

NENE VALLEY

Nature • Improvement • Area
connecting people and nature

Planning advice note:

Implementing the Nene Valley Nature Improvement Area (NIA)

The Nene Valley NIA extends from Daventry to Peterborough and includes the River Nene and its main tributaries. NIAs are ecological networks recognised in the National Planning Policy Framework. They were established to reconnect wildlife habitats and help species respond to climate change.

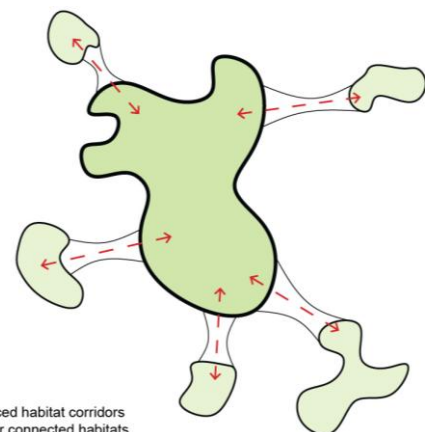
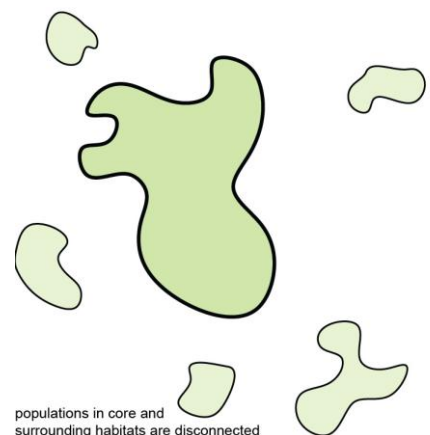
Objective: Development in the NIA yields overall gains in biodiversity in general and habitat connectivity in particular.

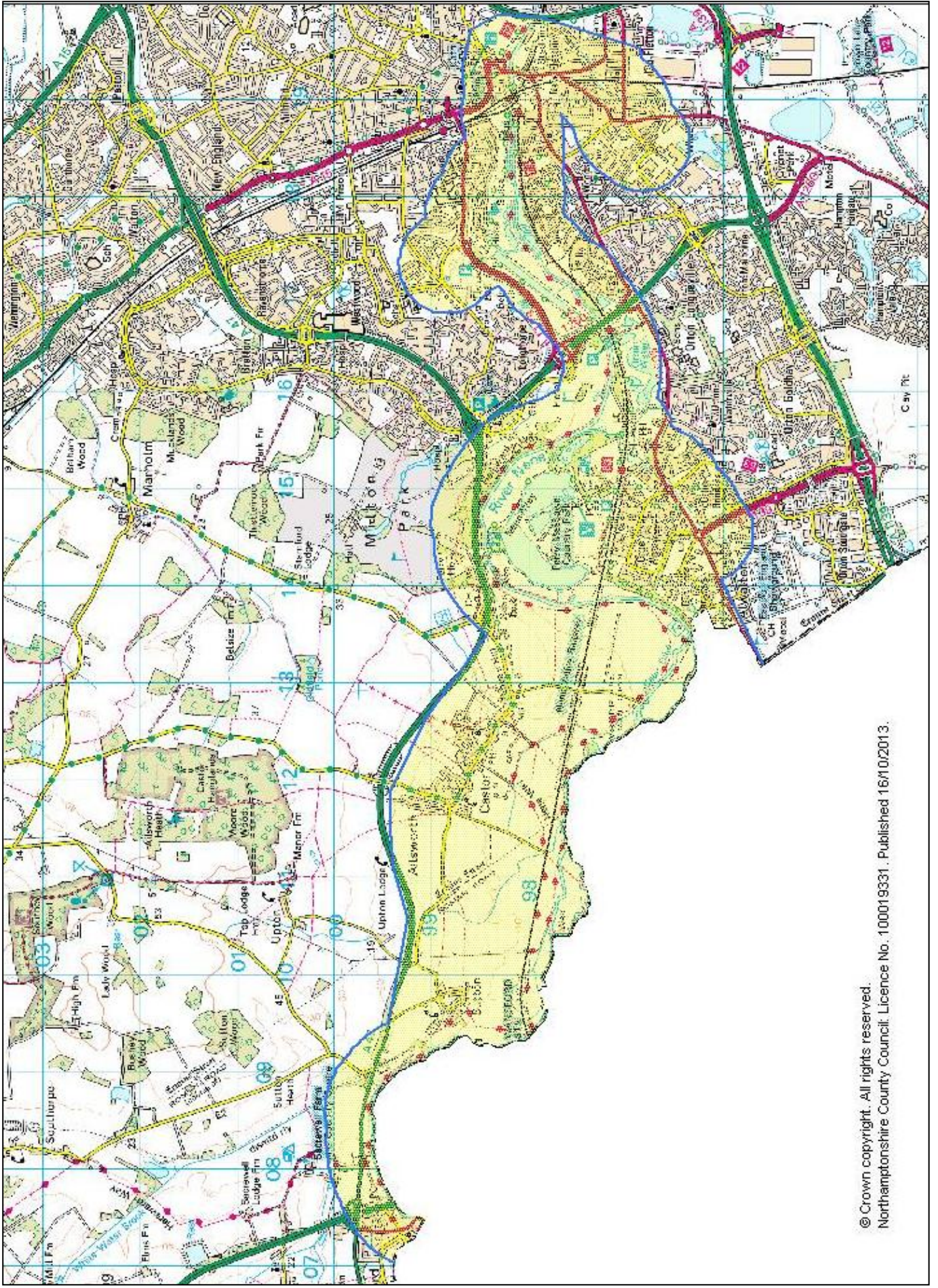
Efforts are best focused on proposals of a scale that can contribute a significant, quantifiable benefit or conversely undermine delivery of this objective. The natural environment should therefore be considered early in the design process.

Delivering the NIA through planning means helping development contribute to larger, better connected and better managed natural areas by:

- Enhancing the ecological network within the NIA. This can include:
 - Connecting existing natural areas, *e.g.* designated sites (SPA, SSSI, LWS etc), BAP habitats, natural and semi-natural greenspace
 - Extending and/or buffering existing natural areas
 - Creating new habitat (*e.g.* woodland, wetland, grassland as ecologically appropriate)
 - Improving habitat management
- Providing accessible natural greenspace: create new greenspaces or naturalise existing areas
- Landscaping with native species rather than ornamentals where possible and practical
- Creating well designed, well engineered living roofs that echo local habitats (*e.g.* brownfield, grassland)
- Encouraging developer collaboration on greenspace design in areas of multiple land ownership.

For more information please visit www.nenevalleynia.org.





© Crown copyright. All rights reserved.
Northamptonshire County Council: Licence No. 100019331. Published 16/10/2013.