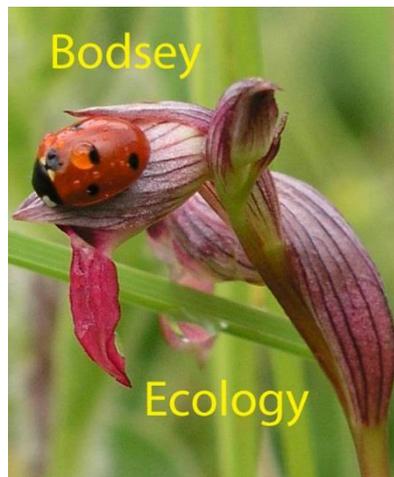


# Habitat Regulations Assessment for the Carlton and Chellington Neighbourhood Plan

**Bodsey Ecology Limited**

**08 October 2018**

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



**Contact: Dr.P.D.Carey, Bodsey Ecology Limited, 4 Bodsey Cottages, Bodsey  
Toll Road, Ramsey, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE26 2XH. Tel 01487 813432.  
Mobile 0786 7618141. E-mail [bodsey.ecology@btinternet.co](mailto:bodsey.ecology@btinternet.co)**



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# 1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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- 1.1.1 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 [the Habitats Regulations] require that Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is applied to all statutory land use plans in England and Wales. HRA is achieved by carrying out an Appropriate Assessment.
- 1.1.2 Neighbourhood plans are nested within Local Plans. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government guidance states that a strategic environmental assessment is required if the neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan. However, a HRA identifies whether a plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The HRA must determine whether significant effects on a European site can be ruled out on the basis of objective information irrespective of the results of any sustainability appraisal.
- 1.1.3 Appropriate Assessment for any development plan is a three stage process: screening, appropriate assessment itself; and avoidance and mitigation measures. Until a ruling by the European Court of justice in 2018 it was assumed that existing planned mitigation measures against likely significant effects to European sites could allow those European sites to be 'screened out' at the first stage of the appropriate assessment process. The "People Over Wind" ruling has changed that assumption. It is no longer possible to screen out European sites without appropriate assessment although it is possible to screen out threats as they will not cause a likely significant effect.
- 1.1.4 The HRA for the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030 (Bodsey Ecology, 2018) identified likely significant effects on two European sites, The Ouse Washes and Portholme, downstream of Bedford. Although the policies within the Local Plan should protect the European sites if followed, detail was not available from the emerging Neighbourhood Plans to confirm this for all developments. Further screening of the Neighbourhood Plans will ensure that there were no unforeseen likely significant effects whilst undertaking the HRA for the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030. The HRA of Neighbourhood Plans will also ensure that they all avoid or mitigate against likely significant effects identified in the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030.
- 1.1.5 Screening of the Carlton and Chellington Neighbourhood Plan (CCNP) identified the same likely significant effects on the two European sites as the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030 but at a reduced scale. Appropriate assessment (AA Stage 2) showed that the policies of the CCNP did not offer protection to the European sites. Rewording of the policies does provide the framework to avoid or mitigate against the likely significant effects with the exception of the threat from non-native invasive plants which by its nature cannot be eliminated entirely.
- 1.1.6 This HRA concludes that the CCNP can proceed as it will not have significant effects on any European sites itself or in combination with other plans on the assumption that other plans avoid or have mitigated against the likely significant effects.



## 2 THE LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

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- 2.1.1 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 [the Habitats Regulations] require that Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) is applied to all statutory land use plans in England and Wales, including Neighbourhood Plans. The Parish Council, as the plan-making authority, must before the plan is given effect, make a HRA through Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives where (a) the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and (b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site (Paragraph 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2017).
- 2.1.2 The aim of the HRA process is to assess the potential effects arising from a plan against the conservation objectives of any site designated for its nature conservation importance.
- 2.1.3 The Habitats Regulations transpose the requirements of the European Directive (92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna [The Habitats Directive] which aims to protect the habitats and species of European nature conservation importance. The Directive establishes a network of internationally important sites designated for their ecological status. These are referred to as Natura 2000 sites or European sites, and comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) which are designated under European Directive (2009/147/EC) on the conservation of wild birds [the Birds Directive].
- 2.1.4 In addition, Government guidance also requires that Ramsar sites (which support internationally important wetland habitats and are listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance [Ramsar Convention]) are included within the HRA process as required by the Regulations.
- 2.1.5 The process of HRA is based on the precautionary principle and evidence should be presented to allow a determination of whether the impacts of a land-use plan, when considered in combination with the effects of other plans and projects against the conservation objectives of a European site; would adversely affect the integrity of that site. Where effects are considered uncertain, the potential for adverse impacts should be assumed. Neighbourhood plans are nested within Local Plans. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government guidance states that a strategic environmental assessment is required if the neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan<sup>1</sup>. However, a HRA identifies whether a plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This assessment must determine whether significant effects on a European site can be ruled out on the basis of objective information<sup>2</sup>. Neighbourhood Plans must therefore be considered in combination with the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030 irrespective of the results of any sustainability appraisal.
- 2.1.6 It is important to recognise that this AA deals exclusively with the requirements of the Habitats Regulations 2017, which in turn are concerned only with sites designated for their importance at the European level. It is not a comprehensive review of interactions of the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030 with biodiversity and important components such as SSSIs, Local Wildlife Sites, Green Infrastructure and Protected Species and Habitats of Principal Importance.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal#neighbourhood-plan-require-sustainability-appraisal>

Paragraph: 046 Reference ID: 11-046-20150209

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal#neighbourhood-plan-require-sustainability-appraisal>

Paragraph: 047 Reference ID: 11-046-20150209



### 3 AA STAGE 1 – SCREENING METHODOLOGY

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- 3.1.1 The methodology for this AA stage 1 of the Carlton and Chellington Neighbourhood Plan (CCNP) is an extension of that used for the HRA for the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030 (Bodsey Ecology 2018).
- 3.1.2 The HRA for the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030 considered the following possible threats:
- Increased public recreation, causing disturbance to birds, damage to vegetation, increased littering / flytipping or leading to management compromises (e.g. grazing being restricted).
  - Air pollution, air-borne pollutants
  - Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions
  - Invasive non-native species
  - Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)
  - Reduction in water quality, from increased discharges of sewage and surface water drainage, or from pollution incidents, either during or after construction.
  - Disruption to the flight paths of birds and mammals.
- 3.1.3 The threats were assessed for a number of European sites that are geographically connected by environmental pathways to Bedford Borough. The seven European sites were: Portholme SAC; The Ouse Washes SAC/SPA/Ramsar; The Wash SPA/Ramsar; Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits SPA/Ramsar; The Nene Washes SAC/SPA/Ramsar; Eversden and Wimpole Woods SAC; Chilterns Beechwoods SAC. The AA stage 1 for the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030 demonstrated that there would be no likely significant effects on all but Portholme SAC and The Ouse Washes SAC/SPA/Ramsar.
- 3.1.4 The threat from “Air pollution, air borne pollutants” was screened out of the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030 because none of the European sites were close enough to Bedford Borough for there to be an effect and therefore this threat will not be considered in any Appropriate Assessment for Neighbourhood Plans within Bedford Borough.
- 3.1.5 The screening for the CCNP can assume that no further analyses on the European sites apart from the Portholme SAC and The Ouse Washes SAC/SPA/Ramsar are required. This is because the Neighbourhood Plan is a subset of the Local Plan and is therefore already included in the analyses of the European sites listed in paragraph 3.1.3 carried out for the AA of the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030 (Bodsey Ecology 2018).



- 3.1.6 The conclusions of the full appropriate assessment for the HRA of the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030 were:

*Climate change impacts on flows and therefore flooding in the River Great Ouse catchment are predicted to be much larger than impacts from urban developments in the long-term. However, protection from urbanisation should not be omitted because of this as it is still a likely significant effect. It is assumed policies in the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2035 will be followed and permission will only be given to development by the consenting bodies on the understanding that there will not be increased output of pollutants from wastewater treatment works into the River Great Ouse.*

*The proposed Bedford Borough Plan in isolation or in combination with the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 should not have adverse effects on the two identified European sites on the River Great Ouse assuming policies are followed, although it should be stated that there are not Appropriate Assessments available from other Local Regional Authorities in the catchment.*

*This AA finds that as it stands the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2035 could have significant effects on two of the sites, Portholme SAC and The Ouse Washes SAC/SPA/Ramsar. Portholme could be affected by a reduction in the quality of flood water. The Ouse Washes could be affected by increased flooding. The effects could be avoided by rewording and subsequent adherence to policies.*

*The AA concludes that, if policies identified as key in this report are retained, and/or the wording changes recommended for policies highlighted are adopted, the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2035 will not have adverse effects on site integrity of any European site. Therefore, Bedford Borough Council can proceed with the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2035 in the context of Habitats Regulations 2017.*

## 4 AA STAGE 1 - RESULTS

- 4.1.1 The screening matrix between the threats listed in paragraph 3.1.2 and the European sites listed in paragraph 3.1.3 for the Carlton and Chellington Neighbourhood Plan (CCNP) is shown in Table 1.
- 4.1.2 The results of the screening showed that there are possible likely significant effects on the Portholme SAC and The Ouse Washes SAC/SPA/Ramsar. Subsequent analysis showed which of the qualifying features of those European sites might be affected by the threats and these are summarised in Table 2. Non-native invasive species are a likely significant effect because seeds and vegetative parts of plants capable of regeneration could escape from gardens and be transported down the River Great Ouse. This threat is impossible to quantify but can be eliminated if all householders refrain from planting such species in their gardens. There is no legislation to enforce this with the exception of notifiable species (Himalayan Balsam, Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed). Pollution of groundwater and Reduction in water quality could have likely significant effects from pollution incidents emanating from new housing before, during or after construction.
- 4.1.3 A consequence of the European Court of Justice ruling "People Over Wind" is that no European site can be screened out at AA stage 1 if there are likely significant effects identified from threats but threats can be screened out if there is no chance of a likely significant effect on any European



site. So, although the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030 policies will be reworded to mitigate against the likely significant effects at the scale of Bedford Borough it is assumed that they cannot be screened out at the finer scale of the CCNP. A precautionary measure from the legal perspective rather than the environmental perspective.

Table 1. Screening of European sites for likely significant effects from threats identified from the Carlton and Chellington Neighbourhood Plan.

European Site	Public Recreation	Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions	Non-native invasive Species	Pollution of Ground Water	Reduction in water Quality	Disruption to flight paths of animals
Portholme SAC	No	No - CCNP too small	Possible	Possible	Possible	No
Ouse Washes SAC/SPA/RAMSAR	No	No - CCNP too small	Possible	Possible	Possible	No
Nene Washes (SAC/SPA/RAMSAR)	No	No - CCNP too small	No - not connected	No - not connected	No - not connected	No
Eversden and Wimpole Woods (SAC)	No	No - CCNP too small	No - not connected	No - not connected	No - not connected	No
The Wash (SPA/RAMSAR)	No	No - CCNP too small	No	No	No	No
Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits (SPA/RAMSAR)	No	No - CCNP too small	No - not connected	No - not connected	No - not connected	No
Chilterns Beechwoods	No	No - CCNP too small	No	No	No	No
Reason	1	2	3	4	5	6

#### 4.1 REASONING FOR TABLE 1 RESULTS

1. The CCNP is too small to have a noticeable effect on the number of visitors to any of the European sites. To include it as an ‘in combination’ effect would be an over-reaction and in any case the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030 in its entirety is predicted to have no significant effect for this threat.
2. The CCNP is too small (32 dwellings) to have a noticeable effect on the hydrology of the River Great Ouse and therefore will not significantly affect any of the European sites. To include it as an ‘in combination’ effect would be an over-reaction.
3. It is possible that non-native species could escape from new gardens and be dispersed along the River Great Ouse to Portholme and/or The Ouse Washes. Although the risk is small and almost unmeasurable it is still a possible significant effect that requires further attention. The CCNP is not connected by river to the Nene Washes or the Upper Nene Valley Gravel Pits and so there is no threat. There is no tangible connection between the CCNP and Eversden and Wimpole Woods or the Chilterns Beechwoods that would allow the dispersal of propagules and therefore there is no threat.



4. The same connections (or lack of them) between CCNP and the River Great Ouse as for reason “3” apply for pollution incidents.
5. The same connections (or lack of them) between CCNP and the River Great Ouse as for reason “3” apply for pollution incidents.
6. No dwelling in CCNP will be tall enough or close enough to have an effect on flyways for birds or mammals and therefore there is no threat.

## 5 AA STAGE 1 - CONCLUSIONS

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- 5.1.1 The Carlton and Chellington Neighbourhood Plan (CCNP) will have no unforeseen likely significant effects on the qualifying features of the two European sites identified in addition to those in the HRA of the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030 (Bodsey Ecology, 2018).
- 5.1.2 The developments included in this CCNP could contribute to the likely significant effects on qualifying features of the European sites identified as possible in the HRA of the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030. All sites close to the River Great Ouse require an appropriate assessment to ascertain that mitigation measures are sufficient to prevent any significant effects.

## 6 AA STAGE 2 - APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

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- 6.1.1 Screening has determined that the Carlton and Chellington Neighbourhood Plan could add to the likely significant effects of the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030 and those of other district councils in the River Great Ouse catchment on the European sites at Portholme and The Ouse Washes.
- 6.1.2 Each of the policies in the document “Carlton and Chellington Neighbourhood Development Plan” (draft version 8) were reviewed. Secondly, the impact of the policies on the threats listed above in paragraph 3.1.2 were evaluated. The following criteria were used in the evaluation:
  - 1 Could the policy possibly cause or alter likely significant effects of any of the threats to the European sites.
  - 2 Would the significant effects be positive or negative
  - 3 Does the wording of the policy mean that the significant effects will be either avoided or mitigated against if the policy is followed. Noting that at this stage a European site can be ‘screened out’ of the Appropriate Assessment if the current policy will mitigate or avoid the significant effects.
  - 4 Does rewording of the policy allow for significant effects on the European sites to be avoided or mitigated against. If the answer is no then likely significant effects could occur as a result of the plan.
- 6.1.3 Using these criteria the following pathway was followed:
  - The answer to criterion 1 could be “yes” or “no”.
  - If the answer to criterion 1 was “yes” then the answer to criterion 2 could be “positive” or “negative”.
  - If the answer to criterion 2 was “negative” the answer to criterion 3 could be “yes” or “no”.
  - If the answer to criterion 3 was “no” then the answer to criterion 4 could be “yes” or “no”.
- 6.1.4 For each policy a written reason for the conclusion was added. The results are presented in full in Appendix 1.



**Table 2. Summary of impacts of the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030 on qualifying features of European sites with additional information relating to the Carlton and Chellington Parish Neighbourhood Plan..**

European Site	Qualifying Feature	Impacted by	Relevant to Carlton and Chellington Parish Neighbourhood Plan	Likely Significant Threat in combination with other plans	Suggested Mitigation Measure in Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030
Portholme SAC	H6510 Lowland hay Meadow	Reduction in water quality	Yes – make reference to BBC Local Plan Policy 97	yes	Add enhanced use of SUDS and water storage. Include importance of preventing spring/summer flooding to Policy 97. Assumes WwTWs upgraded.
		Increased spring/summer flooding	Yes – make reference to BBC Local Plan Policy 97	yes	Add enhanced use of SUDS and water storage. Include importance of preventing spring/summer flooding to protect European sites to Policy 97
Ouse Washes SPA/RAMSAR	A051 <i>Anas strepera</i> , Gadwal (breeding)	Increased spring/summer flooding	Yes – make reference to BBC Local Plan Policy 97	yes	Add enhanced use of SUDS and water storage. Include importance of preventing spring/summer flooding to protect European sites to Policy 97. Enhanced use of SUDS and water storage. Include importance of preventing spring/summer flooding to protect European sites to Policy 97
	A056 <i>Anas querquedula</i> , Garganey (breeding)		Yes – make reference to BBC Local Plan Policy 97	yes	
	A119 <i>Porzana porzana</i> , Spotted Crake (breeding)		Yes – make reference to BBC Local Plan Policy 97	yes	
	A156a <i>Limosa limosa</i> , Black-tailed Godwit (breeding)		Yes – make reference to BBC Local Plan Policy 97	yes	
	Breeding Bird Assemblage (breeding)		Yes – make reference to BBC Local Plan Policy 97	yes	
	A082 <i>Circus cyaneus</i> , Hen Harrier (non-breeding)	Reduction in water quality	Yes – make reference to BBC Local Plan Policy 97	yes	
Ouse Washes SAC	S1149 <i>Cobitis taenia</i> (Spined Loach)	Reduction in water quality	Yes – make reference to BBC Local Plan Policy 97	yes	As for SPA/Ramsar



## 7 AA STAGE 2 - RESULTS

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- 7.1.1 There are no policies (including those relating to the housing developments themselves) that have likely significant effects on any of the qualifying features of the European sites (Appendix 1) if the avoidance steps that are recommended in the next section are followed.

## 8 AA STAGE 3 – AVOIDANCE AND MITIGATION

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- 8.1.1 The following rewording of the text and policies of the Carlton and Chellington Neighbourhood Plan (CCNP) are recommended to ensure that the examiner is made aware that the potential for likely significant effects on European sites has been evaluated and that avoidance or mitigation measures are in place.
- 8.1.2 In paragraph 1.15 of draft version 8 of the CCNP it is recommended that the following sentence is added between “protected.” and “Moreover,” : “The plan will ensure that there are no negative likely significant effects relating to the Water Framework Directive nor to European sites designated under European Directive (92/43/EEC).”
- 8.1.3 Paragraph 1.35 of draft version 8 of the CCNP could be strengthened by adding the words “and adhered to” after “read” and before “as a whole”.
- 8.1.4 Paragraph 1.45 of draft version 8 of the CCNP lists a number of policies from the developing Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030. It might be worth considering adding policies 31-34, 39-41, 43S-45, 48, 51S, 53,55,91,92 and 95-97. Policies 43S – protecting biodiversity and geodiversity and 45 – River Great Ouse are important in relation to this Appropriate Assessment.
- 8.1.5 In Section 2.1 of draft version 8 of the CCNP it would be nice to see an objective to “protect and enhance biodiversity of the surrounding area and the River Great Ouse.”
- 8.1.6 Paragraph 2.29 of draft version 8 of the CCNP could be strengthened. It read *“To ensure that we are sympathetic to the protection of nature conservation sites, local wildlife and habitats, and to preserve hedgerows and trees from further loss”*  
A sentence could be added that reads: “We will ensure that there are no likely significant effects on European sites designated under European Directive (92/43/EEC) downstream of the village along the River Great Ouse.”



## 8.1 CC1 - SETTLEMENT POLICY AREA BOUNDARY AND DESIGN PRINCIPLES

8.1.7 In draft version 8 of the CCNP CC1 read:

The Neighbourhood Development Plan defines the Carlton Settlement Policy Area boundary, as shown on the Proposals Map, to shape the physical growth of the village over the plan period.

There is a presumption in favour of sustainable development within the settlement boundary, subject to development complying with the provisions of this plan and the development plan.

Development proposals within the village should demonstrate that each of the following design principles are met as and where applicable:

- a. the scale, form and character of the existing settlement is maintained;
- b. new development shall be of a scale to complement the traditional character and historic core of the village;
- c. Buildings should be no more than two storeys high
- d. not affecting open land which is of particular significance to the form and character of the village;
- e. development on prominent sites on the edge of the village should be avoided to protect the profile and skyline of the village and to ensure views into and out of the village as identified in [saved] Policy AD40 of the Allocations and Designation Local Plan and as identified on the Proposals Map are not adversely affected;
- f. landscaping and boundary treatments should use native species and, where practical and possible retain mature trees. However, where this is not possible, non-native species which are beneficial for wildlife will be acceptable alternatives;
- g. protect residents' amenity and the landscape character from any noise, light or other pollution; and
- h. existing local habitats and wildlife corridors should be protected and enhanced, and new ones created where practical and possible.

8.1.8 It is recommended that a further clause is added that reads "the River Great Ouse and groundwater resources will be protected from any excessive run-off, pollution and invasive non-native species in order to protect vulnerable European sites downstream".

## 8.2 CC4 – HOUSING DELIVERY

8.2.1 In draft version 8 of the CCNP CC4 read:

Provision will be made over the plan period for up to 32 homes as proposed within site specific policies CC5 to CC7.

Development in excess of this figure will only be permitted where the proposal relates to a site within the SPA in accordance with Policy CC1.

8.2.2 Although it may seem repetitious it would be best to insert a clause that states "all homes built will comply with the environmental standards in the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030 (latest version), should not damage the environmental and heritage features that give the Parish its special character and Natural England and the Environment Agency must be satisfied that European sites designated under European Directive (92/43/EEC) will not be adversely affected."



### 8.3 CC5 - LAND AT THE CAUSEWAY, CC6 - LAND AT 55 CAUSEWAY, CC7 - LAND NORTH OF THE MOOR

8.3.1 In draft version 8 of the CCNP policies CC5-CC7 read:

A residential development of up to 10 dwellings on land at The Causeway as identified on the Proposals Map will be supported subject to the following criteria:

- a) the design and layout respects or enhances the surrounding natural, built and historic environment;
- b) it can be demonstrated that the mix and tenure proposed meets an identified need; and
- c) parking provision is provided in accordance with Policy CC13.

8.3.2 It is suggested that a clause is added to each policy that states “all homes built will comply with the environmental standards in the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030 (latest version), and Natural England and the Environment Agency must be satisfied that European sites designated under European Directive (92/43/EEC) will not be adversely affected.”

### 8.4 CC12 - RESIDENTIAL PARKING IN NEW DEVELOPMENTS

8.4.1 In draft version 8 of the CCNP policy CC12 read:

The need for parking provision within new residential developments will be assessed against the Council’s Adopted Parking Standards for Sustainable Communities. Proposals should:

- a) provide sufficient parking to meet the assessed need;
- b) ensure that any additional on-street parking does not result in significant congestion for other road users or a serious threat to road safety; and
- c) avoid the creation of car-dominated environments through the appropriate location, layout and detailed design of the parking spaces.

8.4.2 It is suggested that a further clause is added that reads “surface water from new parking provision should be directed to a system where it has no detrimental impact on the natural, built and historic environment and Natural England and the Environment Agency must be satisfied that European sites designated under European Directive (92/43/EEC) will not be adversely affected.”



## 8.5 CC13 - DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY

8.5.1 In draft version 8 of the CCNP policy CC13 read:

The following projects are identified as priorities for investment in local community infrastructure:

- a) Enhancement of footpaths within the Parish with improved surfaces and lighting.
- b) Improvement of facilities at the existing playing field.
- c) Contribution to traffic surveys and implementation of improved traffic management in the village
- d) Enhancement to Community facilities
- e) Flash flooding prevention and alleviation measures
- f) Improvements to communications infrastructure.

Monies from the local element of the Community Infrastructure Levy will be applied to these various priority projects.

8.5.2 It is suggested that the following text is added to clause "e": "...measures to ensure that there are no adverse impacts on the surrounding natural, built and historic environment.

## 9 CONCLUSIONS

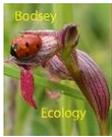
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- 9.1.1 There are likely significant effects to the European sites of Portholme SAC and The Ouse Washes SAC/SPA/Ramsar from the Carlton and Chellington Neighbourhood Plan (CCNP) but only in combination with other plans.
- 9.1.2 With alterations to the current policies in the CCNP, and by reference to policies in the Bedford Borough Local Plan to 2030, the likely significant effects can be avoided or mitigated against assuming other local plans and neighbourhood plans in the catchment of The River Great Ouse similarly avoid or mitigate against the same likely significant effects.
- 9.1.3 There is no reason arising from this Habitat Regulations Assessment to prevent the CCNP from being adopted.

## 10 REFERENCE

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Bodsey Ecology (2018). *Bedford Borough Local Plan Habitat Regulations Assessment 2018*. Accessed on 4/10/2018 at <http://edrms.bedford.gov.uk/OpenDocument.aspx?id=mWdUC1eYtKneHtAkS7KPeQ%3d%3d&name=26%20-%20Habitats%20Regulations%20Assessment%202018.pdf>



## **APPENDIX 1 – RESULTS OF THE SCREENING OF POLICIES**

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Criteria 1 and 2 : Could Likely Significant Effects Occur Because of Policy and are they Positive or Negative?								
Policy Number	Policy Title	Increased Public Recreation	Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions	Invasive non-native species	Pollution to groundwater	Reduction in water quality	Disruption to flight paths	Reason
CC1	Settlement Policy Area Boundary and Design Principles (Objectives a, b and c)	No	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	No	The sites are close to the River Great Ouse
CC2	Protection of Local Green Spaces (Objectives a and b)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No European sites close to these green spaces
CC3	Protection of Heritage Assets including Listed Buildings (Objective a)	No	No	No	No	No	No	Irrelevant to European sites
CC4	Housing Delivery (Objective f)	No	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	No	Although a very small number of dwellings, inappropriate development could have effects
CC5	Land at the Causeway (Objective f)	No	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	No	Although a very small number of dwellings, inappropriate development could have effects
CC6	Land at 55 Causeway (Objective f)	No	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	No	Although a very small number of dwellings, inappropriate development could have effects
CC7	Land north of the Moor (Objective f)	No	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	No	Although a very small number of dwellings, inappropriate development could have effects
CC8	Local Housing Needs (Objective e)	No	No	No	No	No	No	Irrelevant to European sites
CC9	Protection of Local Community Services (Objective g)	No	No	No	No	No	No	Irrelevant to European sites
CC10	The Provision of New Community Facilities (Objective g)	No	No	No	No	No	No	Irrelevant to European sites
CC11	Supporting the Development of Small Businesses (Objective h)	No	No	No	No	No	No	Irrelevant to European sites
CC12	Residential parking in new developments (Objective i)	No	Negative	No	Negative	Negative	No	Water run-off from hard standings needs to be considered
CC13	Developer Contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy (Objective j)	No	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	No	Will have positive side effects if carried out properly



Criterion 3: Does the current wording of the policy address the negative likely significant effect?				
Policy Number	Policy Title	Invasive non-native species	Pollution to groundwater	Reduction in water quality
CC1	Settlement Policy Area Boundary and Design Principles (Objectives a, b and c)	No	No	No
CC4	Housing Delivery (Objective f)	No	No	No
CC5	Land at the Causeway (Objective f)	No	No	No
CC6	Land at 55 Causeway (Objective f)	No	No	No
CC7	Land north of the Moor (Objective f)	No	No	No
CC12	Residential parking in new developments (Objective i)		No	No
CC13	Developer Contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy (Objective j)	No	No	No

Criterion 4: Does rewording of the policy address the negative likely significant effect?				
Policy Number	Policy Title	Invasive non-native species	Pollution to groundwater	Reduction in water quality
CC1	Settlement Policy Area Boundary and Design Principles (Objectives a, b and c)	Probably	Yes	Yes
CC4	Housing Delivery (Objective f)	Probably	Yes	Yes
CC5	Land at the Causeway (Objective f)	Probably	Yes	Yes
CC6	Land at 55 Causeway (Objective f)	Probably	Yes	Yes
CC7	Land north of the Moor (Objective f)	Probably	Yes	Yes
CC12	Residential parking in new developments (Objective i)		Yes	Yes
CC13	Developer Contributions and Community Infrastructure Levy (Objective j)	Probably	Yes	Yes