

Appendix N - Review of planning policies, programmes and projects, as well as legislation and guidance, relevant to the Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
International		
The Environment Act 1995 (HMSO, 1995)	Created by the Environment Agency and sets new legislation for environmental protection.	We have taken account of the duties and powers resulting from these Acts and Directives during development of the Scheme.
Environmental Protection Act 1990	Promotes good air quality through the Local Authority Air Pollution Control (LAAPC) system.	
Shellfish Waters Directive 79/923/ECC.	This sets water quality standards to protect or improve areas where shellfish grow and reproduce.	
Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act (SAFFA) 1975 and Salmon Act 1986	The Environment Agency has a duty of care to maintain, improve and develop salmon, trout, freshwater fish and eel fisheries.	
EU Floods Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks	This Directive requires member states to assess if all watercourses and coastlines are at risk of flooding, to map the flood extent and assets and humans at risk in these areas, and to take adequate co-ordinated measures to reduce this flood risk.	
EC Nitrates Directive 91/676/EC	Measures are implemented to reduce nitrate pollution from agricultural sources and to prevent it recurring.	
Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC Transposed into English law via the Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003 (SI 3242)	Prevents deterioration of aquatic ecosystems and associated wetland by setting out a timetable until 2027 to achieve good ecological status or potential. The Water Framework Directive (WFD) requires Member States to manage the effects on the ecological quality of water which result from changes to the physical characteristics of water bodies. It requires action in those cases where these “hydro-morphological” pressures are having an ecological impact which will interfere with our ability to achieve WFD objectives. The scheme will promote sustainable management of the water environment by carefully considering current land use and future climate scenarios, to minimise the effects of flooding and drought events and to facilitate long term improvements in water quality, including the protection of groundwater near landfill sites and minimise agricultural runoff.	A WFD compliance assessment has been carried out to ensure that the proposals do not compromise the objectives of the WFD, and contribute to achieving its aims.
The Habitats Directive 92/43/EC Transposed into English law via the Conservation of Habitats and	The Directive lists a number of species and habitats which are to be protected by means of a network of sites across Europe. Once identified and adopted, these sites are known as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs). The Habitats Directive introduces for the first time for protected areas, the precautionary principle; that is that projects can only be permitted having ascertained no adverse	A HRA Screening Assessment has been prepared.

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
International		
Species Regulations (2010) (SI 490).	<p>effect on the integrity of the site. Projects may still be permitted if there are no alternatives, and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In such cases compensation measures will be necessary to ensure the overall integrity of network of sites. As a consequence of amendments to the Birds Directive these measures are to be applied to SPAs also.</p> <p>Article 10 requires that linear structures such as rivers/streams, hedgerows, field boundaries, ponds, etc., that enable movement and migration of species should be preserved.</p>	
<p>The Birds Directive 2009/147/EC</p> <p>In England the Directive is transposed into national law through the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) (SI 490).</p>	<p>Requirements of the Birds Directive include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of the favourable conservation status of all wild bird species across their distributional range (Article 2) with the encouragement of various activities to that end (Article 3); • Identification and classification of Special Protection Areas for rare and vulnerable species listed in the Directive; • Establishment of a general scheme for the protection of wild bird species (Article 5). 	
European Landscape Convention (ELC) Council of Europe, 2000	<p>The European Landscape Convention - also known as the Florence Convention, after the city where the convention was adopted - promotes the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and organises European co-operation on landscape issues.</p> <p>The ELC, which was signed by the UK in February 2006 and became binding in 2007, is the first international convention to focus specifically on landscape issues and aims to protect, manage and plan landscapes in Europe. The ELC defines landscape as: 'An area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors.'</p>	The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Scheme gives due consideration to the impacts of the proposed works on the landscape and the finishes applied to modified structures.
Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979	This Act (amended by the National Heritage Acts of 1983 and 2002) provides for the protection of Scheduled Monuments and Archaeological Areas, but does not afford any protection to their settings.	Due to the historic significance of Oxford, consideration has been given to the impacts of flooding on Scheduled Monuments and archaeological areas during the EIA

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
International		
Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013	This deregulatory legislation allows greater authority to local authorities in respect of Listed Building Consent. It also allows greater definition of a Listed Building by allowing the exclusion of attached buildings and structures and those within the curtilage of the principal Listed Building from protection. It states that a certificate of immunity from listing may be applied for at any time and it replaced Conservation Area Consent with planning permission.	Due to the historic significance of Oxford, consideration has been given to the impacts of flooding on historic properties and Conservation Areas during the EIA.
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990	The Town and Country Planning Act (1971) as amended by the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas Act) 1990 details the statutory protection afforded listed buildings. The relevant legislation in this case extends from Section 66 (1) of the 1990 Act which states that in considering planning applications the Local Planning Authority (LPA) shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the Listed Building or its setting, or any features of special architectural or historic interest that it possesses. In addition, Section 72 of the 1990 Act states that in exercising all planning functions, LPAs must have special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing Conservation Areas.	
Directive 2006/44/EC on the Quality of Fresh Waters Needing Protection or Improvement in Order to Support Fish Life EC, 2006	This Directive concerns the quality of fresh waters and applies to waters designated by the Member States as needing protection or improvement in order to support fish life. The aim of the Directive is to protect or improve the quality of those running or standing fresh waters which support, or which, if pollution were reduced or eliminated, would become capable of supporting, fish belonging to: (a) indigenous species offering a natural diversity; (b) species the presence of which is judged desirable for water management purposes by the competent authorities of the Member States.	The Scheme takes into consideration any designated waterbodies, as part of the WFD assessment.

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
National		
Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended 2012)	The Regulations provide for the designation and protection of European sites, the protection of European protected species, and the adaptation of planning and other controls for the protection of European Sites. The Regulations require competent authorities to consider or review planning permission, applied for or granted, affecting a European site, and, subject to certain exceptions, restrict or revoke permission where the integrity of the site would be adversely affected.	A HRA Screening Assessment has been undertaken with regard to the potential for likely significant effects on Oxford Meadows Special Area of Conservation (SAC).
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended); CRoW Act 2000	The purpose of the Act is to create a new statutory right of access on foot to certain types of open land, to modernise the public rights of way system, to strengthen nature conservation legislation, and to facilitate better management of AONBs. Government departments are required to have regard for biodiversity in carrying out its functions, and to take positive steps to further the conservation of listed species and habitats. The protection of SSSIs, already established in the Wildlife and Countryside Act, is strengthened giving greater power to Natural England. Local Authorities have a statutory duty to further the conservation and enhancement of SSSIs both in carrying out their operations, and in exercising their decision-making functions. The Act strengthens legal protection for threatened species and assists in bringing offenders to justice, and provides for stronger penalties.	The development of the proposed Scheme considers the designated sites, protected species and habitats present within the study area and strives to ensure that they are adequately protected.
Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations 2003 (SI 3242)	The Water Environment Regulations implement the requirements of the WFD – see WFD (International).	A WFD compliance assessment has been carried out for the Scheme to ensure that the proposals do not compromise the objectives of the WFD, and contribute to achieving its aims.
Flood and Water Management Act 2010	This Act will provide better, more comprehensive management of flood risk for people, homes and businesses.	We have taken account of the duties and powers resulting from this Act during development of the Scheme.
Water for people and the environment – the Environment Agency Water Resource Strategy for England and Wales (2009)	<p>The water resources strategy sets out how the Environment Agency considers water resources should be managed within the frameworks set out by Defra in its water strategy for England 'Future Water', and in Wales, the Welsh Assembly Government's 'Environment Strategy for Wales'. The strategy seeks to achieve these aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Environment Agency is able to manage water resources and protect the water environment in the face of climate change; • species and habitats that depend on water are restored, protected, improved and valued; 	We have taken account of the strategy during development of the Scheme.

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
National		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • good water management contributes to sustainable development by supporting people and the economy in an improved environment; • people value water and enjoy their water environment and understand how it contributes to their quality of life. 	
Flood Risk Regulations (2009)	The regulations place a duty on the Environment Agency and lead local flood authorities to prepare preliminary assessment maps and reports in relation to river basin districts and flooding within any given local authority area. It also places a duty on the Environment Agency and lead local flood authorities to identify flood risk areas and prepare flood risk management plans.	We have taken account of these regulations during development of the Scheme.
National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021 (Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC))	<p>The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out Government planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and that a presumption in favour of sustainable development is at the heart of the NPPF. It sets out 14 core planning principles that underpin both plan-making and decision-taking, including that planning should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be genuinely plan-led, and plans should be kept up-to-date; • Aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places; • Support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change; • Contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment; and • Conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. <p>The NPPF seeks to promote growth whilst creating a high-quality environment underpinned by vibrant communities.</p> <p>Paragraph 174 of Section 15 of the NPPF, <i>Conserving and enhancing the natural environment</i>, states that the planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by, amongst others, <i>'protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils;'</i>.</p> <p>Of particular importance to the EIA are Sections 15 and 16. Section 15 seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect and enhance valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils; • recognise the wider benefits of ecosystem services; 	<p>We have considered the following policies within the NPPF during the development and design of the Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 4 Outlines that “all developments that generate significant amounts of movement should be supported by a Transport Statement or Transport Assessment”; • Section 7 requires good design –a key aspect of sustainable development and indivisible from good planning. It should not only enhance the aesthetic appearance of the development but ensure that the development functions well and creates safe and accessible environments for all; • Section 8 promotes healthy communities – developments can contribute towards promoting healthy communities

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
National		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • minimise impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures; • prevent both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability; and • remediate and mitigate despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate. <p>Section 16 of the NPPF contains paragraphs which relate to development proposals that have an effect upon the historic environment. Such policies provide the framework that LPAs need to refer to when setting out a strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment in their Local Plans.</p> <p>Paragraph 194 states that in determining applications, LPAs should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum, the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary.</p> <p>Paragraph 199 states that where a development is proposed that would affect the significance of a designated heritage asset, great weight should be given to the asset's conservation and that the greater an asset's significance, the greater this weight should be.</p> <p>Paragraph 201 states that where a development would lead to substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that such harm is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits or certain criteria are met.</p> <p>Paragraph 202 states that where a proposed development will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this should be weighed against the public benefits of the scheme, bearing in mind the great weight highlighted in Paragraph 132.</p>	<p>by providing safe environments with good access while protecting and enhancing walking and cycling routes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 9 states that “the Government attaches great importance to Green Belt. Within the NPPF, the fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to “prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence.” • Section 10 meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change – This includes using opportunities offered by new development to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding and safeguarding land that is required for current and future flood management; • Section 11 seeks to protect and enhance natural landscapes, and improve biodiversity (see further detail); • Section 12 seeks to conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance (see further detail);

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
National		
	<p>Paragraph 203 states that where a proposal will affect a non-designated heritage asset, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.</p> <p>Paragraph 206 states that local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas that enhance or better reveal their significance.</p> <p>Paragraph 207 states that the loss of a building or feature that makes a positive contribution to the significance of a Conservation Area should be treated as either substantial harm (under Paragraph 201) or less than substantial harm (under Paragraph 202) taking into account the relative significance of the element affected and its contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area as a whole.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Section 13 requires Local Authorities, when preparing Local Plans to define Minerals Safeguarding Areas and adopt appropriate policies in order that known locations of specific minerals resources of local and national importance are not needlessly sterilised by non-mineral development, whilst not creating a presumption that resources defined will be worked; and define Minerals Consultation Areas based on these Minerals Safeguarding Areas.
<p>Planning Practice Guidance – Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC)</p>	<p>Guidance and advice on how the risks associated with flooding can be taken into account in plan-making and the planning application process is provided in the Flood Risk and Coastal Change section of the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government’s document, which was launched on 6 March 2014.</p> <p>PPG reiterates NPPF requirements to protect people and property from flooding, including assessing flood risk by undertaking a Strategic FRA to inform Local Plan preparation and applying the ‘Sequential Test’ and, if necessary, the ‘Exception Test’ to steer development to areas where the risk of flooding, from all sources, is lowest and will not increase flood risk overall. Where appropriate to achieve sustainable development, PPG also supports the management and mitigation of flood risk. Further scheme-specific information relating to the assessment in relation to the Sequential Test and the Exception Test is included in the FRA that accompanies the Planning Application.</p> <p>Other relevant topics for the proposed Scheme include: Design - This guidance provides advice on the key points to take into account on design.</p>	<p>The proposed Scheme has been designed taking account of the requirements of the guidance, and appropriate mitigation will be provided as part of the works.</p>

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
National		
	<p>Natural Environment - Explains key issues in implementing policy to protect biodiversity, including guidance on biodiversity net gain and the metric to use to calculate the biodiversity net gain of a project.</p> <p>Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment - The guidance states ‘the conservation of heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance is a core planning principle. Heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and effective conservation delivers wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits’. The guidance provides information for the identification and assessment of heritage assets.</p> <p>Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space - Outlines that open space can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby; have an ecological value and contribute to green infrastructure.</p>	
UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework (2012)	The 'UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework' succeeded the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) in July 2012. The post-2010 framework is underpinned by the biodiversity and environment strategies of the four countries of the UK and sets out their common purpose and shared priorities. The UKBAP list of priority species, however, remains as a reference source and has been used to help draw up statutory lists of priorities. NERC Act Section 41 habitats and species in England are those that were identified as requiring action in the UK BAP.	The proposed Scheme provides an integrated biodiversity and flood defence design.
Nature Positive 2030	This report sets out how the UK can meet its commitments in the Leaders’ Pledge for Nature and ensure that nature’s recovery plays a critical role in the path to Net Zero. Nature 2030 sets out the priority actions and achievable steps for becoming “Nature Positive” – reversing biodiversity decline – by 2030.	Any habitats lost as a result of the Scheme will be offset by the creation of new habitats. Habitat and protected species surveys have been carried out, which have informed further surveys, the design of the scheme and mitigation.
The Environment Act 2021	<p>An Act to make provision about targets, plans and policies for improving the natural environment; for statements and reports about environmental protection; for the Office for Environmental Protection; about waste and resource efficiency; about air quality; for the recall of products that fail to meet environmental standards; about water; about nature and biodiversity; for conservation covenants; about the regulation of chemicals; and for connected purposes. In relation to development and this scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity Net Gain - All new development will be obliged to demonstrate a 10% biodiversity net gain (BNG). On sites where BNG is secured, it would have to be managed for at least 30 years. 	

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
National		
Biodiversity 2020: A Strategy for England's Wildlife and Ecosystem Services	<p>This biodiversity strategy for England builds on the Natural Environment White Paper and provides a comprehensive picture of how the government is implementing its international and EU commitments. It sets out the strategic direction for biodiversity policy for the next decade on land (including rivers and lakes) and at sea.</p> <p><u>This strategy is to be replaced by a new biodiversity strategy by autumn 2022.</u></p>	
The Natural Environment White Paper: The Natural Choice	<p>The document sets out the government vision for the natural environment in England for the next 50 years. It aims to improve the quality of the natural environment, halt the decline in habitats and species and strengthen the connection between people and nature to be achieved through its four key ambitions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. protecting and improving the natural environment; 2. growing a green economy; 3. reconnecting people and nature; and 4. international and EU leadership. 	
<p><u>National Landscape Character Areas</u> http://www.natural-england.org.uk/ourwork/landscape/englands/character/areas/default.aspx)</p>	<p>Identifies and describes character of England in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness of diversity of countryside; • Increase understanding of what contributes to the character and what may influence it in the future; and • Encourage public awareness and understanding. <p>The Character of England Landscape, Wildlife and Cultural Features Map produced in 2005 by Natural England with support from English Heritage, was an update to the 1996 map. This map subdivides England into 159 NCAs, it provides a picture of the differences in landscape character at the national scale.</p>	The countryside character of the study area has been defined with reference to National Character Areas.
UK Climate Change Programme: Tomorrow's Climate Today's Challenge (Defra, 2006)	<p>This programme builds on the 2000 climate change programme and contains further commitments to help achieve national and international goals towards combating the impacts of climate change. Among measures set out to deliver emission reductions the programme sets out measures to adapt to climate change. Within this it sets out the need to raise awareness in the land management sector of the risks, responsibilities and opportunities of climate change.</p> <p>The Government will put in place a sector specific communications strategy and the Rural Climate Change Forum, will be invited to advise on the delivery of this communications strategy.</p>	The Scheme aims to minimise its carbon footprint wherever possible.

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
National		
	<p>The Forum will aim to; identify, propose and promote practical actions and policy options, including the uptake of research findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – to reduce and offset greenhouse emissions from rural land uses; – on adaptation measures for rural land uses (including for conservation purposes and new agricultural uses); and – on the potential for managing the impacts of climate change, e.g. Flooding, through changed land management practices. 	
<p>Securing the Future – Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy (HM Government, 2005) http://www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/publications/uk-strategy/index.htm</p>	<p>This strategy sets out the Government approach to sustainable development and new shared priorities agreed across the UK. It sets out ways in which to adapt to climate change, one of which is to research the effects of climate change, particularly flood and coastal management sectors. It also sets out that in line with national planning policy guidance, there will be flood risk assessments for publicly funded developments and new flood defence schemes; and integrated water management studies.</p>	<p>The Scheme considers the approach set out in this government strategy.</p>
<p>Conservation Principles Consultation Draft (Historic England 2017) [Conservation Principles 2008 (English Heritage)]</p>	<p>This document, which updates and revises the 2008 English Heritage Conservation Principles, provides a guide to Historic England’s advice and decisions affecting the conservation of England’s heritage. They help to ensure that Historic England approaches the management of the historic environment in a transparent, logical and consistent manner.</p>	<p>These principles have been used to assess the significance of the cultural heritage impacts.</p>
<p>Historic England (2015) Good Practice Advice Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment</p>	<p>This advice note provides information to assist local authorities, planning and other consultants, owners, applicants and other interested parties in implementing historic environment policy in the NPPF and the related guidance given in the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG). These include; assessing the significance of heritage assets, using appropriate expertise, historic environment records, recording and furthering understanding, neglect and unauthorised works, marketing and design and distinctiveness.</p>	<p>The Scheme considers the advice set out in HE’s note.</p>
<p>Flooding and Historic Buildings (English Heritage 2007)</p>	<p>This guidance is designed to assist those who live in, own or manage historic buildings that are threatened by flooding.</p>	<p>The Scheme considers the advice set out in this English Heritage document.</p>

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
Regional		
<p>Environment Agency River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) (Thames) - 2009</p>	<p>The Thames Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP) is one of 77 CFMPs prepared by the Environment Agency for England and Wales. CFMPs outline the scale and extent of flooding now and in the future, and set policies for managing flood risk within the catchment. CFMPs should be used to inform planning and decision making by key stakeholders.</p> <p>The proposed scheme falls under sub area 8: Heavily populated floodplain (Abingdon, Byfleet and Weybridge, Guildford, Hoe Stream, Lower Lee, Lower Roding, Lower Thames, Oxford, Reading).</p> <p>These sub-areas contain 10% (170km²) of the total area of floodplain within the Thames CFMP but have 40% (56,000 properties with a 1% risk of flooding from rivers) of the properties at risk. The CFMP states that “This figure is estimated to increase by between 5% and 25% in the future due to the impacts of climate change as most of these areas are in wide flat floodplains of major rivers... The flood risk is concentrated in known locations and problems with flooding from rivers are well documented. Large scale interventions will be expensive and difficult to build and maintain.”</p> <p>In all of these areas, the most sustainable way of reducing flood risk will be through floodplain management. Proposed actions to implement the preferred policy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “We will deliver the actions recommended in Flood Risk Management Strategies for Oxford, the Lower Lee, the Wey and Lower Thames once they are approved. • In the short-term, we will encourage partners to develop policies, strategies and initiatives to increase the resistance and resilience of all new development at risk of flooding. We will also look at protecting land that may be needed to manage flood risk in the future, and work with partners to identify opportunities for this and to recreate river corridors in urban areas. • In the longer-term, we need land and property owners to adapt the urban environment to be more flood resilient. This includes the refurbishment of existing buildings to increase resilience and resistance to flooding. • We need to promote the management of flood consequences. By working with our partners we will improve public awareness and local emergency planning, for example identifying critical infrastructure at risk and producing community flood plans.” 	<p>The proposed scheme lies within the Thames RBD. Our proposals will address flood risk issues and protect homes and businesses from flooding, reducing flood risk.</p>
<p>Defra Outcome Measures</p>	<p>Outcome Measures (OM) for flood and coastal erosion risk management provide greater clarity on what policies and funding for flood and coastal erosion risk management are intended to achieve. Measures are as follows:</p>	<p>The scheme considers the Defra Outcome Measures, particularly Measures 4 during its development, and</p>

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
Regional	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OM1 - Overall benefits of flood and coastal erosion risk management activities in monetary terms. • OM2 - The number of households that would be better protected against flood erosion risk today and in 2040. • OM3 - The number of households that would be better protected against coastal erosion risk. • OM4 – Where the gain in the size and condition of specified habitats and watercourses that can be realised alongside managing flooding and coastal erosion risks. <p>In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proportion of households and businesses in high risk areas that are offered the Flood Warnings Direct service and have registered to receive warnings. • Percentage of Local Resilience Forum emergency response plans that are considered by the Environment Agency to satisfactorily address flood risk. • The number of households covered by planning consents which have been granted despite Environment Agency objections on flood risk grounds. • Long term policies and action plans : percentage of Catchment Flood Management Plans and Shoreline Management Plans that have been signed off 	<p>provides direct contributions through the creation of watercourses, ponds, woodland, wetlands and wet grassland and lowland grassland.</p>

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
Local		
<p>Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan Part 1 – Core Strategy (September 2017 adopted) (Oxfordshire County Council)</p>	<p>The County Council is responsible for minerals and waste planning in Oxfordshire and has reviewed the planning policies for mineral working and waste management. The new Oxfordshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan will comprise: Part 1 – Core Strategy; and Part 2 – Site Allocations (yet to be prepared).</p> <p>The Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Part 1 – Core Strategy (referred to as ‘the Core Strategy’) provides the planning strategies and policies for the development that will be needed for the supply of minerals and management of waste in Oxfordshire over the period to the end of 2031. The following policies included within the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy are of particular relevance to the Scheme:</p> <p>Policy M2: Provision for working aggregate minerals. This policy identifies the requirements for minerals landbanks</p> <p>Policy M3: Minerals identifies the strategic resource areas within which it is proposed that future working for sharp sand and gravel, soft sand and crushed rock should take place.</p> <p>Policy M5: Working Aggregate Materials. This relates to permission to work aggregate minerals.</p> <p>Policy M10: Restoration of minerals working. Requires that mineral workings be restored to a high standard and in a timely and phased manner to an after-use that is appropriate to the location and delivers a net gain in biodiversity.</p> <p>Policy W3: Waste. Chapter 5 of the Minerals and Waste Core Strategy outlines the proposed waste planning strategy. It outlines that the Council wants to promote and enable the movement of waste up the waste management hierarchy, away from landfill and towards increased re-use, recycling, composting and recovery of resources from waste.</p> <p>Policy W6: Landfill and other permanent deposit of waste to land. Relates to the provision of landfill and other permanent deposits of waste which includes for disposal of Oxfordshire’s non-hazardous waste, which will be made at existing non-hazardous landfill facilities.</p> <p>Policy W11: Safeguarded Waste. This states that the Site Allocations will identify sites that will be safeguarded for waste management use for the duration of their planning permission.</p> <p>Policy C1: Sustainable Development. This policy requires that a positive approach will be taken to minerals and waste development in Oxfordshire, reflecting the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the NPPF and the aim to improve economic, social and environmental conditions of the area.</p> <p>Policy C2: Climate Change. Requires proposals for minerals or waste development, including restoration proposals, should take account of climate change for the lifetime of the development from construction through operation and decommissioning.</p>	<p>Our Scheme takes account of the Policies, which have been assessed in the Planning Statement.</p>

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
Local		
	<p>Policy C3: Flooding: Requires minerals and waste development to where possible, take place in areas with the lowest probability of flooding. Where development takes place in an area of identified flood risk this should only be where alternative locations in areas of lower flood risk have been explored and discounted (using the Sequential Test and Exceptions Test as necessary) and where a flood risk assessment is able to demonstrate that the risk of flooding is not increased from any source</p> <p>Policy C4: Water. States that <i>“Proposals for minerals and waste development will need to demonstrate that there would be no unacceptable adverse impact on or risk to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The quantity or quality of surface or groundwater resources required for habitats, wildlife and human activities;</i> • <i>The quantity or quality of water obtained through abstraction unless acceptable provision can be made;</i> • <i>The flow of groundwater at or in the vicinity of the site; and</i> • <i>Waterlogged archaeological remains.</i> <p><i>Proposals for minerals and waste development should ensure that the River Thames and other watercourses and canals of significant landscape, nature conservation, or amenity value are adequately protected from unacceptable adverse impacts.”</i></p> <p>Policy C5: Local Environment, amenity and the economy. Requires that proposals for minerals and waste development shall demonstrate that they will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the local environment; • human health and safety; • residential amenity and other sensitive receptors; and • the local economy. <p>Policy C6: Agricultural Land and Soils. Requires that proposals for minerals and waste development shall demonstrate that they take into account the presence of any best and most versatile agricultural land. Significant development leading to the permanent loss of best and most versatile agricultural land will only be permitted where it can be shown that there is a need for the development which cannot reasonably be met using lower grade land and where all options for reinstatement without loss of quality have been considered taking into account other relevant considerations.</p> <p>Policy C7 Biodiversity and Geodiversity. The general thrust of this policy is that minerals and waste development should conserve and, where possible, deliver a net gain in biodiversity.</p> <p>Policy C8: Landscape. Proposals for minerals and waste development shall demonstrate that they respect and where possible enhance local landscape character, and are informed by landscape character assessment.</p>	

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
Local		
	<p>Proposals shall include adequate and appropriate measures to mitigate adverse impacts on landscape, including careful siting, design and landscaping. Where significant adverse impacts cannot be avoided or adequately mitigated, compensatory environmental enhancements shall be made to offset the residual landscape and visual impacts.</p> <p>Policy C9:Historic Environment and Archaeology. States that “proposals for minerals and waste development will not be permitted unless it is demonstrated, including where necessary through prior investigation, that they or associated activities will not have an unacceptable adverse impact on the historic environment.”</p> <p>Policy C10:Transport. States that “Minerals and waste development will be expected to make provision for safe and suitable access to the advisory lorry routes shown on the Oxfordshire Lorry Route Maps in ways that maintain and, if possible, lead to improvements in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the safety of all road users including pedestrians; • the efficiency and quality of the road network; and • residential and environmental amenity, including air quality. “ <p>Policy C11: Rights of Way. This policy seeks to maintain the integrity and amenity value of the rights of way network shall be maintained and, if possible, it shall be retained in situ in safe and useable condition. Diversions should be safe, attractive and convenient and, if temporary, shall be reinstated as soon as possible</p> <p>Policy C12: Green Belt. Proposals that constitute inappropriate development in the Green Belt, will not be permitted except in very special circumstances. ‘Very special circumstances’ will not exist unless the potential harm to the Green Belt by reason of inappropriateness, and any other harm, is clearly outweighed by other considerations.</p>	
Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan 4 2015-2031 (September 2013, Updated 2016). Connecting Oxfordshire	<p>The Oxfordshire Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) 2015-2031 has the following goals, which could be achieved through improvements to transport networks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support jobs and housing growth and economic vitality; • To support the transition to a low carbon future; • To support social inclusion and equality of opportunity; • To protect and where possible enhance Oxfordshire’s environment and improve quality of life; and • To improve public health, safety and individual wellbeing. 	<p>The completed Scheme will support the LTP4 Active Health and Travel Strategy, which sets out ambitions for walking, cycling and Door to Door integrated travel.</p> <p>The proposed Scheme will increase the resilience of nearby transport infrastructure, including</p>

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
Local		
		the Oxford to Didcot rail line.
Oxfordshire County Council Minerals and Waste Level 1 SFRA (2015)	<p>This document was prepared after an agreement made between Oxfordshire County Council and the Environment Agency. The most up to date flood risk information from fluvial, surface water and groundwater sources has been collated and analysed to provide a high level overview of flood risk to the broad areas identified for mineral extraction and strategic/non-strategic waste facilities.</p> <p>This SFRA is used by Oxfordshire County Council as the Minerals and Waste Planning Authority to inform decisions regarding mineral and waste site allocations and policies. The SFRA should be used as an evidence base from which to direct new development where possible to areas of low flood risk, and where development cannot be located in Flood Zone 1, the SFRA flood maps should be used to apply the sequential approach to the remaining land use allocations.</p>	Our Scheme is in line with the principles of this document, as set out in the Planning Statement.
Oxfordshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy – Oxfordshire County Council	<p>As the Lead Local Flood Authority, Oxfordshire County Council has new roles and responsibilities, duties and powers to enable it to manage flood risk from localised sources across the County and a duty to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management that encompasses all sources of flooding. The strategy is outlined within the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS).</p> <p>In general terms, the Flood and Water Management Act (2010) requires Risk Management Authorities to act consistently with the LFRMS when undertaking flood risk management functions, except for water companies who will need to have regard to it.</p> <p>The LFRMS states that “The prevention of flooding to properties in Oxfordshire cannot be eliminated, however, by working collaboratively with our partner organisations we can seek to reduce the effects of flooding and the damage it causes...</p> <p>This risk can be minimised with better responses and reduced impacts by working with the correct agencies and utility companies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major permanent flood alleviation projects – Government & Environment Agency main responsible bodies, with local flood risk authorities as main local stakeholders. • Planned large scale temporary demountable flood defences (e.g. Osney Island) – Environment Agency, with local flood risk authorities as main local stakeholders. 	Our proposals address flood risk in Oxford and the OFAS is a partnership scheme, as outlined in the LFRMS. It is in line with the general aims of the Oxfordshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy.

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
Local		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smaller scale temporary demountable flood defences (e.g. Bullstake Close, Oxford off the A420 at Botley) – OCC & district councils, with local residents as main stakeholders.” 	
Revised Oxfordshire Statement of Community Involvement (March 2020) – Oxfordshire County Council.	<p>The Oxfordshire Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) sets out the County Council’s policy, and the standards it will seek to achieve, to ensure meaningful and effective consultation, engagement and involvement of consultees, stakeholders and other interested members of the community in the consideration of planning applications for mineral, waste and County Council developments that are determined by the County Council. It states that where a proposal is likely to have an impact on local communities, the SCI encourages applicants to liaise with those communities as early as possible. By engaging the public prior to formally submitting a planning application, there is more scope for the details of the proposals to be adjusted to take into account local views. The applicant also has a role in helping the public to fully understand proposals, as having a good knowledge of what is being proposed is essential for effective participation in the consultation process.</p>	<p>Our approach to date has followed the principles set out in the document. Further appraisal of our scheme against the SCI is contained within our own SCI document, setting out how the scheme has complied with this and the consultation taken to date and its influence on proposals.</p>
Oxford Local Plan 2016 – 2036 – Oxford City Council	<p>The Local Plan is the principal document in Oxford’s Local Development Framework (LDF). It sets out the scale and general location of future development, and policies to deliver the vision and objectives until 2036. The Local Plan forms the starting point for determining planning applications within Oxford City.</p> <p>The Local Plan acknowledges the pressures and challenges Oxford faces and that it will continue to grow and develop. It states ‘This growth will be associated with a liveable and sustainable environment that balances economic, social and environmental needs, ensuring that the city remains a highly desirable place to live, work and visit.’ Our proposals support this ambition aiding the City to be more resilient to climate change.</p> <p>Policy S1: Presumption in favour of sustainable development. The presumption in favour of sustainable development set out in this policy reflects the NPPF. As set out above in section 5.2 the scheme delivers on all 3 of the sustainable development objectives.</p> <p>Policy E1: Employment sites. This policy relates to the intensification and redevelopment of employment sites. The scheme does not negatively impact on existing employment sites but by reducing the flood risk to the city</p>	<p>Our Scheme takes account of the Local Plan and its policies have been assessed in the Planning Statement.</p> <p>Our Scheme has been designed to minimise impacts on the landscape and Green Belt.</p> <p>A Green Belt Statement is included within Section 6 of the Planning Statement.</p>

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
Local		
	<p>centre and the main road and rail routes into Oxford, it provides a positive benefit for employment in general. The scheme will help to keep Oxford open and reduce the flood risk to business premises.</p> <p>Policy RE1: Sustainable design and construction. This policy is wide ranging and encourages sustainable construction principles in the design and construction of development, where appropriate.</p> <p>The design of the scheme is passive requiring little maintenance when operational. We have reviewed how we can reduce the carbon footprint in constructing and maintaining the scheme. We are reusing as much of the excavated materials on site in construction of the new stream and the earth embankments and we are providing biodiversity mitigation with an overall biodiversity net gain.</p> <p>Policy RE2: Efficient use of Land. The principle of this policy applies to built development and encourages densities and scales appropriate to the site and type of development. It states 'Development proposals must make best use of site capacity, in a manner compatible with the site itself, the surrounding area and broader considerations of the needs of Oxford.' Our scheme, by its very nature as a flood alleviation scheme, covers a large area using the land efficiently to provide the benefit of reduced flood risk and the mitigation required associated with the proposals.</p> <p>Policy RE3: Flood Risk Management. Paragraph 4.13 acknowledges "<i>a considerable proportion of Oxford is at some risk of flooding. Large parts of the built-up areas in South and West Oxford and Lower Wolvercote currently have a 1% or greater annual risk of flooding (Zone 3).</i>" The Local Plan goes on to introduce the scheme in Paragraph 4.18 which states "<i>The Oxford Flood Alleviation Scheme, a partnership project¹⁵, will help to convey water away from development infrastructure and will help greatly in reducing flooding in the most at risk areas. It will bring considerable benefits to the city in terms of reduced risk of flooding to homes, businesses, major roads and the railway.</i>"</p> <p>The proposed scheme is designated as Flood Zone 3 as shown on the Environment Agency's Flood Maps for Planning. Policy RE3 is intended for built development such as residential and commercial setting out the requirements for proposals. Of relevance to this scheme it states "<i>Planning applications for development within Flood Zone 2, 3 and must be accompanied by a Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) to align with National Policy. The FRA must be undertaken in accordance with up to date flood data, national and local guidance on flooding and consider flooding from all sources.</i>"</p>	

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
Local		
	<p>The FRA accompanying this planning application takes into account the requirements as set out in policy RE3 and demonstrates that the scheme does not result in increased flood risk elsewhere. The FRA addresses measures to prevent flood risk within Oxford from being elevated during the construction period.</p> <p>Policy RE4: Sustainable and foul drainage, surface and groundwater flow. Surface and ground water are considered within the Flood Risk Assessment submitted as part of the planning application for this scheme.</p> <p>Policy RE 6: Air Quality. This policy details that where significant earthworks are proposed as part of a development a dust assessment will be required as part of any wider Air Quality Assessment. For this scheme there are potential impacts on air quality, particularly during the construction process, including dust and issues generated by traffic. We have worked closely with the Local Authorities, particularly after the pre-application comments were received, in order to ensure that the impacts are as small as possible. Best practice mitigation measures will be implemented as set out in the CEMP which will be implemented to be agreed prior to construction, as well as tight controls on types and routes of vehicles. The ES considers the impact on air quality to be negligible once mitigation is in place.</p> <p>Policy RE 7: Managing the Impact of Development</p> <p>Policy RE7 states:</p> <p><i>“Planning permission will only be granted for development that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) ensures that the amenity of communities, occupiers and neighbours is protected; and</i> <i>b) does not have unacceptable transport impacts affecting communities, occupiers, neighbours and the existing transport network; and</i> <i>c) provides mitigation measures where necessary. The factors the City Council will consider in determining compliance with the above elements of this policy include:</i> <i>d) visual privacy, outlook;</i> <i>e) sunlight, daylight and overshadowing;</i> <i>f) artificial lighting levels;</i> 	

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
Local		
	<p>g) <i>transport impacts;</i></p> <p>h) <i>impacts of the construction phase, including the assessment of these impacts within the Construction Management Plans;</i></p> <p>i) <i>odour fumes and dust;</i></p> <p>j) <i>microclimate;</i></p> <p>k) <i>contaminated land; and</i></p> <p>l) <i>impact upon water and wastewater infrastructure.”</i></p> <p>Our proposals fully comply with all relevant elements of this policy. Our Environmental Statement submitted alongside this planning application provides the assessment of the impacts and where these are unavoidable and mitigation proposed. A Construction Management Plan will be developed by the contractor closer to construction starting.</p> <p>Policy RE 8: Noise and Vibration. Within this policy it states “<i>Planning permission will only be granted for development proposals which manage noise to safeguard or improve amenity, health, and quality of life. Planning permission will not be granted for development that will generate unacceptable noise and vibration impacts.</i>”</p> <p>Once our scheme is built and is operational it will produce no noise. That said there will be some noise during construction, but this will be minimised and mitigated as appropriate.</p> <p>Policy RE 9: Land Quality. This policy sets out the requirements if development is proposed on land affected by contamination. The scheme proposals run through an historic landfill site just south of Old Abingdon Road. A separate contamination report is submitted as part of the planning application which outlines the findings of the relevant assessments and mitigation. Material excavated from these areas will be taken from site and disposed in an appropriate active landfill site.</p> <p>Policy G 1: Protection of Green and Blue Infrastructure Network. This policy states: “<i>Green and open spaces and waterways of the Green and Blue Infrastructure Network are protected for their social, environmental and economic functions and are defined on the Policies Map. Planning permission will not be granted for</i></p>	

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
Local		
	<p><i>development that would result in harm to the Green and Blue Infrastructure network, except where it is in accordance with policies G2- G8.”</i></p> <p>Our proposal recognises the importance of the existing green and blue infrastructure network and adds to the network with the provision of a new stream and associated wetland habitats to the west of Oxford.</p> <p>Policy G 2: Protection of Biodiversity and Geodiversity. This policy gives protection to sites and species important for biodiversity and geodiversity outlining the hierarchy of species and site protection but also recognising the importance of local biodiversity not protected by designation in its own right. Where impacts on biodiversity are unavoidable the policy states <i>“Compensation and mitigation measures must offset the loss and achieve an overall net gain for biodiversity. For all major developments proposed on greenfield sites or brownfield sites that have become vegetated, this should be measured through use of a recognised biodiversity calculator. To demonstrate an overall net gain for biodiversity, the biodiversity calculator should demonstrate an improvement of 5% or more from the existing situation. Offsetting measures are likely to include identification of appropriate off- site locations/projects for improvement, which should be within the relevant Conservation Target Area if appropriate, or within the locality of the site. When assessing whether a site is suitable for compensation, consideration will be given to the access, enjoyment and connection to nature that the biodiversity site to be lost has brought to a locality. A management and monitoring plan might be required for larger sites. The calculation should be applied to the whole site”.</i></p> <p>The scheme and associated working areas will be located within and adjacent to various Local Wildlife Sites, Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (Oxford City) and Conservation Target Areas (e.g. Oxford Meadows and Farmoor, and Thames and Cherwell at Oxford), in addition to areas of high ecological value such as Hinksey Meadows.</p> <p>We have therefore designed the new channel to consider these areas and ensure that we minimise habitat loss and deliver new valuable river and wetland habitat, with a series of wetland features including backwaters and scrapes. Where the new channel runs through an important MG4a grassland community at Hinksey Meadows, we sought alternative designs to minimize impacts and maximise the retention of existing habitat. For example, we moved the original route of the channel from the centre of the meadow to an alignment on the far western side of the meadow bordering Seacourt Stream, to minimise the loss of MG4a grassland. At the southern end of Hinksey Meadow, the alignment of the second stage channel was dictated by the need to avoid the electricity pylon and we re-routed the channel to avoid felling a row of tall poplars, which screen the pylon and the retail</p>	

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
Local		
	<p>park. Additionally, modifications were made to the existing primary channel, with various new second stage channel widths and depths modelled. The final dimensions of the second stage were selected to be as narrow as possible to reduce the amount of MG4a meadow lost while still providing the necessary flood benefit and ensuring the land would still be viable for cattle grazing.</p> <p>The detailed design of the scheme will protect as far as possible, and mitigate impacts on existing biodiversity including protected species, and the scheme will deliver a biodiversity net gain. We propose appropriate new local wetland habitats are created as part of the two stage channel, which will incorporate a variety of profiles and gradients, to maximise wetland habitat diversity, protecting and enhancing the overall landscape characteristics of this part of the Green Belt and functional floodplain.</p> <p>The Defra 3 metric has been used as the biodiversity calculator for our proposal as agreed with Oxfordshire County Council Ecologists.</p> <p>Further detail of the impacts, mitigation measures and ecological improvements are outlined in the ES.</p> <p>Policy G3: Green Belt. This states that <i>“Proposals for development in the Green Belt will be determined in accordance with national policy. Planning permission will not be granted for inappropriate development within the Green Belt, in accordance with national policy.”</i></p> <p>An appraisal of the scheme against national policy has been explored in the Green Belt Statement in Section 6 of this document, detailing why the scheme is justified in Oxford’s Green Belt. Once operational, the scheme will complement the purpose of the Green Belt, securing the full extent of the floodplain as part of the design of the flood alleviation scheme.</p> <p>Policy G 4: Allotments and community food growing. This policy states <i>“Planning permission will not be granted for development that results in the loss of protected allotment sites or plots.”</i></p> <p>The construction of the scheme, which will provide a significant benefit to the community through a reduction in flood risk to people, property and infrastructure, will result in the loss of three allotments at Bulstake Close and two allotments at Osney Mead. The loss of allotment plots will be mitigated through the provision of a larger area of allotments to the west of the existing allotments at Bulstake Close, of as good quality as those lost, and in a nearby location accessible to its users.</p>	

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
Local		
	<p>Policy G5: Existing open space, indoor and outdoor sports and recreation facilities. Policy G5 explains that <i>“The City Council will seek to protect existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land. Existing open space, indoor and outdoor sports and recreational facilities should not be lost unless:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or</i> <i>b) 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</i> <i>c) the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use”</i> <p>Through the design of the scheme we have tried to balance our impact on open space and the benefits of increased protection from flood risk for residents, homes and businesses. This has resulted in a loss of some existing space but the design approach we have taken protects a lot of what is existing within Oxford’s western flood plain The passive flood scheme safe guards existing open space as it’s required for our design to function most effectively. This helps to safeguard areas for public recreation for the life of the scheme and beyond.</p> <p>Post construction there will be a permanent loss of publicly accessible land comprising a loss of 1.6ha at Seacourt Nature Park 1.4ha at Kendall Copse and 0.28ha at Kennington Pond. There will also be a permanent loss of 0.3ha of level open space at Oatlands Recreation Ground in the footprint of the proposed bund, but the new sloping area can continue to be used by the public.</p> <p>Significant protection will be provided to Osney Mead Industrial Estate in the form of a secondary defence whilst not impacting on the recreation ground. This involves the creation of a grass bund crossing the eastern part of Oatlands Road Recreation Ground to the west of Osney Mead. The bund provides significant protection to the designated employment area and has been designed in order to avoid loss of space and be incorporated into the recreation ground.</p> <p>Policy G6: Residential garden land. The focus of this policy is on the loss of residential gardens for construction of new dwellings. Our scheme does not fall into this category but there are a few locations in which</p>	

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
Local		
	<p>our scheme runs through the gardens of a few residential properties. In these instances our proposal retains the existing residential amenity and any biodiversity lost is mitigated for in the overall delivery of biodiversity net gain.</p> <p>Policy G7: Protection of existing Green Infrastructure features. The Local Plan indicates through this policy and the supporting text the importance of Green Infrastructure features, in particular trees and explains that if development proposals include the loss of trees it has to be demonstrated that their retention is not feasible and provide a mitigation plan.</p> <p>A Green Infrastructure Study (Gillespies 2016) was developed to support the OFAS, which forms an integral part of the scheme development. This study was prepared to analyse existing assets (e.g. woodland areas, churchyards, allotments, ecological spaces, amenity land etc) to be protected and to help identify key areas and opportunities to enhance Green Infrastructure. This study fed into the detailed design, Landscape Plans and Landscape Masterplan for the scheme to seek net gains in Green Infrastructure and avoid net losses. This is set out in the ES and supporting landscape documentation.</p> <p>In particular our proposal retains mature trees, tree groups deemed to be significant in the local landscape, visually prominent tree specimens, mature hedgerows and existing water features as much as possible in the scheme design. The proposal includes replanting new trees and hedgerows to offset any losses, while recognising that it will take many years before new trees will replace the habitat value of mature trees. As a matter of Environment Agency policy, all planted trees will be native species of local provenance rather than non-native ornamental species. During construction trees to be retained will be protected through tree protection barriers to avoid root damage from the construction works.</p> <p>Policy G8: New and enhanced Green and Blue Infrastructure Network Features. This policy sets out what is required of proposals requiring a Design and Access Statement (DAS) in terms of demonstrating how new or improved green and blue infrastructure will be incorporated. Our scheme does not require a DAS to be submitted but it is important to note that our scheme in itself will provide a new green and blue infrastructure feature and meeting many of the criteria outlined in this policy.</p> <p>Policy DH1: High quality design and placemaking. This policy is aimed at the quality of built development. The scheme's design places the environment at the heart of its design and the context and site character has</p>	

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
Local		
	<p>played an important role in the design of the environmental features alongside the technical function of the scheme to reduce flood risk.</p> <p>Policy DH2: views and building heights. Policy DH2 starts by stating <i>“The City Council will seek to retain significant views both within Oxford and from outside, in particular to and from the historic skyline. Planning permission will not be granted for any building or structure that would harm the special significance of Oxford’s historic skyline”</i>. The final part of the policy goes on to say <i>“Planning permission will not be granted for development proposed within a View Cone or the setting of a View Cone if it would harm the special significance of the view.”</i></p> <p>The proposed scheme has taken into account key views including the ‘Oxford View Cones’ across the City to/from the surroundings areas. The three View Cones, which have views across the OFAS study area are named ‘Views from the Western Hills - Raleigh Park, Boars Hill and the A34 Interchange at Hinksey Hill’. All of these viewpoints look directly over the study area, and therefore the scheme design has considered any potential changes in the view, as well as looking at the characteristics of the existing view including detractors, and potential opportunities for enhancements through the removal or screening of intrusive features.</p> <p>All the viewpoints used as part of the visual impact assessment were agreed with the appropriate officer in Oxford City Council as part of the pre-application process.</p> <p>Where trees and vegetation will be removed as part of the Scheme, we have identified mitigatory planting areas that will not impact upon these key views, in agreement with the affected landowners.</p> <p>Policy DH3: Designated heritage assets. This policy sets out the need for a heritage assessment and the requirements of the assessment, to inform development proposals which affect the significance of any heritage assets.</p> <p>There is a Scheduled Monument present within the scheme area - the culverts under Old Abingdon Road. The ancient causeway which incorporates the historic stone culverts is known to be at least medieval and could possibly be Roman or Saxon. Due to the high value (considered to be of national significance) and scheduled status of the culverts, we have altered the route of the channel to minimise the impact on the Scheduled Monument as far as possible. This was informed by considerable discussion with Historic England. There will be an impact however from partial removal of other features including Norman and medieval culverts, road surfaces</p>	

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
Local		
	<p>and structures, which will lead to the reduced significance of the structure during the construction of the channel under Old Abingdon Road. Once the scheme is operational there will be a minor benefit due to the enhanced setting of the scheduled culverts as we will be installing information boards relating to this historical asset. In consultation with the City and County Archaeologist, we will carry out further targeted excavation work on this Scheduled Monument and the ancient causeway that crosses the bridge.</p> <p>Policy DH4: Archaeological remains. This policy of the Local Plan states <i>“where archaeological deposits and features are suspected to be present (including upstanding remains), applications should include sufficient information to define the character, significance and extent of such deposits so far as reasonably practical.”</i> The policy goes on to set out what should be included in any assessment.</p> <p>Our approach to archaeology is set out in our commentary to relating to the NPPF Section 16 – ‘Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment’. We have undertaken extensive archaeological investigations, agreed with Oxfordshire County and Oxford City Council archaeologists. An archaeological impact assessment is provided in the ES.</p> <p>Policy DH5: Local heritage assets. This policy sets out how locally listed heritage assets should be considered. The scheme does not impact the setting of any assets included on the Oxford Heritage Asset Register.</p> <p>Policy M1: Prioritising walking, cycling and public transport. The Local Plan promotes sustainable travel in the forms of walking, cycling and public transport over private car use. This policy sets out the requirements for new developments to implement this prioritisation.</p> <p>The scheme by its very nature (i.e. flood alleviation scheme) is not a development to which new public access routes will need to be planned.</p> <p>The Scheme will however provide a long-term reduction in the risk of flooding to many recreational assets (including walking, cycling and public transport routes) in Oxford. There will be improvements to some of the new bridges in the Scheme area with enhanced surfaces, fencing, railings and signage, which will benefit those using the affected public rights of way (e.g. at Willow Walk bridleway and North Hinksey Causeway footpath). We have also re-designed the railings on Devil’s Backbone bridge, to provide an opportunity for the path to be upgraded to a cycleway in the future.</p>	

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
Local		
	<p>All existing public access routes in the scheme area will remain following completion of the works. Permanent diversions to public access routes include the existing footpath from Old Abingdon Road to South Hinksey which will be diverted along the edge of the second stage of the new channel, the footpath running through Seacourt Nature Reserve will be slightly altered to account for the route of the second stage channel and the access through Oatlands Recreation Ground and past Osney Mead Industrial Estate will be altered to account for embankments and flood walls. Notable temporary arrangements for public access during construction include a temporary footpath diversion which will be used on Willow Walk to maintain public access during the works.</p> <p>We will be creating a new track along much of the scheme to allow access for maintenance. A proportion of the track will be made into a permissive path that the public are allowed to use, except when maintenance or other activities would conflict with this.</p> <p>Measures to minimise disruption for those walking cycling, and horse riding have been identified in the ES and we will continue to consult those affected during construction of the Scheme.</p> <p>Policy M2: Assessing and managing development. This policy requires all applications that generate a significant amount of movement to be supported by a Transport Assessment (TA) and Travel Plan. Our development proposal will require lorry movement to and from the site for the removal of excavated material during the earthworks phase of the construction. The planning application is supported by covering the construction phase to ensure that the traffic from that does not impact on the network. An outline CTMP is included in the TA and closer to the time of construction it will be finalised. No trip generation will take place during the operational phase so the TA is not necessary for the operational phase and due to the end use of our development a Travel Plan is not required.</p> <p>Policy M3: Motor vehicle parking. This policy requires new non-residential development to take into account the objectives of the plan to promote and achieve a shift to sustainable means of transport. A TA has been submitted as part of the Environmental Statement for this scheme. Once operational there are minimal requirements for travel to the site area apart from routine maintenance of the scheme. During construction subject to the requirements associated with the COVID pandemic, the travel to the main site compound will be kept to a minimum, with shuttle transport proposed for construction workers from parking and public transport hubs. There will be no parking on local residential roads.</p>	

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
Local		
	<p>Policy M4: Provision of electric charging points. It is the intention of the contractor for the scheme to include electric vehicle charging points in the main site compound for use during construction.</p> <p>Policy M5: Bicycle Parking. As mentioned above it is the intention for the number of construction worker vehicles to be kept to a minimum. Construction worker will be encouraged to use public transport and to cycle to site. In this case bicycle parking will be provided for them in the main construction compound.</p>	
Oxford Statement of Community Involvement in Planning (Oxford City Council 2015)	The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) in Planning sets out how Oxford City Council's approach to involving the community and stakeholders in the production of planning policy documents and planning control decisions in the city. It sets out the activities that the Council will undertake to reach stakeholders and the public during the various stages of preparation of Local Plan documents. In preparing the SCI, consultation was undertaken to help develop an approach that reflects the needs and aspirations of the community, stakeholders and the City Council.	Appraisal of our Scheme against the Oxford SCI is contained within our SCI Statement.
Oxford Informal Assessment of the Green Belt (Oxford City Council 2014)	This assessment was undertaken by Oxford City Council as a response to the great level of housing need that exists in Oxfordshire, and particularly in Oxford. It states that "The intention of this assessment is to investigate whether there is likely to be potential for urban extensions to be developed to meet Oxford's housing need. The assumption is made for this assessment that Oxford's needs will be most sustainably provided in an urban extension that is close and well connected to Oxford. Because Oxford is surrounded by Green Belt, this would inevitably require Green Belt boundaries to be reviewed as part of a Local Plan process."	The Planning Statement assesses our proposals in the Green Belt.
Oxford Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) Level 1 (Oxford City Council 2017)	The Oxford Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) presents the current understanding of flood risk within the City of Oxford. The document is a Level 1 SFRA and provides the information required to undertake the Sequential Test.	Our proposals will address flood risk issues in Oxford and are in accordance with this assessment.
Oxford Quality Air Action Plan 2021-2025	This Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) outlines the actions that will be taken to improve air quality in Oxford City from 2021 to 2025. It also fits within and furthers wider ambitions to improve air quality, health, and climate. The key objective of this AQAP is to bring NO2 emissions into legal compliance as soon as possible. However, it also seeks to reach beyond legal compliance for the whole city. Oxford City Council is committing to becoming the first UK Local Authority to set a local annual mean NO2 target in a citywide AQAP. The overall objective of this AQAP for the whole of the Oxford City area is to: "Achieve a local annual mean NO2 target of 30 ug/me by 2025"	An air quality assessment has been undertaken with reference to this AQMP.

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
Local		
<p>Vale of White Horse (VoWH) District Council Local Plan 2031</p> <p>Part 1: Strategic Sites and Policies (Vale of White Horse District Council 2016).</p>	<p>The VoWH Local Plan 2031 Part 1: Strategic Sites and Policies, 2016 provides a policy framework for the delivery of sustainable development across the district up to 2031 The Vale of White Horse Local Plan Strategic Sites and Policies, adopted in 2016, has a total of 46 core policies geared towards the delivery of sustainable development in the district up to 2031.</p> <p>The VVHDCS's Local Plan 2031 has been prepared in compliance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The Plan summarises Core Policies regarding key challenges and opportunities, spatial strategy, sub-area strategies, district wide policies, and implementation. The Plan further summarises Development Policies regarding building healthy and sustainable communities, supporting economic prosperity, supporting sustainable transport and accessibility, and protecting the environment and responding to climate change.</p> <p>The VoWH Local Plan Part 1 includes a number of policies relevant to the proposed scheme, including:</p> <p>Core Policy 1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development - requires applications to accord with the policies of the plan unless material considerations dictate otherwise, or if policies are not relevant or out of date the proposals will be granted consent unless material considerations dictate otherwise.</p> <p>Core Policy 6: Meeting Business and Employment Needs specifies the scale and location of opportunities for economic growth.</p> <p>Core Policy 7: Providing Supporting Infrastructure - Requires that all new development provides necessary onsite, and as appropriate off site infrastructure.</p> <p>Core Policy 8: Spatial Strategy for Abingdon and Oxford Fringe Sub-Area is to maintain the function and roles for Abingdon and Botley and ensure growth is managed to minimise pressure on the highway networking, whilst protecting the Oxford Green Belt.</p> <p>Core Policy 13: The Oxford Green Belt seeks to protect the land that continues to meet the five purposes of Green Belt and maintaining the setting of and managing the growth of the city of Oxford. The Oxford Green Belt area in the Vale, as amended following the local Green Belt Review, will continue to be protected to maintain its openness and permanence. Proposals for inappropriate development will not be approved except in very special circumstances.</p> <p>Core Policy 33: Promoting Sustainable Transport and Accessibility aspires to ensure the impacts of new development on the strategic and local road network are minimised and are designed in a way to promote</p>	<p>Our Scheme takes account of the Strategic Sites and Policies, which have been assessed in the Planning Statement.</p>

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
Local		
	<p>sustainable transport access. It also aims to ensure transport improvements are designed to minimise any effects on the amenities, character and special qualities of the surrounding area. Finally, it seeks to support improvements that increase safety, improve air quality and make areas more attractive.</p> <p>Core Policy 35: Promoting public transport, cycling and walking - Given the nature of our proposals there will be no traffic generation from our scheme. However, we will be encouraging cycling and walking by maintaining the openness of existing routes as far as possible during construction with some diversions as appropriate but post construction existing routes will have been upgraded in places.</p> <p>Core Policy 37: Design and Local Distinctiveness seeks all proposals for new development is of a high quality of design;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • responds positively to the site and its surroundings, cultural diversity and history, conserves and enhances historic character and reinforces local identity or establishes a distinct identity whilst not preventing innovative responses to context, • creates a distinctive sense of place through high quality townscape and landscaping that physically and visually integrates with its surroundings • incorporates and/or links to high quality Green Infrastructure and landscaping to enhance biodiversity and meet recreational needs, including Public Rights of Way. <p>Core Policy 39: The Historic Environment. The Council will work with landowners, developers, the community, Historic England and other stakeholders to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that new development conserves, and where possible enhances, designated heritage assets and non-designated heritage assets and their setting in accordance with national guidance and legislation; • ensure that vacant historic buildings are appropriately re-used as soon as possible to prevent deterioration of condition; • seek to reduce the number of buildings on the “Heritage at Risk” Register; • encourage better understanding of the significance of Scheduled Monuments on the “Heritage at Risk” Register and to aid in their protection; • better understand the significance of Conservation Areas in the district through producing Conservation Area Character Appraisals and Management Plans; • identify criteria for assessing non-designated heritage assets and maintaining a list of such assets as Locally Listed Buildings; and 	

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
Local		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • encourage Heritage Partnership Agreements, particularly for Listed Buildings on any 'at risk' register. <p>Core Policy 40: Sustainable Design and construction - encourages developers to incorporate climate change adaptation and design measures to combat the effects of changing weather patterns in all new development.</p> <p>Core Policy 42: Flood Risk aims to minimise the risk and impact of flooding. This means directing new development to areas with lower risk of flooding, ensuring flood risk is managed, ensuring that new development does not lead to an increased risk of flooding elsewhere and maximising the wider environmental benefits. It states that “A site-specific flood risk assessment will be required... for all proposals for new development, including minor development and change of use in Flood Zone 2 and 3... Appropriate mitigation and management measures will be required to be implemented”.</p> <p>Core Policy 43: Natural Resources states that “The Council encourages developers to make provision for the effective use of natural resources where applicable, including:</p> <p>i. minimising waste and making adequate provision for the recycling of waste on site...”</p> <p>Core Policy 44: Landscape states that “The key features that contribute to the nature and quality of the Vale of White Horse District’s landscape will be protected from harmful development and where possible enhanced, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • features such as trees, hedgerows, woodland, field boundaries, watercourses and water bodies • important landscape settings of settlements • topographical features • areas or features of cultural and historic value • important views and visually sensitive skylines, and • tranquillity and the need to protect against intrusion from light pollution, noise, and motion.” <p>Core Policy 45: Green Infrastructure states that “A net gain in Green Infrastructure, including biodiversity, will be sought either through on-site provision or off-site contributions and the targeted use of other funding sources. A net loss of Green Infrastructure, including biodiversity, through development proposals, will be resisted.”</p> <p>Core Policy 46: Conservation and Improvement of Biodiversity states that “Development that will conserve, restore and enhance biodiversity in the district will be permitted. Opportunities for biodiversity gain, including the</p>	

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
Local		
	<p>connection of sites, large- scale habitat restoration, enhancement and habitat re-creation will be actively sought, with a primary focus on delivery in the Conservation Target Areas. A net loss of biodiversity will be avoided.”</p> <p>The following core policies and development policies relating to air quality are also relevant: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘Core Policy 11: Botley Central Area, • ‘Core Policy 34: A34 Strategy – states that the Council will continue to work with Highways England, Oxfordshire County Council and other partners to develop and implement a Route Based Strategy for the A34, which enables it to function as a major strategic route, thereby reducing consequential congestion on the local road network. • ‘Core Policy 43: Natural Resources, • ‘Development Policy 17: Transport Assessments and Travel Plans, • ‘Development Policy 24: The Effect of Neighbouring or Previous Uses on New Developments, • ‘Development Policy 26: Air Quality. 	
<p>Vale of White Horse District Council Local Plan 2031</p> <p>Part 2: Detailed Policies and Additional Sites 2019 -</p>	<p>The Local Plan 2031 Part 2 sets out policies and locations for housing for the Vale’s proportion of Oxford’s housing need unable to be met within the city boundaries.</p> <p>Development Policy 16: Access. This policy requires that adequate provision will be made for loading, unloading, circulation, servicing and vehicle turning, and acceptable off-site improvements to the highway infrastructure (including traffic management measures), cycleways, public rights of way and the public transport network can be secured where these are not adequate to service the development.</p> <p>Access is addressed in the ES and a construction phase Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) will be prepared by the contractor and agreed by Oxfordshire County Council/National Highways prior to construction. In terms of the walking and cycling, existing routes will be maintained and in some cases upgraded.</p> <p>We will be creating a new track along much of the scheme to allow access for maintenance. A proportion of the track will be made into a permissive path that the public are allowed to use, except when maintenance or other activities would conflict with this, increasing recreation opportunities in the area.</p> <p>Development Policy 17: Transport Assessment and Travel Plans. This requires applications for major development, which includes our proposals, to be supported by a Transport Assessment (TA) or Statement and Travel Plan. Our application is supported by a TA and no trip generation will take place during the operational</p>	<p>Our Scheme takes account of the Part 2 Policies, which have been assessed in the Planning Statement.</p>

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
Local		
	<p>phase so the TA covers the construction phase to ensure that the traffic from that does not impact on the network. The CTMP will expand on this. Due to the end use of our development a Travel Plan is not required.</p> <p>It is also worth noting that the main compound located north of South Hinksey will provide a number of Electric Vehicle charging points to support the use of electric vehicles during the construction of the scheme.</p> <p>Development Policy 23: Impact of Development on amenity. This states that <i>“Development proposals should demonstrate that they will not result in significant adverse impacts on the amenity of neighbouring uses when considering both individual and cumulative impacts in relation to the following factors:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>i. loss of privacy, daylight or sunlight</i> <i>ii. dominance or visual intrusion</i> <i>iii. noise or vibration</i> <i>iv. dust, heat, odour, gases or other emissions</i> <i>v. pollution, contamination or the use of / or storage of hazardous substances; and</i> <i>vi. external lighting.”</i> <p>Our proposals once constructed will comply with this policy. During the construction phase there will be impacts but mitigation will be provided in order to ensure that any impact on amenity is minimal. The contractor’s CEMP that will be produced will go a long way in addressing a lot of these issues.</p> <p>Development Policy 25: Noise Pollution. This policy is only applicable to noise generating development. Once our scheme is built it will produce no noise. That said there will be some noise during construction but this will be minimised and mitigated as appropriate as explained in our Environmental Statement.</p> <p>Development Policy 26: Air Quality. This requires that <i>“proposals that are likely to have an impact on local air quality, including those in, or within relative proximity to, existing or potential Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) will need to demonstrate measures / mitigation that are incorporated into the design to minimise any impacts associated with air quality.”</i></p> <p>There are potential impacts on air quality during the construction process, including dust and issues generated by traffic. We have worked closely with the Local Authority particularly after the pre-application comments were received in order to ensure that the impacts are as small as possible. Best practice mitigation measures will be</p>	

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
Local		
	<p>implemented as set out in the CEMP which will be implemented to be agreed prior to construction, as well as tight controls on types and routes of vehicles. The ES considers the impact on air quality to be negligible once mitigation is in place.</p> <p>Development Policy 27: Land Affected by Contamination This policy sets out the requirements if development, re-development or reuse is proposed on land affected by contamination. The scheme proposals run through an historic landfill site just south of Old Abingdon Road. A separate contamination report is submitted as part of the planning application which outlines the findings of the relevant assessments and mitigation. Material excavated from these areas will be taken from site and disposed in an appropriate active landfill site.</p> <p>Development Policy 29: Settlement Character and Gaps. This policy requires that proposals will need to demonstrate that the settlement’s character is retained, and physical and visual separation is maintained between settlements.</p> <p>Our proposals do this and actually protect the gaps between settlements by making the land unavailable for development once in use for the flood alleviation scheme. There is a whole section providing a commentary on this in the Green Belt statement in this document.</p> <p>Development Policy 30: Watercourses. This policy states that “Development of land that contains or is adjacent to a watercourse will only be permitted where it would not have a detrimental impact on the function or setting of the watercourse or its biodiversity, or the detrimental impact can be appropriately mitigated.”</p> <p>Our proposals will provide flood alleviation benefits and will actually enhance the function of the watercourse. There are a number of biodiversity mitigation proposals as part of our scheme which have been set out in this document but are explained in detail in the accompanying ES.</p> <p>Development Policy 31: Protection of PRoW, National Trails and Open Access Areas. This policy states that development on and / or over public rights of way will be permitted where the development can be designed to accommodate satisfactorily the existing route, or where the right of way is incorporated into the development site as an attractive, safe and continuous route. Alternative routes will need to be made equally or more attractive, safe and convenient to rights of way users.</p>	

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
Local		
	<p>With mitigation measures in place the impact as set out in the ES is considered to be positive. There will be an improved level of walking and cycling provision and safety and improvements to PRow/bridleways. New permanent access tracks will be made available for public use, except on the rare occasions when we need to move heavy machinery along them.</p> <p>Development Policy 33: Open Space. The principle of this policy seeks to protect open space and to ensure safe and accessible open space. During construction there will be a number of access routes as previously explained that will need to be temporarily re-routed. Full details are contained within the ES.</p> <p>We will be creating a new track along much of the scheme to allow access for maintenance. A proportion of the track will be made into a permissive path that the public will be allowed to use, except when maintenance or other activities would conflict with this. This will increase access to this area of informal open space.</p> <p>Post construction there will be a permanent loss of public access land comprising a loss of 1.6ha at Seacourt Nature Park 1.4ha at Kendall Copse and 0.28ha at Kennington Pond. There will also be a permanent loss of 0.3ha of level open space at Oatlands Recreation Ground in the footprint of the proposed bund, but the new sloping area can continue to be used by the public.</p> <p>Development Policy 36: Heritage Assets. This policy requires that proposals for new development that may affect heritage assets (designated and non-designated) must demonstrate that they conserve and enhance the special interest or significance of the heritage asset and its setting in accordance with Core Policy 39.</p> <p>A full appraisal of our proposals in light of any impacts on heritage assets is contained within the ES setting out impacts during construction and operation. The completed Scheme will provide a reduced flood risk to a variety of sites of historic interest including Listed Buildings within South Hinksey, Grandpont, New Hinksey and Abingdon Road, as well as Templeton College and Iffley Lock, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments and other heritage assets, and is expected to have a slightly adverse impact on them.</p> <p>Development Policy 38: Listed Buildings. This policy relates to development significantly impacting on listed buildings which our proposals will not. The completed Scheme will provide a reduced flood risk to a variety of sites of historic interest including Listed Buildings within South Hinksey, Grandpont, New Hinksey and Abingdon Road, as well as Templeton College and Iffley Lock, Conservation Areas, Scheduled Monuments and other heritage assets.</p>	

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
Local		
	<p>Development Policy 39: Archaeology and Scheduled Monuments. Policy 39 seeks to ensure that development will be permitted where it can be shown that it would not be detrimental to the site or setting of Scheduled Monuments or nationally important designated or non-designated archaeological remains.</p> <p>There is one Scheduled Monument, the Old Abingdon Road (OAR) Culverts within the scheme area. The ancient causeway with historic stone culverts under OAR is known to be at least medieval and could possibly be Roman or Saxon. Due to the high value and scheduled status of the culverts, alternative alignments for the scheme were considered, and we have designed the scheme in order to avoid it in consultation with archaeologists at Historic England. During construction there is anticipated to be a slightly adverse impact, but once operational it is expected to be beneficial. Full details are provided in the ES.</p>	
North Hinksey Neighbourhood Plan 2021	<p>The North Hinksey Neighbourhood Plan (NHNP) was adopted in May 2021 and is therefore part of the development plan for the area. It provides some policy detail to the specific area of North Hinksey and will be used to inform decisions on planning applications in this area. We have consulted with and kept North Hinksey Parish council up to date on a number of occasions throughout the evolution of the scheme.</p> <p>The following NHNP policies are relevant to our proposals:</p> <p>Policy GS2 – Biodiversity, Wildlife Corridors, TPOs and tree canopy cover. This policy supports development proposals which increase biodiversity, enhance natural habitats and enrich the quality of green spaces wherever practical. As explained above in relation to Core Policy 46 of the VoWH Local Plan Part 1, we are using Natural England’s Biodiversity Metric 3.0 calculation tool to calculate biodiversity gains and losses associated with the scheme. This has calculated that the scheme will deliver an overall net gain in habitat.</p> <p>We have designed a scheme that will result in the creation of a new wildlife corridor within part of the Thames and Cherwell Conservation Target Area, delivering river and wetland habitat through the creation of a two-stage channel, with a series of wetland features including backwaters, ponds and scrapes, and associated planting.</p> <p>Policy GS3 – Locally Important views. The NHNP identifies a number of locally important views. VP4: From North Hinksey Lane towards the lines of trees along Seacourt Stream is relevant to our proposal. As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment a Visual Impact Assessment was carried out</p>	The pertinent principles of the NHNP have been taken into account with the proposals. Our proposals address then environmental issues mentioned in the document as well as visual impact and flooding.

Relevant Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Purpose of Plan, Policy, Programme, Legislation and Guidance	Link with Scheme
Local		
	<p>Policy UT1 – Flooding and Groundwater. This policy states that development proposals will be supported if they can demonstrate that they will not contribute to flood risk within North Hinksey Parish, in accordance with the requirements of Core Policy 42. Our proposals are for a scheme to reduce the risk of flooding and will not increase the risk of flooding to North Hinksey Parish.</p>	
VoWH SFRA Level 1 update (February 2018)	The Vale of White Horse District Council recently updated their SFRA to reflect the latest legislation and guidance in relation to flood risk. It is broadly intended to enable the Council to seek to locate development in areas of lowest flood risk.	Our proposals will address flood risk issues in the District and therefore help to reduce flood risk to some homes and businesses from flooding.
VoWH Statement of Community Involvement October 2020	<p>Whilst this document is not as explicit in providing guidance for applicants submitting a planning application, however there is a relevant paragraph that supports our approach to consultation.</p> <p>Section 3 under pre-application advice it states that <i>“The pre-application stage, which is discretionary, encourages applicants to carry out early engagement with the local community and us, before submitting a planning application. We encourage the early discussion of schemes in the form of a pre-application”</i>.</p> <p>We have complied with the requirements of this document. Full commentary on our extensive pre-application consultation is provided in the SCI which accompanies our application.</p>	Appraisal of our Scheme against the VoWH SCI is contained within our SCI Statement.
Vale of White Horse Air Quality Management Plan (2015)	The VoWH District Council has three declared AQMAs, with the Botley AQMA falling within proximity to the Scheme. The AQAP prepared in 2015 sets out VWHDC’s objectives to ensuring AQS Objectives are met. The AQAP notes that specific actions to reduce NO ₂ in the vicinity of the Botley AQMA is difficult as the pollution is created as a result of the truck road controlled by the Highways Agency. A speed reduction within the area has been implemented as an attempt to reduce NO ₂ emissions in this area.	An air quality assessment has been undertaken with reference to this AQMP.