

POLICY EN11

PLANNING PERMISSION WILL BE NOT BE GRANTED FOR DEVELOPMENT ON LAND IN RURAL ACCESS AREAS, AS IDENTIFIED ON THE PROPOSALS MAP, UNLESS IT WOULD: -

- A. NOT BE DISCORDANT WITH THE PREDOMINANTLY OPEN/GREEN NATURE AND CHARACTER OF A RURAL ACCESS AREA BY REASON OF APPEARANCE OR USE; AND**
- B. NOT COMPROMISE THE WILDLIFE VALUE OF A RURAL ACCESS AREA; AND**
- C. INCREASE PUBLIC ACCESS TO A RURAL ACCESS AREA, AND SECURE LAND USE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE TO SUSTAIN PUBLIC ACCESS IN TANDEM WITH THE DEVELOPMENT'S OPERATIONAL USE.**

3.34 Rural Access Areas are extensive areas of predominantly open/green spaces which flank large settlements. Although not as structurally important as green wedges, they too are not required for development and are subject to policies severely restraining development in the open countryside. However, their proximity to large urban populations desires the public's positive use and appreciation, as it is the countryside that is nearest to them. The District Council therefore seeks to encourage development that provides opportunities for diversifying land use whilst increasing and then sustaining public use of such land - yet which is respectful of the open and green character of the urban fringes.

3.35 A Northampton North West Bypass is identified by the Highway Authority as necessary to assist in relieving existing and future traffic conditions in Northampton. Phase 1 has been the subject of a planning application and a line has already been safeguarded - that current line is suitably shown on the Proposals Map.
