

# Local Plan Pre-Submission Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report

Updated October 2013

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## 1. Introduction

**1.1** In January 2008 East Staffordshire Borough Council completed a screening exercise to fulfil the requirements of the Habitats Directive to determine whether or not significant effects were likely as a result of implementing the new Local Plan (at the time of publication the Local Plan was referred to as The Core Strategy). The screening exercise concluded that further work and information was required to enable a more thorough assessment of whether the Core Strategy is likely to have a significant effect on Natura 2000 sites.

**1.2** Since completion of the earlier screening exercise, work progressed on the Core Strategy (now Local Plan) with the publication of the Strategic Options in August 2011 and the publication of Preferred Option Local Plan in October 2012.

**1.3** The Preferred Options document included the consideration of high-level Spatial Options, more specific Preferred Spatial Options, Strategic Sites and policies.

**1.4** The Screening Report 2012 concluded that:

- *No further work as part of the requirement to comply with the Habitats Regulations is required for Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites referred to as part of this assessment.*
- *The principle potential effects identified and reviewed are related to additional households and employment development and how this may increase traffic within close proximity to European Sites or result in additional recreational pressure. More specifically the potential for an impact on air quality from industrial and manufacturing processes has also been considered. It has been concluded that the Local Plan Preferred Option would not result in any significant effects to the qualifying ecological features of interest of the Natura 2000 or Ramsar sites referred to.*

**1.5** The Screening Report 2012 provided recommendations on the following:

- It is however acknowledged that the Plan may have a minor impact on cumulative effects to the Cannock Chase SAC, as a result of an increase in recreational pressure in combination with neighbouring plans. Albeit, it is considered that the East Staffordshire Plan will have a lesser impact on Cannock Chase than other neighbouring authorities and growth proposals nearer to the Cannock Chase SAC. It is therefore concluded that the East Staffordshire Local Plan would not be likely to have a significant cumulative impact. Nevertheless and in line with the precautionary approach it is

recommended that Strategic Policy 23 is included within the East Staffordshire Local Plan to afford appropriate mitigation.

### **Updated Screening Report September 2013**

**1.6** This report summarises the findings of the screening exercise carried out in August 2013 which aimed to determine whether the finalised Development Strategy, associated policies and site allocations as set out in the Pre-Submission consultation document is likely to trigger the need for a full HRA, in compliance with the EC Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora).

**1.7** The HRA Screening exercise and this update have been undertaken in conjunction with the Sustainability Appraisal, and both have informed and assessed the Plan's final strategy and policies as set out in the Pre-Submission Local Plan.

### **Structure of this Report**

**1.8** This Screening Report is structured as follows:

- Section 2 - The Need and Process for an Appropriate Assessment
- Section 3 – Screening Methodology and Appraisal Framework
- Section 4 – The Screening Assessment Baseline Evidence
- Section 5 – Updated Screening Appraisal and Cumulative Effects
- Section 6 – Conclusions and Recommendations
- Appendix 1 – Plans and Programmes, review of potential cumulative effects
- Appendix 2 – Maps
- Appendix 3.– Screening of Pre-Submission Policies
- Appendix 4 – Strategic Sites Screening Matrix

### **Description of the Local Plan Pre-Submission**

**1.9** The East Staffordshire Local Plan is the planning policy framework for delivering growth and managing change within the Borough. The Local Plan contains a set of overarching strategic policies that set out broad principles for guiding development supplemented and supported by detailed policies which will address specific development issues. In order to deliver the Plan strategic development site allocations are made in the Local Plan supported by policies which will bring forward other development sites.

**1.10** This updated Screening report includes the screening of all policies and sites set out in the Pre-Submission Local Plan consultation document.

**1.11** The screening process has been an iterative process resulting in recommended changes to improve the Plan and the re-screening of amended elements of the plan since the Preferred Options document July 2012.

**1.12** The Local Plan includes the following policies:

### **Strategic Policies**

1. East Staffordshire approach to sustainable development
2. A strong network of settlements
3. Provision of Homes and Jobs
4. Distribution of Housing Growth
5. Distribution of Employment growth
6. Managing the Release of Housing and Employment land
7. Sustainable urban extensions
8. Development outside development boundaries
9. Infrastructure Delivery and Implementation
10. Education Bargates/Molson Coors site
11. Derby Road Regeneration Area
12. Burton and Uttoxeter Employment Policy
13. Rural Economy
14. Tourism, culture and leisure development
15. Meeting Housing Needs
16. Affordable housing
17. Housing Development on Exception sites
18. Gypsy, travellers and travelling Show people pitches
19. Town and Local Centres
20. Managing Town and Local Centres
21. Supporting Local Communities
22. High quality design
23. Green Infrastructure
24. Historic Environment
25. National forest
26. Climate change, water management and flooding
27. Renewable and low carbon energy generation
28. Biodiversity and geodiversity
29. Locally significant landscape and views
30. Green Belt and Strategic Green Gaps
31. Open Space and outdoor sports
32. Indoor sports
33. Health and wellbeing
34. Accessibility and sustainable transport

### **Detailed Policies**

1. Design of new development
2. Designing in sustainable construction
3. Design of new residential development, extensions and curtilage buildings

4. Replacement dwellings in the countryside
5. Protecting the historic environment – All heritage Assets, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas
6. Protecting the historic environment – Other Heritage Assets
7. Pollution
8. Tree Protection
9. Advertisements
10. Water recreation and blue infrastructure
11. European Sites
12. St Georges

**1.13** The wording of Detailed Policy 11 is set out below:

### **European Sites**

The Borough Council will resist any proposed development that could have an adverse effect on the integrity of a European site alone or in combination with other plans or projects unless it can be demonstrated that the legislative provisions to protect such sites can be fully met.

### **Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC)**

Development will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that it will not be likely to lead directly or indirectly to an adverse effect upon the integrity of the Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC).

All development that results in a net increase in dwellings within 15km of Cannock Chase SAC is likely to have an adverse impact upon the SAC and therefore suitable mitigation proportionate to the significance of the effect will be required in line with ongoing work by partner authorities to develop a Mitigation and Implementation Strategy SPD.

The effective avoidance and/or mitigation of any identified adverse effects must be demonstrated and secured prior to approval of the development. Development proposals further than 15km may be required to demonstrate that they will have no adverse effect on the integrity of the SAC.

**1.14** The Local Plan identifies strategic site allocations which are illustrated in Figure 1 and 2, with the key below.

	Greenfield housing or employment allocation
	Brownfield housing allocation
	Greenfield mixed use allocation

**Figure 1 – Strategic Site Allocations at Burton upon Trent, Barton under Needwood, Rolleston and Tutbury**

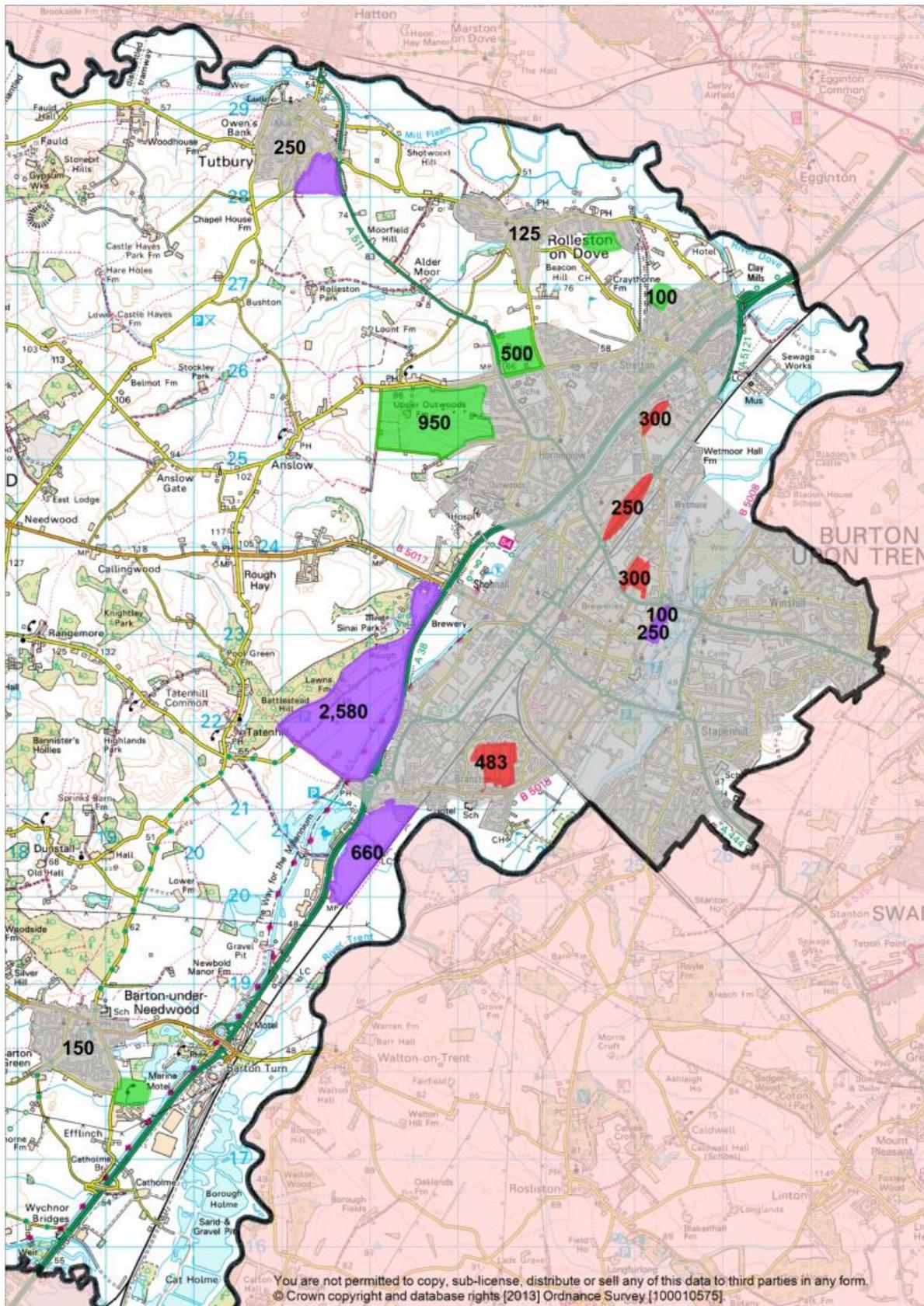
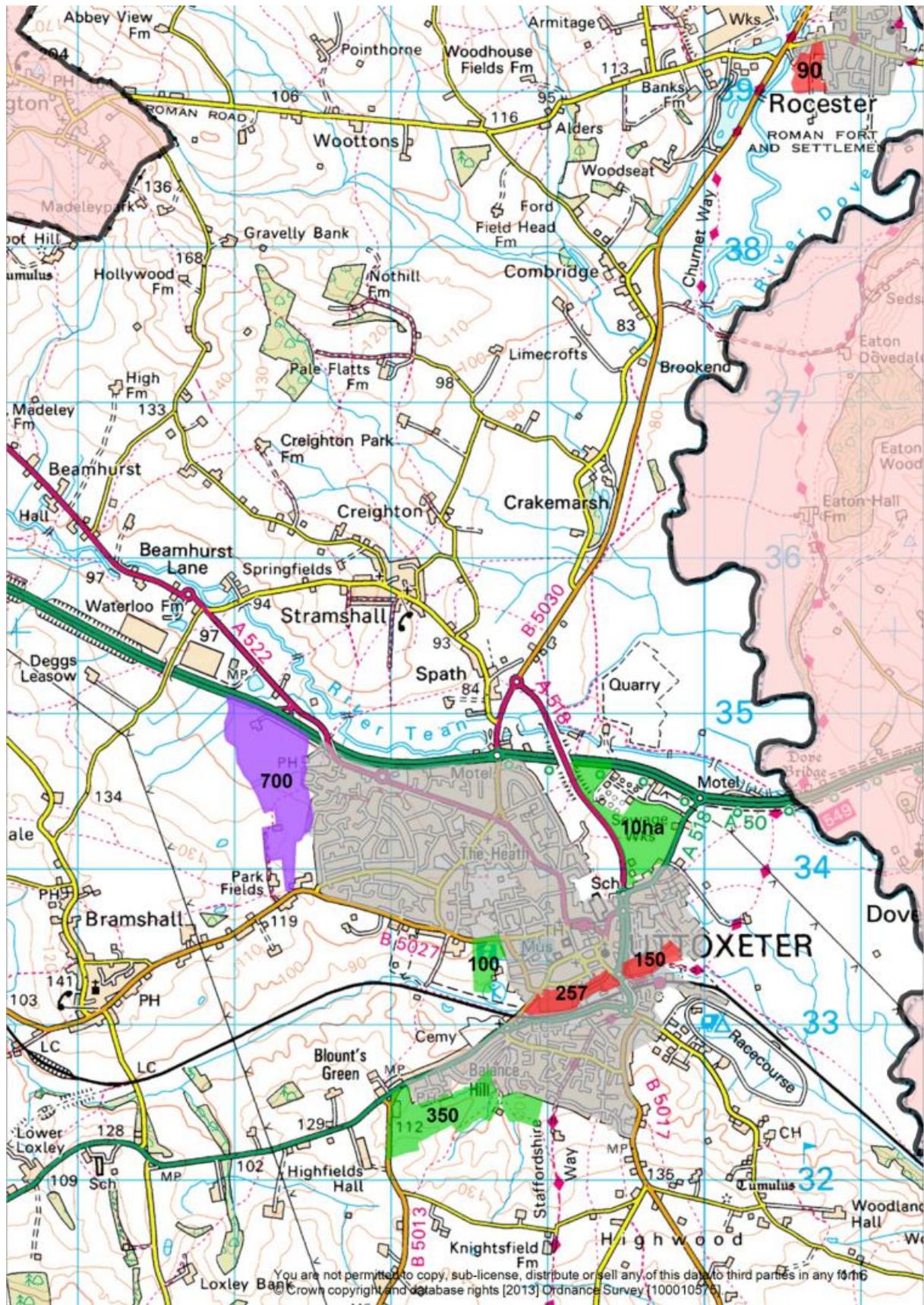


Figure 2: Strategic Site Allocations at Uttoxeter and Rocester



## 2. The Need and Process for Habitat Directive Assessment

**2.1** The need for and process of undertaking the Habitat Directive Screening Assessment is guided by the legal framework and relevant best practice guidance as outlined below.

### 2.1 Legislation, Policy and Guidance

#### Habitats Directive

**2.2** The Habitats Directive, more formally known as the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora<sup>1</sup>, is the means by which the European Union meets its obligations under the Bern Convention. The Directive applies to the UK.

**2.3** The main aim of the Directive is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring Member States to take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species listed on the Annexes to the Directive at a favourable conservation status, introducing protection for those habitats and species of European importance. In applying these measures Member States are required to take account of economic, social and cultural requirements, as well as regional and local characteristics.

**2.4** The provisions of the Directive require Member States to introduce a range of measures, including:

1. Maintain or restore European protected habitats and species listed in the Annexes at a favourable conservation status as defined in Articles 1 and 2;
2. Contribute to a coherent European ecological network of protected sites by designating Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for habitats listed on Annex I and for species listed on Annex II. These measures are also to be applied to Special Protection Areas (SPAs) classified under Article 4 of the Birds Directive. Together SACs and SPAs make up the Natura 2000 network (Article 3);
3. Ensure conservation measures are in place to appropriately manage SACs and ensure appropriate assessment of plans and projects likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of an SAC. Projects may still be permitted if there are no alternatives, and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In such cases compensatory measures are necessary to ensure the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network (Article 6);

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<sup>1</sup> The Directive was amended in 1997 by a technical adaptation Directive. The annexes were further amended by the Environment Chapter of the Treaty of Association 2003 and in 2007 when Bulgaria and Romania joined the EU.

4. Member States shall also endeavour to encourage the management of features of the landscape that support the Natura 2000 network (Articles 3 and 10);
5. Undertake surveillance of habitats and species (Article 11);
6. Ensure strict protection of species listed on Annex IV (Article 12 for animals and Article 13 for plants); and
7. Report on the implementation of the Directive every six years (Article 17), including assessment of the conservation status of species and habitats listed on the Annexes to the Directive.

Article 6 sets the requirement for an appropriate assessment, paragraph 3 states:

*(3) “Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public...”*

*(4) If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.”*

### **Natura 2000 Sites**

**2.5** Natura 2000 sites provide ecological infrastructure for the protection of sites which are of exceptional importance in respect of rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats and species within the European Community. The sites which are also referred to as European Sites consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Offshore Marine Site (OMS).

### **European Guidance on Provisions of the Habitats Directive<sup>2</sup>**

**2.6** In 2006 the European Union published guidance on the approach to appropriate assessments required by the provision of Article 6 of the Directive. The guidance provides non-mandatory methodological assistance to carry out the assessments. The guidance has been used to inform a best practice approach to this screening assessment, as set out in Chapter 3.

### **Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010**

**2.7** The Habitats Regulations apply specific provisions of the 1992 Habitats Directive to candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Special Areas of Conservation and

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<sup>2</sup> European Commission, 2007. Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/ECC

Special Protection Areas which require special considerations to be taken in respect of such sites. The Regulations transpose the provisions of the Habitats Directive into national law.

**2.8** On 6<sup>th</sup> April 2010, the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations 1994 and its amendments were consolidated into the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and were subject to subsequent Amendment in 2011. The new regulations replaced the 1994 Regulations, although did not make any substantive changes to existing policies and procedures other than the establishment of the Marine Management Organisation (MMO).

**2.9** A significant change to the regulations is the extension to the list of sites. The 2010 Regulations extended their application to potential European sites, including those sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on European sites, potential Special Protection Areas, possible Special Areas of Conservation, and listed or proposed Ramsar sites. Regulation 8 of the 2010 Regulations sets out the extended list of sites covered by the term “European site”:

- (a) a special area of conservation;
- (b) a site of Community importance which has been placed on the list referred to in the third sub-paragraph of Article 4(2) of the Habitats Directive;
- (c) a site hosting a priority natural habitat type or priority species protected in accordance with Article 5(4) of the Habitats Directive (a site in respect of which consultation has been initiated under Article 5(1) of that Directive, during the consultation period or pending a decision of the Council under Article 5(3));
- (d) an area classified pursuant to Article 4(1) or (2) of the old Wild Birds Directive or the new Wild Birds Directive; or
- (e) a site which has been proposed to the European Commission under regulation 10 (selection of sites eligible for identification as of Community importance), until such time as—
  - (i) the site is placed on the list of sites of Community importance referred to in the third sub-paragraph of Article 4(2) of the Habitats Directive, or
  - (ii) Agreement is reached or a decision is taken pursuant to Article 4(2) of that Directive not to place the site on that list.

#### **National Planning Policy Framework**

**2.10** The National Planning Policy Framework, adopted in March 2012, makes the following reference to the requirement for Habitats Regulations Assessments:

*“Local Plans may require a variety of other environmental assessments, including under the Habitats Regulations where there is a likely significant effect on a European wildlife site (which may not necessarily be within the same local authority*

area), *Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and assessments of the physical constraints on land use. Wherever possible, assessments should share the same evidence base and be conducted over similar timescales, but local authorities should take care to ensure that the purposes and statutory requirements of different assessment processes are respected.*" (Paragraph 166)

## 2.2 The HRA Process

2.11 Government guidance<sup>3</sup> summarises the HRA process prescribed by Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive into three main tasks:

3. Likely significant effects (AA task 1);
4. Appropriate assessment and ascertaining the effect on site integrity (AA task 2); and
5. Mitigation and alternative solutions (AA task 3).

## 2.2 Consultation Requirements

2.12 As set out by Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, land use plans which are;

- "(a) Likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and  
(b) Not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site,*

*Must, as part of the appropriate assessment, be consulted on with the appropriate nature conservation body<sup>4</sup> and have regard to any representations made by that body within such reasonable time as the authority specify. It is at the discretion of the plan-making authority whether the opinion of the general public is sought and taken into account. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment, and subject to regulation 103 (considerations of overriding public interest), the plan-making authority must give effect to the land use plan only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site or the European offshore marine site (as the case may be)."*

2.13 Natural England was consulted on the Screening Opinion alongside the Preferred Options Local Plan consultations in October 2012. Natural England made the following representation:

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<sup>3</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government, 2006. Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment.

<sup>4</sup> Regulation 5 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 states that; "In regulations 48 (surveillance of conservation status of habitats and species), 50 (monitoring of incidental capture and killing) and Part 6 (assessment of plans and projects)—

(a) "nature conservation body" means Natural England, the Countryside Council for Wales or the Joint Nature Conservation Committee

(b) In relation to a European offshore marine site, "the appropriate nature conservation body" means the Joint Nature Conservation Committee."

***“The HRA report concludes that there will be a minor impact of cumulative effects on the Cannock Chase SAC as a result of increase in recreational pressure in combination with neighbouring plans. Policy SP23 is proposed as a means of mitigating some of the impacts of the proposed development. Natural England is satisfied with the principle of this approach. However, detailed discussions are underway between NE, Footprint Ecology and those LPA which are within the zone of influence, including yourselves, and we are unable to comment further until these discussions have progressed. We look forward to discussing these issues in the next Cannock Chase partnership meeting which East Staffordshire would be welcome to attend.”***

### 3. Screening Methodology and Appraisal Framework

**3.1** The screening appraisal is required to both inform and assess each stage of the Plan process. The following stages of the Local Plan have therefore been screened: the five Spatial Options; four Preferred Spatial Strategy Options; Strategic Sites, strategic policies, detailed policies and the final development strategy.

#### Habitat Regulations Assessment Methodology

**3.2** Guidance from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG)<sup>5</sup> identifies three stages involved in the completion of Habitat Regulations Assessments. These are as follows:

**Stage 1:** Evidence Gathering and Screening (the test to identify whether a plan option is 'likely to have a significant effect' using the precautionary principle).

**Stage 2:** Appropriate Assessment and ascertaining the effect on site integrity (necessary if there are found to be likely significant effects).

**Stage 3:** Mitigation measures and alternative solutions (required where an option has been found to have adverse effects on the integrity of the European Site, these effects should be mitigated).

**Stage 4:** Assessment where no alternative solutions remain and where adverse impacts remain (the IROPI test and compensatory measures).

**3.3** Whilst this is an updated screening report, it still represents the first stage of the Habitat Regulations Assessment process. The aim is to determine whether the Local Plan, either alone or in combination with other relevant plans and projects, is likely to result in any likely significant adverse effect upon the integrity of any European site. The likely significance effect 'test' serves to identify any plans or projects which can be 'screened out', based on the conclusion that they will be unlikely to result in any significant effects on qualifying features. Where this is the case, no further appropriate assessment work is required.

**3.4** It should be noted that Local Plan adoption can only proceed where it does not affect the integrity of any European sites. If Stage 1 concludes that the Plan would have no likely significant effect, the need for Stage 2 is redundant. Alternatively, if the likely effects are deemed worthy of an Appropriate Assessment, Stage 3 can be used to identify suitable mitigation, often through adaptation of elements of the Local Plan. In the exceptional event where a plan which is deemed to have a negative effect is progressed, it must be demonstrated that this is for 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest'.

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<sup>5</sup> DCLG (2006) *Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment*

## 3.2 Screening Approach

3.5 European Commission guidance<sup>6</sup> recommends that the screening stage should comprise the following elements:

1. Determining whether the plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site – if it is, then no further assessment is necessary;
2. Describing the plan and other plans and projects that, 'in combination', have the potential to have significant effects on a European site;
3. Identifying the potential effects on the European site; and
4. Assessing the significance of any effects on the European site.

3.6 The effects of a development plan document are not restricted to the plan area boundaries. Therefore, as recommended by the precautionary principle, any European sites located partially or wholly within 15km of the East Staffordshire boundary were included in the screening process. The individual elements of the Plan have been assessed in terms of their potential effect on these sites.

## 3.3 Methodology

### Identification of relevant European sites

3.7 The first task of the screening assessment was the identification of European sites within or adjacent to East Staffordshire with the potential to be affected by the Local Plan. Whilst there are no European sites within the boundaries of East Staffordshire, there are 11 sites within 15km of the Borough boundary, as set out in the maps in Appendix 2. These are outlined below.

#### **RAMSAR:**

- Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1

#### **SPAs:**

- Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)

#### **SACs:**

- South Pennine Moors
- Cannock Chase
- Cannock Extension Canal
- Pasturefields Salt Marsh
- Peak District Dales
- River Mease

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<sup>6</sup> European Commission (2001) *Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites*

- West Midlands Mosses Chartley Moss
- Gang Mine
- Bees Nest and Green Clay Pits

**3.8** As outlined by Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, the significance of the Plan's effects on a European site depends on whether the site's "integrity" is affected. The European Commission<sup>7</sup> defines integrity as relating to the reasons for the site's designation:

*"The integrity of a site is the coherence of the site's ecological structure and function, across its whole area, or the habitats, complex of habitats and / or populations of species for which the site is or will be classified" (Sec. 4.6.3)*

**3.9** Section 3.4 therefore details the characteristics of these sites, as well as their reasons for designation, vulnerabilities and conservation objectives. The information on these sites was gathered from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) and relevant Natura 2000 Data Forms.

#### Identification of relevant plans and projects

**3.10** There may be certain aspects of the Local Plan that, in isolation, would have no likely significant effect on European sites. However, when considered in combination with other plans and projects, these issues could have a more significant effect. Regulation 102 of the Amended Habitats Regulations 2010 requires an Appropriate Assessment where *"a land use plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects) and is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site"*.

**3.11** Due to the large number of potentially relevant plans and projects, a focus was held on those likely to lead to spatial growth or change within the neighbouring areas. The relevant plans and projects considered as part of the screening report are outlined in Appendix 1.

**3.12** It is a requirement of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that appropriate assessment work examines the potential for plans and programmes to have a significant effect either individually or 'in combination' with other plans and programmes. This must therefore be considered as part of the screening process.

**3.13** Undertaking a screening approach that includes an assessment of other plans and programmes requires a pragmatic approach in light of the significant range of plans, programmes and projects locally and in the wider area. Of relevance, Government guidance states that *"the assessment of significant effects of a given option needs to take account of the option's impact in combination with other plans and projects. Only other key plans and*

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<sup>7</sup> European Commission (2000) *Managing Natura 2000 Sites*

*projects which the LPA consider most relevant should be collected for the 'in combination' test. An exhaustive list could render the assessment exercise unworkable.<sup>8</sup>*

**3.14** In line with the guidance cited above, the approach taken to the screening assessment focused on those plans that could lead to significant development and change that may relate to the Local Plan either geographically or more strategically and provide sufficient information to help consider potential environmental impacts. We have therefore identified plans and programmes within the Borough and the neighbouring local authority areas, which includes: South Derbyshire, Derbyshire Dales, Lichfield, Staffordshire Moorlands, Cannock Chase, South Staffordshire, and Stafford Borough. These plans are listed below and a review of the potential cumulative effects of each plan is provided in Appendix 1.

#### **South Derbyshire**

- Adopted Local Plan 1998
- Core Strategy – 'Preferred Growth Strategy'
- South Derbyshire Draft Local Plan – September 2013

#### **Derbyshire Dales**

- Adopted Local Plan 2005
- Derbyshire Dales and High Peak Joint Draft Core Strategy 2010
- Derbyshire Dales Pre-Submission Consultation 2013
- Landscape Character and Design SPD
- Peak Sub Region Employment Land Review

#### **Lichfield**

- Lichfield Local Plan 1998
- Core Strategy 'Shaping our District' Submission 2013

#### **Cannock Chase**

- Core Strategy Submission document 2013
- Local Plan 1997

#### **South Staffordshire**

- Adopted Core Strategy December 2012

#### **Staffordshire Moorlands**

- Revised Submission Core Strategy 2011

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<sup>8</sup> Department for Communities and Local Government, 2006. Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment.

## Stafford Borough

- Stafford Borough Local Plan Submission August 2013

### Appropriate Assessment screening matrix

**3.15** A screening matrix (Table 1) was adopted to enable the recording of the screening assessments of each element of the Local Plan against the conservation objectives of each relevant European Site. The assessment places particular importance on features contributing to the integrity of European sites, including water quality, pollution and habitat loss and fragmentation.

**3.16** The draft policies and amended policies set out in the Pre-Submission Local Plan were considered against each of the European Sites identified. In the case of the Strategic Sites, these were screened against only those European Sites within 15km of the site boundary. However, with regard to sites at particular risk of recreational pressures and associated impacts, this was screened for sites at a greater distance, in light of the larger catchment areas of visitors.

**3.17** As part of the methodology, a set of screening criteria was adopted, as shown in Table 4 below, to provide a consistent guide to the determination of the nature of the effect within the following categories:

**Category A:** No negative effect

**Category B:** No significant effect

**Category C:** Likely significant effect alone

**Category D:** Likely cumulative significant effect

**3.18** Within this, each categorisation is divided down to provide a more specific assessment. In addition, Table 2 was prepared to provide a guide to potential impacts and their indicators. This Screening Report relates only to the assessment of policies in the Pre-Submission Local Plan. For assessments of previous versions of the plan please refer to the 2008 and 2012 Screening Reports.

**Table 1: Screening Matrix**

Preferred Option Policy	Relevant European Sites	Assessment Category	Potential Impact		Comment	Likely Significant Impact on a European site (s)		Policy change recommended to enable screen out	Requirement for AA
			Impact	Indicator		Alone	In combination		

**Table 2: Potential Impacts**

Potential Impact	Indicators
Water Quantity	Water abstraction, change in drainage, availability
Water Quality	Water pollution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agricultural run off</li> <li>- Domestic</li> <li>- Industrial</li> </ul>
Recreational Pressure and	Increase population Distance from site
Non physical Disturbance	Noise and/or visual presence: Recreational, Industrial, Transport and Light spillage
Physical loss or fragmentation	Percentage loss
Impact on Protected Species within or surrounding European Site	Evidence of protected species, proximity to the site
Air quality	Traffic, proximity to the site, likelihood of light spillage, likelihood of noise impact
Risk of invasive/non native species	Likelihood of new species within proximity to the site

**Table 3: Significance Key**

Key		
Unlikely significant effect	-	No Further Appropriate Assessment work required
Significant Effect Uncertain	?	Precautionary approach to be taken and mitigation, further research or appropriate assessment work required
Likely Significant Effect	*	Precautionary approach to be taken and mitigation, further research or appropriate assessment work required

Table 4: Screening Criteria

Category	Sub Category	Rationale
Category A: No negative effect	A1	Policies that will not themselves lead to development e.g. because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria for development, or they are not a land use planning policy.
	A2	Policies intend to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity.
	A3	Policies intend to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any negative effect on a European site.
	A4	Policies that positively steer development away from European sites.
Category B: No significant effect	B1	Effects are trivial or 'de minimis', even if combined with other effects.
Category C: Likely significant effect alone	C1	The policy could <b>directly affect</b> a European site because it provides for, or steers, a quantity or type of development adjacent to a European site.
	C2	The policy could <b>indirectly affect</b> a European site e.g. because it provides for, or steers, a quantity or type of development that may be very close to it, or ecologically, hydrologically or physically connected to it or it may increase disturbance as a result of increased recreational pressures.
	C3	Proposals for a <b>magnitude of development</b> that, no matter where it was located, the development would be likely to have a significant effect on a European site.
	C4	Policies for developments or infrastructure projects that could <b>block options or alternatives</b> for the provision of other development or projects in the future, which will be required in the public interest, that may lead to adverse effects on European sites, which would otherwise be avoided.
	C5	Any other policies that would be <b>vulnerable to failure</b> under the Habitats Regulations at project assessment stage; to include them in the plan would be regarded by the EC as 'faulty planning'.
	C6	Any other proposal that may have an adverse effect on a European site, which might try to pass the tests of the Habitats Regulations at project assessment stage by arguing that the <b>plan provides the imperative reasons</b> of overriding public interest to justify its consent despite a negative assessment.
Category D: Likely cumulative significant effect	D1	The policy alone would not be likely to have significant effects but if its effects are combined with effects of other policies or proposals <b>provided for or coordinated</b> by the LDD (internally) the <b>cumulative</b> effects would be likely to be significant.
	D2	Policies that alone would not be likely to have significant effects but if their effects are <b>combined with the effects of other plans or projects</b> , and possibly the effects of other developments provided for in the LDD as well, the combined effects would be likely to be significant.
	D3	Proposals that are, or could be, part of a <b>programme or sequence of development</b> delivered over a period, where the implementation of the early stages would not have a significant effect on European sites, but which would dictate the nature, scale, duration, location, timing of the whole project, the later stages of which could have an adverse effect on such sites.

## 4. The Screening Assessment Baseline Evidence

4.1 Information was collated (from the Natura 2000 and Ramsar forms from the JNCC website) for each designated site concerning the rationale for EC conservation designation. Additional information, in the form of Site of Scientific Interest (SSSI) condition reviews, were also collected to help evaluate each site’s vulnerability to any potential adverse impacts related to the plan’s policies and spatial strategy for growth. The following tables provide a description of each European Site and were used to inform the screening assessment, with particular regard to conservation objectives and vulnerabilities and risks.

**Table 5: Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1 RAMSAR**

Site	Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1
Characteristics	Designation: RAMSAR Grid Reference: SK026281 Size: 510.88 ha Distance from East Staffordshire boundary: 0.3km
Reason for designation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Meres &amp; Mosses form a geographically discrete series of 16 lowland open water and peatland sites in the north-west Midlands of England. These have developed in natural depressions in the glacial drift left by receding ice sheets which formerly covered the Cheshire/Shropshire Plain.</li> <li>• There are over 60 open water sites, or 'meres', as well as a smaller number of peatland sites, known as 'mosses'. They consist of a diverse range of habitats from open water to raised bog. The majority of meres are nutrient-rich with associated fringing habitats; reed swamps, fen, carr and damp pasture.</li> <li>• Peat accumulation has resulted in nutrient poor peat bogs (mosses) forming in some sites in the fringes of meres or completely infilling basins. In a few cases the result is a floating quaking bog or schwingmoor.</li> <li>• The wide range of resulting habitats support nationally important flora &amp; fauna including a number of rare species of plants associated with wetlands including five nationally scarce species together with an assemblage of rare wetland invertebrates.</li> </ul>
Vulnerability and risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Site is vulnerable to eutrophication through atmospheric pollution and agricultural run-off.</li> <li>• Introduction/ invasion of exotic plant species has the potential to impact on native flora and fauna.</li> <li>• Factors (past, present or potential) which are adversely affecting the site’s ecological character:                         <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eutrophication (on-site and off-site, major impact)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Introduction/invasion of non-native plant species(on-site, major impact)</li> <li>• The site's primary interest is its wide range of lowland wetland types and successional stages within a distinct biogeographical area. Waters are generally circumneutral or acidic depending on the component site's soil type, catchment size and usage. Substantial areas of open water remain in some sites, and in many cases this is fringed by extensive and varied swamp, fen and carr communities. Some basins have become peat-filled, leading in some circumstances to development of ombrotrophic conditions; of particular importance are the quaking bogs or schwingmoors.</li> <li>• Areas owned by the Local Authority and National Nature Reserves are used by schools and universities, and the site also attracts walkers and anglers.</li> </ul>
Conservation objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To maintain, in favourable condition, the wetland habitats and the ecological communities it supports.</li> </ul>

Table 6: Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1) SPA

Site	Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)
Characteristics	<p>Designation: SPA  Grid Reference: SK285835  Size: 45,270.52 ha  Distance from East Staffordshire boundary: 10.8km</p>
Reason for designation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This covers extensive tracts of semi-natural moorland habitats including upland heath and blanket mire. The site is of European importance for several upland breeding species, including birds of prey and waders.</li> <li>• During the breeding season the area regularly supports at least: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2.2% of the GB breeding population of <i>Asio flammeus</i></li> <li>- 2.3% of the GB breeding population of <i>Falco columbanus</i></li> <li>- 1.9% of the GB breeding population of <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Vulnerability and risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Major urban and industrial centres near to the Peak District Moors provide significant visitor pressure and approximately two-thirds of the moorlands are open to public access. Habitat damage through physical erosion or fire, combined with disturbance of breeding birds, can be significant. Initiatives for sustainable recreation are being developed. Many habitats are sub-optimal (in vegetation terms) as a consequence of historic air pollution, high grazing pressure and wildfire burns. Grazing pressure is generally being lowered and appropriate burning encouraged by two separate ESAs which encourage and support habitat restoration.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notwithstanding these schemes, evidence suggests that breeding birds in the south-west of the area may be declining on both open moorland and enclosed rough grazing land, possibly due to general agricultural improvement of the surrounding areas which are used by some species for some of their habitat requirements; e.g. golden plovers feed on in-bye land off the moor.</li> <li>• The site has been identified as a possible SAC for habitats such as blanket bog and there will be a need to balance the management of the different interests across the whole site.</li> </ul>
Conservation objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To maintain the mosaic of upland habitats including acid grassland, bog, bracken, heathlands, fen, rivers and streams. The extent of all of these habitats should be maintained unless loss is as a result of restoration to another notified habitat type.</li> </ul>

**Table 7: South Pennine Moors SAC**

Site	South Pennine Moors
Characteristics	Designation: SAC Grid Reference: SK021683 Size: 64,983.13 ha Distance from East Staffordshire boundary: 10.8km
Reason for designation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports a significant presence of Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>, and Transition mores and quaking bogs.</li> <li>• The area is considered to be one of the best areas in the UK for European dry heaths, Blanket bogs and Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles.</li> </ul> <p><b>Primary Annex I habitats</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>European dry heaths:</b>            The site is representative of upland dry heath at the southern end of the Pennine range, the habitat's most south-easterly upland location in the UK. Dry heath covers extensive areas, occupies the lower slopes of the moors on mineral soils or where peat is thin, and occurs in transitions to acid grassland, wet heath and blanket bogs. The upland heath of the South Pennines is strongly dominated by heather <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>. Its main NVC types are H9 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> heath and H12 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> heath. More rarely H8 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Ulex gallii</i> heath and H10 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Erica cinerea</i> heath are found. On the higher, more exposed ground H18 <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> – <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> heath becomes more prominent. In the cloughs, or valleys, which extend into the heather moorlands, a greater mix of dwarf shrubs can be found together with more lichens and mosses. The moors support a rich invertebrate fauna, especially moths, and important bird assemblages.</li> <li>• <b>Blanket bogs:</b>            This site represents blanket bog in the south Pennines, the most south-easterly occurrence of the habitat in Europe. The bog vegetation communities are botanically poor. Hare's-tail cottongrass <i>Eriophorum vaginatum</i> is often overwhelmingly dominant</li> </ul>

	<p>and the usual bog-building <i>Sphagnum</i> mosses are scarce. Where the blanket peats are slightly drier, heather <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>, crowberry <i>Empetrum nigrum</i> and bilberry <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> become more prominent. The uncommon cloudberry <i>Rubus chamaemorus</i> is locally abundant in bog vegetation. Bog pools provide diversity and are often characterised by common cottongrass <i>E. angustifolium</i>. Substantial areas of the bog surface are eroding, and there are extensive areas of bare peat. In some areas erosion may be a natural process reflecting the great age (9000 years) of the south Pennine peats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles:</b></li> </ul> <p>Around the fringes of the upland heath and bog of the south Pennines are blocks of old sessile oak woods, usually on slopes. These tend to be dryer than those further north and west, such that the bryophyte communities are less developed (although this lowered diversity may in some instances have been exaggerated by the effects of 19<sup>th</sup> century air pollution). Other components of the ground flora such as grasses, dwarf shrubs and ferns are common. Small areas of alder woodland along stream-sides add to the overall richness of the woods.</p> <p><b><u>Non-Primary Annex I habitats</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></li> <li>• Transition mires and quaking bogs</li> </ul>
Vulnerability and risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site is largely enclosed on two sides by large industrial urban areas, which means that large numbers of people use the area for recreational activities. Around two-thirds is within the Peak District National Park. Land management is primarily driven by agriculture, rough grazing for sheep, and grouse-shooting.</li> <li>• Access management has been a key issue, and with proposals under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act, will continue as such.</li> <li>• Accidental fires can cause extensive damage to vegetation. The National Park Authority has produced a strategic Fire Plan and areas are closed to the public at times of high fire risk.</li> <li>• Key pressures on the site include overgrazing by sheep, burning as a tool for grouse moor management and inappropriate drainage through moor-gripping. Combined with atmospheric pollution, large areas of blanket bog have become de-vegetated and eroded. It is unclear at this stage whether the effects are irreversible. Attempts over recent decades to reverse these processes have achieved mixed and limited results. The combination of these effects means that most if not all of the blanket bog will not be classed as favourable according to English Nature's condition assessment criteria.</li> <li>• The former extensive cover of woodland has declined over many centuries to the point that it is fragmented, relatively small-scale and largely restricted to steeper valley sides. There is no woodland included in the site to the north of the National Park. Remaining woods are often unfenced and open to grazing which restricts tree regeneration. In some <i>Rhododendron</i> has invaded, choking out native flora.</li> <li>• The aim is to try and ensure continued improvements in air quality to allow affected species to recolonise if they can. Access management has been a key issue for the area. Management of key pressures in order to maintain ecosystems is being carried out.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mechanisms for addressing access management issues include a range of flora, research and the role of organisations such as the Peak District National Park and its Ranger Service.</li> <li>• Maintenance of the ecosystems relies primarily on appropriate grazing levels and burning regimes.</li> <li>• Key pressures are being tackled, and an integrated management strategy and conservation action programme has been produced as part of an EU funded LIFE project for the area to the north of the National Park. Within the Park, the MAFF-funded North Peak and South West Peak Environmentally Sensitive Areas are important mechanisms in attempts to achieve balanced management. MAFF's Countryside Stewardship Scheme and English Nature's Wildlife Enhancement Scheme (WES) are also being used to achieve favourable management. Management of the site, especially north of the National Park, is further complicated by the large number of commons. The National Park Authority owns a significant area of moorland, as does the National Trust.</li> <li>• Whilst all efforts can be made to control current factors such as current grazing and burning patterns, current atmospheric pollutant levels and access impacts, it is unclear whether this can fully mitigate the long-term influence of the historical factors such as atmospheric pollution, past burning and overgrazing. The situation is further complicated by a view that some erosion features can be considered natural phenomena of intrinsic interest. It may not therefore always be appropriate to try and revegetate bare peat even if suitable techniques exist.</li> <li>• The woodland issues are being tackled through the Forestry Commission's Woodland Grant Scheme and Challenge Fund for creating new native woodland, MAFF's North Peak ESA and English Nature's WES though more incentive and resources are needed. As well as restoring existing stands of woodland there is an emphasis on re-creation to expand and link fragments which inevitably involves changing existing habitats. This will raise questions over the balance of vegetation types we wish to see on the site but given woodland would naturally have covered much of the area we need to treat it's expansion seriously. The flora of woodlands, quality as with bog and heath, has suffered from poor air quality. Again, it is less clear what can be done to reverse this situation other than to try and ensure continued improvements in air quality to allow affected species to recolonise if they can.</li> </ul>
Conservation objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid the deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying features, and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive.</li> <li>• To maintain the current extent of blanket bog habitats. Losses can only be accepted in cases where bog is restored to a more diverse form.</li> <li>• For there to be no loss of ancient semi natural woodland stands.</li> <li>• To maintain the current extent of dry heath habitats. In areas where heath is mixed with grassland a loss can be accepted if it is through restoration to dry heath.</li> <li>• To maintain the current extent of wet heath habitats.</li> </ul>

Table 8: Cannock Chase SAC

Site	Cannock Chase
Characteristics	<p>Designation: SAC                      Grid Reference: SJ982188                      Size: 1,236.93 ha                      Distance from East Staffordshire boundary: 3.7km</p>
Reason for designation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports a significant presence of Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>.</li> <li>• Area is considered to be one of the best areas in the UK for European dry heaths.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Primary Annex I habitats</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>European dry heaths</b></li> </ul> <p>The area of lowland heathland at Cannock Chase is the most extensive in the Midlands, although there have been losses due to fragmentation and scrub/woodland encroachment. The character of the vegetation is intermediate between the upland or northern heaths of England and Wales and those of southern counties. Dry heathland communities belong to NVC types H8 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Ulex gallii</i> and H9 <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> heaths. Within the heathland, species of northern latitudes occur, such as cowberry <i>Vaccinium vitis-idaea</i> and crowberry <i>Empetrum nigrum</i>. Cannock Chase has the main British population of the hybrid bilberry <i>Vaccinium intermedium</i>, a plant of restricted occurrence. There are important populations of butterflies and beetles, as well as European nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> and five species of bats.</p> <p><b><u>Non-Primary Annex I habitats</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></u></li> </ul>
Vulnerability and risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Much of Cannock Chase falls within a popular and well-used Country Park. Visitor pressures include dog walking, horse riding, mountain biking and off-track activities such as orienteering, all of which cause disturbance and result in erosion, new track creation and vegetation damage.</li> <li>• Bracken invasion is significant, but is being controlled. Birch and pine scrub, much of the latter from surrounding commercial plantations, is continually invading the site and has to be controlled. High visitor usage and the fact that a significant proportion of the site is Common Land, requiring Secretary of State approval before fencing can take place, means that the reintroduction of sustainable management in the form of livestock grazing has many problems.</li> <li>• Cannock Chase overlies coal measures which have been deep-mined. Mining fissures continue to appear across the site even though mining has ceased and this is thought to detrimentally affect site hydrology.</li> <li>• Furthermore the underlying Sherwood Sandstone is a major aquifer with water abstracted for public and industrial uses and the effects of this on the wetland features of the Chase are not fully understood.</li> </ul>

Conservation objectives	<p>The Conservation Objectives for this site are to maintain the following habitats and geological features in favourable condition, with particular reference to any development component special interest features for which the land is designated as individually listed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dwarf shrub heath</li> <li>• Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland</li> </ul> <p>On this site favourable condition requires the maintenance of the extent of each designated habitat type. Maintenance implies restoration if evidence from condition assessment suggests a reduction in extent.</p>
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**Table 9: Cannock Extension Canal SAC**

Site	Cannock Extension Canal
Characteristics	<p>Designation: SAC  Grid Reference: SK020058  Size: 5.47 ha  Distance from East Staffordshire boundary: 15.8km</p>
Reason for designation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A cul-de-sac canal. Is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom for <i>Luronium natans</i>.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Primary Annex II species</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Floating water-plantain <i>Luronium natans</i></b></li> </ul> <p><b>Cannock</b> Extension Canal in central England is an example of anthropogenic, lowland habitat supporting floating water-plantain <i>Luronium natans</i> at the eastern limit of the plant's natural distribution in England. A very large population of the species occurs in the Canal, which has a diverse aquatic flora and rich dragonfly fauna, indicative of good water quality. The low volume of boat traffic on this terminal branch of the Wyrley and Essington Canal has allowed open-water plants, including floating water-plantain, to flourish, while depressing the growth of emergents.</p>
Vulnerability and risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The population of <i>Luronium natans</i> in this cul-de-sac canal is dependent upon a balanced level of boat traffic. If the canal is not used, the abundant growth of other aquatic macrophytes may shade-out the <i>Luronium natans</i> unless routinely controlled by cutting.</li> <li>• An increase in recreational activity would be to the detriment of <i>Luronium natans</i>.</li> <li>• Existing discharges of surface water run-off, principally from roads, cause some reduction in water quality.</li> </ul>
Conservation objectives	<p>Ensure favourable conditions for floating water plantain are maintained. Cutting of emergents may be required if disturbance occurs.</p>

Table 10: Pasturefields Salt Marsh SAC

Site	Pasturefields Salt Marsh
Characteristics	<p>Designation: SAC                      Grid Reference: SJ992249                      Size: 7.7 ha                      Distance from East Staffordshire boundary: 3.1km</p>
Reason for designation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is the only known outstanding locality in the UK of a natural spring with Inland Salt Meadows, which is considered to be rare as its total extent in the UK is estimated to be less than 10 hectares.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Primary Annex I habitats</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Inland salt meadows (Priority feature)</b></li> </ul> <p>Pasturefields Salt Marsh in the West Midlands is the only known remaining example in the UK of a natural salt spring with inland saltmarsh vegetation. The vegetation consists of red fescue <i>Festuca rubra</i>, with common saltmarsh-grass <i>Puccinellia maritima</i>, lesser sea-spurrey <i>Spergularia marina</i>, saltmarsh rush <i>Juncus gerardii</i> and sea arrowgrass <i>Triglochin maritimum</i> in the most saline situations.</p>
Vulnerability and risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This inland saltmarsh is dependent upon traditional agricultural management, with livestock grazing and no, or minimal use, of agricultural chemicals. It is also dependent upon the brine source being maintained and, whilst the hydrogeology of the site is not fully understood, it would be likely to be vulnerable to any abstractions of water from the underground aquifer.</li> <li>The site is managed by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust with support from English Nature's Reserve Enhancement Scheme.</li> </ul>
Conservation objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the salt marsh is maintained to a favourable condition.</li> </ul>

Table 11: Peak District Dales SAC

Site	Peak District Dales
Characteristics	<p>Designation: SAC            Grid Reference: SK142550            Size: 2,326.33 ha            Distance from East Staffordshire boundary: 0.93km</p>
Reason for designation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is considered to support a significant presence of:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- European dry heaths</li> <li>- Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i></li> <li>- Alkaline fens</li> <li>- <i>Cottus gobio</i></li> <li>- <i>Lampetra planeri</i></li> <li>- Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation (rare)</li> <li>- Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (<i>Thlaspietea rotundifolia</i>) (rare)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Is considered to be one of the best areas in the UK for:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>),</li> <li>- <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines,</li> <li>- <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b><u>Primary Annex I habitat</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>)</b></li> </ul> <p>Peak District Dales is one of the most extensive surviving areas in England of CG2 <i>Festuca ovina</i> – <i>Avenula pratensis</i> grassland. Grasslands at this site range from hard-grazed short turf through to tall herb-rich vegetation, with transitions through to calcareous scrub and <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests – a diversity of structural types unparalleled in the UK. There is also a great physical diversity due to rock outcrops, cliffs, screes and a variety of slope gradients and aspects. In contrast to examples of <i>Festuca</i> – <i>Avenula</i> grassland on chalk to the south, these grasslands are less at risk from the threat of invasion by upright brome <i>Bromopsis erecta</i> and tor-grass <i>Brachypodium pinnatum</i>, which are at the edge of their range here and have limited vigour. The relatively cold oceanic nature of the climate means that there is enrichment with northern floristic elements, such as limestone bedstraw <i>Galium sternerii</i> and globeflower <i>Trollius europaeus</i>.</p> <p><b><u>Non-Primary Annex I habitats</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>European dry heaths</b></li> <li>• <b>Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i></b></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alkaline fens</li> <li>• Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (<i>Thlaspietea rotundifolia</i>)</li> <li>• Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegeta</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Primary Annex II species</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish</li> <li>• The River Dove presents white-clawed crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> in a high-quality, upland limestone river, in the north-east of the species' UK range.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Non-Primary Annex II species</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i></li> <li>• Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i></li> </ul>
Vulnerability and risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main threat to the limestone grasslands of the Peak District Dales is inappropriate grazing management.</li> <li>• Proposed developments have the potential to interfere with drainage patterns within the site. The impact of dust from quarrying needs to be assessed. Potential adverse effects arising from such proposals will be dealt with under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations.</li> <li>• The woodlands within the SAC occupy very steeply-sloping dalesides, where access is always going to be problematic, and development pressures are therefore limited. Existing permission for limestone or mineral extraction is a potential threat to some of the woodlands on one part of the site. This will be addressed through the planning review procedures under the Habitats Regulations. Neglect has resulted in invasion by non-native species in some woods. This is now being addressed where possible through management under a Wildlife Enhancement Scheme. In some areas access by grazing livestock to some of the woodlands has resulted in a degraded ground flora, and limited regeneration of the shrub and canopy species. Once again, this is to be addressed, wherever practicable, through the Wildlife Enhancement Scheme.</li> <li>• The dominance of sycamore and its regeneration potential are a problem whilst it is considered a non-native part of the woodland.</li> <li>• In addition to grassland and woodland there are a range of scrub communities some of which are valuable for nature conservation. They are a key part of natural woodland and an open daleside. The scrub also illustrates how neglected grassland will revert to woodland whilst grazed woodland may not regenerate.</li> <li>• The ideal management for nature conservation purposes - light grazing throughout most of the year, with a break in grazing during the spring and early summer - tends to conflict with today's agricultural regimes. The result is either neglect and invasion by scrub, or overgrazing and the loss of the important vegetation communities. A number of the daleside grasslands are managed as part of a larger grazing unit with the richer improved plateau lands, with the result that any regulation of stocking levels in the dales becomes difficult. Some of the dalesides are now managed under Countryside Stewardship, which has brought about considerable improvements in their management. Similarly since 1996 English Nature's White Peak Wildlife Enhancement Scheme has been successful in attracting land</li> </ul>

	<p>managers and enhancing the conservation value of sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removal of sycamore with the eventual aim of eradication would be a very long-term goal. Assessment of the status of sycamore (naturalised?) is needed to put in perspective eradication proposals. Some mature sycamore should be left as veterans. This will in part make up for the fact that there are few veteran trees in the woods. To have a natural and diverse age structure is therefore a long-term aspiration.</li> <li>• The balance between woodland, grassland and scrub needs to be struck.</li> <li>• There will be a need to work closely with game fishing interests to ensure that fishery management does not adversely affect the freshwater features of the cSAC. The same is true of shooting tenants, who may impact on the overall ecology of the woodland.</li> </ul>
Conservation objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure maintenance of all Annex I and supporting Annex I habitats to a favourable condition as designated. Ensure the maintenance of habitats for white-Clawed Crayfish, bullhead and brook lamprey in a favourable condition.</li> </ul>

**Table 22: River Mease SAC**

Site	River Mease
Characteristics	<p>Designation: SAC  Grid Reference: SK260114  Size: 21.86 ha  Distance from East Staffordshire boundary: 0.16km</p>
Reason for designation	<p><b><u>Non-primary Annex I habitats</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Primary Annex II species</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Spined loach <i>Cobitis taenia</i></b></li> </ul> <p>The River Mease is a good example of a riverine population of spined loach <i>Cobitis taenia</i>. It is a small tributary of the River Trent and has retained a reasonable degree of channel diversity compared to other similar rivers containing spined loach populations. It has extensive beds of submerged plants along much of its length which, together with its relatively sandy sediments (as opposed to cohesive mud) provides good habitat opportunities for the species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i></b></li> </ul> <p>The Mease is an example of bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> populations in the rivers of central England. Bed sediments are generally not as coarse as other sites selected for the species, reflecting the nature of many rivers in this geographical area, but are suitable in patches due to the river's retained sinuosity. The patchy cover from submerged macrophytes is also important for the species.</p>

	<p><b><u>Non-primary Annex II species</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i></b></li> <li>• <b>Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i></b></li> </ul>
Vulnerability and risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The River Mease is an unusually semi-natural system in a largely rural landscape, dominated by intensive agriculture. Water quality and quantity are vital to the European interests, whilst competition for water resources is high. Diffuse pollution and excessive sedimentation are catchment-wide issues which have the potential to affect the site.</li> </ul>
Conservation objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The key conservation objective that is relevant for this site is the objective which relates to levels of Orthophosphates. The figure for Orthophosphates set out in the Conservation Objectives for the site is 0.06 mg/l.</li> <li>• Management should maintain the natural flow regime of the river or stream, including natural erosion and sedimentation processes, in order to meet the requirements of the full range of flora and fauna it supports. Abstraction levels should be managed to protect the characteristic flow regime of the river, including seasonal base flows and flushing flows. Compensation flows are generally not an acceptable alternative to reducing abstraction, and river transfers may also have an undesirable effect on river ecology.</li> <li>• Ensure the river is maintained at a favourable status for floating formations of water crowfoot species (<i>Ranunculus</i> spp), populations of bullhead, spined loach and white-clawed crayfish. Maintain the river and the surrounding lands to provide suitable habitat for populations of otter.</li> </ul>

**Table 13: West Midlands Mosses SAC**

Site	West Midlands Mosses
Characteristics	<p>Designation: SAC  Grid Reference: SK026282  Size: 184.18 ha  Distance from East Staffordshire boundary: 0.38km</p>
Reason for designation	<p>Considered to be one of the best areas in the UK for Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds and Transition mires and quaking bogs.</p> <p><b><u>Primary Annex I habitats</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds</b></li> </ul> <p>West Midlands Mosses contains three pools, one at Clarepool Moss and two at Abbots Moss, that are examples of dystrophic lakes and ponds in the lowlands of England and Wales, where this habitat type is rare. The lake at Clarepool Moss is unusual as a dystrophic type on account of its relatively base-rich character, which is reflected in the presence of a diverse fauna and flora. The two at Abbots Moss are more typical, base-poor examples. The dystrophic lakes and ponds at this site are</p>

	<p>associated with Schwingmoor development, a characteristic of this habitat type in the West Midlands. Schwingmoor is an advancing floating raft of bog-moss <i>Sphagnum</i>, often containing NVC type M3 <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i> bog pool community, which grows from the edge of the pool and can completely cover over the pool; the site has also been selected for this Annex I feature (Transition mires and quaking bogs).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Transition mires and quaking bogs</b></li> </ul> <p>West Midlands Mosses represents Schwingmoor vegetation. Floating rafts of <i>Sphagnum</i>-dominated vegetation have developed over semi-liquid substrates within basins. In the UK this type of <i>Sphagnum</i>-dominated vegetation with a scatter of sedges <i>Carex</i> species and cranberry <i>Vaccinium oxycoccos</i> is confined to this part of England and mid-Wales.</p>
Vulnerability and risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Several sources of nutrient enrichment, including atmospheric deposition of nutrients, pose a potential threat at these sites. Trees at this site trap airborne nutrients and provide roost areas for birds, but the enrichment effect of both is only localised.</li> <li>• All parts of that site are vulnerable to recreational disturbance, particularly the northern portion which is a scout camp.</li> <li>• Colonisation of open schwingmoors or <i>Sphagnum</i> lawns and rafts in the West Midland Mosses by birch and pine is controlled by works under Management Agreement or by National Nature Reserve management, and in liaison with the local wildlife trust at Abbots Moss.</li> <li>• A Management Agreement controls agricultural run-off at Chartley Moss. At Abbots Moss the threat of enrichment from atmospheric sources has been reduced by clear-felling of basin slopes adjacent to the mires.</li> </ul>
Conservation objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure maintenance of both habitats as designated, to favourable condition.</li> </ul>

**Table 34: Gang Mine SAC**

Site	Gang Mine
Characteristics	<p>Designation: SAC  Grid Reference: SK286557  Size: 8.26 ha  Distance from East Staffordshire boundary: 14km</p>
Reason for designation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i>, for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Annex I habitats</u></b></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Calaminarian grasslands of the <i>Violetalia calaminariae</i></b></li> </ul> <p>Gang Mine is an example of Calaminarian grasslands in an anthropogenic context in northern England. Natural limestone outcrops supporting species typical of calaminarian grasslands are rare and small, with a very impoverished flora. This site is included to provide an example of the habitat type on sedimentary rocks; it has colonised the large area of mine workings and spoil heaps on limestone. These are notable for the wide variations in slope, aspect and soil toxicity. Floristically the site contains the richest anthropogenic Calaminarian grasslands in the UK, with abundant spring sandwort <i>Minuartia verna</i> and alpine penny-cress <i>Thlaspi caerulescens</i>. Other species of grassland vegetation present include early-purple orchid <i>Orchis mascula</i> and dyer's greenweed <i>Genista tinctoria</i>. Many of these species are likely to be distinct genotypes adapted to soils rich in heavy metals.</p>
Vulnerability and risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approximately one-fifth of Gang Mine is currently ungrazed. If this continues, the accumulation of plant litter will result in detrimental successional change, although temporary cessation of grazing will allow the development of the unusual lichen-rich sub-community.</li> <li>• This area has recently been purchased by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and will be developed as a nature reserve with funding under English Nature's Reserves Enhancement Scheme. The remaining area is currently well-grazed, being managed under the MAFF Countryside Stewardship Scheme, and is under no immediate threat.</li> <li>• Site management will be assisted if appropriate by the White Peak Wildlife Enhancement Scheme which was launched in early 1996.</li> <li>• There is deposition of limestone dust on at least part of the site from the adjacent active Dean Quarry. Dust is visible on the flora, suggesting potentially high deposition rates. The impact needs to be assessed. There is other land adjacent to the SSSI/cSAC which supports calaminarian grassland and other vegetation communities of interest. This should be assessed against SSSI and SAC criteria as a possible addition to the site.</li> </ul>
Conservation objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To maintain, in favourable condition, the Calaminarian grassland.</li> </ul>

**Table 45: Bees Nest and Green Clay Pits SAC**

Site	Bees Nest and Green Clay Pits
Characteristics	Designation: SAC Grid Reference: SK240545 Size: 14.76 ha Distance from East Staffordshire boundary: 9.52km
Reason for	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) for which the area is considered to support a significant</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p>designation</p>	<p>presence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Triturus cristatus</i> for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Primary Annex II species</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i></b></li> </ul> <p>The site encompasses a series of silica sand pits supporting a complex mosaic of acidic and calcareous grassland, with small areas of heathland communities. There are also areas of open water, flushes and communities of disturbed ground. Great crested newts <i>Triturus cristatus</i> occur in a number of ponds on site, which vary in size, profile and vegetation cover.</p>
<p>Vulnerability and risks</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site has been disturbed by, and partially created by, mineral extraction of silica sands. This has led to a rich mix of habitats, including the ponds used by the great crested newts. An extant planning permission (until 2042) for extraction is currently dormant and would need to be reviewed by the planning authority before re-enactment. This permission from around 1950 currently has a condition requiring disposal of waste generated through the quarrying on the site it was taken from. If the permission were reactivated and this condition were followed the ponds might be filled in. It is not clear if there are viable reserves on the site. It has not operated for several years.</li> <li>• There is also a clay-pigeon shoot on the land. Many of the clay pigeons end up in the ponds. It is not clear if these will have an impact on the newt population.</li> <li>• There have been possible problems with unauthorised excavation and tipping. There have been various applications for tipping, but it is not clear if any of these were approved.</li> <li>• The land is currently grazed by a tenant who is in English Nature's Wildlife Enhancement Scheme. There are currently problems with the grazing management, which is affecting the quality of the grassland.</li> <li>• The ponds require maintenance and enhancement management for the newts. English Nature will be taking action on this in the short-term.</li> </ul>
<p>Conservation objectives</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To maintain in favourable condition the semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) and the habitats for the population of great crested newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>).</li> </ul>

## 5. Updated Screening Appraisal and Cumulative Effects

**5.1** This updated screening appraisal has appraised all the policies and sites set out in the Pre-Submission Local Plan 2013.

**5.2** There have been amendments to the policies set out in the Preferred Options document and some additional policies. Overall it is concluded that none of the policies or strategic sites individually would result in any significant effects to the qualifying ecological features of interest of the Natura 2000 or Ramsar sites referred to in this Screening Opinion.

**5.3** Other plans, programmes and projects that are being prepared and implemented in the areas surrounding East Staffordshire Borough Council have the potential to have significant effects on European sites. Effects from different plans may act in combination with East Staffordshire's Local Plan leading to a potential cumulative, significant effect overall on European sites.

**5.4** It is a requirement of the Habitats Regulations that effects identified through the plan screening process are considered for their potential cumulative effects. Guidance suggests that the in combination assessment is undertaken in a targeted way, to ensure that the assessment is most effective, but focusing on those plans most likely to interact with the plan under consideration. A review of other plans and programmes is contained in Appendix 1. When screening the policies and spatial options consideration was given to potential cumulative impacts identified through the review of other plans when concluding the likelihood of an impact.

**5.5** The assessment identifies that the following policies and strategic sites may have in combination effects with other plans. However, it was considered that the Plan would make a minor impact in proportion to other growth areas located closer to the European Sites, and would not therefore create a significant impact requiring further AA work. In most cases the proposed mitigation also eliminates the potential cumulative effect.

**Table 16: Cumulative Effects**

East Staffordshire Pre-Submission Local Plan	Cumulative Effect	Conclusion
Strategic Policy 3: Provision of Homes and Jobs and Strategic Policy 4: Distribution of Housing Growth	The two policies propose a significant level of residential development within the	There are no European sites within the East Staffordshire Borough and the spatial strategy directs growth within and surrounding the existing built up areas and away from the

East Staffordshire Pre-Submission Local Plan	Cumulative Effect	Conclusion
	Borough, which in-combination with adjacent spatial strategies may contribute to recreational pressures, issues of diffuse air quality and habitat loss.	European sites that border the Borough. As such it is concluded that the East Staffordshire Local Plan will make a minor contribution to in-combination issues in proportion to growth areas located much closer to the European Sites. Nevertheless mitigation is proposed by policies SP24, SP26, DP7 and DP11.
Strategic Policy 7 Sustainable Urban Extensions	The policy proposes significant residential and mixed use development to Uttoxeter and Burton upon Trent, which will deliver the majority of the spatial strategy.	
<p>The Strategic sites are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uttoxeter - JCB Site, West of Uttoxeter, Hazelwalls, Stone Road and employment at Derby Road;</li> <li>• Burton upon Trent – Pirelli, Branston Depot, Bargates, High Street, Lawns Farm, Land South of Branston, Derby Road, Middle Yard, Beamhill, Guinevere Close, Tutbury Road/Harehedge Lane</li> <li>• Strategic Villages – Tutbury, Rolleston on Dove, Barton under Needwood and Rocester</li> </ul>	The policy proposes a significant level of residential development within the Borough, which in-combination with spatial strategies may contribute to recreational pressures, issues of diffuse air quality and habitat loss.	<p>It is considered that the spatial strategy effectively steers development away from the European Sites, and as such can be classified in accordance with the Screening Criteria as A4 – Policies that positively steer development away from European Sites.</p> <p>In regard to the Strategic Villages and local service villages it is considered that whilst this development steers away from the main urban centres it is of a limited scale and unlikely to have a significant effect when applied in combination with other policies in the plan.</p> <p>The screening process has identified the potential for cumulative impacts on Cannock Chase and this is considered to be sufficiently mitigated by</p>

East Staffordshire Pre-Submission Local Plan	Cumulative Effect	Conclusion
		Detailed Policy 11. Similarly it is considered that development surrounding Uttoxeter, that is in closer proximity to the Midland Meres and Mosses could make a minor contribution to diffuse air quality issues. Detailed Policy 7 would not allow applications with air quality pollution implications. Detailed Policy 11 now refers to all European sites, not just Cannock Chase SAC which would provide sufficient mitigation.

## 6. Conclusion

**6.1** There are no Natura 2000 sites within the East Staffordshire Borough, however in line with the requirement to undertake a precautionary approach this screening assessment has been considered Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the Borough boundary.

4. On the basis of the screening process documented in this Habitats Screening Assessment Report it is the Council's opinion that the pre-submission Local Plan:

- a. Is not directly related with or necessary to the management of the site, or
- b. Is not likely to have a significant effect on each of the following sites, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects:

- RAMSAR
  - Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 1
- SPA
  - Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase 1)
- SACs
  - South Pennine Moors
  - Cannock Chase
  - Cannock Extension Canal
  - Pasturefields Salt Marsh
  - Peak District Dales
  - River Mease
  - West Midlands Mosses Chartley Moss

- Gang Mine
- Bees Nest and Green Clay Pits

**6.2** The principle potential effects identified and reviewed are related to additional households and employment development and how this may increase traffic within close proximity to European Sites or result in additional recreational pressure. More specifically the potential for an impact on air quality from industrial and manufacturing processes has also been considered. It has been concluded that the Local Plan Pre-Submission would not result in any significant effects to the qualifying ecological features of interest of the Natura 2000 or Ramsar sites referred to.

**6.3** It is however acknowledged that the Plan may have a minor impact on cumulative effects to the Cannock Chase SAC, as a result of an increase in recreational pressure in combination with neighbouring plans. The Local Plan Pre-Submission includes a policy relating to European Sites with a focus on Cannock Chase SAC. This policy reflects work and evidence gathered by the Cannock Chase SAC Partnership. It will be important that monitoring of the implementation of the policy is carried out to ensure the requirements of the Habitat Regulations Assessment are met and individual projects do not have a negative impact on the SAC.

**6.4** In addition it can be concluded that the no further work as part of the requirement to comply with the Habitats Regulations is required for Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites referred to as part of this assessment, subject to further Partnership working with the Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation Partnership. Should further changes be made to the development strategy, strategic sites and policies be made, a revised screening opinion or note will be produced to set out if further assessment is required.

# **East Staffordshire Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report Appendices**

October 2013

## Appendix 1 – Plans and Programmes, review of potential cumulative effects

### South Derbyshire

<b>Document Title</b>	Adopted Local Plan 1998
<b>Plan Type</b>	Statutory Local Plan
<b>Plan Owner/Competent Authority</b>	South Derbyshire District Council
<b>Timescales</b>	1998 – 2001 (saved policies extended beyond September 2007)
<b>Geographical Coverage</b>	South Derbyshire
<b>Related Documents (e.g. evidence base, SA/SEA, HRA/AA)</b>	
<b>Document Details</b>	<b>Potential for Impacts that could cause cumulative effects</b>
<p>The purpose of the Local Plan is to set out South Derbyshire District Council's approach to the development, management and use of land. It has four main functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to develop the policies and general proposals of the Derbyshire Structure Plan and to relate them to specific areas of land as shown on the Proposals Map;</li> <li>• to provide a detailed and comprehensive basis for the promotion and control of development;</li> <li>• to provide a detailed basis for coordinating and directing development and other uses of land;</li> </ul>	<p>Whilst the Local Plan saved policies remain part of the statutory development plan, the allocations for development relate to the period 1998-2001. As such the plan does not allocate development that may have a cumulative impact with East Staffordshire's Local Plan proposals. However, the Plan does include policies to manage development and help avoid adverse impacts on the environment. In combination with policies that afford environmental protection within the East Staffordshire Preferred Option Local Plan, this provides a potential positive impact on the integrity of European Sites.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to bring local planning issues before the public.</li> </ul>	
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<b>Document Title</b>	South Derbyshire Core Strategy – ‘Options for Housing Growth’
<b>Plan Type</b>	New Local Plan
<b>Plan Owner/Competent Authority</b>	South Derbyshire District Council working with Amber Valley Borough Council and Derby City Council, with the assistance of Derbyshire County Council
<b>Timescales</b>	July 2011 - 2031
<b>Geographical Coverage</b>	Derby HMA: South Derbyshire, Derby and Amber Valley
<b>Related Documents (e.g. evidence base, SA/SEA, HRA/AA)</b>	
<b>Document Details</b>	<b>Potential for Impacts that could cause cumulative effects</b>
<p>The three councils in the Derby HMA are coordinating their decisions and working together to draw up aligned Core Strategies. These are required to show where large housing and other development will take place to meet the needs of our growing population over the next 15 years. They will also consider what additional infrastructure including shops, schools and road improvements will be required and how and when it will be provided.</p> <p>Following the passing of the Localism Act and National</p>	<p>Potential cumulative effects will be dependent on the preferred option and growth strategy that is taken forward. However, it is known that the Plan will allocate a large quantum of housing growth, an generic effects related to development and growth scenarios include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased demand for water resources/abstraction/hydrological impacts;</li> <li>Increased traffic movements, contributions to atmospheric pollution and impacts on air quality;</li> </ul>

<p>Planning Policy Framework, the Councils are working together to reconsider how much development should take place in the Derby Housing Market Area up to 2028. The document does not conclude an allocated quantum of housing or employment growth for the area yet provides an overview of strategic options concerning the scale of growth. This ranges from 30,000 to 47,900 dwellings over the plan period. The plan considers 4 options for the spatial distribution of growth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased recreational pressure from existing and new populations; and</li> <li>• Growth in requirements for waste management facilities, increased demand for minerals.</li> </ul> <p>Depending on the scale and location of growth allocations, there may be a potential for a cumulative impact on European Sites within neighbouring authorities.</p>
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<b>Document Title</b>	South Derbyshire Core Strategy – Draft Local Plan Part 1
<b>Plan Type</b>	New Local Plan
<b>Plan Owner/Competent Authority</b>	
<b>Timescales</b>	July 2013 - 2028
<b>Geographical Coverage</b>	South Derbyshire
<b>Related Documents (e.g. evidence base, SA/SEA, HRA/AA)</b>	Consultation document is accompanied by a SA and a HRA Screening Opinion.
<b>Document Details</b>	<b>Potential for Impacts that could cause cumulative effects</b>
<p><b>The Plan aims to meet South Derbyshire’s split of the Derby HMA housing requirement through the following allocations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- around Swadlincote including land at former Drakelow Power Station</li> <li>- urban extensions to the Derby City</li> <li>- village growth in Hatton, Hilton, Etwall, Aston</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased demand for water resources/abstraction/hydrological impacts;</li> <li>• Increased traffic movements, contributions to atmospheric pollution and impacts on air quality;</li> <li>• Increased recreational pressure from existing and new populations; and</li> <li>• Growth in requirements for waste management facilities, increased demand for minerals.</li> </ul>

<p><b>on Trent and Repton</b></p> <p><b>The Plan also aims to retaining and promote employment development on sites in urban areas and other locations which already are, or could be in the future, well served by infrastructure, including public transport. These include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>growth in the urban area of Swadlincote</b></li> <li>- <b>development in Hilton to balance the needs of a growing community and to create more jobs</b></li> <li>- <b>strategic locations suggested at Dove Valley Park and Global Technology Cluster</b></li> </ul>	<p>However effects are not considered significant. The HRA Screening Opinion concludes that there will be no significant effect on Natura 2000 sites as a result of implementing the Local Plan, alone or in combination</p>
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<b>Document Title</b>	South Derbyshire Employment Land Review (Site List)
<b>Plan Type</b>	New Local Plan Evidence Base
<b>Plan Owner/Competent Authority</b>	South Derbyshire District Council, Amber Valley Borough Council and Derby City Council
<b>Timescales</b>	January 2007
<b>Geographical Coverage</b>	Derby HMA: South Derbyshire, Derby and Amber Valley
<b>Related Documents (e.g. evidence base, SA/SEA, HRA/AA)</b>	
<b>Document Details</b>	<b>Potential for Impacts that could cause cumulative effects</b>
This study was commissioned by South Derbyshire District	Whist the Employment Land Review is not a Development

Council in November 2005 as part of the evidence base for the District's Local Development Documents. The study should particularly inform the preparation of an Area Action Plan (AAP) for land between Woodville and Swadlincote town centre, advising on the redevelopment potential of the land for employment uses. More generally, the study should provide guidance on employment land allocations.

The ELR provides an initial business-as-usual market requirement of approximately 30 hectares for industry/warehousing and 6 hectares for offices, all of which can be met through identified employment land in South Derbyshire. However, it is also noted that South Derbyshire may be required to meet some surplus demand should Derby's land supply fall short of its employment land requirements as set out in the new Regional Plan for the Derby HMA. Additionally, the District has the potential to attract regional and national inward investment, over and above the forecasts, in two categories: suppliers to Toyota and strategic warehousing.

If as part of HMA-wide planning South Derbyshire agrees to provide space for footloose demand, then new sites will be required, which the ELR states should be in the north of the District, in the A50/A38 corridors, and particularly in the eastern sector of the A50, closest to the A38, Derby City and the M1.

Plan Document; it will inform the emerging Development Plan and provides an indication of potential major site allocations.

Should suggested sites be taken forward within the Core Strategy/Local Plan there may be a potential for cumulative effects. In particular in respect to the potential to allocate sites to the north of the District, in the A50/38 corridors and eastern sector of the A50, closest to the A38. This may include an increase in atmospheric pollution from increased vehicle movements and other emitters, with the potential to affect the Midland Mosses SAC.

Site allocations may also impact on the River Mease, however there would be no cumulative impact with the East Staffordshire Local Plan, as the Borough is not within the River Mease catchment area.

## Derbyshire Dales

<b>Document Title</b>	Adopted Local Plan 2005
<b>Plan Type</b>	Statutory Development Plan
<b>Plan Owner/Competent Authority</b>	Derbyshire Dales District Council
<b>Timescales</b>	2005 – 2008 (saved policies extend beyond 2008)
<b>Geographical Coverage</b>	Derbyshire Dales
<b>Related Documents (e.g. evidence base, SA/SEA, HRA/AA)</b>	Proposals Map
<b>Document Details</b>	<b>Potential for Impacts that could cause cumulative effects</b>
<p>The Derbyshire Dales Adopted Local Plan (DDLPL) sets out the Council's land use planning policies and proposals for the area outside of the Peak District National Park. As well as identifying and allocating land for development including housing, employment and leisure uses it is used as the basis for the determination of planning applications. The DDLPL puts in place policies and proposals to guide the development of land. In line with the Council's Corporate Plan, the DDLPL aims to meet the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve the supply of decent, affordable homes for local people</li> <li>• Increase the number of people, especially young</li> </ul>	<p>The Plan proposes limited growth plans in terms of housing and employment in reflection of the nature of the Derbyshire Dales area, which includes the Peak District National Park and largely rural and sparse population.</p> <p>The Plan outlines a five year supply of 775 dwellings, which have now been developed to the key developed areas of Ashbourne and Matlock/Wirksworth. The plan also allocated 35ha of employment land to these areas. The plan requires that 60% of development is on brownfield land.</p> <p>The Plan does not propose growth plans that are within proximity to the Borough's allocations, it is therefore unlikely</p>

<p>people, participating in leisure activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve access to services and support service delivery improvements</li> <li>• Protect and improve the safety and health of residents and visitors</li> <li>• Reduce, recycle and re-use waste</li> <li>• Stimulate economic, community and environmental regeneration</li> </ul>	<p>that there would be a significant cumulative effect on European Sites.</p>
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<b>Document Title</b>	Derbyshire Dales District Strategic Housing Options Paper and Development Approaches and Sub Area Strategies, June 2012
<b>Plan Type</b>	Issues and options Local Plan document
<b>Plan Owner/Competent Authority</b>	Derbyshire Dales District Council
<b>Timescales</b>	2006-2028
<b>Geographical Coverage</b>	Derbyshire Dales District
<b>Related Documents (e.g. evidence base, SA/SEA, HRA/AA)</b>	Settlement Framework Boundary Review
<b>Document Details</b>	<b>Potential for Impacts that could cause cumulative effects</b>
Since the passing of the Localism Act and publication of the National Planning Policy Framework, the Council have	The plan proposes a moderate level of housing extending from existing settlements. Whilst the proposals may have

commenced work on a Revised Local Plan for the District. As part of this process the Council have published the Strategic Housing Options Paper, to provide evidence to the Development Approaches and Sub Area Strategies document. The latter document sets out the preferred housing target and sub area scenario.

The document concludes that there is a strategic housing requirement for Derbyshire Dales for the period 2006 to 2028 of 4400 dwellings. In order to deliver this required is it concluded that the preferred spatial option is for the development of land outside of existing settlement boundaries, at the following locations:

- Matlock – 270
- Wirksworth – 60
- Darley Dale – 160
- Tansley – 30
- Ashbourne – 400
- Doveridge – 50
- Drailsford - 50

implications on the Peak District Moors SAC, South Pennine Moors SPA, Peak District Dales SAC, the Bees New and Clay Pits SAC and Gang Mine SAC it is not considered that there would be a significant cumulative impact as a result of proposed growth in the East Staffordshire Preferred Option Local Plan, due to the scale and location of allocations.

<b>Document Title</b>	Landscape Character and Design SPD
<b>Plan Type</b>	Supplementary Planning Document
<b>Plan Owner/Competent Authority</b>	Derbyshire Dales District Council
<b>Timescales</b>	July 2007 -

<b>Geographical Coverage</b>	Derbyshire Dales
<b>Related Documents (e.g. evidence base, SA/SEA, HRA/AA)</b>	Landscape Character and Design Scoping Report, Landscape Character and Design Sustainability Appraisal, Landscape Character Plan
<b>Document Details</b>	<b>Potential for Impacts that could cause cumulative effects</b>
<p>The Derbyshire Dales Landscape Character and Design Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To protect and enhance the character, appearance and features important in the landscape.</li> <li>• To provide detailed guidance on landscape issues to be considered as part of any proposal</li> <li>• To illustrate and encourage good practice</li> <li>• To encourage an integrated approach to development which includes comprehensive consideration of landscape issues</li> <li>• To help developers in their submission of planning applications.</li> </ul> <p>The SPD aims to complement policies NBE8 (Landscape Character) and NBE26 (Landscape Design in Association with New Development) of the Adopted Derbyshire Dales Local Plan by providing detailed guidance on how new development can meet the aims and objectives of policies. It will also raise awareness of the design issues related to landscape character and provide an important reference point for developers on design standards ensuring that future development protects or enhances the character and local</p>	<p>The SPD recognises that the Derbyshire Dales environment is subject to demands for housing, industry and commerce, transport, water, energy, and food production, which have the potential to conflict with its scenic beauty wildlife and historic interest. With regards to the five SACs within the Derbyshire Dales boundaries, the SPD refers to the European Directive 92/43/EEC, requiring that any plan or project that is likely to have significant effect on a European site which is not directly connected with the management of that site for nature conservation must be subject to an appropriate assessment which shall determine if that plan or policy will adversely affect the integrity of the site.</p> <p>The plan seeks to protect the integrity of European Sites and would not therefore have any likely cumulative negative significant affect.</p>

distinctiveness of the landscape.	
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<b>Document Title</b>	Peak Sub Region Employment Land Review
<b>Plan Type</b>	New Local Plan evidence base document
<b>Plan Owner/Competent Authority</b>	Derbyshire Dales District Council, High Peak Borough Council, Peak District National Park Authority and Derbyshire County Council
<b>Timescales</b>	2008 - 2026
<b>Geographical Coverage</b>	Derbyshire Dales, High Peak and Peak District National Park
<b>Related Documents (e.g. evidence base, SA/SEA, HRA/AA)</b>	
<b>Document Details</b>	<b>Potential for Impacts that could cause cumulative effects</b>
<p>The Employment Land Review in 2008 and covers the Peak Sub Region – High Peak, Derbyshire Dales and the Peak District National Park.</p> <p>The main aims of the Employment Land Review are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the future employment land and premises requirements of the Peak Sub-Region to 2026;</li> <li>• Review the study area’s current supply of employment land in both quantitative and qualitative terms;</li> <li>• Identify which employment land sites should be retained and which can potentially be de-allocated, or allocated for alternative uses to provide a balanced portfolio of land to 2026;</li> </ul>	<p>Derbyshire Dales District borders the north eastern boundary of East Staffordshire, alongside the A50. The review identifies eight employment sites sufficient to meet demand for employment land in the longer term. This includes a total of 48 hectares of land. The sites are all located within or within the vicinity of the three main settlements of Matlock, Wirksworth and Ashbourne, north of the District. These settlements are further northern of the East Staffordshire boundary, with the closest allocations being those within and around Uttoxeter. The three settlements identified for additional employment land potential are within close</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify the scale, location and type of sites that are needed to meet the future requirements of the Sub-Region.</li> </ul> <p>The results of the study will inform future economic and planning policy in relation to the supply of employment land. In the absence of up to data spatial allocations, the document is useful in providing insight into potential locations for development.</p> <p>The study concludes that 16 hectares of additional employment land will be required in the Derbyshire Dales to 2026, whilst 35 ha will be required in High Peak and 5ha in the National Park.</p>	<p>proximity to the Peak District Dales SAC, Bees Nest and Clay Pits SAC and Gang Mine. However, given the distance from the East Staffordshire’s development allocations, it is not considered that there would be a likelihood of a significant cumulative impact with the development of employment land in the Derbyshire Dales,</p>
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## Lichfield

<b>Document Title</b>	Lichfield Local Plan 1998
<b>Plan Type</b>	Statutory Development Plan
<b>Plan Owner/Competent Authority</b>	Lichfield District Council
<b>Timescales</b>	1998 – 2001 (saved policies extended beyond 2001)
<b>Geographical Coverage</b>	Lichfield District
<b>Related Documents (e.g. evidence base, SA/SEA, HRA/AA)</b>	Proposals Map
<b>Document Details</b>	<b>Potential for Impacts that could cause cumulative effects</b>

<p>The Litchfield Local Plan forms part of the Statutory Development Plan for the District.</p> <p>The plan affords strong protection to European Sites, with Policy E.18 requires all development with the potential to affect a designated site to be subject to rigorous examination in line with the European Directive. Additionally, where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species development or land use change will not be permitted unless the authority is satisfied that it is necessary for reasons of human health or public safety or for beneficial consequences of primary importance for nature conservation. Where such development does proceed the authority will consider the use of conditions or planning obligations to secure all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected.</p> <p>In addition, the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty within Cannock Chase is also afforded specific protection within Policy NA.1, which states that development will not be permitted except where proposals accord with Green Belt policy and are compatible with the conservation of the natural beauty of the area. Where development is acceptable it shall be of the highest standards of design in sympathy with the architectural and landscape characteristics of the area.</p>	<p>The Local Plan was adopted in June 1998, whilst it still forms part of the Development Plan and guides development, its housing and employment allocations cover the period 1996-2001. The Plan does not therefore propose growth. The Plan does provide positive intend to protect and conserve European Sites as cited. The Plan therefore has the potential for a positive cumulative effect on European Sites for the environmental protection it affords.</p>
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<b>Document Title</b>	Core Strategy 'Shaping our District' Submission
<b>Plan Type</b>	New Local Plan

<b>Plan Owner/Competent Authority</b>	Lichfield District Council
<b>Timescales</b>	2010 – 2026
<b>Geographical Coverage</b>	Lichfield District
<b>Related Documents (e.g. evidence base, SA/SEA, HRA/AA)</b>	Interim Sustainability Appraisal, Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan, wider evidence base and Tamworth and Litchfield Appropriate Assessment Screening Report.
<b>Document Details</b>	<b>Potential for Impacts that could cause cumulative effects</b>
<p>The Core Strategy provides the broad policy directions to guide the other documents within the LDF. The Core Strategy establishes a long-term strategy to manage development, provide services, deliver infrastructure and create sustainable communities. It comprises the vision and strategic objectives, a spatial development strategy, core policies and development management policies.</p> <p>Of particular significance, Core Policy 1 provides the Spatial Strategy for the District and states a target to deliver 8000 dwellings between 2006 and 2026. The Policy states that the growth will be located within:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lichfield City Centre/Urban area</li> <li>• South Lichfield Strategic Development Location</li> <li>• East of Lichfield (Streethay) Strategic Development Location</li> <li>• Burntwood Town Centre/Urban area</li> <li>• Fradley Strategic Development Location and Broad Development Location</li> </ul>	<p>The District neighbours East Staffordshire to its southern boundary. The Strategy includes the allocation of major growth to Streethay in the form of a sustainable urban extension of 850 dwellings in addition to the development of a former airfield site and employment growth at Fradley. Both locations line the A38 strategic highway and may contribute to the intensification of growth along the A38 corridor in combination with East Staffordshire's proposals for Lawns Farm and Branston. In addition growth is proposed at Rugeley including the former power station site with 700 dwellings. The proposed growth in combination with the spatial strategy of the East Staffordshire Preferred Option adds to the levels of housing and employment development within proximity to the European Sites surrounding the south west of the Borough, including: Cannock Chase, the Midland Meres SAC and Ramsar site and the Pasturefields Salt Marsh.</p> <p>A Habitats Regulation Screening assessment was undertaken in 2011 of the Lichfield and Tamworth emerging strategies, which concluded that the most likely effects on the Natura 2000 sites are related to additional households and</p>

- East Rugeley Strategic Development Location (within Armitage with Handsacre Parish)
- Key Rural Settlements

The Core Strategy includes Core Policy 13 Natural Resources, which affords protection to designated sites and asserts a commitment to the management and protection of Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation. More specifically, Policy NR6: Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation provides protection of the SAC in respect of recreational pressure and associated impacts.

associated traffic increases, or additional recreational pressure, causing an increase in air pollution, habitat disturbance, species disturbance and nutrient enrichment.

With regard to the Midland Mosses and Chartley Moss:

*“Site is 4.5km from Lichfield District and over 20km from Tamworth. The vulnerability of the site arises from localised agricultural run off, water quality, water quantity and recreational disturbance. The proposals for 8,000 homes in Lichfield District and 2,900 in Tamworth Borough are beyond the boundaries of the site and are so far away that recreational pressure will not be generated from the developments. In addition the proposals will utilise water from beyond the catchment for this site and will therefore have no significant impact on this. Atmospheric pollution may be generated from the increased vehicular movements associated with new development as part of the Core Strategies. Again due to the distance involved no significant in combination effects are expected to arise from implementing the proposed Core Strategies and other plans and proposals listed previously.”*

With regard to Pasturefields Saltmarsh SAC the assessment concluded:

*“Site is 4.2km from Lichfield District and over 20km from Tamworth Borough. The vulnerabilities of the site are to changes in water quality and water quantity. The proposals for 8,000 homes in Lichfield District and 2,900 in Tamworth Borough will have no significant impact on this site due to the distance from the site and being downstream of the Trent. The Southern Staffordshire Water Cycle Study has identified potential in combination effects arising from increased use of Lichfield WwTW, further enquiries with the sewage undertakers have concluded that the necessary*

*improvements to the WwTW are able to be implemented to address needs arising from development, as such significant in-combination assessments are not expected to arise from implementing the proposed Core Strategies and other plans and proposals listed previously.”*

**With regard to Cannock Chase the assessment concluded:**

*“Site is 2.4km from the closest part of Lichfield District and over 20km from Tamworth Borough. The vulnerabilities of the site are to changes in water quality and water quantity, damage to the site, its species and habitat from visitors and air pollution from increased traffic both visiting and driving through the sites. A report has been prepared to advise local authorities on the impacts of development on the SAC. It has established that there will be no greater impact on the SAC from water abstraction associated with new development and it has identified a zone of influence and criteria to mitigate for the impact on the SAC from an increase in visitors and air pollution. The proposals for 8,000 homes in Lichfield District could have a significant impact on the Cannock Chase SAC due to the proximity of the proposals being within a 19.3km/12mile identified zone of influence and strategic allocations within Tamworth i.e. those of over 100 dwellings the study advises will also need to incorporate a visitor impact strategy. However neither of the districts are within the 400metre zone where no net increase in residential properties should be permitted. In order to assess if development will have an impact on the SAC, and to identify what measures are necessary to prevent damaging impact (either through providing alternative sites (SANG) or through financial contributions to the Cannock Chase Visitor Mitigation Strategy), and these studies are being undertaken. The study recommended policies be incorporated in LDF documents and the LDC : Shaping our District consultation has incorporated a draft policy for*

	<p><i>consultation to ensure that the impact on the SAC will can be adequately mitigated and that there will be adequate monitoring of the effects of mitigation to maintain the SAC.”</i></p> <p>With regard to Cannock Chase it is understood that the site is influenced by traffic and visitors from a wide area and the proposed increase in housing and employment in the East Staffordshire Preferred Option in combination with other the Litchfield Core Strategy could have a cumulative significant impact as a result of an increase in both visitors and car movements to the SAC unless appropriate mitigation is in place. It is considered that inclusion of Policy SP23 within the East Staffordshire Local Plan affords appropriate mitigation and there is therefore an unlikely significant cumulative impact.</p>
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## Cannock Chase

<b>Document Title</b>	Local Plan Part 1 Submission 2013
<b>Plan Type</b>	New Local Plan
<b>Plan Owner/Competent Authority</b>	Cannock Chase District Council
<b>Timescales</b>	2011 - 2031
<b>Geographical Coverage</b>	Cannock Chase District
<b>Related Documents (e.g. evidence base, SA/SEA, HRA/AA)</b>	Infrastructure Plan, Sustainability Appraisal, Equality Impact Assessment, Draft Proposals Map, Green Belt Review of

	Cannock Chase District, Green Infrastructure Background Paper, Habitats Regulations Assessments
<b>Document Details</b>	<b>Potential for Impacts that could cause cumulative effects</b>
<p>The Core Strategy is the central document in the Local Development Framework (LDF) and will help shape the way in which the physical, economic, social and environmental characteristics of Cannock Chase District will change between 2006 and 2026. It provides one of the means of delivering the objectives and programmes of the Chase Community Partnership as set out in the Cannock Chase Sustainable Community Strategy. The Core Strategy aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a long-term spatial vision for the District.</li> <li>• Provide clear strategic objectives for development and the environment.</li> <li>• Describe a spatial strategy for delivering objectives.</li> <li>• Outline core policies which shape development and deliver the strategy.</li> <li>• Identify the broad location of new housing and employment land requirements.</li> <li>• Form an effective monitoring and implementation framework.</li> </ul> <p>The Core Strategy requires at least 6800 new homes to be built for the District between 2006 and 2026. 1140 new homes will be provided via the Lichfield Core Strategy. In the urban areas at least 2400 new homes will be provided and 1450 will be developed at urban extensions west of Pye</p>	<p>The Core Strategy notes that the popularity of Cannock Chase AONB, combined with the deficiency in alternative recreation spaces in some localities is creating pressure upon ecologically sensitive sites. Cannock Chase Council worked jointly with neighbouring authorities in relation to Cannock Chase SAC and the Appropriate Assessment. The AA highlights the likely increase in such pressures as a result of population growth in the District (including potential increases in road traffic air pollution) and the need to provide additional recreation spaces alongside other mitigation measures. It concludes that there are unlikely to be significant impacts arising from increased water use and abstraction in the District and that by implementation of the Cannock Chase Visitor Impact Management Strategy and relevant policies in the relevant Core Strategies, suitable mitigation measures will be in place to overcome possible adverse impacts affecting the integrity of the SAC.</p> <p>In respect of these conclusions, the Strategy includes Policy CP 11 of the Pre Publication Core Strategy sets out that “<i>Development will not be permitted where it would be likely to lead directly or indirectly to an adverse effect upon the integrity, of the Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC).</i>” As such, no development will be allowed within 400m of the Cannock Chase SAC and development mitigation will be required between 400m and 12 miles of the SAC including provision of alternative green space. Cannock Chase District council support the concept of cross-boundary working in order to ensure strategic sites, including Cannock Chase</p>

<p>Green Road (750) and south of Norton Canes (700) and up to 8ha of employment land.</p> <p>An overall target of 112 hectares of employment land should be developed between 2006 and 2026.</p> <p>Habitats Regulations Assessments have been undertaken in partnership for two SACs at Cannock Chase and the Cannock Chase Extension Canal south of Norton Canes. No other sites of European significance are considered to be affected by the Core Strategy.</p>	<p>SAC, are protected and enhanced. Implementation of the Visitor Impact Management Strategy for Cannock Chase SAC requires the provision of approximately 800ha of additional recreation space within 12 miles of the SAC and such measures will be progressed on a cross-boundary basis. The importance of the Cannock Extension Canal SAC is also recognised, requiring special management and consideration. It is specified that developments potentially affecting its integrity will be determined in accordance with the Habitats Regulations.</p> <p>In is considered that given the inclusion of strategic policy 23 that specifically seeks to avoid and mitigate impacts of the East Staffordshire Local Plan on Cannock Chase and the aims of Policy SP7 and SP12 to provide alternative open space and tourism facilities, there is unlikely to be a significant effect on Cannock Chase.</p>
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<b>Document Title</b>	Cannock Chase Local Plan 1997
<b>Plan Type</b>	Statutory Development Plan
<b>Plan Owner/Competent Authority</b>	Cannock Chase District Council
<b>Timescales</b>	1997 – 2007 (saved policies extended beyond 2007)
<b>Geographical Coverage</b>	Cannock Chase District
<b>Related Documents (e.g. evidence base, SA/SEA, HRA/AA)</b>	Proposals Map
<b>Document Details</b>	<b>Potential for Impacts that could cause cumulative effects</b>

The Cannock Chase 1997 Local Plan is the statutory Development Plan for the District and forms the principal basis for which development is managed.

The Policies and Proposals in the Local Plan aim to achieve growth and development in the District within the parameters set in the Staffordshire Structure Plan 1986-2001. The District Council considers that the growth and development should be achieved in a way that is sustainable both environmentally and economically.

The Local Plan aims to establish a balance between:

- Providing for agreed levels of development
- Preserving the important elements of the natural and built environments
- Improving the downgraded and despoiled areas
- Uplifting the image of the area generally
- Reducing the need to travel.

Chapter 2 of the Local Plan sets out the Council's policies in relation to the Greenbelt, Countryside and Ecology. Policy C6 sets out requirements for design of development within the Green Belt and AONB, and allows for infill development within the Cannock Chase AONB. However, C6 aims to preserve and enhance the visual character of the site and therefore prevents any undesirable intrusions into the AONB. Policy C8 recognises the recreational and development pressures affecting the Cannock Chase AONB and specifically sets out the principles against which the integrity of the site will be

The Plan sets out a positive policy framework for the protection and mitigation of European Sites, which will be supported by policies within the East Staffordshire Local Plan. Whilst the Plan promotes and safeguards sites for development, this element of the plan being replaced by the emerging Site Allocations DPD.

It is not considered that there would be a likelihood of adverse significant impacts on Cannock Chase SAC as a result of cumulative impacts with the East Staffordshire Local Plan due to the combined protection offered by the Plans.

protected:

- (i) the District Council will continue to conserve and enhance the landscape, nature conservation and recreation interest of the AONB and its setting;
- (ii) only development which is compatible with the conservation of the natural beauty of the AONB and is in accordance with other relevant Policies of the Local Plan will be permitted;
- (iii) proposals for development on the fringes of the AONB will be considered in the context of the primary objective of protecting the Area's qualities;
- (iv) the District Council will support measures to reduce the impact of traffic on the roads through the designated area.

Other European sites are covered by Policy C9 which reflects the requirements of the European Directive with regards to development which may affect an internationally designated site. Policy C12 requires an ecological assessment to accompany any development proposal which may affect sites of ecological or landscape importance, while contributions will be sought where mitigation, compensation or restoration is necessary. With regards to safeguarded species, Policy C13 sets out that development will not be permitted where it may destroy or adversely affect a site supporting a statutorily protected species.

## Staffordshire Moorlands

<b>Document Title</b>	Staffordshire Moorlands Revised Submission Core Strategy 2011
<b>Plan Type</b>	Development Plan Document
<b>Plan Owner/Competent Authority</b>	Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
<b>Timescales</b>	2006 - 2026
<b>Geographical Coverage</b>	Staffordshire Moorlands
<b>Related Documents (e.g. evidence base, SA/SEA, HRA/AA)</b>	Schedule of Revisions, Sustainability Appraisal, Appropriate Assessment Second Update, Consultation Statement, Soundness Self-Assessment, Infrastructure Plan
<b>Document Details</b>	<b>Potential for Impacts that could cause cumulative effects</b>
<p>The Core Strategy provides the framework for future LDF documents which will then identify specific sites for development in the District (Site Allocations DPD) and provide detailed guidance to supplement the policies (Supplementary Planning Documents).</p> <p>Policy SS2 Future Provision of Development states that provision will be made for 5500 additional dwellings to be completed during 2006 to 2026. Provision will be made for at least 24 hectares of additional employment land in Staffordshire Moorlands in the same period.</p>	<p>The Habitat Regulations Assessment of the Core Strategy was focused on the South Pennine Moors SAC; Peak District Dales SAC; Cannock Chase SAC and Peak District Moors SPA.</p> <p>The HRA concludes that “<i>given the reduced scale of housing development proposed in the Revised Core Strategy and its location, together with the application of the policy measures within the Core Strategy, it is expected that there would be no adverse effects on the site integrity of the European Sites as a result of the changes.</i>”</p> <p>South Staffordshire borders the northern boundary of East Staffordshire Borough. However, the majority of growth</p>

	<p>(approximately 90%) proposed in the South Staffordshire Core Strategy is directed to the main towns of Leak and Biddulph to the north of the Borough and Cheadle in the central area. Whilst a smaller number of residential and employment development is allocated to the rural areas which includes the towns of Alton and Upper Team, which border East Staffordshire. Conversely, the majority of growth proposed in the East Staffordshire Local Plan is directed to the south of the Borough within and surrounding Burton. As such it is considered that due to the distance between the main areas of growth there is unlikely to be a significant cumulative effect on the four European Sites cited.</p>
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### Stafford Borough

<b>Document Title</b>	New Local Plan Submission document August 2013
<b>Plan Type</b>	Local Plan
<b>Plan Owner/Competent Authority</b>	Stafford Borough Council
<b>Timescales</b>	2011 - 2031
<b>Geographical Coverage</b>	Stafford Borough
<b>Related Documents (e.g. evidence base, SA/SEA, HRA/AA)</b>	
<b>Document Details</b>	<b>Potential for Impacts that could cause cumulative effects</b>
The Plan for Stafford Borough sets out the overall future	The following European Sites are within Stafford Borough and

direction for the area to deliver the strategic planning approach across the Stafford Borough area.

In terms of proposed growth, the Plan provides a spatial strategy based on the identification of Strategic Development Locations (SDLs) at the main urban centres of Stafford and Stone. In addition a small amount of new development in rural settlements will be facilitated by minor amendments to Residential Development Boundaries.

Proposed new development at the following SDLs (final decision to be taken following this consultation):

- North of Stafford (north of the A513 and both sides of the A34) mixed use development; two housing sites delivering up to 2,700 new homes, local facilities, and at least 36 ha new employment land as an extension to the existing Primepoint 14 area
- West of Stafford mixed use development linked to delivery of the Western Access Improvement Scheme; phased delivery of up to 2,200 new homes, extra care/specialist housing, local facilities, and at least 7 ha new employment land
- East of Stafford (between the A513 and A518) mixed use development linked to delivery of the Eastern Access Improvement Scheme; phased delivery of up to 600 new homes, extra care/specialist housing, local facilities, and at least 20 ha new employment land at Beacon Hill
- West and South of Stone mixed use development; up to 500 new homes, extra care/specialist housing and at least 18 ha new employment land south of Stone Business Park
- 12 ha new employment land between Raleigh Hall Recognised Industrial Estate and Ladfordfields

within the East Staffordshire 15km 'buffer' zone; Cannock Chase SAC, Midland Mosses SAC and Midland Meres and Mosses Phase II Ramsar and Pasturefields Salt Marsh. It is therefore important to consider potential cumulative impact of the two emerging plans.

With regard to Cannock Chase, the proposed housing and employment proposals of the Stafford and East Staffordshire Plans will potentially increase the number of visitors to Cannock Chase, thereby increasing the magnitude of impacts caused by recreational pressures. It is considered that Core Policy 16 of the Stafford Borough Plan and Policy 23 of the East Staffordshire Borough Council Plan sufficiently mitigate these impacts and would prevent significant cumulative impacts.

The Midland Mosses and Pasturefields Salt Marsh are within Stafford Borough and vulnerable to atmospheric pollution. The East Staffordshire Borough Local Plan Preferred Option includes a proposed allocation for a sustainable urban extension to the west of Uttoxeter, which is the closest growth area to the Midland Mosses. This could have a cumulative impact on air quality along with proposals for growth around Stafford and Stone. In particular, Uttoxeter is well connected to Stafford via the A518 and the A51 north to Stone. As such growth around these areas may attract vehicle trips from Uttoxeter. However, it is considered that given the scale of the proposed growth to Uttoxeter and the distance from the Midland Mosses and Pasturefields Salt Marsh there is unlikely to be a significant cumulative impact. Furthermore, it

Recognised Industrial Estate

- Proportion of new employment provision at the following Recognised Industrial Estates: Pasturefields next to Hixon, Hixon Airfield and Moorfield

Whilst the plan includes significant growth plans, it affords strong protection to European Sites through the planning process.

Core Policy 14, the Natural Environment & Green Infrastructure, sets out to protect, enhance and improve the Borough's natural environment through appropriate management of a network of designated sites, biodiversity action plan habitats and species populations, wildlife corridors and ecological networks. The policy also aims to conserve and enhance water courses and their settings for their landscape character, biodiversity and recreational value, particularly for the Borough's extensive canal system.

The integrity of European sites is safeguarded by Development Management Policy (DMP) 5, which sets out specific requirements in relation to water and air quality. DMP 5 states that in relation to air quality issues identified, planning permission will only be granted where:

- It can be demonstrated that development will not significantly contribute to adverse effects caused by local and / or diffuse air pollution at European sites, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, or
- Where development would result in an increase in

is consider that Development Management Policy 5 of the Stafford Plan, provides sufficient mitigation, which includes the need to demonstrate that development will not significantly contribute to adverse effects caused by local and / or diffuse air pollution at European Sites, alone or in combination with other plans and projects. This would therefore require a consideration of air quality in relation to increased traffic movements within proximity to the site.

<p>local and/or diffuse air pollution at European Sites, it would be expected to include measures to secure an equivalent improvement in air quality or reduction in emissions from other sources; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require a pollution-neutral strategy for major development near to European sites.</li> </ul> <p>In relation to water quality, supply and run-off issues, planning permission will only be granted where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be no demonstrable unauthorised impact on the integrity of the European site;</li> <li>• The development takes account of the Water Cycle Study and Surface Water Management Plan and any other successor documents.</li> </ul> <p>Core Policy 16 goes on to set out specific protection to the Cannock Chase SAC, requiring that any net increase of dwellings within 400m will only be permitted where there is no adverse effect on the site's integrity. All development within 12 miles will be required to avoid/mitigate any adverse effect on the site's integrity, while large developments must provide targeted alternative green space within or close to the development site.</p>	
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<b>Document Title</b>	Stafford Borough Local Plan 1998
<b>Plan Type</b>	Statutory Development Plan

<b>Plan Owner/Competent Authority</b>	Stafford Borough Council
<b>Timescales</b>	(saved policies extended beyond 2007)
<b>Geographical Coverage</b>	Stafford Borough
<b>Related Documents (e.g. evidence base, SA/SEA, HRA/AA)</b>	Proposals Map, Space About Dwellings SPG, Extensions to Dwellings SPG
<b>Document Details</b>	<b>Potential for Impacts that could cause cumulative effects</b>
<p>The overall aim of the plan is to make provision for the levels of development established in the Staffordshire Structure Plan and to balance the need for development with the protection and enhancement of the environment. The purpose of the Local Plan is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop the policies and general proposals of the Staffordshire Structure Plan 1986-2001 and to relate them to precise areas of land.</li> <li>• To provide a detailed basis for the control of development through planning applications.</li> <li>• To provide a detailed basis for co-ordinating the development or other use of land.</li> <li>• To bring environmental and ecological issues in to the future planning of the area.</li> <li>• To ensure that development and growth are sustainable so that present and future generations are not denied the best of today's environment.</li> <li>• To help manage demand for and improve efficiency in the use of resources [and to take account of the</li> </ul>	<p>The Local Plan policies are saved and therefore remain part of the Statutory Development Plan for the Borough. However the due to the date of the Plan, development and growth allocations are now outdated through completions and committed development. As such the Plan no longer proposes significant development; however it does provide important policies in relation to environmental protection. It therefore provides relates positively to those policies of the East Staffordshire Local Plan that afford environmental protection to European sites.</p>

accessibility of land uses].

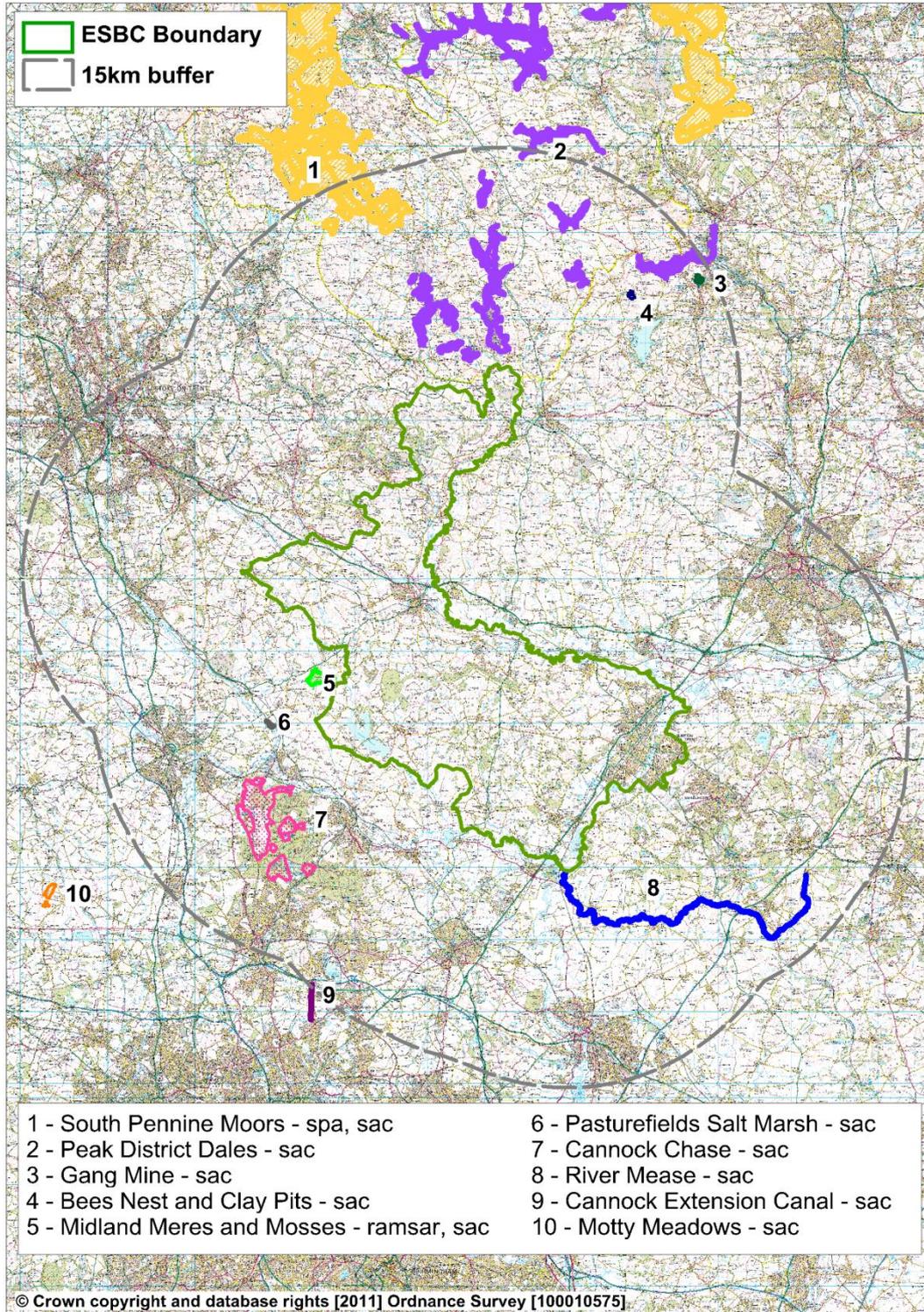
- To reduce the need to travel particularly by private car.
- To bring local and detailed planning issues before the public.

The Local Plan affords environmental protection to sites of international importance in line with the European Directive. Policy E & D37 states that any development which could have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination, will not be permitted unless there is no alternative solution and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest. Where the site concerned hosts a priority natural habitat type and/or a priority species, development will not be permitted unless it is necessary for reasons of human health or public safety or for beneficial consequences of primary importance for nature conservation.

Further to this, Policy E & D36 require that development proposals which may affect a European site to be accompanied by an ecology survey and report. Supporting text advises that planning conditions, agreements or obligations should be considered to secure all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 as defined in Article 3 of the Habitats Directive is protected and to ensure the protection of and enhancement of the sites nature conservation interest.

## Appendix 2 – Map

Map 1 Natura Sites



### Appendix 3 Strategic and Detailed Policies - Screening Matrix

Preferred Option Policy	Relevant European Sites	Assessment Category	Potential Impact		Comment	Likely Significant Impact on a European site (s)		Policy to enable screen out	Requirement for AA
			Impact	Indicator		Alone	In Combination		
SP1 East Staffordshire Approach to Sustainable Development	NA	A2	NA	NA	Policy intends to protect the national environment	NA	NA	NA	NA

SP2 A Strong Network of Settlements	Peak District Moors  South Pennine Moors Cannock Chase Cannock Extension Canal  Peak District Dales  Chartley Moss  Midlands Meres and Mosses	D2	Recreational pressure	Population increase	Whilst the spatial strategy promoted growth in areas at a greater distance from the European sites, it would result in a population increase with the potential for an increase in visitors to some European sites	-	x	Yes detailed Policy 11 and Strategic Policy SP24 and SP26	No
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SP3 Provision of Homes and Jobs	Peak District Moors South Pennine Moors Cannock Chase Cannock Extension Canal Peak District Dales Chartley Moss Midlands Meres and Mosses	D2	Recreational pressure  Air quality  Water resources	Recreational pressure  Emissions  Water resource use	Increased development could have air quality, increased population and greater resource use	-	x	Yes detailed Strategic Policy 2	No
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SP4 Distribution of Housing Growth	Peak District Moors  South Pennine Moors  Cannock Chase Cannock Extension Canal  Peak District Dales  West Midlands Meres and Mosses	A4	Recreational pressure	Population increase	Whilst the spatial strategy promoted growth in areas at a greater distance from the European sites, it would result in a population increase with the potential for an increase in visitors to some European sites	-	x	Yes detailed Policy 11 and Strategic Policy SP24 and SP26	No
SP5 Distribution of Employment Growth	West Midlands Meres and Mosses	B1	Air quality	Emissions	Increased employment development could increase emissions and increase water resource use	-	-	Yes detailed policy 11	No
SP6 Managing the Release of Housing and Employment Land	NA	A1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

SP7 Sustainable Urban Extensions	River Mease  Cannock Chase  Peak District Dales  Peak District Moors	D1	Recreational Pressure   Hydrology	Population increase  Water quality and resource	The Local Plan Policy includes a spatial allocation for major urban extensions, which may lead to additional population and visitor pressure on European sites.	*	*	Yes	No
SP8 Development Outside Settlement Boundaries	Peak District Moors  South Pennine Moors  Cannock Chase  Cannock Extension Canal  Peak District Dales  West Midlands Meres and Mosses	D2	Recreational pressure	Population increase	Whilst the spatial strategy promoted growth in areas at a greater distance from the European sites, it would result in a population increase with the potential for an increase in visitors to some European sites	-	x	Yes detailed Policy 11 and Strategic Policy SP24 and SP26	No

SP9 Infrastructure Implementation and Delivery	NA	A1	NA	NA	The policy is concerned with monitoring and infrastructure implementation review processes	-	-	NA	No
SP10 Education	NA	B1	NA	NA	Provision of schools not considered to have a direct relationship to European Sites	-	-	NA	No
SP11 Bargates and Molson Coors Site	River Mease  Cannock Chase  Peak District Moors  Peak District Dales	A4	Visitor Pressure  Water use	Population increase  Increase in water use	Site in Burton could lead to population increase and associated resource use and recreation pressure	-	x	Yes detailed Policy 11 and Strategic Policy SP24 and SP26	No

SP12 Derby Road Regeneration Corridor	River Mease Cannock Chase Peak District Moors Peak District Dales	A4	Visitor Pressure Water use	Population increase Increase in water use	Site in Burton could lead to population increase and associated resource use and recreation pressure	-	x	Yes detailed Policy 11 and Strategic Policy SP24 and SP26	No
SP13 Burton and Uttoxeter Employment	River Mease	B1	Water Quality and Quantity	Water abstraction, Change in drainage, Water pollution (industrial)	A mix of employment uses (B1, B2, B8) may have the potential for industrial water pollution.	-	-	Yes detailed Policy 11 and Strategic Policy SP24 and SP26	No

SP14 Rural Economy	River Mease	B1	Water Quality and Quantity	Water abstraction, Change in drainage, Water pollution	<p>The policy positively steers development to existing settlements.</p> <p>The strategic village of Barton under Needwood is within closest proximity to a European site (7.1km from River Mease) for which water quality and quantity is an existing conservation issue</p>	?	-	Yes detailed Policy 11 and Strategic Policy SP24 and SP26	No
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SP15 Tourism, Culture and Leisure Development	Peak District Moors South Pennine Moors Cannock Chase Cannock Extension Canal Peak District Dales Chartley Moss Midlands Meres and Mosses Bees and Green Clay Pits	C2	Recreational pressure alleviation	Visitor numbers	Provision and enhancement of tourist attractions could alleviate visitor pressures on European sites	-	-	Yes detailed Policy 11 and Strategic Policy SP24 and SP26	No
SP16 Meeting housing needs	NA	A1	NA	NA	Policy relates to the specific mix of housing required	NA	NA	NA	No

SP17 Affordable Housing	NA	A1	NA	NA	Policy relates to the specific mix of housing required	NA	NA	NA	No
SP18 Housing Development on Exception sites	Peak District Moors  South Pennine Moors  Cannock Chase  Cannock Extension Canal  Peak District Dales  Chartley Moss  Midlands Meres and Mosses  Bees and Green Clay Pits	C2	Recreational pressure  Water use  Air quality	Population increase  Increased water use  Increase in emissions	The policy aims to steer development to sustainable settlements in line with the development strategy, away from European sites	?	-	Yes detailed Policy 11 and Strategic Policy SP24 and SP26	No

SP19 Gypsy and Traveller Pitches	NA	A4	NA	NA	The policy steers gypsy and traveller pitches within the development boundaries, and provides qualitative criteria regarding their design	-	-	NA	No
SP 20 Town and Local Centres	NA	A4	NA	NA	Policy sets the strategy for retail and town centre developments	-	-	NA	No
SP21 Managing Town and Local Centres	NA	A4	NA	NA	The policy positively steers development to the town centre and improve green infrastructure links to the existing network	-	-	NA	No

SP22 Supporting Local Communities	NA	A4	NA	NA	The policy positively steers development to sustainable and accessible sites in close proximity to existing settlements	-	-	NA	No
SP23 Green Infrastructure	Cannock Chase  River Mease  Peak District Dales  Pasturefields Salt Marsh	A3	Potential for physical gain of biodiversity habitats	(% gain)	Potential to enhance, extend and link green infrastructure corridors	-	-	Yes	No
SP24 High Quality Design	NA	A1 and A3	NA	NA	The policy would not lead to development	-	-	NA	No
SP25 Historic Environment	NA	A1	NA	NA	The policy only relates to historic buildings and landscapes	NA	NA	NA	NA

SP26 National Forest	NA	A2	NA	NA	<p>Although no European sites lie within the National Forest, the policy will lead to habitat creation.</p> <p>Promotion and enhancement of the National Forest could alleviate visitor pressures on European sites.</p>	-	-	NA	No
SP27 Climate Change, Water Management and Flooding	River Mease Midlands Meres and Mosses Chartley Moss	A2	Water Quality and Quantity	Water abstraction, Change in drainage, Water pollution	The policy seeks to prevent unacceptable harm to the protection and storage capacity of the flood plain, the characteristics of surface water run-off and the drainage function of the natural watercourse system	-	-	NA	No

SP28 Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	NA	A2	Air Quality	Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions	The policy encourages renewable and low carbon energy generation with the potential to contribute to clean energy supply, reductions in greenhouse gas and other polluting emissions. The policy recognises the need to consider the impact on designated European sites.	-	-	NA	No
SP29 Biodiversity and Geodiversity	NA	A2	Protected species and habitats	Habitat gain and biodiversity enhancement	The policy seeks to protect, maintain and enhance the biodiversity and geodiversity of all types of sites. European sites have now been referenced in a separate policy	-	-	Yes	No

SP30 Locally Significant Landscape and Views	NA	A1	NA	NA	The policy does not propose development but provides qualitative criteria regarding design	-	-	NA	No
SP31 Green Belt and Strategic Green Gaps	NA	A1	NA	NA	The policy does not propose development but guides development away from the Burton upon Trent/Swadlincote Green Belt and between Burton and surrounding villages and Uttoxeter and surrounding villages, which is a sufficient distance from any European sites	-	-	NA	No

SP32 Open Space and Outdoor Sports	Peak District Moors South Pennine Moors Cannock Chase Cannock Extension Canal Peak District Dales Chartley Moss Midlands Meres and Mosses Bees and Green Clay Pits	C2	Recreational pressure alleviation	Visitor numbers	Provision and enhancement of outdoor open space and recreational facilities could alleviate visitor pressures on European sites	-	-	Yes	No
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SP33 Indoor Sports	Peak District Moors South Pennine Moors Cannock Chase Cannock Extension Canal Peak District Dales Chartley Moss Midlands Meres and Mosses Bees and Green Clay Pits	C2	Recreational pressure alleviation	Visitor numbers	Provision and enhancement of indoor recreational facilities could alleviate visitor pressures on European sites	-	-	Yes	No
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SP34 Health	NA	A1	NA	NA	The policy does not propose development but provides standards for quality developments	-	-	NA	No
SP35 Accessibility and Sustainable Transport	NA	A2	Air Quality	Potential decrease in greenhouse gas emissions	The policy promotes a shift to more sustainable modes of transport, thereby encouraging a decrease in vehicle related emissions	-	-	NA	No

### Detailed Policies Screening Matrix

Preferred Option Policy	Relevant European Sites	Assessment Category	Potential Impact		Comment	Likely Significant Impact on a European site (s)		Policy to enable screen out	Requirement for AA
			Impact	Indicator		Alone	In combination		
DP1 Design of New Development	NA	A1	NA	NA	The policy does not lead to development but provides residential design criteria	-	-	NA	No
DP2 Designing in Sustainable Construction	River Mease	A2	NA	NA	The policy promotes incorporation of facilities that minimise the use of water and the creation of waste, limit adverse effects on water quality, reduce water consumption and minimise the risk of flooding	-	-	NA	No

DP3 Design of New Residential Development, Extensions and Curtilages	NA	A1	NA	NA	The policy does not lead to development but provides residential design criteria	-	-	NA	No
DP4 Replacement Dwellings in the Countryside	NA	A1	NA	NA	The policy does not lead to development but provides residential design criteria for replacement dwellings	-	-	NA	No
DP 5 Protecting the historic environment All heritage Assets, Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas	NA	A3	NA	NA	The policy does not lead to development but provides design and process criteria for heritage assets, listed buildings and conservation areas	-	-	NA	No
DP 6 Protecting the historic environment - other heritage assets	NA	A3	NA	NA	The policy does not lead to development but provides design and process criteria for heritage assets	-	-	NA	No

DP 7 Pollution	NA	A2	NA	NA	NA	-	-	NA	No
DP8 Tree Protection	NA	A2	NA	NA	The policy promotes the protection of trees based on their visual, ecological and environmental amenity	-	-	NA	No
DP9 Advertisements	NA	A1	NA	NA	The policy will not lead to development	-	-	NA	No
DP10 Water recreation and blue infrastructure	River Mease West Midlands Meres and Mosses	A2	NA	NA	The policy could elad to impacts ion the water environment however mitigation is contained within the policy in terms of water wuality, carrying capacity, navigcation, habitat and ecological change	-	-	NA	No

<p>DP11 European Sites</p>	<p>Peak District Moors</p> <p>South Pennine Moors</p> <p>Cannock Chase</p> <p>Cannock Extension Canal</p> <p>Peak District Dales</p> <p>West Chartley Moss</p> <p>Midlands Meres and Mosses</p> <p>Bees and Green Clay Pits</p>	<p>A4</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>The policy specifically deals with possible impacts on all European Sites, particularly Cannock Chase SAC</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>NA</p>	<p>No</p>
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DP12 St Georges	Peak District Dales West Chartley Moss Midlands Meres and Mosses	A2	Visitor Pressure	Increase in visitors	The policy aims to support development at St Georges which could have a knock on effect to attracting visitors to other areas of the midlands	-	x	Yes detailed Policy 11 and Strategic Policy SP24 and SP26	No
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### Appendix 4 Strategic Sites - Screening Matrix

Strategic Site	Relevant European Sites	Assessment Category	Potential Impact		Comment	Likely Significant Impact on a European site (s)		Policy to enable screen out	Requirement for AA
			Impact	Indicator		Alone	In combination		
Lawns Farm	River Mease	B1	Water quality/ quantity	Increased demand/s upply/disc harge	The Borough is not within the River Mease catchment area, therefore there are no likely significant effects.	-	-	No	No
	Cannock Chase	B1	Recreational pressures	Visitor numbers	Despite covering a large area, the site's mixed use nature will improve its self-sufficiency and green space provisions should reduce travel distances for recreational purposes.	-	x	Yes, detailed Policy 11 and Strategic Policy SP24 and SP26	No
Beamhill	River Mease	B1	Water quality/ quantity	Increased demand/s upply/disc harge	The Borough is not within the River Mease catchment area, therefore there are no likely significant effects.	-	-	No	No

	Cannock Chase	B1	Recreational pressures	Visitor numbers	Development proposals for the site include a GI strategy, National Forest planting and a wooded corridor around Kitling Brook. This should reduce travel distances for recreational purposes. As confirmed by the outline planning application's accompanying EIA, the site is of a sufficient distance (21.8km) away from Cannock Chase to avoid the likelihood of a significant effect.	-	x	Yes, Policy SP20 and SP23	No
Pirelli, Beech Lane	River Mease	B1	Water quality/ quantity	Increased demand/s upply/disc harge	The Borough is not within the River Mease catchment area, therefore there are no likely significant effects.	-	-	No	No
	Cannock Chase	B1	Recreational pressures	Visitor numbers	This is a town centre, mixed use site which is of a sufficient distance (24.6km) away from Cannock Chase to avoid the likelihood of a significant effect.	-	x	Yes, detailed Policy 11 and Strategic Policy SP24 and SP26	No
Branston Depot	River Mease	B1	Water quality/ quantity	Increased demand/s upply/disc harge	The Borough is not within the River Mease catchment area, therefore there are no likely significant effects.	-	-	No	No
	Cannock Chase	B1	Recreational pressures	Visitor numbers	This is a town centre, mixed use site which is of a sufficient distance (21.8km) away from Cannock Chase to avoid the likelihood of a significant effect.	-	x	Yes, detailed Policy 11 and Strategic Policy SP24 and SP26	No

Town Centre sites at Bargates, Molson Coors High Street and Middle Yard	River Mease	B1	Water quality/ quantity	Increased demand/s upply/disc harge	The Borough is not within the River Mease catchment area, therefore there are no likely significant effects.	-	-	No	No
	Cannock Chase	B1	Recreational pressures	Visitor numbers	Due to the location of the site and close links to the washlands and Burtons GI network, it is not considered that the development would cause a significant effect	-	x	Yes, detailed Policy 11 and Strategic Policy SP24 and SP26	No
Derby Road	River Mease	B1	Water quality/ quantity	Increased demand/s upply/disc harge	The Borough is not within the River Mease catchment area, therefore there are no likely significant effects.	-	-	No	No
	Cannock Chase	B1	Recreational pressures	Visitor numbers	Due to the location of the site and close links to the towns GI network, particularly canal network, along with meeting new GI standards, it is not considered that the development would cause a significant effect	-	x	Yes, detailed Policy 11 and Strategic Policy SP24 and SP26	No
Harehedg e Lane	River Mease	B1	Water quality/ quantity	Increased demand/s upply/disc harge	The Borough is not within the River Mease catchment area, therefore there are no likely significant effects.	-	-	No	No

	Cannock Chase	B1	Recreational pressures	Visitor numbers	The site has a yield of 500 dwellings, and is therefore considered not to be of a sufficient scale for development to cause a likely significant effect.	-	x	Yes, detailed Policy 11 and Strategic Policy SP24 and SP26	No
Guinevere Road, Stretton	River Mease	B1	Water quality/ quantity	Increased demand/s upply/disc harge	The Borough is not within the River Mease catchment area, therefore there are no likely significant effects.	-	-	No	No
	Cannock Chase	B1	Recreational pressures	Visitor numbers	The land north of Stretton has a yield of 100 dwellings, and is therefore considered not to be of a sufficient scale for development to cause a likely significant effect.	-	x	Yes, detailed Policy 11 and Strategic Policy SP24 and SP26	No
Land south of Main Street, Branston	River Mease	B1	Water quality/ quantity	Increased demand/s upply/disc harge	The Borough is not within the River Mease catchment area, therefore there are no likely significant effects.	-	-	No	No
	Cannock Chase	B1	Recreational pressures	Visitor numbers	Development at this site would direct growth away from the Cannock Chase SAC, which is situated 20.1km to the west. The 650 dwellings would be accompanied by extensive open space provisions, and in close proximity to the Drakelow Nature Reserve and Branston Water Park. Combined with the distance, the number of visitors would be unlikely to have a significant effect.	-	x	Yes, detailed Policy 11 and Strategic Policy SP24 and SP26	No

Uttoxeter									
Land West of Uttoxeter	Peak District Moors and Cannock Chase	A4	Recreational Pressure	Visitor numbers	Due to the distance from the Peak District Moors the number of visitors would be unlikely to have a significant affect. In addition mitigation will be provided by detailed policy 11 and the requirement for onsite open space and green infrastructure standards	-	x	Yes, detailed Policy 11 and Strategic Policy SP24	No
	Pasturefields Salt Marsh	B1	Water Quantity	Increase in demand/supply	The site is of sufficient distance away from the Pasturefield Salt Marsh (11.7km) to avoid the likelihood of a significant affect.	-	-	No	No
	Chartley Moss  Midland Meres and Mosses	B1	Pollution  Recreational Pressure	Air quality  Visitor numbers	The site is not of a sufficient scale for development to cause a likely significant effect. However the Midland Mosses is vulnerable to diffuse air pollution and development of the site could contribute to wider cumulative effects through increasing polluting emissions, which may impact on the site.	-	-	Yes, detailed Policy 11 and Strategic Policy SP24	No
	Gang Mine	B1	Recreational Pressure	Visitor numbers	Given the size of the site and the distance away from Gang Mine (14.1km), development of the site is unlikely to have a significant affect.	-	-	No	No

Stone Road	Pasturefields Salt Marsh	B1	Water Quantity	Increase in demand/supply	The site is likely to accommodate around 100 dwellings, therefore given the size of the site and the distance away from the Midland Meres and Mosses (12.5km), development of the site is unlikely to have a significant affect.	-	-	No	No
	Midland Mosses (SAC)  Midlands Meres and Mosses	B1	Pollution  Recreational Pressure	Air quality  Visitor numbers	The site is not of a sufficient scale for development to cause a likely significant effect. However the Midland Mosses is vulnerable to diffuse air pollution and development of the site could contribute to wider cumulative effects through increasing polluting emissions, which may impact on the site.	-	-	Yes, detailed Policy 11 and Strategic Policy SP24	No
Brookside	Pasturefields Salt Marsh	B1	Water Quantity	Increase in demand/supply	The site is likely to accommodate around 100 dwellings, therefore given the size of the site and the distance away from the Midland Meres and Mosses (12.5km), development of the site is unlikely to have a significant affect.	-	-	No	No

	Chartley Moss  Midlands Meres and Mosses (Ramsar)	B1	Pollution  Recreational Pressure	Air quality  Visitor numbers	The site is not of a sufficient scale for development to cause a likely significant effect. However the Midland Mosses is vulnerable to diffuse air pollution and development of the site could contribute to wider cumulative effects through increasing polluting emissions, which may impact on the site.	-	-	Yes, detailed Policy 11 and Strategic Policy SP24	No
JCB	Cannock Chase	B1	Recreational Pressure	Visitor numbers	The site is being promoted for the development of 257 dwellings and mixed uses, as such the site is not of a sufficient scale to generate a significant increase in visitor numbers. In addition, the site masterplan includes the provision of a central landscape zone, with a central park running from the west to east through the site with amenity and nature conservation value.	-	x	Yes, detailed Policy 11 and Strategic Policy SP24	No
	Pasturefields Salt Marsh	B1	Water Quantity	Increase in demand/supply	Given the size of the site and the distance away from the Pasturefields Salt Marsh (12.6km), development of the site is unlikely to have a significant affect.	-	-	No	No

	Midland Mosses (SAC)	B1	Pollution	Air quality	The site is not of a sufficient scale for development to cause a likely significant effect. However the Midland Mosses is vulnerable to diffuse air pollution and development of the site could contribute to wider cumulative effects through increasing polluting emissions, which may impact on the site.	-	-	Yes, detailed Policy 11 and Strategic Policy SP24	No
	Midlands Meres and Mosses		Recreational Pressure	Visitor numbers					
	Pasturefields Salt Marsh	B1	Water Quantity	Water demand/supply	The site is not of a sufficient scale for development to cause a likely significant effect.	-	-	No	No
Hazelwall s Farm	Cannock Chase	B1	Recreational Pressure	Visitor numbers	The site is not of a sufficient scale for development to cause a likely significant effect.  The site is around 14km from Cannock Chase and whilst this is within the distance travelled, that has been identified for the majority of visitors, the site would only provide a relatively small number of dwellings and new residents. However, the site could contribute to a cumulative increase in recreational pressure.	-	x	Yes, detailed Policy 11 and Strategic Policy SP24	No
	Pasturefields Salt Marsh	B1	Water Quantity	Water demand/supply	The site is not of a sufficient scale for development to cause a likely significant effect.	-	-	No	No

	Midland Mosses (SAC)  Midlands Meres and Mosses	B1	Pollution  Recreational Pressure	Air quality  Visitor numbers	Despite the proximity to the SAC and Ramsar (5.9km), the site is not of a sufficient scale for development to cause a likely significant effect. However the Midland Mosses is vulnerable to diffuse air pollution and development of the site could contribute to wider cumulative effects through increasing polluting emissions, which may impact on the site.	-	-	Yes, detailed Policy 11 and Strategic Policy SP24	No
Land at Derby Road for Employment	Pasturefields Salt Marsh	B1	Water Quantity	Water demand and supply	Unlikely that employment development would cause a likely significant effect	-	-	No	No
	Chartley Moss	B1	Pollution  Recreational Pressure	Air quality  Visitor numbers	Unlikely that employment development would cause a likely significant effect	-	-	No	No
<b>Strategic Villages</b>									
South of Main Street, Rocester	Peak District Dales	B1	Water quantity	Water demand/supply	The site is situated 11.1km from the Peak District Dales, although is not of a sufficient scale (4.1ha, 123 dwellings) for development to cause a likely significant effect.	-	-	No	No

	Midland Mosses (SAC)  Midlands Meres and Mosses	B1	Pollution  Recreational Pressure	Air quality  Visitor numbers	Despite the proximity to the SAC and Ramsar (13.1km), the site is not of a sufficient scale for development to cause a likely significant effect. However the Midland Mosses is vulnerable to diffuse air pollution and development of the site could contribute to wider cumulative effects through increasing polluting emissions, which may impact on the site.	-	-	Yes, Detailed policy 11, Strategic Policy 24	No
Land at Burton Road, Tutbury	River Mease	B1	Water Quality/Quantity	Increased demand/supply/dischARGE	The site is not within the River Mease catchment area, as such there are no likely significant affects.	-	-	No	No
Rolleston College Site	Midland Meres and Mosses	B1	Pollution  Recreational Pressure	Air quality  Water demand/supply	Given the size of the site (approximately 120 dwellings) and the distance from the Midland Meres and Mosses (14km), development of the site is unlikely to have a significant affect.	-	-	No	No
	River Mease	B1	Water Quality/Quantity	Increased demand/supply/dischARGE	The site is not within the River Mease catchment area, therefore there are no likely significant affects.	-	-	No	No

	Cannock Chase	B1	Recreational Pressure	Visitor numbers	<p>At 6ha (120 dwellings), the site is not of a sufficient scale for development to cause a likely significant effect.</p> <p>The site is around 14km from Cannock Chase and whilst this is within the distance travelled, that has been identified for the majority of visitors, and the site would only provide a relatively small number of dwellings and new residents. However, the site could contribute to a cumulative increase in recreational pressure.</p>	-	-	Yes, Detailed policy 11, Strategic Policy 24	No
Barton Efflinch Lane	River Mease	B1	Water Quality/Quantity	Increased demand/supply/dischARGE	Whilst the site is within close proximity to the River Mease (2.69km), it is not within the Mease catchment area and therefore is not hydrologically connected. As such, there are no likely significant affects.	-	-	No	No
	Cannock Chase	B1	Recreational Pressure	Visitor numbers	Due to the distance from Cannock Chase (17.2km) the number of visitors generated from the residential development of the site would be unlikely to have a significant affect. However, the site could contribute to a wider cumulative impact.	-	-	Yes, Detailed policy 11, Strategic Policy 24	No