection of important archaeological features in situ, where development can take place.

Change of use in Nuneaton Town Centre Conservation Area

Where a change of use is proposed in Nuneaton Town Centre Conservation Area from class E to class C3 at ground floor, robust evidence and justification of the necessity for a change of use will need to be provided to support such an application. This is due to the fact that commercial activity is a key characteristic of the conservation area, and any change of use away from this characteristic would be detrimental to the conservation area.

- 13.51 National planning policy on the historic environment provides guidance on the identification, significance and protection of heritage assets. These assets include listed buildings, conservation areas, registered parks and gardens, and archaeological remains. National policy expects that the contribution of such heritage assets to local character and sense of place is recognised and valued.
- 13.52 The Heritage Assessment has informed the policies within the Borough Plan Review. A Heritage SPD is due to be produced to provide more localised guidance on the different typologies of heritage assets.
- 13.53 The borough's historic heritage consists of approximately 90 listed buildings and approximately 90 non-statutory listed buildings (currently being updated), 5 conservation areas, 2 registered parks and gardens, and 2 scheduled monuments. Two buildings located in the borough are currently on Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register. The Council is working with Historic England to find solutions on how to save these buildings.

Urban characterisation

- 13.54 To achieve national policy expectations, the Council will make use of comprehensive borough-wide urban and landscape characterisation as a means of recognising and protecting local character and distinctiveness. Urban characterisation will set out the local and heritage components that positively contribute to the urban character of individual places across the borough. This policy will seek to ensure that these characteristics are taken account of in new development proposals.

Registered parks and gardens and scheduled monuments

- 13.55 The majority of registered sites are the grounds of private houses. However, public parks and cemeteries form important categories. This is consistent with the Arbury Hall and Bedworth Cemetery registered sites. Arbury Hall registered park and garden is grade II* listed. It is believed to be the only stately home in Britain to have a private system of canals (built in the 18th century) running through the gardens.
- 13.56 Bedworth Cemetery registered park and garden is grade II listed. It is a municipal cemetery and was consecrated in 1874. The site is around 3ha and consists of a number of entrances, several groups of specimen trees, a promenade and a war memorial.
- 13.57 Legal protection for nationally important sites and monuments is achieved through the scheduling of sites under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Exhall Hall scheduled monument consists of upstanding earthworks and buried building remains of a variety of features.
- 13.58 The Benedictine Priory and Precinct of St Mary scheduled monument was built in the 13th century and was one of only four Benedictine nunneries in England identified as belonging to the important Abbey of Fontevrault. The priory closed in 1539 as a result of the Dissolution. The priory is also one of the few surviving nunneries with a church and outer precinct complex preserved in a fully urban context.
- 13.59 Both the registered parks and gardens and scheduled monuments, as well as their setting, are unique and are of significant historical and cultural importance to the borough and will be given due protection.

Non-designated heritage assets

- 13.60 In comparison with neighbouring local authorities, the borough has only a small amount of designated historic heritage, reflecting the fact that much of the built environment dates from the late Victorian period and the 20th century. This is an important point, as after 1840, selection criteria for listed buildings became progressively more difficult. It is important, therefore, to protect these designated assets and recognise the borough's wider heritage assets.
- 13.61 The Council's list of non-designated heritage assets is currently being reviewed. These locally listed heritage assets include buildings, monuments and places that contribute to the distinctive local character of the borough. The review will undertake a comprehensive review of buildings of local architectural and historical interest. This will involve the local community in the identification and selection of additional assets.
- 13.62 Locally listed heritage assets are not afforded the same degree of legislative protection (particularly from demolitions and alterations not requiring planning permission) as statutory listed buildings. In line with national guidance, this policy recognises that local heritage deserves a level of protection appropriate to its value.

Archaeology

13.63 Archaeological sites of national and local importance are identified in the Warwickshire Historic Environment Record¹³⁶. Any further archaeological finds will be added to the record through the Development Management process, with the expectation that desk-based assessment and field evaluation will be carried out for development proposals affecting sites of possible archaeological interest.

Conservation areas

13.64 Conservation areas are designated under the provisions of Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 for their “special architectural and historic interest, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance”. The borough has five conservation areas:

- Abbey Conservation Area.
- Bedworth Town Centre Conservation Area.
- Bulkington Conservation Area.
- Hawkesbury Junction Conservation Area.
- Nuneaton Town Centre Conservation Area.

13.65 The key characteristics of each of the borough’s conservation areas are described in conservation area character summaries. Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans will be used to identify and assess local character and promote enhancement. The designation of additional Conservation Areas along the Coventry Canal and the Ashby Canal within the borough will be progressed.

13.66 This policy will ensure that heritage assets are safeguarded or, where possible, enhanced. This does not mean the policy will prevent or unnecessarily restrict development. Rather, it will inspire suitable development to take place which respects both urban and landscape heritage that brings wider benefits to communities. The benefits of implementing the policy will include improvement in the quality of the built and natural historic environment, improvements in architectural design, as well as the creation of stronger local identity and sense of place.

Borough Plan objectives

13.67 This policy delivers the following Borough Plan objectives:

- Objective 7.

Evidence base

13.68 The evidence base related to this policy is as follows:

¹³⁶ Warwickshire County Council. *Historic Environment Record (HER)*.

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- ECUS (2016). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council Borough Plan – Heritage Assessment*.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2022). *Abbey Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan*.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2022). *Bedworth Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan*.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2022). *Bulkington Conservation Area. Area Appraisal and Management Plan*.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2022). *Hawkesbury Junction Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan*.
- Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (2022). *Nuneaton Town Centre Conservation Area. Area Appraisal and Management Plan*.
- Oxford Archaeology (2014). *A Historic Environment Assessment of Potential Development Areas within Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough*.
- TEP (2011). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Land Use Designations Study – Stage 1, Volume 2: Policy Recommendations*.
- TEP (2011). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Land Use Designations Study – Stage 1, Volume 3: Site Analysis and Selection*.
- TEP (2012). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Land Use Designations Study – Stage 1, Volume 1: Landscape Character Assessment*.
- TEP (2012). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Land Use Designations Study – Stage 2 – Individual Site Assessment*.
- TEP (2017). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Landscape Capacity Study*.
- Warwickshire County Council (2010). *Warwickshire Historic Landscape Characterisation Project*.
- Warwickshire County Council (2011). *Warwickshire Historic Farmstead Characterisation Project*.
- FPCR (2023). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Landscape Character Assessment*.
- FPCR (2023). *Nuneaton and Bedworth Landscape Sensitivity Study*.

Delivery mechanisms

13.69 The delivery mechanisms for this policy are as follows:

- Emerging SPD on the design, preservation and enhancement of the borough's heritage assets and their setting.
- Updated Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans.
- To complete work on urban character areas, using resources such as Warwickshire County Council's Historic Towns Project.
- To engage local communities in the identification of locally important heritage assets, using models like Warwickshire County Council's Imaging our Past social media Flickr project.

Monitoring

13.70 The indicators and targets that will be monitored for this policy are outlined in Table 42.

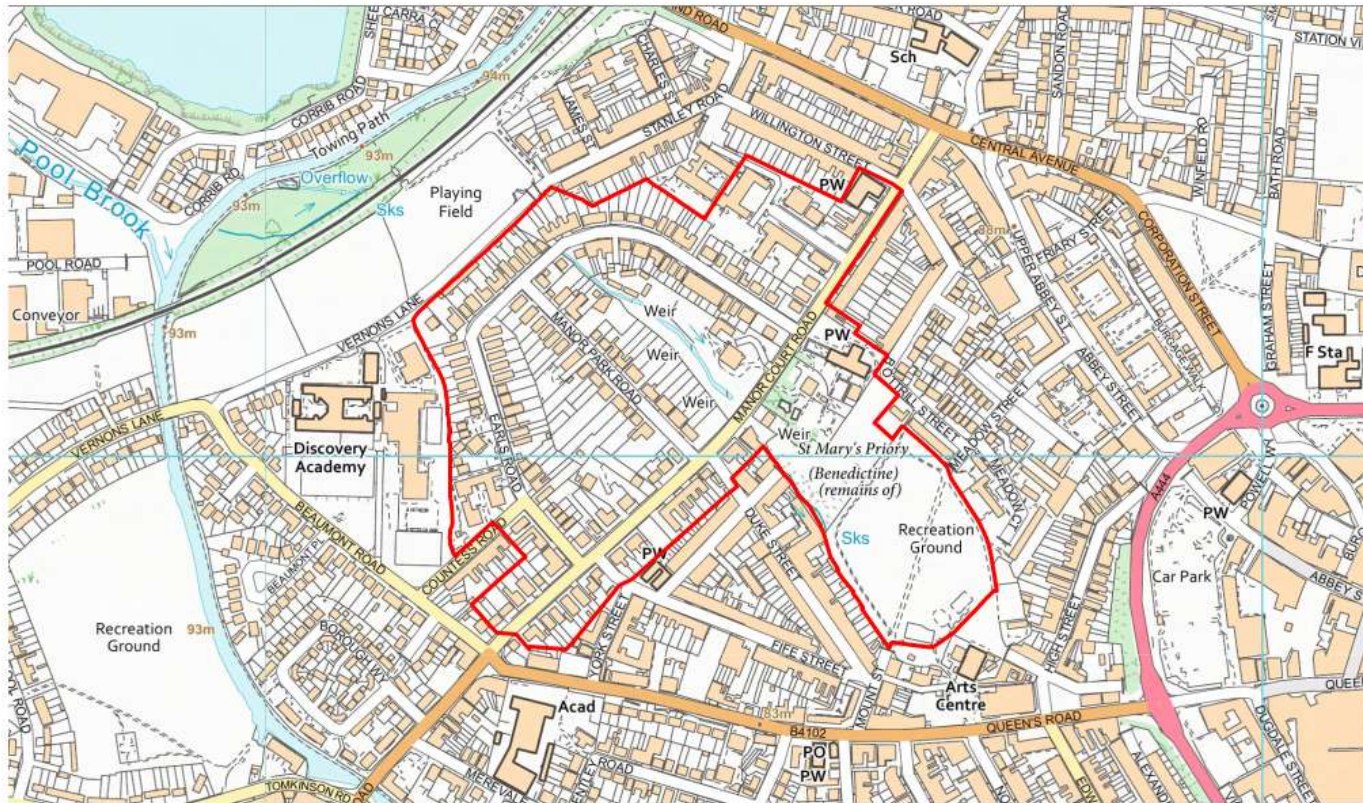
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Monitoring ref	Indicator	Target
BE4a	No loss of designated historic assets.	No loss.
BE4b	Harm to registered parks and gardens and scheduled monuments.	No harm.

Table 42: Indicators and targets to be monitored for Policy BE4.

Appendix A – Conservation areas

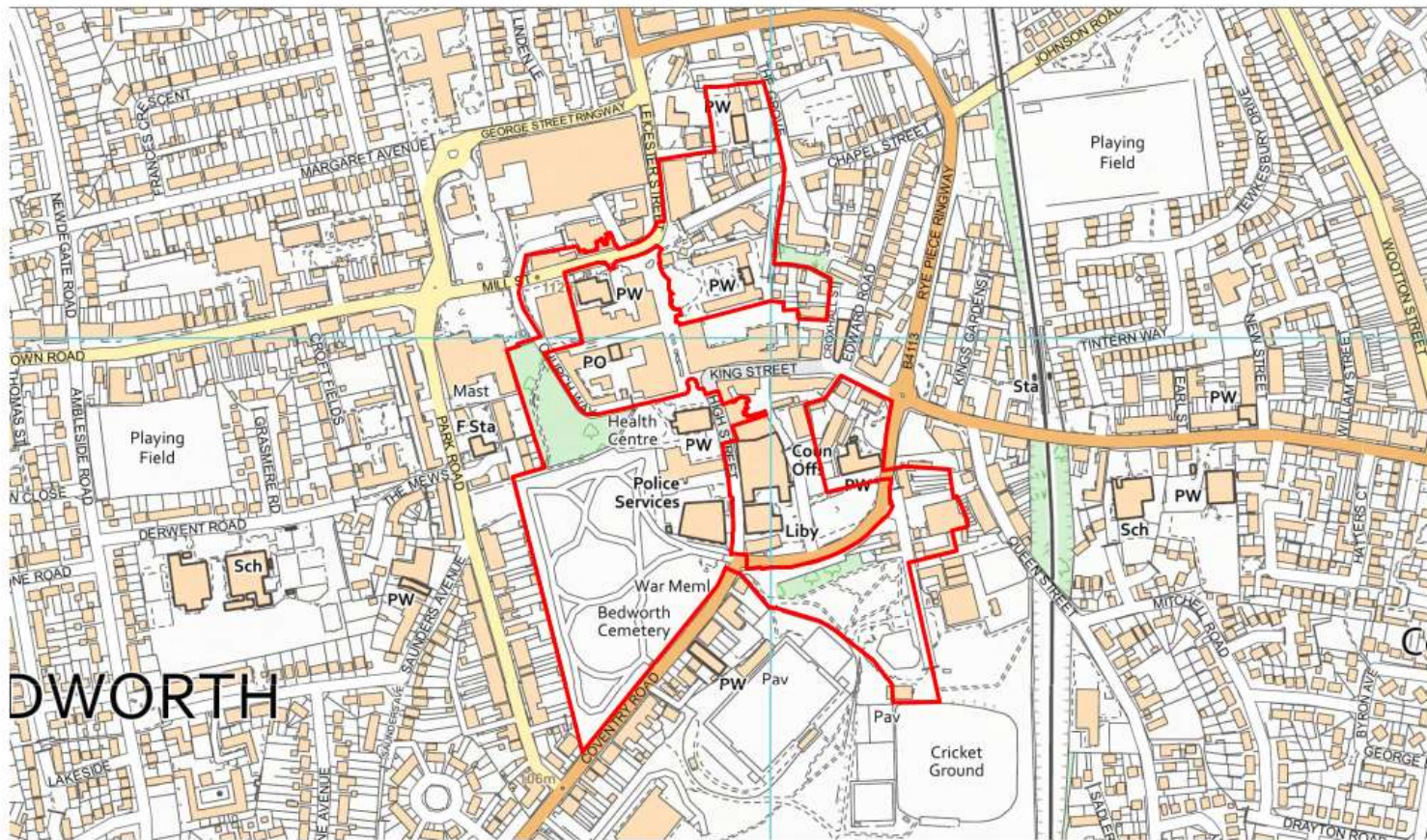
Abbey Conservation Area



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Bedworth Town Centre Conservation Area

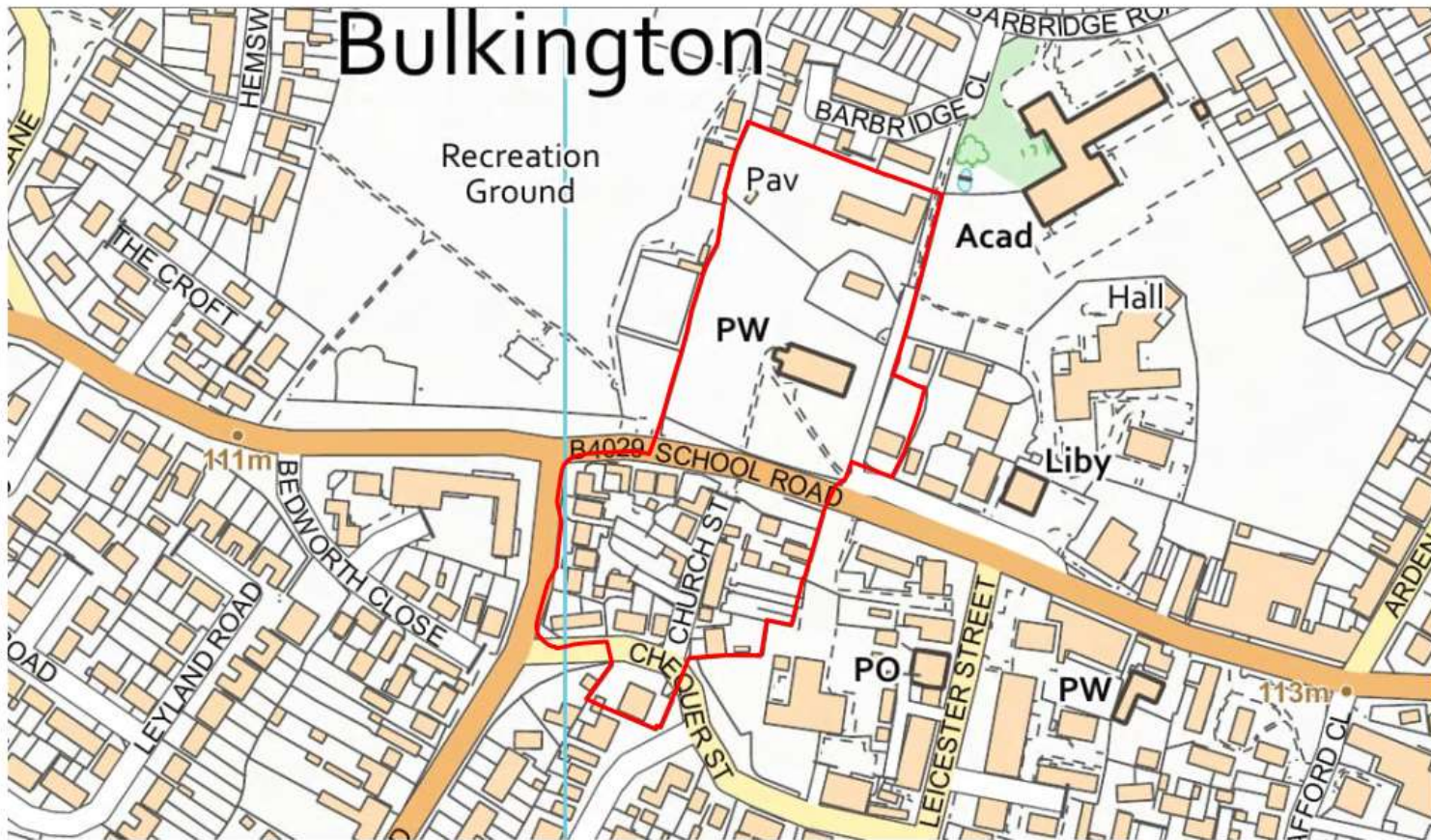


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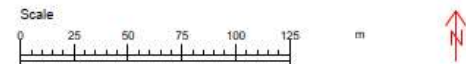


Bulkington Conservation Area

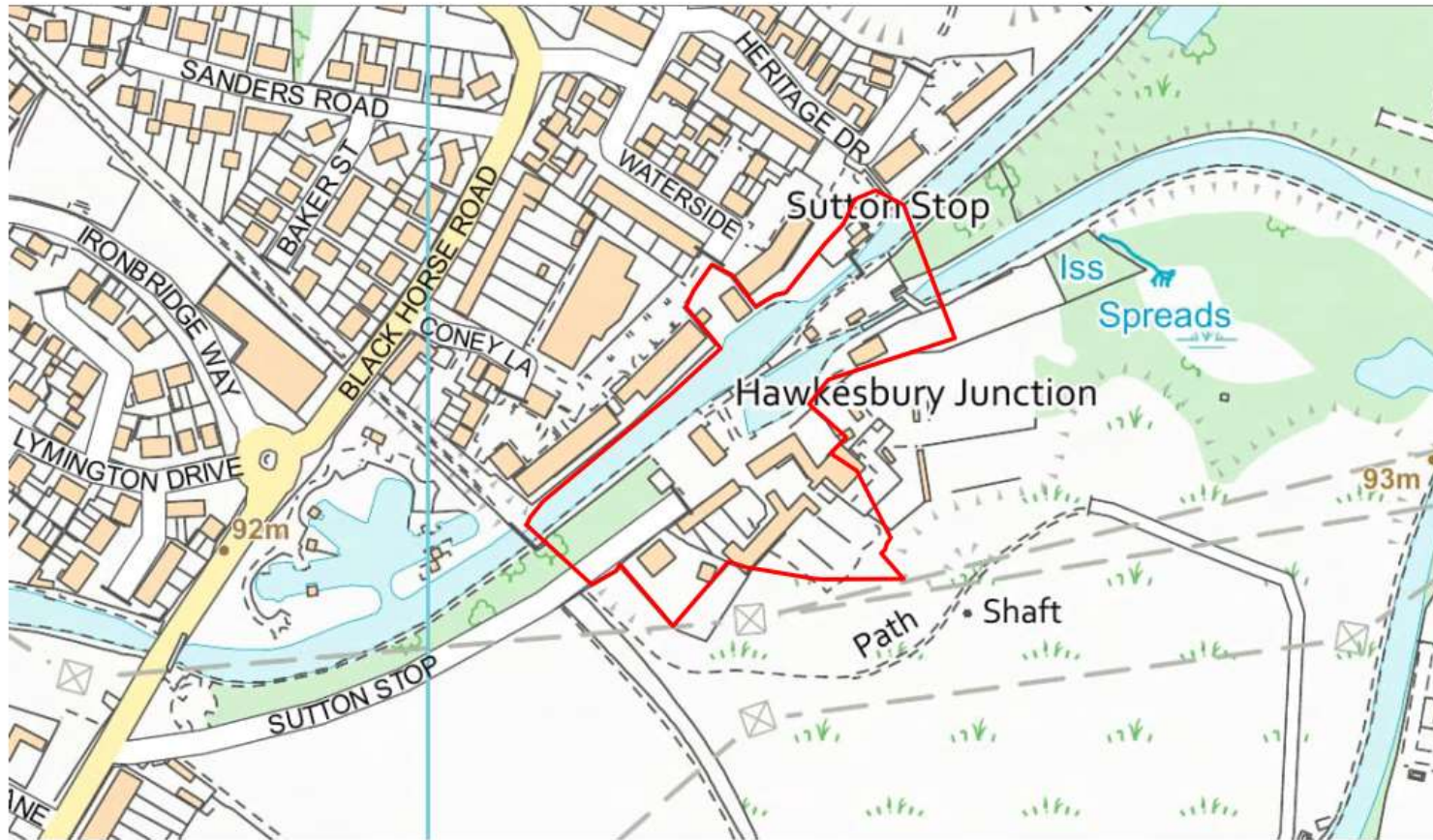


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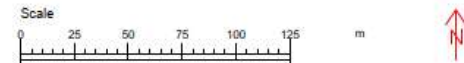


Hawkesbury Junction Conservation Area

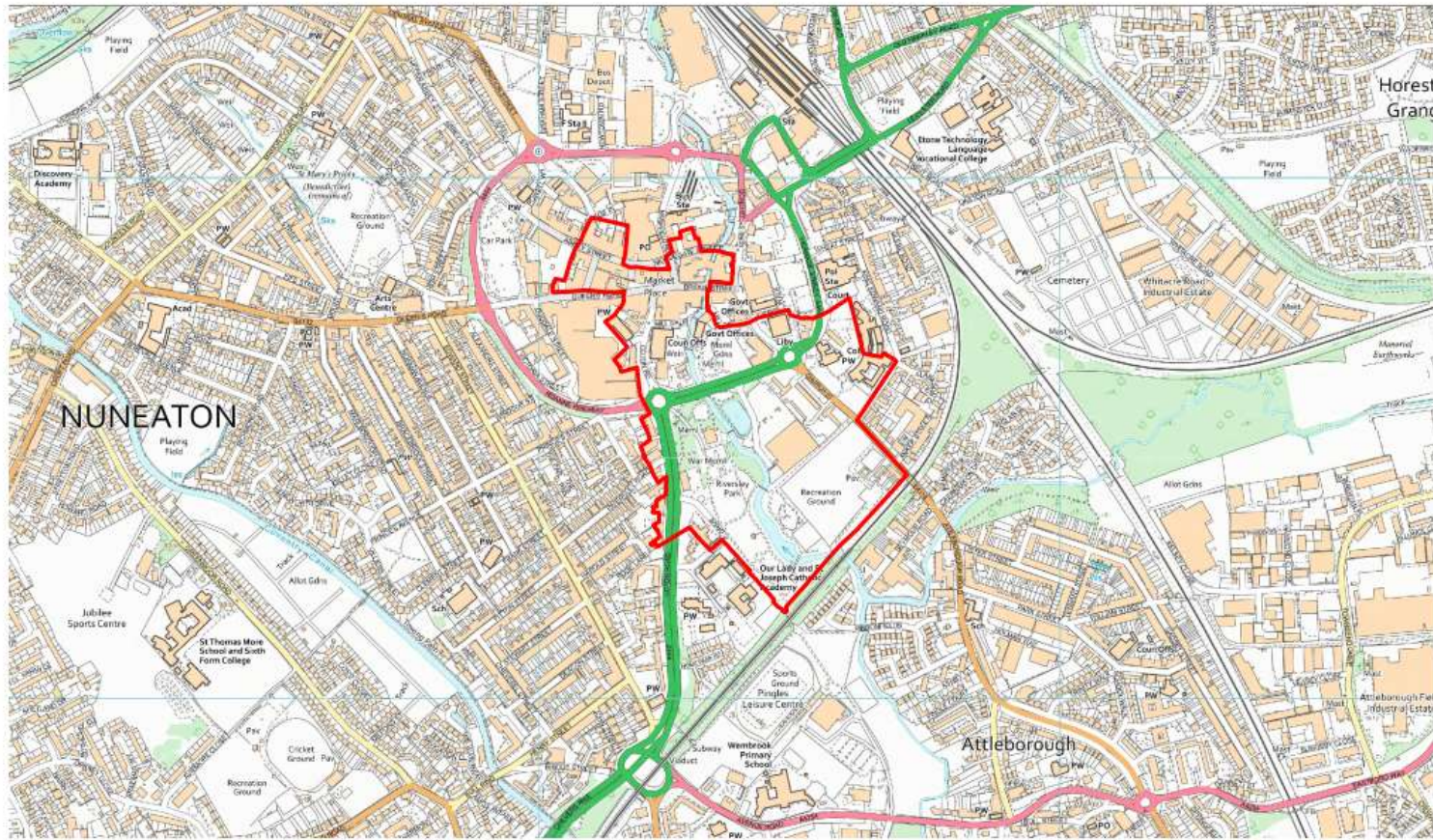


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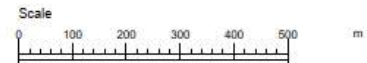


Nuneaton Town Centre Conservation Area

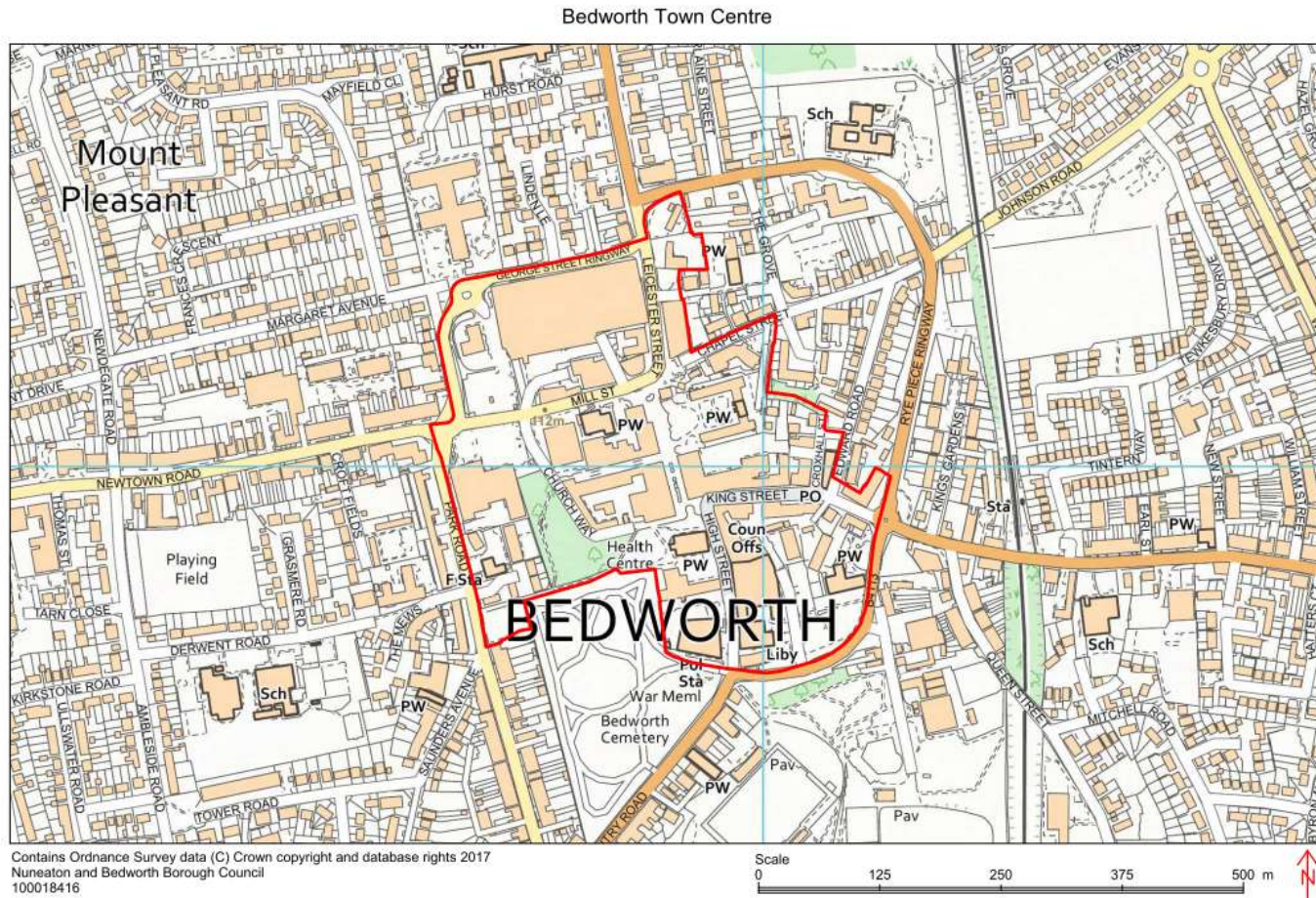


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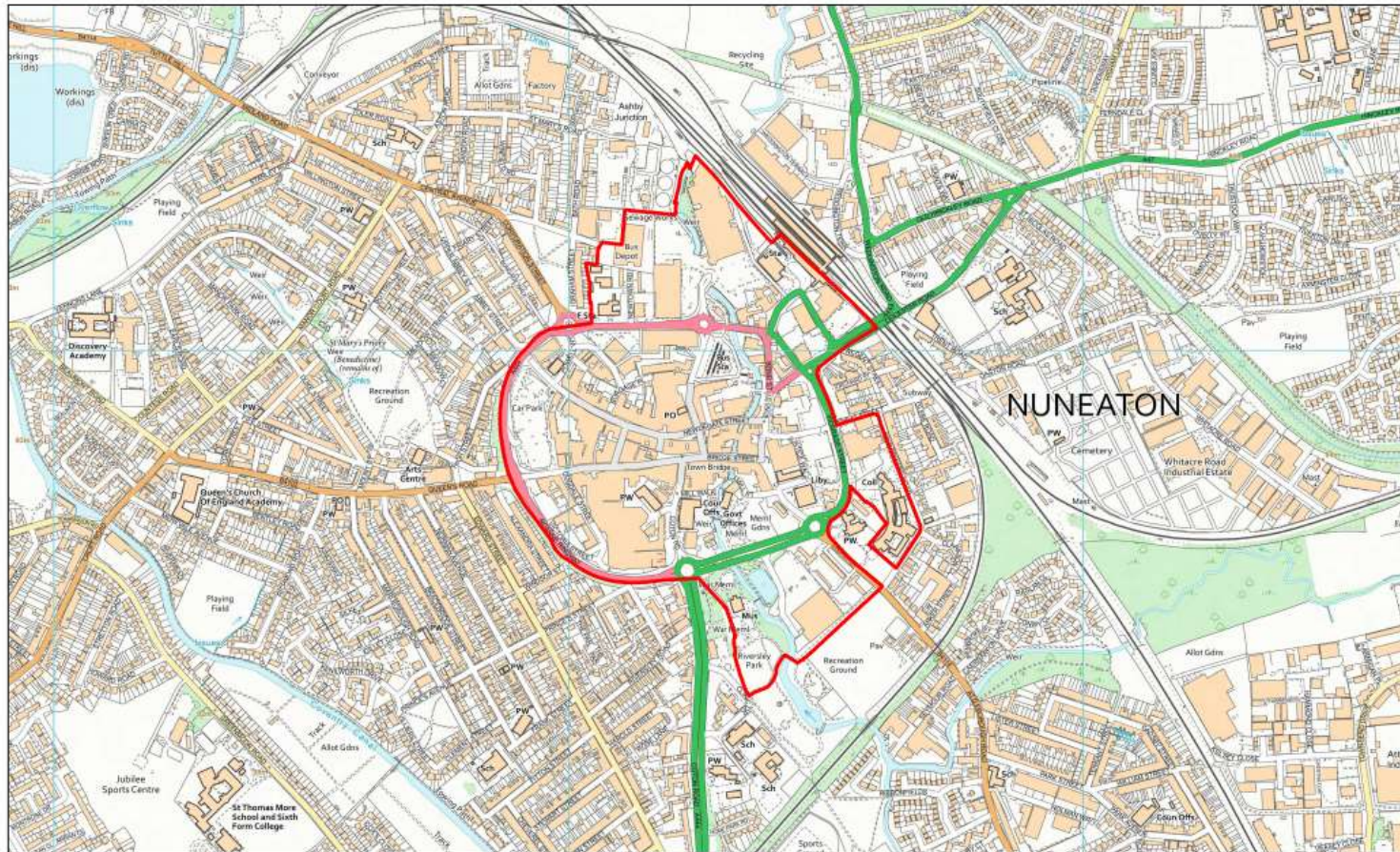
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Appendix B – Town centres



Nuneaton Town Centre

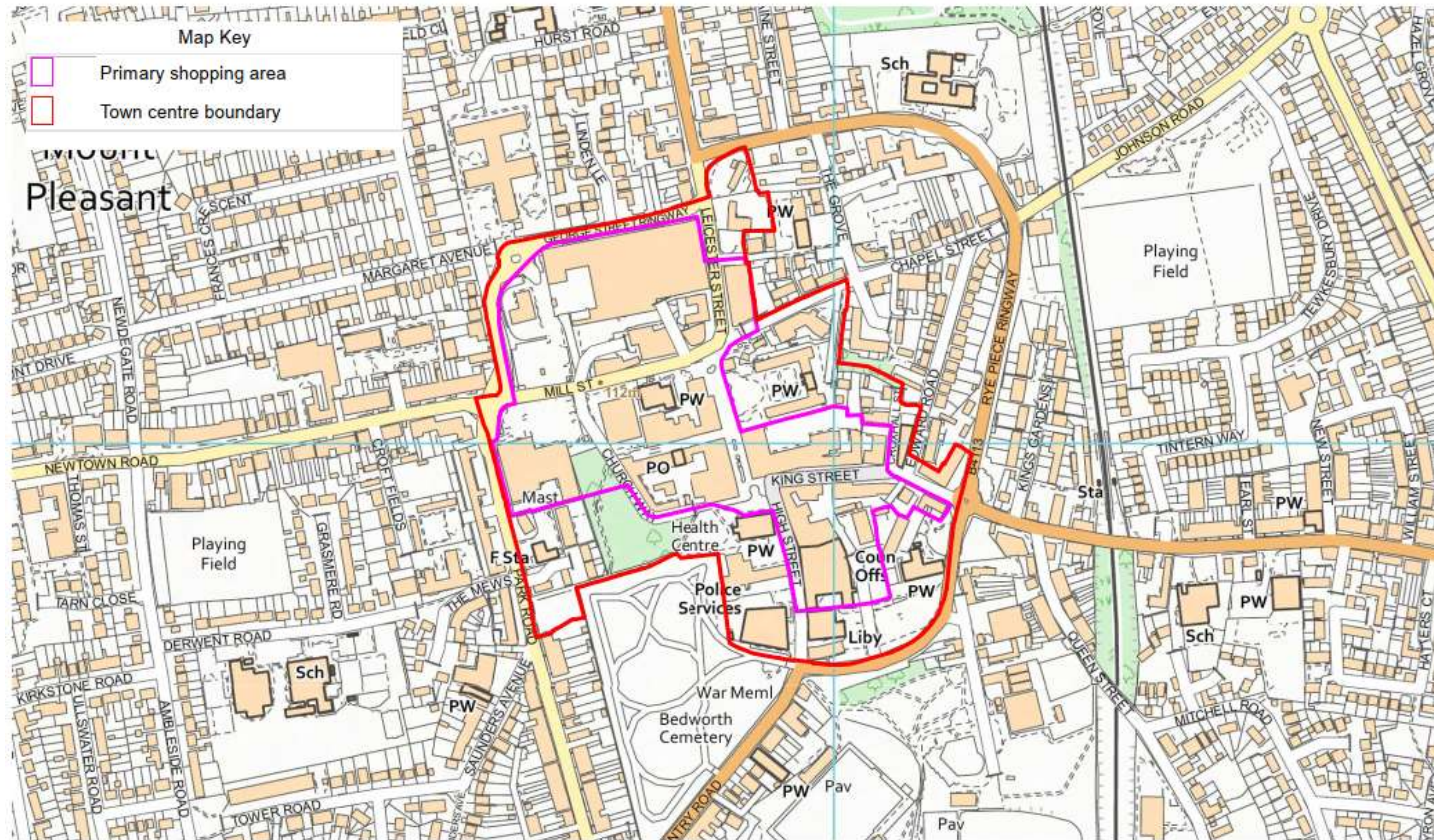


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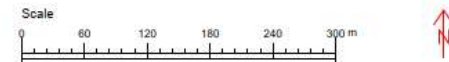
Appendix C – Town centre primary shopping areas

Bedworth primary shopping area

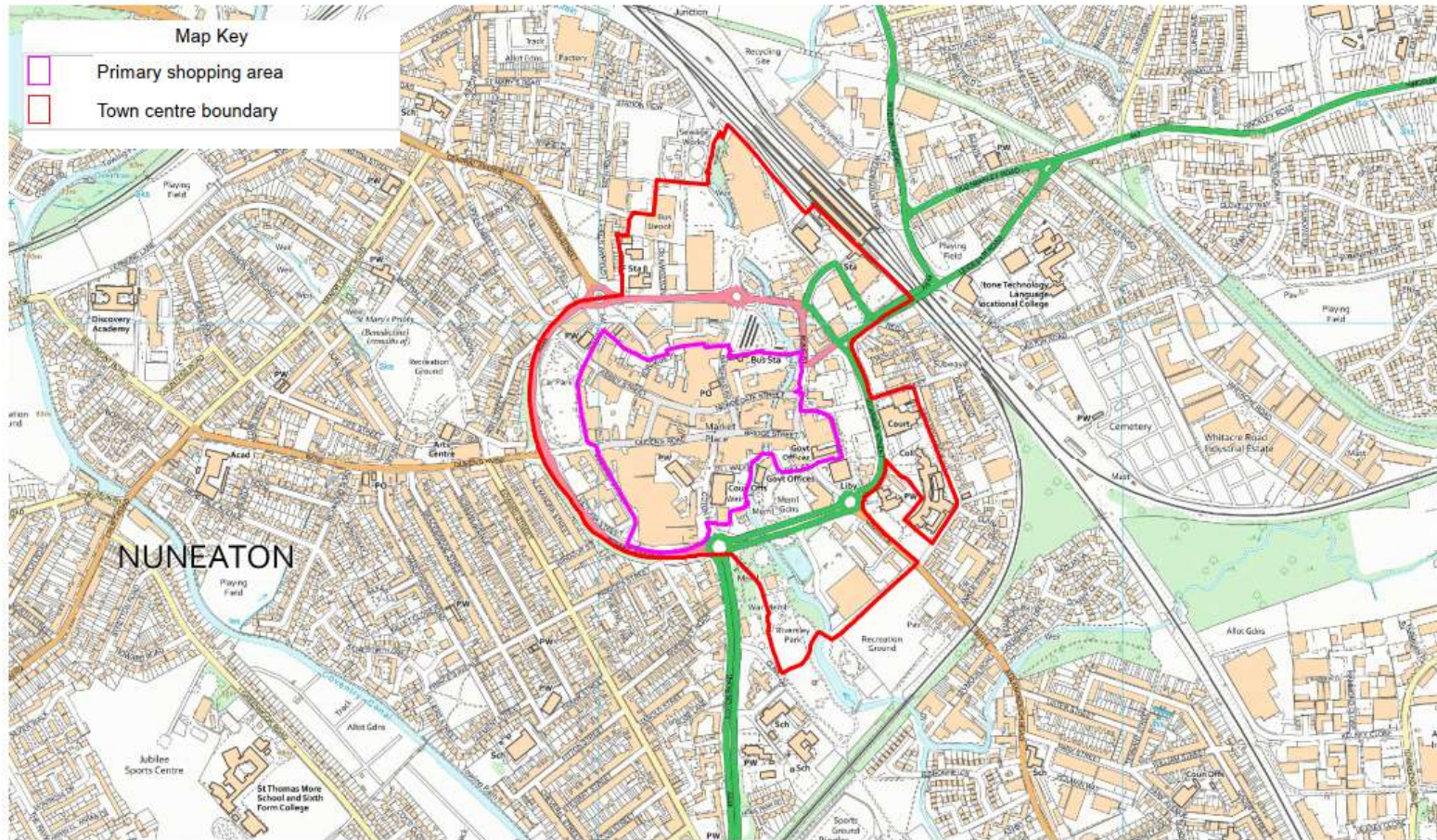


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Nuneaton primary shopping area

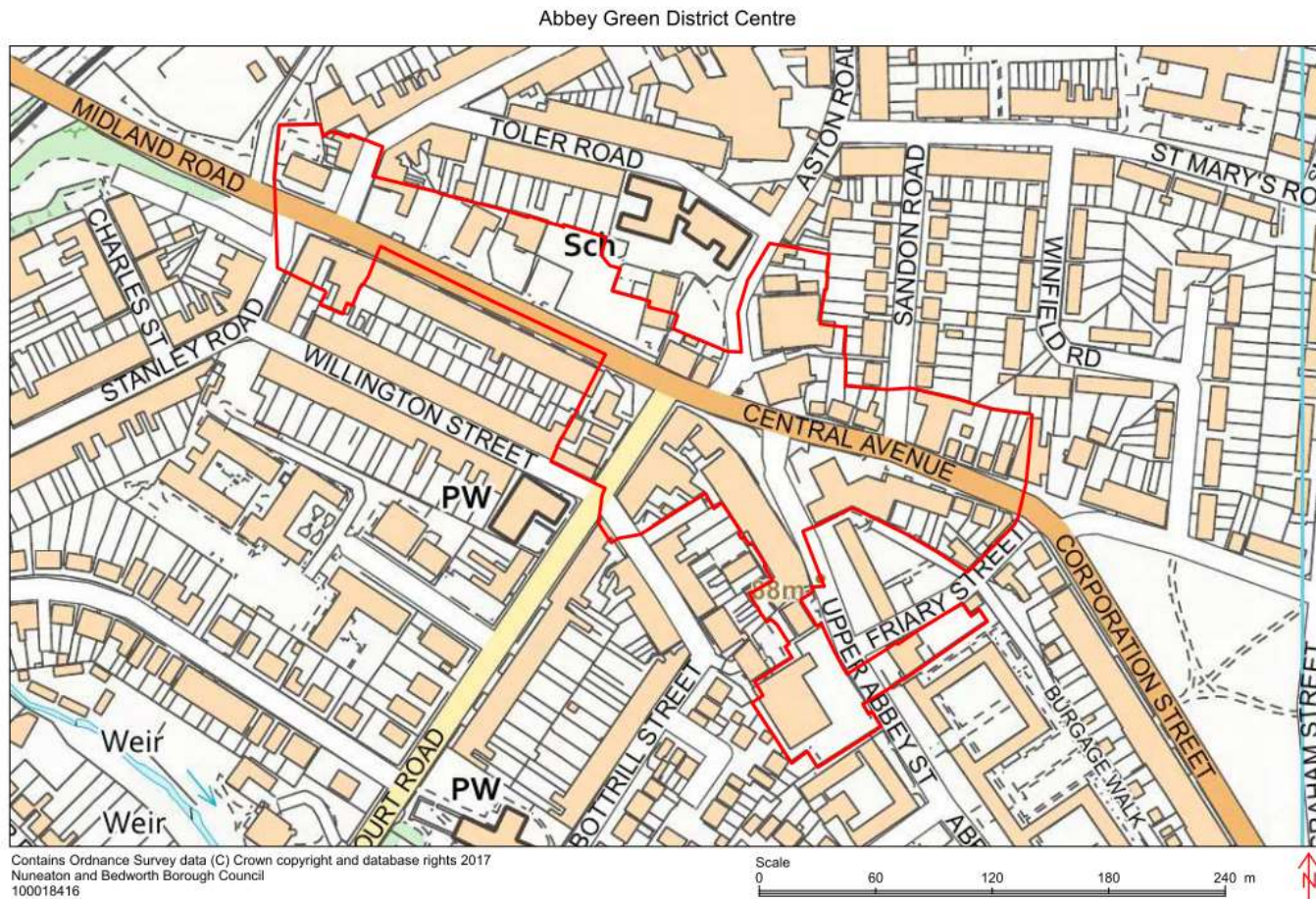


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Appendix D – District centres



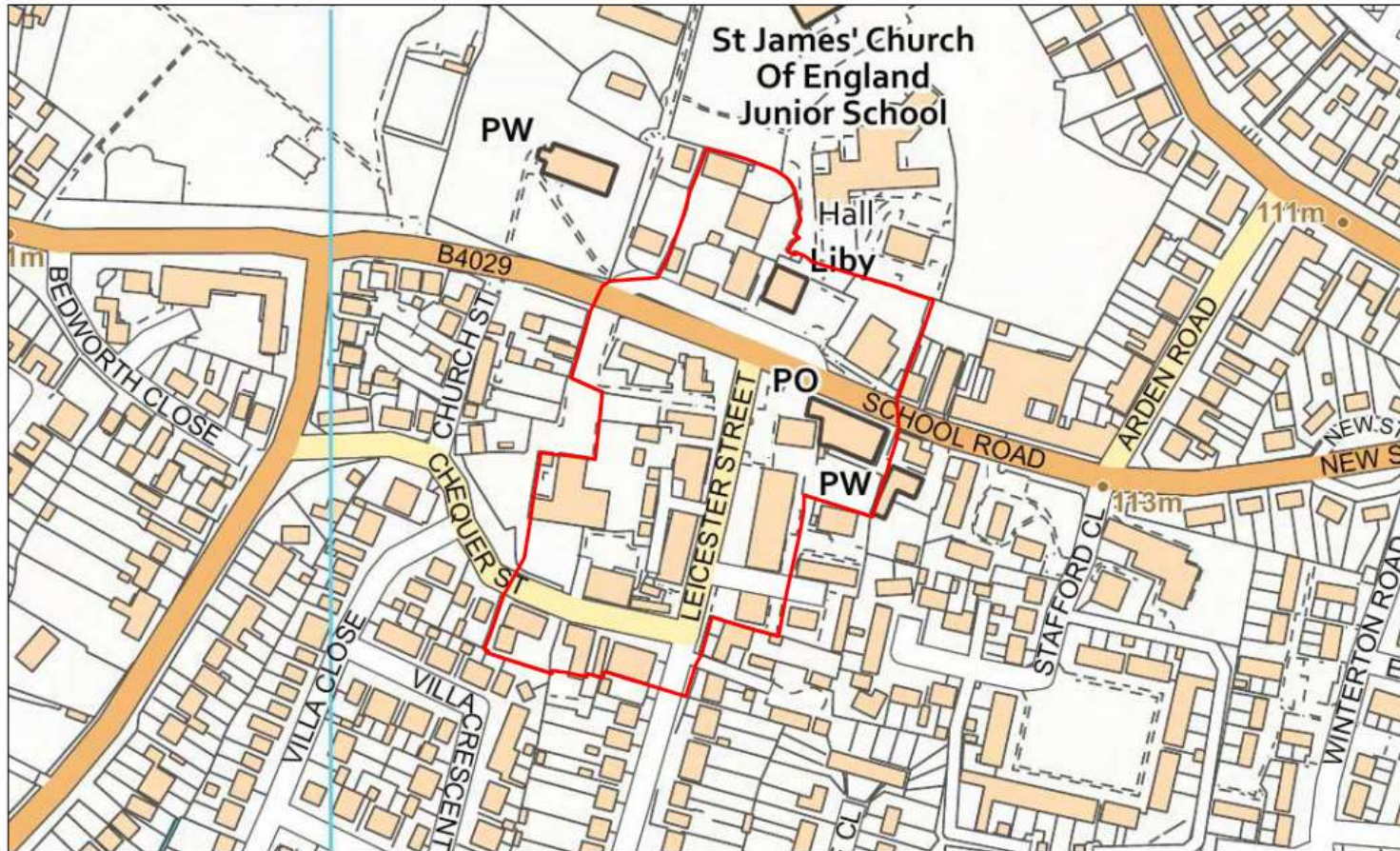
Attleborough District Centre



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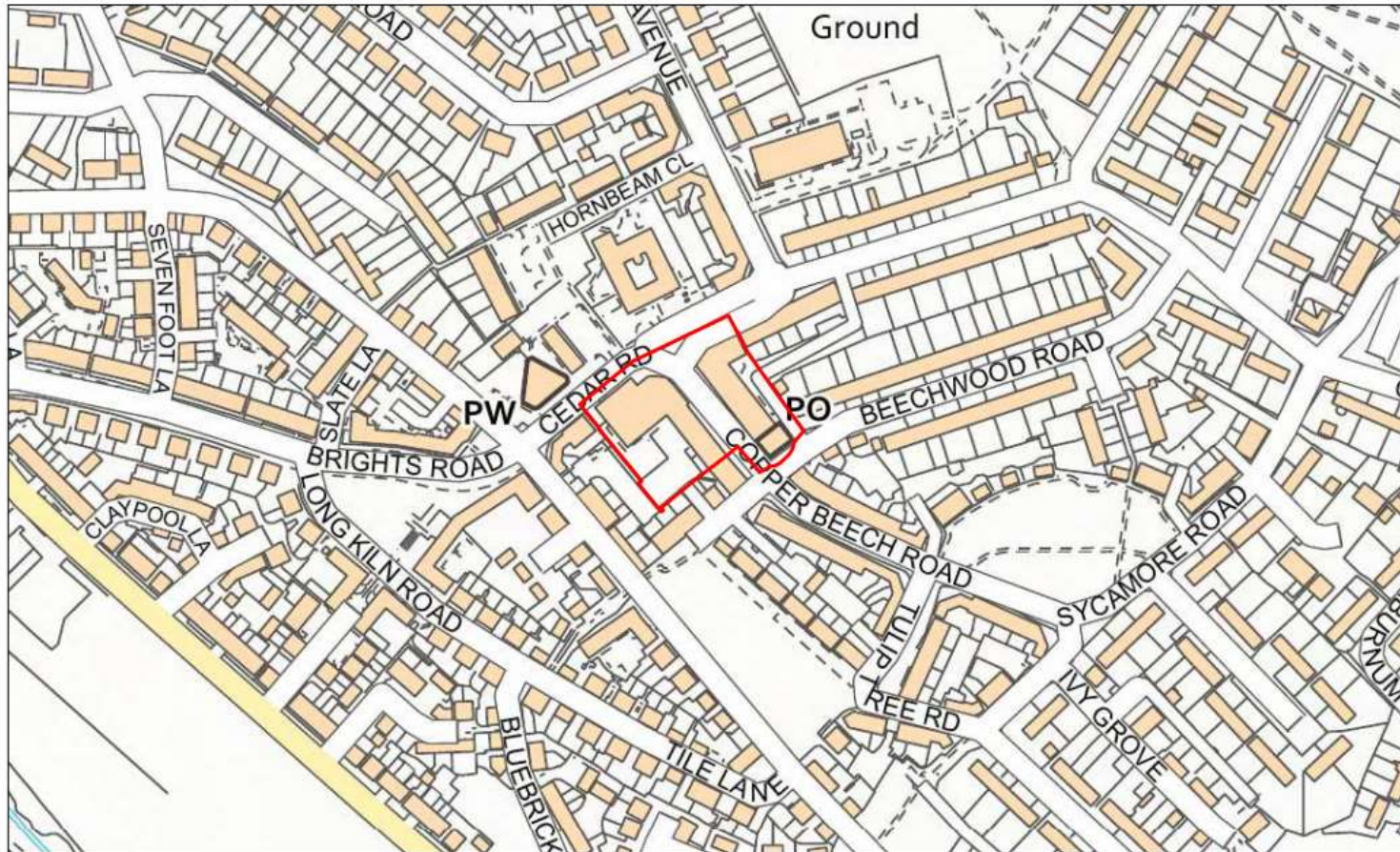
Bulkington District Centre



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Copper Beech Road District Centre



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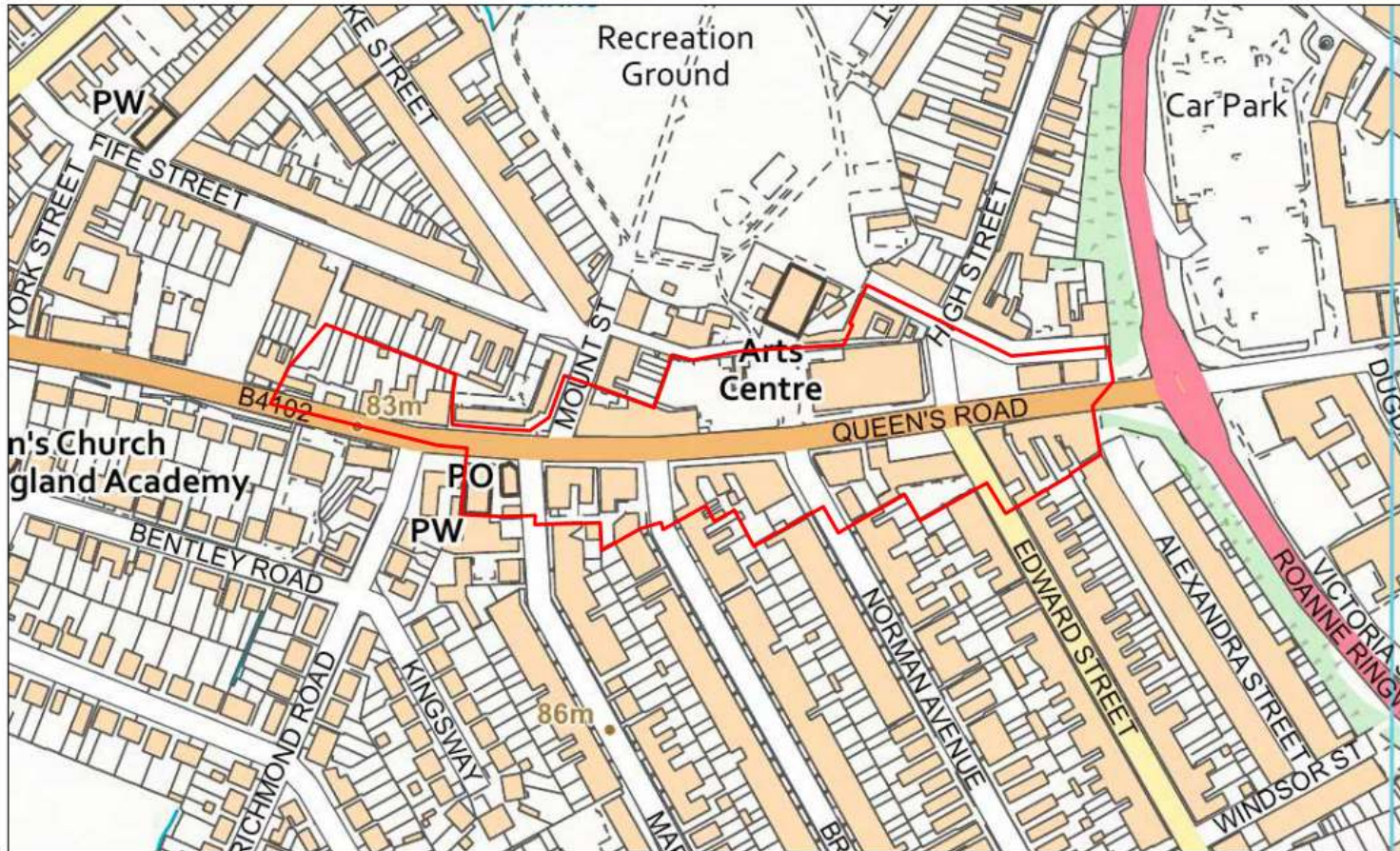
Horeston Grange District Centre



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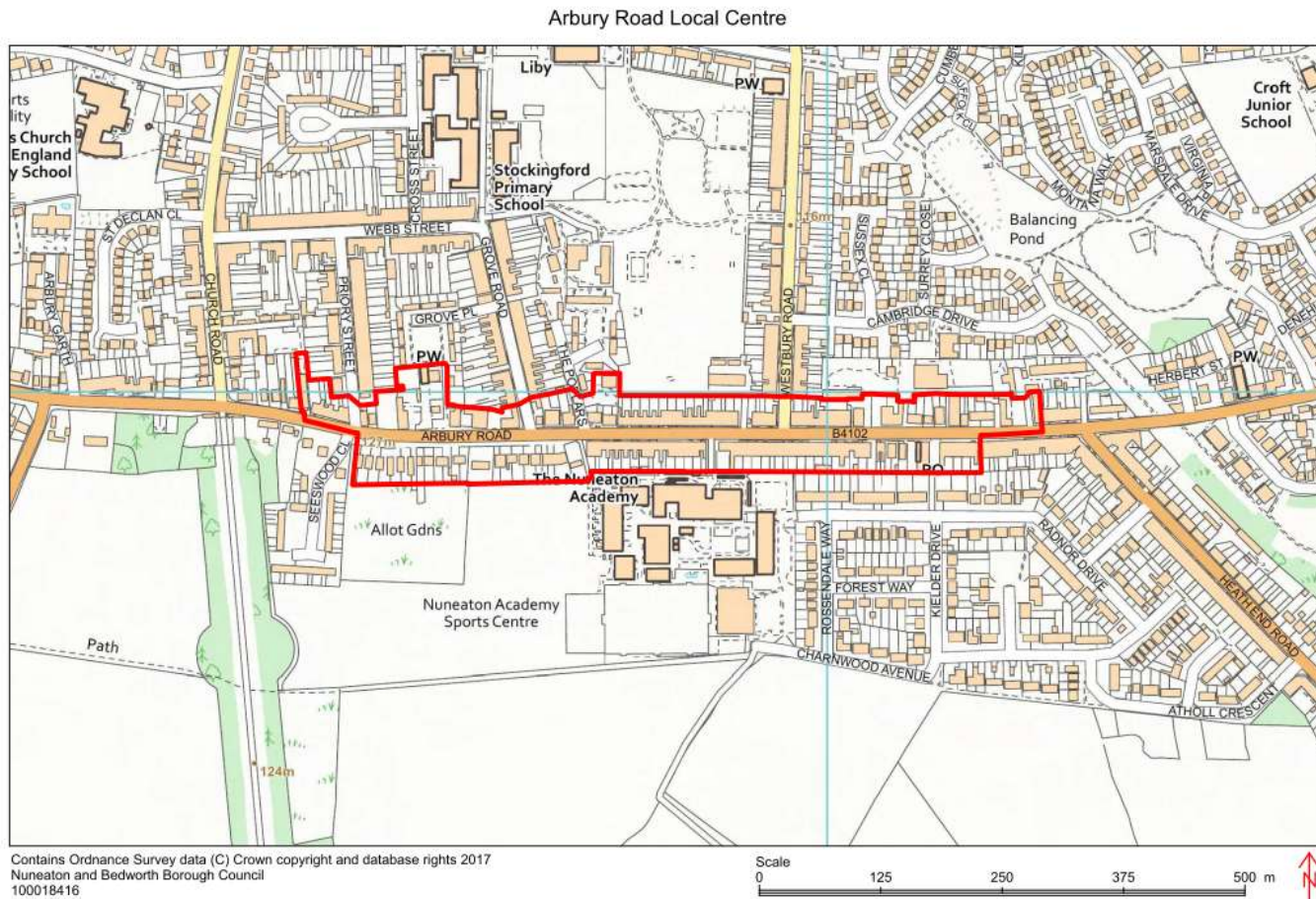
Queens Road District Centre



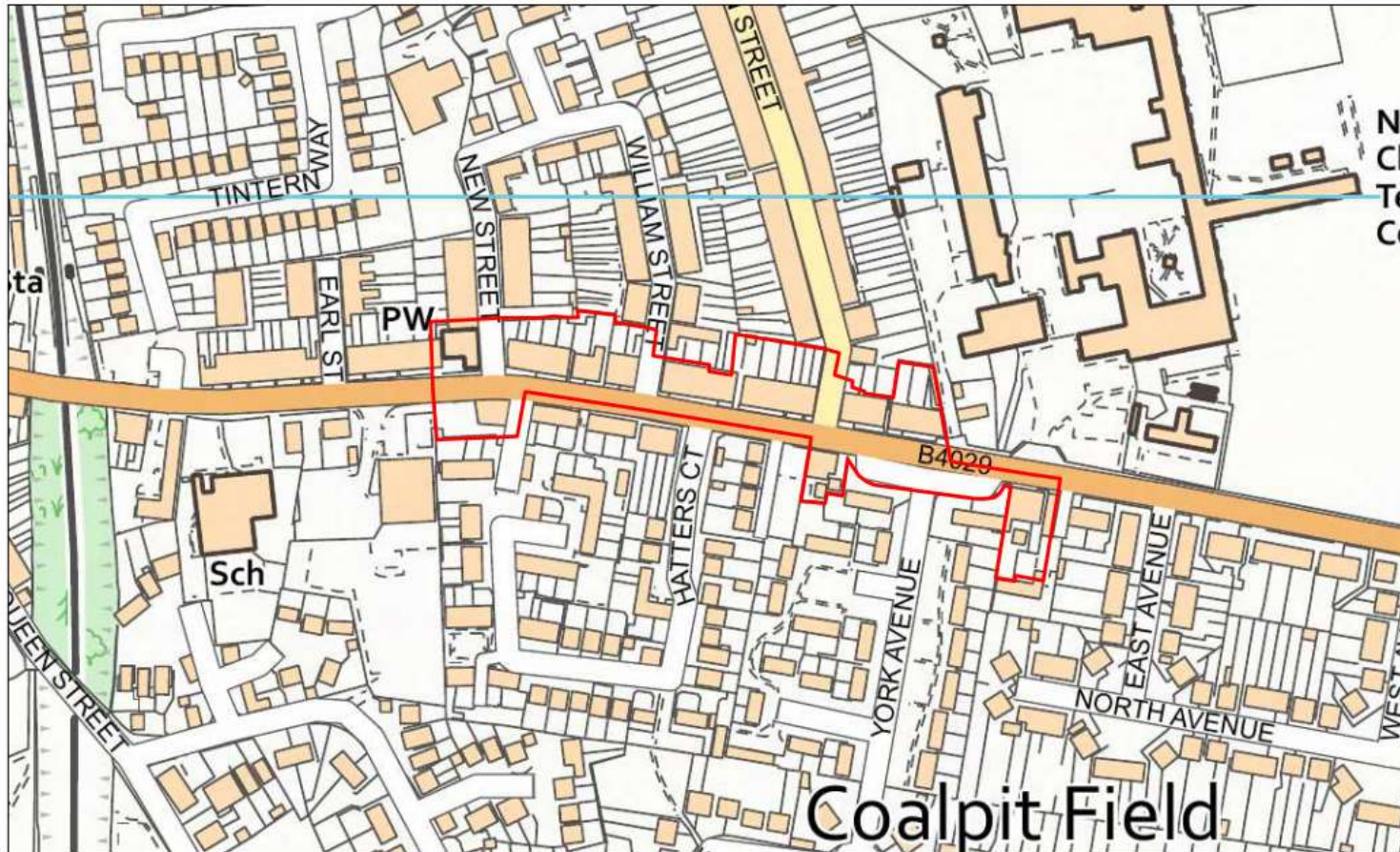
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Appendix E – Local centres

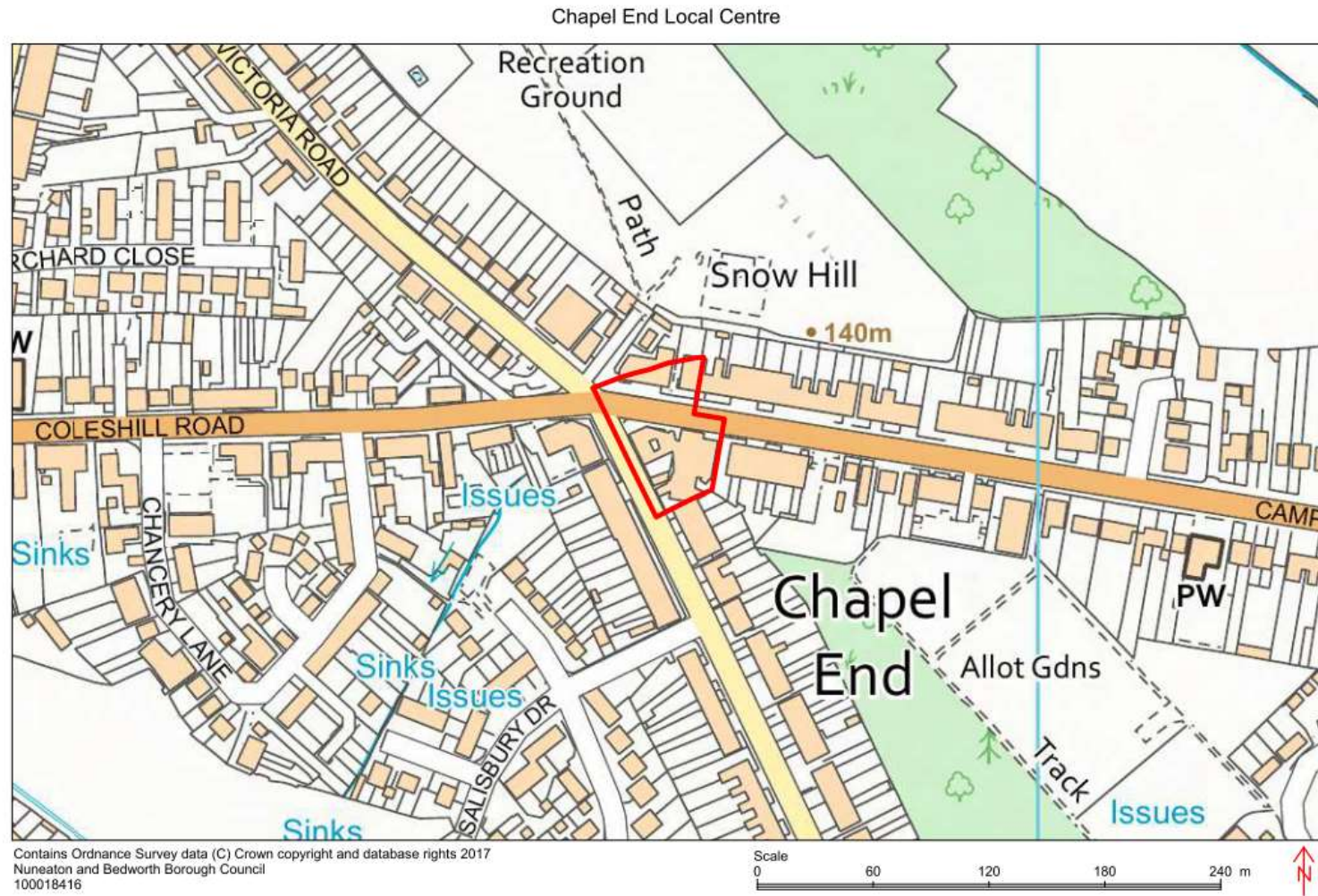


Bulkington Road Local Centre



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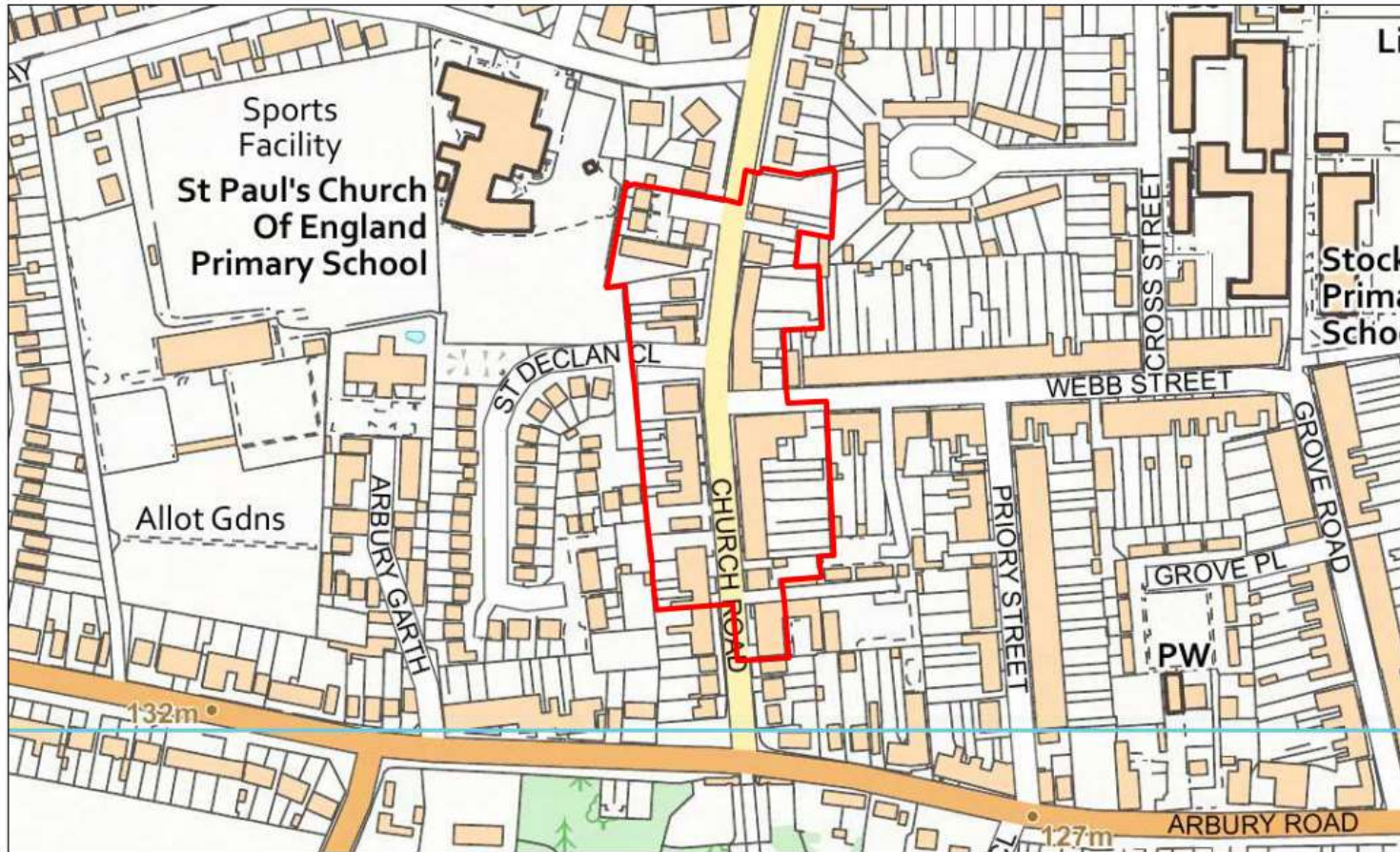
Church Road North Local Centre



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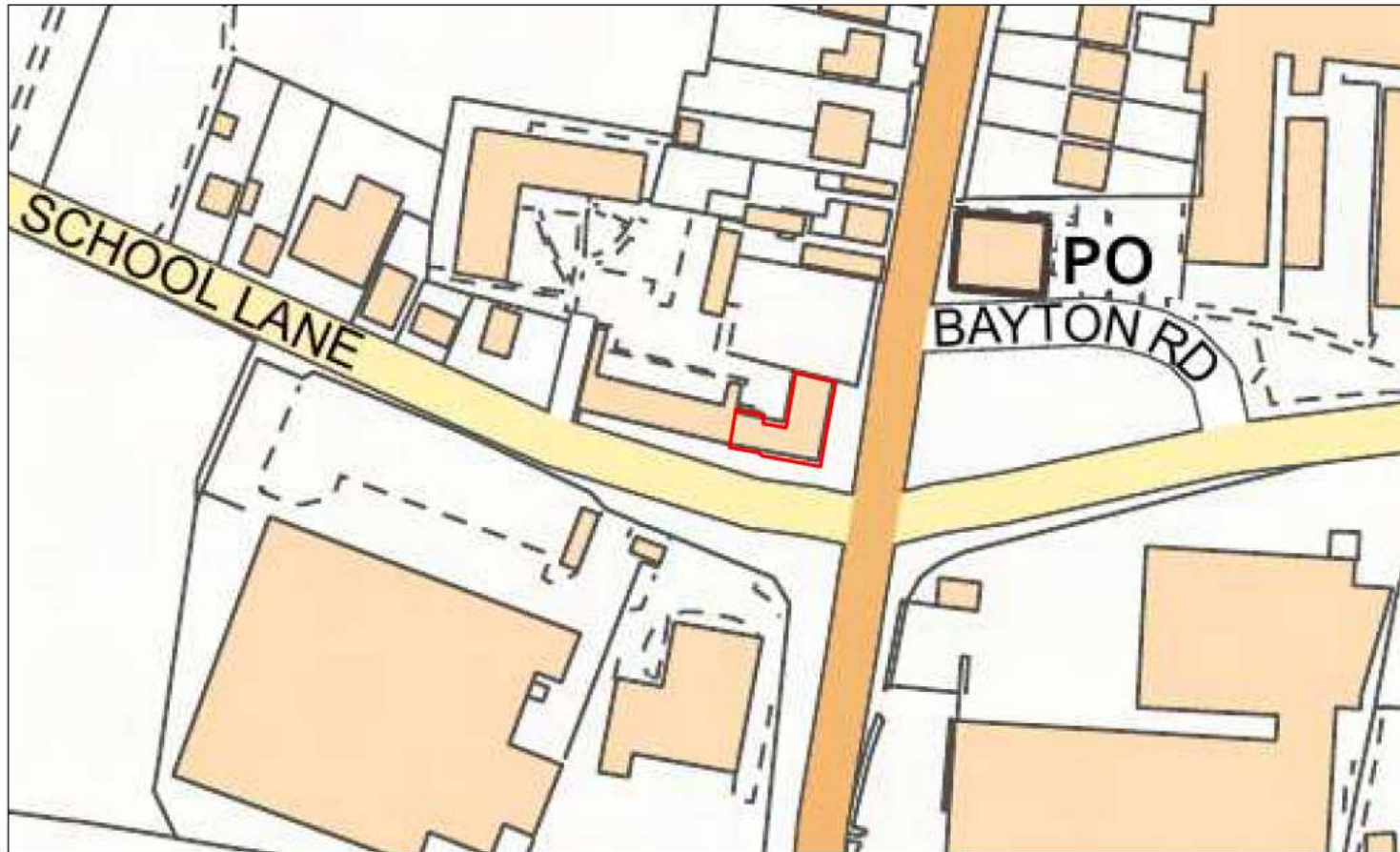
Church Road South Local Centre



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Coventry Road / School Lane Local Centre

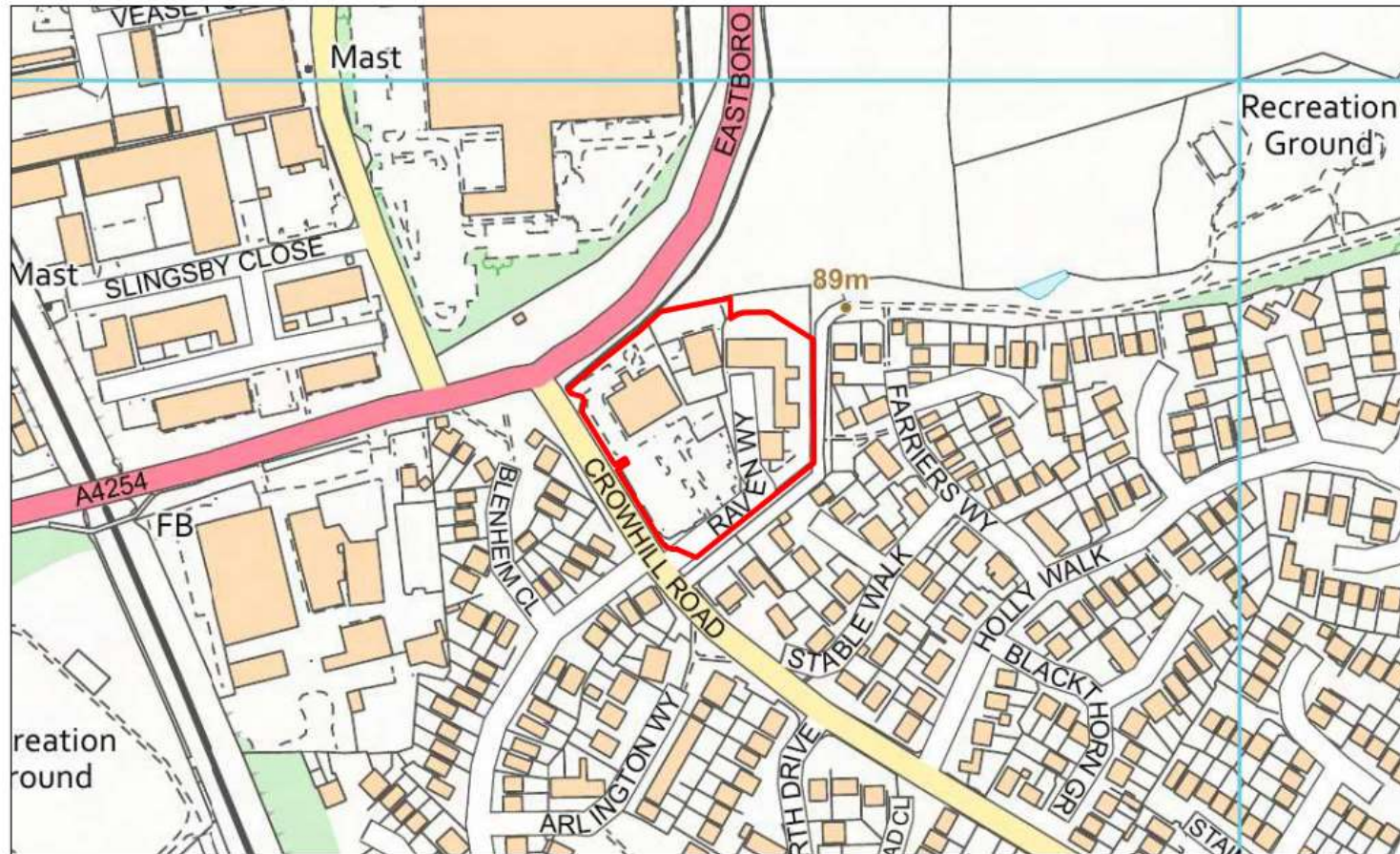


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Scale
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Crow Hill Local Centre



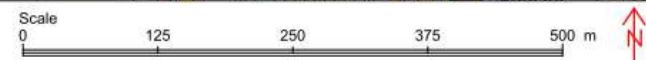
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Kingswood Road Local Centre



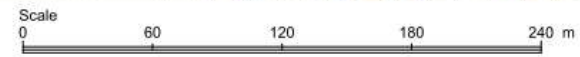
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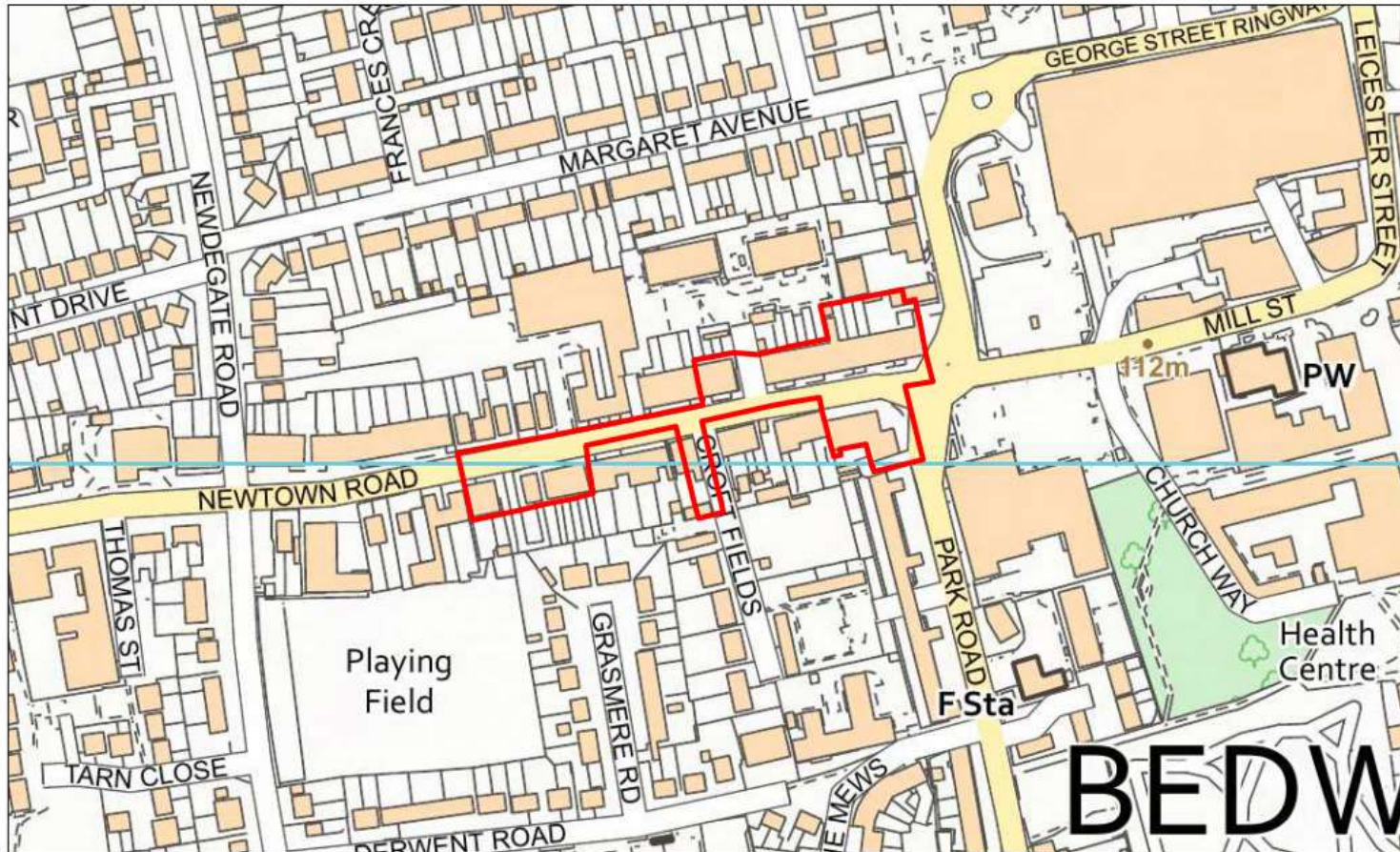
Lutterworth Road Local Centre



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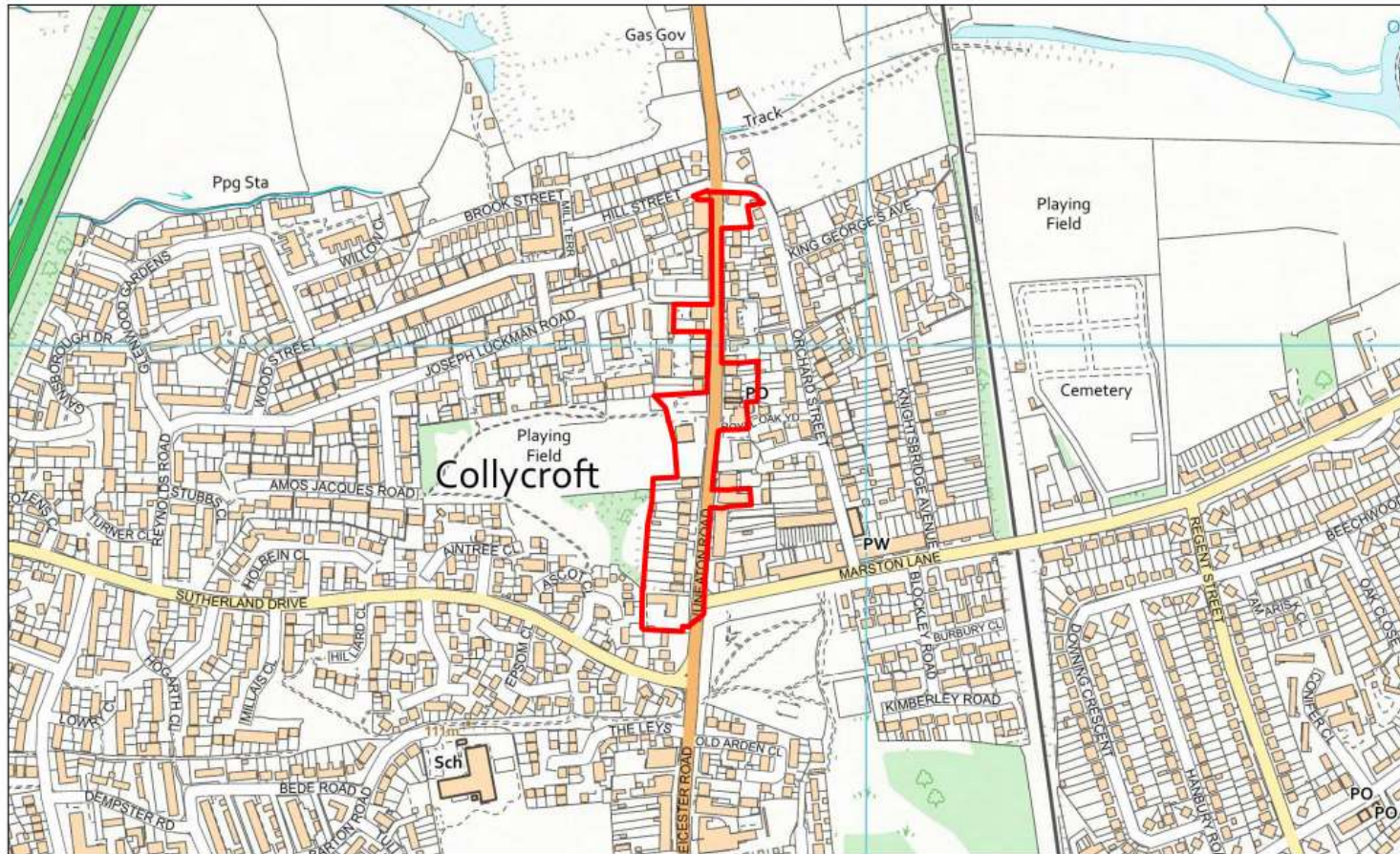
Newtown Road Local Centre



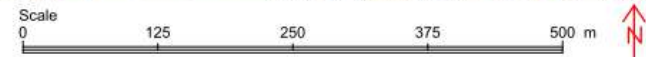
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Nuneaton Road Local Centre



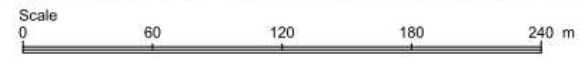
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Pine Tree Road Local Centre



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Smorrall Lane Local Centre



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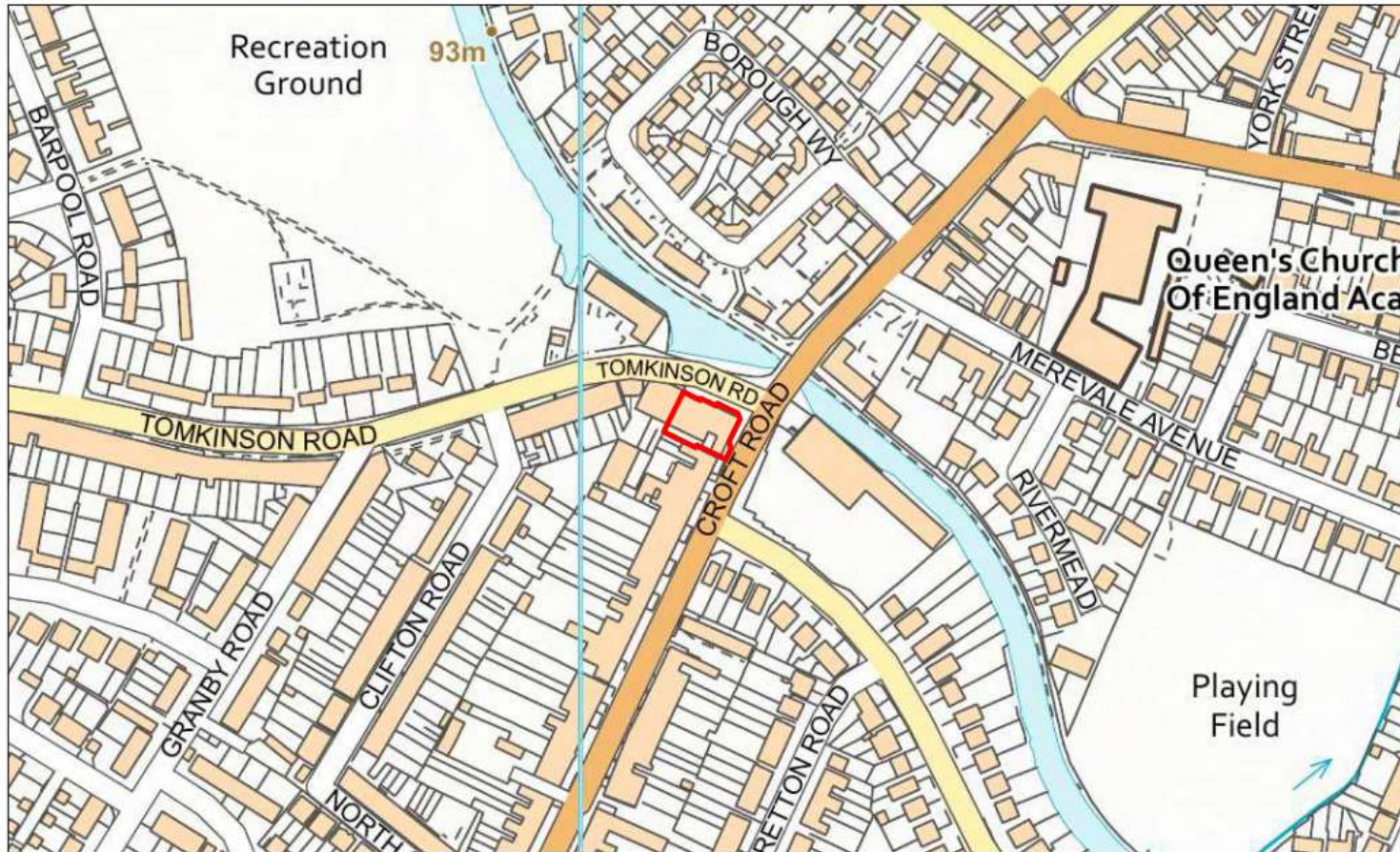
St Nicolas Park Drive Local Centre



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Tomkinson Road / Croft Road Local Centre



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Weddington Road (corner of Brook Lane) Local Centre



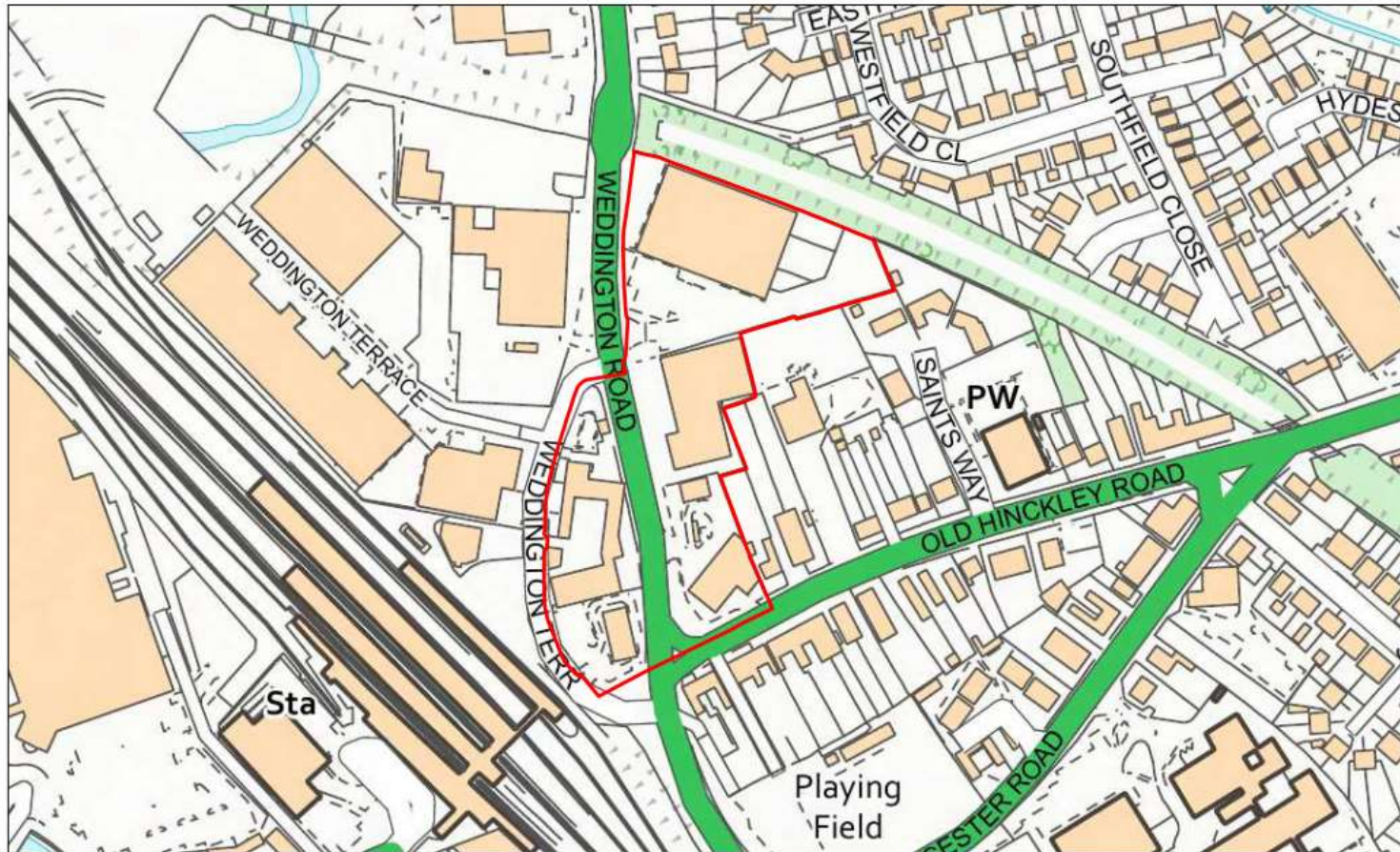
Weddington Road (between Kingsbridge Road and Shanklin Drive) Local Centre



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Weddington Terrace Local Centre

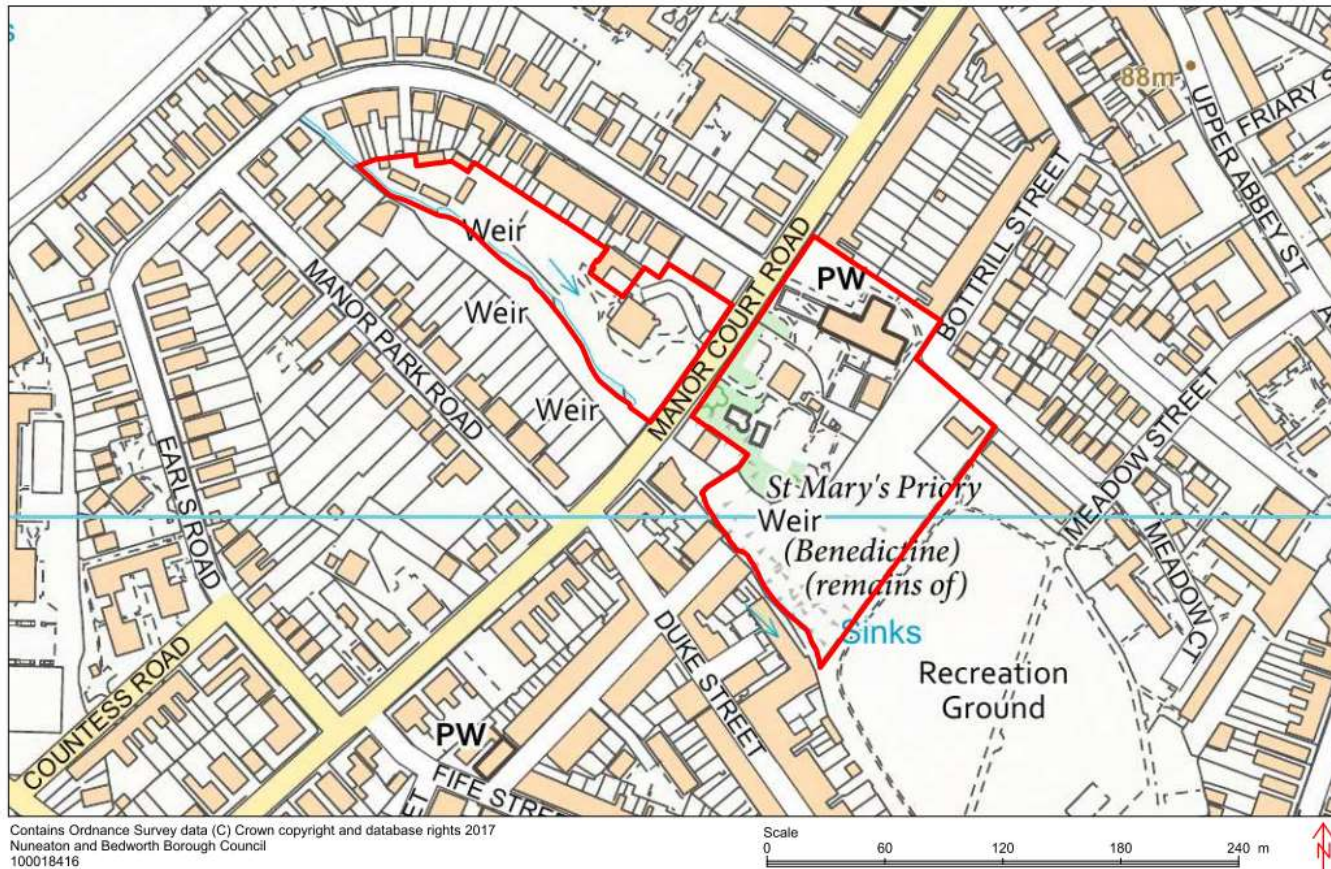


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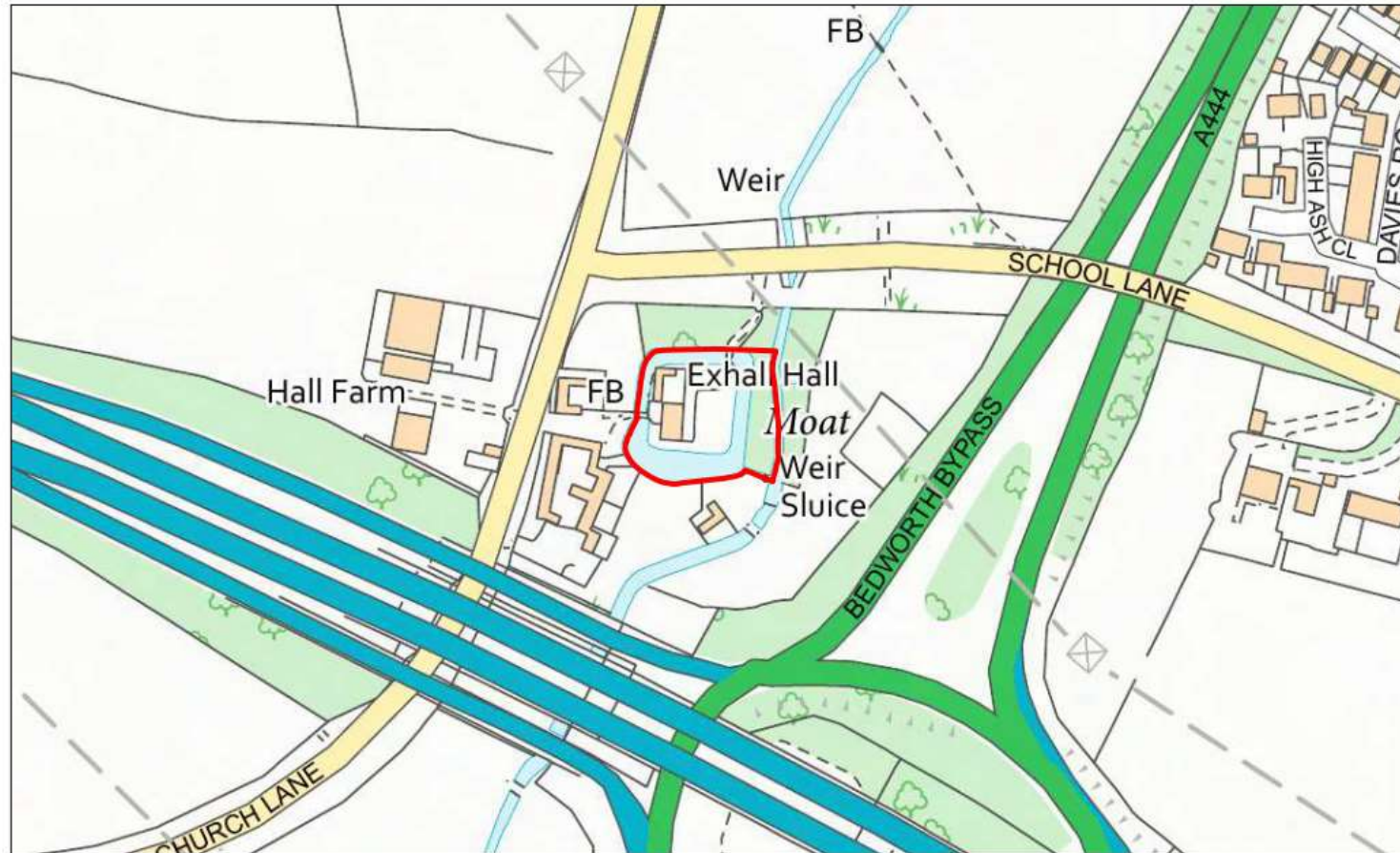


Appendix F – Scheduled monuments

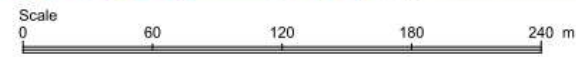
The Benedictine Priory and Precinct of St Mary Scheduled Monument



Moated Site at Exhall Hall Scheduled Monument



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Appendix G – Ensor’s Pool

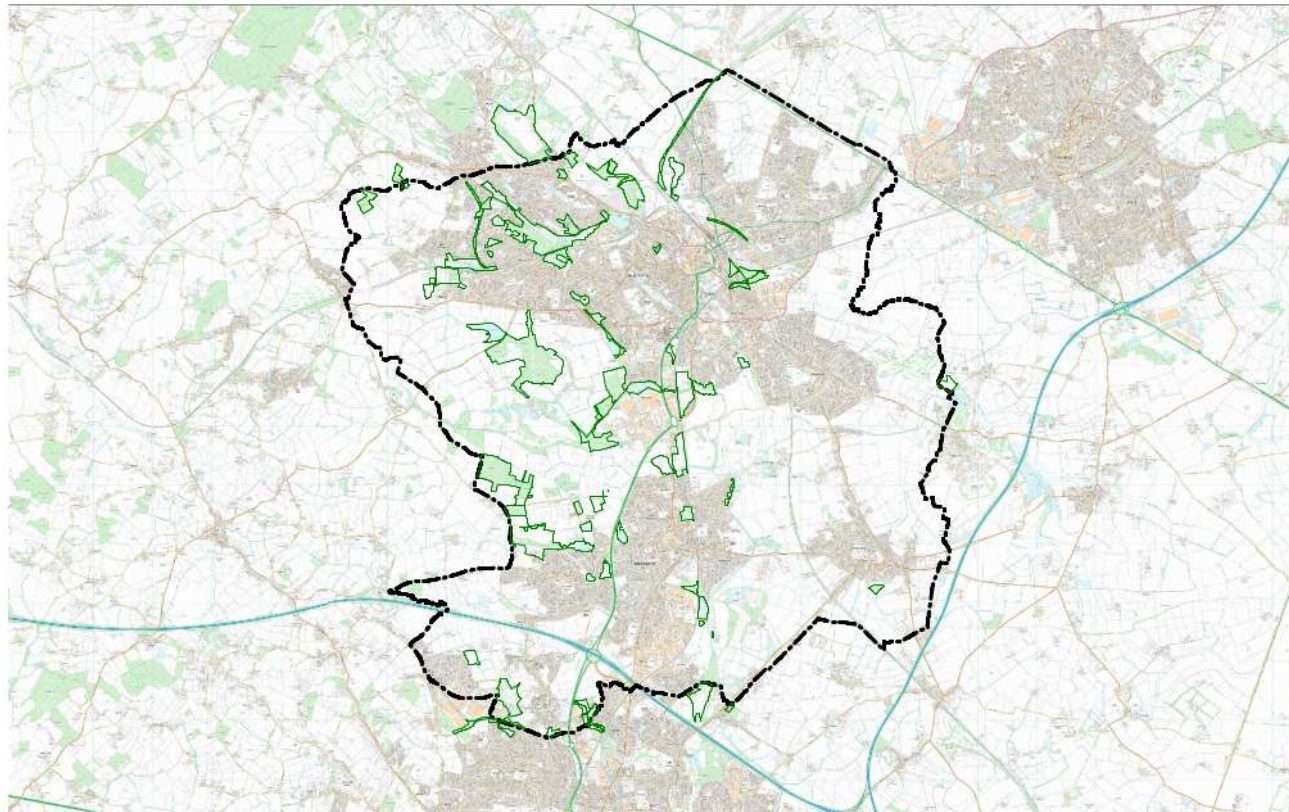


Ensor's Pool Site of Special Scientific Interest

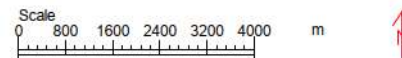


Appendix H – Local wildlife sites

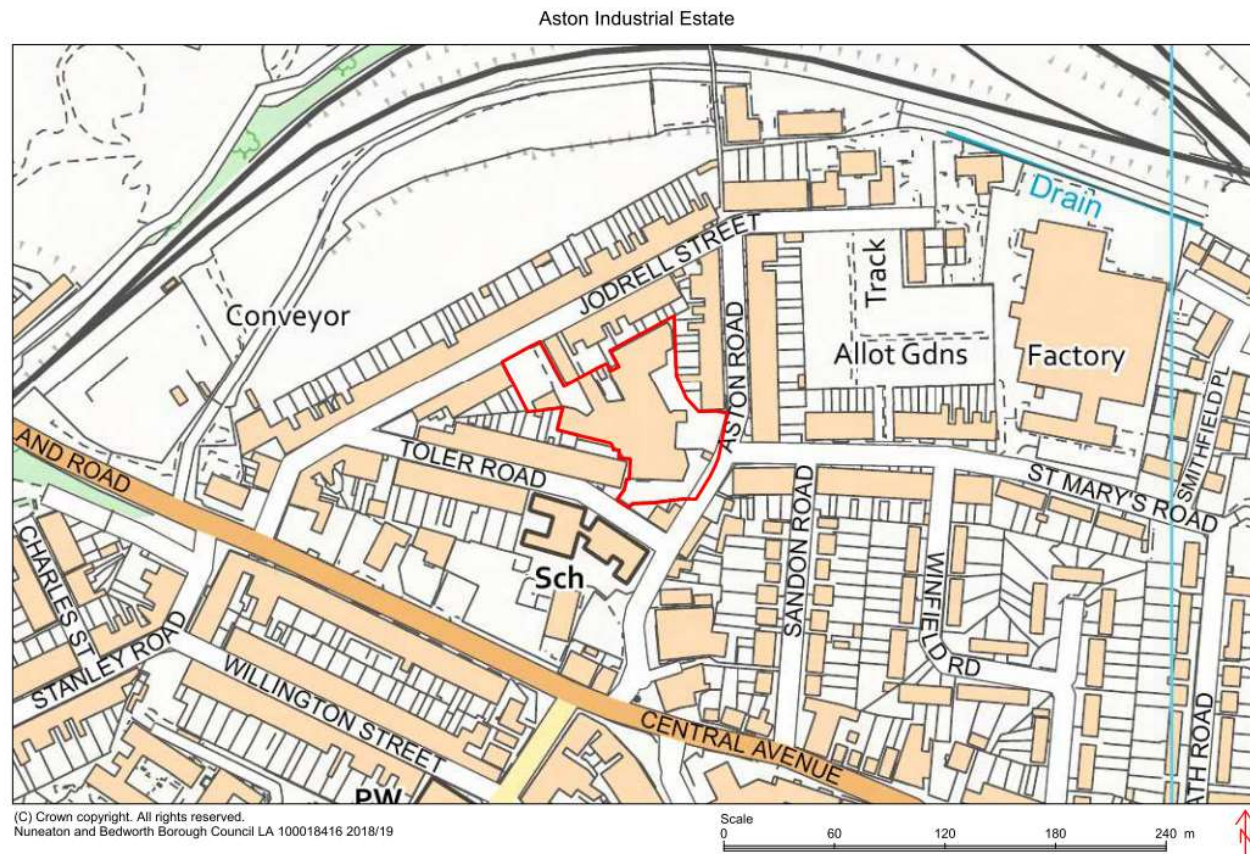
Local wildlife sites (2019)

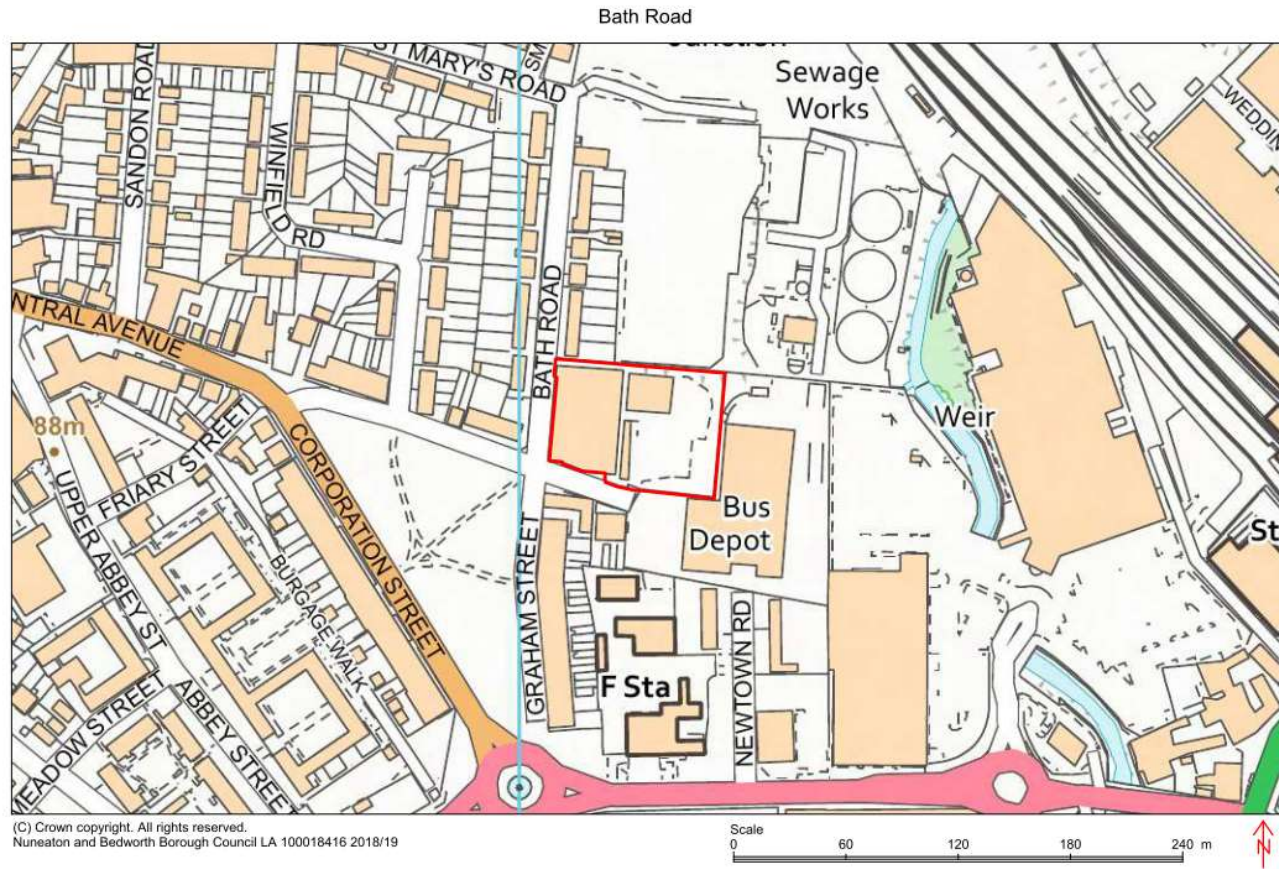


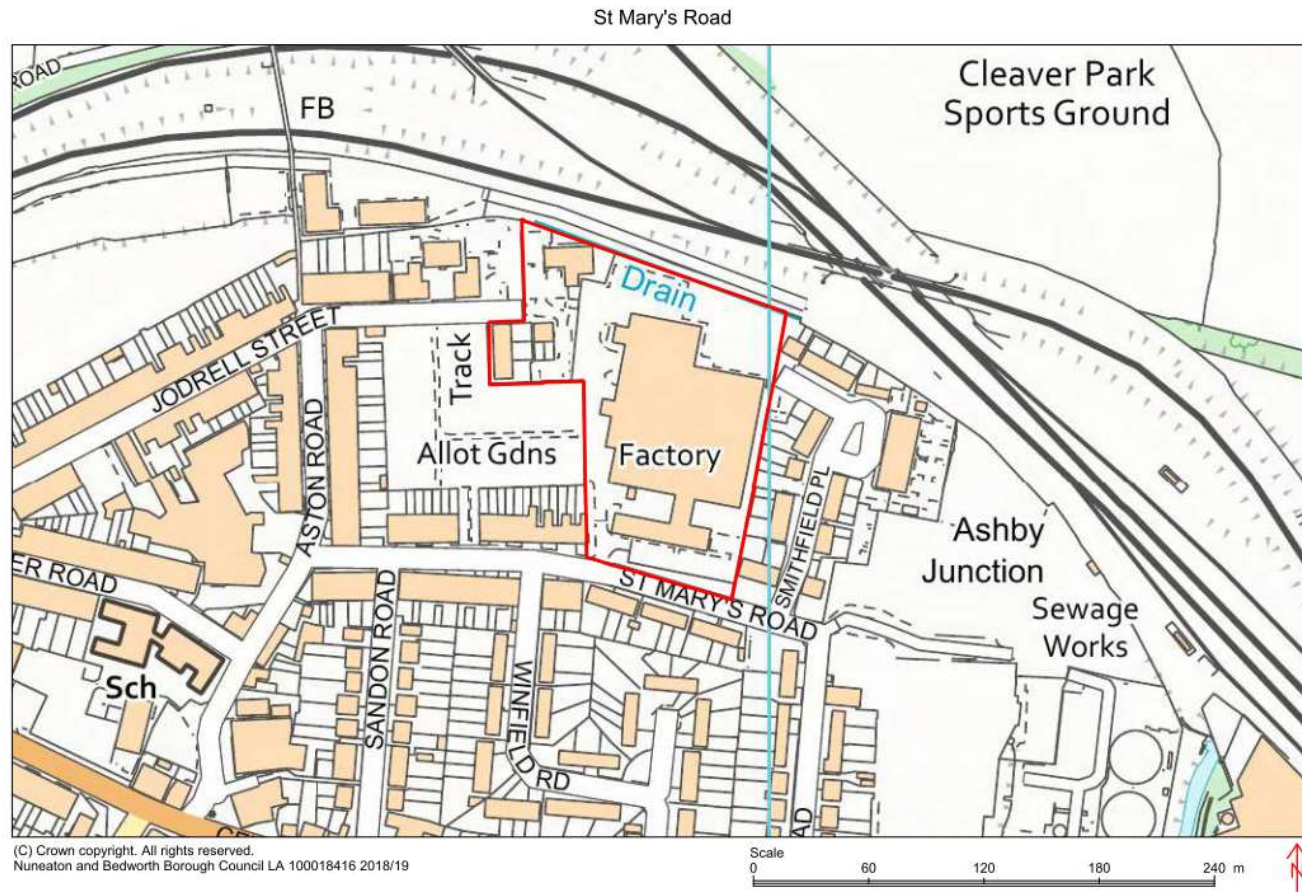
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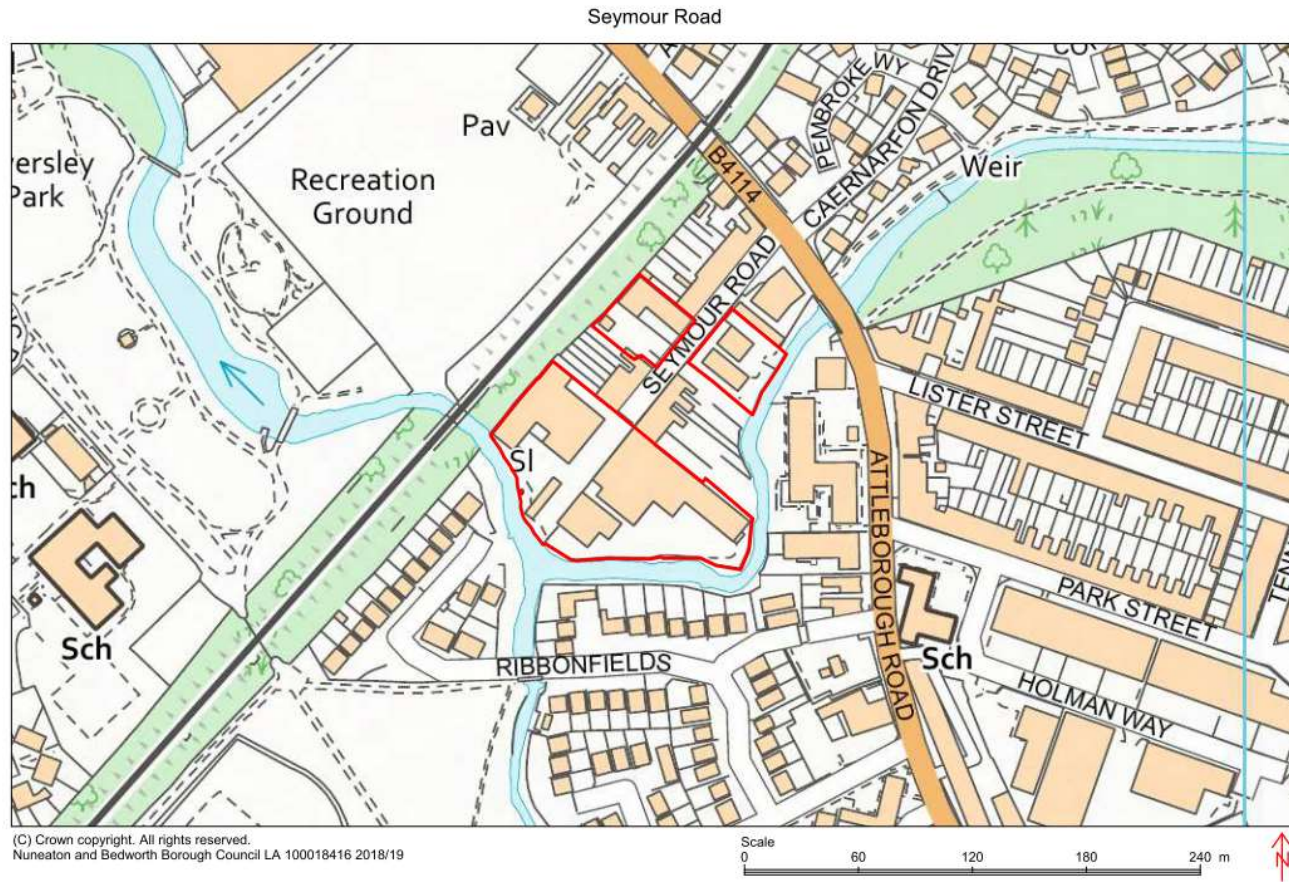


Appendix I – Employment estates suitable for alternative uses

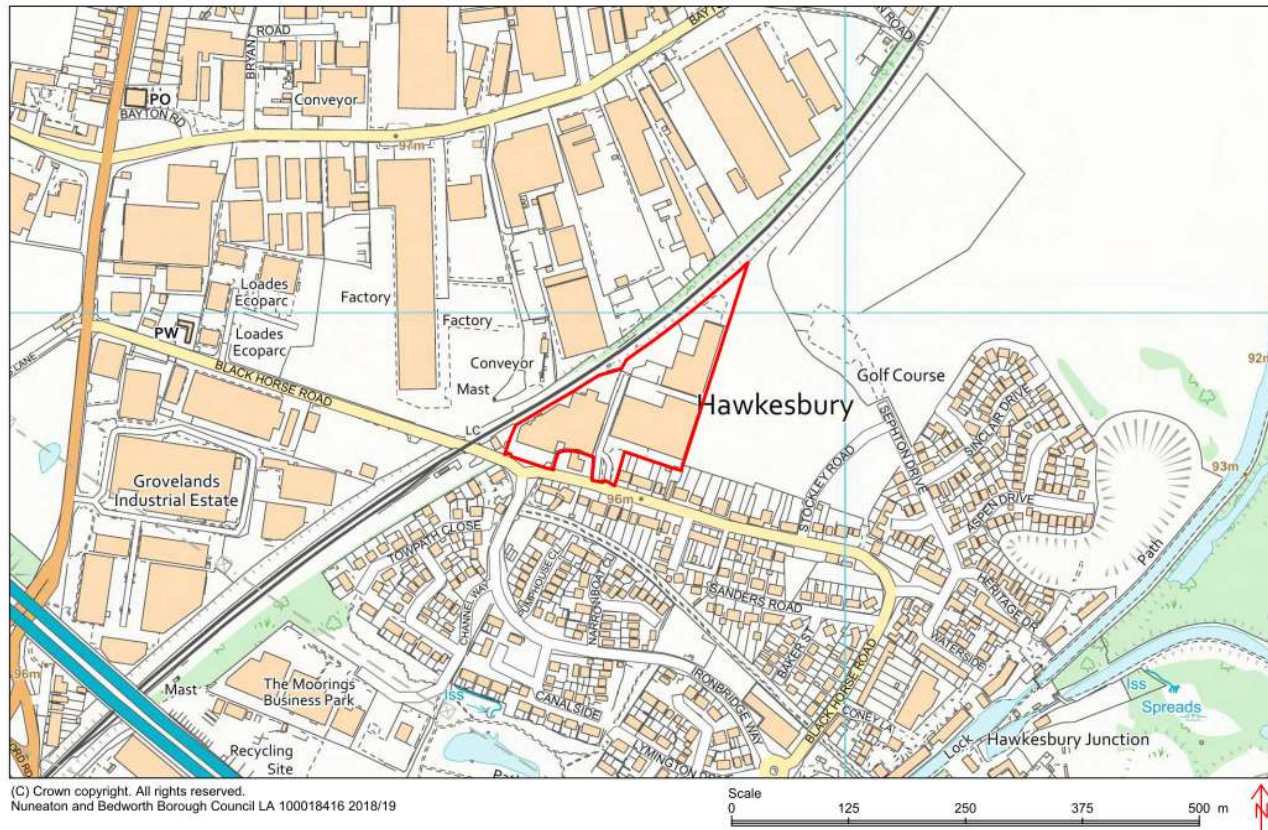




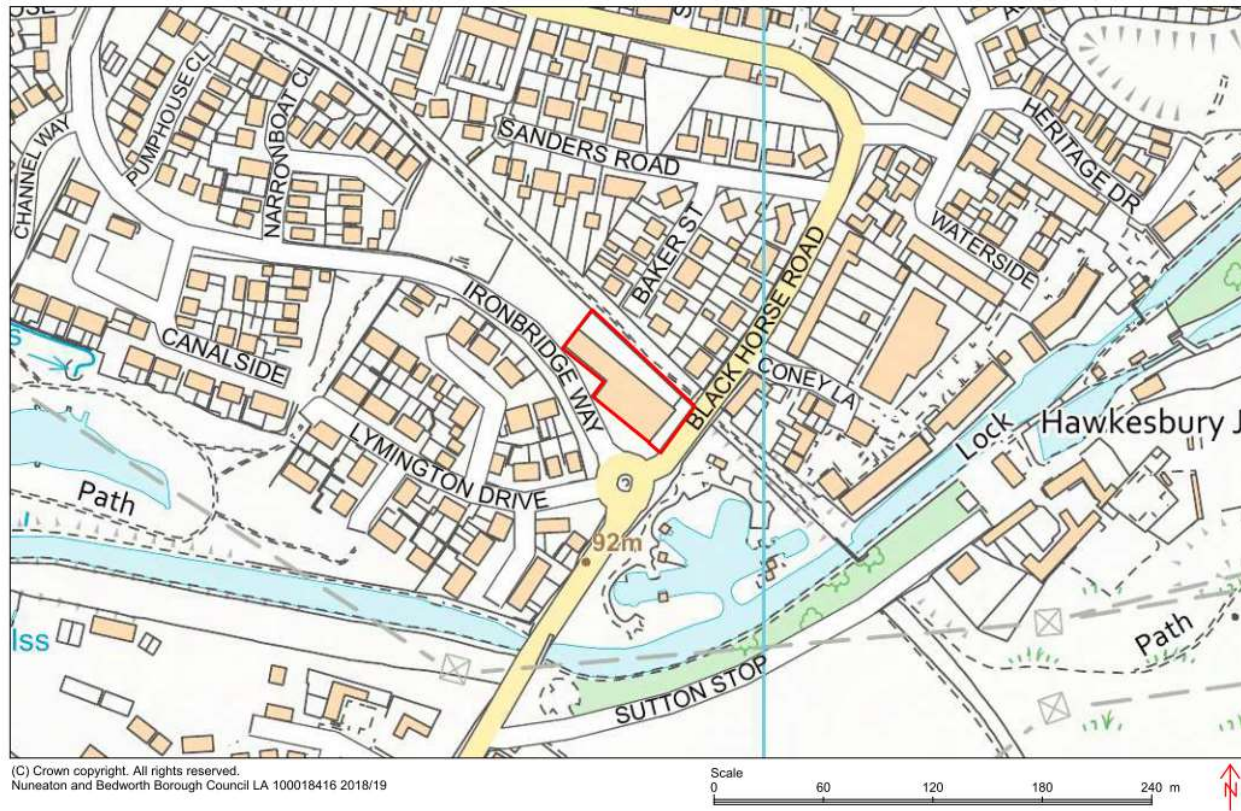


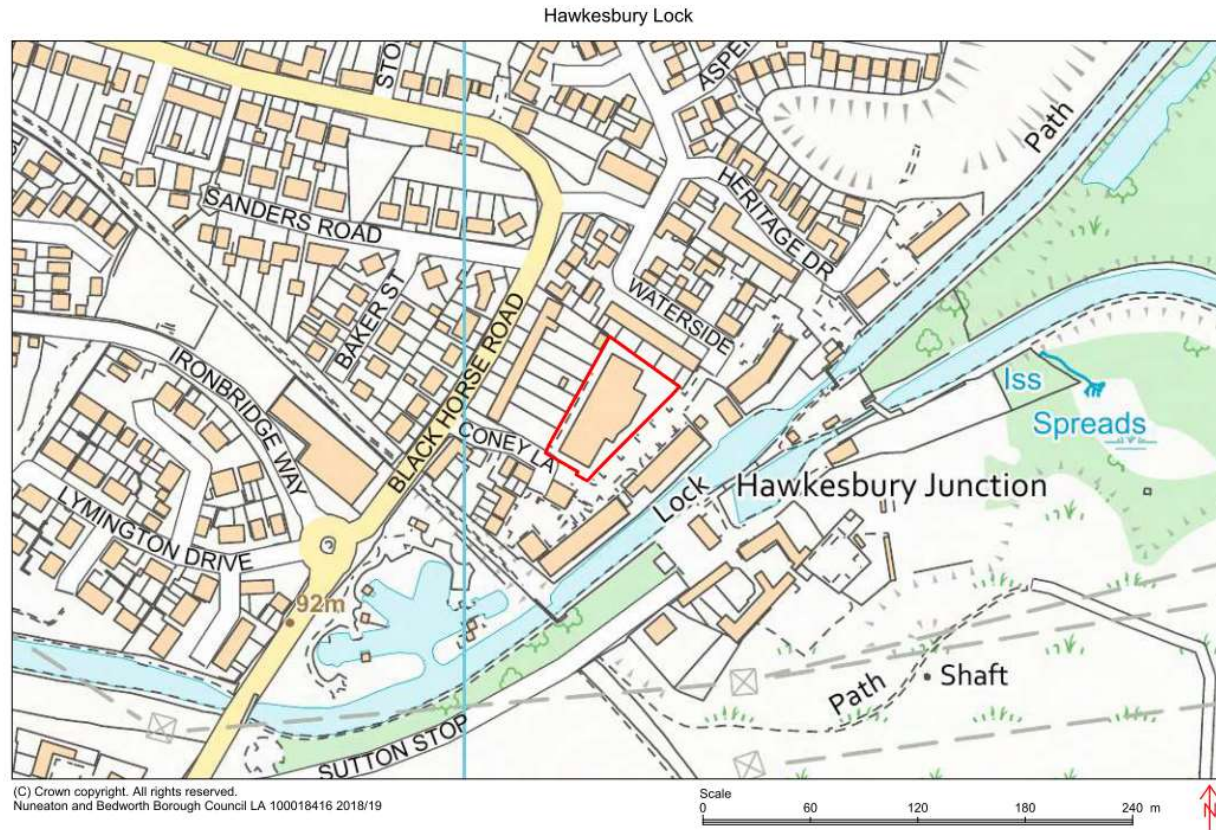


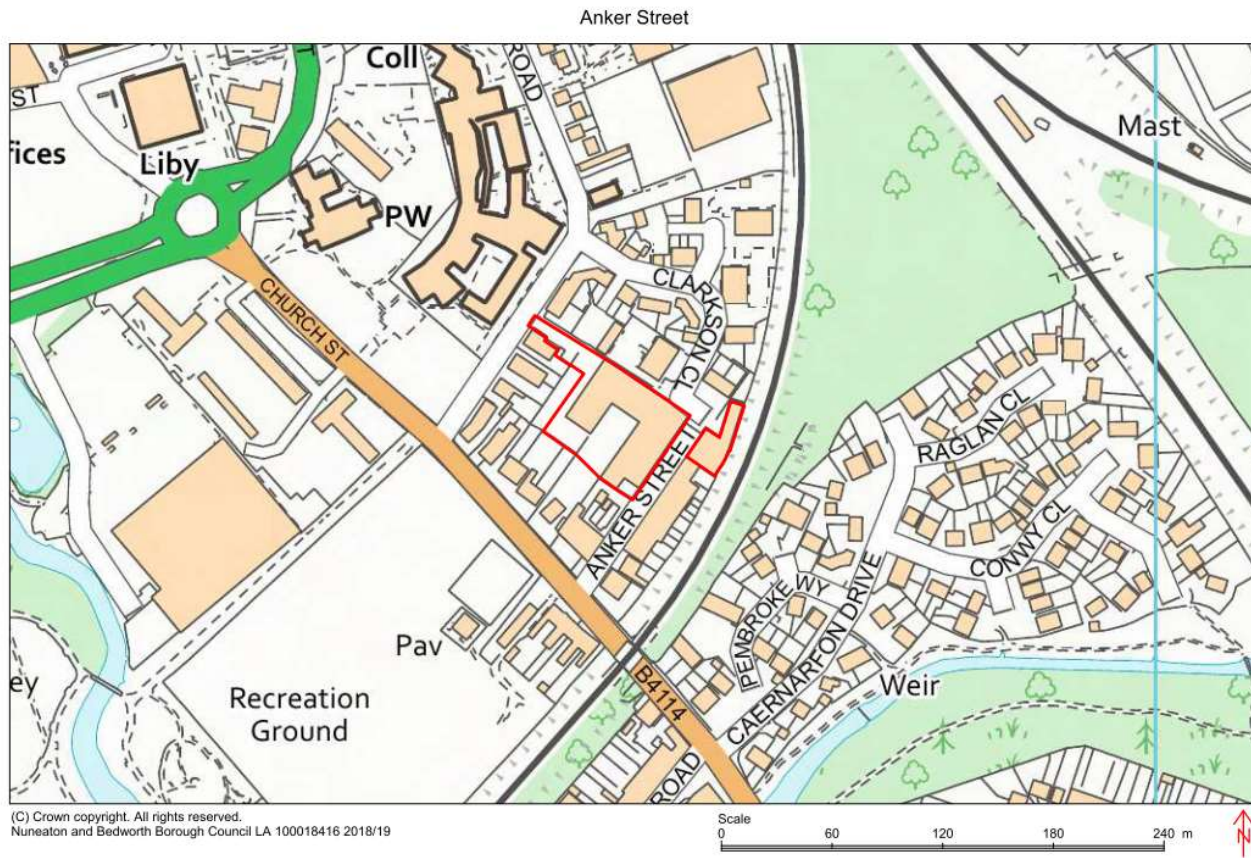
Black Horse Road (E23)



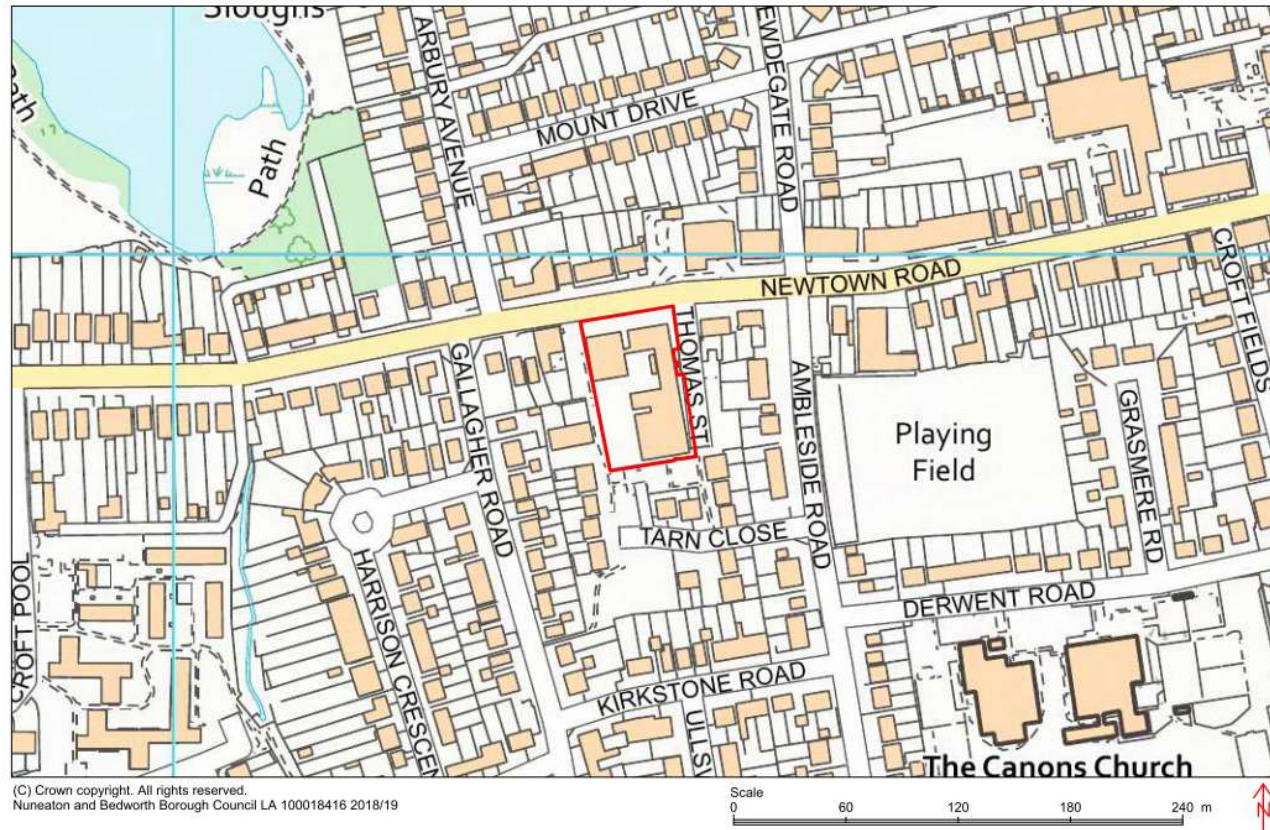
Black Horse Road (E26)







Newtown Road, Bedworth



Appendix J – Use Classes

The following list gives an indication of the types of use which may fall within each use class. Please note that this is a guide only and it is for the Council to determine, in the first instance, depending on the individual circumstances of each case, which use class a particular use falls into¹³⁷.

Class B

B2 General industrial - Use for an industrial process other than one falling within class E(g) (excluding incineration purposes, chemical treatment, landfill or hazardous waste).

B8 Storage or distribution - This class includes open air storage.

Class C

C1 Hotels - Hotels, boarding and guest houses where no significant element of care is provided (excludes hostels).

C2 Residential institutions - Residential care homes, hospitals, nursing homes, boarding schools, residential colleges and training centres.

C2A Secure residential institutions - Use for a provision of secure residential accommodation, including use as a prison, young offenders' institution, detention centre, secure training centre, custody centre, short-term holding centre, secure hospital, secure local authority accommodation or use as a military barracks.

C3 Dwelling houses - This class is formed of three parts:

C3(a) covers use by a single person or a family (a couple whether married or not, a person related to one another with members of the family of one of the couple to be treated as members of the family of the other), an employer and certain domestic employees (such as an au pair, nanny, nurse, governess, servant, chauffeur, gardener, secretary and personal assistant), a carer and the person receiving the care and a foster parent and foster child.

C3(b) covers up to six people living together as a single household and receiving care e.g. supported housing schemes such as those for people with learning disabilities or mental health problems.

C3(c) allows for groups of people (up to six) to live together as a single household. This allows for those groupings that do not fall within the C4 HMO definition, but which fell within the previous C3 use class, to be provided for. For example, a small religious community may fall into this section as could a homeowner who is living with a lodger.

¹³⁷ Planning Portal (2022). *Change of use: Use Classes*.

C4 Houses in multiple occupation - Small shared houses occupied by between three and six unrelated individuals, as their only or main residence, who share basic amenities such as a kitchen or bathroom.

Class E – Commercial, Business and Service

E(a) Display or retail sale of goods, other than hot food.

E(b) Sale of food and drink for consumption (mostly) on the premises.

E(c) Provision of:

- E(c)(i) Financial services.
- E(c)(ii) Professional services (other than health or medical services).
- E(c)(iii) Other appropriate services in a commercial, business or service locality.

E(d) Indoor sport, recreation or fitness (not involving motorised vehicles or firearms or use as a swimming pool or skating rink).

E(e) Provision of medical or health services (except the use of premises attached to the residence of the consultant or practitioner).

E(f) Creche, day nursery or day centre (not including a residential use).

E(g) Uses which can be carried out in a residential area without detriment to its amenity:

- E(g)(i) Offices to carry out any operational or administrative functions.
- E(g)(ii) Research and development of products or processes.
- E(g)(iii) Industrial processes.

Class F – Local Community and Learning

F1 Learning and non-residential institutions – Use (not including residential use) defined in 7 parts:

- F1(a) Provision of education.
- F1(b) Display of works of art (otherwise than for sale or hire).
- F1(c) Museums.
- F1(d) Public libraries or public reading rooms.
- F1(e) Public halls or exhibition halls.
- F1(f) Public worship or religious instruction (or in connection with such use).
- F1(g) Law courts.

F2 Local community – Use as defined in 4 parts:

- F2(a) Shops (mostly) selling essential goods, including food, where the shop's premises do not exceed 280sq.m. and there is no other such facility within 1000m.

- F2(b) Halls or meeting places for the principal use of the local community.
- F2(c) Areas or places for outdoor sport or recreation (not involving motorised vehicles or firearms).
- F2(d) Indoor or outdoor swimming pools or skating rinks.

Sui Generis

'Sui generis' is a Latin term that, in this context, means 'in a class of its own'. Certain uses are specifically defined and excluded from classification by legislation, and therefore become 'sui generis'. These are theatres, amusement arcades / centres or funfairs, launderettes, fuel stations, hiring, selling and / or displaying motor vehicles, taxi businesses, scrap yards, or a yard for the storage / distribution of minerals and / or the breaking of motor vehicles, 'Alkali work' (any work registerable under the Alkali, etc. Works Regulation Act 1906 (as amended)), hostels (providing no significant element of care), waste disposal installations for the incineration, chemical treatment or landfill of hazardous waste, retail warehouse clubs, nightclubs, casinos, betting offices/shops, pay day loan shops, public houses, wine bars, or drinking establishments, drinking establishments with expanded food provision, hot food takeaways (for the sale of hot food where consumption of that food is mostly undertaken off the premises), venues for live music performance, cinemas, concert halls, bingo halls and dance halls.

Glossary

Air source heat pumps: A system harnessing heat from the air outside. Can include air to water systems. The heat pump increases the temperature and the heat is used to provide heating or hot water. The pump needs electricity to run but uses less energy than the heat it produces. It performs the same role as a boiler, but it uses ambient heat rather than burning fuel to generate heat.

Air Quality Management Area (AQMA): A designated area where there is a likelihood that the air quality objectives, set out in the Air Quality Regulations 2000, will not be met.

Affordable housing: Social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market.

Ancient woodland: Land that has been continuously wooded since 1600. They are full of cultural heritage and are our richest sites for wildlife.

Authority Monitoring Report (AMR): A report published annually to assess the progress of policies and proposals in the Borough Plan.

Area Action Plan (AAP): A development plan document focussing on a specific location or an area subject to change.

Area of restraint: A designation of the Local Plan 2006 to protect land for its open character and the contribution it makes to the character and structure of the urban areas.

Biodiversity offsetting: A way of delivering biodiversity net gains in a measurable way, where the potential to avoid any damage / mitigate any damage has been fully considered and is unavoidable.

Brownfield land / previously developed land: Land that is or was occupied by a permanent (non-agricultural) structure and associated fixed surface infrastructure, including the curtilage of the development, in urban and rural areas. It excludes land and buildings that have been used for agricultural purposes, forest and woodland, and land in built-up areas, which has not been developed previously (known as greenfield land).

Building at risk: A listed building or structural scheduled ancient monument known to Historic England to be at risk because of neglect and decay or vulnerable to becoming so.

Building for a Healthy Life: A tool for assessing the design quality of homes and neighbourhoods.

Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM): The world's leading and most widely used environmental assessment method for non-domestic buildings.

Community facilities: Facilities or services for the community, including open space, sport and recreational facilities, community buildings, doctor's surgeries, libraries, pubs, churches and children's play areas.

Combined heat and power / combined cooling, heat and power: Efficient and simultaneous generation of usable heat and power in a single process, thereby reducing wasted heat and putting it to use by distributing it to buildings via district heating pipes.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL): A duty allowing local authorities to raise funds from owners or developers of land undertaking new building projects in their area.

Community Park: A park normally between 1 and 10ha.

Comparison retailing: A type of retail selling items not obtained on a frequent basis. These include clothing, footwear, household and recreational goods where a comparison of alternatives is made.

Conservation Area: An area designated under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as being of special architectural or historic interest, the character and interest of which it is desirable to preserve and enhance.

Contaminated land: Land that has been polluted or harmed in some way making it unfit for safe development and usage unless cleaned.

Convenience retailing: A type of retail selling everyday essential items, including food, drinks, newspapers/magazines and confectionery.

Corporate Plan: Part of the Council's Strategic Planning Framework showing the Council's vision, aims and priorities.

Decentralised energy: The local generation of electricity or heat from renewable and / or low carbon sources at, or near to, its point of use.

Derelict land: Land so damaged by previous industrial or other development that it is incapable of beneficial use without treatment. Treatment can include demolition, clearing of fixed structures or foundations and levelling. The definition also includes abandoned and unoccupied buildings in an advanced state of disrepair i.e. with unsound roof(s).

Destination Parks: The borough's largest parks. Normally covering an area of between 10 and 65ha and containing a range of quality facilities and experiences for all members of the public.

Development Plan Document (DPD): A statutory component part of the local development framework including the Borough Plan, Area Action Plans and site-specific allocations.

District centre: Provides for the day-to-day shopping and service needs of local people.

District heating network: A local network of insulated pipes used to deliver heat, in the form of hot water or steam, from a centralised boiler or from combined heat and power generation for residential and commercial users.

Economic Development Strategy: A document stating the Council's vision, objectives and priorities for the borough's economy.

Employment Land Review: A review of the quantity and quality of existing and proposed employment land within the borough.

Evidence base: Economic, social and environmental information and data gathered by the Council in order to provide robust and credible evidence to justify the soundness of the policies in the Borough Plan.

Feed-in tariff: A policy mechanism designed to accelerate investment in small scale (less than 5 MW (Mega Watts)) renewable energy technologies. Under the feed-in tariff, eligible renewable electricity generators (which can include homeowners, business owners, farmers, as well as private investors) are paid a cost-based price for the renewable electricity they produce. The scheme stopped accepting new applications after 31st March 2019.

First Homes: First Homes were introduced in 2021, is for a specific kind of discounted market sale housing and should be considered to meet the definition of 'affordable housing' for planning purposes. Specifically, First Homes are discounted market sale units which:

- a) must be discounted by a minimum of 30% against the market value.
- b) are sold to a person or persons meeting the First Homes eligibility criteria (see below).
- c) on their first sale, will have a restriction registered on the title at HM Land Registry to ensure this discount (as a percentage of current market value) and certain other restrictions are passed on at each subsequent title transfer.
- d) after the discount has been applied, the first sale must be at a price no higher than £250,000 (or £420,000 in Greater London).

First Homes are the government's preferred discounted market tenure and should account for at least 25% of all affordable housing units delivered by developers through planning obligations.

Five-year housing supply: A supply of housing sites that can be delivered within five years. To be 'deliverable', sites should be available now, offer a suitable location now and be achievable on the site within 5 years.

Future Homes and Buildings Standard: Is a set of standards that will complement the Building Regulations to ensure new homes, built from 2025, will produce 75-80% less carbon emissions than homes delivered under current regulations.

Green Belt: A designation which aims to keep land permanently open or largely undeveloped. The purposes of the Green Belt are to:

- Check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas.
- Prevent neighbouring towns from merging.

- Safeguard the countryside from encroachment.
- Preserve the setting and special character of historic towns.
- Assist urban regeneration by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

Green corridor: A green linear space that can be used for walking and cycling and may also provide a habitat for plants and animals.

Greenfield: Land where no development has previously taken place such as agricultural or forestry land.

Green infrastructure: A network of multi-functional green spaces, both urban and rural, which are capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities. Green infrastructure includes parks, gardens, nature reserves, river valleys, footpaths and cycle paths, allotments and grass verges and are multi-functional, e.g. they provide wildlife, recreational, cultural and ecological benefits.

Green network: Open spaces of all kinds, including canal-ways and river corridors, that are accessibly linked together.

Ground source heat pumps: A system harnessing heat from underground by pumping water through it. The heat pump increases the temperature and the heat is used to provide home heating or hot water. The pump needs electricity to run, but the idea is that it uses less electrical energy than the heat it produces. The heat pump performs the same role as a boiler does in a central heating system, but it uses ambient heat from the ground rather than burning fuel to generate heat.

Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA): Assesses future housing needs, the scale of future economic growth and the quantity of land and floorspace required for economic development uses for a set period (e.g. to 2039).

Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (HELAA): The HELAA is a key tool in the development of local housing and employment policy and proposals. It assesses whether a site is deliverable, developable or not currently developable. The definitions of these attributes are outlined below.

- Deliverable – the site is available now, offers a suitable location for housing and there is a reasonable prospect that housing will be delivered within five years.
- Developable – the site is in a suitable location for housing and there is a reasonable prospect that it will be available and delivered for housing at a specific point in time – for example, by the end of the plan period.
- Not currently developable – it is unknown when the site could be developed.

Health Impact Assessment (HIA): A means of assessing the health impacts of policies, plans and projects using quantitative, qualitative and participatory techniques.

Historic Parks and Gardens: A park or garden that is deemed to be of sufficient historic interest to merit inclusion on Historic England's Register of Historic Parks and Gardens.

Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP): Provides information about the infrastructure which needs to be delivered in order to support the policies and growth targets set out in the Borough Plan. It outlines the sources of funding for those projects and identifies who is responsible for the delivery of infrastructure. Due to the nature of the document this is updated on a regular basis. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan is accompanied by an Infrastructure Delivery Strategy.

Infrastructure Delivery Schedule: This accompanies the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and sets out on-going and planned schemes for different infrastructure categories.

Intermediate housing: Homes for sale, and rent, provided at a cost above social, but below market levels. These include shared equity (shared ownership and equity loans) and other low-cost homes for sale and intermediate rent, but not affordable rented housing.

Landscape character: What makes an area unique, defined as distinct, recognisable and consistent pattern of elements (be it natural (soil, landform) and / or human (for example settlement and development)) in the landscape that makes one landscape different from another, rather than better or worse.

Landscape Character Assessment: A tool to identify and understand our local landscapes in terms of their diversity, character, distinctiveness and sensitivity to change.

Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED): An alternative certification to BREEAM. Whilst LEED was developed in the US, the principles are increasingly being used in the UK.

Listed building: A building or structure of special architectural, historical or cultural interest designated by Historic England on behalf of the Government. Buildings are listed Grade I, Grade II* or Grade II. Changes to such buildings may require listed building consent.

Local centre: Provides for the day-to-day top-up shopping needs of local people on a smaller scale than a district centre.

Local geological site: Sites identified by local geo-conservation groups as being of geological importance. Nuneaton and Bedworth has eight sites of geological interest.

Local Parks: Smaller parks normally between 0.4ha and 10ha.

Local Plan 2006: Old-style development plan adopted by the Council in 2006.

Local nature reserve: Statutory designation for areas of importance for wildlife, geology, education or public enjoyment. Nuneaton and Bedworth have three local nature reserves at Bedworth Sloughs, Ensor's Pool and Galley Common.

Local Transport Plan: The Local Transport Plan is a document which sets out the long-term vision, objectives and outcomes for transport.

Local wildlife site (LWS): An area of land with substantive wildlife value.

Major development: Where the number of dwelling houses to be provided is 10 or more, or the development is to be carried out on a site having an area of 0.5ha or more. For all other types of development, development carried out on a site having an area of 1ha or more.

National Model Design Code (2021): Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Government policy to promote successful design to provide high quality places.

National Design Guide (2021): Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. Government guidance to promote well designed places in the form of ten characteristics.

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF): Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities (2021). Government policy on planning matters which seeks to create sustainable communities and foster sustainable development. The policies in the NPPF provide the national framework within which local policy should be prepared.

NUCKLE: NUCKLE is the upgrade of the existing rail line between Leamington and Nuneaton to improve accessibility and encourage increased use of the train for journeys that might otherwise be undertaken by car.

Primary frontages: Shopping frontages that include a high proportion of retail uses.

Primary shopping area: Where retail development is concentrated, comprising of the primary and those secondary frontages which are contiguous and closely related to the primary shopping frontage.

Priority species and habitats: Species and habitats that have been identified as being the most threatened and requiring action under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, 1994. Nuneaton and Bedworth have several species and habitats that are of a priority status.

Proposals map: Visual representation on an ordnance survey map of policies and land allocations in the Borough Plan, as well as other development plan documents in the local development framework.

Renewable heat incentive: Payment system for the generation of heat from renewable energy sources introduced through the Energy Act 2008.

Scheduled monument: Process through which nationally important sites and monuments are given legal protection by being placed on a list (schedule). Historic England takes the lead in identifying sites in England, which are placed on the schedule by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport.

Section 106: A legally enforceable obligation entered into under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to mitigate the impacts of a development proposal.

Section 278: An agreement of works to existing highways. Section 278 of the Highways Act 1980 allows a developer to carry out works to the public highway. This is generally necessary where planning permission has been granted for a development that requires improvements to, or changes to, public highways.

Sequential approach: A planning principle that seeks to identify, allocate, or develop certain types or locations of land before others. For example, previously developed land before greenfield sites, or town centre retail sites before out-of-centre sites.

Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI): An area of special interest by reason of its flora, fauna, geological or physiographical features designated under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Small scale wind energy: Is defined as having less than 100 kW (kilowatts) and typically comprise single turbines. They are considered to be viable at lower wind speeds (4.5m/s at 10m above ground level).

Social rented housing: Housing that is let at below market rents and on a secure basis to people in housing need, usually by local authorities or a registered social landlord.

Special area of conservation: European designation to protect habitats and species considered to be of European interest by the EC Habitats Directive.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA): Procedure, set out in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, which requires the formal environmental assessment of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA): An assessment, at a strategic level, of all forms of flood risk, considering the impacts of climate change.

Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA): An assessment of the demand and need for market and affordable housing, as well as types of housing tenures in Nuneaton and Bedworth, in addition to associated housing market areas within the C2 housing market area.

Strategic sites: Large scale sites that are key to the successful delivery of the Borough Plan.

Sub-regional strategy: A wide reaching approach for managing growth within the sub-region. Relevant to Nuneaton and Bedworth are Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire (including all boroughs/districts).

Super Output Area (SOA): A small area used for the collection and publication of small area statistics. They can be used for statistical comparison because they are of consistent size and are not subject to frequent boundary change.

Supplementary planning document (SPD): Provides further detail on policies and proposals contained within a development plan document and are a material consideration when determining planning applications.

Sustainability appraisal (SA): A tool for appraising policies to ensure they reflect sustainable development objectives (e.g. social, environmental and economic factors) and is required to be undertaken on the Borough Plan.

Sustainable Community Plan: Required under the Local Government Act 2000, a Sustainable Community Plan (also referred to as a Sustainable Community Strategy) sets out the strategic vision for a place which aims to improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of an area. It is produced by the Local Strategic Partnership. The Borough Plan can be viewed as a delivery tool for the Sustainable Community Plan, and, therefore, needs to be aligned with it.

Sustainable design: Design principles to reduce negative environmental impacts through skillful, sensitive design and to connect people with open spaces. Sustainable design should be responsive to local context, adaptable, resource efficient and deliver value over its whole life.

Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS): A management practice which enable surface water to be drained in a way which mimics, as closely as possible, the run-off prior to site development.

Windfall development or site: A site not specifically allocated for development in a development plan, but which unexpectedly becomes available for development during the lifetime of a plan. Most 'windfalls' are referred to in a housing context.

Acronyms

AQMA: Air Quality Management Area.

BREEAM: Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method.

CFMP: Catchment Flood Management Plan.

CSW: Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire.

DWMP: Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan.

FTTP: Fibre to the Premises.

GVA: Gross Value Added.

HEDNA: Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment.

ICB: Integrated Care Board.

IDP: Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

LEED: Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

LLFA: Lead Local Flood Authority.

NDSS: Nationally Described Space Standards.

NPPF: National Planning Policy Framework.

NUCKLE: Nuneaton, Coventry, Kenilworth and Leamington.

PPG: Planning Practice Guidance.

RBMP: River Basin Management Plan.

SFRA: Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

SHLAA: Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment.

SHMA: Strategic Housing Market Assessment.

SODRP: Storm Overflows Discharge Reduction Plan.

SPD: Supplementary Planning Document.

SSSI: Site of Special Scientific Interest.