



Duddington with Fineshade
Neighbourhood Plan
2011 - 2031
Submission Version

Contents

		Page
	Foreword	3
1	Background and Context	4
	Introduction	4
	How the Plan fits into the Planning System	6
	How the Neighbourhood Plan supports sustainable development	6
2	Duddington with Fineshade parish	8
	A brief history of the parish	8
3	Community Engagement	10
4	A Vision for Duddington with Fineshade	12
5	Policies	13
	A: Housing and the built environment	13
	B: Natural and historic environment	21
	C: Community Sustainability	54
6	Monitoring and Review	56

Appendices: 1) Basic Condition Statement (with Submission Version); 2) Statement of Community Consultation (with Submission Version); 3) Census and Land Registry data 4) Housing Needs Report; 5) Site Sustainability Assessment; 6) Village Design Statement; 7) Environmental Inventory; 8) Local Green Space descriptions 9) Listed Buildings; 10) Local Heritage buildings; 11) Local Wildlife Site; 12) Ecological Data; 13) Notable Trees; 14) Important Views

Foreword

On 23 August 2016, Duddington with Fineshade Parish Council was successful in its application to the former East Northamptonshire Council (now North Northamptonshire Council from 1 April 2021) to become a Qualifying Body for the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan. The Designated area was the existing Parish Council boundary.

The Parish Council has produced the Duddington with Fineshade Neighbourhood Plan (the Plan) with the assistance of an Advisory Committee including both Parish Councillors and local residents.

Together with the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework 2021 (NPPF), and the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (adopted in July 2016), the Plan will form the basis of planning decisions applicable to Duddington with Fineshade Parish, up to 2031. It is North Northamptonshire Council, as the Local Planning Authority, who will continue to determine planning applications, but they will have to take into account the policies in the Neighbourhood Plan when reaching their decisions.

The Plan reflects Parishioners' comments, observations and concerns about its future. These, together with Census information, other strategic and statistical evidence produces a Plan which reflects our overwhelming desire to make the Parish an even better place in which to live, both now and for future generations.

The Plan sets out a vision with planning policies and aspirations called 'Community Actions' which aim to help shape future development in the Parish. The policies aim to address key concerns raised by Parishioners including the protection of the character of the two villages and their surrounding areas.

Community consultation events include an Open Event and a Parish Questionnaire which, together with Advisory Committee meetings and the work of issue-specific Theme Groups, has enabled us to identify the changes and the protections that the local community wishes to see in Duddington with Fineshade Parish. Plans for a second Open Event were put on hold due to the Coronavirus but we have kept the community up to date with progress throughout.

We are grateful to, and would like to thank, all those who have been involved in the development of the Plan. It has been a significant but rewarding task.

Duddington with Fineshade Parish is an attractive and popular place in which to live, and the contribution from people who care about their community and want to make it better for generations to come is greatly appreciated.

Sandie Parsons

Shenagh Hackett

**Duddington with Fineshade Parish
Council**

Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee

1. Background and context

Introduction

A key part of the Government's Localism agenda, a Neighbourhood Plan is a new type of planning document that gives local people greater control and say over how their community develops, now and in the future. This includes, for example, where new homes and businesses etc. should be built; what new buildings and extensions should look like and which areas of land should be protected from development.

As the *Plain English Guide to the Localism Act 2011* states, "Instead of local people being told what to do, the Government thinks that local communities should have genuine opportunities to influence the future of the places where they live".

The Plan covers the whole of the Parish of Duddington with Fineshade. It sets out a long-term approach for the development of the Parish and sets out clear development-related policies to realise this.

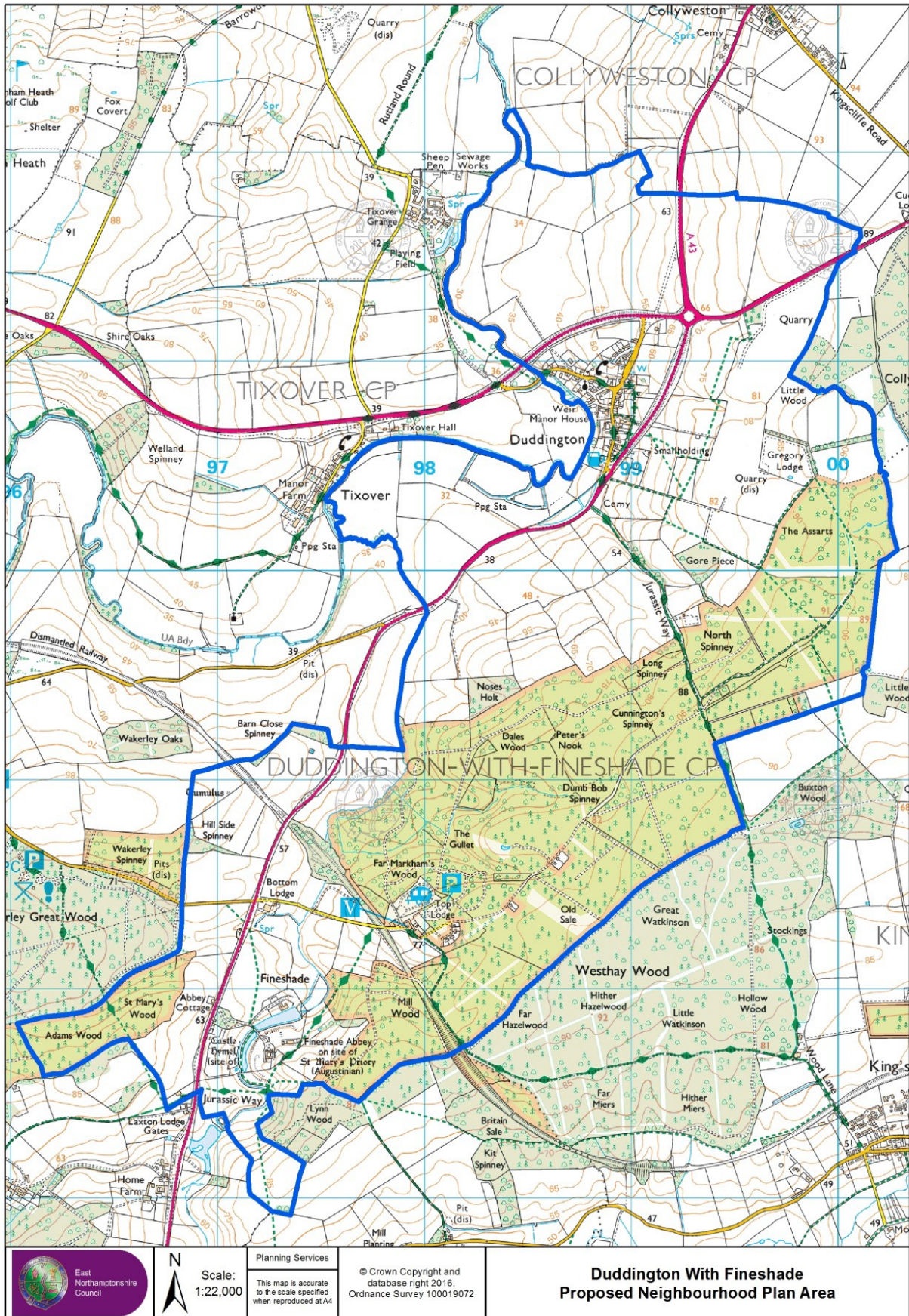
In preparing a Neighbourhood Plan a community is not working from 'a blank piece of paper'. Legislation requires that the Plan, and the policies it contains, must be prepared in a prescribed manner; in particular, the policies must be in general conformity with relevant national and borough-wide (i.e. North Northamptonshire) approved strategic planning policies.

Whilst planning applications will still be determined by North Northamptonshire Council, and in special circumstances Northamptonshire County Council, the production of a Neighbourhood Plan will mean that they must have regard to the provisions of the Plan and the relevant locally formulated criteria when reaching planning decisions that affect Duddington with Fineshade Parish. This means that the residents of the Parish will have a far greater control over where development takes place, and what it looks like.

As the Neighbourhood Plan was being prepared, there was great uncertainty about the future structure of local government across Northamptonshire. The proposed move to two unitary authorities has strengthened the resolve of the Parish Council to produce a Neighbourhood Plan at the earliest opportunity to afford a stronger degree of control over planning decisions in a time of considerable uncertainty.

Alongside the planning policies in the Plan, there are a number of Community Actions that are identified to help to improve the community and help satisfy wider community aspirations. They reflect future work activities that it is proposed be undertaken within the Parish which will involve a wide range of third parties alongside the Parish Council to help improve the Parish in line with the outcome of community consultation. Community Actions are not planning policies and are not subject to Examination.

Fig. 1 Designated area



How the Plan fits into the planning system

The right for communities to prepare Neighbourhood Plans was established through the Localism Act 2011, which set out the general rules governing their preparation.

A Neighbourhood Plan forms part of the Statutory Development Plan for the area in which it is prepared. This statutory status means that it must be taken into account when considering planning decisions affecting that area.

One of the main rules governing the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan is that it must be in line with European regulations on strategic environmental assessment and habitat regulations. It must have regard for national planning policy and also be in general conformity with district wide (i.e. North Northamptonshire) planning policies. This means that it cannot be prepared in isolation. It will need to take into account, and generally work with, the grain of the district wide and national policies unless there are good reasons for not doing so. The Neighbourhood Plan, once made, sits alongside the Local Plan within the Development Plan. At the local level, the key planning document which a Neighbourhood Plan must have regard to is the borough-wide Local Plan. In the case of Duddington with Fineshade, this is the North Northamptonshire Core Strategy.

Also important is the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which was updated in 2021. This sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. The NPPF requires the planning system (including Neighbourhood Plans) to encourage sustainable development and details three dimensions to that development:

- An economic dimension – policies should contribute to economic development;
- A social dimension – policies should support strong, vibrant and healthy communities by providing the right supply of housing and creating a high-quality built environment with accessible local services; and
- An environmental dimension – policies should contribute to protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment.

The goal of sustainable development is to enable all people to satisfy their basic needs and to enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own social, economic and environmental needs.

How the Neighbourhood Plan supports sustainable development

The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to meet its commitment to promoting sustainable development in the following ways:

a) Social

- To safeguard existing open space for the enjoyment of residents;
- To protect existing community facilities; and
- To ensure that any new housing meets the needs of present and future generations.

b) Environmental

- To ensure that housing development does not harm but instead positively reflects the existing and historic character of the area;
- To protect important open spaces from development;
- To ensure that the design of development enhances the Parish's special character and identity;
- To protect and, where possible, improve biodiversity and important habitats; and
- To make provision for improved pedestrian and cycling facilities, as appropriate.

c) Economic

- To protect existing employment uses;
- To ensure effective broadband speeds in new development;
- To support appropriate small-scale farm diversification and business development; and
- To encourage appropriate start-up businesses and home working.

The Neighbourhood Plan Objectives

The Plan area encompasses the whole of the Parish of Duddington with Fineshade and covers the period up to 2031, a timescale which deliberately mirrors that for the North Northamptonshire Core Strategy and the East Northamptonshire Local Plan Part 2.

The main purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan is not to duplicate national or North Northamptonshire strategic planning policies, but to sit alongside these, to add additional or more detailed policies specific to Duddington with Fineshade Parish. Where there are national and district-wide planning policies that meet the needs and requirements of the Parish they are not repeated here.

Instead, the Plan focuses on those planning issues which consultation shows matter most to the community, and to which the Plan can add the greatest additional value. These include

policies that:

- Ensure that development takes place in the most sustainable locations;
- Encourage the right types of development that meet local needs;
- Protect important buildings and structures of historic and architectural interest;
- Protect important community assets;
- Promote high quality design in new development;
- Protect the countryside and special landscape; and
- Protect open spaces that are important to the community and/or wildlife.

Furthermore, these locally formulated policies will be specific to Duddington with Fineshade Parish and reflect the needs and aspirations of the community.

When using the Plan to form a view on a development proposal or a policy issue the whole document and the policies contained in it must be considered together.

While every effort has been made to make the main parts of this Plan easy to read and understand, the wording of the actual policies is necessarily more formal, so that it complies with statutory requirements.

The Plan will be kept under review and may change over time in response to new and changing needs and requirements.

2. Duddington with Fineshade - A brief history

Duddington with Fineshade is located within the special landscape area of the Welland Valley at the extreme north east of Northamptonshire. Its two communities are linked by the trunk road A43 and are very different in character.

Duddington with stone as its traditional building material was originally an agricultural community centred on its Manor House next to a river crossing. It developed in a linear fashion following the routes of the old A43 and A47. With the drift away from the land, the population declined until the advent of the bypass. Since then there has been a



slight reversal of this trend with properties being combined and/or enlarged to reflect modern standards. The Collyweston stone slate roofs and limestone buildings and walls impart a harmony of colour and texture which is still largely intact. This was recognised by the award of conservation area status in 1971.



Fineshade is situated in the heart of Rockingham Forest in one of the Nene Valley Regional Parks inspired spaces. There are eleven cottages at Top Lodge that were formally inhabited by Forestry England staff; these are now privately owned. In addition there are seven further dwellings distributed between Duddington and Top Lodge along the A43 and within the grounds of the Abbey.

Forestry England have developed a visitors' centre which comprises a cafeteria and cycle shop. In addition there is also a caravan site run by the Caravan Club, at Top Lodge. Forestry England figures estimate that over 160,000 visitors come to the woods each year to walk, cycle, horse ride and bird watch.

Fineshade has also been identified by North Northamptonshire Council as an area that should be protected and valued for its tranquillity.

The stable block that is all that remains of the Priory at Fineshade, has been sympathetically developed over the years to a dwelling with two lodge houses at the entrance to the Priory. An additional house St Mary's was added to the grounds in approximately 1997/8.

Abbey Cottages that stand on the A43 were converted to one cottage following the sale from Forestry England 1997.

It is essential that the unique character of the parish is not only preserved but also enhanced.

3. Community Engagement

After the Parish Council took the decision to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan a process was set in motion to establish an Advisory Committee to drive the process forward.

Open Event

A consultation event on 24 November 2018 set out the context and stages of the project and



asked questions about people’s thoughts about Duddington with Fineshade parish. An analysis of the event is included in the evidence base.

The views expressed by the residents were used to shape the strategy in preparing the Neighbourhood Plan for Duddington with Fineshade. Over 30 people attended and offered their views.

Comments were made on the draft Vision Statement; environment, housing, community facilities, employment and transport. Interactive exercises encouraged people to think about where the most important open spaces and possible locations for new development were.

The event was a success in bringing the development of the Neighbourhood Plan to the attention of people across a widespread parish.



Community Questionnaire

Copies of the community questionnaire were distributed to every household in the Parish in the autumn of 2018. There were 44 responses representing 19% of the adult population.

The strong response to the Neighbourhood Plan Community Questionnaire demonstrated a set of clear concerns and preferences amongst the respondents.

Questionnaires were completed from a diverse sample of the population and the range of written responses demonstrates an understanding of and commitment to the Neighbourhood Plan area, which adds to the efficacy of the results and offered a good steer to those actively involved in the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

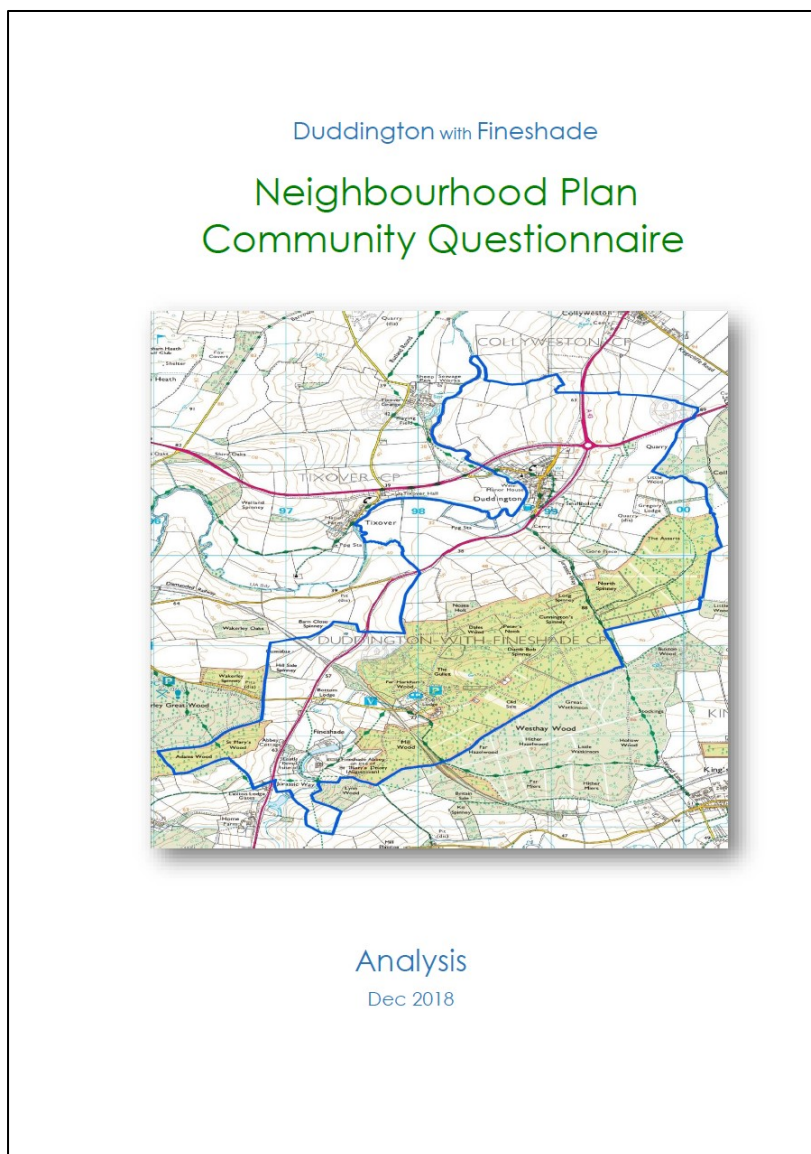
The questionnaire results were broadly consistent with the Open Event.

They became an important part of the evidence gathered to inform and develop the Plan.

Theme Groups

Following the establishment of the Advisory Committee, residents signed up to become part of 'Theme Groups' to explore the detail of the Neighbourhood Plan; to build the evidence base and to lay the foundation for the draft Neighbourhood Plan. An environmental Theme Group was established immediately and carried out a wide range of field surveys to gather the evidence for the Plan. Work was also started on housing and the built environment and on 'community sustainability', which comprised community facilities, employment and transport. This work continued into 2020.

The Coronavirus Pandemic thwarted efforts to hold further Open Events, but an executive summary produced in autumn 2020 helped to bring the policies to the attention of the broader community in an easy-to-read and accessible format.



4. A Vision for Duddington with Fineshade

A simple and clear vision for the future development of the Parish has been established based on local consultation. The vision is as follows:

Our vision is to ensure that by 2031 Duddington and Fineshade will be thriving, vibrant rural communities, both with a strong sense of place and individuality. The neighbourhood will have evolved to meet the social needs of the 21st century, whilst retaining a strong sense of history, grounded in the tranquility of the rural surroundings, in particular the large woodland areas and river landscapes.

Objectives

- a) To conserve the best and improve the rest.
- b) To develop access to open spaces while ensuring that our special wild places and wildlife continue to be protected.
- c) To preserve Duddington's special built environment, retaining and enhancing the character and appeal of the existing conservation area.
- d) To ensure that woodland areas remain accessible to all to enjoy.
- e) To develop and endorse policies and to support developments that have a positive effect on the sustainability of the two communities, including those that remove or minimise flood risk, mitigate climate change and reduce the communities' carbon footprint.
- f) To strengthen both communities by encouraging a balanced demographic mix.
- g) To encourage our rural economy by providing an environment in which small local businesses and home working can flourish, especially given the growth in home working following the Coronavirus Pandemic, taking advantage of new technologies while encouraging innovative transport links to neighbouring towns.
- h) To ensure that tourism developments are commensurate with the neighbourhood's tranquillity and rural character whilst ensuring the neighbourhood's special qualities to attract visitors is preserved, at the same time as providing employment opportunities that benefit the local economy.
- i) To seek methods of protecting the neighbourhood's unique habitats, ensuring that woodland areas (ancient and others), fields, hedgerows, streams and ponds are not destroyed, and the resident species are allowed to flourish.
- j) To enhance and strengthen the pathways, bridleways and other communications between Duddington and neighbouring villages.

5. Policies

A. Housing and the Built Environment

The 2021 NPPF makes clear that the preparation of plans and policies should be underpinned by relevant and up-to-date evidence, and that this should be adequate and proportionate to support and justify the policies concerned, taking into account relevant market signals (para.31).

At paragraph 8, the NPPF also makes clear that plans should contribute to the achievement of sustainable development having regard to economic, social and environmental objectives. In particular the social objective aims to support strong, vibrant and healthy communities by ensuring that a sufficient number and range of homes can be provided to meet the needs of present and future generations. NPPF para.13 states that Neighbourhood Plans should support the delivery of strategic policies contained in local plans, and para. 29 requires that they: “should not promote less development than set out in the strategic policies for the area or undermine those strategic policies”. The Parish Council acknowledges that the Duddington with Fineshade Neighbourhood Plan is required to be consistent with the strategic housing policies in the East Northamptonshire Local Plan.

The Joint Core Strategy specifies a housing requirement of 8,400 dwellings for the Plan period (2011-2031).

Within the draft Local Plan Part 2, a hierarchy of settlements is established to help to determine the most appropriate locations for development. Within this hierarchy, both Duddington and Fineshade are classified as Small (other freestanding) villages. The consultation draft Local Plan Part 2 says the following about Small Villages ‘Neighbourhood Plans may seek to promote growth as a way to sustain or improve local services. Otherwise, development will be limited to small scale infill developments and/ or ‘rural exceptions’ affordable housing schemes’.

Of the overall rural housing requirement of 820 new dwellings for the district over the Plan period, it is estimated that between 11-20 represents an appropriate figure for Duddington with Fineshade. It is stressed that this figure represents ‘strategic guidance’ rather than a set target.

Settlement Boundary

In historical terms, rural villages like Duddington have often been protected by the designation of a village envelope (or settlement boundary) adopted in a statutory Local Plan. With a settlement boundary in place development is only permitted inside of the envelope or outside of it in carefully controlled circumstances (for example to provide affordable

housing or to meet the needs of the rural community). The purpose of the newly drawn settlement boundary is to ensure that sufficient land is identified to meet residential need and that this is available in the most sustainable locations. This will apply to Duddington with a greater development potential than Fineshade which is significantly smaller and more appropriately dealt with under countryside policies.

Settlement boundaries were originally established by North Northamptonshire Council in order to clarify where all new development activity is best located. They have been used to define the extent of a built-up part of a settlement and to distinguish between areas where, in planning terms, development would be acceptable in principle, such as in the main settlements, and where it would not be acceptable, generally in the least sustainable locations such as in the open countryside. Such unfettered and/or unsustainable growth would risk ribbon or piecemeal development and the merging of distinct settlements to the detriment of the community and visual amenity of the built-up area.

The Local Plan Part 2 does not identify a settlement boundary for Duddington or Fineshade. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to introduce a Settlement Boundary for Duddington to help to shape and control development and to take into account the residential allocation described in policy HBE2.

Through community consultation to date residents have expressed a clear desire to maintain what is special about Duddington with Fineshade Parish for future generations. Its countryside setting, and the quiet pace of rural life are seen as being of particular importance.

In statutory planning terms, land outside a defined settlement boundary, including any individual or small groups of buildings and/or small settlements, is defined as open countryside. It is national and local planning policy that development in the countryside should be carefully controlled. Recognising “the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside” is identified as an important principle in the NPPF (para 174 b). This approach is also supported by the Neighbourhood Plan because it will help ensure that development is focused in more sustainable settlements with a greater range of services and facilities and infrastructure that has capacity for expansion, as well as helping to maintain the special landscape character of the Parish and protecting the countryside for its own sake as an attractive, accessible and non-renewable natural resource.

The updated settlement boundary for Duddington has been determined as follows:

1. Recent approvals and existing commitments by virtue of an extant planning permission for residential development on the fringes of the settlement have been incorporated;
2. Clearly defined physical features such as walls, fences, hedgerows and roads have been followed;

POLICY HBE1: SETTLEMENT BOUNDARY - development proposals within the Settlement Boundary for Duddington, or in terms of new community facilities close or adjacent to the Settlement Boundary in figure 2 above will be supported where they comply with other policies in this Plan.

Land outside the defined Settlement Boundary, including at Fineshade, will be treated as open countryside, where development will be carefully controlled in line with local and national strategic planning policies.

Housing Allocation

Although there is no specific housing target for the Parish, the Neighbourhood Plan has undertaken a comprehensive assessment of potential residential development sites in a positive approach to securing sustainable development and to help meet a local need. The process undertaken is detailed in Appendix 5.

Two sites were identified as suitable for development, but the Manor Farm development was removed as an allocation when it was determined that a Strategic Environmental Assessment was required in view of the potentially harmful impacts on this site if it were to proceed as an allocation. The Settlement Boundary has been retained to include this site to help facilitate future development if it is deemed suitable.

The whole of the site is to be built as one carefully designed scheme. The residential development will be considered as one project submitted as one planning application and the site cannot be developed through more than one planning application.

The outcome of this exercise is that one site is therefore allocated for residential development as follows:

POLICY HBE2: RESIDENTIAL SITE ALLOCATIONS - The plan makes provision for about six new dwellings in Duddington between 2019 and 2031. This is met by land being allocated for residential development at the following location as shown in figure 2.

Redundant Building Yard off Mill Street:

- a) The development will provide for a minimum of 50% of dwellings in support of policy HBE1.
- b) A minimum of three of the dwellings will be for Affordable Housing as defined in the NPPF.
- c) The design and elevational treatment to the units will be of a high quality so as not to undermine the setting and will be sensitive to the character of the area and the nearby heritage assets.
- d) At least 2/3 of the dwellings shall be three bedrooms or fewer.

- e) At least one of the units will provide a mobility and accessibility building regulations standard M4(3).
- f) The development will not create an adverse impact on the character of the area, or the amenity of neighbouring dwellings.

Housing Mix

At the time of the 2011 Census, Duddington with Fineshade was home to around 281 residents living in 127 households. Analysis of the Census suggests that between 2001 and 2011 the local area population decreased by around 11% (29 people). During this period, the number of dwellings rose by 5% (6)

The demographic age breakdown is similar to the district, region and national shares but there is evidence that the population is ageing with the number of those aged 60 and over increasing by 31% (20 people).

Home ownership levels are high with around 65% of households owning their homes outright or with a mortgage or loan and. Some 17% of households living in private and 14% in social rented accommodation.

There is evidence of under occupancy suggesting a need for smaller homes of one to two bedrooms which would be suitable for residents needing to downsize, small families and those entering the housing market. Providing suitable accommodation for elderly residents will enable them to remain in the local community and release under-occupied larger properties onto the market which would be suitable for growing families.

There is a predominance of large detached and high value housing. There is an under representation of housing for single people with just 3% of dwellings having one bedroom.

Deprivation is not a significant issue in the local area but the area's relatively high ranking in the Barriers to Housing and Services domain of the 2015 Indices of Deprivation suggests that some residents may find it difficult to access owner-occupation or access the private rental market. There are no records of new build residential sales occurring in the parish between 1995 and 2017.

Appendix 3 includes the census and land registry data in support of these figures. Appendix 4 is a housing needs report undertaken in 2018.

POLICY HBE 3: HOUSING MIX - New Housing development proposals should demonstrate how the proposal will meet the current and future housing needs of the parish as evidenced in the Parish Housing Needs Survey Report 2018 (Appendix 4) or any more recent document updating this report.

Priority should be given to dwellings of 2 and 3 bedrooms and to homes suitable for older people, including bungalows and dwellings suitable for those with restricted mobility.

The inclusion of four-bedroom houses in housing developments will be supported where they are subservient in number to two or three-bedroom accommodation.

Windfall development

A windfall site is defined in the NPPF as one which has not been specifically identified as available through the local or neighbourhood plan process. Sites often comprise previously developed land that has unexpectedly become available. The Local Plan Parts 1 and 2 support windfall development within Small Villages.

To help protect the character of the Parish, development beyond the housing allocations in Duddington will be restricted to windfall sites as described in policy HBE3.

POLICY HBE 4: WINDFALL SITES - Development proposals for infill and redevelopment sites (individual dwellings or small groups of dwellings) will be supported where:

- a) The site is within the Settlement Boundary for Duddington;
- b) It helps to meet an identified housing need;
- c) The site retains existing important natural boundaries such as gardens, trees, hedges and streams;
- d) The site provides for a safe vehicular and pedestrian access to the site;
- e) The proposal avoids negative impact on the Conservation area and its setting;
- f) The site does not reduce garden space to an extent where it adversely impacts on the character of the area, or the amenity of neighbours.

Design

The Parish of Duddington with Fineshade has a long and interesting history, resulting in a wide array of heritage assets, attractive landscapes and a distinctive local character.

The biggest challenge facing the future of the parish is to balance the desire to protect the character of each village with the need for them to grow and evolve in a sensitive and proportionate manner to sustain the community and its facilities.

The policies in this section seek to reflect the design principles which the community believes will help to achieve this aim.

The overall aim is to shape the development of Duddington with Fineshade, so that the villages retain their character within a unique and distinctive Parish. This can be achieved by the use of the planning system to respond sensitively to the wide range of historic buildings, structures, landscapes and archaeology situated within the Parish. These assets form many of the key characteristics of the Parish, and future development should seek to

enhance, reinforce and preserve this distinctive historic environment.

In this section therefore, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to identify and protect the distinctive elements which together provide the special qualities of the landscape setting and built heritage of Duddington with Fineshade parish

New development proposals should be designed sensitively to sit within the distinctive settlement patterns of the villages of Duddington with Fineshade. Existing settlement patterns have grown incrementally over time. This traditional rural character should be enhanced by new development and schemes should be designed to ensure that new buildings sit comfortably within the existing settlement pattern and are respectful of their surroundings.

The community consider it to be important that new residential development is of the highest standard to ensure that it is in keeping with the majority of residential properties in the villages.

New development proposals should be designed sensitively to ensure that the high-quality built environment of the Parish is maintained and enhanced, particularly where schemes are located within or in close proximity to the Conservation Area. New designs should respond in a positive way to the local character through careful and appropriate use of high-quality materials and detail. Proposals should also demonstrate consideration of height, scale and massing, to ensure that new development delivers a positive contribution to the street scene and adds value to the distinctive character of the area.

Residents in the Plan area want their communities to play their part in the sustainable development of the District. As noted in the NPPF, Planning Authorities should, through their policies, contribute as fully as possible to the aims of Biodiversity 2020 DEFRA, 2011. New development in Duddington with Fineshade should be designed to incorporate the current best practice standards and methods for biodiversity protection and enhancement.

Duddington has full conservation status and is covered by an Article four direction, removing permitted development rights and helping to ensure that any development is in keeping with the surrounding properties especially with regard to design, scale and materials used.

Residents in the Plan Area want their communities to play their part in the sustainable development of the District. As noted in the National Planning Policy Framework, Planning Authorities should, through their policies, contribute as fully as possible to the aims of Biodiversity 2020 DEFRA, 2011. New development in Duddington with Fineshade should be designed to incorporate the current (at time of Application) best practice standards and methods for biodiversity protection and enhancement.

POLICY HBE 5: HOUSING DESIGN - New development should reflect the guidance in the current Duddington with Fineshade Village Design Statement (Appendix 6).

Development proposals including one or more houses, replacement dwellings and extensions should respect local character, having regard to scale, density, massing, height, landscape, layout, materials and access, as appropriate (for example, stone and Collyweston slate at Duddington). Where appropriate, development proposals should provide safe and attractive public and private spaces, and well defined and legible spaces that are easy to get around for all, including those with disabilities.

Provision should be made in the design and construction of new development in the Plan Area to protect and enhance biodiversity, including:

- a) Roof and wall construction following technical best-practice recommendations for integral bird nest boxes and bat breeding and roosting sites
- b) Hedges (or fences with ground-level gaps) for property boundaries that maintain connectivity of habitat for hedgehogs
- c) Lighting design, location, type, lux levels and times of use should follow current best-practice, e.g. by applying the guidelines in Guidance note 08/18 Bats and artificial lighting in the UK: Bat Conservation Trust / Institution of Lighting Professionals, 2018, as well as regulations.
- d) Where possible and appropriate, development proposals should incorporate sustainable drainage systems with maintenance regimes to minimise vulnerability to flooding and climate change.

b. The Natural and Historic Environment

Introduction

The environment in sustainable development

This section of the Duddington with Fineshade Neighbourhood Plan deals with the environmental component of *sustainable development*, as described in the National Planning Policy Framework, p.5. It balances the requirement for appropriate development in the Plan Area against the value of environmental features that are both *special* – appreciated, in their own right and as community assets, by local people - and *significant* for their wildlife and history. It also deals with broader environmental issues of concern to the community, including protection and enhancement of local biodiversity.

Care was taken during preparation of the Plan to ensure that the policies (and the sites and areas of environmental significance covered by them) were not unduly restrictive on development during the Plan’s lifetime. Only 10% by area of all the open and currently undeveloped land in the parish is protected in this Neighbourhood Plan from potential environmentally damaging development, as follows:

Total area of the Neighbourhood Plan Area	918 ha
Area of all open or undeveloped land	889 ha
Total area designated or notified in this Plan for environmental protection (not including undifferentiated Forestry England land)	90 ha (10%)

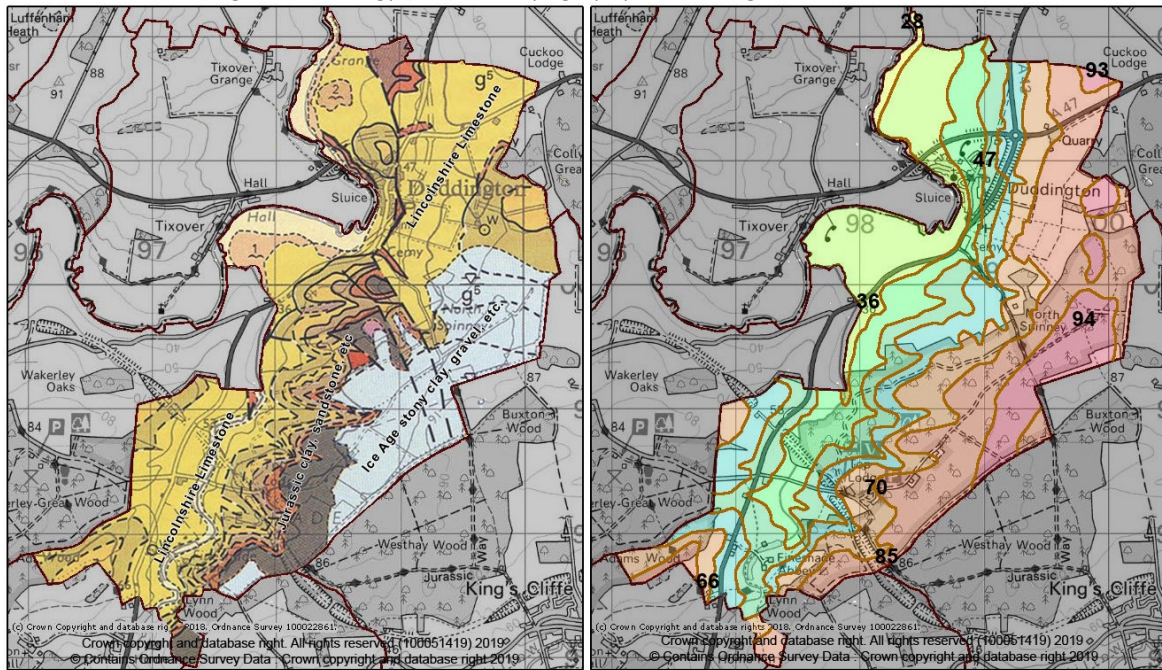
Landscape, geology and setting

The Plan Area occupies a five-kilometre (three mile) section of the escarpment that forms the west-facing side of the Welland valley, an important regional topographic feature. From the valley bottom north of Duddington to the highest spot in Fineshade Wood the land rises 66m (216ft) quite steeply. This gives much of the area its grand, spacious views. Over the lip of the escarpment the landscape changes thanks to the survival of part of the medieval (or older) Rockingham Forest, an area covered by a mix of ancient woodland and more recent plantations, within which old quarries and shaded tracks provide visual interest.

The whole area is underlain by rocks of Jurassic age, successively younger from west to east, and including the economically important Lincolnshire Limestone Formation, valued from Roman times to the present as a building stone and roofing material (Collyweston ‘slate’) whose cream colour characterises the local built environment.

The MAPS in this chapter have been reduced to fit the document page size.
Full-size versions are available as *supporting documents*

Figure 3: Geology (left) and topography of Duddington with Fineshade



Historic environment

DUDDINGTON

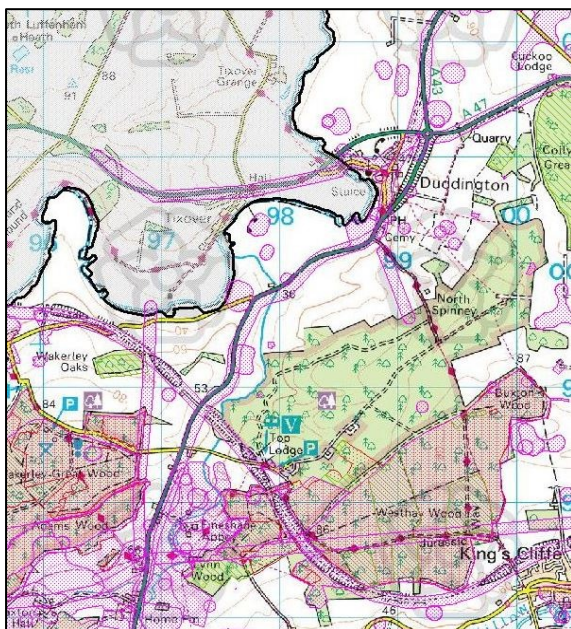


Figure 4: All Historic Environment Records (HER) sites (Northamptonshire County Council)

The current mill dates from 1664, while the War Memorial records those from the village killed in both world wars.

The current Manor House dates from 1663 and for most of that time was owned by the

Although referenced as Dodingstone in the Domesday survey of 1086, there is evidence to support Roman activity long before that, as Roman coins have been found in the village. The Domesday book recorded a manor farm, property owning villagers, small-holders and a priest. The church would then have been of a wooden Anglo-Saxon design. It is thought this implied a small manor village of one to two hundred souls and there was a water mill.

The current and more substantial Norman style St Marys church was built in 1150 in with the tower and other features added from the 13th century onwards. The current

Jackson family who also owned the mill and the mill owner's house. The bridge that marks the west parish boundary originates from the 13th century and was widened in 1919.

While social life in the village today circulates around the church, village hall and Royal Oak pub, the village has in the past boasted three pubs, a butcher, baker, slaughterhouse, post office, school and three working farms. There is only one working farm in the village today.

The majority of buildings are of Jurassic limestone with Collyweston slate roofs. The original A47 and A43 roads ran through the village, but a bypass was built in the early 1980s and soon after the old part of the village was designated as a conservation area.

FINESHADE

Fineshade Wood is the largest remnant of the thirteenth century royal hunting ground – Rockingham Forest, but Fineshade itself has never existed as a village. It is believed that the Fineshade Abbey site has been settled since the late Bronze or Early iron age and archaeological investigations there have also brought to light signs of a Roman settlement. In 1135 AD there was a motte-and-bailey Norman castle, known as Castle Hymel. This became the Priory of St Mary and later was known as Fineshade Abbey. Around the abbey a farming community grew, with “assarts” cut into the forest and a field system developed. After the dissolution of the monasteries, the buildings became a substantial private house, with a series of developments through Victorian times including lakes and landscaping. The main mansion was demolished in the 1950s though the stable block remains as a Grade II listed private house, still named Fineshade Abbey. In the 18th century Top and Bottom Lodges, substantial farmsteads with barns and granaries, were built. By this time a major north-south highway had developed passing through Fineshade but, in the 1860s, the London and North Western Railway (LNWR) line was built with a deep cutting and high embankment disrupting the landscape as never before. In the 20th century Forestry England bought the remaining woodland and farmland east of Top Lodge, planting trees to compensate for the general deforestation caused by the two world wars. Top Lodge, now a Grade II listed building, serves as the hub and Visitor Centre for public access to the woodland. A group of 11 privately-owned houses, originally built for FC staff, now form the de facto centre of Fineshade with more scattered housing around the Abbey Site and along the main road.

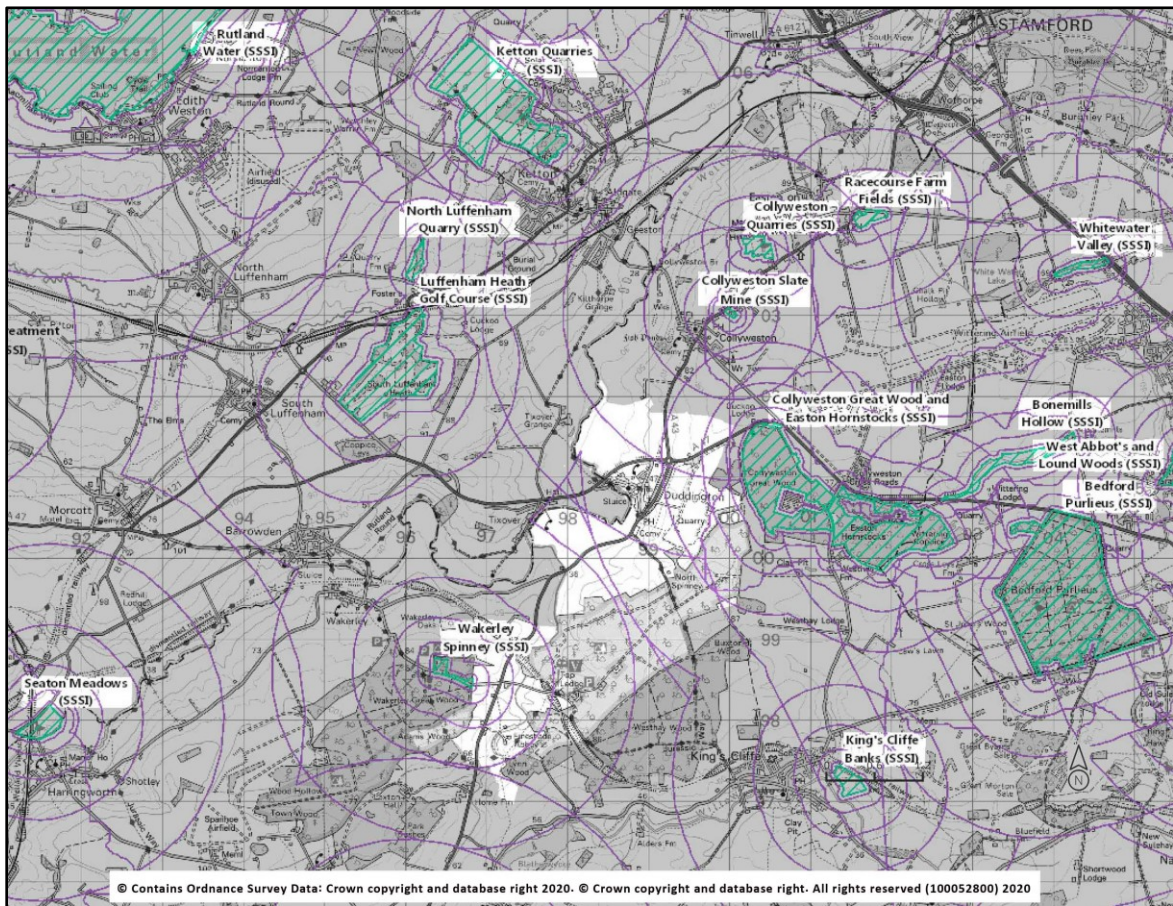
Natural environment

Geology and history have been strong influences on the natural environment of Duddington and Fineshade. The Plan Area is underlain by three markedly different soil types and aspects: floodplain alluvium, hillside limestone and hilltop clay plateau. The historical style of land management, with low population density, relatively small areas of medieval arable (open field system) farming, extensive ‘waste’ (used for common grazing and foraging) and medieval Forest, was largely the result. The Parliamentary Enclosure of Duddington in 1755

obliterated most of the previous land use pattern and 20th century intensification, and quarrying, have taken this process even further. The consequence for ‘natural’ habitat areas is that the Plan Area is split between Rockingham Forest with its high biodiversity value (Fineshade, Adams and St Mary’s woods with Fineshade Abbey between them), and Duddington and the north with only a few patches of good habitat. In the context of this Neighbourhood Plan, the significance of these few surviving areas for biodiversity is therefore treated as high and irreplaceable (see Policies ENV 2 and ENV 5).

Existing environmental designations

Figure 5: Impact Risk Zones of the SSSIs surrounding the Plan Area



There are no SSSIs in the parish, but the 5-km Impact Risk Zones of a number in surrounding parishes fall within the Plan Area (Figure 5).

The Plan Area is in *National Character Area* (Natural England landscape areas, defined for Planning purposes) 92 *Rockingham Forest*, and in Northamptonshire CC *Landscape Character Areas* (2007) LCA 10b *Limestone plateau, Collyweston*, LCA 15 *Farmed scarp slopes Harringworth to Duddington (15c)* and *Duddington to Easton-on-the-Hill (15d)*, and LCA 18k *Broad river valley floodplain, Tixover to Wothorpe*. Section 3.26 of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy draws attention to an *Area of Tranquillity* known as the *King's Cliffe Hills and Valleys Landscape Character Area*; almost all of the Plan Area lies within the north-western section of this area of tranquillity.

There are 31 statutorily protected historic features of national importance (29 Listed Buildings and two Scheduled Monuments), some 60 further sites and features of historical significance (Northamptonshire Historic Environment Records), and some 38 areas of *Priority Habitat* (as defined by Natural England).

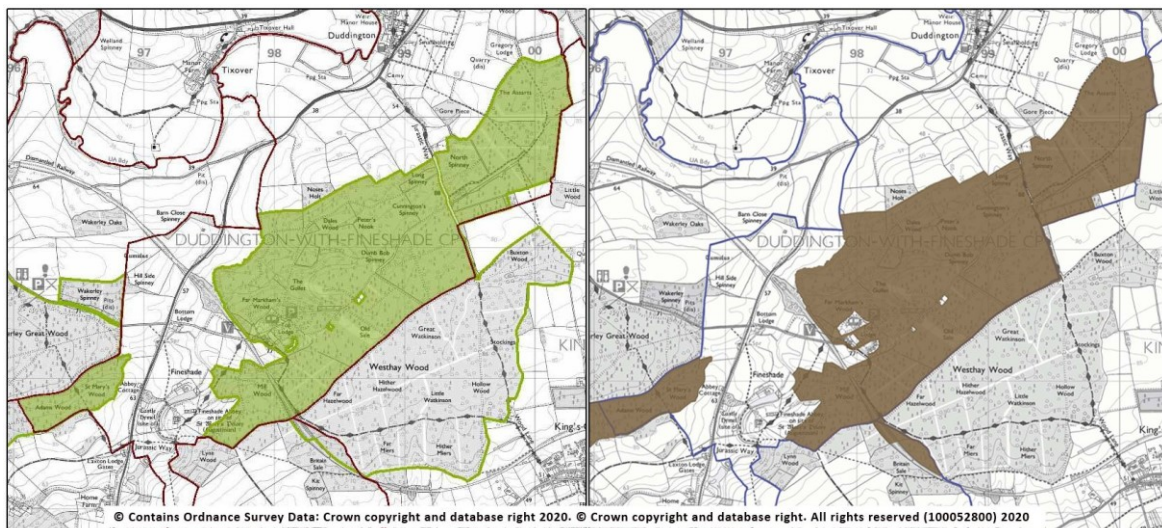
Forestry England land

The land within Forestry England Legal Boundary (Figure 6) is part of the Public Forest Estate, owned officially by the Secretary for State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and managed by Forestry England England (FC). For planning purposes all of this area (Fineshade Woods, Adams Wood, St Mary's Wood and associated parcels) is subject to the National Planning Policy Framework 2021 and the East Northamptonshire: Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Plan 2011, meaning (a) Planning Consent is required for any qualifying development proposal and (b) the types of development permitted are restricted to those appropriate for *Open Countryside*.

Protection is also conferred on ancient woodland and veteran trees, while an Environmental Impact Assessment may be required when a development proposal or strategic site allocation affects Forestry England land.

Except for five areas within the legal boundary, the whole Public Forest Estate in the Plan Area has *open access* under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 (figure 6).

Figure 6: Forestry England legal boundary (left) and Dedicated Open Access Land (CROW 2000)



Forestry England uses Forest Plans to define the long-term vision for woodlands and to set out how management will move towards achieving this vision over the following ten years. There is usually a consultation process with local communities and stakeholders before the Forest Plan is approved. The current Forest Plan for the FC woodlands in this neighbourhood was drawn up in 2006, expired in 2016 and was extended without consultation for a further

five years. A new Forest Plan was completed in 2020 in consultation with the community (see Community Action ENV 1 below).

Environmental Inventory

An Environmental Inventory (Appendix 7) of Duddington with Fineshade parish was carried out between September 2018 and February 2019. The work comprised two elements:

- Review of all existing designations and available information, and
- Fieldwork to identify sites and features of natural and historical environment significance in the context of the Plan Area.

The review compiled information from many sources, including DEFRA, Natural England, Historic England, Northamptonshire Historic Environment Records, Northants Environmental Record Centre records (biodiversity and geology), North Northamptonshire Council strategic mapping, Environment Agency, British Geological Survey, old maps (Ordnance Survey, manuscript), British History Online, local history and archaeology publications, and local knowledge.

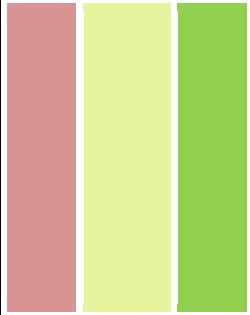
The fieldwork reviewed all open and currently undeveloped land in the Plan Area, and significant species, habitats, landscape characteristics, earthworks and other extant features were checked.

These data, along with all relevant site-specific information from the existing information review, were mapped and tabulated, and each site was scored and evaluated using the seven criteria for Local Green Space selection in the *National Planning Policy Framework* 2018:

Table ENV 1: Environmental inventory scoring system used in the Plan

Criterion (NPPF 2021)	Score range	Score range	Notes
LOCAL IN CHARACTER, not an extensive tract of land	N	Y	Yes is essential for LGS designation. The site should be a single bounded parcel of land, or a small, coherent group (evidence-based, with shared characteristics and in single ownership).
PROXIMITY	0 1-4 5	0 1-4 5	5 = an open space <u>within</u> a settlement 4 = adjacent to the settlement boundary (Limit to Development line when defined) 3, 2, 1 = successively farther from settlement 0 = most distant from main settlement(s)
SPECIAL TO COMMUNITY: BEAUTY	0	1-2 3	Subjective, relative (give justification); use consultation 'dot' map results for views. Only the most attractive land in the Plan Area should qualify. Most should get 0 or 1.

TRANQUILLITY	0	1-2	3	Tranquillity should be judged as a real experience and only applied to sites that have public access; just being 'a long way from anywhere' doesn't make a site tranquil. Most sites should get 0 or 1. 3 will probably be limited to where birdsong is louder than traffic noise e.g. churchyards, and managed semi-natural habitats including public woodland.
RECREATIONAL VALUE	0	1-2	3	3 = Public Open Spaces designed for sport and recreation or as facilities for children and young people. Other recreational space with full or comprehensive public access. 2 =Semi-natural parkland (trees, grass) with public footpaths and no physical restriction on access. Managed wildlife site with public access. Paddock or grazing field with 1 or more public footpaths, e.g. well-used for dog-walking, traditional sledging field. 1 =Arable farmland with public footpath but no other access. 0 = private property with no public recreational value or access
LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE: HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE	0	1-4	5	Historical significance can only apply to sites and features that can be seen (to be appreciated) or are proven buried archaeological features. 5 = statutory site, includes or comprises Scheduled monument, Listed Building, feature or structure. National Trust or English Heritage site 4 = site with features in the County <i>Historic Environment Record</i> , Historic England <i>PastScape</i> records. <i>Registered park or garden</i> . Well-preserved <i>ridge and furrow</i> . 3, 2 = site includes feature, earthworks or building with known local historic environment significance – history includes 20 th century. Fainter <i>ridge and furrow</i> 1 = site of local oral or recorded history importance, no actual structure 0 = No evidence for historical environment significance
RICHNESS OF WILDLIFE	0	1-4	5	Protection of habitats and species, in compliance with EU Directives and English legislation, at the local level of individual land parcels. 5 = Statutory site, includes or comprises SSSI (biodiversity or geology) or other national or European designation. 4 = County Wildlife Trust, etc. <i>nature reserve</i> , <i>Country Park</i> with importance for biodiversity, etc. 3 – site with National, county and local biodiversity features, e.g. <i>Priority Habitats</i> , occurrence of one or more <i>Species of Conservation Concern</i> (use national or county Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Species lists), mapped Gt Crested newt ponds, bat roosts and foraging areas. County or local site designations

		<p>e.g. <i>Local Wildlife Site (LWS), Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC), Local Nature Reserve, Community WildSpace</i>, etc.</p> <p>2 = other site of known local biodiversity importance not recorded elsewhere with e.g. BAP species, species-rich hedgerows, watercourse, pond</p> <p>1 = (parish background level), moderate or potential wildlife value</p> <p>0 = no evidence for natural environment significance</p>
[Maximum possible score]	24	

Local Green Spaces

Of the 129 inventoried parcels of open or undeveloped land in the parish, 50 were identified as having environmental (natural, historical and/or cultural and community) features, as described below. All sites have been scored, using the seven criteria for Local Green Space designation noted in the *National Planning Policy Framework 2018* (see Table ENV 1, above, for the criteria and scoring system devised for this Plan). Four sites score 16 or more of the maximum possible (24), and also meet the essential requirements for designation as Local Green Space as outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, paragraph 101). Their statutory protection will ensure that these most important places in the natural and human environment of Duddington with Fineshade are protected for the benefit and appreciation of residents, visitors and future generations.

POLICY ENV 1: PROTECTION OF LOCAL GREEN SPACE – Development proposals that would result in the loss of, or have an adverse effect on, the following Local Green Spaces (map, figures 7.1 and 7.2; details, Appendix 8) will not be supported other than in very special circumstances.

Stock's Hill, Duddington (Inventory reference 007); area 0.78ha

Fineshade meadow 'Sheep field' (608); area 2.24 ha

Community green and orchard, Fineshade; (606); area 0.96 ha

Figure 7.1: Local Green Spaces in Duddington village

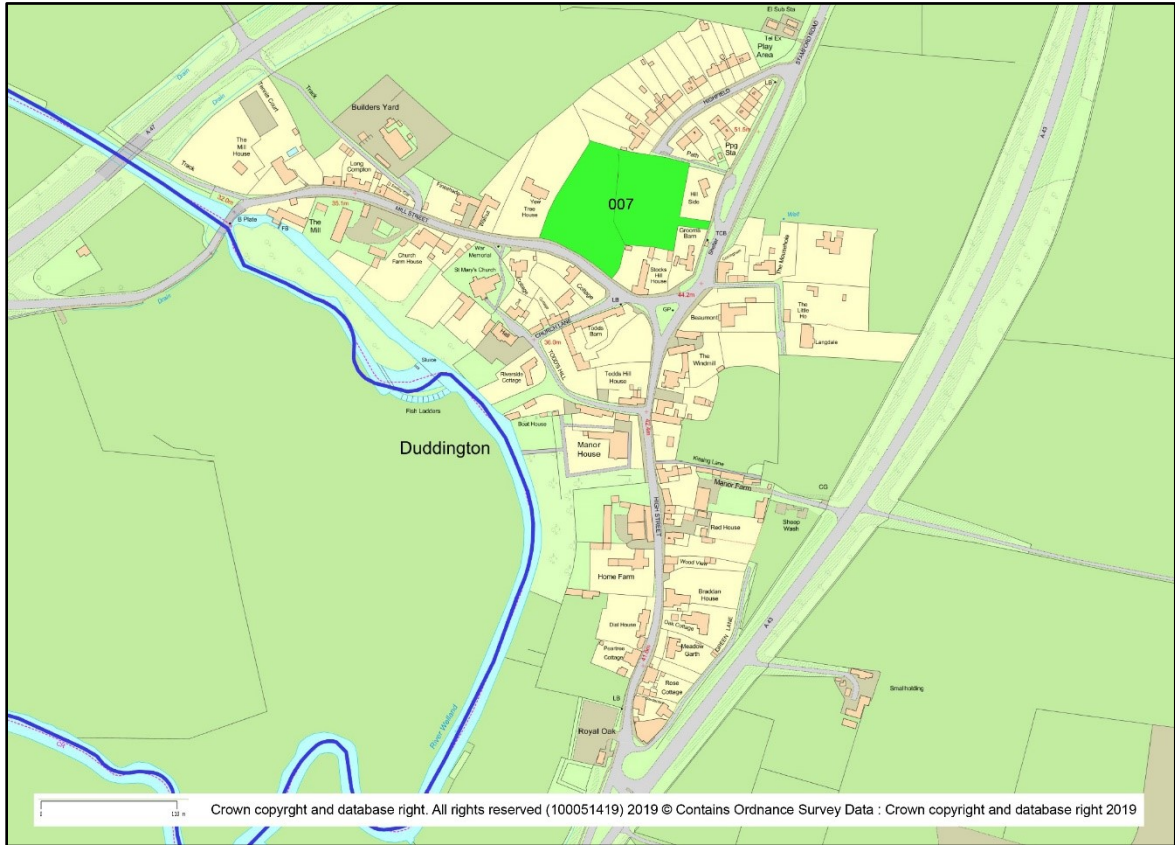
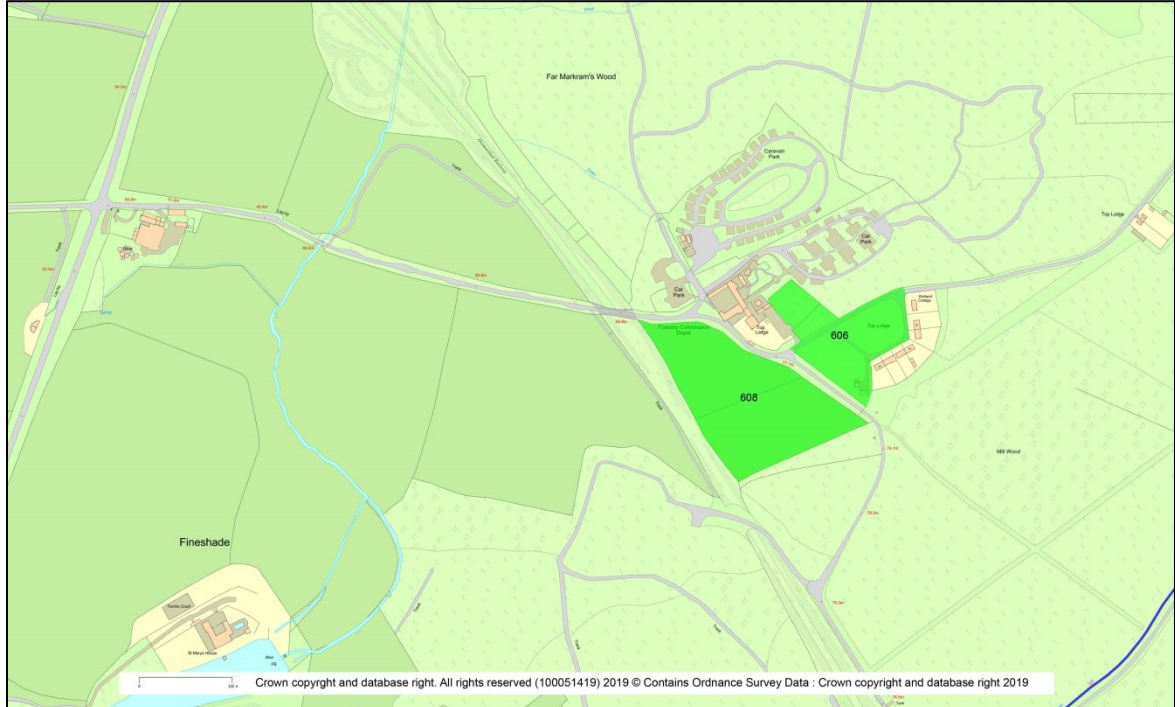


Figure 7.2: Local Green Spaces in Fineshade

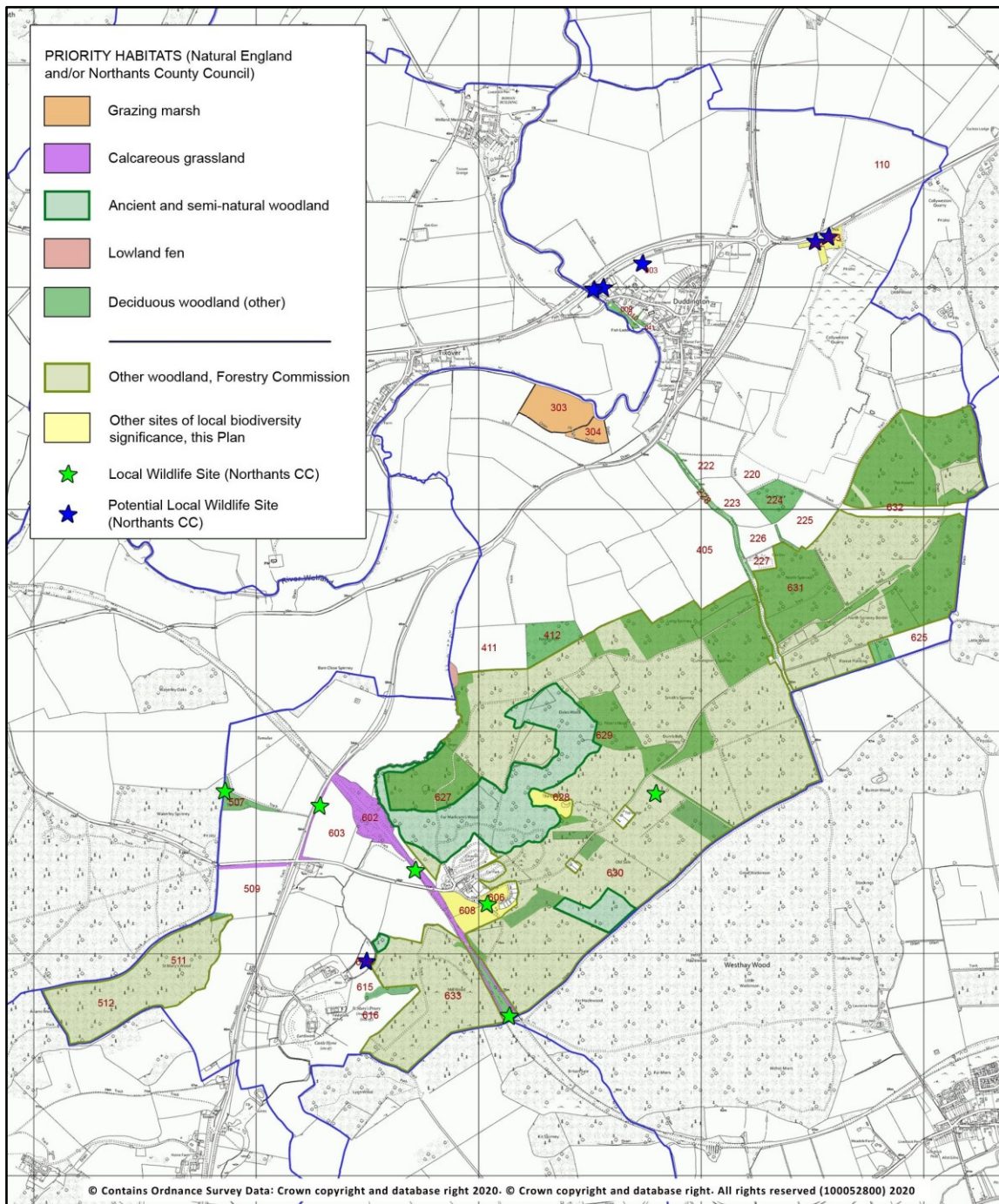


The **natural environment** sites comprise:

- a) those where *priority habitats* occur (Natural England mapping) or where *biodiversity action plan (BAP) species* have been recorded as breeding or as regular visitors;
- b) sites identified as ecologically significant by North Northamptonshire Council, including Local Wildlife Sites; or
- c) sites identified during the inventory process as being of high biodiversity significance in the context of the Plan Area.

Six of the seven sections of Fineshade wood also satisfied the selection criteria (fields 627, 628, 629, 631, 632 and 633).

Figure 8.2: Sites and features of natural environment significance



This policy applies the basic principles of sustainable development (NPPF 2021, paragraph 8) to require planning decisions in the Plan Area to balance the environmental significance of features that would be destroyed or adversely affected against any local economic or societal value of a development proposal.

POLICY ENV 2: PROTECTION OF SITES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE – The sites listed and mapped (figures 8.1, 8.2) have been identified as being of local significance for their environmental features (natural and/or historical). They are important for biodiversity in their own right, their historical features are extant and have visible expression, or there is proven buried archaeology on the site, and they are locally valued.

To be approved, development proposals will be required to demonstrate that the development’s local economic or societal value outweighs the environmental significance of the site or feature.

Important Open Spaces

A group of sites scored highly in the inventory (scoring at least 75% of the possible total under the relevant criteria) for their outstanding community value. They have been identified in fieldwork, community consultations and in Parish records.

North Northamptonshire Council open space typologies, as defined in *East Northamptonshire Open Space Study Assessment Report, 2016* are:

Allotments	Provision for	gardens
Amenity greenspace	children and	Natural and
Cemeteries/ churchyards	young people	semi-natural
	Parks and	greenspace

In Duddington and Fineshade these sites’ value as open space *within and close to the built-up areas* and/or their current, or potential, value, as community resources are recognised in this policy, which is in conformity with Policy 15 in Part 6 of the ENCD *Rural North, Oundle and Thrapston Local Plan 2011*, and refers to the open space typologies in the *East Northamptonshire Open Space Study Assessment Report, 2016*.

POLICY ENV 3: IMPORTANT OPEN SPACES – The following open spaces in Duddington and Fineshade (figures 9.1, 9.2) are of high value for recreation, beauty, amenity, tranquillity or as green spaces within or close to the built-up area. Development proposals that result in their loss, or have a significant adverse effect on them, will not be supported unless the open space is replaced by equivalent or better provision in an equally suitable location, or unless it can be demonstrated that the open space is no longer required by the community.

St Mary’s churchyard, Duddington
(inventory reference 012; ENDC open space typology *cemeteries /*

churchyards); ENDC open space 2016

Highfield play area (005; *provision for children and young people*); ENDC open

space 2016

War memorial green, Duddington
(amenity greenspace)

Duddington cemetery (218; cemeteries
/ churchyards)

Top Lodge play area, Fineshade

(provision for children and young
people)

Top Lodge approach and verges,
Fineshade (amenity greenspace)

Top Lodge garden, Fineshade
(allotments)

Figure 9.1: Important Open Spaces in Duddington

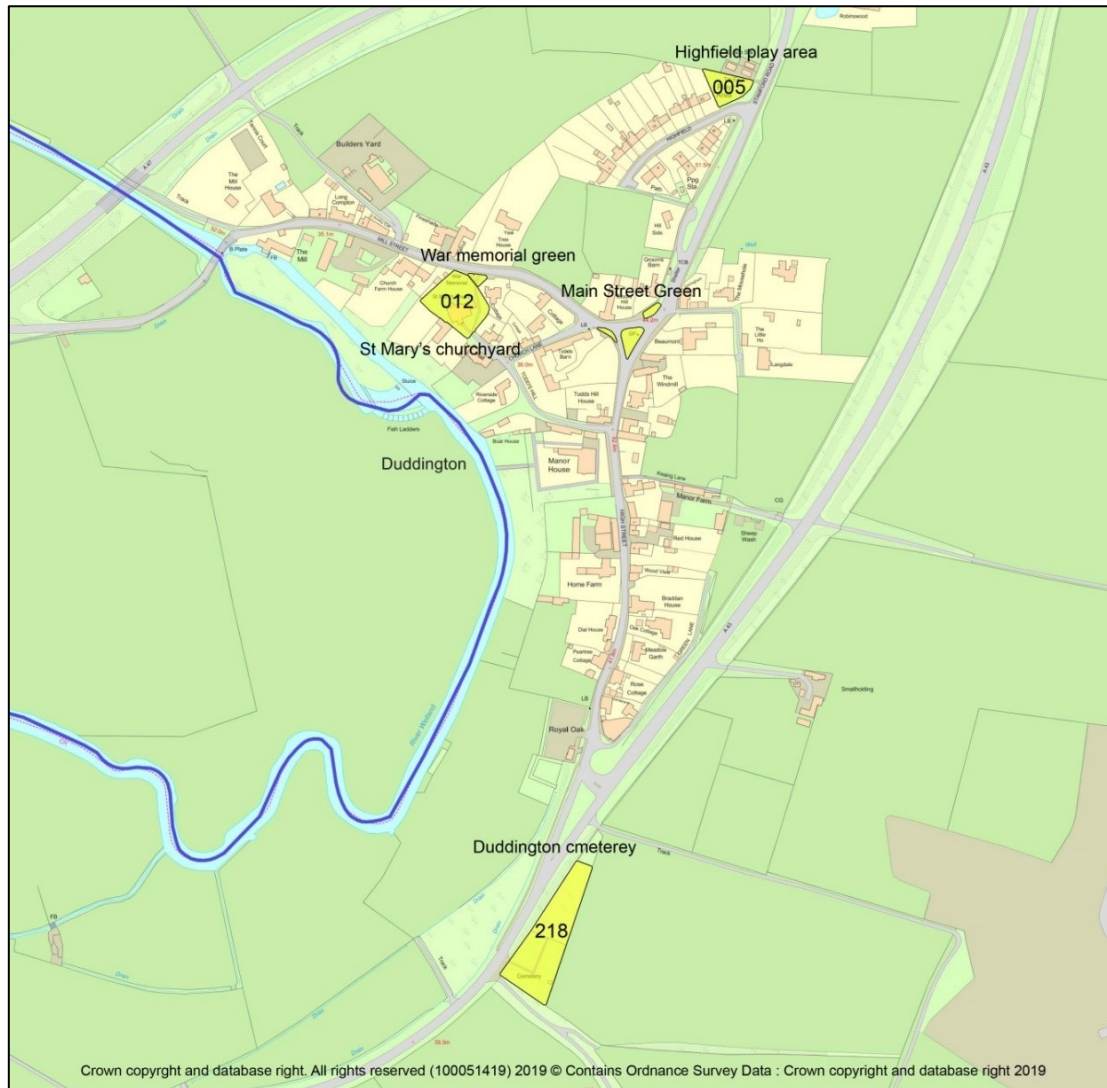
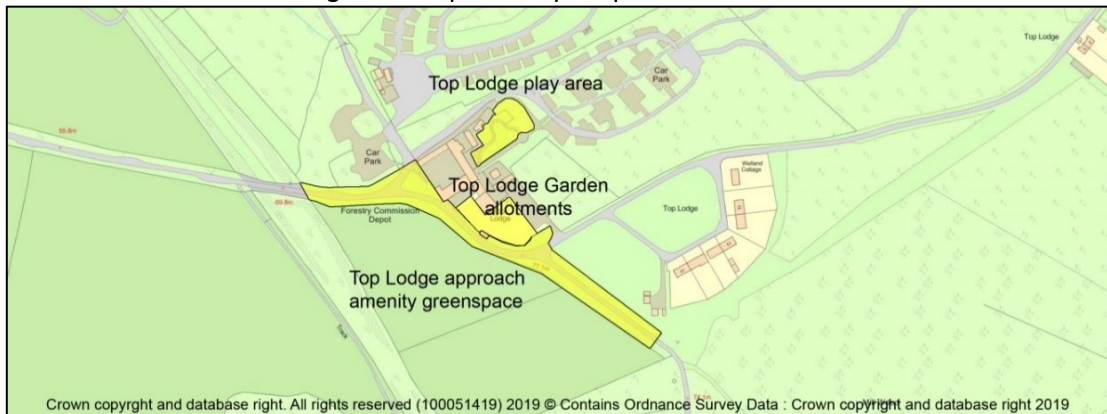


Figure 9.2 Important Open Spaces in Fineshade



Buildings and structures of local significance

LISTED BUILDINGS

Thirty-one buildings and structures in the Plan Area have statutory protection through Listing at Grade II* or II or as Scheduled Monuments. The Neighbourhood Plan lists them (Appendix 9) for reference. New development will be required to take into account their *settings* as defined, on a case-by-case basis, by Historic England. Where these statutorily protected heritage assets lie within, or close to, sites designated or noted for protection in the Plan’s Policies and Community Actions, their features and settings contribute to these sites’ inventory scores as evidence of significance.

LOCAL HERITAGE ASSETS

The Neighbourhood Plan identifies a number of other buildings and structures in the built environment of Duddington and Fineshade that are considered to be of local significance for architectural, historical or social reasons (details in Appendix 10). Their inclusion here records them for inclusion in the Planning system, following appropriate consultation and validation, in order that they can be afforded protection at the appropriate level as outlined in footnote (68) to NPPF 2021 paragraph 200.

Figure 10.1: Local Heritage Assets: buildings and structures of local significance in Fineshade

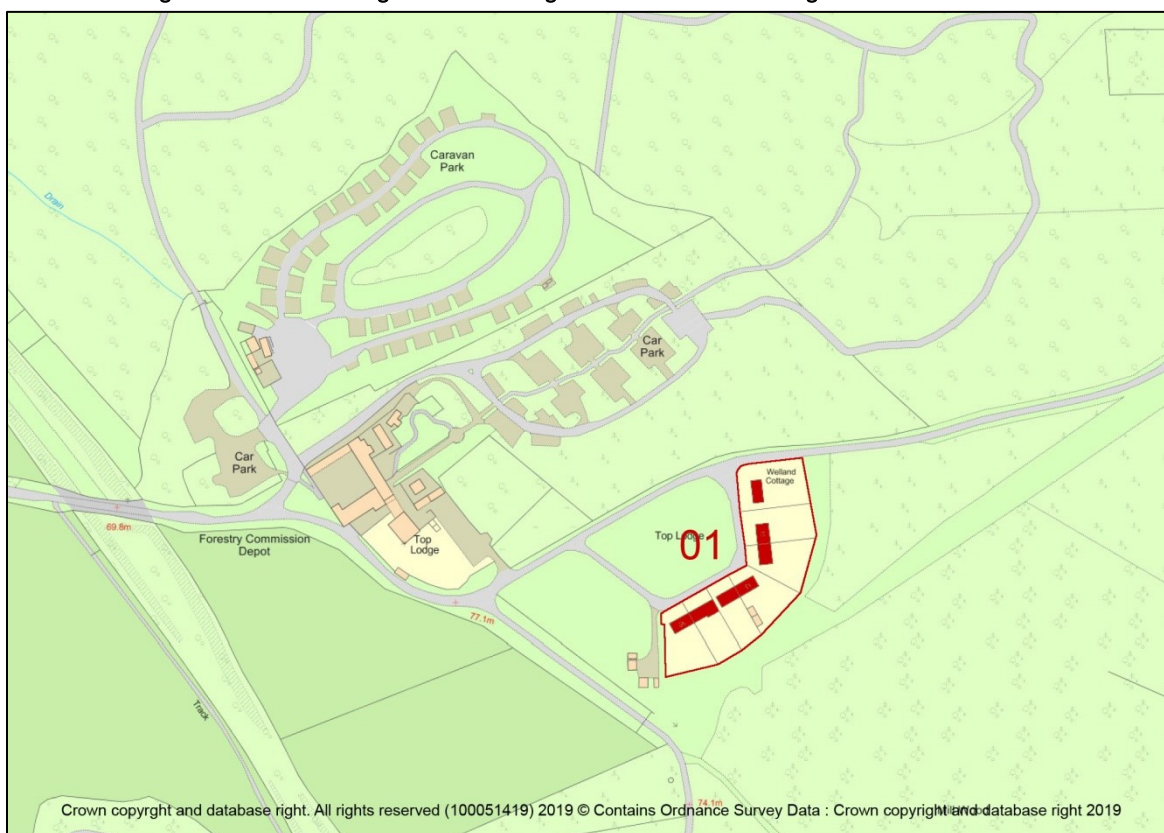


Figure 10.2: Local Heritage Assets: buildings and structures of local significance in Duddington



POLICY ENV 4: BUILT ENVIRONMENT: LOCAL HERITAGE ASSETS – The structures and buildings listed here (and maps, figures 10.1, 10.2) are important for their contribution to the layout and characteristic mix of architectural styles in the area of the plan, and their features and settings should be protected wherever possible. The value of a development proposal, or of a change of use requiring planning approval, adversely affecting any of them will need to be weighed against their significance as heritage assets.

01 Former forestry workers' houses, Top Lodge, Fineshade

02 Duddington village hall

03 The Royal Oak public house, Duddington

04 K6 telephone box, Duddington

05 Bus shelter, Duddington

See APPENDIX 10 for full evidence using Historic England criteria

Biodiversity, woodland and habitat connectivity

“Protecting the best, improving the rest”

The Plan Area Policy ENV 2 deals with the protection of identified parcels of land of high biodiversity value. This policy (ENV 7) covers the general principal of protecting trees, woodlands and hedgerows. It also identifies wildlife corridors, incorporating some of the best semi-natural habitat areas in the parish and passing close to the settlements. These wildlife corridors will provide *habitat connectivity* to enable wildlife populations to move between the otherwise isolated surviving places for living, breeding, foraging and feeding, and (because of its proximity to the settlements) give opportunities for local people to enjoy the benefits of appreciation of the natural world.

Protection of habitats and species in the planning system is an obligation under European directives (e.g. *Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora*) and the English legislation derived from them (e.g. *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* with later amendments). An individual planning decision affecting one parcel of wildlife habitat in Duddington with Fineshade might feel too small to have an effect on biodiversity more widely. But English biodiversity consists *only* of the sum of all such individual places; destruction of any one reduces English biodiversity – irreversibly – by that amount. The cumulative effect of this approach, allowing development to destroy local habitat sites, has played a significant part in the observed 70% decline of much of England’s wildlife over the past several decades. The people of Duddington and Fineshade want to play their part in discouraging this unhelpful approach to planning. In this aim they are explicitly supported by a number of paragraphs in the National Planning Policy Framework; they expect this to be followed up by thoughtful interpretation of the NPPF’s definition of *sustainable development* when development proposals are under scrutiny by North Northamptonshire Council. In addition, as noted in the National Planning Policy Framework, Planning Authorities should, through their policies, contribute as fully as possible to the aims of *Biodiversity 2020* DEFRA, 2011.

Fineshade and Wakerley Woods

Some 40% of the undeveloped Plan Area is mapped by Natural England or Forestry England as *ancient and semi-natural woodland* or *mixed deciduous/coniferous woodland*. These habitat areas are of at least regional significance for biodiversity, with 2,230 species of plants and animals recorded to date.

In 2016 Fineshade Wood was placed on the list of sites for designation as a Site of Special Scientific Interest by Natural England. The Chief Executive wrote:

“Fineshade Wood is a wonderful place for wildlife. It forms part of the wider Rockingham Forest which is a very important landscape for nature and the people of Northamptonshire.”

Natural England re-stated their support for local efforts to conserve the rich biodiversity of Fineshade Wood in 2018. They have also strongly supported basing the *Roots of Rockingham - Back from the Brink* project here.

Forestry management is an important issue locally and a community action is included here to work with Forestry England for the benefit of the local community. During the preparation of the Neighbourhood Plan, tree clearance from one of the main visitor tracks in Fineshade Wood demonstrated the importance of forestry management.



COMMUNITY ACTION ENV 1: FORESTRY ENGLAND FINESHADE AND WAKERLEY WOODS

The Parish Council, together with local groups, will continue to be engaged with Forestry England in the preparation and agreement of plans for the management of the parts of the Public Forest Estate known as Fineshade Wood, together with those parts of Wakerley Great Wood within the Plan Area. The principal aim is to ensure that management plans for, and any development proposals within, the woods result in a net biodiversity gain.

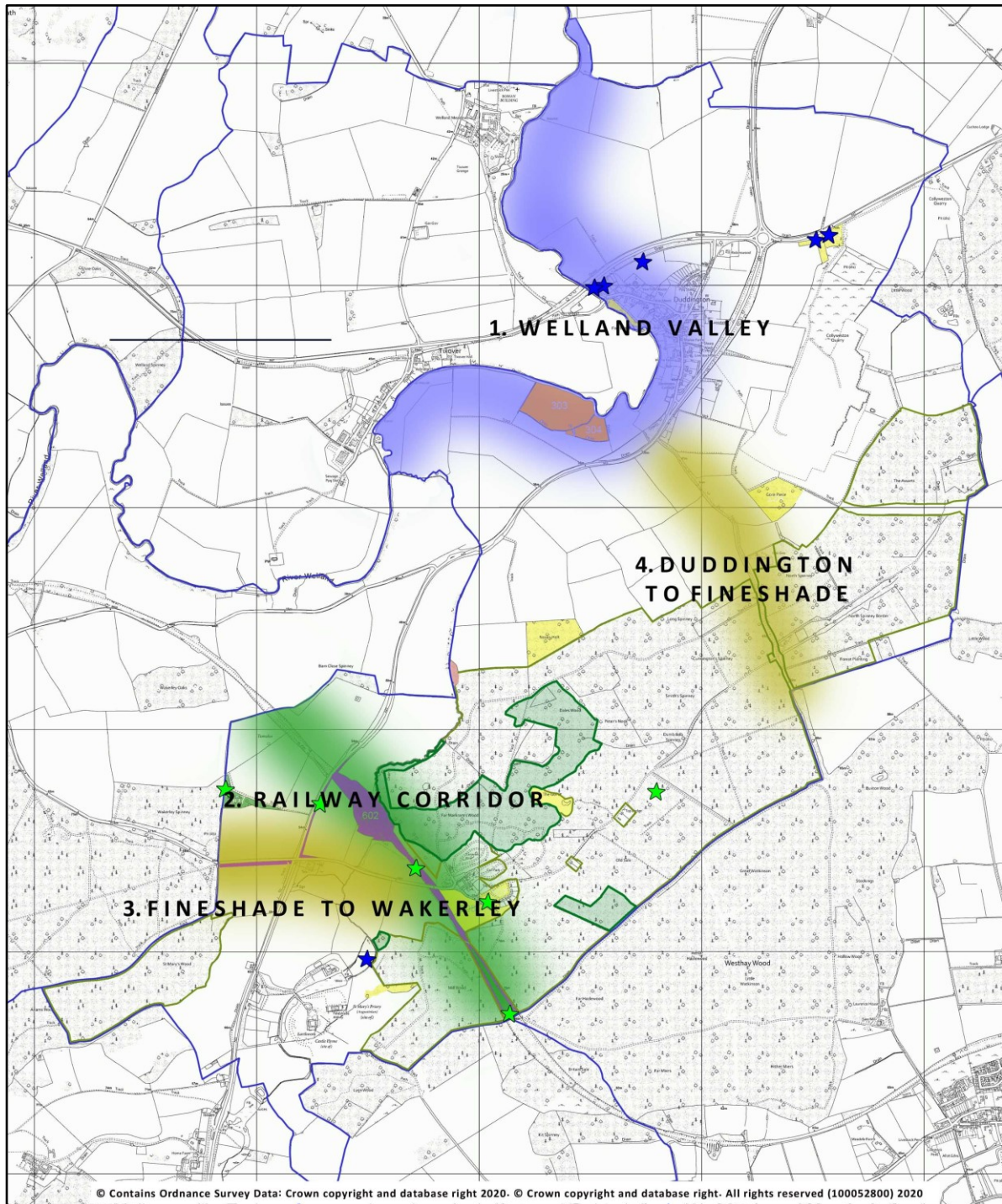
The Parish Council and local groups will work with and assist Forestry England in delivery of their planned targets.

Wildlife corridors

Outside the woodland the undeveloped Plan Area is largely open farmland or quarry land, but the River Welland and its floodplain form part of a regionally significant wildlife corridor, while a number of other, relatively isolated but locally important areas or linear features, lend themselves to designation as wildlife corridors aimed at providing *habitat* connectivity for wildlife.

The River Welland forms the northwest boundary for this Neighbourhood Plan and one of its tributary streams flows from Fineshade Abbey lakes and along the western boundary. In recent years considerable improvements have been made to the water quality of the river and to its banks. Aquatic invertebrates are flourishing, trout and other fish are becoming more common, Otters are now frequently seen. The Welland Rivers Trust (<http://www.wellandriverstrust.org.uk>) with Environment Agency support have been leading the way with this work. It has included tree planting along the riverside around Duddington and other villages. A River Warden Scheme is being introduced to help local people monitor and conserve the river environment. Landowners are being encouraged to reduce sediment, nutrients and pesticides flowing into the river.

Figure 11: Wildlife corridors and the sites of biodiversity significance for which they provide connectivity



Running from the southeast to northwest through Fineshade is a disused railway line which closed in the 1960s. The route runs through a very deep cutting at the south-eastern end, then becomes a significant embankment before becoming a cutting again. It was created as Local Wildlife Sites in the 1990s (see Ecological data search, Duddington with Fineshade, Appendix 11 p10-13). At that time its primary importance was as calcareous grassland and habitat for Adders. Since then much of the route has reverted to woodland, providing an important corridor for woodland species, though Adders are still regularly reported.

A minor road runs from Top Lodge to cross the A43 and then up into Wakerley Wood. The lane is edged by verges with abundant wild flowers and there are continuous hedges. At night Barn Owls can be seen hunting, bats forage, there are Glow worms in the verges and a badger sett is in one of the hedge lines. Adders are frequently seen. The lane's verges to the west of the A43 are protected as part of a Local Wildlife Site (see Ecological data search, Duddington with Fineshade, Appendix 12) with the most important species being unusual calcareous loving plants and the strange brown flowering spikes of Knapweed Broomrape.

Running north along the A43 from the junction with the lane are what have long been recognised as amongst the most important verge sites in Northamptonshire; they have even been considered for SSSI status. Their main value lies in the fact that the broad, relatively undisturbed grassland on both sides of the road is on almost bare limestone, creating nutrient-poor limestone-grassland habitat. Lizards, Adders and Grass Snakes have all been recorded. They are protected as a separate Local Wildlife Site (see Appendix 11 p.24).

The green lane running southeast from Duddington into Fineshade Wood is another Local Wildlife Site (see Appendix 11 pp 13-14) and is described by the Wildlife Trust as a useful wildlife corridor, with a range of scrub and woodland species providing an important link to the main woodland area. Badgers and bats are frequently recorded at night and during the summer many warblers, butterflies and other insects use the broad steep banks of this ancient right of way.

POLICY ENV 5: BIODIVERSITY, WOODLAND AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS - Development proposals will be expected to safeguard locally significant habitats and species, especially those protected by relevant English and European legislation, and, where possible, to create new habitats for wildlife.

Development proposals that damage or result in the loss or degradation of woodland (map, figure 12) will be resisted. Proposals should be designed to retain and manage these sites where possible.

Development proposals should not damage or adversely affect the habitat connectivity provided by the wildlife corridors identified on the map (figure 11), as follows:

- a) Welland valley: the watercourse, floodplain and terraces of the river Welland
- b) Railway corridor: the disused railway track and corridor, including adjacent fields
- c) Fineshade to Wakerley: the lane from Top Lodge, across the A43, to Wakerley Wood including the verges to the north along the A43
- d) Duddington to Fineshade: the ancient bridleway joining Duddington and the Welland Valley to Fineshade Wood

Woodland creation

Policy 21 of the North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy outlines steps to regenerate the Rockingham Forest. In particular, Policy 21b states that this will be achieved by linking fragmented habitats and protecting and reinforcing ancient woodland.

DEFRA's 25 Year Environment Plan (2018) supports such a development:

We will achieve a growing and resilient network ... that is richer in plants and wildlife.

We will do this by:

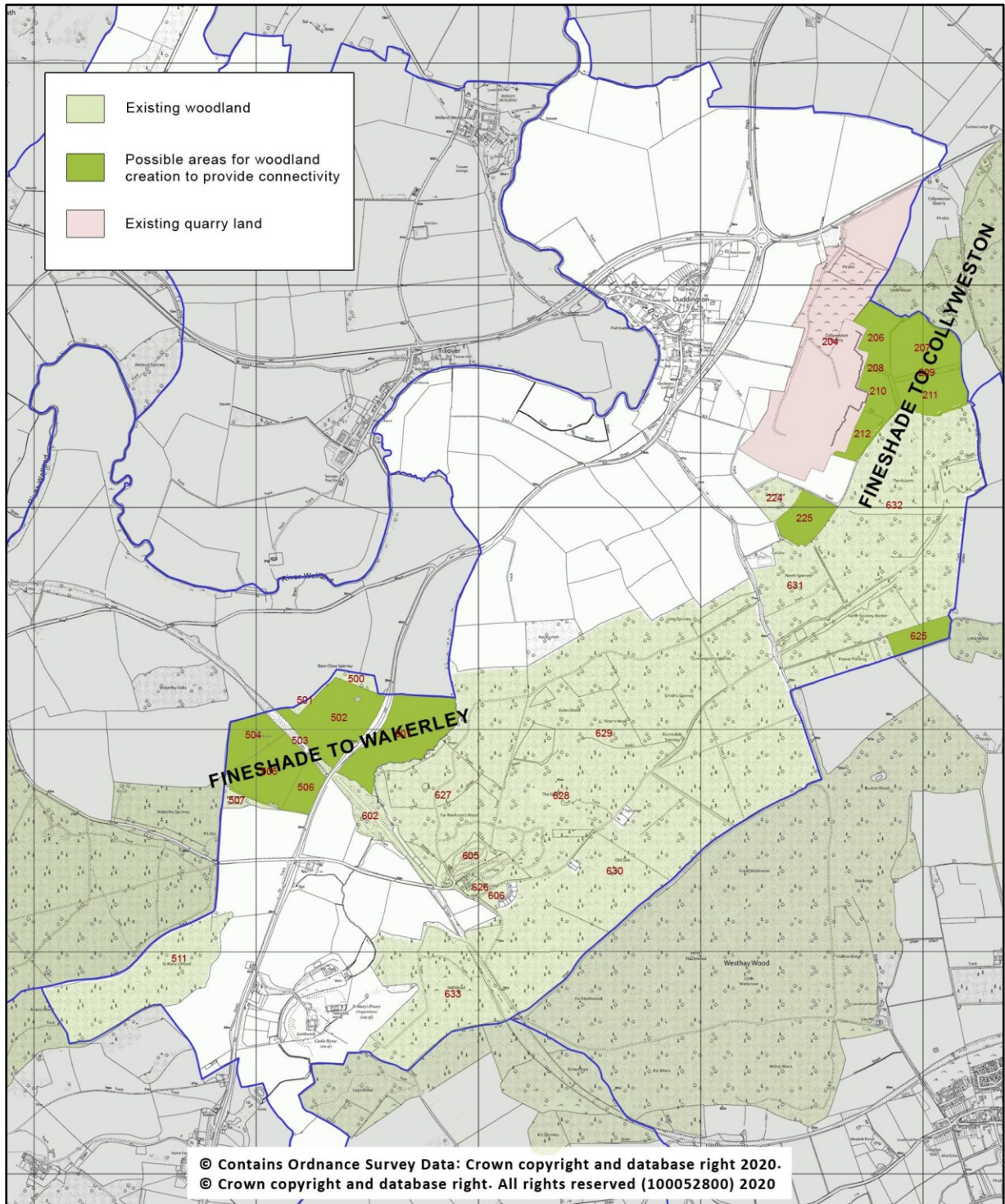
- *creating or restoring 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat outside the protected site network, focusing on priority habitats as part of a wider set of land management changes providing extensive benefits*
- *taking action to recover threatened, iconic or economically important species of animals, plants and fungi*
- *increasing woodland in England in line with our aspiration of 12% cover by 2060: this would involve planting 180,000 hectares by end of 2042.*

Residents of Duddington with Fineshade are proud to be part of the Rockingham Forest area, and 90% of respondents to the Community Questionnaire indicated that would support the planting of more woodland. A meeting with Forestry England staff has identified the wide range of funding support currently available to landowners wishing to plant more trees and the Environmental Inventory identified particular areas where remaining fragments of woodland could be linked by new tree planting within the neighbourhood of this plan.

The most important of these areas lies to the east of the quarry (Fields 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211 and 212 and shown in Figure 10). If these fields were to be planted with trees (ideally, but not necessarily, together with others in the neighbouring Parish) it would establish a connection between two of the largest remaining fragments of Rockingham Forest, namely Collyweston Great Wood (a National Nature Reserve) and Fineshade Wood. There are protected woodland-loving species in each of those woods which do not occur in the other and currently these are separated by arable fields.

This woodland connectivity is now underway via the Augean Waste Management Facility Western Extension Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP) currently in the examination phase. Restoration plans are likely to result in connectivity between Fineshade Wood and Collyweston.

Figure 12: Aspirations for woodland creation to provide connectivity



A second possibility to provide more woodland connectivity is to link more firmly Wakerley Great Wood with Fineshade Wood (while recognising the additional problem of the barrier to wildlife posed by the A43). There are two existing wildlife corridors: the route of the disused railway line which, with its embankments and cuttings is now covered by trees, and the minor road from Top Lodge to Wakerley with its important hedges and verges. The Inventory revealed that the two fields to the north of the disused railway (Fields 503 and 601 on opposite sides of the A43) are being left to regenerate naturally and the landowner has confirmed his intention

to allow this process to continue. If established with trees, these would provide woodland connectivity with the Ancient Woodland fragments comprising Barn Close Spinney (500 and 501) to the north and the route of the railway to the south. Fields 504, 505 and 506 then provide opportunities for tree planting to link to Hill Side Spinney and the main complex of Wakerley woods.

Other opportunities exist to link small fragments of woodland such as Gore Piece (Field 224) and Little Wood (to the east of the Parish boundary but linked by means of field 625) into the main body of Fineshade Wood.

COMMUNITY ACTION ENV 2: WOODLAND CONNECTIVITY

The Parish Council in conjunction with other bodies will encourage landowners to re-establish wooded links between disconnected sections of ancient and semi-natural woodland. In particular there would be support (as indicated in figure 12) for:

- a) Linking Fineshade Wood with Collyweston Great Wood to the east of the quarry;
- b) Linking Fineshade Wood to Wakerley Wood using the area around the disused railway line;
- c) Connecting other isolated fragments of woodland.

Notable trees

Since most of Duddington village is a designated Conservation Area, trees within the village itself are protected by the appropriate regulations and Figure 13.1 shows individual and groups of trees with Tree Preservation Orders in that area. Outside of the village there are no Tree Protection Orders in place in the Plan Area, though a number of notable individual trees and groups of trees have been identified (figure 13.2), as part of the fieldwork for this Plan, for the following reasons.

- a) Veteran trees
- b) Trees of landscape value
- c) Trees of significant size, age or species/variety
- d) Trees of particular value for wildlife (e.g as bat roosts)

These trees are listed, either individually or as groups, in Appendix 13. Many are subject to Forestry England management and that is indicated in the table.

POLICY ENV 6: NOTABLE TREES – The trees listed in appendix 13 have been identified as having high arboricultural, historical, ecological and/or landscape value (figure 12). They should be protected from felling, uprooting or wilful damage, including by development proposals, unless they are independently judged by a qualified arboriculturalist to present a public safety risk.

This policy is additional to the protection afforded to trees in the Conservation Area or already under Tree Preservation Orders.

Figure 13.1: Trees under Tree Preservation Orders, Duddington village and vicinity (E. Northants area)

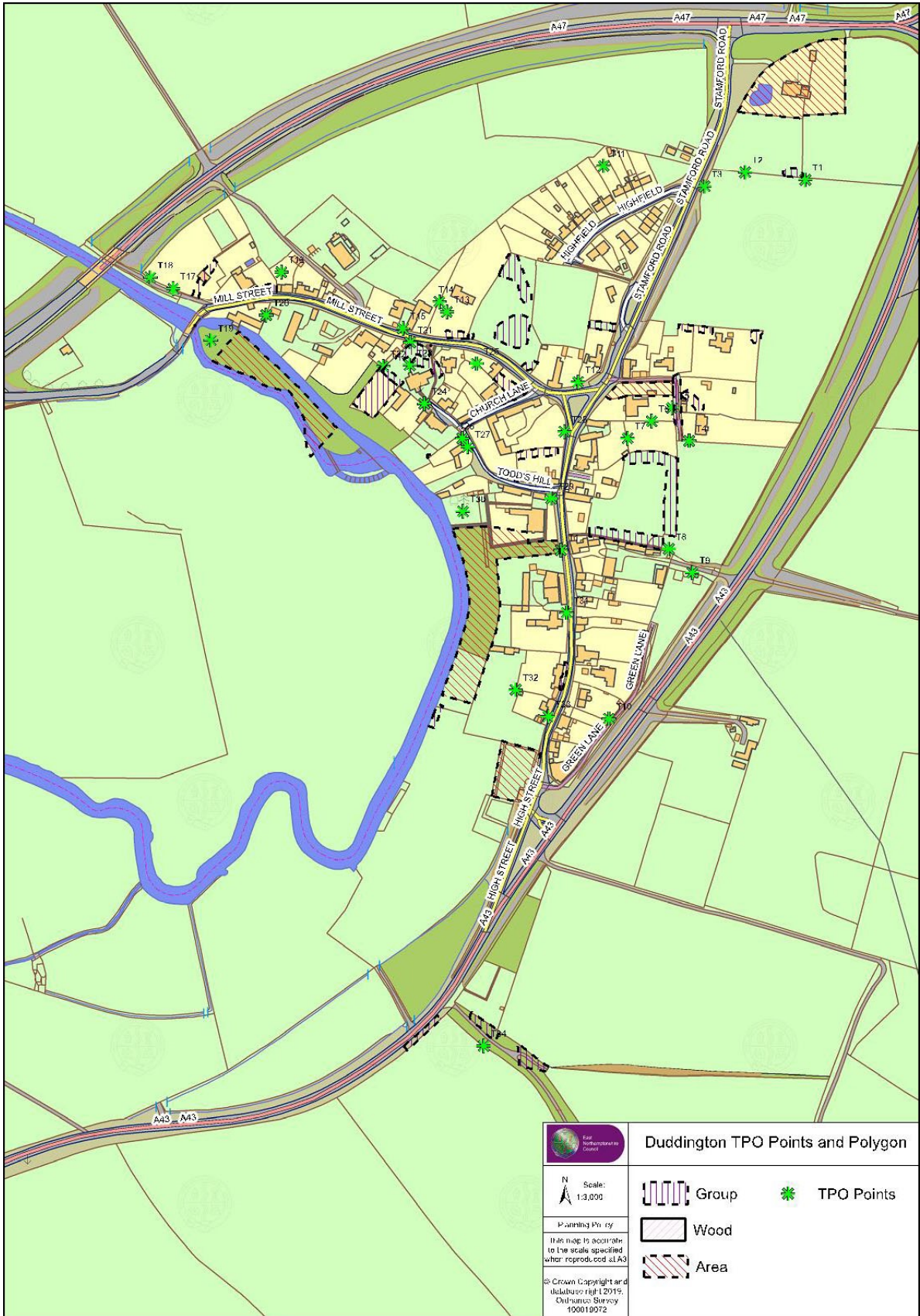
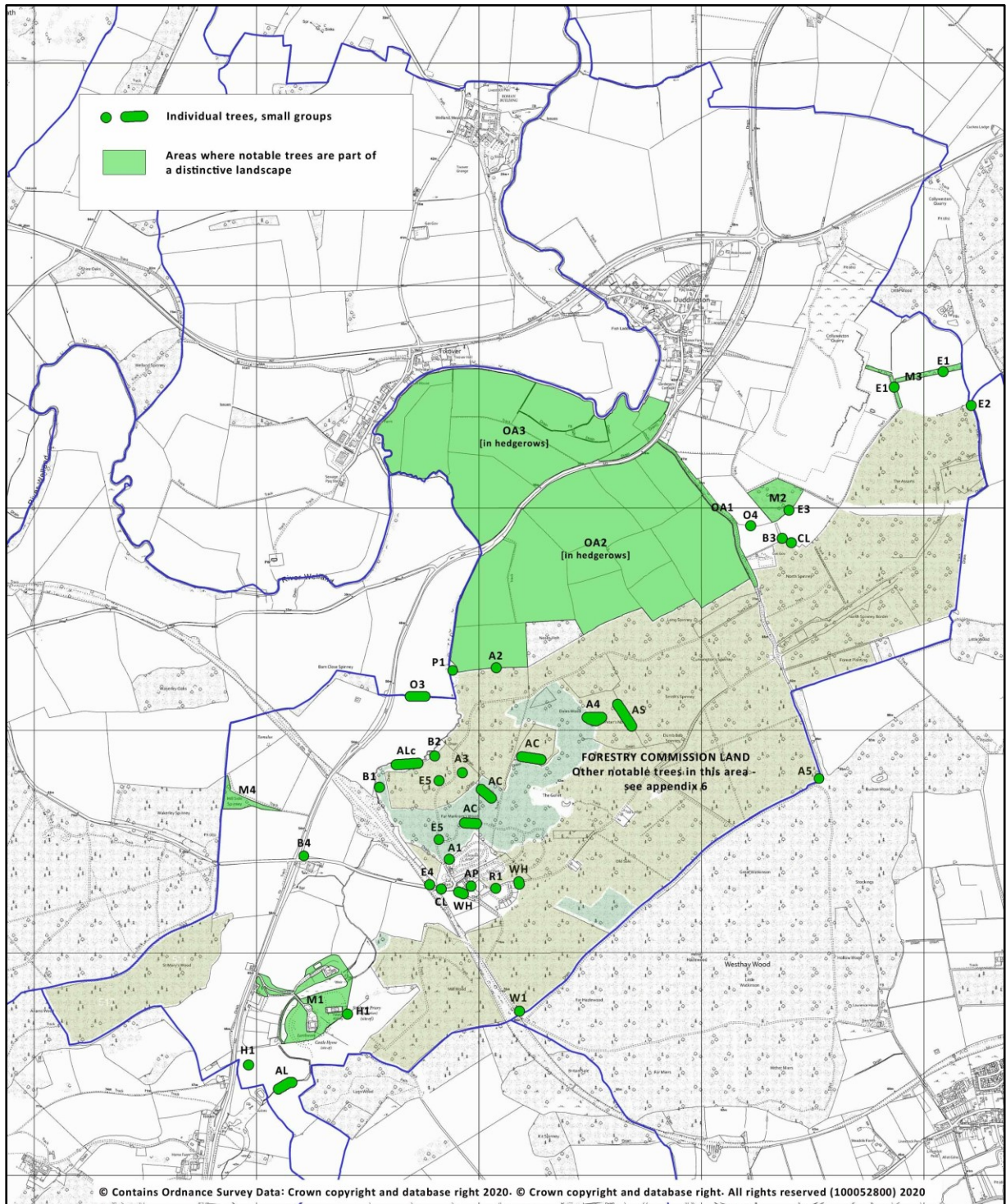


Figure 13.2 Notable trees in Duddington with Fineshade parish



Rights of Way

Historically Duddington's position at the crossroads between two important highways running north-south and east-west allowed villagers easy access to neighbouring communities, using any type of transport. However, in the mid-20th century those two highways were upgraded to trunk roads and, while this was convenient for vehicle use, it meant that more sustainable forms of transport on foot, horse or cycle became increasingly unsafe, and are now virtually impossible beyond the immediate built-up area.

Fineshade is positioned on the north-south highway, with some houses fronting directly onto the A43 itself. The only footpath alongside the A43 runs for about 100m from Duddington village connecting to the bridleway into Fineshade Woods. There is also a short pathway west from Duddington beside the A47 giving access to Tixover, just over the river.

However, there is a footpath running from Duddington northwest towards Ketton and a bridleway and other footpaths running east into Fineshade Wood. (Figure 14). The Ketton - Duddington- Fineshade Wood-Wakerley route has been incorporated into the long distance path known as Jurassic Way (142 km/88 mile Banbury to Stamford). Once into Fineshade Wood there is a variety of attractive paths and routes available using Forestry England's network of marked trails, cycle routes and Open Access Land.

The Community Questionnaire and Consultation Event provided evidence that residents value the existing network of footpaths, bridleways and cycleways, particularly those through the woodland. 92% of respondents to the questionnaire listed the network of footpaths and bridleways as one of the things that they like about living in the neighbourhood.

POLICY ENV 7: RIGHTS OF WAY - Development proposals that result in the loss of, or have a significant adverse effect on, the existing network of public rights of way (figure 13) will not be supported without appropriate mitigation.

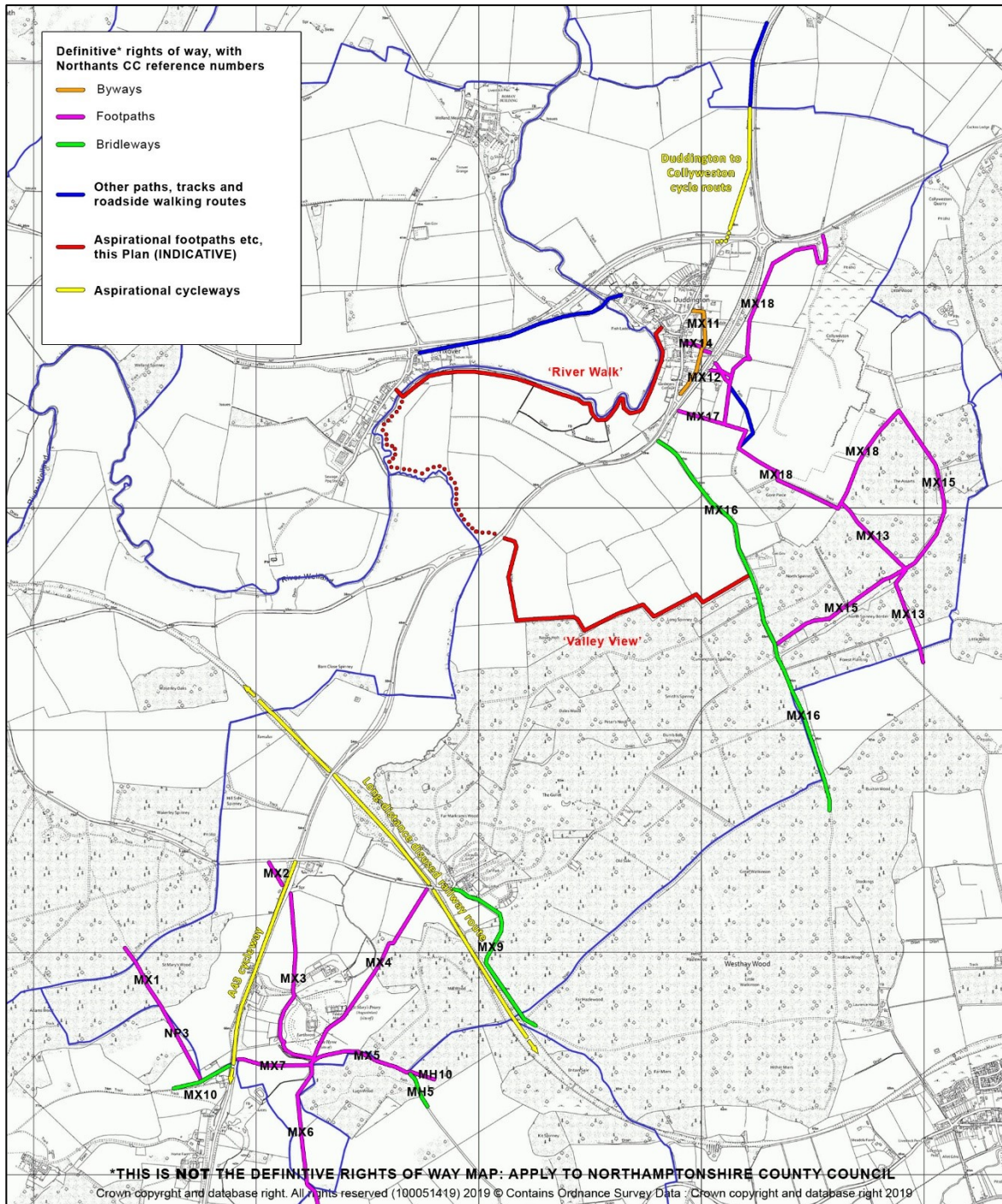
ASPIRATIONS FOR NEW FOOT- AND CYCLE-PATHS

The Community Questionnaire and Consultation Event also provided evidence of a need to improve the network of paths and cycleways, particularly from Duddington. Such developments would in accord with North Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (Policies 19 and 21). Inventory Fieldwork and other research identified these five possible new permissive paths and cycleways:

- Duddington – Collyweston (A footpath/cycleway joining the two villages and providing access north to Easton-on the Hill and Stamford.)
- River Walk (A permissive footpath alongside the Welland southwest from Duddington.)
- Valley View (A permissive footpath giving views across the valley and joining River Walk to Fineshade Wood and the Duddington/Fineshade Bridleway.)
- A long-distance cycleway along the disused railway line through Fineshade
- A cycleway beside the A43 running south from the Fineshade-Wakerley crossroads.

These aspirational routes are described in detail in the supporting information.

Figure 14: Existing (policy ENV 7) and aspirational (community action ENV 4) footpaths and cycleways in the Plan Area



COMMUNITY ACTION ENV 3: PERMISSIVE FOOTPATHS AND NEW CYCLEWAYS– the Parish Council will work with landowners, organisations and other neighbouring parishes to support the establishment of a new network of Permissive Rights of Way.

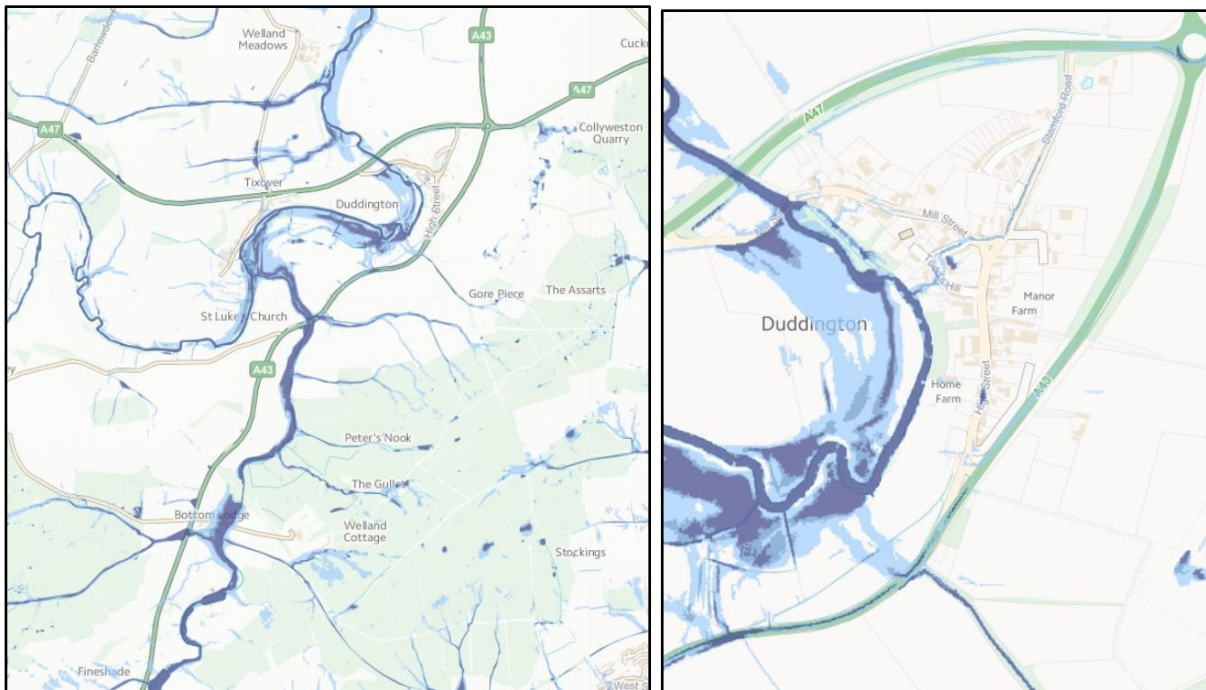
Flood risk

While flooding of property and infrastructure from the River Welland and other watercourses is a rare event in the Plan Area (in particular thanks to the unmoderated, effective operation of

the whole semi-natural floodplain and the protection provided by two fields of designated (priority habitat) floodplain grazing marsh), the more immediate concern for residents is that of flooding from surface water.

Figures 15 (left) and 16: Current flood risk from rivers and from surface water in the Plan Area (fig. 15) and close to Duddington (fig. 16)

Source: <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/long-term-flood-risk/map>



Known areas at risk include the west end of Mill Street, Church Lane, Todd's Hill and the area south of the cemetery in Duddington, and on the only access road to Fineshade Top Lodge where it crosses the brook. Residents are aware of an increase in surface water events in recent years. Possible causes are increased rainfall overall, more intensive rainfall events, intensification of agriculture, and new development being permitted without recognition of its effects on local hydrology.

Although sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) should help to prevent new development from exacerbating this risk and avoid the potential for adverse effects on the environment (e.g. polluted run-off entering existing water bodies), Policy ENV 8 acknowledges local concerns and risks, and it reiterates the complete range of factors that should be taken into account, in conformity with current regulations and National Planning Policy, when development proposals in Duddington with Fineshade are under consideration.

In the light of the widely accepted scientific evidence for ongoing climate change, the policy also requires developers to demonstrate how their proposals will not exacerbate the effects of future, climate change-driven, flooding.

The National Planning Policy Framework (2018) does not prohibit development in areas of high flood risk (e.g. Environment Agency Flood Risk Zone 3. Flooding from surface water was excluded from the National Flood Resilience Review (September 2016). This policy therefore

represents a local determination to strengthen the conditions in respect of flooding and hydrology to be applied to all substantial development in the Parish. It supports and is in conformity with relevant sections of NPPF 2021 paragraphs 159 – 168 and is strongly supported by the 2019 draft National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England.

POLICY ENV 8: FLOOD RISK - Development proposals of appropriate scale and where relevant will be required to demonstrate that:

- a) The proposal demonstrates resilience to future climate-change-driven flood risk during the lifetime of this Plan and beyond;
- b) The location takes geology, flood risk from rivers, other watercourses and surface water into account;
- c) a hydrological study, whose findings must be complied with in respect of design, groundworks and construction, is carried out;
- d) The design includes, as appropriate, Sustainable Drainage Systems, other surface water management measures and permeable surfaces; and
- e) The development does not increase the risk of flooding downstream.

Proposals for flood risk resilience and mitigation infrastructural works, including landscaping for attenuation in the floodplain, roadside culverts, etc. and for natural mitigation measures (watercourse ‘rewilding’, tree planting, etc.) will be encouraged.

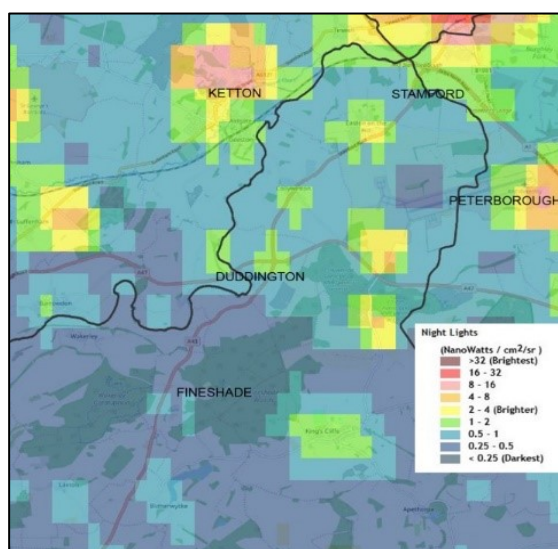
Dark Skies

Policy 3f of North Northamptonshire’s Joint Core Strategy requires tranquillity to be preserved within the *King’s Cliffe Hills and Valleys* Landscape Character Area by minimising light pollution. Almost all of the area of this plan lies within the north western edge of that Landscape Character Area.

Residents of Fineshade and Duddington value highly the lack of artificial light in the neighbourhood, which gives the night sky particular appeal. 90% of respondents to the Community Questionnaire listed dark skies as one of the things that they liked best about living in the neighbourhood. One of the most important contributors to light in the sky can be street lighting and 95% of questionnaire respondents indicated they were unconcerned about the lack of streetlights.

The darkness of the sky in Fineshade Wood and, to a lesser extent Duddington, is very unusual for this part of England as shown by Figure 17 taken from CPRE’s *Night Blight 2016: Mapping England’s Light Pollution and Dark Skies*. The Commission for Dark Skies visited the area in 2017 with a view to

Figure 17: CPRE map of current light levels



assessing the potential of Top Lodge and Fineshade Woods as a "Dark Sky Discovery Site". Their assessment found that despite being relatively close to the urban areas of Corby and Weldon and despite there being Forestry England premises, houses and a caravan site, there is very little existing night-time illuminance within the area. As a result, they expressed full support for efforts to make Fineshade Woods and the neighbouring area a Dark Sky Discovery Site.

POLICY ENV 9: PROTECTING DUDDINGTON WITH FINESHADÉ'S DARK NIGHT SKY - Proposals for any development including outdoor lighting will be expected to include details of such schemes as part of the submitted planning application, and will be expected to demonstrate that:

- i) The proposed lighting is the minimum required for safety, security or working purposes
- ii) Light spillage and glare are minimised, particularly in areas of open countryside or at the edge of settlements
- iii) There is no detrimental impact on residential amenity, highway safety or to sites of biodiversity significance, including, but not limited to, bat foraging areas.

COMMUNITY ACTION ENV 4: DARK SKIES

- a) Recognising the special qualities of the neighbourhood's night skies, the Parish Council will work with the Commission for Dark Skies, community groups, landowners and householders, to further reduce light pollution across the neighbourhood.
- b) The Parish Council will explore with Forestry England and with the Commission for Dark Skies, the possibility of Top Lodge being designated as a Dark Skies Discovery Site.

Noise

Policy 3f of North Northamptonshire's Joint Core Strategy requires tranquillity to be preserved within the King's Cliffe Hills and Valleys Landscape Character Area by minimising noise pollution. Almost all of the area of this Plan lies within the northern edge of that Landscape Character Area.

While 95% of respondents to the Community Questionnaire listed peace and tranquillity as one of the things they liked about living in the neighbourhood, 80% of them also indicated that they are concerned or very concerned by noise pollution in the neighbourhood.

Two particular issues were specifically mentioned: noise from Duddington Quarry ("Reduce noise impact from quarry") and traffic noise.

Traffic Noise

Traffic noise adversely affects areas throughout the neighbourhood and, while it is most serious for residents living close to the roads, it is clear that traffic noise reduces tranquillity over the wider countryside.

One respondent wrote: *Tranquillity of entire neighbourhood adversely affected by traffic noise from A43 and A47. Investigate possibility of low noise surfaces to highways and more shielding*

of roads by tree planting. Also, a speed restriction of 50mph through the parish

Studies have shown that tree belts alongside roads can absorb traffic noise, but they need to be at least 50m wide to make a significant difference. Since 90% of respondents to the Community Questionnaire also indicated that they would support the planting of more woodland, landowners considering planting trees alongside the A43 or A47 should expect to gain community support on two counts. They could also expect to gain financial support through the current grants available for tree planting. If the same landowners were to include a permissive path or cycleway within or alongside the trees (see COMMUNITY ACTION ENV 3: PERMISSIVE FOOTPATHS AND NEW CYCLEWAYS) there would be a further gain for the community.

Reducing speed limits on major roads from 60mph to 50mph has also been shown to reduce noise pollution, particularly in rural areas. It is unlikely that a case could be made for such a restriction on the grounds of noise reduction alone, but if speed limits were to be reduced for safety reasons, there would be an additional environmental benefit in the form of less noise.

Most traffic noise is generated by the interaction of tyres and the road surface. A car's tyres, for example, generate 70% to 90% of its total noise. In recent years a variety of different materials have been used for road surfaces including so called porous or low-noise asphalts. Since the area of this Plan lies within North Northamptonshire's designated Area of Tranquillity, when road surfaces are replaced, there would be a case for low-noise materials to be used.

The advent of electric vehicles will reduce traffic noise still further. By providing charging points for electric vehicles and ensuring that new developments have such provision noise pollution in the Plan area can be further reduced

COMMUNITY ACTION ENV 5: TRAFFIC NOISE REDUCTION – The Parish Council will support the reduction of traffic noise from the A43 and A47 by:

- a) Encouraging the planting of belts of trees;
- b) Encouraging a reduction of speed limits to 50mph;
- c) Pressing for low-noise materials to be used when resurfacing is carried out;
- d) Adopting policies that promote the use of electric vehicles.

Quarry noise

Bullimores Sand and Gravel Ltd began operating a quarry for the extraction of limestone close to Duddington in early 1980's with permission for an extension granted in May 2014. The quarry lies 500m to the east of the conservation area, with vehicle access off the A47 to the north.

Outside of the parish boundary but approximately 1500 m southwest of the conservation area is a quarry operated by Mick George Ltd.

Since Bullimores quarry commenced operations, there have been continuing issues of dust, noise, (including blasting and its associated effects of vibration and air pressure), and the transference of mud onto the highway during bad weather which have given rise to concerns from residents. The Parish Council brings these matters respectively to the attention of Bullimores, the highway authority and Northamptonshire's Minerals and Waste Planning Authority in respect of compliance with the planning permission conditions. In addition, arrangements are in place for e-mail and text alerts to be sent prior to blasting taking place. Liaison with the quarry was originally through biannual meetings and these need to be reinstated to replace the current less formal arrangements.

Although outside of the parish boundary, similar monitoring takes place with the MGL quarry.

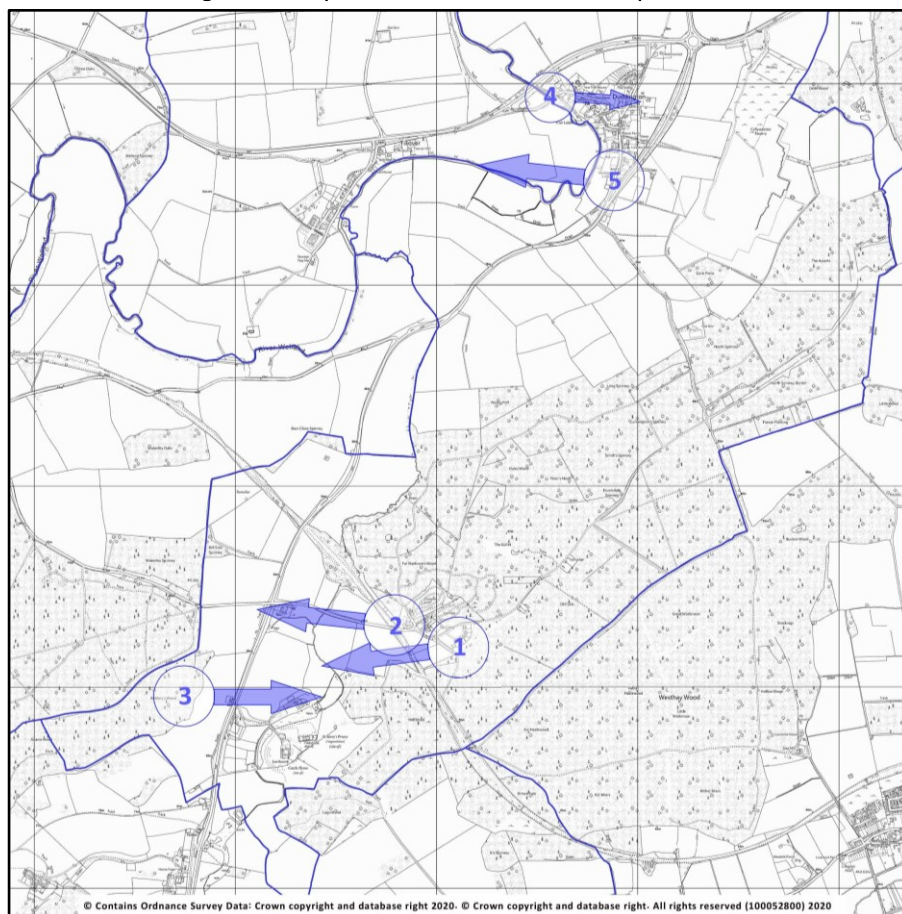
COMMUNITY ACTION ENV 6: QUARRY NOISE REDUCTION - The Parish Council will continue to press the quarry operators to take significant steps to reduce noise and mitigate for the loss of tranquillity to residents as a result of their operations. This to be achieved through the reinstatement of the meetings with quarry operators Duddington Village including the Parish Council and Mineral and Waste Planning section from Northamptonshire County Council.

Important Views

Consultation during the Neighbourhood Plan's preparation identified a widely held wish to protect the settlements' rural settings, and their relationship with the surrounding landscape, including their locations overlooking recognised areas of landscape sensitivity in particularly attractive 'limestone country' and forest. 95% of respondents to the Community Questionnaire indicated that it is important or very important to protect and try to improve the views looking out from, or towards, the settlements.

One of the main ways in which residents expressed this wish was by describing a number of highly valued views and these are described and illustrated in Appendix 14 Important Views. These consultation findings were updated during the environmental inventory. Although principally aimed at identifying sites of environmental significance the inventory fieldwork also confirmed the sightlines of the suggested views and these are mapped in figure 19.

Figure 18: Important views. See text for explanation



POLICY ENV 10: PROTECTION OF IMPORTANT VIEWS – Views around Duddington and Fineshade and across the parish (mapped in figure 19 and described in Appendix 14) are important to the setting and character of the settlements and the wider Plan Area. They are highly valued by residents. To be supported, development proposals must not significantly harm the following views or their viewpoints, which are at publicly accessible locations. Proposals affecting them should include individual *treatment of view* statements that demonstrate how the impact is to be mitigated.

1. West from Top Lodge, Fineshade
2. West from the railway bridge, Top Lodge, Fineshade
3. East from the edge of St Mary’s Wood
4. East up Mill Street, Duddington
5. Southwest from the Royal Oak public house, Duddington

Renewable energy generation infrastructure

This policy is based on the policies and landscape sensitivity assessments in the former East Northamptonshire Council Wind and Solar Energy Supplementary Planning Document and the associated Solar PV landscape sensitivity study and Landscape sensitivity to wind turbine developments report (all 2014). The Plan area falls within all or parts of the following ENDC

Landscape Character Types (LCTs): LCT 10b Collyweston Limestone plateau, LCT 11a Kings Cliffe hills and valleys, LCT 15 Farmed scarp slopes and LCT 18 Broad river valley floodplain. All except 10b are of high sensitivity to turbines taller than 50m or in groups (i.e. more than singles) at any size, and to solar arrays larger than 5 ha in area; LCT 10b is highly sensitive only to solar arrays greater than 15ha in area.

The community wishes to play its part in reducing the environmental impact of non-renewable energy generation. As described in the supporting information, most areas and locations in the Plan Area are of high sensitivity to all but the smallest turbines or solar arrays. One potential suitable location has been identified, however, for a larger solar array in an area entirely hidden from the surrounding landscape.

POLICY ENV 11: RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION INFRASTRUCTURE – Suitably located and designed proposals for small-scale infrastructure for renewable and low carbon energy generation (solar and wind) in areas of low and medium sensitivity (ENDC studies) will be supported where they:

- a) do not have an unacceptably adverse impact on the amenity of local residents (including noise, visual impact, shadow flicker, water pollution, odour, air quality, emissions, sensitivity and character of the landscape);
- b) do not have an unacceptably adverse visual impact on the character and sensitivity of the landscape;
- c) do not have a significant adverse effect on any designated site (including: Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, and Local Green Spaces), or their settings, or on sites and features recognised for their environmental significance in this Neighbourhood Plan.
- d) would not result in an unacceptably adverse effect on protected species, including migration routes or sites of biodiversity value.

An array of up to 5 ha for solar energy generation in the Assarts area of Fineshade Wood is supported subject to the above conditions.

Applications for development which would not compromise, restrict or otherwise degrade the operational capability of safeguarded MOD sites and assets will be supported.

C Sustainability

Community Facilities

Overall the community facilities and amenities that exist in the Duddington with Fineshade Parish make a significant contribution to its vitality and sense of community. They have a positive impact on sustainability by enhancing the quality of life for residents and providing the potential for social interaction.

However, the loss and threatened closure of facilities and services is a common feature of village life. An increase in car ownership has opened up access to a wide range of shopping alternatives and leisure activities, other than those that are available locally, a trend that is also encouraged by frequent commuting to work, whether to places of employment or to deliver products or services. While village communities have become more mobile some rural service providers have decided, as they seek to become more efficient, that it is not viable to maintain service levels. These trends taken together threaten the viability of many rural services and amenities and the parish is not immune from this.

To promote the on-going prosperity of the Parish, it is essential that the Parish retains its existing community facilities and amenities and continue to provide local services that will sustain the vitality of the community.

POLICY S1: THE RETENTION OF COMMUNITY ASSETS - Development leading to the loss of existing community assets (Royal Oak Pub; Village Hall and Visitor Centre) will not be supported unless it can be demonstrated that:

- a) There is no longer any need or demand for the existing community asset; or
- b) The existing community asset is, demonstrably, no longer economically viable or able to be supported by the community – such viability and support includes fundraising and volunteering by parishioners and others; or
- c) The proposal makes alternative provision for the relocation of the existing community asset to an equally or more appropriate and accessible location within the Parish which complies with the other general policies of the Neighbourhood Plan.

Employment

Supporting a healthy and diverse local economy is an important theme of the Neighbourhood Plan. This support recognises the constraints imposed by the fact that Duddington with Fineshade is a rural parish and thus relatively remote from the major employment centres and by the fact that its residents place a high value on its rural character in all its aspects. However, increased opportunities for home working and the highly mobile local economy – in terms both of demand and of labour – offer opportunities for niche businesses to flourish and for

individuals to base themselves from the Parish while working elsewhere. Both these trends benefit the overall sustainability and diversity of the Parish.

The 2011 Census recorded 151 of the 214 residents aged 16 to 74 as Economically Active. At 70.6% this rate was slightly lower than the district-wide level of 73.5%, but above the regional and national averages of 69.3% and 69.9 % respectively. At 16.8% the proportion of self-employed people of working age was nearly double the district, regional and national averages. The Parish-wide rate of unemployment at 1.9% was significantly lower than the district (3.6%), regional (4.2%) and national (4.4%) averages. The proportion of retired people at 18.2% was significantly higher than the district (14.7%), regional (15.0%) and national (13.7%) averages.

There are very limited options for employment in the parish. In the Community Questionnaire completed in late autumn 2018, over two-thirds of respondents welcomed more businesses. Cottage industry and home-based businesses were favoured by over 90% of respondents whilst heavy industrial units were opposed.

POLICT S2: EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT - Development proposals that result in the loss of, or have a significant adverse effect on, an existing employment use will not be supported unless it can be demonstrated that the site or building is no longer viable and suitable for employment use.

Proposals for employment-related development (for new and/or expansion of employment uses, including homeworking) will be supported where it can be demonstrated that the development will not generate unacceptable disturbance, noise, fumes, smell or traffic; that it will respect and be compatible with the local character and surrounding uses; and that it will, where appropriate, protect residential amenity.

6. Monitoring and Review

The Neighbourhood Plan will last up to 2031. During this time, it is likely that the circumstances which the Plan seeks to address will change.

The Neighbourhood Plan will be regularly monitored. This will be led by Duddington with Fineshade Parish Council on at least an annual basis. The policies and measures contained in the Neighbourhood Plan will form the core of the monitoring activity, but other data collected and reported at the Parish level relevant to the delivery of the Neighbourhood Plan will also be included.

The Parish Council proposes to formally review the Neighbourhood Plan on a five- year cycle commencing in 2026 or to coincide with the review of the Development Plan if this cycle is different.

GLOSSARY

The Advisory Committee	The Duddington with Fineshade Neighbourhood Plan Advisory Committee appointed by Duddington with Fineshade Parish Council
The Local Authority	North Northamptonshire Council
The Local Plan	The North Northamptonshire Joint Care Strategy 2001 - 2031
The NPPF	The Revised National Planning Policy Framework (2021)
The Parish	Duddington with Fineshade Parish
The Parish Council	Duddington with Fineshade Parish Council
This Plan	The Duddington with Fineshade Neighbourhood Plan
The Plan Area	The Parish of Duddington with Fineshade shown on figure 1 and edged red
The Plan Period	From the date of this Plan until 2031
The VDS	Duddington with Fineshade Village Design Statement
The Vision	The vision statement set out in Section 4 of this Plan