GREATER CAMBRIDGE
SHARED PLANNING

Greater Cambridge Local Development Scheme

July 2020

Cambridge City Council

PO Box 700,
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South Cambridgeshire District Council

South Cambridgeshire Hall, Cambourne Business Park, Cambridge, CB23 6EA

This updated Greater Cambridge Local Development Scheme was approved by:

Cambridge City Council
The Executive Councillor, Planning and Open Spaces, following debate by the Planning and Transport Scrutiny Committee – 30 June 2020

South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cabinet – 29 June 2020

It took effect from 13 July 2020.

Greater Cambridge Local Development Scheme 2020

Introduction

1. The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (as amended) requires that Local Planning Authorities must prepare and maintain a Local Development Scheme (LDS). This LDS provides information on the documents that the Councils intend to produce to form their planning policy framework and sets out the timetable for their production.

2. The LDS is designed to help the local community and all our partners interested in development and the use of land and buildings in Greater Cambridge to understand what plans the Councils have and intend to produce.

3. Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council ("the Councils") have committed to work together to prepare a new Local Plan for Greater Cambridge. They have also committed to prepare jointly an Area Action Plan for North East Cambridge. This LDS is therefore prepared and agreed jointly by both Local Planning Authorities.

What are the current adopted Development Plan Documents?

4. The Councils have prepared a number of Development Plan Documents (DPDs) jointly or in parallel in recent years. The Development Plan for both authorities currently consists of the documents set out in the table below:

Cambridge City Council	South Cambridgeshire District Council
Cambridge Local Plan (October 2018)	South Cambridgeshire Local Plan (September 2018)
-	The Northstowe Area Action Plan (2007) (excluding Policy NS/3 (1g)
-	Cambridge Southern Fringe Area Action Plan (2008)

Jointly prepared Area Action Plans
Cambridge East Area Action Plan (February 2008) (excluding Policies CE/3 and CE/35)
North West Cambridge Area Action Plan (October 2009)
Documents prepared by Cambridgeshire County Council which apply to the Greater Cambridge area
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Core Strategy & Proposals Map C (July 2011) Site Specific Proposals Plan, Proposals Map A: Minerals Transport Zones and Proposals Map B: Waste (February 2012)

5. Decisions on planning applications are to be taken in line with the policies of the above development plan documents unless there are significant matters ('material considerations') that indicate otherwise.

What new Development Plan Documents are to be prepared?

North East Cambridge Area Action Plan

6. The adopted 2018 Local Plans include a policy allocating an area of land on the northern fringe of Cambridge to enable the creation of a revitalised, employment focussed area centred on the new transport interchange created by Cambridge North Station. The policies say that "the amount of development, site capacity, viability, timescales and phasing of development will be established through the preparation of an Area Action Plan (AAP) for the site. The AAP will be developed jointly between South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council, and will involve close collaborative working with Cambridgeshire County Council, Anglian Water and other stakeholders in the area. The final boundaries of land that the joint AAP will consider will be determined by the AAP".

7. Between December 2014 and February 2015, the Councils published an Issues and Options document which asked a series of questions about how best the Councils should plan for development on land to east of Milton Road. At this time the site was known as Cambridge Northern Fringe East. From February 2019 to March 2019, a second Issues and Options consultation was undertaken. The Councils did this to reflect proposed changes in the site boundary, in particular to include Cambridge Science Park to the west of Milton Road, opening up the area for more comprehensive regeneration.

8. Following consultation on Issues and Options in 2019, the Councils confirmed that the plan would be renamed the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan and that the geographical coverage would be enlarged to include the Cambridge Science Park. A map of the area is included at Appendix 1.

9. Significant government Housing Infrastructure Funding has been secured to facilitate the relocation of the Milton Waste Water Treatment Plant (WTP) which will enable the development of a major brownfield site and comprehensive planning of the North East Cambridge area. Anglian Water proposes that a Development Consent Order (DCO) process will now be undertaken to enable the relocation.

10. The formal agreement by the Councils of the Proposed Submission AAP will be an important factor in the DCO Examination process to demonstrate commitment to development of the area. Therefore, work on the AAP is intended to progress to complete the Regulation 18 stage, consider the responses received and prepare the Proposed Submission AAP. The

Councils would make a decision ahead of the DCO Examination to agree the AAP for Regulation 19 publication, but actually carrying out the consultation would be subject to the successful completion of the DCO process, because of the need at Examination to be able to demonstrate that the development proposed on the site could be delivered.

11. It is therefore anticipated that the AAP process would then pause until the outcome of the DCO is known. If successful, the Councils would then proceed with the publication of the Proposed Submission AAP for the making of representations (Regulation 19), following which the AAP would progress to Submission and Examination.

12. The Councils have been advised by Anglian Water that DCO submission is anticipated in summer 2022. This is likely to mean that the outcome of the DCO process will be in Autumn 2023. It is therefore anticipated that the Proposed Submission AAP will be published in Autumn/Winter 2023, based on the latest DCO process and subject to a positive outcome. The AAP would then be Submitted for Examination in Spring 2024. The timing of the remainder of the AAP process is in the hands of the Inspector. A timetable for all key stages in the preparation of the joint North East Cambridge Area Action Plan is included below.

13. There is potential that the AAP could be on a similar timetable to the Greater Cambridge Local Plan (see below). As such, the Councils will keep under review whether it is appropriate to merge the AAP into the Local Plan at the Proposed Submission stage.

Greater Cambridge Local Plan

14. The Councils have previously committed to start work on a joint Local Plan in 2019 as part of the City Deal agreement with Government established in 2013. The Councils' adopted 2018 Local Plans both include a policy which makes a commitment to an early review of those Plans. The policies are for a new Local Plan to be prepared jointly by Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Councils for their combined districts (Greater Cambridge) and include a timetable for this review, to commence before the end of 2019 and with submission to the Secretary of State for Examination anticipated by the end of summer 2022.

15. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) updated in February 2019 continues to include a strong expectation that Local Planning Authorities will prepare plans which positively seek opportunities to meet the development needs of their area, and that are sufficiently flexible to adapt to rapid change. Strategic policies should set out an overall strategy for the pattern, scale and quality of development, and make sufficient provision for a number of key land uses. These are housing (including affordable housing), employment, retail, leisure and other commercial development, infrastructure for transport and other key utilities, community facilities, and the conservation and

enhancement of the natural, built and historic environment including landscapes and green infrastructure, and planning measures to address climate change mitigation and adaptation.

16. There is a clear desire from the Councils and key stakeholders to have an inclusive and engaging plan making process. This update to the LDS includes an additional Preferred Options stage to enable public consultation on the emerging preferred approach to be taken by the plan to key strategic issues, and for those views to be considered before detailed policies are drafted. The Preferred Option consultation will make clear the other options considered and why the preferred option was chosen, together with the evidence underpinning the plan to ensure a transparent and inclusive process. This would take place in Summer/Autumn 2021, prior to a Draft Plan Consultation in summer 2022.

17. The Councils' aim to respond constructively to the opportunities that the Greater Cambridge area offers and to deliver a robust plan which responds to these issues, as well as the other big themes raised in the First Conversation consultation, such as responding to climate change. The issues facing the Greater Cambridge area are particularly complex, including a number of major infrastructure proposals being developed by other organisations that could provide significant opportunities for the area. These include the programmes for the DCO for the Milton WTP in relation to North East Cambridge, East West Rail, and the Mayor's proposal for Cambridge Autonomous Metro (CAM). However, there are uncertainties around their delivery and timescales at this early stage in preparing the Local Plan, which make fixing the longer-term timetable difficult at this point in time and ahead of testing the evidence, considering the options for meeting the needs of the area, and identifying the preferred development strategy and being clear on its deliverability.

18. The programme for the later stages of plan making needs to reflect the current complexity in an appropriate way. At this time it is considered there could be two scenarios for the way the latter stages of plan preparation could take place:

    - Option 1 - Local Plan runs ahead of the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan

      If the Local Plan assessment of options were to identify an appropriate strategy or policy approach that did not include reliance on the NEC site or which could allow for the AAP to follow on without undermining the soundness of the Local Plan, there would be potential to progress the Local Plan to the Proposed Submission stage in Spring 2023 (or sooner if practicable). The plan would be Submitted in Autumn 2023, followed by public Examination. The timing of the Examination is in the hands of the independent Inspector. This alternative scenario could achieve an overall timescale that is 6 months or more quicker than option 2.

    - Option 2 – Align the Local Plan and the North East Cambridge AAP processes

If the Local Plan assessment of options were to identify an appropriate strategy or policy approach that includes the NEC site as potentially making an important contribution to the development strategy and delivery of homes and jobs, it would be necessary to align the AAP and Local Plan to parallel timetables so that Proposed Submission consultation on both plans takes place after the DCO outcome is known, in order to provide certainty on the relocation of the WTP and confidence in the site capacity and delivery trajectory for NEC and the role it could play in the overall development strategy for Greater Cambridge. This would mean that Proposed Submission publication of both plans would take place in Autumn/Winter 2023, and submission for Examination in Spring 2024 (based on the current DCO timetable). The timing of the remainder of the Local Plan process is in the hands of the Inspector.

19. A timetable for all key stages in the preparation of the joint Greater Cambridge Local Plan is included below. The timing of the Proposed Submission stage and beyond will be kept under close review and refined when there is greater certainty over the timetable.

Development Plan Documents to be produced

Document title	Subject matter and geographical area	Chain of Conformity	Consultation	Publication of Proposed Submission DPD and public consultation	Submission and Examination of DPD	Adoption and publication of DPD
North East Cambridge Area Action Plan	Vision and planning framework to ensure the coordination of development in the Cambridge Northern Fringe East development site and the Cambridge Science Park (see map at Appendix 1)	Conformity with the NPPF Compatibility with the adopted Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Minerals and Waste Core Strategy (July 2011) and Site Specific Proposals Plan (February 2012) Development Plan Documents	Issues and Options 1 (Reg 18) **Winter 2014/2015** Issues and Options 2 (Reg 18) **Spring 2019** Draft Area Action Plan (Reg 18) **Summer 2020**	Proposed Submission Consultation (Reg 19) **Autumn/Winter 2023** Note: to follow outcome of Milton Waste Water Treatment Plant (WTP) DCO outcome	Submission to Secretary of State for independent Examination (Reg 22) **Spring 2024** Note: subject to the outcome of Milton WTP DCO	Subject to progress of independent Examination

Document title	Subject matter and geographical area	Chain of Conformity	Consultation	Options	Publication of Proposed Submission DPD and public consultation	Submission and Examination of DPD	Adoption and publication of DPD
Greater Cambridge Local Plan	Includes the Vision, Objectives and Spatial Development Strategy and policies for Greater Cambridge Prepared for the whole of the administrative areas covered by Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council.	Conformity with the NPPF	Issues and Options (Reg 18) **January 2020** Preferred Option Consultation (Reg 18) **Summer/ Autumn 2021** Draft Plan Consultation (Reg 18) **Summer 2022**	**Option 1 –** Local Plan runs ahead of the North East Cambridge Area Action Plan	Proposed Submission Consultation (Reg 19) **Spring 2023**	Submission to Secretary of State for independent Examination (Reg 22) **Autumn 2023**	Subject to progress of independent Examination
				Option 2 Align the Local Plan and the North East Cambridge AAP processes	Proposed Submission Consultation (Reg 19) **Autumn/ Winter 2023**	Submission to Secretary of State for independent Examination (Reg 22) **Spring 2024** Note: subject to the outcome of Milton WTP DCO	Subject to progress of independent Examination

Neighbourhood Planning

20. Local communities have the power to influence the future of the places they live and work by preparing neighbourhood plans. Neighbourhood plans are led and prepared by the community, not the Council, although the Council has a statutory role to provide advice and support to those producing a plan and at prescribed stages in the plan making process. When a neighbourhood plan is passed by an independent examiner and a local referendum, the Council must adopt it as part of its development plan framework and take it into account when it makes decisions on planning applications in the area, alongside other adopted development plan documents.

21. As neighbourhood plans are not prepared by the Council and their timetables are dependent on the progress made by the community, timetables for their preparation are not included the LDS. However, the section below provides the status of plans at May 2020.

Cambridge

22. Within Cambridge City there is one designated neighbourhood area and its associated neighbourhood forum:

    - South Newnham – approved in March 2017.

23. There is a neighbourhood planning page on the Cambridge City website.

South Cambridgeshire

24. There are nineteen designated neighbourhood areas in South Cambridgeshire as at the end of May 2020. In chronological order these are:

    - Linton and Hildersham (designated jointly) – these two parishes have joined together to form a single neighbourhood area that was approved in May 2014
    - Histon and Impington (part of the parish excluded) – this covers the area of the two parishes to the north of the A14 and was approved in September 2014
    - Gamlingay – this covers the parish and was approved in February 2015
    - Waterbeach – this covers the parish and was approved in August 2015
    - Cottenham - this covers the parish and was approved in November 2015
    - Foxton - this covers the parish and was approved in November 2015.
    - West Wickham - this covers the parish and was approved in November 2015
    - Melbourn – this covers the parish and was approved in May 2016
    - Whittlesford – this covers the parish and was approved in August 2016

- Great Abington Former Land Settlement Association Estate – this covers the former Land Settlement Association estate, which only forms part of the parish of Great Abington and was approved in September 2016
- Stapleford and Great Shelford – this two parishes have joined together to form a single neighbourhood area that was approved in November 2016
- Swavesey – this covers the parish and was approved in November 2016
- Thriplow – this covers the parish and was approved in August 2017
- Bassingbourn-cum-Kneesworth – this covers the parish and was approved in December 2017
- Pampisford – this covers the parish and was approved in March 2018
- Sawston – this covers the parish and was approved in June 2018
- Babraham – this covers the parish and was approved in June 2018
- Fulbourn – this covers the parish and was approved in August 2018.

25. The Great Abington Former Land Settlement Association Neighbourhood Plan was 'made' within South Cambridgeshire in February 2019.

26. Cottenham Neighbourhood Plan has been successful through Examination and a referendum date had been set. With changes in the regulations due to Covid19 this referendum was suspended in March 2020. Another date will be set when regulations permit.

27. Histon & Impington Neighbourhood Plan has also been successful through Examination as of March 2020 and subject to agreement between the District Council and Parish Council, a Referendum version of the plan will be allowed to proceed to referendum once regulations permit.

28. Foxton Parish Council submitted its neighbourhood plan to the council on 10 February 2020 and the Regulation 16 consultation started but was subsequently suspended due to the change in circumstances affecting public consultations during Covid19. This consultation will resume once circumstances change.

29. Waterbeach Parish Council has carried out its six-week pre-submission (Regulation 14) consultation which ended on 24 February 2020. They are working towards submission.

30. The remainder of parish councils with designated neighbourhood areas are working their ways towards the consultation required by Regulation 14.

31. For further information on Neighbourhood Planning, including the current status of the neighbourhood forums and plans being prepared, there are neighbourhood planning pages on the South Cambridgeshire District Council's website which provide more information about the progress of each neighbourhood plan.

Supporting evidence and other planning documents

32. Whilst not forming part of the Local Plan, the councils have produced other supporting documents to aid in the preparation or implementation of Local Plan policies:

    - A detailed evidence base
    - Statement of Community Involvement
    - Sustainability Appraisal & Strategic Environmental Assessment
    - Local Plan Policies Map
    - Supplementary Planning Documents and Guidance
    - Authority Monitoring Reports

Evidence Base

33. In order to carry out the preparation of the new joint Greater Cambridge Local Plan, the councils will develop and maintain a sound evidence base. Necessary research and studies will be conducted and will be supplemented by research undertaken by others as appropriate. Providing a sound and comprehensive evidence base is fundamental to developing sound planning documents. The key evidence base documents will be made available to view and download from the relevant Local Plan webpage.

Statement of Community Involvement (SCI)

34. A significant concern of planning is to improve community and stakeholder engagement from the outset, ensuring people's views can be taken into account. This commitment is reinforced by the requirement for all LPAs to produce a Statement of Community Involvement (SCI). The SCI is not a DPD, and is not subject to public Examination.

35. A Greater Cambridge Statement of Community Involvement was adopted by both councils in June 2019. It details how the community and stakeholders will be involved in the preparation, alteration and review of all local plan documents as well as the consideration of minor and major planning applications.

36. To ensure the SCI remains relevant and has regard to new methods of engagement, the councils will keep this under review, updating it as necessary.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA)

37. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is required for all DPDs. It is an integral component of all stages of plan-making. The purpose of the SA is to promote sustainable development through better integration of sustainability considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans. The SA embraces

economic, environmental and social objectives, including equalities and health impacts, the therefore has a wider scope that Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) which is a requirement of an EU Directive and is primarily concerned with environmental impacts.

38. Work on producing a DPD cannot proceed without corresponding work on the SA. Therefore, each DPD will be accompanied by a supporting SA. Both the draft document and the SA will be made available for consultation at the same time and comments invited. The findings of the SA, will inform the DPD and will be a material consideration in determining soundness of the document at the Examination.

Local Plans Policies Map

39. The Policies Map identifies sites allocations and areas of planning constraint, such as Green Belt and other local and national designations. The policies map is updated as new DPDs are prepared or revised so as to provide a clear visual illustration of the application of policies across the area.

Supplementary Planning Documents

40. Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) provide further information and guidance on the implementation of Local Plan policies and can be given substantial weight in planning decisions. A list of adopted SPDs, as well as those the councils are intending to review or prepare, are set out on the councils' websites.

Authority Monitoring Reports (AMR)

41. The AMR is a 'state of the environment' report published at least annually. It assesses the effectiveness of the Local Plan policies in managing development and achieving the outcomes and strategic objectives of the planning framework. It also monitors the implementation of the LDS, highlighting whether revisions are necessary.

42. AMRs are particularly useful in identifying development trends, patterns of land use, as well as reporting on transport, housing and population/socio-economic trends in order to provide a 'baseline' context for reviewing and amending existing policies.

43. The latest versions of the AMRs are available to view on the Councils' websites.

Community Infrastructure Levy

44. The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a tax on new development, which helps fund a wide range of strategic infrastructure, such as public transport, parks and community facilities, needed to support growth. Both councils had previously sought to introduce a CIL and had submitted draft charging schedules for Examination in 2014. The intention was for these to be Examined following the conclusion of the Examinations into the Local Plans. The councils each agreed to withdraw their CIL draft charging schedules in 2017 reflecting a number of changes in circumstances and to jointly reassess the position.

45. The Councils will update this Local Development Scheme if they intend to commence preparation of a CIL scheme.

Monitoring and Review

46. The councils will monitor the progress of the work set out in this LDS and will publish the results as part of the annual AMR.

47. The LDS will be updated or reviewed where the need to do so is identified.

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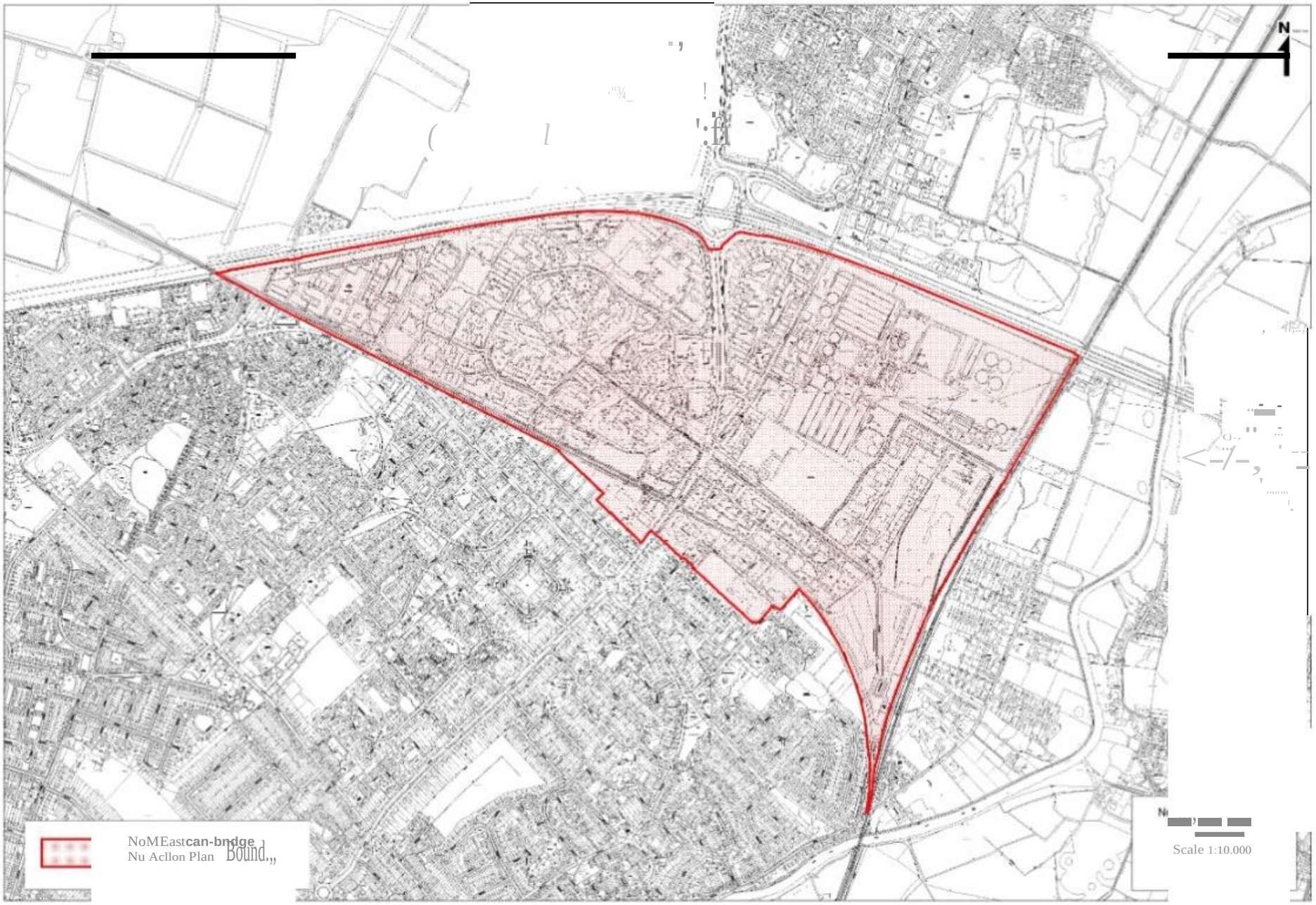
Appendix 1:

Geographic extent of North East Cambridge Area Action Plan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