



Project Plan
October 2008 to May 2010



**‘Revitalising the River Ise and its
surrounding environment’**

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Revital-ISE Project Officer



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Revital-ISE Project
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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

The River Ise is the largest of the tributaries of the River Nene in Northamptonshire, rising near Naseby and flowing east past Desborough, turning south at Geddington and passing through Kettering to join the River Nene at Wellingborough.

In the upper reaches the river is largely unmodified and retains typical natural features such as meanders, riffles and pools. Indeed the 4.7km reach east of Barford Bridge is the only section of river in Northamptonshire to be designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest. The upper reaches, along with some of the tributary streams, are also important for several UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species including white-clawed crayfish, water voles and otters. However, from just north of Kettering to the confluence with the Nene significant modification has taken place, firstly to create formal water features in the historic parkland at Boughton House and latterly, through Kettering and beyond, the river has been straightened and deepened in an attempt to reduce the risk of flooding.

The catchment is largely rural, comprising a mixed farming landscape interspersed with some important areas for wildlife - woodlands, grasslands and wetlands - and historic parkland. However it is also part of the Milton Keynes South Midlands Growth Area where major population growth is planned up to 2021. This will see the expansion of Kettering, Wellingborough, Desborough and Rothwell, which, in turn, will increase the pressure on the natural assets of the catchment. Furthermore new accessible, high quality and relevant green spaces within and close to existing and new communities will be required. Alongside this, existing green spaces, many of which are not fulfilling their potential, will need to be rejuvenated.

1.2 The Revital-ISE Project

In response to these opportunities and pressures the Environment Agency has funded the appointment of a project officer to “**Revital-ISE**” the Ise Valley for an initial two year period to the end of May 2010. The project is being hosted by the River Nene

Regional Park Community Interested Company. The project officer is already promoting and facilitating the implementation of a variety of improvements with the aims of enhancing biodiversity; improving the landscape; and increasing access, recreational and leisure opportunities – with improvements in and around the floodplain and urban areas being a particular focus of activity. Subject to the success of the Project during this initial phase and the ability to attract additional funding, the Environment Agency intends to continue its support for Revital-ISE for at least a further 3 years.

The Revital-ISE project provides an outstanding opportunity for partnership working between landowners, land managers, local authorities, Government Agencies, environmental groups, and local communities to re-establish a high quality environment throughout the Ise Valley that meets the needs of a 21st century community.

Any organisations or groups who are interested in working with the Revital-ISE project can contact the Project Officer at rfield@northamptonshire.gov.uk or by telephoning 01604-237243.

2.0 Project Aims

2.1 Biodiversity

Improve biodiversity along the river and its surrounding habitats

2.2 Historical environment

Protect and restore historical sites along the Ise valley

2.3 Access

Create an Ise Valley Way along the valley and provide links to the surrounding towns and villages

2.4 Community involvement

Entuse the local communities to become interested and involved in the River Ise and its surrounding area

2.5 Leisure and recreation

Identify opportunities to use and enhance the provision of facilities for leisure and recreation along the Ise valley

2.6 Landscape character

Protect and enhance the landscape character of the Ise valley and the surrounding area

2.7 Partnership working

Encourage and facilitate partnership working between interested parties within the Ise valley

2.8 Funding opportunities

Investigate suitable funding opportunities for projects within the Ise valley

3.0 Project Objectives

3.1 Biodiversity

- Create new habitats
- Restore degraded habitats
- Investigate appropriate management for habitats
- Provide advice to landowners and land managers
- Create opportunities for educational activities, research, and species and habitat monitoring

3.2 Historical environment

- Protect the heritage of the Ise valley
- Restore historic features where possible
- Interpret sites for the benefit of the local communities
- Provide educational opportunities at important sites

3.3 Access – Ise Valley Way

- Create a multi-use path from the River Nene at Wellingborough to Warkton Lane in Kettering
- Create a footpath from Kettering along the remaining sections of the Ise
- Promote circular walks or rides along the route
- Link surrounding towns and villages by means of suitable routes

3.4 Community involvement

- Promote community involvement in the Pocket Parks within the Ise valley
- Promote the adoption of sections of the river by the local community
- Encourage schools and colleges to become involved
- Encourage and provide opportunities for under represented groups to become involved within the project
- Promote training opportunities to the local communities

3.5 Leisure and recreation

- Promote the use of current facilities
- Identify where facilities are required
- Promote the need for improved facilities
- Involve the local communities in decision making about requirement

3.6 Landscape character

- Promote the restoration of landscape features
- Enhance the character of the area with positive land management
- Encourage and promote awareness and use of the Northamptonshire Landscape Character and Green Infrastructure suite

3.7 Partners

- Identify potential partners
- Encourage and facilitate partnership working
- Provide information on projects to partners and potential partners

3.8 Funding

- Identify funding streams for specific projects
- Establish partnerships for funding bids
- Prepare and submit bids where applicable
- Provide advice and support for partners bids

4.0 Project plan

4.1 Introduction

The River Ise is broken down into three main areas, as shown in Figure 1. These three areas have subsequently been categorised from highest priority to lowest: the River Nene to Warkton Lane, Kettering which is highest priority (Figure 2); Warkton Lane to Desborough which is medium priority (Figure 3); and Desborough to source, which is lowest priority (Figure 4). Within each of these areas, projects are given high, medium and low priority. A low priority project in the green area may still be promoted if partners and funding are available, while certain high priority projects in red areas may have to wait until funding has been released via Section 106 agreements for example.

4.1 Project funding

A wide range of different funding opportunities exist such as: Big Lottery's Changing Spaces (Access to Nature, Community Spaces); Growth Area Funds; Local Authority; County Council; Environment Agency; Aggregates Levy; Landfill Tax; Section 106 agreements and Environmental Stewardship. Each project will be assessed individually and applications will be made to the most appropriate source.

4.2 Project list

The list of projects is not exhaustive and will be reviewed and updated every two months. Project location is shown in Figure 5.

Project	Lead Partners	Partners	Type of project	Linked to	Status	Funding	Priority
Chester Farm Location 1	RNRP	BCW / WT	Historic restoration, access, educational use, interpretation	Nene Valley strategy	Discussion		Low
Nene & Ise link Location 1	BCW	Bovis / WT	Access and habitat restoration	Ise Valley Way	Discussion	Via s106	High
Trout in the classroom Location 2	Revital-ISE	EA / Schools / JetsetUK	Educational project three schools one each in Kettering, Wellingboro' and Desboro'	Revital-ISE	In progress	In place	
Wellingboro' Zoo Location 2	BCW		Interpretation of remaining features		In progress		Low
Wellingboro' town & eco-park Location 3	BCW	Bovis / WT	Habitat restoration and creation, access, recreation and leisure	Ise Valley Way	Discussion	Via s106	High
Rivercare project Location 3	BCW	EA		Revital-ISE	Discussion		High
Visitor centre at Stanton cross Location 4	BCW	Bovis	Provide visitor centre	Wellingboro' town and eco-park	Discussion	S106 money for feasibility	Low
Ise Valley Way Location 5	Revital-ISE	KBC / BCW / NCC / Boughton Estate / Wicksteed Park	Cycleway - Nene to Kettering Footpath from Kettering	Finedon PP Circular walks	Discussion	Access to Nature	High
Promotion of Revital-ISE Location 6	Revital-ISE	All partners and interested parties	Increase partners and funding, workshop in Feb, logo	All projects	In progress	EA +	High

Pocket Parks project Location 7	NCC	Revital-ISE / EA / Town Councils / KBC	Habitat restoration, access improvements, community involvement, training, increased size	Ise Valley Way	Discussion	Access to Nature	High
Barford Bridge and Southfield Farm SSSI Location 8	Revital-ISE /WT	NE / Redrow	Habitat restoration, access	Ise Valley Way	In progress	HLS	High
Southfield Farm Marsh SSSI Location 8	EA/NE	WT / local farmers / Redrow	Bring SSSI into favourable condition	Other Southfield Farm Marsh projects	In progress	EA	High
Grays Field Location 27	KBC	Redrow	Play equipment, access, woodland restoration and pond creation		In progress	KBC, Sita Trust	Medium
Project at Wicksteed Park Location 9	Wicksteed Park	EA / HLF / Revital-ISE	New automatic weir and fish pass, thinning of tree to reduce shading, large lake restoration, convert suitable buildings for educational access	Revital-ISE	Discussion	HLF/EA	Medium
Wicksteed Park Small lake Location 9	EA/ Revital-ISE	Wicksteed Park	Habitat improvements, fishing club and islands	Other Wicksteed Park projects	In progress	EA	High
Wicksteed Water meadows, Castle Field & parkland Location 10	Revital-ISE	NE / Wicksteed Park	Habitat restoration / access / interpretation /boardwalk (education) Restoration of SAM & Repton parkland	Ise Valley Way BAP habitats	In progress/ In discussion	HLS	High

Restoration of meanders on Ise at Kettering Location 11	KBC	NE / EA / BeeBee	Habitat improvements and flood prevention	Ise Valley Way	Discussion	No	Low
Green patch area project Location 12	KBC	EA / NCC	Green patch, health walks, wildflower meadow, BMX track, river clean up project, interpretation, improved access	Revital-ISE	In progress	Varoius	High
Habitat restoration at Boughton Park Location 13	Boughton Estate	EA / NE	BAP habitat creation	Northants BAP and HLS application	Discussion	HLS	Low
Kettering GI study Location 14	RNRP	KBC	GI study of the Ise valley in Kettering	various	Complete	KBC	
Weir at Boughton Location 15	Boughton Estate	EA	Control of river levels	Fish pass	In progress	In place	
Fish pass Location 15	Boughton Estate	EA	Allow movement of fish	Revital-ISE	Discussion		Medium
River Ise and meadows SSSI Location 16	Revital-ISE	Boughton Estate / EA / NE / Local farmer / Newton Field Centre	Habitat restoration, protection of SAM and access	Ise Valley Way	In progress	HLS	High
Educational access Location 16	Revital-ISE	Newton Field Centre	Environmental courses for a range of groups Site improvements	River Ise and meadows SSSI	In progress	Access to nature and HLS	High

Tailby meadows Desborough Location 17	Wildlife Trust (WT)	NCC / EA	Habitat & river restoration/ access improvements/cattle handling facilities	Ise Valley Way walks, Trout in classroom	In progress	In place	
Circular walks Location 18	Revital-ISE	NCC / KBC / BCW / DDC / Parish councils / WT / CBC	Access and community involvement link to C2C Healthy walks Donate a gate Car parking assessment	Ise Valley Way	various	various	Medium
Improvements to agricultural habitats Location 19	Revital-ISE	NE / various landowners	Habitat creation and restoration and access improvements	Revital-ISE	In future	Possible HLS	Low
Strategic Plan for the Ise Valley Location 20	WT	Revital-ISE / NE / EA /BCW / KBC / NCC	Vision for the future	Nene Valley Strategy	In future	EA	High
Wildlife surveys of the CWS Location 21	WT	EA / NE / BCW / KBC	For LAA etc Advice for landowners	Revital-ISE	In progress/f or future	EA current KBC/BCW in future	High
Historic watermills Location 22			Possible restoration, protection and interpretation of sites	Revital-ISE			Low
Kelmarsh Hall Location 23	Kelmarsh Estate	NE / Revital- ISE	Historic landscape protection, habitat and access improvements		In progress	NE	Low
Naseby Battlefield Location 24			Historic battlefield				Low

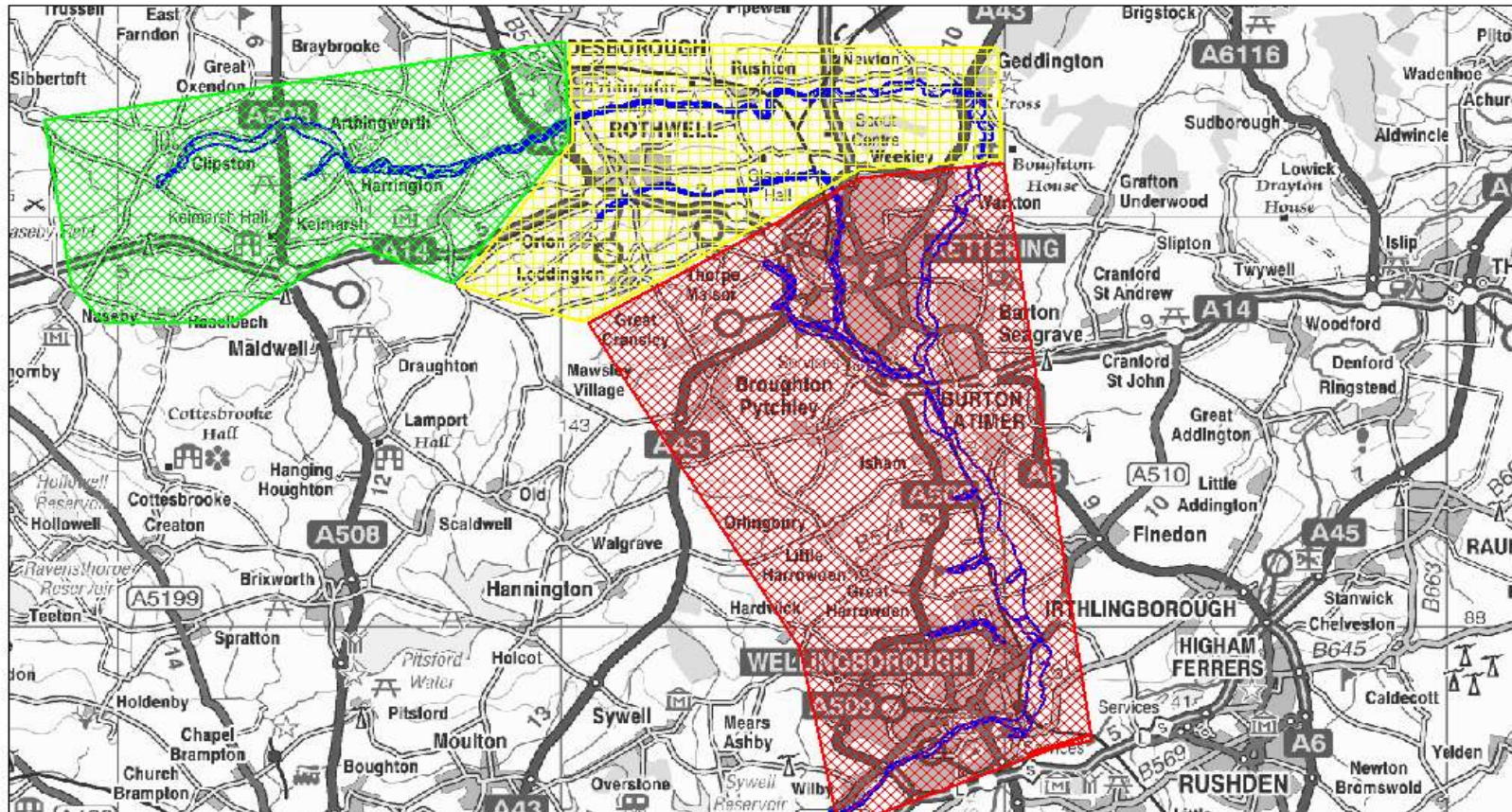
Triangular Lodge Location 25	EH	Revital-ISE	Link to Ise Valley Way & C2C				Low
Survey for barriers to wildlife movement Location 26	EA	WT / Revital-ISE	Need for fish passes and otter tunnels etc	Revital-ISE	To discuss	EA	Medium

Project completed **Projects in progress** **Projects in planning** **Projects yet to start**

Key

KBC	Kettering Borough Council	HLF	Heritage Lottery Fund
BCW	Borough Council of Wellingborough	BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
NCC	Northamptonshire County Council	HLS	Higher Level Scheme
NE	Natural England	EA	Environment Agency
WT	Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust	DDC	Daventry District Council

Figure 1 Priority areas



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Key  Low  Medium  High  Ise and floodplain

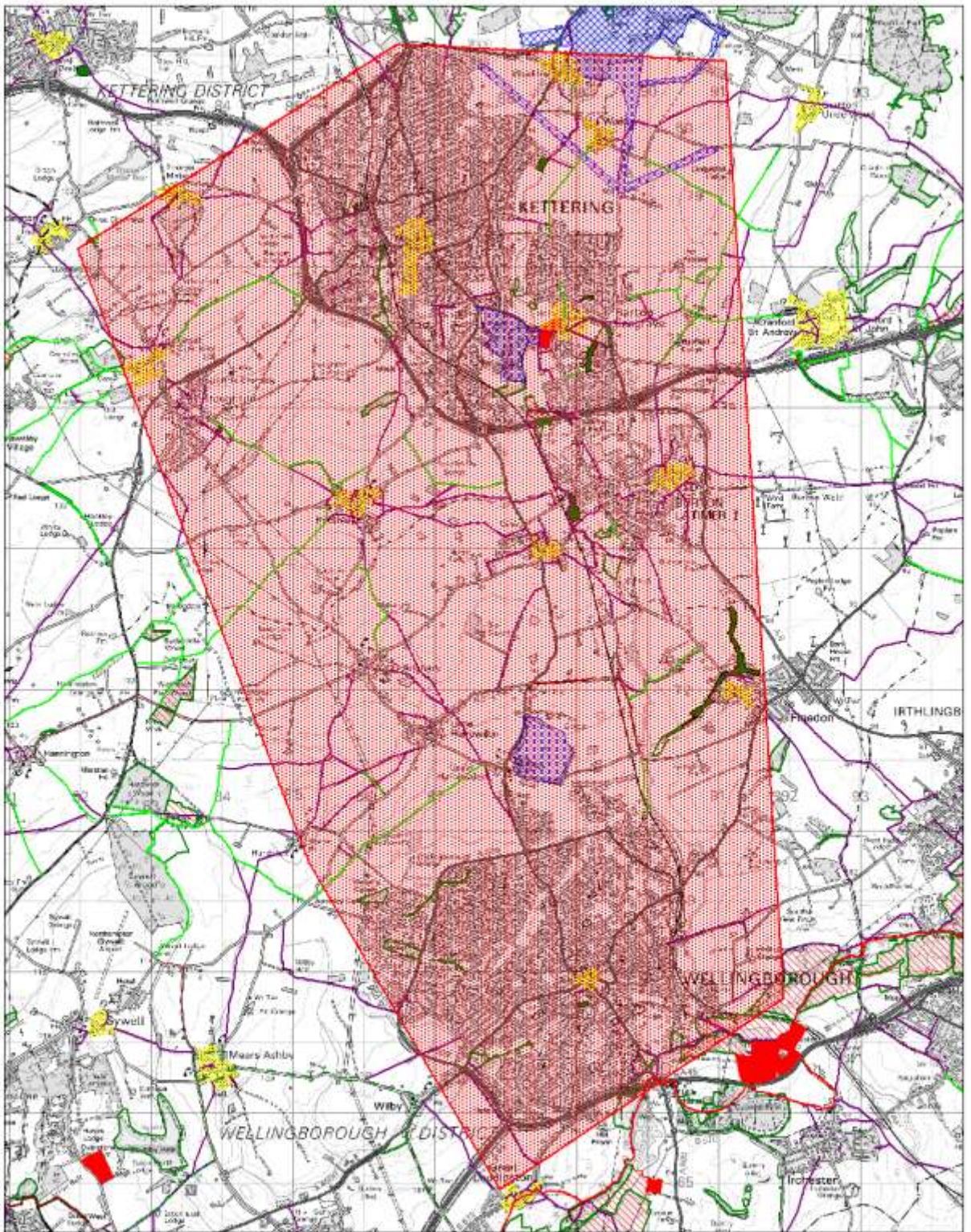


Figure 2 Red area - Designated areas

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Key

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- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
|  SSSI |  Registered park |  SAM |  Pocket park |  CWS |
|  Byway |  Footpath |  Bridleway | | |

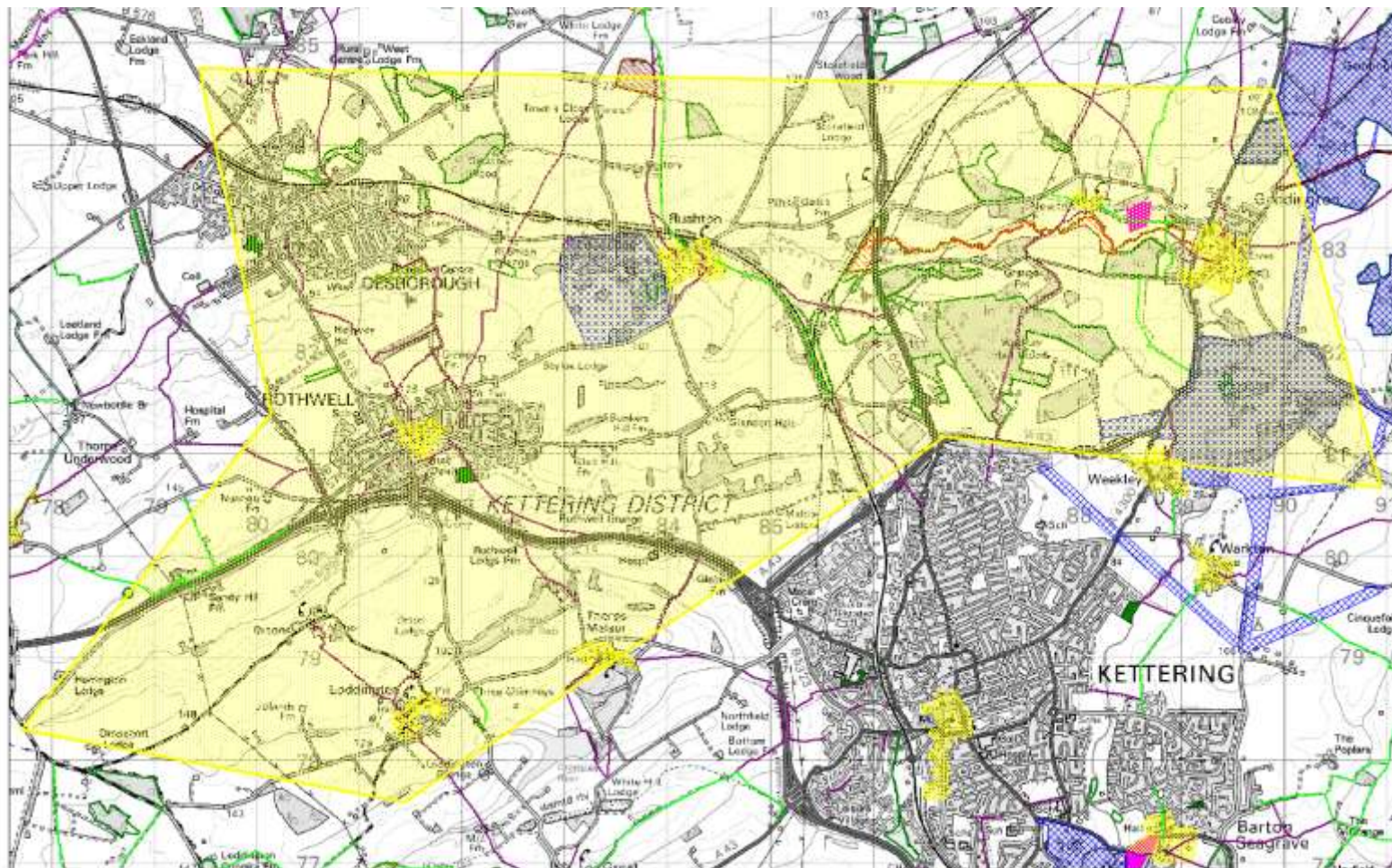


Figure 3 Yellow area - Designated areas

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Figure 4 Green area - Designated areas

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Key

- CWS
- SAM
- Registered park
- Bridleway
- Footpath

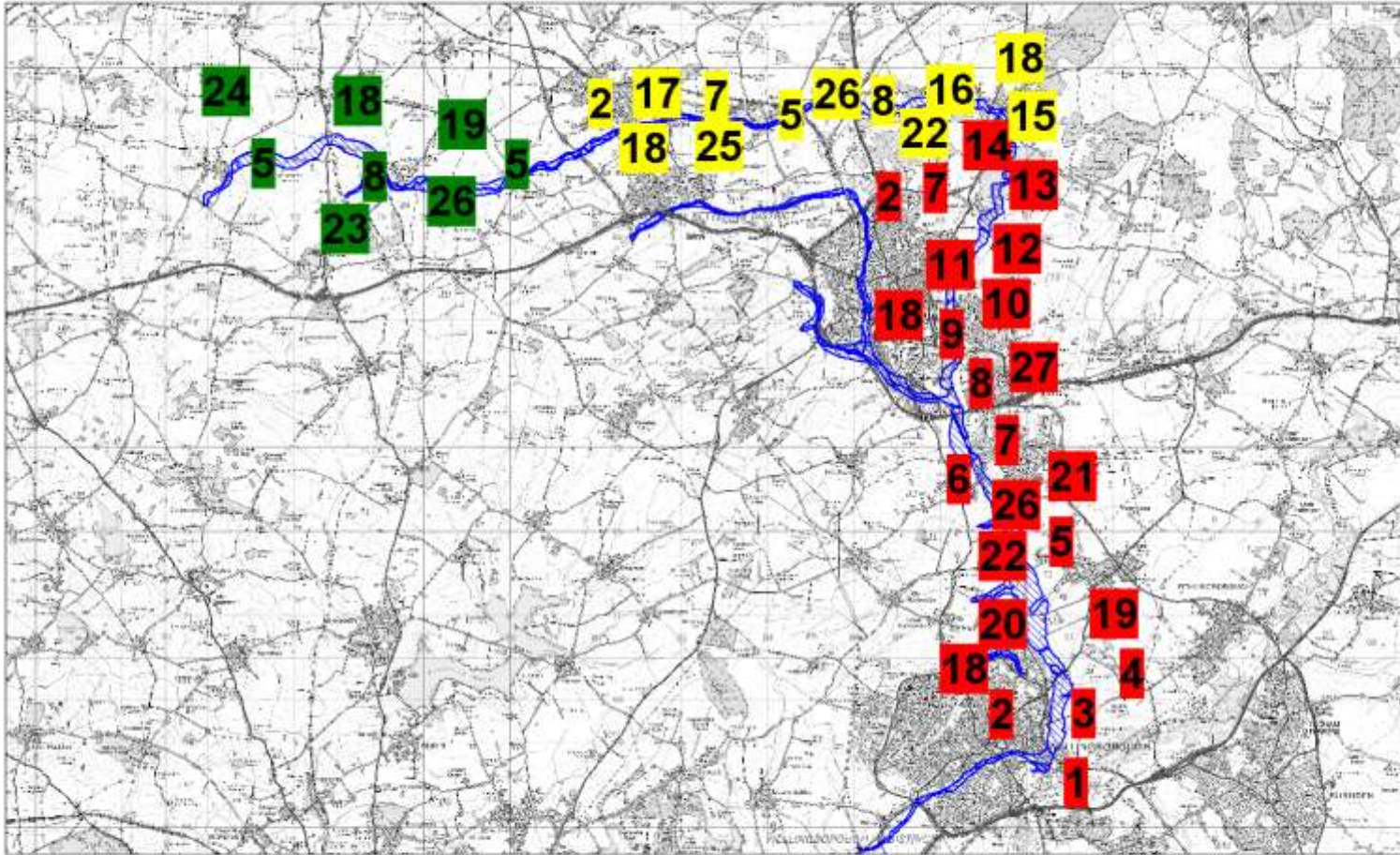


Figure 5 Project location

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Project as per Project Plan



River and floodplain



