

Initial Consultation - Issues and Options

Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 | Initial Consultation - Issues and Options

Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036: Initial Issues and Options

What's this about?

It's about your opinions on the issues and options for a new Local Plan for Huntingdonshire. It's about your views on what is the best number of new homes to build in Huntingdonshire over the next 25 years. We need your ideas on the best strategy for the future of Huntingdonshire to help us balance competing economic, social and environmental demands. New homes will then need to be matched up with jobs, infrastructure and environmental protection.

The strategy will be published as the Local Plan. This will identify specific sites to be built on and provide guidance on how development should be managed.

To help we have drawn up three options depending on the number of new homes we need. Within these are choices of where the homes could be built. We would like your thoughts on which would be most suitable and suggestions on other sustainable strategies.

Why do we need a new Local Plan?

There are four main reasons why we need to prepare a new Local Plan:

- Designation of the Alconbury Enterprise Zone with its aspiration to accommodate 8,000 jobs by 2036
- New national planning policy that covers all forms of development and sets out national economic, environmental and social priorities
- To respond to the Localism Act 2011
- Known and emerging new development pressures and opportunities

What are the key issues?

Key issues for the Local Plan include:

- Scale, location and quality of new development
- Boosting the local economy
- Promoting lively town centres
- Better transport options
- Respond to predicted impacts of climate change
- Maintaining services and facilities across Huntingdonshire
- Providing new infrastructure and community facilities with new development
- Encourage high quality design to help make places better for residents and visitors
- Protecting important open spaces and nature conservation sites

What will we need to plan for?

We already have an adopted Core Strategy for Huntingdonshire which sets out directions of growth up to 2026. Current commitments will provide 9,100 more homes; mostly in and around Huntingdon and St Neots.

The Alconbury Enterprise Zone was designated by the government in August 2011. This will provide 150 hectares of employment land over 25 years; almost double the amount anticipated in the Core Strategy. This has potential to radically change the local economy.



We need to provide for another 10 years growth for homes, shops, community facilities and infrastructure to co-ordinate with the anticipated delivery of the Alconbury Enterprise Zone. We will need:

- 4,500 – 10,600 extra new homes
- Additional economic growth – not just at the enterprise zone but within existing communities to provide jobs locally
- New and improved infrastructure to support residents and businesses
- Enhanced environmental designations and opportunities to balance the growth

How have the options been prepared?

We have looked at different forecasts of numbers of homes that might be needed by 2036 to establish the highest and lowest numbers of new homes that are likely to be realistic. We have also looked at the number of homes already available through existing planning permissions and planned for in the Core Strategy to 2026 which is 9,100. We have worked out how many more we will need on top of these to produce our initial options.

Based on the available forecasts we have produced 3 housing targets for our initial options:

- Low growth – 4,650 more homes
- Medium growth - 8,150 more homes
- High growth – 10,650 more homes

When the 2011 Census results start being published this summer we may need to consider other possible targets.

Now we need to find the best places in Huntingdonshire to build the new homes. To make sure these are realistic we asked landowners what sites could be available for building on and assessed their suitability for development. Using these we have drawn up different ways that the target numbers of homes could be met.

As we develop the Local Plan it is likely that landowners will tell us about other sites that they would like to build on. These will be considered as we go and other, more sustainable sites may be included in future options for consultation.

We need your opinions on which target we should aim for and what is the best way of meeting it.

The options are just a starting point to help us work out a strategy. Once we have considered what everyone has to say we will produce a more detailed plan with possible development sites in for consultation in the summer.

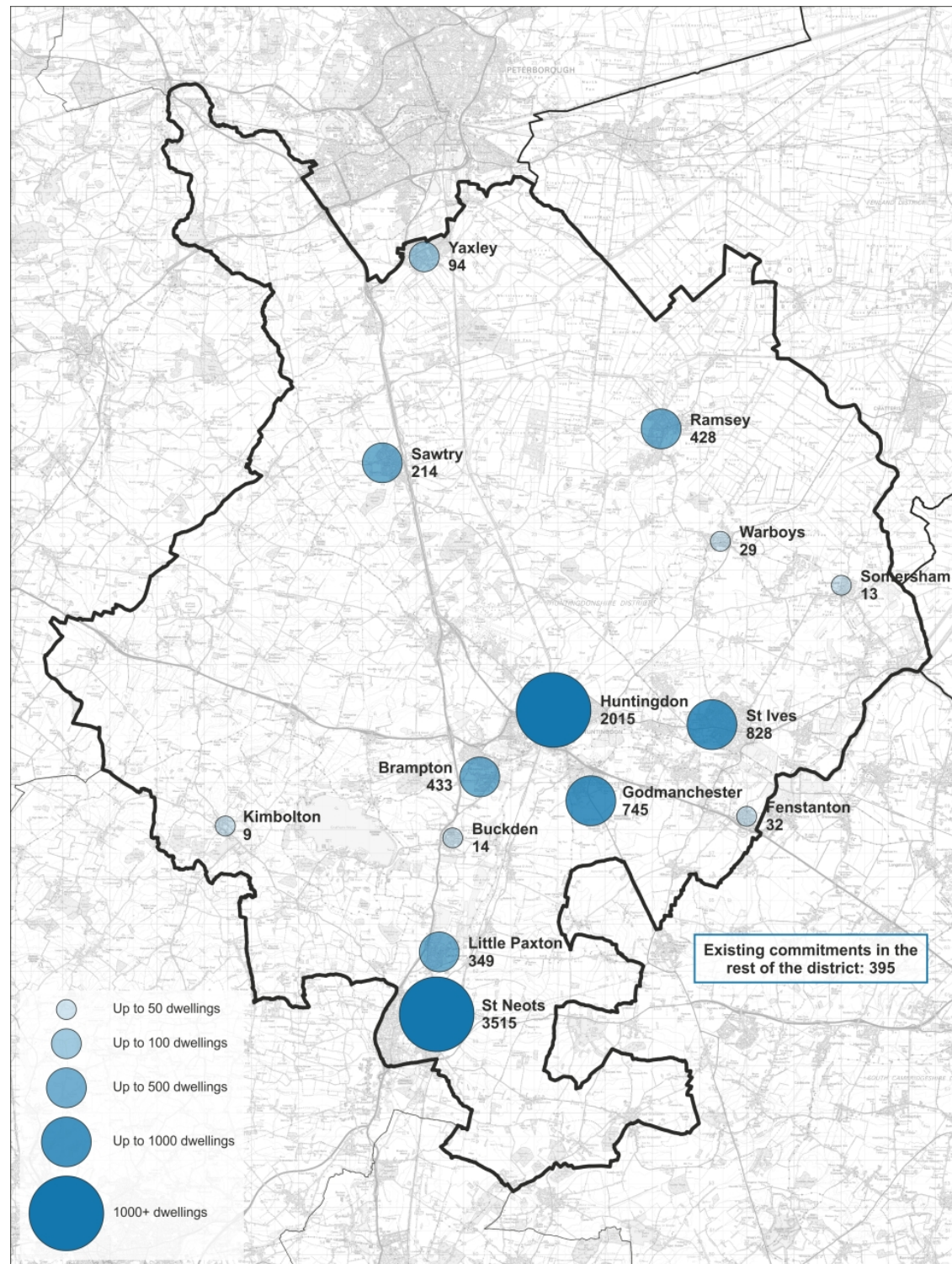
How do I get involved?

Please look at the options on the following pages and give us your opinions by completing the form at the end.

Please contact the Planning Policy team on 01480 388388 if you have any questions about this consultation.

Existing commitments

Core Strategy to 2026 and existing commitments: 9100 homes



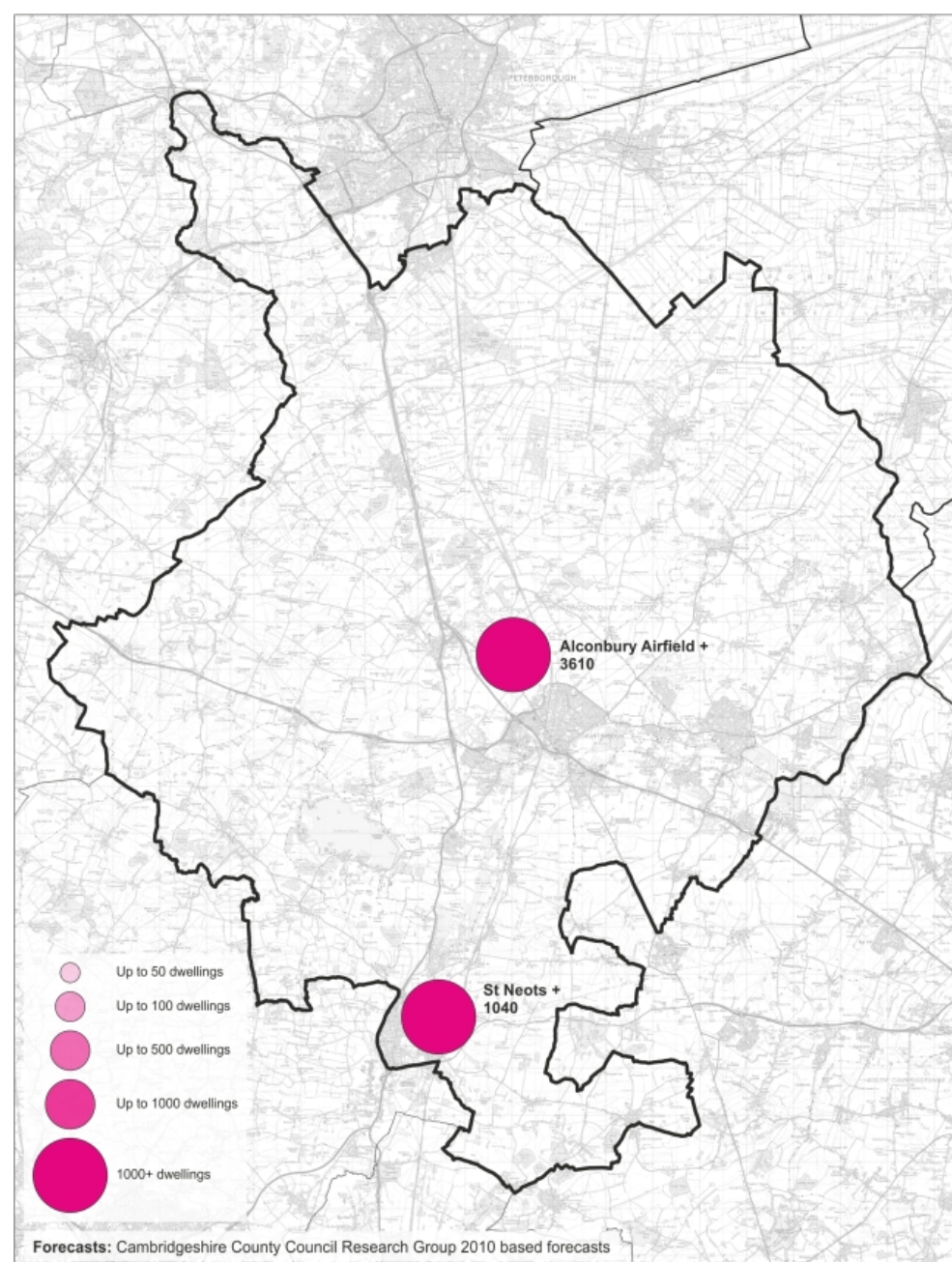
Huntingdonshire already has a Core Strategy to 2026 which was adopted in 2009 following extensive consultation and independent examination by the Planning Inspectorate. This identified 'directions of growth' to meet the housing and employment needs anticipated at the time. The old Local Plan (1995) and its Alteration (2002) allocated specific sites for housing use some of which are still outstanding.

This map shows a combination of all dwellings with planning permission or under-construction as at 1 April 2011. It also shows the outstanding allocations from the old Local Plan. These are supplemented by the numbers anticipated in the Core Strategy.

Our challenge now is to decide how many extra homes we need and where they should be built.

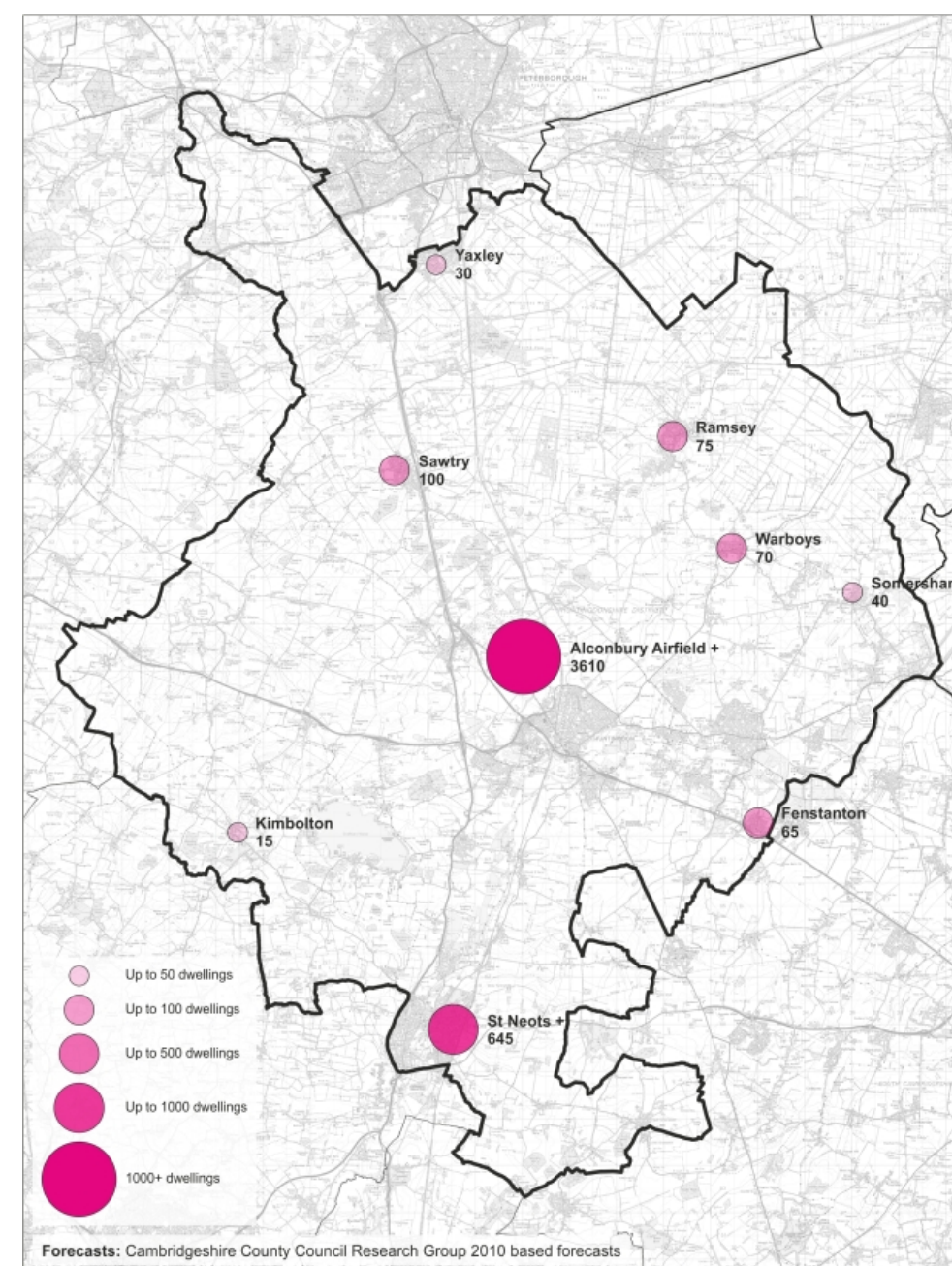
Low Growth Options

Low Growth Option A: 4650 homes



This completes the eastern extension of St Neots started with Loves Farm using the land south of Cambridge Road and east as far as the A428. All other new homes are concentrated at Alconbury Airfield+ in conjunction with the enterprise zone giving a total there of 3610.

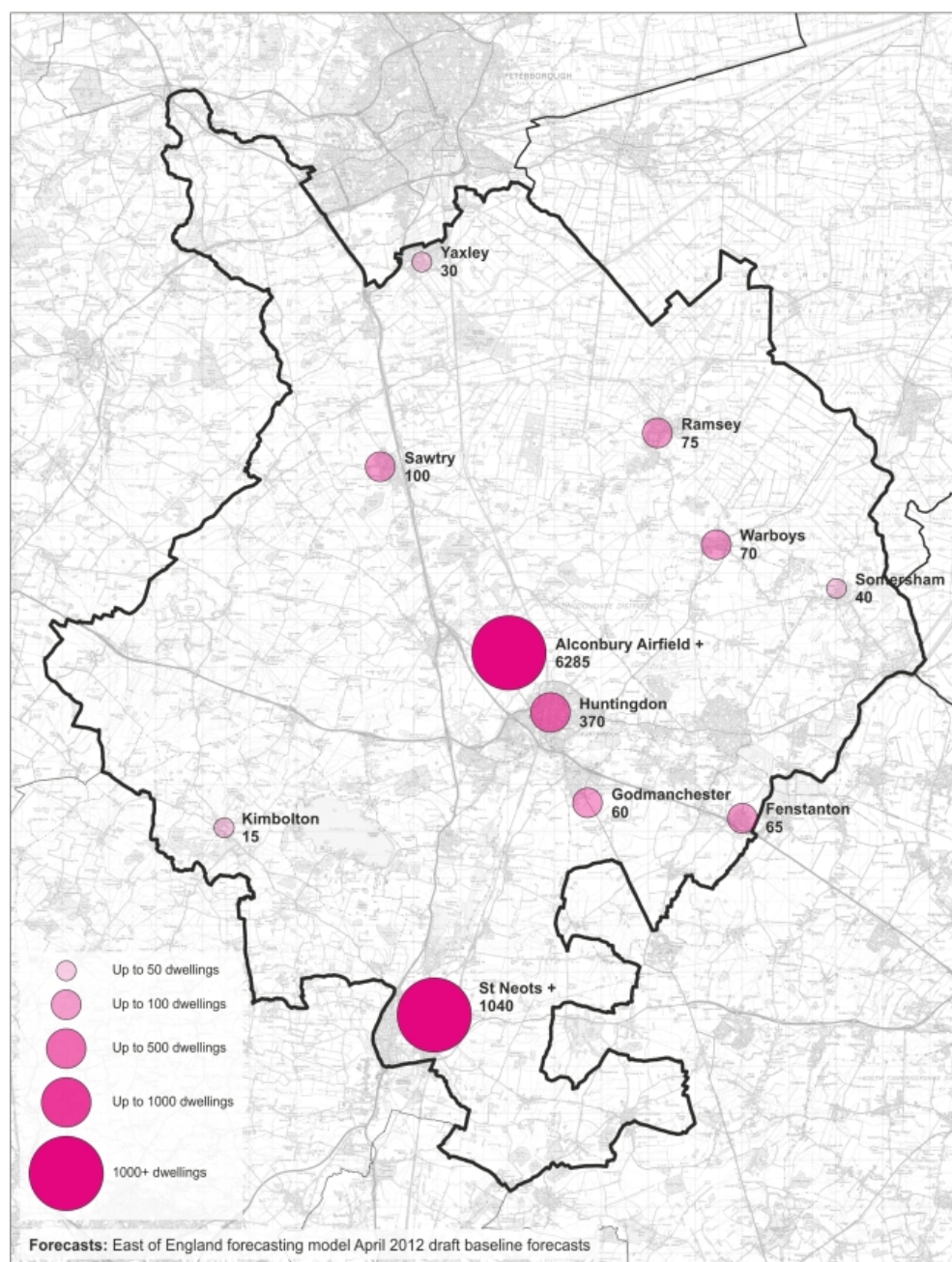
Low Growth Option B: 4650 homes



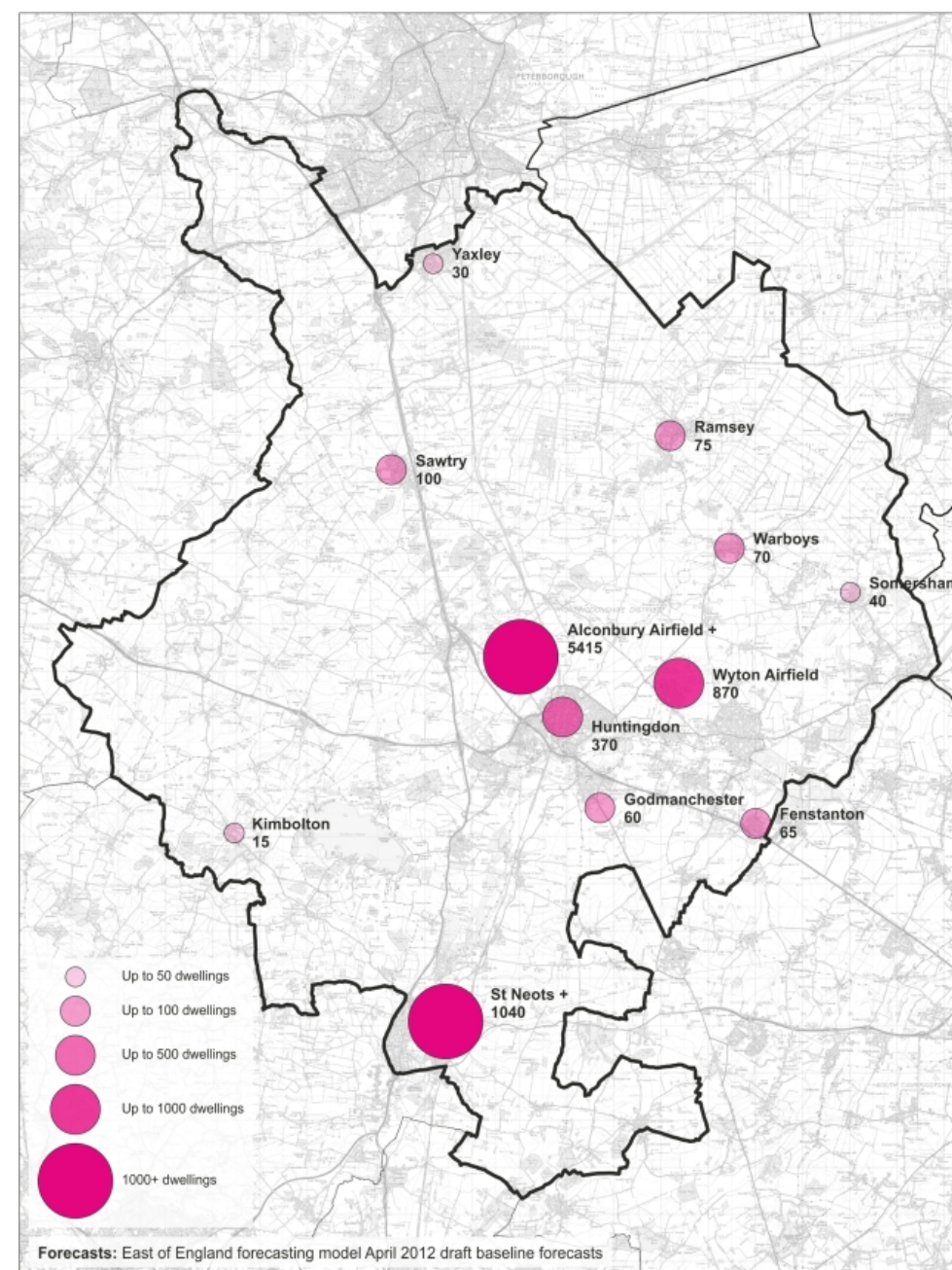
This allows additional growth in the largest villages to help sustain local facilities. A slightly lower amount of additional growth is suggested for the eastern extension to St Neots and again all other new homes are concentrated at Alconbury Airfield+ in conjunction with the enterprise zone giving a total there of 3610.

Medium Growth Options

Medium Growth Option A: 8150 homes



Medium Growth Option B: 8150 homes

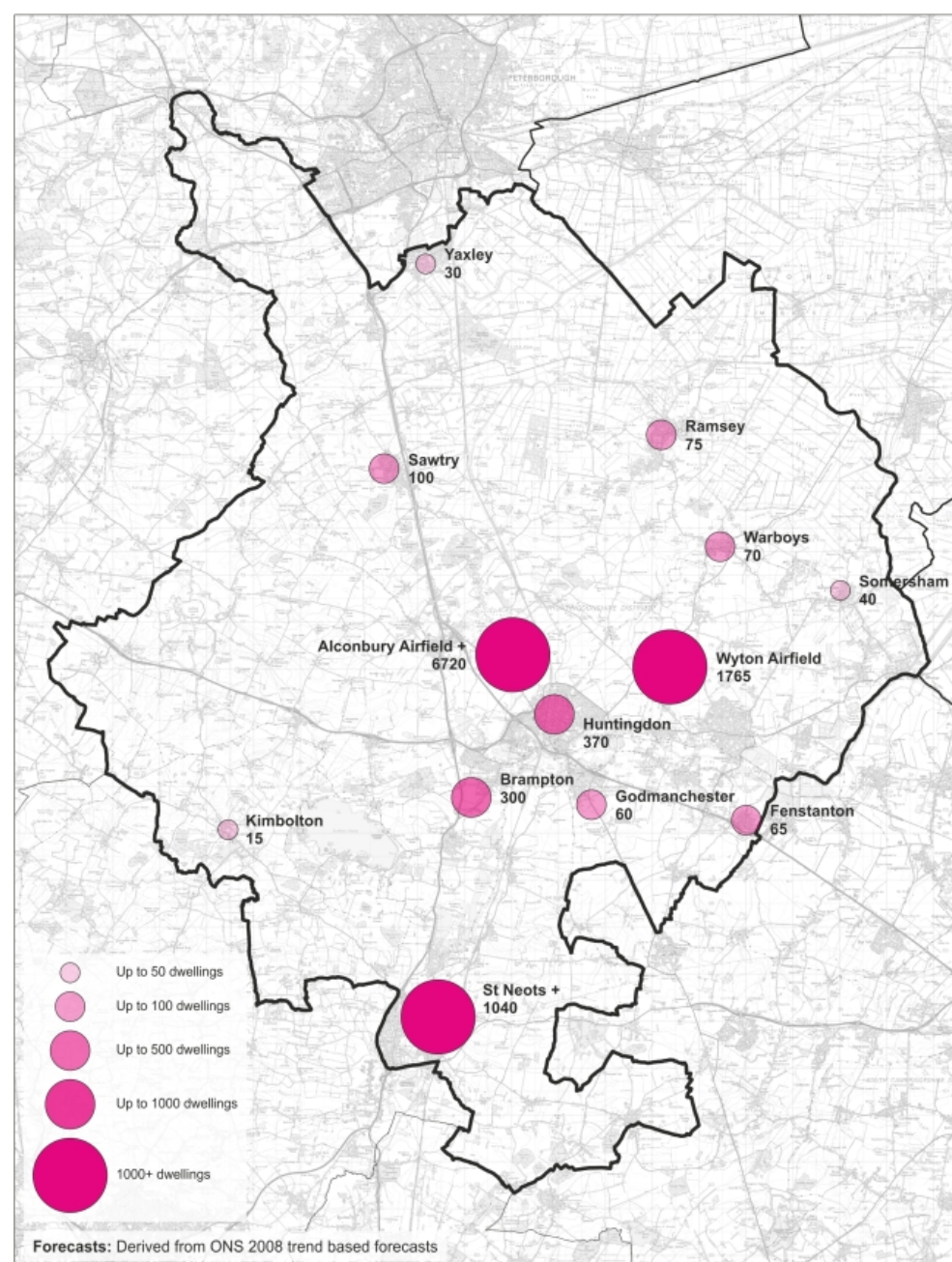


This allows additional growth in the largest villages to help sustain local facilities. It also completes the eastern extension of St Neots. Additional sites in Huntingdon and Godmanchester are included to provide homes close to sources of employment. 6285 homes are suggested at Alconbury Airfield+ in conjunction with the enterprise zone.

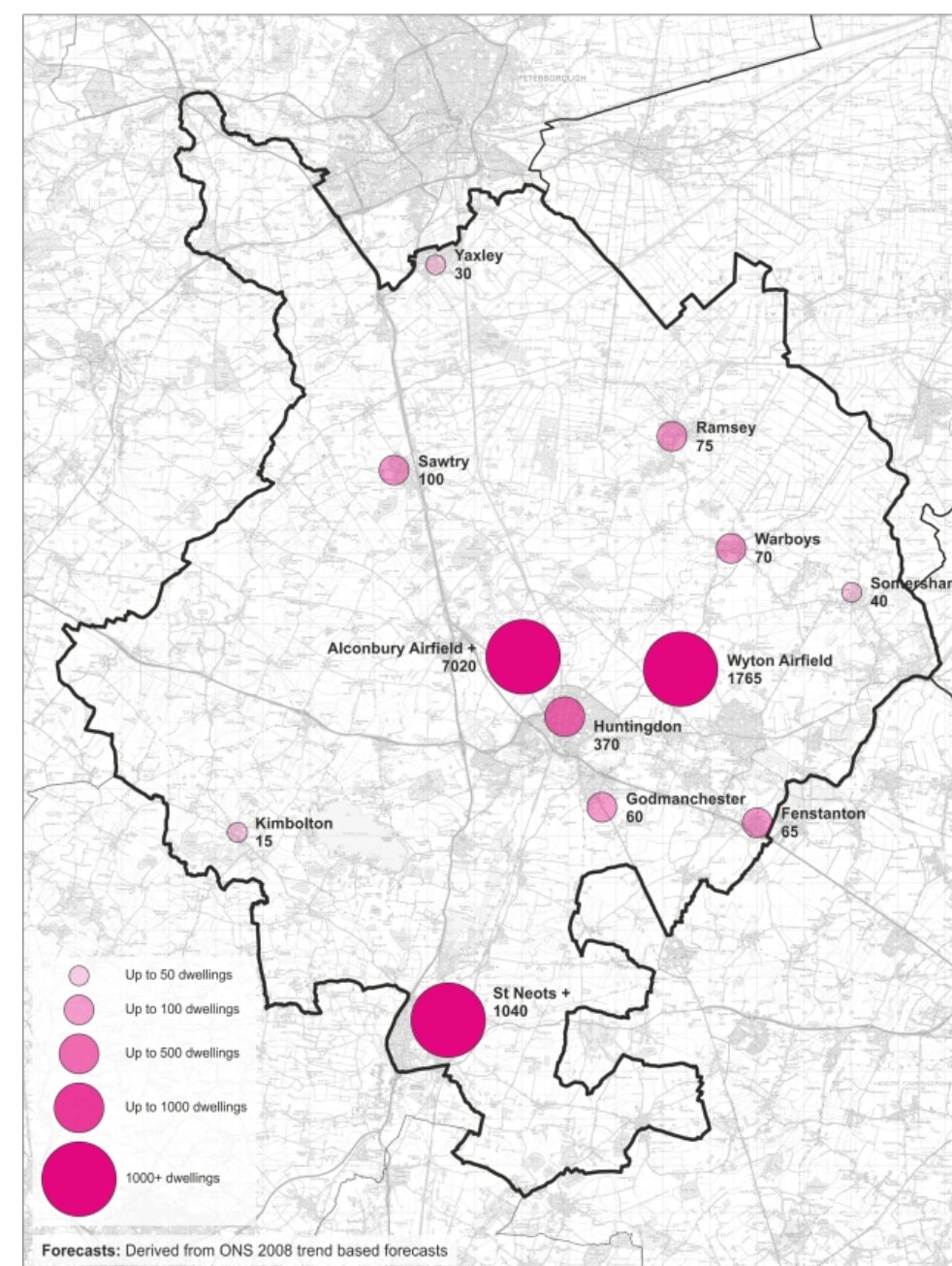
This introduces the redevelopment of land at Wyton Airfield to improve facilities for residents of Wyton-on-the-Hill. Consequently a lower number of homes is suggested at Alconbury Airfield+ of 5415 in conjunction with the enterprise zone.

High Growth Options

High Growth Option A: 10,650 homes



High Growth Option B: 10,650 homes



This maximises the redevelopment of RAF Wyton to provide 1765 new homes there. It also introduces 300 homes to the south of Brampton camp. All known sites in the market towns and key service centres are suggested for development. The number of new homes at Alconbury Airfield+ is increased to 6720.

The only difference between this and option A is that no extension to Brampton is proposed so an additional 300 homes are diverted to Alconbury Airfield+ giving a total there of 7020.

High Growth Options

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To produce the Local Plan we will:

- make sure the plan fits in with the new national planning policy
- use the principles established in the adopted Core Strategy 2009
- Make sure we have complete evidence for the contents of the plan
- include a clear strategy for growth, sites for the development required and up to date policies to manage development
- work with other councils and public organisations

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Please use this link to comment on the options.