Gravity

Smart Campus

Gravity LDO Environmental Statement

Volume 2 – Appendices

Appendix 8.2 Community Infrastructure Note

Fast-track to the future, naturally | thisisgravity.co.uk | TA7 8AD

Job Name:	Gravity Local Development Order (LDO)
Date:	October 2021
Subject:	Gravity LDO - Community Infrastructure Technical Note

1 Introduction

1.1 This appendix supports **ES Chapter 8 – Health, Social and Wellbeing** by providing a high-level assessment of likely impacts on community infrastructure demand, provision and capacity from the implementation of the proposed Gravity Local Development Order (LDO) ('the LDO'). This assessment provides evidence to inform the conclusions reached within **ES Chapter 8 – Health, Social and Wellbeing** regarding likely significant effects on key health determinants related to community infrastructure and provides an assessment of the future baseline and cumulative developments.

1.2 Sedgemoor District Council (SDC) proposes to make for a Site to the east of Junction 23 of the M5, in Sedgemoor, Somerset (referred to hereafter as 'the Site') to grant a flexible planning permission capable of meeting market requirements for the Gravity Smart Campus and Community ('Proposed Development').

1.3 This technical note will examine the following types of community infrastructure:

- Education infrastructure;
- Healthcare Infrastructure
- Recycling Centres;
- Recreation and Public Access; and
- Environmental Designations.

Study Areas

1.4 The following Study Areas have been adopted for this technical note, each focused upon the immediate geographical area surrounding the site.

- **Education Study Area:** defined as nurseries, primary and secondary schools within 2km (defined in accordance with the statutory walking distance, the distance between home and school that the Government thinks a child should be able to walk, set by the Education Act 1994 and as recommended by Manual for Streets (DfT, 2007)[1]). This Study Area takes account of existing schools, catchment areas and planned school capacity during the anticipated construction and operational phase of the Proposed Development.
- **Healthcare Study Area:** defined as GP Surgeries and Dental Surgeries within 4km (deemed to be a reasonable distance to travel in order to access a local GP or Dental surgery) with consideration also given to the wider Somerset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) (out with the defined 2km Study Area) for wider primary and secondary healthcare services such as Hospitals.
- **Recycling Centres:** defined as recycling centres within 10km of the Site with cognisance given to the Somerset Waste Partnership (SWP) boundary which encompasses SDC.

[1] Department for Transport (2017). Manual for Streets.

- **Recreation and Public Access:** defined as existing access, recreation areas and Public Rights of Way (PRoW) within 2km of the Site and surrounding area.

- **Environmental Designations:** defined as environmental designations including Local Wildlife Sites (LWS), National Nature Reserves (NNR), Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Protection Areas (SPA) within 5km of the Site.

2 Description of Development

Site and Surrounding Area

2.1 Gravity (formerly known as Huntspill Energy Park) occupies the Site of the former Royal Ordinance factory (ROF) which was decommissioned in 2008. The Site comprises 261.54 hectares of land, of which approximately 250 hectares was part of the former ROF site and received planning permission for an Energy Park in November 2017 ('the 2017 Planning Consent'). The majority of the Site is brownfield (previously developed) land.

2.2 The area of the Site associated with the former ROF has been remediated to ensure than residual contamination does not pose an unacceptable risk to public health or the environment. The remediation has been undertaken through implementation of the remediation planning consent (which formed part of the 2017 Planning Consent), with the Site now remediated and levelled.

2.3 In terms of access, the Site benefits from the new access road to the A39. There is also an established access onto Woolavington Road in the form of a Y-shaped priority junction where the western and eastern approach roads link to form a single point of entry to the site. Access by rail, although currently disused, is gained by the spur to the west. In addition, the new access road includes a landscape bund which has been included to provide screening of the road to nearby residential properties.

Proposed Development

2.4 The Proposed Development will facilitate the delivery of the Gravity Enterprise Zone. The description of development at present is outlined below:

- any operations or engineering works necessary to enable the development of the Site, including demolition, excavation and earthworks, the formation of compounds for the stockpiling, sorting and treatment of excavated materials, import of material to create development platforms, piling, and any other operations or engineering necessary for site mobilisation, office and worker accommodation, communications, drainage, utilities and associated environmental, construction and traffic management.

- the development of a smart campus including:

- commercial building or buildings with a total Gross External Area of up to 1,000,000m2 which would sit within current Use Classes E(g), B2, B8 and sui generis floorspace uses and

- a range of buildings up to 100,000m2 within Use Classes C1, C2, E (a) – (f) and F, including restaurants / cafes, shops, leisure, education and sui generis uses; and

- up to 750 homes in Use Class C3.

- together with associated infrastructure including restoration of the railway line for passenger and freight services, rail infrastructure including terminals, sidings and operational infrastructure and change of use of land to operational rail land, multi-modal transport interchange, energy generation, energy distribution and management infrastructure, utilities and associated buildings and infrastructure, digital infrastructure,

car parking, a site wide sustainable water management system and associated green infrastructure, access roads and landscaping.

2.5 The Enterprise Zone status of this site is a key consideration with respect of community infrastructure as income generated in the form of business rate from the proposed development will be retained and reinvested locally. This will be important when considering how any enhancement of community infrastructure is secured and funded.

3 Policy Context

3.1 The revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (2021) acknowledges the importance of considering health impacts during the planning process and covers many issues that are directly related to the determinants of health.

3.2 Paragraph 8 of the NPPF states the planning system should support "strong, vibrant and healthy communities…by fostering a well-designed and safe built environment, with accessible services and open spaces that reflect current and future needs and support communities' health, social and cultural well-being." The NPPF acknowledges that to provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:

- "a) plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;
- b) take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community;
- c) guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs;
- d) ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise, and are retained for the benefit of the community; and
- e) ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services." (Paragraph 91)

3.3 Paragraph 96 of the revised NPPF is of particular relevance to community and public infrastructure which states:

> *"To ensure faster delivery of other public service infrastructure such as further education colleges, hospitals and criminal justice accommodation, local planning authorities should also work proactively to plan for required facilities and resolve key planning issues before applications are submitted."*

3.4 The SDC Core Strategy (2011)[2] allocated the Site for development and delivery of an Energy Park to act as a key "catalyst to enable Sedgemoor to realise its full potential as a leading centre for renewable energy and low carbon technologies". Further, policy D11 refers to utilising areas of brownfield land, specifically the Site, for the redevelopment of existing employment land within established industrial/business areas. In addition, policy P1 makes specific provisions for the development of the Site as an Energy Park.

3.5 The Sedgemoor Local Plan (2011-32) was adopted February 2019. It sets out how the district will grow and develop into the future. It includes the vision, priorities and policy framework for

[2] Sedgemoor District Council (2011). Core Strategy. Available online at: https://www.planningresource.co.uk/article/1219410/sedgemoor-core-strategy---strategy-adopted

future development in the district, including addressing the requirements relating to housing, employment, retail and other facilities and infrastructure.

3.6 Policy S2 sets out the spatial strategy for Sedgemoor and confirms that during the plan period (2011-2032), the Council will plan, monitor and manage the delivery of a minimum of 13,530 new homes (644 per annum) and 75 hectares of land for B1, B2 and B8 uses (business, general industrial and storage and distribution) to help meet the need for new homes, support the economy and create 9,795 new jobs.

3.7 Policy S3 Infrastructure Delivery states "New development will be required to provide and contribute towards the provision of services, facilities and infrastructure at a rate, scale and pace to meet the needs and requirements that are expected to arise from that development. All new development that generates a demand for infrastructure will only be permitted if the reasonable and necessary on and off-site infrastructure required to support and mitigate the impact of the development is provided."

3.8 The Sedgemoor Infrastructure Delivery Strategy 2017 (IDS)[3] provides an assessment of the education, green infrastructure, outdoor sport and recreation and wider infrastructure needs (including healthcare, community and cultural) that has been identified by SDC to support planning development and growth in the Local Plan.

3.9 In addition, the Somerset County Council Schools Place Planning Infrastructure Growth Plan 2019 (IGP)[4] provides data and analysis on current school provision across each of the County's 20 School Organisational Plan (SOP) areas to assist with the planning of school places in Somerset.

3.10 It is important to note that SDC are currently preparing an Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study which will set out the strategy for providing space for sport, recreation and play within the District[5].

4 Education Infrastructure

4.1 The statutory authority for Education across Sedgemoor is Somerset County Council (SCC) who are responsible for school roll planning. It is important to note that Sedgemoor is the planning authority and will seek advice through consultation from SCC in relation to the preparation of the LDO.

4.2 For the purpose of school place planning, the County of Somerset is divided into 20SOP areas. The SOP areas are based upon secondary schools and the primary schools that are expected to feed into them. Local Authority school population forecasts are published by SOP area and the latest School Place Planning IGP 2019 has also been presented using this format. Of the 20 SOP areas, the Bridgwater catchment area and existing schools would capture new primary and secondary school pupils generated from the proposed development.

4.3 Both the IDS (2017) and IGP (2019) highlight the growing demands associated with growth in Sedgemoor and the Bridgwater SOP area, with the IDS (2017) in particular noting that further investment will be required to ensure sufficient provision of school places across all levels of education.

[3] Sedgemoor District Council (2017). Infrastructure Delivery Strategy.

[4] Somerset County Council School Place Planning Infrastructure Growth Plan (2019). Available online at: https://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/school-place-planning-infrastructure-growth-plan/

[5] Sedgemoor District Council (No Date). Planning Guidance on Space for Sport and Play. Available online at: https://www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/article/1219/Planning-Guidance-on-Space-for-Sport-and-Play

Forecasting and Demand

4.4 The need for school places depends on the local child population. The IDS (2017) forecasts that demand for school and early years places will increase significantly as housing delivery continues, although this will vary across the Sedgemoor area. Further, the IDS (2017) residual education requirement (2015-2032) indicates that development could generate demand across all levels of education provision – up to 978 Nursery School pupil places, 1,370 Primary School pupil places and 1,130 Secondary School pupil places.

4.5 Taking cognisance of the educational demand pressures, the IDS (2017) identifies a number of planned expansions out with the Education Study Area. This includes the following:

- Salmon Parade – located in central Bridgwater, an application to redevelop the old hospital site on Salmon Parada, including a new nursery, gained planning consent in November 2016. However, to date no construction works have taken place on site;
- Northgate Primary School – located in central Bridgwater with an additional 450 primary school places and a nursery;
- Hamp Junior School - located to the South of Bridgwater with an additional 60 places; and
- Willowdown Primary School – a new primary school, which opened in 2014, located to the North of Bridgwater with an additional 210 primary school places delivered as part of Phase 2 of the development which was completed in summer 2021.

4.6 **Table 1** below indicates the current school capacity and pupil roll for Primary School and Secondary School within the Education Study Area, to indicate whether there is a current surplus or deficit of pupil places.

School Name	School Capacity	Number of Pupils	Surplus (+) / Deficit (-)
Primary Schools			
Woolavington Village Primary School	206	187	19
Puriton Primary School	210	200	10
Primary School Sub-total	**416**	**387**	**(+) 29**
Secondary Schools			
Bridgwater College Academy	1,580	1,422	158
Secondary School Sub-total	**1,580**	**1,422**	**(+) 158**

Table 1 Source: HM Government (2021). 'Get Information About Schools'.

4.7 Table 1 above indicated that there is a surplus of 29 Primary School places and 158 Secondary School places within the Education Study Area.

Pupil Product Ratio (PPR)

4.8 As noted within the School Place Planning IGP (2019), in recent years SCC has become aware that the yield of pupils from recently built housing developments has been particularly

high. Resultantly, research and a review of pupil yield calculations was undertaken from which the analysis showed that the yield for nursery and primary aged children was considerably higher than the predicted PPR yields, resulting in SCC commissioning a formal review of pupil yield formulas.

4.9 A key decision paper approving the revised pupil yields was signed off by the Cabinet Member for Education and Council Transformation and the Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Development on the 16th of November 2018. Although acknowledging that this is likely to be reviewed on a five-year basis, the updated PPR figures were approved for use in education planning[6]. These are as follows:

- Nursery Schools - yield factor of 0.30 equating to 30 pre-school age children per 100 dwellings;
- Primary Schools – yield factor of 0.32 equating to 32 primary age children per 100 dwellings; and,
- Secondary Schools – yield factor of 0.14 equating to 14 secondary age children per 100 dwellings.

Nurseries / Pre-Schools

4.10 There are two Nurseries School located within 2km of the Site. The closest of which is Hunny Bears Day Nursery in Puriton. The latest Ofsted report identified a capacity of 18 pupil places and a pupil roll of 21 Nursery School aged children[7]. Based on this information, Hunny Bears Day Nursery is overcapacity by 4 pupil places. It is acknowledged however that the Ofsted report was produced in 2016 and the official nursey website does not indicate a current over capacity and is accepting new pupils.

4.11 Sunshine Pre-school, also located in Puriton, has an identified capacity of 26 pupil places and a pupil roll of 25 children[8], indicating capacity of one pupil place. It is however of note that the official nursey website does not indicate a current over capacity and is accepting new pupils.

4.12 Applying the PPR for Nursey Schools, the 750 dwellings within the Proposed Development are expected to yield approximately 225 nursery-aged children once fully occupied.

4.13 Based on current information, there is sufficient embedded mitigation within the Proposed Development in the form of a new Nursery facility to accommodate the expected demand generated by employees accommodated at the site.

4.14 It is acknowledged that the identified Cumulative Developments for the Gravity LDO Environmental Statement (which are for inclusion in the 2032 Baseline Scenario), includes four residential developments[9]. Each of the identified Cumulative Developments fall within the Education Study Area and will also generate additional pupil yields applying the PPR detailed above.

[6] Cognisant Research Somerset County Council Pupil Product Ratio Study (2017). Available online at: http://wwwold.somerset.gov.uk/EasysiteWeb/getresource.axd?AssetID=114211&type=full&servicetype=Attachment

[7] Ofsted (2016). Hunny Bears Day Nursery Inspection Report. Available online at: https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/2624035

[8] Ofsted (2018). Sunshine Pre-school Puriton Inspection Report. Available online at: https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/2785195

[9] The four cumulative residential developments: 42/20/00014; 54/19/00008; 54/20/00009; and 54/20/00010.

4.15 Within the LDO parameters are a number of supporting uses and these include provision of a nursery facility. The nursery use will be brought forward at the appropriate time to mitigate any pressures within the Education Study Area.

Primary Schools

4.16 There are two Primary Schools within 2km of the Site. As presented in Table 1 above, Woolavington Village Primary School has capacity for 206 pupils with a pupil roll of 187[10], resulting in a surplus capacity of 19 pupil places. Puriton Primary School has capacity for 210 pupils with a pupil roll of 200[11], resulting in a surplus capacity of 10 pupil places. Across the two Primary Schools, there is a surplus capacity of 29 pupil places.

4.17 Applying the PPR for Primary Schools, the 750 dwellings within the Proposed Development are expected to yield approximately 240 primary-aged children when fully occupied. As discussed above, the four identified Cumulative Developments[12] will give generate additional Primary School pupil yield, resulting from the residential nature of their development.

4.18 Based on current information, in absence of further provision with the Education Study Area, there is likely to be a shortfall of capacity to accommodate the additional primary pupil yield from the Proposed Development and the four identified Cumulative Developments under the 2032 Baseline Scenario. Therefore, proportionate developer contributions will be required to address Primary School demand pressures within the Education Study Area, as each phase of the Proposed Development is delivered. It is assumed proportionate developer contributions will be required from each of the Cumulative Developments as required, to address Primary School demand pressures.

Secondary Schools

4.19 There are no secondary schools within the defined 2km Education Study Area. It is however acknowledged that the Site is situated within the secondary school catchment area for Bridgewater College Academy located 8km from the Site. As presented in Table 1 above Bridgwater College Academy has a capacity of 1,580 and a pupil roll of 1,422[13] resulting in a surplus capacity of 158 pupil places.

4.20 Applying the updated PPR for Secondary Schools, the 750 dwellings within the Proposed Development are expected to yield approximately 105 secondary-aged pupils once fully occupied. As discussed above, the four identified Cumulative Developments[14] will generate additional Secondary School pupil yield, resulting from the residential nature of those development.

4.21 Based on current information, there is likely to be sufficient capacity within the wider SCC area to accommodate the additional Secondary School pupil yield from the Proposed Development. There is however likely to be a shortfall of capacity to accommodate the additional pupil yield generated from the four identified Cumulative Developments. It is assumed proportionate developer contributions will be required from each of the Cumulative Developments as required, to address Secondary School demand pressures.

[10] HM Government (2021). 'Get Information about Schools'

[11] HM Government (2021). 'Get Information about Schools'

[12] The four cumulative residential developments: 42/20/00014; 54/19/00008; 54/20/00009; and 54/20/00010.

[13] HM Government (2021). 'Get Information about Schools'

[14] The four cumulative residential developments: 42/20/00014; 54/19/00008; 54/20/00009; and 54/20/00010.

Conclusion

4.22 The Education Study Area exhibits a shortfall of capacity as a result of the Proposed Development in combination with additional demand pressures from the four identified Cumulative Developments[15].

4.23 The Proposed Development has been designed to mitigate any impact of pre-school age children generated by the Proposed Development through provision of an onsite facility. Proportionate developer contributions will be required to address Primary School and Secondary School demand pressures generated by the Proposed Development within the Education Study Area. Delivery of contributions will need to give cognisance to the incremental increase of demand as each phase of the residential part of the Proposed Development are delivered.

4.24 It is acknowledged that the IDS (2017) identifies a number of expansions to educational infrastructure across Sedgemoor. Whilst these are out with the Education Study Area for the Proposed Development, these could address additional demand pressures generated through the Cumulative Sites. It is assumed proportionate developer contributions will be required from each of the Cumulative Developments, towards address Nursery, Primary and Secondary School demand pressures.

5 Healthcare Infrastructure

General Practitioner (GP) Surgeries

5.1 The IDS (2017) highlights that there is demand for improvements to and increased capacity of healthcare provision across Sedgemoor. It notes that services that are in demand include GP surgeries and medical centres are likely to be delivered from sources beyond the control of the local authority such as private providers or the commercial decisions of GP and Dentist partnerships. Further, it is important to note that secondary healthcare provision is directly funded by Central Government and NHS England.

5.2 There are 8 salaried GPs practising across two surgeries within 4km of the Site including Woolavington Surgery and Edington Surgery, which both form part of Polden Medical Practice, with approximately 9,940 patients on their registers Polden Medical Practice are currently accepting new patients[16]. In addition, an expansion of existing facilities including GP Services; Dispensary District Nurses; Health Visiting and Minor procedures at Woolavington Surgery was delivered in 2014 (IDS, 2017).

5.3 Based on the baseline information noted above, this equates roughly to 1 GP for every 1,240 residents. The recommended patient roll size as assessed by the Royal College of General Practitioners is 1 GP for every 1,800 patients[17] and based on 2.4 people per average household in South East England[18] this equates to a need for 1 GP per 769 new homes. It would suggest that the Proposed Development, based on average household size in South East England, would create an additional need of 0.97 GPs based on the 750 new homes to be delivered by the Proposed Development. Finally, 2021 data from the British Medical

[15] The four cumulative residential developments: 42/20/00014; 54/19/00008; 54/20/00009; and 54/20/00010.

[16] Polden Medical Practice Website (No Date). Available online at: https://www.poldenmp.nhs.uk/

[17] Royal College of General Practitioners (2005). Information Paper 20.

[18] ONS (2021). Households by household size, regions of England and UK constituent countries. Available online at: https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/families/datasets/householdsbyhouseholdsizeregionsofenglandandukconstituentcountries

Association[19] suggests that there are just 0.46 fully qualified GPs per 1000 patients in England, down from 0.52 in 2015.

5.4 It is important to note that the Sedgemoor IDS (2017) identifies improvements and capacity issues relating to healthcare facilities. It notes that there is demand for improvements to and increased capacity of healthcare provision across Sedgemoor, adding that the overall cost of this increase in demand across the plan period has been estimated at ~£6.1 million.

5.5 The size and type of new homes provided at the Proposed Development will play a role in assessing the need for facilities to provide for additional GPs consulting rooms, or other treatment rooms within the Sedgemoor area. The LDO parameters include the provision of a healthcare facility of a size and scale proportionate to the scale of the Proposed Development and will respond to increasing demand generated from the Proposed Development. There is considered sufficient embedded mitigation within the Proposed Development in the form of a new Healthcare facility to accommodate the expected demand generated by employees accommodated at the site.

5.6 It is assumed that, in the absence of embedded mitigation, proportionate developer contributions will be required from the Proposed Development and each of the Cumulative Developments as required to address GP surgery demand pressures.

Dental Surgeries

5.7 There are no Dental Surgeries within the 4km Healthcare Study Area, with the closest Dental Surgery 'mydentist' situated approximately 8km from the Site located to the North of Bridgwater however It is not currently accepting new patient registrations[20]. In addition, other Dental Surgeries in the nearby population centre of Bridgwater are not currently accepting new patient registrations according to NHS England[21].

5.8 According to the National Audit Office[22] there were 4.4 practising NHS dentists per 10,000 people in the England (2018-19). It would suggest that the Proposed Development, based on the average number of practising NHS dentists per 10,000 people in England, would create an additional need of 0.79 Dentists based on the 750 new homes to be delivered by the Proposed Development.

5.9 Based on current information, there is likely to be a need to increase the provision of dental services within the Healthcare Study Area as a result of the Proposed Development. There is sufficient embedded mitigation within the Proposed Development in the form of a new Healthcare facility to accommodate the expected demand generated by employees accommodated at the site.

5.10 It is assumed that, in the absence of embedded mitigation, proportionate developer contributions will be required from the Proposed Development and each of the Cumulative Developments as required to address Dental Surgery demand pressures.

Hospitals

5.11 There are no Hospitals within the defined 4km Healthcare Study Area. It is however acknowledged that Bridgwater Community Hospital is located approximately 6km from the Site and offers urgent care and outpatient care. In addition, Burnham on Sea War Memorial

[19] British Medical Association (2021). Pressures in general practice. Available online at: https://www.bma.org.uk/advice-and-support/nhs-delivery-and-workforce/pressures/pressures-in-general-practice

[20] NHS England (No Date). Overview, mydensist, Symons Way, Bridgwater. Available online at: https://www.nhs.uk/services/dentist/mydentist-symons-way-bridgwater/V000359

[21] NHS England (No Date). Find a Dentist. Available online at: https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-dentist

[22] National Audit Office (2020). Dentistry in England. Available online at: https://www.nao.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Dentistry-in-England.pdf

Hospital is located approximately 15km from the Site and the nearest Accident and Emergency is located at Weston General Hospital which is 24km from the Site.

5.12 Based on current information, there is likely to be a rise in demand for Hospital facilities through introducing new residents and workforce to the Study Area. It is important to note however that Hospital services are funded directly by Central Government and NHS England and therefore proportionate developer contributions would not be required to address Hospital demand pressures[23].

6 Recycling Centres

6.1 SCC is the waste planning authority for Somerset and prepare the Waste Core Strategy Development Plan Supplementary Guidance (2013) and encompasses all forms of household, commercial, industrial and construction waste. SWP manages waste and recycling functions on behalf of four District Councils (Mendip, Sedgemoor, Somerset West & Taunton and South Somerset) and SCC. Waste recycling centres within the Study Area include Bridgwater and Highbridge Recycling Centres, situated approximately 8km and 10km from Site respectively, and serve as the primary recycling centres for the Site.

6.2 Further, the SCC Waste Core Strategy (2013) states that the *"existing waste management facilities in Bridgwater and the surrounding area provide significant capacity for Somerset"*. In addition, since the Core Strategy was adopted the Walpole Anaerobic Digestion Plant, located outside of Bridgwater close to Junction 23 of the M5, has been delivered and can process up to 30,000 tonnes of waste per annum.

6.3 Based on current information, there is likely to be an increase in demand for recycling and waste facilities as a result of new residents at the Proposed Development. In addition, there is likely to be further demand arising from the four identified Cumulative Developments[24]. It is however assumed that based on the findings of the IDS (2017) that there is sufficient capacity at existing waste management facilities within the Study Area to accommodate the Proposed Development.

7 Recreation and Public Access

7.1 A number of areas within the Study Area are prominent sites for recreation and public access including two National Cycle Route (NCR)[25] and 28 PRoW[26]. For the purposes of assessing recreation and public access, a Study Area of 2km was adopted to encapsulate key features and PRoW within the Study Area.

- NCR 3 runs to the East of the site and forms part of a long-distance cycle route from Land's End, Cornwall to Bristol.
- NCR 339 runs from Bridgwater to Barrington via Langport and South Petherton.

7.2 Several PRoW[27] are located within the Study Area as listed and shown in Figure 1 below:

- Path BW37/13; BW 37/12; BW 37/11; BW 37/10; BW 37/8; BW 37/15; BW 37/3; BW 37/2; BW 37/1; BW 2/44; BW 2/42; BW 2/40; BW 2/46; BW 28/2; BW 28/17; BW 28/2A; BW 28/3; BW 28/4A; BW 28/4; BW 2A/9; and BW 28/14.

[23] Sedgemoor District Council (2017). Infrastructure Delivery Strategy.

[24] The four cumulative residential developments: 42/20/00014; 54/19/00008; 54/20/00009; and 54/20/00010.

[25] Sustrans National Cycle Network Map. Available online at: https://www.sustrans.org.uk/national-cycle-network

[26] PRoW include all paths and bridleways.

[27] Somerset County Council Explore Somerset Online Map. Available online at: https://roam.somerset.gov.uk/roam/map

- Bridleway BW 28/UN; BW 28/13; BW 28/16; BW 28/1/1; BW 28/1; BW 2/44/1; and BW 37/1.

7.3 Currently, Sedgemoor District Council are preparing an Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study to ensure that local communities have access to facilities, services and spaces (such as playing pitches, play areas, indoor sport facilities and informal spaces for recreation such as country parks, allotments and village greens) that meet sporting, leisure, play and recreational needs[28].

7.4 Further, a number of recreational assets such as open and green spaces are located within the Study Area including;

- allotments/community growing sites in Puriton and Woolavington;
- playing fields in Puriton and Woolavington;
- play space (children's equipped playground) in Puriton and Woolavington; and
- a public park at Knowlehill Farm to the south of the Site.

7.5 It is important to note that the design and layout of the Proposed Development seeks to enhance existing connectivity and access with PRoW and open space within the residential areas to the South of the Site. Further, the Proposed Development intends to improve and provide access to key community infrastructure assets within neighbouring population centres and environmental designations of recreational value.

7.6 Based on current information, there is likely to be an increase in demand for the use of PRoW and open space for recreation and leisure as a result of the forecasted population increase arising from the Proposed Development. It is also important to note that the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) associated with the Proposed Development will provide sufficient embedded mitigation to ensure that the Proposed Development is cognisant of local PRoW, public access, areas of recreational value and other community infrastructure.

7.7 In addition, there is likely to be further demand arising from the four identified Cumulative Developments[29]. It is however assumed that based on the design details for the Proposed Development that there is sufficient embedded mitigation in the form of their proposed layout which is assumed to be sensitive to areas of recreation and public access. Further, the noted Cumulative Developments are also assumed to have submitted a satisfactory CEMP which considers the impact of the Cumulative Developments on local PRoW and public access.

8 Environmental Designations

8.1 There are eight LWS, four NNR, three SSSI and one SPA Site within the Environmental Designation Study Area. These designations have been included due to their environmental importance and as a form of Green Infrastructure which offer recreational value.

8.2 Environmental Designations included within the Study Area include:

- Puriton Rhynes and Ponds LWS – semi-improved grassland and reed beds located to the North of the Site;
- Borrow Pit, Puriton LWS – situated to the East of the Site and designated for its breeding population of Cettis Warbler;

[28] Sedgemoor District Council Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (No Date). Available online at: https://www.sedgemoor.gov.uk/article/3070/Open-Space-Sport-and-Recreation-Study

[29] The four cumulative residential developments: 42/20/00014; 54/19/00008; 54/20/00009; and 54/20/00010.

- Puriton Cowslip Field LWS – located within the site and designated as grassland habitat;
- Puriton Ash Ground LWS – located within the Western part of the Site and designated for its notable plant species;
- North Mead Drive Fields LWS – located within the northwest of the Site and designated for its habitats of grassland and rhynes;
- Puriton Meadows and Rail Spur LWS – located to the northwest of the Site and designated for supporting notable species;
- Stoning Pond Field South and Stoning Pong Rhyne LWS – located to the East of the Site and designated for its plant species;
- Woolavington Road and Fields North LWS – located to the South of the Site and designated for the mire habitats it supports;
- Huntspill River NNR – located to the North of the Site, it runs in a straight line in an east-west direction;
- Somerset Levels and Moors SPA, NNR and SSSI – located to approximately 3.2km east of the Site;
- Catcott Edington and Chilton Moors NNR and SSSI – located approximately 3.2km to the east of the Site; and

8.3 The Proposed Development will not encroach, change or impact on the setting of recreational assets or environmental designations. Further, the Proposed Development intends to improve and provide access to key environmental designations of recreational value.

8.4 Based on current information, there is likely to be an increase in demand for the use of environmental designated areas for recreation and leisure as a result of the forecasted population increase arising from the Proposed Development. It is also important to note that the CEMP associated with the Proposed Development will provide sufficient embedded mitigation to ensure that the Proposed Development is cognisant of local areas of recreational value and environmental designations.

8.5 In addition, there is likely to be further demand arising from the four identified Cumulative Developments[30]. It is however assumed that based on the design details for the Proposed Development that there is sufficient embedded mitigation in the form of the proposed design and layout to ensure the protection of designated sites. Further, the noted Cumulative Developments are also assumed to have submitted a satisfactory CEMP which considers the impact of the Cumulative Developments on areas of recreational value and environmental designations.

9 Conclusion

9.1 Based on baseline conditions and its evolution discussed above, there is sufficient embedded mitigation within the Proposed Development in the form of a new Nursery facility to accommodate the expected demand generated by the Proposed Development. However, with limited Primary School capacity within the education Study Area (both Woolavington Village Primary School and Puriton Primary School) further mitigation will be required in the form of proportionate developer contributions to address the shortfall in Primary School places. In terms of secondary school provision, there is likely to be a shortfall in capacity at Bridgwater College Academy within the Study Area to meet the forecasted demand for secondary school

[30] The four cumulative residential developments: 42/20/00014; 54/19/00008; 54/20/00009; and 54/20/00010.

places arising from the Proposed Development in combination with Cumulative Developments.

9.2 In terms of healthcare infrastructure provision, there is some capacity at existing GP Surgeries within the Study Area. Healthcare facilities for staff have been included within the Proposed Development parameters to accommodate any additional demand for GP and Dental services. Therefore, there is sufficient embedded mitigation within the Proposed Development to accommodate the expected demand generated by the Proposed Development.

9.3 There are no anticipated shortfalls in the provision of recycling centres, areas for recreation, public access or environmental designations arising from the Proposed Development as noted in the baseline information. Proposals included as part of the LDO afford enhancement to features of recreational value and public accessibility within the Study Areas in the form of appropriate embedded mitigation including environmentally sensitive design; improved Site permeability and connectivity; and appropriate CEMP.

9.4 Any need for revised, new or additional community infrastructure to support the delivery of the identified Cumulative Developments, beyond existing infrastructure requirements which have been considered in this assessment, would need to be identified through further assessments and secured through suitable conditions attached to any permission(s) granted. Any future assessment of community infrastructure provision arising from the identified Cumulative Developments should take account of the findings of this technical note.