

I can see the intended extent of the Protected Areas on Map 6 and the justification as described in 4.53-4.55.

- To what extent might the housing land supply position in the District have a bearing on this matter?

The Council's latest Statement of Five Year Housing Land Supply dated 31/03/2017 confirms that the Council does not currently have a 5 year housing land supply. The five year land supply is anticipated to be re-established upon adoption of the new Local Plan which is currently subject to examination. It is not considered that the housing land supply position has a significant bearing on the likely developmental pressure which could occur in the 'identified protected areas' on Map 6, pg 55 of the Neighbourhood Plan, as these areas are not immediately adjacent to Thetford's built up area, or any other settlement with a number of services where such development would be more likely to meet the definition of sustainable development in the NPPF. Although, it is acknowledged that a lack of 5 year housing supply does increase the likelihood of speculative applications for residential development on any land, particularly adjacent to existing settlements.

Croxton, Kilverstone and Brettenham are defined as rural settlements under Core Strategy Policy SS1 Spatial Strategy. Croxton has a settlement boundary, Kilverstone and Brettenham do not. Applications for development within the 'identified protected area' which straddles Kilverstone and Brettenham parish would be unlikely to be considered sustainable in the context of the NPPF definition due to the lack of service provision in this area, and due to the environmental, historical and landscape qualities of this area. Even without a 5 year land supply, Policy CP 10 which sets the 1500m buffer around Special Protection Areas with Stone Curlews would still be given significant weight in decision making in line with paragraph 119 of the NPPF. It is possible that speculative applications on land immediately adjacent to Croxton settlement boundary could come forward in light of a lack of 5 year housing land supply and that this could affect the 'identified protected area' to the south of Croxton.