
HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT



The South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy – Preferred Options

August 2008

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South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy - Preferred Options

Prepared for: Malvern Hills District Council, Worcester City Council and
Wychavon District Council

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Malvern Hills District Council, Worcester City Council and Wychavon District Council are currently preparing the South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy. When adopted, the Core Strategy will provide the planning framework that guides development in South Worcestershire over the period to 2026. An Issues and Options paper was published for public consultation in November/December 2007 and the results of that consultation have been considered in preparing the Preferred Options document.
- 1.2 The three South Worcestershire Districts commissioned Enfusion in May 2007 to carry out Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment [SEA]) of the Joint Core Strategy and the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening which has been undertaken in parallel.
- 1.3 Habitats Regulations Assessment is also commonly referred to as Appropriate Assessment (AA) although the requirement for AA is first determined by an initial 'screening' stage undertaken as part of the HRA. This report details the process and finding of this first screening stage.

Requirement for Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 1.4 The European Directive (92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna (the Habitats Directive) protects habitats and species of European nature conservation importance. The Habitats Directive establishes a network of internationally important sites designated for their ecological status. These are referred to as Natura 2000 sites or European Sites, and comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).
- 1.5 Articles 6 (3) and 6 (4) of the Habitats Directive require AA to be undertaken on proposed plans or projects which are not necessary for the management of the site but which are likely to have a significant effect on one or more Natura 2000 sites either individually, or in combination with other plans and projects.¹ In 2007, this requirement was transposed into UK law in Part IVA of the Habitats Regulations (The Conservation (Natural Habitats, & c.) (Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007). These regulations require the application of AA to all land use plans. Government guidance also requires that Ramsar sites (which support internationally important wetland habitats and are listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance [Ramsar Convention]) are included within HRA/AA.

¹ Determining whether an effect is 'significant' is undertaken in relation to the designated interest features and conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites. If an impact on any conservation objective is assessed as being adverse then it should be treated as significant and where information is limited the precautionary principle applies.

- 1.6 The purpose of AA is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan, in combination with the effects of other plans and projects, against the conservation objectives of a European Site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity² of that site. Where significant negative effects are identified, alternative options should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects. The scope of the AA is dependent on the location, size and significance of the proposed plan or project and is first determined by screening.

Guidance for Habitats Regulations Assessment [Appropriate Assessment (AA)]

- 1.7 Draft guidance for AA 'Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment', has been produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG, August 2006). The final DCLG guidance is expected to be produced in 2008. A partnership of consultants³ has also prepared guidance (Appropriate Assessment of Plans, August 2007) to assist planning bodies in complying with the Habitats Directive and draft guidance for the Assessment of Sub-Regional Strategies under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations has been developed by English Nature (August 2006). Most recently the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) produced guidance on HRA to support the planning community.⁴
- 1.8 The application of HRA to Local Development Documents is an emerging field and in the absence of official Government guidance the approach applied for the South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy Preferred Options is based on the best available guidance and emergent practice. The method applied considers HRA in three main stages - outlined in **Table 1**. This report addresses the first screening stage [1] of the HRA.

² Integrity is described as the sites' coherence, ecological structure and function across the whole area that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or levels of populations of species for which it was classified, (ODPM, 2005).

³ Scott Wilson, Levett-Therivel Sustainability Consultants, Treweek Environmental Consultants and Land Use Consultants.

⁴ Dodd AM, Cleary BE, Dawkins JS, Byron HJ, Palframan LJ & Williams GM (2007) The Appropriate Assessment of Spatial plans: a guide to why, when and how to do it. RSPB, Sandy.

Table 1 Habitats Regulations Assessment: Key Stages	
Stage 1	
Screening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify international sites in and around the plan/strategy area ▪ Examine conservation objectives (if available) ▪ Analyse the policy/plan and its key components ▪ Identify potential effects on Natura 2000 sites ▪ Examine other plans and programmes that could contribute to 'in combination' effects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>If no effects likely – report that no significant effect.</i> ▪ <i>If effects are judged likely or uncertainty exists – the precautionary principle applies proceed to stage 2</i>
Stage 2	
Appropriate Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collate information on sites and evaluate impact in light of conservation objectives ▪ Consider how plan 'in combination' with other plans and programmes will interact when implemented (the Appropriate Assessment) ▪ Consider how effect on integrity of site could be avoided by changes to plan and the consideration of alternatives ▪ Develop mitigation measures (including timescale and mechanisms)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Report outcomes of AA and develop monitoring strategies</i> ▪ <i>If effects remain following the consideration of alternatives and development of mitigations proceed to stage 3</i>
Stage 3	
Assessment where no alternatives and adverse impacts remain	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI) ▪ Identify/ develop potential compensatory measures
	<i>Difficult test to pass, requirements are onerous and untested to date</i>

Consultation

- 1.9 The Habitats Regulations require the plan making/competent authority [Malvern Hills District Council, Worcester City Council and Wychavon District Council] to consult the appropriate nature conservation statutory body [Natural England (NE)]. NE were contacted prior to formal consultation for their views and input to the screening process but at the time of writing have not provided commentary. Feedback from NE will be incorporated into the assessment and conclusions of the report as necessary following the formal consultation period.
- 1.10 The Habitats Regulations leave consultation with other bodies and the public to the discretion of the plan making authority. Where possible, guidance recommends that this consultation be undertaken alongside the consultation for the plan. This Screening Report is being published

alongside the South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy Preferred Options.

Purpose and Structure of Report

- 1.11 This report documents the process and findings of the Screening Stage of HRA for the South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy and Preferred Options. Following this introductory section the document is organised into three further sections:
- **Section 2** outlines the method used for the screening process.
 - **Section 3** outlines the screening process and summary findings of the screening assessment.
 - **Section 4** outlines the key conclusions and discusses the requirement for future AA work.

2.0 METHOD

- 2.1 In accordance with the official guidance and current practice, conducting the screening stage of the HRA for The South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy used the method outlined below. This approach combines both a **plan** focus and a **site** focus.
- The **plan** focus first screens out those elements of the plan unlikely to affect European site integrity and then considers the impacts of the remaining elements on European sites, including the potential for 'in-combination' impacts.
 - The **site** focus considers the environmental conditions of the site and the factors required to maintain site integrity, and looks at the potential impacts the plan may have.
- 2.2 HRA experience to date has indicated that maintaining a site based approach as core to the HRA/AA method more closely reflects the intent of the Habitats Directive. This means that subsequent avoidance and mitigation measures [developed if/as required during the AA stage 2] seek to focus on the conditions necessary to maintain site integrity (e.g. avoiding specific types of development/ activity at or near sensitive areas). This is considered to be a more robust and defensible approach than adding policy caveats at a strategic level and devolving decisions about impacts on site integrity to lower level planning documents. Although, this approach does recognise that some decisions on avoidance and mitigation can only be made when site level detail becomes available.
- 2.3 The key tasks employed for the HRA Screening are set out in the following table.

Table 2	
HRA Screening Stage: Key Tasks	
Task 1 Identification of Natura 2000 sites & characterisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identification of European sites both within the SWJCS boundary and in a buffer zone of 15km around.⁵ ▪ Information was obtained for each European site, based on publicly available information and consultation with Natural England where appropriate.⁶ ▪ This included information relating to the sites' qualifying features; conservation objectives (where available) ; vulnerabilities/ sensitivities and geographical boundaries.
Task 2 Strategy review, policy screening and identification of likely impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Screening of the Preferred Policy Approaches and the identification of likely impacts (including a review of the strategy to determine likely impacts).
Task 3 Consideration of other plans and programmes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Consideration, where appropriate, of other plans and programmes that may have in-combination effects with the Core Strategy Preferred Options.
Task 4 Screening Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Summary of screening outcomes and recommendations.

2.4 As part of this screening process consideration was also given to related HRA work and Sustainability Appraisal (SA)/ Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) work being undertaken within South Worcestershire, in neighboring councils and in the wider area. For example, this included the HRA of the Phase II Revision of the RSS for the West Midlands (URSUS & Treweek, 2007) and the HRA Report of the Draft RSS for the South West (LUC, 2007).

⁵ Buffer zone distance based on extant guidance, (English Nature, 2006).

⁶ www.jncc.gov.uk, www.natural-england.org.uk, LUC, SWRA, Feb 2007) The Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West, Final Report

3.0 SCREENING

Task 1: Identification of Natura 2000 sites & characterisation

- 3.1 There are two Natura 2000 sites (**table 3**) within the SWJCS boundary. Summary site characterisations are provided below, and detailed information for each designated site, is provided in **Appendix 1**.

Table 3	Designation
European Sites within boundary	
Lyppard Grange	SAC
Bredon Hill	SAC

- **Bredon Hill SAC** is an area of pasture woodland and ancient parkland situated approximately 4.5km to the South West of Evesham. The site provides habitat for the Violet Click Beetle *Limoniscus violaceus* beetle, which develops in the decaying wood either of very large, old hollow beech trees (Windsor Forest) or ash trees (Worcestershire/Gloucestershire border sites). Currently the only site attributes which Natural England understands the species to need is related to the abundance and condition of the ancient trees within which it develops.
 - **Lyppard Grange SAC** is situated on the East outskirts of Worcester set amongst a recent housing development on former pastoral farmland. The site is composed of two ponds in an area of grassland and scrub (public open space). The site provides habitat for Great Crested Newts *Triturus cristatus*, which are dependent on both the terrestrial habitat (to provide foraging areas and refuge) and aquatic habitat (for breeding).
- 3.2 Plans and programmes have spatial implications that can extend beyond the intended plan area boundaries. In particular; it is also recognised that distance in itself is not a definitive guide to the likelihood or severity of an impact as factors such as the prevailing wind direction, river flow direction, and groundwater flow direction will all have a bearing on the relative distance at which an impact can occur. This means that a plan directing development some distance away from a European site could still have effects on the site and, therefore, needs to be considered as part of the screening process.
- 3.3 Taking into account the potential for transboundary impacts the screening has identified three European sites within a 15km buffer of the SWJCS administrative boundary and two water dependent European sites downstream from the SWJCS area (**table 4**). Summary site characterisations are provided below. A pre-screening exercise was carried out and on the basis of this analysis the five sites were scoped out of this screening. The reasoning for this is presented below each of the summary site characterisations below.

Table 4	Designation
European Sites within a 15 km buffer zone & downstream	
Dixton Woods	SAC
Downton Gorge	SAC
River Wye	SAC
Severn Estuary	SPA/ Ramsar/ cSAC
Walmore Common	SPA/ Ramsar

- Dixton Wood SAC** is situated approximately 6.7km to the South East of Tewkesbury and is an area of broadleaved woodland (formerly partially grazed) with a dominance of ash including exceptionally large ancient pollards. The site is designated for its population of Violet Click Beetle *Limoniscus violaceus*, which is largely dependent on these pollards (for breeding). Principal risks to the site's integrity are lack of future replacement pollards (age-class skewed to older generation) and game management practices.

3.4 Dixton Wood SAC is 2.4km from the SWJCS boundary and according to the JNCC notes that the principal risks to the site's integrity are lack of future replacement pollards and game management practices. These issues according to the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) will be addressed through localised management agreements with the owner of the site. The HRA of the Phase II Revision of the RSS for the West Midlands (2007) and the Air Pollution Information System (www.apis.ac.uk) identify that the critical loads for acid and nitrogen deposition are exceeded at this site. However, based on Natural England advice to Runnymede Borough Council on traffic-related air pollution⁷ and the HRA of the SE Plan⁸, it is generally felt that air pollution only needs to be considered at a site if a road carrying a significant proportion of new traffic related to the plan runs within 200 meters of a European site. Beyond this distance air pollution impacts that may arise from traffic fall to background levels. Dixton Woods SAC is not situated within 200m of any major roads and the policies proposed in the SWJCS will help to mitigate or offset increases in air pollution through measures such as ensuring high levels of sustainable design for new buildings and a wide range of sustainable transport choices. Taking these considerations into account it is unlikely that the SWJCS Preferred Options will have significant effects alone or in-combination on Dixton Wood SAC.

- Downton Gorge SAC** is an example of *Tilio-Acerion* forests in a narrow ravine with a distinctive microclimate and a variety of slopes and aspects. Both small leaved lime *Tilia cordata* and large-leaved lime *T. platyphyllos* occur, together with ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and elm *Ulmus spp.* The ground flora includes wood fescue *Festuca*

⁷ English Nature (16 May 2006) letter to Runnymede Borough Council, 'Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, Runnymede Borough Council Local Development Framework'.

⁸ Levett-Therivel (2006) Appropriate Assessment of the Draft South East Plan. Final Report.

altissima and violet helleborine *Epipactis purpurata*. The gorge cliffs are rich in ferns, reflecting the humidity of the site, with a wide range of species recorded. The site is potentially vulnerable to the effects of air- and water-borne pollution, particularly in respect of its significant lichenological interest. However these effects are not related to the management of the site.

3.5 Downton Gorge SAC is 12km north east from the SWJCS boundary and is vulnerable to the effects of air and water borne pollution. As the SWJCS area is downstream to the site it is unlikely that the associated development will have any direct effects on water levels or quality. According to the UK Air Pollution Information System (APIS) the critical loads for acid and nitrogen deposition are exceeded at this site. The majority of development proposed by the SWJCS Preferred Options is focused around Worcester City, Droitwich Spa, Malvern and other areas to the south east of the SWJCS area. The nearest proposed development to the site is approximately 15km away, consisting of 100 new dwellings near Tenbury Wells. Using the information provided in section 3.4 in regard to diffuse air pollution it is unlikely that the SWJCS Preferred Options will have significant effects alone or in-combination on Downton Gorge SAC.

- **The River Wye SAC**, on the border of England and Wales, is a large river of plain to montane levels. It has a geologically mixed catchment, including shales and sandstones, and there is a clear transition between the upland reaches, with characteristic bryophyte-dominated vegetation, and the lower reaches, with extensive *Ranunculus* beds. There is an exceptional range of aquatic flora in the catchment including river jelly-lichen *Collema dichotum*. The river channel is largely unmodified and includes some excellent gorges, as well as significant areas of associated woodland. The site is also designated for its populations of Lamprey, White-clawed crayfish, Twaiter Shad, Atlantic Salmon, Bullhead and Otter.

3.6 The River Wye SAC is 9.2km from the SWJCS boundary and is vulnerable to the effects of air and water borne pollution. Within the Wye Catchment, surface water is the dominant source of supply. The largest abstractor for public water is Welsh Water with 40% of the total daily licensed volume. Severn Trent Water (which supplies water to the SWJCS area) also abstracts holding 3 licenses in the lower River Wye, which represents 10% of the total daily licensed volume. The Wye Catchment is mainly a source of water for Birmingham, South East Wales and Gloucester. Only a very small fraction of the SWJCS area falls within the Wye Catchment making it highly unlikely that it will have a direct effect on water quality. Therefore it is unlikely that the proposed development in the SWJCS area will have significant effects alone or in-combination on the River Wye SAC.

- **Severn Estuary SPA/Ramsar/cSAC** is the largest coastal plain estuary in the UK with extensive mudflats and sandflats, rocky shore

platforms, shingle and islands. Saltmarsh fringes the coast, backed by grazing marsh with freshwater and occasional brackish ditches. The estuary's classic funnel shape, unique in the UK, is a factor causing the Severn to have the second highest tidal range in the world (after the Bay of Fundy in Canada) at more than 12 meters. This tidal regime results in plant and animal communities typical of the extreme physical conditions of strong flows, mobile sediments, changing salinity, high turbidity and heavy scouring. The resultant low diversity invertebrate communities, that frequently include populations of ragworms, lugworms and other invertebrates in high densities, form an important food source for passage and wintering birds. The site is important in the spring and autumn migration periods for waders moving along the west coast of Europe, as well as in winter for large numbers of waterbirds including swans, geese, ducks and waders. These bird populations are regarded as internationally important.

- **Walmore Common SPA/Ramsar** is located in Gloucestershire, in the west of England, about 10 km south-west of Gloucester. The site is a wetland overlying peat providing a variety of habitats including improved neutral grassland, unimproved marshy grassland and open water ditches. The area is subject to regular winter flooding and this creates suitable conditions for regular wintering by an important number of Bewick's Swan *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*. The highest bird numbers are seen during the harshest winters, when Walmore Common provides an essential feeding and roosting area.

3.7 The Severn Estuary SPA/ Ramsar/ cSAC and Walmore Common SPA/ Ramsar were initially scoped in as both sites are dependent on water and are situated downstream from SWJCS area. Under the Habitats Regulations the Environment Agency have to assess the effects of existing abstraction licences and any new applications to make sure they are not impacting on internationally important nature conservation sites. If the assessment of a new application shows that it could have an impact on a SAC/SPA the EA will have to follow strict rules in setting a time limit for that license. Effectively this means that every tributary of the Severn Estuary and River Severn must be managed using flow restrictions to ensure an appropriate flow contribution to the River Severn. This ensures that water levels in the River Severn and Estuary do not fall below critical levels.

3.8 Policies contained within the SWJCS will also help to mitigate or offset increases in abstraction through measures such as ensuring high levels of sustainable design, which require high levels of water efficiency. Severn Trent Water (STW) is the main supplier of water in the SWJCS area. STW estimates that an additional 1 - 1.3 Ml/d of water will be required for the total increase in homes (3800) in Worcester by 2016⁹. This increasing demand will partly be met through measures proposed in the plan, such as reducing leakages and improving water efficiency.

⁹ Severn Trent Water, Water resources management plan 2009 (Draft version May 2008) Volume 1 [Ml/d – million litres/day].

Taking this into account along with the strict regulations surrounding new licenses for abstraction and the subsequent HRA carried out alongside each existing and new license changes in future abstraction levels in the SWJCS area will not have significant effects, either alone or in-combination on the Severn Estuary SPA/ Ramsar/ cSAC and Walmore Common SPA/ Ramsar.

- 3.9 Information provided by the JNCC states that Waterfowl are vulnerable to the accumulation of toxins through the food chain or through direct contact with toxic substances when roosting or feeding. At the moment there is no evidence to show that this is the case, but the estuary is vulnerable to oil spills and JNCC states that there is a continuous discharge of toxins into the estuary, some of which bind to the sediments although no specific sources or locations are identified. NE and CCW identify this is an area which requires further assessment. They also identify Bewick's swans as currently moderately vulnerable to toxic contamination. In terms of water quality issues the Severn Estuary is under greater threat from point source pollution on-site, although as already stated this is an area that requires further assessment.
- 3.10 Severn Trent Water (STW) has several sewage treatment works with outfalls directly into the estuary and many more along the River Severn and its tributaries. In 2001 they joined the Association of Severn Estuary Relevant Authorities (ASERA), working alongside local government agencies, Harbour and Port Authorities, Internal Drainage Boards, the Environment Agency, English Nature, NGOs and both Wessex Water and Welsh Water, to assist with the production of a management plan for the Severn Estuary European Marine Site. The statutory organisations, with the help of user groups (Advisory Group), produced a management scheme in 2004. All the ASERA member statutory organisations review their activities and the potential impact on the nature conservation features of the site on an annual basis. The EA set very strict quality standards for the final effluent that can be returned to rivers. STWs performance on sewage treatment effluents in 2006/07 was 99.9% of works complying with their sanitary limits¹⁰. Taking all these factors into account the SWJCS Preferred Options will not have significant effects, either alone or in-combination on the Severn Estuary SPA/ Ramsar/ cSAC and Walmore Common SPA/ Ramsar.

¹⁰ Severn Trent Water. River Water Quality. (Accessed 29/05/08) Available [online]: <http://www.stwater.co.uk/server.php?show=ConWebDoc.2226>

Task 2: Strategy Review, Policy Screening and Identification of Likely Impacts

South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy: Summary Review

- 3.11 The Core Strategy establishes the spatial policies required to deliver the three South Worcestershire Districts' vision, its regeneration objectives and the regional planning agenda as set out in the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS). Issues and Options were developed in 2007 and consultation took place in November/December 2007. The Preferred Options will be subject to consultation in September 2008.
- 3.12 The RSS identifies Worcester as a designated 'Settlement of Significant Development' beyond the Major Urban Areas at which an increased proportion of new development will be delivered for the region. The RSS sets a requirement of 24,500 new dwellings and 183ha of employment land development in South Worcestershire to be delivered by 2026.
- 3.13 The three South Worcestershire Districts are characterised by a high quality landscape that includes Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (the Cotswolds to the east and Malvern Hills to the west) and beyond Worcester City, the landscape is predominantly rural in character with six main towns and two hundred villages. The Spatial Vision for SWJCS Preferred Options is set out in **Box 1** below.

Spatial Vision

South Worcestershire in 2026 will offer a significantly higher quality of life than today, providing a basis for future development into the middle of the 21st century.

The greatest change will be at Worcester where housing and employment underpinned by investment in services and infrastructure, including environmental, social and transport, will establish the historic, cathedral and university city as a vibrant sub-regional centre. This will allow it to fulfill the role as a thriving retail, employment, education, leisure and tourist centre.

Ancillary, but significant positive changes will have taken place in the main towns of Droitwich Spa, Evesham and Malvern, which will continue to function as important service centres for a wider area.

Tenbury Wells, Upton-upon-Severn, Pershore and some Category 1 and 2 Villages will also have benefited from growth to meet local employment and housing needs.

All growth, most noticeably in the urban extensions, will be characterised by locally distinctive, exciting and innovative designs, incorporating efficient construction approaches. A forward looking approach to development will provide people with the opportunity to access work, shopping, health and leisure facilities without needing to use a car.

Overall commuting outside South Worcestershire will have reduced due to the marked investment in high technology industries within the Central

Technology Belt. More residents throughout South Worcestershire will be enjoying an active life courtesy of a comprehensive network of open spaces and corridors, focused on the Rivers Avon, Severn and Teme, which will have also helped resist the worst effects of climate change.

There will remain at the heart of the area's character the traditional rural economy of farming and horticulture which will have been safeguarded and promoted as part of the specific rural developments that will have added to the vitality of the main villages.

By doing all of this there will be a higher quality environment in South Worcestershire to make it an even better place to live, work and enjoy life.

South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy: Screening of Preferred Policy Approaches

3.14 Screening of the Preferred Policy Approaches involved identifying the policies that will not have an effect on European sites. The approach taken was in accordance with Natural England guidance for HRA on Regional Spatial Strategies and Sub-Regional Strategies.¹¹ Policies were considered to have 'no effect' and were screened out on the basis of the following criteria:

1. The policy itself will not lead to development.
2. The location of the development is unknown, and will be selected following consideration of options in lower plans.
3. The policy will have no effect because development is dependent on implementation of lower tier policies.
4. The policy concentrates development in existing urban areas, steering development away from European sites and sensitive areas.
5. The policy will steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas.
6. The policy is intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity.
7. The policy is intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, and such enhancements are unlikely to affect a European site.

3.15 The Policy Screening Tables, including the rationale for a screening decision of 'no effect' are provided in **Appendix 2**. The Preferred Policy Approaches screened out of the assessment process are presented in **Table 5** below. Policies, which were considered to lead to potential significant effects, are listed in **Table 6**.

¹¹ The Assessment of Regional Spatial Strategies and Sub-regional strategies under the Provisions of the Habitats Regulations: Draft (David Tyldesley Associate, for English Nature, 2006).

Table 5

Core Strategy Preferred Policy Approaches Screened out of the assessment process ('No effect' policies)

- Policy CS1: Sustainable Development
- Policy CS4 Malvern
- Policy CS7 Tenbury Wells
- Policy CS8 Upton-upon-Severn
- Policy CS10 Spatial Strategy for the Villages
- Policy CS11 Infrastructure Delivery
- Policy CS12 Moving Around South Worcestershire
- Policy CS13 – Mix of Housing
- Policy CS14 Meeting Affordable Housing Needs In South Worcestershire
- Policy CS15 Rural Exceptions Sites
- Policy CS16 Gypsies, Travellers and travelling Showpeople
- Policy CS18 - Shopping and Leisure
- Policy CS20 – Management of Flood Risk
- Policy CS21 Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity
- Policy CS22 Open Space

Table 6

Core Strategy Policy Approaches Screened in to the assessment process

- Policy CS2 Location Strategy
- Policy CS3 Spatial Strategy for Worcester City
- Policy CS5 Droitwich Spa
- Policy CS6 Evesham
- Policy CS9 Pershore
- Policy CS17 Employment Protection and Generation
- Policy CS19 Energy efficiency and renewable energy

Identification of Likely Impacts

3.16 The Strategy Review and Screening of Preferred Policy Approaches identified a number of likely impacts that have the potential to result in significant effects on Natura 2000 sites. These impacts can be broadly characterised against the following 'pathways of impact':

- **Recreational Impacts**
- **Water Resources and Water Quality**
- **Atmospheric Pollution**

3.17 These impacts are considered in more detail in the screening assessment below.

Task 3: Consideration of other plans and programmes

- 3.18 It is a requirement of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that HRA examines the potential for plans and programmes to have a significant effect either individually or 'in combination' with other plans and programmes (PPs). Undertaking an assessment of other PPs requires a pragmatic approach (given the extensive range of PPs underway in the region). For this screening consideration of other PPs has focused on those likely to lead to significant infrastructure/ development changes with related impacts.
- 3.19 The PPs considered at this stage are listed below and reviewed in detail in **Appendix 3**.
- Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands, January 2008;
 - The Worcestershire Middle Severn Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy, 2006;
 - The Severn Corridor Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy, 2003;
 - The Teme Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy, 2003;
 - The Warwickshire Avon Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy, 2006;
 - Worcestershire County Council Waste Core Strategy Submission, 2007;
 - Gloucestershire County Council Minerals Core Strategy Preferred Options, 2008;
 - Gloucestershire County Council Waste Core Strategy Preferred Options, 2008;
 - Gloucestershire County Council Second Local Transport Plan, 2006-2011
 - Wyre District Council LDF Core Strategy Revised Issues and Options, 2008;
 - Bromsgrove District Council LDF Core Strategy Issues and Options, 2007;
 - Redditch Borough Council LDF Core Strategy Issues and Options, 2007
 - Tewkesbury Borough Council Local Plan to 2011 (adopted March 2006);
 - Stratford-on-Avon District Council LDF Core Strategy Issues and Options, 2007; and
 - Herefordshire County Council Unitary Development Plan (adopted March 2007).

Task 4: Screening Assessment of the South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy Preferred Options

- 3.20 In line with the screening requirements of the Habitats Regulations, an assessment was undertaken to determine the potential significant effects of the South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy Preferred

Options on the integrity of the two Natura 2000 sites that lie within the SWJCS boundary. This assessment was based on:

- The information gathered on Natura 2000 sites (**Appendix 1**)
- The review of the Core Strategy and likely impacts and the Preferred Policy Approach screening (**Appendix 2**)
- The review of other relevant plans (**Appendix 3**)

3.21 The main screening is set out in the tables at **Appendix 4** and the results of the assessment are summarised in **Table 7**.

Table 7 HRA Screening Table Summary			
European Sites	Designation	AA required alone?	AA required in combination?
		✗ No ✓ Yes ? Uncertain	✗ No ✓ Yes ? Uncertain
Bredon Hill	SAC	✗	✗
Lyppard Grange Ponds	SAC	✗	✗

3.22 The issues raised in relation to identified impact pathways and their potential effects at the SAC sites [as assessed through the screening process] are summarised below.

- **Recreational Impacts** have the potential to increase as a result of the proposed development within the SWJCS Preferred Options. Recreational pressure is highlighted as a vulnerability of Lyppard Grange Ponds SAC, although current levels are not adversely affecting the site as it is considered to be in a 'favourable' condition. The site is surrounded by housing so the likelihood of the proposed developments increasing recreational pressure on this 1.09ha site are minimal, especially as there are suitable locations for recreation in the surrounding areas designated in the SWJCS Preferred Options for development. Recreational pressure is not highlighted as a key issue at Bredon Hill SAC but any disturbance of the decaying wood in which the Violet Click Beetle develops should be avoided. The Preferred Policy approaches within the SWJCS also contain measures to ensure that new developments contribute to the provision of new areas of open space and recreational facilities, which will mitigate or offset increases in recreation on the sites. Therefore recreational impacts as a result of the SWJCS Preferred Options will not have significant effects on either site.
- **Water Resources** are likely to be impacted as a result of housing growth in the area. Bredon Hill SAC lies within the Warwickshire Avon Catchment. There is development occurring upstream of the site in Pershore and Evesham, which has the potential to increase levels of water abstraction. Under the Habitats Regulations the Environment Agency has a duty to assess the effects of existing abstraction

licences and any new applications to make sure they are not impacting on internationally important nature conservation sites. Water efficiency is also tested by the EA before a new license is granted. If the assessment of a new application shows that it could have an impact on a SAC/SPA the EA will have to follow strict rules in setting a time limit for that license. The Great Crested Newts for which Lyppard Grange Ponds SAC is designated are dependent on both the terrestrial habitat (to provide foraging areas and refuge) and aquatic habitat (for breeding). The two freshwater ponds are vulnerable to changes in water levels. The Worcester Middle Severn CAMS, which is required to carry out HRA states, "we have reviewed the impact of current abstractions on Fens Pool and Lyppard Grange and concluded that the sites are not at risk from abstraction". Policies within the SWJCS will also help to mitigate or offset increases in abstraction through measures such as ensuring high levels of sustainable design, which require high levels of water efficiency. Taking this into account along with the requirement to carry out HRA against new abstraction licenses it is assessed that the SWJCS Preferred Options will not have a significant effect on water levels on either site.

- **Water Quality** is identified as a key issue to maintain site integrity of Lyppard Grange Ponds SAC, however according to the JNCC slight pollution is acceptable. It is unfavourable if pollution is affecting the suitability of the pond as a breeding site, e.g. causing major macrophyte losses. If significant pollution is found the source needs to be found and addressed. Contamination of the site is more likely to arise as a result of point sources rather than development proposed in the SWJC Preferred Options. Given the location of the site in an urban setting and the current 'favourable' condition status it is assessed that the SWJCS will not have significant effects either alone or in-combination on water quality.
- **Atmospheric Pollution** has the potential to increase as a result of housing development. The HRA of the Phase II Revision of the RSS for the West Midlands (2007) and the Air Pollution Information System (www.apis.ac.uk) identify that acid and nitrogen deposition currently exceeds vegetation thresholds at Bredon Hill SAC. However, based on Natural England advice to Runnymede Borough Council on traffic-related air pollution¹² and the HRA of the SE Plan¹³, it is generally felt that air pollution only needs to be considered at a site if a road carrying a significant proportion of new traffic related to the plan runs within 200 meters of a European site. Beyond this distance air pollution impacts that may arise from traffic fall to background levels. No roads are situated within 200 meters of Bredon Hill SAC and the policies proposed in the SWJCS will help to mitigate or offset increases in air pollution through measures such as ensuring high levels of sustainable design for new buildings and a wide range of sustainable

¹² English Nature (16 May 2006) letter to Runnymede Borough Council, 'Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, Runnymede Borough Council Local Development Framework'.

¹³ Levett-Therivel (2006) Appropriate Assessment of the Draft South East Plan. Final Report.

transport choices. Taking this into account increased air pollution as a result of the SWJCS Preferred Options will not have significant effects alone or in-combination on Bredon Hill SAC.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS, FUTURE WORK

- 4.1 This HRA screening process identified two Natura 2000 Sites that lie within the SWJCS boundary and considered the potential significant effect arising from the preferred Policy Options of the Core Strategy. The screening assessment showed that the Preferred Strategy policies in implementation will not have a significant effect on Bredon Hill SAC or Lyppard Grange Pond SAC. The assessment indicates that site level management regimes (e.g. the control of grazing, introduction of non-native species) are the most significant factors in maintaining site integrity and improving site condition against the conservation objectives in the long term.
- 4.2 The Preferred Strategy is identified as having strong policy measures that ensure the protection of environmental quality and that reduce the likelihood of the indirect effects identified causing adverse impacts. The possibility of in-combination effects is significantly reduced where the plan alone is not implicated. Accordingly it is assessed that the plan will not have significant effects on the SACs considered; however the assessment should be reviewed iteratively as the plan develops in the context of any significant changes.

Natura 2000 Site Information Proforma

Special Areas of Conservation

Site Name: Bredon Hill Location Grid Ref: SO965406 JNCC Site Code: UK0012587 Size: 359.86ha Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
Site Description	Bredon Hill is an area of pasture woodland and ancient parkland situated approximately 4.5km to the South East of Evesham. The site provides habitat for the Violet Click Beetle <i>Limoniscus violaceus</i> beetle, which develops in the decaying wood either of very large, old hollow beech trees (Windsor Forest) or ash trees (Worcestershires/Gloucestershire border sites). Currently the only site attributes which Natural England understands the species to need is related to the abundance and condition of the ancient trees within which it develops.
Qualifying Features	Annex II Species primary reason for selection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Violet Click Beetle (<i>Limoniscus violaceus</i>)
Conservation Objectives	The conservation objectives for the European interest on the SSSI are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ to maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for <i>Limoniscus violaceus</i>, with particular reference the wood-pasture and ancient ash woodland. *maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.
Component SSSIs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bredon Hill SSSI
Key Environmental Conditions (factors that maintain site integrity)	This beetle develops in the decaying wood either of very large, old hollow beech trees (Windsor Forest) or ash trees (Worcestershires/Gloucestershire border sites). Currently the only site attributes which Natural England understands the species to need is related to the abundance and condition of the ancient trees within which

<p>Site Name: Bredon Hill Location Grid Ref: SO965406 JNCC Site Code: UK0012587 Size: 359.86ha Designation: SAC</p>	<p>Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma</p>
	<p>it develops.</p> <p>The wood-pasture, ancient ash woodland attributes key to the survival of the Violet Click Beetle are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <p>▪ Number of individual ancient trees - A large number of individual ancient trees are necessary to ensure that a proportion of them are likely to be in suitable condition to support sub-populations of the species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Measure - Absolute number of individual trees (dbh >80cm) including standing dead trees and stumps. ○ Target - A decade on decade increase in the number of individual trees in these size categories. <p>▪ Structure of population of trees that includes ancient trees - Natural regeneration and species successional dynamics means that this target needs to be applied over a wider area than single stands of trees, but within contiguous stands within which the species is likely to disperse and colonise. Aim for regeneration of multiple cohorts of trees if possible, rather than single large regeneration events which may translate into a continuity problem in the future.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Measure - Distribution of trees across age categories from seedling/saplings to ancient trees, standing dead trees, fallen trees and stumps. ○ Target - Measure Aim for an age: numbers distribution with no gaps in numbers in any particular size class and a high proportion of older trees. Ensure a continuity of a similar age distribution into the future by allowing for progressive loss of individuals as trees age. <p>▪ Condition of ancient trees - state of decay - A minimum of 30 large decaying trees in a 10 ha block of parkland, and 50-60 per 10 ha block of woodland should be regarded as favourable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Measure - Number of large individuals with signs of internal decay and hollowing. ○ Target - A significant proportion (ideal %age to be determined by research) of larger (>80cm dbh) trees with external signs of decay, e.g. fungal fruiting bodies, decay/wood-mould cavities and obvious hollowing. <p>▪ Condition of ancient trees - stability - The condition of the trees should be such that the majority of ancient trees are unlikely to break apart simultaneously. A combination of a uniform age structure of the ancient trees skewed towards the older trees, combined with a very large windsail area on individual trees, makes them vulnerable to unsustainable loss of habitat.</p>

<p>Site Name: Bredon Hill Location Grid Ref: SO965406 JNCC Site Code: UK0012587 Size: 359.86ha Designation: SAC</p>	<p>Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Measure - Number/proportion of ancient trees with large sail area, high centre of gravity, large number of very heavy limbs (beech) or neglected pollard regrowth (ash) and liability to windthrow ○ Target - Individual ancient trees at risk of windthrow should be identified. Remedial surgery or restoration pollarding, where practicable, of all trees identified to be at risk, to prolong life of tree while retaining conservation value. (>5% of such trees, as a proportion of the total number of ancient trees is unfavourable). ■ Position and degree of exposure of ancient trees and stumps - Relative position/degree of exposure may change as a result of windthrow and forestry operations. Excessively dry conditions or very cool exposed or shady conditions are likely to prevent use of micro habitat by <i>Limoniscus violaceus</i>. Research under way may elucidate more precise targets and methodology. Until then, pragmatic indications that a majority of ancient trees should be in relatively warm, humid pockets. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Measure - Proportion of ancient trees and stumps exposed to extremes of desiccation or cool summer conditions. ○ Target - Between 60-80% of ancient trees and stumps should be in a warm microclimate in a diversity of conditions of sunlight and not in complete shade. ■ Ancient trees not adversely affected by competition for light, water and space from other species or vigorous regeneration - Rhododendron and bracken can chemically suppress competition and may also suppress natural regeneration by shading and litter blanketing. Vigorous young trees in close proximity can also hasten the decline of existing ancient trees. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Measure - Presence of other competing vegetation, including rhododendron, bracken and other trees. ○ Target - Within any stand with ancient trees there is no rhododendron nor plantation conifers and <20% bracken cover. Younger regenerating or planted trees, including desirable species, should not be impinging on the immediate environs of individual ancient trees. ■ Quantity and size of fallen dead wood - A majority of such timber should be large (> 30cms in diameter). It is particularly important that trunks and branches are not cut up as this increases the surface area/volume ratio and increases damaging fluctuations in temperature and humidity. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Measure - Overall volume of fallen timber and the relative size of individual pieces of dead timber. Low turnover and rates of removal of dead timber.

Site Name: Bredon Hill Location Grid Ref: SO965406 JNCC Site Code: UK0012587 Size: 359.86ha Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Target - Information is not available to express this in terms of volume per hectare, but stability through time or year-on-year increase in the amount of available dead wood, especially in larger size categories should be regarded as favourable. There should be lack of disturbance of the overall dead wood resource - i.e. not frequently moved, climbed upon, burnt, collected for firewood etc. <p>Natural England states that there are almost certainly other features important to adults that they do not currently know about, for example nectar sources and flight lines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Availability of suitable nectar sources - It is unclear whether this species uses nectar sources but it is very a strong possibility. It may use the nectar at night. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Measure - Numbers of flowering shrubs, particularly hawthorn, and umbellifers or composites, (particularly hogweed and angelica) in open unshaded conditions in close proximity to ancient ash trees. ○ Target - Number of flowering shrubs (in open unshaded conditions) should ideally increase and certainly not decline in a ten year period. 					
SAC Condition Assessment	Bredon Hill SSSI condition summary ¹ (compiled 09 April 2008).					
	% Area meeting PSA* target	% Area favourable	% Area unfavourable recovering	% Area unfavourable no change	% Area unfavourable declining	% Area destroyed / part destroyed
	91.09%	14.64%	76.45%	8.92%	0.00%	0.00%
	*PSA target - The Government's Public Service Agreement (PSA) target to have 95% of the SSSI area in favourable or recovering condition by 2010.					

¹ Natural England SSSI condition summary. Available [online]: <http://www.english-nature.org.uk/special/ssi/reportAction.cfm?report=sdr18&category=S&reference=1001495>

Site Name: Bredon Hill Location Grid Ref: SO965406 JNCC Site Code: UK0012587 Size: 359.86ha Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
Vulnerabilities (includes existing pressures and trends)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of a replacement generation of trees for the current ancient trees over much of the hill, as many of the younger trees have been removed to increase stock grazing areas; the overall number of ancient trees suitable for <i>Limoniscus violaceus</i> is relatively small. ▪ Acid and nitrogen deposition currently exceed vegetation thresholds at site². Ozone levels are also above the critical level. <p>It is very important that no attempt should be made to measure the population size of this species directly, as methods currently available to find the species lead to destruction of its habitat.</p>
Landowner/ Management Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Privately owned.
HRA/AA Studies undertaken that address this site	<p>Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Phase II Revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands, 2007. Available online: http://www.wmra.gov.uk/Uploadfiles/File/WMRSS%20Phase%20Two%20Revisions%20HRA%20FINAL%20REPORT.pdf</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bredon Hill SAC was identified as being one of a number of sites over their critical loads for acid and nitrogen deposition. It states that the site is also receiving ozone levels above the critical level. Any further increase in background levels of diffuse air pollution could exacerbate this already adverse situation. Measures need to be explored for reducing air emissions in the region to stabilise background levels of air pollution. Otherwise vegetation change is likely. <p>Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West Final Report, February 2007.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The report identifies a number of location specific policies that have the potential to have an adverse

² Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Phase II Revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands, 2007.

Site Name: Bredon Hill Location Grid Ref: SO965406 JNCC Site Code: UK0012587 Size: 359.86ha Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
	<p>effect on Bredon Hill SAC. The policies are SR14, TR2, TR3, TR5, TO1 and TO3. The potential adverse effects from the proposals are identified as physical damage due to transport infrastructure development and recreation and air pollution. The AA report concludes that these potential effects are unlikely to have any impact as the site is outside the region and a considerable distance from the towns, rail route, tourist attractions and the South West strategic road network referred to in the Draft RSS.</p> <p>Cotswolds AONB Management Plan Review Appropriate Assessment Screening, 2007. Available online: http://www.aonb.org.uk/wba/naaonb/naaonbpreview.nsf/PublishedContent/4.1!OpenDocument&AutoFramed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The screening concludes that the AONB Management Plan will have no significant impact on Bredon Hill SAC. <p>Gloucestershire County Council Minerals Core Strategy Appropriate Assessment Report, January 2008. Available online: http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=17764</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The site could be affected by mineral workings that affect soil water movements, or which cause dust deposition. Similarly the site could be affected by waste sites that led to contamination of the soil water. There may potentially be 'in-combination' effects on the site as a result of other plans and projects. This will be advised by consultees and further examined at the Preferred Options stage of DPD preparation. The AA Screening states that there is likely to be no significant effect on Bredon Hill SAC as a result of the Minerals Core Strategy Preferred Options. <p>Gloucestershire County Council Waste Core Strategy Appropriate Assessment Report, January 2008. Available online: http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm?articleid=17990</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The site could be affected by waste sites that led to contamination of the soil water. There may potentially be 'in-combination' effects on the site as a result of other plans and projects. This will be advised by consultees and further examined at the Preferred Options stage of DPD preparation. The AA Screening states that there is likely to be no significant effect on Bredon Hill SAC as a result of the Minerals Core Strategy Preferred Options. However the assessment was uncertain of the potential for significant effects in

<p>Site Name: Bredon Hill Location Grid Ref: SO965406 JNCC Site Code: UK0012587 Size: 359.86ha Designation: SAC</p>	<p>Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma</p>
	<p>regard to Waste Preferred Option 4a, 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d and 8b.</p>

Site Name: Lyppard Grange Ponds Location Grid Ref: SO879556 JNCC Site Code: UK0030198 Size: 1.09ha Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
Site Description	<p>The site is situated on the outskirts of Worcester set amongst a recent housing development on former pastoral farmland. Lyppard Grange SAC is composed of two ponds in an area of grassland and scrub (public open space). The site provides habitat for Great Crested Newts <i>Triturus cristatus</i>, which are dependent on both the terrestrial habitat (to provide foraging areas and refuge) and aquatic habitat (for breeding).</p>
Qualifying Features	<p>Annex II Species primary reason for selection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Great Crested Newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>)
Conservation Objectives	<p>The conservation objectives for the European interest on the SSSI are to maintain*, in favourable condition, the habitats for the population of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Great crested newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>) <p>*maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition.</p>
Component SSSIs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lyppard Grange Ponds SSSI.
Key Environmental Conditions (factors that maintain site integrity)	<p>The Great crested newt population is reliant on the freshwater ponds and improved grasslands and scrubs (terrestrial habitats) to survive. These features have a number of attributes which are key to the continuation of the species. These attributes are:</p> <p>Freshwater ponds</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presence of ponds - Ponds (permanent and temporary) to remain in suitable numbers to sustain the size and range of population. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Target - At least 2 ponds to be present within the site.

<p>Site Name: Lyppard Grange Ponds Location Grid Ref: SO879556 JNCC Site Code: UK0030198 Size: 1.09ha Designation: SAC</p>	<p>Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Absence of Pollution - However, slight pollution is acceptable. It is unfavourable if pollution is affecting the suitability of the pond as a breeding site, e.g. causing major macrophyte losses. Minor algal blooms not necessarily a problem. If significant pollution is found the source needs to be found and addressed. ▪ Extent (depth and persistence) - Ponds should be of sufficient size and depth to avoid desiccation over the course of the breeding/ tadpole development season (February to mid-August) for at least one in every three years. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Target - Premature drying out i.e. before mid-July is acceptable in two out of three years provided that recruitment in the third year is very successful. Three consecutive years of desiccation with no recruitment should be considered unfavourable. ▪ Shading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Measure - Extent of shading ○ Target - Slight shading is probably beneficial especially where trees are on the northern side of the pond. Ponds with more than 25% of their southern margin shaded or 50% of their total margin shaded are unfavourable. ▪ Fish - Unfavourable if any fish are present, including sticklebacks. Action is less important if pond is likely to desiccate or if, for any reason, good levels of recruitment are found (tadpole counts). <p>Improved grassland and scrub (terrestrial habitats)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extent - No loss of area or fragmentation of site. No barriers to newt movement between ponds. ▪ Habitat structure and quality - Structural variety of vegetation or habitat features within site. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Target - Extensive, structurally varied habitats in close proximity to (or continuous with) breeding pools. This includes the mixture of tall grass, scrub and trees. The habitats should offer refuges which are shaded and capable of retaining some moisture.

Site Name: Lyppard Grange Ponds Location Grid Ref: SO879556 JNCC Site Code: UK0030198 Size: 1.09ha Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma					
SAC Condition Assessment	Lyppard Grange SSSI condition summary ³ (compiled 09 April 2008).					
	% Area meeting PSA* target	% Area favourable	% Area unfavourable recovering	% Area unfavourable no change	% Area unfavourable declining	% Area destroyed / part destroyed
	100.00%	91.74%	8.26%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
*PSA target - The Government's Public Service Agreement (PSA) target to have 95% of the SSSI area in favourable or recovering condition by 2010.						
Vulnerabilities (includes existing pressures and trends)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Recreational pressure from the public. ■ Introduction of fish - which affect the suitability of ponds as breeding habitats for great crested newts. 					
Landowner/ Management Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Public open space. 					
HRA/AA Studies undertaken that address this site	Habitats Regulations Assessment Final Screening Note of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands Phase Two, September 2007. Available online: http://www.wmra.gov.uk/page.asp?id=82 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The screening concluded that no likely significant effects were identified as a result of the RSS Phase Two draft Preferred Option, either alone or in combination with other plans or policies in regard to Lyppard grange ponds SAC. 					

³ Natural England SSSI condition summary. Available [online]: <http://www.english-nature.org.uk/special/ssi/reportAction.cfm?report=sdr18&category=S&reference=2000428>

**Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening:
Screening of Preferred Policy Approaches South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy**

Preferred Policy Approaches (PPA)	Description of Likely Effect	Potential Effect
SPATIAL VISION AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES		
<p>Spatial Vision</p> <p>South Worcestershire in 2026 will offer a significantly higher quality of life than today, providing a basis for future development into the middle of the 21st century.</p> <p>The greatest change will be at Worcester where housing and employment underpinned by investment in services and infrastructure, including environmental, social and transport, will establish the historic, cathedral and university city as a vibrant sub-regional centre. This will allow it to fulfil the role as a thriving retail, employment, education, leisure and tourist centre.</p> <p>Ancillary, but significant positive changes will have taken place in the main towns of Droitwich Spa, Evesham and Malvern, which will continue to function as important service centres for a wider area.</p> <p>Tenbury Wells, Upton-upon-Severn, Pershore and some Category 1 and 2 Villages will also have benefited from growth to meet local employment and housing needs.</p> <p>All growth, most noticeably in the urban extensions, will be characterised by locally distinctive, exciting and innovative designs, incorporating efficient construction approaches. A forward looking approach to development will provide people with the opportunity to access work, shopping, health and leisure facilities without needing to use a car.</p> <p>Overall commuting outside South Worcestershire will have reduced due to the marked investment in high technology industries within the Central Technology Belt. More residents throughout South Worcestershire will be enjoying an active life courtesy of a comprehensive network of open spaces and corridors, focused on the Rivers Avon, Severn and Teme, which will have also helped resist the worst effects of climate change.</p> <p>There will remain at the heart of the area's character the traditional rural economy of farming and horticulture which will have been safeguarded and promoted as part of the specific rural developments that will have added to the vitality of the main villages.</p> <p>By doing all of this there will be a higher quality environment in South Worcestershire to make it an even better place to live, work and enjoy life.</p>		<p><i>Sets overarching/ Strategic Framework for development – issues addressed as part of Core policies screening assessment below.</i></p>

Preferred Policy Approaches (PPA)	Description of Likely Effect	Potential Effect
<p>Spatial Objectives</p> <p>Stronger Communities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To ensure that enough land is made available, in sustainable locations, in order to meet the housing and economic needs of South Worcestershire in the period to 2026 as defined by the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy 2. To locate and design development in order to reduce its carbon footprint, where access to employment, shopping, education, health, recreation, and other services is available by good quality public transport, walking and cycling facilities thus reducing the need to travel particularly by private car. 3. To provide affordable, frequent, sustainable and safe travel choices throughout South Worcestershire. <p>Meeting the Needs of All Generations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. To provide new/refurbished homes with a mix of housing types and tenures, which cater for a range of needs and aspirations, especially those in need of affordable housing. 5. To provide accessible opportunities for play, sport, recreation and relaxation. 6. To enable the creation of sustainable and inclusive communities. <p>Economic Success that is shared by all</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. To maximise the potential of the Central Technology Belt to protect and enhance the existing employment base by attracting new high technology, manufacturing and service sector businesses. 8. To work with partners to strengthen the urban and rural economy by enabling local businesses to start, grow, adapt and diversify. 9. To maintain and enhance the Sub Regional role of Worcester as a major retail, leisure, university and tourist centre. 10. To develop thriving, vibrant and self sufficient towns in South Worcestershire by encouraging mixed development that supports their function as tourist and service centres with a range of good quality businesses, shops and facilities that meet the service, employment and leisure needs of local people. 11. To support the growth and diversification of farming/horticulture in ways which are compatible with sustainable development objectives, and which deliver increased prosperity for the whole community. <p>A Better Environment for Today and Tomorrow</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. To ensure that development is sustainable through efficient design and use of land, respect for our heritage, reducing the consumption of irreplaceable natural resources using environmentally friendly construction. 13. To ensure that development is planned with recognition that South Worcestershire is a high quality area, in respect of both its built form and landscape character, and all development should improve, reinforce and safeguard these characteristics. 14. To mitigate and adapt to 'climate change' by increasing the take up of renewable forms of energy, managing flood risk, promoting greater levels of recycling, water harvesting and minimising waste and pollution. 15. To ensure that the built heritage is protected, and that new development respects and enhances existing local design characteristics of cultural and conservation importance. 		<p><i>Sets overarching/ Strategic Framework for development – issues addressed as part of Core policies screening assessment below.</i></p>

Preferred Policy Approaches (PPA)	Description of Likely Effect	Potential Effect
<p>16. To protect the varied rural character of the settlements of South Worcestershire by ensuring that the scale, location and design of development is in keeping with their size, character and function.</p> <p>17. To protect, restore and enhance biodiversity, geodiversity, landscape character, air, soil and water quality.</p> <p>Improving Health and Well-being</p> <p>18. To improve the health of South Worcestershire residents by improving, providing and protecting access to healthcare provision, informal and formal green spaces, and varied opportunities for leisure, recreation and culture in order to promote happy and healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>19. To promote opportunities and access to a range of skills training, and levels of education for all generations.</p> <p>Communities that are Safe and Feel Safe</p> <p>20. To reduce crime and fear of crime in South Worcestershire by ensuring that community safety is a fundamental principle of all new development by promoting well designed places, spaces and buildings.</p> <p>21. To ensure that schools, places of worship, health facilities, policing and other key elements of community infrastructure are provided in locations accessible by sustainable means and in time to meet the demands put on such services from South Worcestershire's growth.</p>		
CORE STRATEGY PREFERRED POLICIES		
<p>Proposed Policy CS1: Sustainable Development</p> <p>Sustainable development is defined as "Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."</p> <p>In order for development in South Worcestershire to achieve this all development must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be related in character, function and scale to each category of the proposed Settlement Hierarchy. 2. Be of high quality design which shall; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) For residential development by 2011 be built to a minimum of level 4 of The Code for Sustainable Homes, increasing to level 6 by 2016; b) For all other development by 2011 be constructed to BREEAM 'very good' standard, increasing to 'excellent' by 2016. c) Meet "Building for Life" Silver Standard (minimum 14 points) in respect of major development or achieve a minimum score of 10 points for minor development, d) Deliver a range of house types, sizes and tenures to meet identified needs e) Deliver high quality urban design and place shaping that, where appropriate, reduce crime and fear of crime, promote use of public space and support inclusive communities; 	<p>'No effect' policy. The policy itself will not lead to development and has measures intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity.</p>	<p>No</p>

Preferred Policy Approaches (PPA)	Description of Likely Effect	Potential Effect
<p>f) Create a strong sense of place by strengthening the distinctive historic and cultural qualities and townscape of the towns and villages through its design, landscaping and use of public art;</p> <p>g) For major sites, require design codes and masterplans;</p> <p>h) Deliver buildings to the highest sustainable design criteria, incorporating renewable energy, water management and use of open space;</p> <p>i) Incorporate flexible designs for buildings and their settings, including access to amenity space, enabling them to be adapted to future needs and to take into account the needs of all users;</p> <p>3. Safeguard and enhance the interests of flood protection by:</p> <p>j) No development in flood zones 2 and 3, as defined by the Environment Agency;</p> <p>k) Not locating development that would exacerbate surface water run-off, which would directly or indirectly increase flood risk;</p> <p>l) Ensuring that development includes the use of sustainable drainage systems;</p> <p>4. Contribute in full (see section on Implementation) to all identified infrastructure requirements and:</p> <p>m) Have a satisfactory means of access and provide for parking, servicing and manoeuvring in accordance with adopted standards;</p> <p>n) Allow for travel to home, shops, work and school on foot and by cycle and public transport;</p> <p>o) Ensure both the local road network and strategic trunk road network will be capable of safely accommodating the type and scale of traffic likely to be generated without undue environmental consequences;</p> <p>p) Ensure appropriate utilities and community infrastructure are available or will be provided;</p> <p>5. Safeguard and enhance established landscape character and conservation characteristics of the area with specific reference to:</p> <p>q) Safeguard and enhance features of landscape, ecological, geological, heritage, archaeological and amenity value;</p> <p>r) Protection of designated assets and nationally, regionally and locally important historic buildings, structures, monuments, landscapes and sites of archaeological significance;</p> <p>s) Respect the setting and views from Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, historic parks and gardens, significant historic buildings/structures and public places and should not obstruct or detract views of these features;</p> <p>t) Protect and enhance overall landscape character taking into account key characteristics, distinctiveness and sensitivity of the landscape and the landscape setting of settlements;</p> <p>u) Ensure that development does not have an adverse effect on skylines and prominent views of hill features;</p> <p>v) Enhance and maintain the green infrastructure network by providing a network of green spaces that link with the wider green infrastructure framework that provides for larger-scale landscape enhancement, the conservation of important environmental assets and natural resources, biodiversity and formal and informal recreation areas;</p> <p>w) Encourage the planting, in appropriate locations, of new hedgerows, trees and woodlands in support of the community forest and national forest programmes;</p> <p>6. Take account of the environmental impact of the development by:</p>		

Preferred Policy Approaches (PPA)	Description of Likely Effect	Potential Effect
<p>x) Ensuring that the location and nature of the proposed development, including its relationship to, and impact on, its immediate setting, the locality and local communities is appropriate;</p> <p>y) Not resulting in unacceptable adverse impact on the amenities of neighbouring properties or the wider area, by reason of noise, vibration, smell, light or other pollution, loss of light or overlooking;</p> <p>z) Providing satisfactory amenity to occupiers of the development.</p> <p>7. In order to inform the delivery of the major growth areas further Local Development Documents will be prepared to give the detailed, site specific guidance required to bring the vision and community objectives of the Core Strategy into reality.</p>		
<p>Policy CS2 Location Strategy</p> <p>1. New development should be located in accordance with the settlement hierarchy as shown below:</p> <p>Proposed settlement hierarchy:</p> <p>1. Settlement of Significant Development</p> <p>The focus for strategic housing and employment development and city centre development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worcester <p>2. Main Towns</p> <p>That offer the greatest range of services and employment opportunities and other facilities outside of Worcester:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malvern, • Droitwich Spa, • Evesham <p>3. Other Towns</p> <p>That offer a wide range of services, facilities, employment and town centres serving the wider rural communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenbury Wells, • Upton-upon-Severn, • Pershore <p>4. Category 1 villages</p> <p>That offer the greatest range of services and facilities and access to public transport after the towns:</p> <p style="margin-left: 40px;">Badsey Lower Broadheath</p>	<p>The Preferred Policy Approach directs the majority of strategic housing and employment development in Worcester, which includes 10,700 new dwellings and 100ha of employment land.</p> <p>Potential effects on Natura 2000 sites include: increased recreational pressure, impacts on air quality and water quality due to development growth and traffic increases as well as increased noise pollution. Impacts on the water resource arising from increased abstraction for developments.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Preferred Policy Approaches (PPA)		Description of Likely Effect	Potential Effect
<p>Bredon Broadway Clifton-on-Teme Great Witley Hallow Hanley Swan Hartlebury Honeybourne Inkberrow Kempsey</p>	<p>Martley Offenham Ombersley Pinvin Powick Rushwick South Littleton Welland Wychbold</p>		
<p>5. Category 2 villages</p> <p>That offer a reasonable range of services and facilities and levels of public transport</p>			
<p>Abberley Common Alfrick Beckford Bretforton Broadwas Callow End Cleeve Prior Clows Top Crowle Drakes Broughton</p>	<p>Eckington Fernhill Heath Flyford Flavell Hanley Castle Harvington Holt Heath Kemerton Leigh Sinton Shrawley Upton Snodsbury Wickhamford</p>		
<p>6. Category 3 villages</p> <p>That have a comparatively limited range of services and facilities and lower levels of public transport</p>			
<p>Abberley village Ashton-under-Hill Bayton Bransford Bushley Childswickham Church Lench Colletts Green Cropthorne Crossway Green</p>	<p>Hanbury Himbleton Littleworth Little Witley Longdon Longley Green Middle Littleton Overbury Pendock Ryall/Holly Green</p>		

Preferred Policy Approaches (PPA)	Description of Likely Effect	Potential Effect
<p>Defford Sedgeberrow Dunley Severn Stoke Eardiston Stoke Prior Earl's Croome Suckley Elmley Castle Tibberton Fladbury Tunnel Hill Grimley Whittington Guarford Wyre Piddle</p> <p>2. The total amount of development per settlement will be in accordance with the provisions of Table 3 – Distribution of Housing & Employment, the provisions of Policy CS1 and the specific requirements of spatial strategy core policies CS3 to CS10 respectively.</p> <p>3. There will be annual reviews of the housing land situation that will examine the uptake of sites and, as result, may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bring forward sites identified within the spatial strategy core policies CS3 to CS9 from Phase 3 into Phase 2 by way of Supplementary Planning Documents • Postpone the release of sites into the next plan period (post 2026) by way of Supplementary Planning Documents • Review the housing strategy and, if necessary, allocate further sites for housing development through Development Plan Documents or Supplementary Planning Documents in accordance with the identified preferences for additional housing identified in the Core Strategy's "Addressing a Higher Growth Target" at paragraph 4.48. <p>4. In order to inform the delivery of the major growth areas further Local Development Documents will be prepared to give the detailed, site specific guidance required to bring the vision and community objectives of the Core Strategy into reality..</p>		
<p>Proposed Policy CS3 Spatial Strategy for Worcester City</p> <p>Worcester's housing needs as set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy Phase II Preferred Option will be accommodated by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infill development within the city, • Limited Greenfield extension at Kilbury Drive immediately outside the City Boundary, • By major urban extensions to the West and North West, and South and South East of the city, and • By limited Greenfield development in the vicinity of Fernhill Heath. <p>The Site Allocations Development Plan Document will identify sites within the City to ensure the development of at least 3,200 new dwellings between 2006 and 2026 and identify land beyond the City boundary for the preferred directions of growth capable of accommodating at least 7,300 homes.</p> <p>In line with the South Worcestershire Employment Land Review 40 hectares of employment land will be identified within or adjacent to the urban extensions. During the construction phase of the major urban extensions developers will be required to support local labour and training schemes. In addition a Regionally Significant Employment site will be identified outside the city boundary in the vicinity of junction 6 for indigenous growth. This will require substantial improvements to Junction 6 on the M5.</p>	<p>The Preferred Policy Approach directs housing and employment land development in a major urban extension to the East and South of Worcester. Junction 6 on the M5 is in close proximity to Lyppard Grange SAC.</p> <p>Potential effects on Natura 2000 sites include: increased recreational pressure,</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Preferred Policy Approaches (PPA)	Description of Likely Effect	Potential Effect
<p>The provision of employment land will seek to make provision for medical and environmental based industries in accordance with the identification of Worcester as a node in the Central Technology Belt and will ensure a supply of sites of size, location and adaptability to strengthen the local economy.</p> <p>To avoid the creation of dormitory suburbs urban extensions will be mixed use developments providing housing in accordance with the identified need for Worcester. Any retail development should only seek to meet local needs and not adversely affect any city centre function or the delivery of a city wide integrated transport strategy. The nature of the mixed uses incorporated into any urban extension shall reflect the identified needs for the occupants, and to facilitate existing service deficiencies.</p> <p>A specialist Criminal Justice Employment Centre will be based on the West Mercia Police Headquarters at Hindlip, and a Community Sports Hub developed on the surrounding land both respecting the purposes of the Green Belt and incorporating sustainable transport measures.</p> <p>Central to the spatial strategy will be the priority implementation of the Integrated Transport Strategy for Worcester including strategic park and ride sites, quality bus corridors incorporating extensive bus priority, quality cycle and pedestrian routes, a new city centre bridge and the dualling of the Southern Link Road. Rail halts will be pursued to the north, south and west in the longer term linked to a Worcestershire Parkway at Norton.</p> <p>Development adjacent to the city boundary should maintain access to the open countryside for existing Worcester residents as well as providing green space and green wedges that ensure all new homes are accessible to the Green Network.</p> <p>Masterplans in the form of Supplementary Planning Documents will be prepared for the two proposed urban extensions and the proposed developments at Fernhill Heath and Hindlip.</p> <p>Areas of opportunity/intensification within or adjacent to the City Centre will be identified in an Area Action Plan Development Plan Document for the city centre where mixed use redevelopments to accommodate the retail and office accommodation requirements set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy Phase II Preferred Option will be promoted. This will also cover the development of the University of Worcester and any other regeneration opportunities over the plan period.</p> <p>To preserve the setting of Worcester, the relationship to the surrounding open countryside and views into and out of the city, development over four storeys in height will only be considered if it will result in an enhancement of the city skyline.</p> <p>All development will need to contribute in full via Section 106 Developer contributions / Community Infrastructure Levy, towards the range of infrastructure required to make the overall growth sustainable. This infrastructure includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Integrated Transport Strategy including the dualling of the Southern Link Road; • Pedestrian/Cycle bridge over the Southern Link Road; • Expanded First School at Fernhill Heath and Primary, secondary school provision within the Urban Extensions; • New Neighbourhood Police Station to the west of Worcester; • Rail Halts at Fernhill Heath, in the vicinity of Battenhall and Rushwick, and Worcestershire parkway at Norton; 	<p>impacts on air quality and water quality due to development growth and traffic increases as well as increased noise pollution. Impacts on the water resource arising from increased abstraction for developments.</p>	

Preferred Policy Approaches (PPA)	Description of Likely Effect	Potential Effect
<p>Accessibility to Malvern from its rural hinterland will be enhanced through improvements to sustainable transport infrastructure – by both rail and bus- to ensure better access to the higher level services, such as health, employment and educational opportunities for the rural population. This will include more frequent and reliable train services bought about by upgrading the single track line from Hereford to Worcester; and bus priority measures within the town.</p> <p>Housing growth will deliver a range of housing sizes and tenures to ensure housing needs are met and wider choice of homes are available to both the new and existing population of Malvern, and in particular the needs of the ageing population and new families.</p> <p>Great Malvern town centre will remain the focus for major retail opportunities for the district. One or two large sites will be required in Great Malvern town centre to accommodate 5,000sqm of comparison goods floorspace required over the next 10 years.</p> <p>Infill development will respect the historic form and character of Malvern, with high design standards and protection of urban greenspace.</p> <p>The Site Allocations Development Plan Document or Development Brief Supplementary Planning Document will identify up to 2000 new dwellings and up to 19ha of employment land to 2026, predominantly in the form of sustainable Greenfield urban extensions to the north and/or east of Malvern, with a mix of uses to deliver housing, employment and associated community facilities. The urban extensions will ensure that the quality of design will continue to enhance the appearance of the town, will be sited to safeguard strategic views of the Malvern Hills and will ensure that there is an enhancement of the Green Infrastructure links within the town and to the surrounding rural areas.</p> <p>Development will be phased as follows: Phase 1 (2006-2015) Local Plan allocations, 'windfall' development Phase 2 (2016-2021) Village allocations, phasing of Greenfield development Phase 3 (2022-2026): in Malvern to be determined following completion of Malvern Transport study.</p> <p>This will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis.</p> <p>Development growth will contribute to the town's services and infrastructure through planning obligations or via a Community Infrastructure Levy for Malvern towards the range of infrastructure required in order to make the overall growth sustainable, and development will not proceed if necessary infrastructure is not forthcoming. This includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary School; • Extension to Townsend Way to support urban extensions and QinetiQ redevelopment, subject to conclusions of Malvern Transport Study; • Enhanced accessibility to central Malvern and the district centres via sustainable transport modes, including cycling and walking,; • Park and Ride utilising the existing rail corridor between Malvern and Worcester and rail enhancements; • Two neighbourhood police posts; • Links to the wider wildlife "network" of the town and it's surroundings and ensure ongoing management of habitats, to include urban tree planting and woodland creation, as appropriate; • Additional cemetery facilities; • Explore opportunities to improve existing local housing and the town centre. 		

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<p>Proposed Policy CS5 Droitwich Spa</p> <p>The Core Policy for the town follows the principle of sustainable development. Droitwich Spa can only grow in a sustainable manner if the Core Strategy strategic policies are implemented effectively.</p> <p>The Site Allocations Development Plan Document or Development Brief Supplementary Planning Document will identify sites for the Droitwich to ensure the development of at least 1,750 new dwellings and 10 hectares of employment land between 2006 and 2026, up to 900 square metres of comparison goods retail floorspace between 2006 and 2012 and up to 2,000 square metres of comparison goods retail floorspace between 2012 and 2017. The urban extensions will be subject to more detailed planning policy set out in Supplementary Planning Documents.</p> <p>In the first instance this will be on Previously Developed Land/"Brownfield" land within the development boundary. Following that the employment and housing supply will be delivered in the broad locations set out on the Spatial Diagram for Droitwich Spa.</p> <p>Housing growth will deliver a range of housing sizes and tenures to ensure housing needs are met and wider choice of homes are available to both the new and existing population of Droitwich Spa.</p> <p>The provision of employment land will seek to make provision for industries compatible with the status of Droitwich Spa as a node in the Central Technology Belt and to ensure a supply of sites that will strengthen the local economy.</p> <p>Infill development will respect the historic form and character the centre of Droitwich Spa, with high design standards and protection of urban greenspace.</p> <p>All development will need to contribute in full via S106 Developer Contributions/Community Infrastructure Levy, towards the range of infrastructure required in order to make the overall growth sustainable. This infrastructure includes the following:</p> <p>Improved public transport to Birmingham and Worcester Deliver the Droitwich Spa Green Necklace and cycle/walking network Increase parking capacity at Droitwich Spa Increased school capacity for Droitwich High School New infrastructure for West Mercia Constabulary</p> <p>Phasing of Development Phase 1 (2006 - 2015) Local Plan allocations, "windfall development" and mix-use (housing, employment) at Copcut Lane/A38. Phase 2 (2016 - 2021) Land at Copcut Lane (to west of routing) Phase 3 (2022 - 2026)</p>	<p>The Preferred Policy Approach directs housing and employment land development around Droitwich Spa.</p> <p>Potential effects on Natura 2000 sites include: impacts on air quality and water quality due to development growth and traffic increases. Impacts on the water resource arising from increased abstraction for developments.</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Proposed Policy CS6 Evesham</p>	<p>The Preferred Policy Approach directs</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Preferred Policy Approaches (PPA)	Description of Likely Effect	Potential Effect
<p>The Site Allocations Development Plan Document or Development Brief Supplementary Planning Document will identify sites at Evesham to ensure the development of 2,300 new dwellings with 10 hectares of employment land and 7,000 square metres of retail floorspace between 2006 and 2026.</p> <p>The development of sites will follow the principles of sustainable development and this will in the first instance be on Previously Developed Land/'Brownfield' Land within the development boundary. Following that employment housing and retail land supply will be delivered in the broad locations set out in the Spatial Diagram for Evesham. The urban extensions will be subject to more detailed planning policy set out in Supplementary Planning Documents.</p> <p>Housing growth will deliver a range of housing sizes and tenures to ensure housing needs are met and wider choice of homes are available to both the new and existing population of Evesham.</p> <p>The provision of employment land will ensure a supply of sites of size, location and adaptability to strengthen the local economy.</p> <p>Infill development will respect the historic form and character of Evesham, with high design standards and protection of urban greenspace.</p> <p>All development will need to contribute in full, via S106 Developer Contributions/Community Infrastructure Levy, towards the range of infrastructure required in order to make the overall growth sustainable. Other general requirements are set out in the policies in Section 2. This infrastructure includes the following:</p> <p>Improved car parking provision at Evesham Railway Station New First School provision at Hampton and Bengeworth New public open space/recreation facilities New pedestrian/cycle bridge connecting Hampton with Evesham Town Centre Enhanced hospital provision Extension to West Mercia Constabulary's Section Station and two new neighbourhood Police Posts</p> <p>Phasing of Development</p> <p>Phase 1 (2006 - 2015) Local Plan allocations, "Windfall development (at least until the end of the current Local Plan (March 31 2011), Offenham Road/Kings Road, Pershore Road (north).</p> <p>Phase 2 (2016 - 2021) Offenham Road/Kings Road.</p> <p>Phase 3 (2022 - 2026) Cheltenham Road/Pershore Road (south)</p>	<p>housing and employment land development around Evesham.</p> <p>Potential effects on Natura 2000 sites include: increased recreational pressure (although the provision of new public open space/ recreation facilities may help to mitigate this), impacts on air quality and water quality due to development growth and traffic increases. Impacts on the water resource arising from increased abstraction for developments.</p>	
<p>Proposed Policy CS7 Tenbury Wells</p> <p>Growth should respect the existing urban form, particularly in relation to the undulating landform and opportunities for views in to the town, and its historic characteristics.</p>	<p>'No effect' policy. The policy will steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive</p>	<p>No</p>

Preferred Policy Approaches (PPA)	Description of Likely Effect	Potential Effect
<p>Housing growth should be balanced with increases in employment land to allow further choice of jobs for new and existing residents, and to help to reduce longer distance commuting.</p> <p>Accessibility to Tenbury Wells from the surrounding rural areas will be enhanced through improvements to sustainable transport infrastructure to ensure better access to higher-level services such as health, employment and educational opportunities for the rural population. This will include more frequent bus services and rural transport initiatives in line with the County Council's Integrated Passenger Transport Strategy.</p> <p>Development of the former Cattle Market site for economic uses, including retail, commercial uses, and / or for recreation, leisure and community uses will be encouraged where these are or a scale and size appropriate to the location and compatible with flood policy.</p> <p>Employment land growth at Tenbury Wells will enhance the economic prosperity of the town and its rural surroundings, in particular enhancing the existing Tenbury Business Park and through close cross boundary liaison with Shropshire Council in terms of its close relationship to Burford.</p> <p>Development should support the role of Tenbury Wells as a focus for the provision of services and employment for the surrounding rural areas.</p> <p>The Site Allocations Development Plan Document or Development Brief Supplementary Planning Document will identify up to 100 new dwellings to 2026.</p>	<p>areas.</p> <p>Generic development effects are possible, however the housing development is at small scale with no employment land development and Tenbury Wells is a significant distance from European sites.</p>	
<p>Proposed Policy CS8 Upton-upon-Severn</p> <p>Accessibility within Upton-upon-Severn and to and from Upton-upon-Severn from the surrounding rural areas will be enhanced through improvements to sustainable transport infrastructure to ensure better access to higher level services for health care, employment and education. This will include more frequent bus services and rural transport initiatives in line with the County Council's Sustainable Transport initiatives.</p> <p>Employment opportunities will be directed to Upton-upon-Severn, including the Marina, and the associated settlement of Tunnel Hill, as a sustainable location for jobs and services.</p> <p>Retail development opportunities will be directed to Upton-upon-Severn Town Centre and will be related in scale to the size and function of the centre.</p> <p>The Site Allocations Development Plan Document or Development Brief Supplementary Planning Document will identify up to 100 new dwellings at Tunnel Hill and Holly Green/ Ryall for Upton-upon-Severn to 2026.</p> <p>Housing growth will deliver a range of housing sizes and tenures to ensure housing needs are met and wider choice of homes are available to both the new and existing population of Upton-upon-Severn.</p>	<p>'No effect' policy. The policy will steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas.</p> <p>Generic development effects are possible; however the housing development is at small scale with no employment land development so it is unlikely to have significant effects.</p>	<p>No</p>

Preferred Policy Approaches (PPA)	Description of Likely Effect	Potential Effect
<p>Housing growth will provide enhanced accessibility within new developments and to local facilities via sustainable transport modes, including cycling and walking.</p> <p>Any infill development in Upton-upon-Severn will respect the historic form and character of town, will protect urban greenspace and require high design standards.</p>		
<p>Proposed Policy CS9 Pershore</p> <p>The Site Allocations Development Plan Document or Development Brief Supplementary Planning Document will identify sites at Pershore to ensure the development of 1,000 new dwellings with 10 hectares of employment land and 2,000 square metres of retail floorspace between 2006 and 2026.</p> <p>The development of sites will follow the principles of sustainable development and this will in the first instance be on Previously Developed Land/'Brownfield' Land within the development boundary. Following that employment housing and retail land supply will be delivered in the broad locations set out in the Spatial Diagram for Pershore. The urban extensions will be subject to more detailed planning policy set out in Supplementary Planning Documents.</p> <p>Housing growth will deliver a range of housing sizes and tenures to ensure housing needs are met and wider choice of homes are available to both the new and existing population of Pershore.</p> <p>The provision of employment land will ensure a supply of sites of size, location and adaptability to strengthen the local economy.</p> <p>Developer contributions and the Community Infrastructure Levy will secure the infrastructure requirements arising as a result of the proposed scale of development. A key infrastructure requirement to develop sites to the north of the town will be the completion of the access road to the Wyre Piddle By-pass from Keytec 7 Business Park, as well as surface run- off management measures from all new development.</p> <p>All new development should contribute to the creation of sustainable communities and comply with the requirements of Policy CS1 , with particular reference to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage/enhance public transport links between Worcester, Evesham, and Cheltenham. • Maintain the railway station, provide enhanced parking and improve connectivity to the town. • Alleviate the bottleneck at A44/B4082 Pinvin crossroads. • Protecting important views in and out of the town, particularly from Bredon Hill and the back-drop of Allesborough Hill. • Recognising opportunities to regenerate the town centre where appropriate. • Provide new open space to the north of the town. • Support the development of Pershore College and High School. • Encourage and support the development of the town as a centre for cultural and tourism related activities. • Maintain and enhance the town's shops and services in accordance with its status as a Market Town. • Infill development will respect the historic form and character of the town, with high design standards and protection of urban greenspace. 	<p>The Preferred Policy Approach directs housing and employment land development around Pershore.</p> <p>Potential effects on Natura 2000 sites include: increased recreational pressure (although the provision of new public open space to the north may help to mitigate this), impacts on air quality and water quality due to development growth and traffic increases. Impacts on the water resource arising from increased abstraction for developments.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Preferred Policy Approaches (PPA)	Description of Likely Effect	Potential Effect
<p>Phasing of Development</p> <p>Phase 1 (2006 - 2015) Infill within the town and employment and housing development to the north east</p> <p>Phase 2 (2016 - 2021) Housing development to the south west and north</p> <p>Phase 3 (2022 -2026) Completion of housing development to the north</p>		
<p>Policy CS10 Spatial Strategy for the Villages</p> <p>Approximately 1,550 of the proposed housing will be directed to certain Category 1 villages to accommodate growth. Consideration will be given to those villages that are the most sustainable and can satisfactorily meet small-scale residential development in terms of infrastructure and services. The type of housing should include a range a mix of units, both market and affordable dwellings, to allow flexibility and meet local needs. In the remaining Category 1, 2 and 3 villages some residential development will be allowed to provide low cost, affordable and 'downsizing' needs identified within the local community.</p> <p>The loss of village services and community facilities will be resisted and it will be a requirement to demonstrate the specific facility is unviable and that there are alternative appropriate services within a reasonable journey by public transport. A flexible approach will be given to initiatives such as community shops. New community facilities will be supported and favourable locations will be considered where journeys can be undertaken by means other than a private motor vehicle.</p> <p>To ensure that the rural economy is enhanced and able to diversify development in rural areas that creates and retains jobs as well as support existing services will be supported. Both farming and market gardening, which are vital to a rural way of life, will be supported. The maintenance of agriculture and local food production is also central to achieving sustainable development. In order to deliver the strategy of directing some growth to rural areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Site Allocations Development Plan Document will identify appropriate sites for small-scale housing development in certain Category 1 villages and allow limited development in remaining Category 1, as well as Category 2 and 3 villages to meet a local recognised need. • Small-scale rural employment opportunities will be promoted, with a floorspace maximum of 500m2 and starter units within Category 1 villages. • The significance of self employment in rural areas will be recognised by, encouraging 'live/work hubs' in the more sustainable rural locations. • farm diversification is acknowledged as being a valuable opportunity to generate additional income, support for farmers core business is also essential • Support the range of initiatives and strategies to revitalise the agriculture sector delivered by other service providers. <p>The quality of life, access to key services and community facilities is an essential aspect of ensuring villages and their communities thrive and will be maintained by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding village services and community facilities, such as shops/public houses, post offices, schools and meeting venues. • Protecting and enhancing public open space and important landscape features of villages to provide opportunities for recreation and maintain village character. 	<p>'No effect' policy. The location of the development is unknown, and will be selected following consideration of options in lower plans.</p> <p>The Preferred Policy Approach directs housing and employment land development around Category 1, 2 and 3 villages at a very small scale.</p>	<p>No</p>

Preferred Policy Approaches (PPA)	Description of Likely Effect	Potential Effect
<p>Travel to larger towns from villages for jobs and services, by means other than private car, remains a significant difficulty for those living in rural areas. In order to help achieve future sustainable patterns of development it is important to promote and support alternative means and patterns of travel by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locating new residential and employment development in villages, as appropriate to the spatial strategy, in order to minimise the need to travel. • Encouraging improvements in public transport services to the larger villages, and main urban centres identified in the settlement hierarchy. • Promoting community transport options in rural areas. • Encouraging and developing 'green' transport options such as cycling and car sharing in accordance with Worcestershire County Council's Local Transport Plan. • Where rail links exist, encouraging opportunities to improve accessibility and facilities, such as extra land for car parking, to include secure cycle parking, and extra bus services. 		
<p>Proposed Policy CS11 Infrastructure Delivery</p> <p>Development will be supported by the delivery of infrastructure, services and facilities necessary to provide balanced, sustainable communities and to secure a modal shift away from the car. Infrastructure and services will be available in time to service new development.</p> <p>Development proposals will only be permitted where solutions to infrastructure constraints have been agreed with the appropriate delivery body.</p> <p>Development will be phased in relation to the delivery of infrastructure. If there are delays to the provision of strategic infrastructure in association with urban extensions, the Core Strategy will be reviewed to amend the phasing period of associated development.</p> <p>Local and strategic infrastructure contributions, based on the Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document will take the form of a standard charge per dwelling or per square metre of development, other than small-scale 'rural exceptions' sites where the contribution will be reduced.</p>	<p>'No effect' policy. The policy will have no effect because development is dependent on implementation of lower tier policies.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Proposed Policy CS12 Moving Around South Worcestershire</p> <p>All developments must demonstrate that the proposed location will minimise the demand for travel and offer genuine sustainable travel choices.</p> <p>Through the implementation of the Joint Core Strategy policies and the associated implementation plan development will be guided to achieve the objectives of the Local Transport Plan.</p>	<p>'No effect' policy. The policy itself will not lead to development.</p>	<p>No</p>

Preferred Policy Approaches (PPA)	Description of Likely Effect	Potential Effect
<p>All practical demand management measures will be implemented before development takes place in order to suppress demand for travel by car.</p> <p>New and/or enhanced public transport interchanges will be developed in the existing principal urban areas, market towns and within the main growth areas.</p> <p>Priority will be given to improving, walking, cycling and public transport infrastructure.</p> <p>Developments will be expected to contribute to the provision of sustainable transport infrastructure either through direct investment in facilities or by financial contributions for sustainable transport.</p> <p>Travel Plans will be required for all major developments. These must set out measures to reduce the demand for travel arising from the development together with targets and monitoring arrangements.</p> <p>In order to encourage healthy life styles residential developments should adopt Home Zone principals and those set out in the Manual for Streets.</p> <p>Maximum car parking standards will apply to all development proposals and these will be set out in Supplementary Planning Documents to a scheme to be agreed by the three South Worcestershire authorities and Worcestershire County Council.</p>		
<p>Proposed Policy CS13 – Mix of Housing</p> <p>All housing will be well designed and contribute to the mix of housing needed in South Worcestershire.</p> <p>On sites of 5 or more dwellings an appropriate mix of housing should be provided on-site having regard to the Local Housing Needs Report for South Worcestershire (as updated from time to time), any other relevant local data and site-specific factors. Sites will include a proportion of homes built to Lifetime Homes standards.</p> <p>The mix for allocated sites will be set out in the Site Allocations Development Plan Document or Development Brief Supplementary Planning Document.</p> <p>Parts of larger sites may be allocated to meet a specific housing requirement where a particular need is identified – for example, special needs, accommodation for the elderly or student accommodation. These will be identified in the site development brief that will be prepared for the larger allocated sites.</p>	<p>'No effect' policy. The policy itself will not lead to development.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Proposed Policy CS14 Meeting Affordable Housing Needs In South Worcestershire</p> <p>All new residential development, including conversions (and including adjacent land if it can be expected to form part of a larger site) will contribute to affordable housing.</p>	<p>'No effect' policy. The policy itself will not lead to development.</p>	<p>No</p>

Preferred Policy Approaches (PPA)	Description of Likely Effect	Potential Effect
<p>Up to 40% of the units should be affordable i.e. social rented and intermediate housing. In addition 10% of the units should be in the form of low cost market housing.</p> <p>The number, type, tenure and dispersal of units to be provided will be subject to negotiation, dependent on the recognised local housing need.</p> <p>Affordable housing will be provided on-site for developments of 5 units or more. Exceptionally off-site contributions may be accepted.</p> <p>An off-site financial contribution will be required of developments less than 5 dwellings.</p> <p>The manner in which the policy will be implemented, including details of the levels of off-site contributions, the exceptional circumstances which may justify an off-site contribution in respect of 5 dwellings or more and the procedures to be followed when a planning application is submitted, will be set out in the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document.</p>		
<p>Proposed Policy CS15 Rural Exceptions Sites</p> <p>Exception Sites for 100% affordable housing will be identified in the Site Allocations Development Plan Document within or on the edge of Category 1 settlements. In addition in rural areas and as an exception to normal development policy, proposals will be permitted for affordable housing on small sites within and on the edges of Category 1,2 and 3 settlements, to meet the specific housing needs of the local area.</p> <p>Both approaches will need to demonstrate that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) There is a proven and as yet unmet local need having regard to the Local Housing Needs Report for South Worcestershire (as updated from time to time), the Common Housing Register and a local Parish Survey; b) No other suitable or appropriate and available sites exist within the development boundary of the settlement; c) The settlement is not the subject of an allocation under the terms of Policy CS10, d) The scheme has public support; e) The site has reasonable access to public transport and local services/ facilities; and f) Secure arrangements exist to ensure the housing will remain affordable, suitable sized and otherwise permanently available to meet the continuing needs of local people in perpetuity. 	<p>'No effect' policy. The policy itself will not lead to development.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Proposed Policy CS16 Gypsies, Travellers and travelling Showpeople</p> <p>1. Provision will be made through the Site Allocations Development Plan Document, together with an allowance for sites coming forward through the development control process, for additional pitch provision having regard to the findings and recommendations contained in the South Housing Market Area Gypsy and Traveller Assessment and the criteria in Part 2 of this Policy.</p> <p>2. Accommodation for gypsies and travellers, including travelling showpeople will be proposed in the Site Allocations Development Plan Document or permitted through the development control process if all of the following requirements are met:</p>	<p>'No effect' policy. The location of the development is unknown, and will be selected following consideration of options in lower plans.</p>	<p>No</p>

Preferred Policy Approaches (PPA)	Description of Likely Effect	Potential Effect
<p>a) There is an identified need that cannot reasonably be met on an existing or planned site;</p> <p>b) Residential or rural amenity is not prejudiced as a result of visual intrusion, excessive noise, lighting, traffic generation or activity at unsocial hours;</p> <p>c) The site respects the scale of, and does not dominate, the nearest settled community;</p> <p>d) The site can adequately be accessed by vehicles towing caravans and there is safe pedestrian and cycle access to the site;</p> <p>e) The site is reasonably accessible to shops, schools and other community facilities on foot, by cycle or public transport; and</p> <p>f) In the case of travelling showpeople, the site is suitable in all respects for the storage of large items of mobile equipment.</p> <p>There will be a presumption against the development of gypsy and traveller accommodation (including sites for travelling showpeople) in the Green Belt unless there are very special circumstances.</p>		
<p>Proposed Policy 17 Employment Protection and Generation</p> <p>Provision of employment land in a range of plot sizes and locations that support the settlement hierarchy will be made to meet as a minimum the requirements identified by the South Worcestershire Employment Land Review 2008 and any future Employment Land Reviews that may be required.</p> <p>New employment provision (land and commercial premises) will be primarily located within or adjacent to the principal urban areas with the aim of providing opportunities to reduce commuting distances and ensuring work places are accessible by a range of travel modes.</p> <p>Major office developments will be directed to Worcester City Centre and secondary locations within the district centres of Malvern, Evesham and Droitwich Spa.</p> <p>Sites to meet anticipated new employment land requirements will be identified by the Site Allocations Development Plan Document.</p> <p>Strategic Employment sites will be protected from alternative types of development to provide flexibility to meet un-anticipated future needs.</p> <p>In addition to the provision of additional employment land to meet the minimum requirements identified in the Employment Land Review (February 2008) development proposals for employment uses in other parts of South Worcestershire may be supported providing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The site is within a settlement boundary or within the curtilage of existing employment site or other premises. 2. The development supports an existing business or a new enterprise of a scale commensurate to the size of the host community. 3. The development is of a scale and form in keeping with the size and character of the settlement and its setting. 4. The local road network is capable of safely accommodating the type and scale of traffic likely to be generated without undue environmental consequences. 5. The development will not undermine objectives for sustainable transport and it can be demonstrated that consideration has been given to reducing the need to travel and securing access to the development by public transport and alternatives to the private motor car. 6. The proposal is environmentally acceptable and will not adversely affect the amenity of neighbouring land uses. 7. Exceptionally within the rural areas and in particular the Rural Regeneration Zone, new employment proposals may be supported in 	<p>The Preferred Policy Approach directs employment land development around the principal urban areas. Major office developments will be directed towards Worcester City Centre, with a Regionally Significant Employment Site, which is situated approximately 1km from Lyppard Grange SAC adjacent to the M5.</p> <p>Potential effects on Natura 2000 sites include: impacts on air quality and water quality due to development growth and traffic increases. Impacts on the water resource arising from increased abstraction for developments.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Preferred Policy Approaches (PPA)	Description of Likely Effect	Potential Effect
<p>locations outside but immediately adjacent to settlement boundaries of category 1,2 & 3 settlements. Such proposals should be closely related to the settlement and demonstrate that there are no other suitable sites within the settlement boundary. In addition the proposal should demonstrate that the level of development supports an existing business or it is clearly related to the employment needs of the local economy and workforce.</p> <p>Existing businesses including those in vulnerable sectors will be supported by only considering alternative uses for existing employment land and buildings when all of the following criteria apply:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The continued use of the buildings, or their redevelopment for an employment use, is unviable and this is supported by robust evidence. As a minimum this evidence would include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Details of the active marketing of the premises, leasehold and freehold for at least two years. b. A market appraisal that demonstrates that redevelopment for any employment use is financially unviable. c. The premises have been identified by an up to date Employment Land Review as unsuitable for continued employment use. 2. The proposed use would offer a clear community benefit, e.g. 100% affordable housing. 3. The proposed use would be compatible with adjacent land uses and not prejudice the amenity, viability or future development of other businesses. 		
<p>Proposed Policy CS18 - Shopping and Leisure</p> <p>New retail, leisure and tourism development that contributes to the vision for South Worcestershire as a high quality sustainable network of urban and rural settlements will be promoted and supported. Retail and other town centre development will be of a scale appropriate to its location and respect the character and environment of the centre, including any special architectural or historic interest.</p> <p>Sites to meet anticipated new retail requirements will be identified by the Site Allocations Development Plan Document and the Action Area Plan for Worcester City Centre.</p> <p>Proposals for new retail floor-space will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate that they are meeting an identified shopping need, including the needs of disadvantaged rural and urban communities and of the growing population of South Worcestershire. • Maintain and enhance the role of Worcester City Centre as the major retail destination within South Worcestershire. In particular proposals in the City Centre should increase the quality and range of shopping available as well as contributing to a comfortable, safe, attractive and accessible environment. • Strengthen the role of district and local shopping centres by preserving the predominance of A1 uses while encouraging the development of complementary uses that can meet local residents every day needs and reduce the need to travel. • Make full use of the premises avoiding vacant floors over shops and providing a separate entrance for office or residential use of upper floors. <p>If there is a clearly identified retail need that cannot be accommodated in the City or Town Centres it will be directed to an existing retail destination to ensure unsustainable piecemeal development does not occur.</p> <p>Proposals for change of use from A1 retailing within town and neighbourhood shopping centres to A2, A3, A5, D1, and D2 use classes as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (or successor in title) will be supported providing:</p>	<p>'No effect' policy. The location of the development is unknown, and will be selected following consideration of options in lower plans.</p>	<p>No</p>

Preferred Policy Approaches (PPA)	Description of Likely Effect	Potential Effect
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The premises are not within an identified Primary Shopping Frontage. 2. Where the proposed use is an A5 hot food takeaway the premises do not fall within an Area of Restraint. 3. The proposal would not result in two adjacent non-A1 retail units. 4. The proposal would not adversely affect neighbouring residential amenity. 5. The proposal would not adversely affect highway safety or increase concerns about public safety. <p>Proposals for a change of use from A1 retailing in isolated locations will only be supported if it can be clearly demonstrated that the retailing use is no longer viable.</p>		
<p>Proposed Policy CS19 Energy efficiency and renewable energy</p> <p>South Worcestershire will adopt an approach that combines a reduction in the level of energy consumption in households and businesses throughout the area by introducing energy efficiency measures, as well as by encouraging and increasing the use of renewable energy sources.</p> <p>The Joint Core Strategy will help reduce carbon emissions, promote sustainable energy solutions and respond to existing and anticipated climate change in ways that protect the environment of South Worcestershire.</p> <p>In order to achieve this, the use of renewable energy sources and the integration of energy efficiency techniques will be required in all new development within South Worcestershire, irrespective of use. The retrofitting of energy efficiency measures will also be encouraged.</p> <p>All planning proposals will be required to provide an energy and sustainability statement. This must demonstrate that residential schemes will, as a minimum, meet level 4 of The Code for Sustainable Homes from 2011, increasing to level 6 by 2016. Non-residential buildings will meet BREEAM 'very good' standard from 2011, increasing to 'excellent' by 2016. Where possible zero carbon development will be encouraged ahead of government targets to ensure developments are future proofed.</p> <p>Larger schemes (to be defined) will be encouraged to provide at least 20% of the energy used from an on-site renewable source, whether through combined heat and power or an alternative renewable energy source unless this is proven to be unviable. The technologies installed should be permanently retained and maintained for as long as the buildings remain.</p> <p>Off-site Renewable Energy Schemes</p> <p>To promote and encourage the development of renewable energy generation in South Worcestershire to help meet regional and national targets, a range of schemes will be considered from a variety of sources including biomass, hydropower, solar power and wind turbines where appropriate. Each scheme will be considered on its own merit and small and medium scale schemes may be appropriate where they are designed and located so as to have minimal adverse impacts on existing communities, landscape quality and the natural and historic environment.</p> <p>Larger scale schemes will only be acceptable where it can be shown that they only have limited adverse impacts on existing communities, landscape quality and the natural and historic environment. It will be necessary to work closely with energy companies and other</p>	<p>Uncertain impact, potential for policy that promotes biomass and wind energy solutions to have impacts on neighbouring sites/ linked greenspaces.</p> <p>This would be most likely an issue for Bredon Hill SAC rather than Lyppard Grange Ponds SAC due to location.</p>	<p>Yes</p>

Preferred Policy Approaches (PPA)	Description of Likely Effect	Potential Effect
<p>appropriate organisations to identify suitable locations for large-scale renewable energy infrastructure.</p>		
<p>Proposed Policy CS20 – Management of Flood Risk</p> <p>Proposals for new development in all areas of flood risk will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> It would not have a significant impact on the capacity of an area to store floodwater; It would not impede the flow of surface water or obstruct the run-off of storm water due to high levels of groundwater; Measures required to manage any flood risk can be implemented; The management of surface water run off is done in a sustainable way; Provision is made for the long term maintenance and management of any flood protection and or mitigation measures; The benefits of it to the community outweigh the flood risk. <p>In areas of flood risk, Flood Risk Assessments will be required to be submitted and demonstrate how risk from all sources of flooding to the development itself and flood risk to others will be managed. The proposed development will be safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere and, where possible, will reduce flood risk overall.</p>	<p>'No effect' policy. The policy itself will not lead to development.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Proposed Policy CS21 Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity</p> <p>Biodiversity and green infrastructure gain will be required in order to enhance and sustain the interconnecting and interdependent ecosystems which permeate South Worcestershire. This will be led by requirements to provide high quality habitat that will be rich in biodiversity and will include space for recreation and tourism, public access, environmental education and sustainable water management. It will be guided by landscape character, local distinctiveness and heritage, the need to address climate change, sustainable land management and green economic uses.</p> <p>Corridors and interlinked greenspace will be central to a landscape approach that will incorporate, locally distinctive greenspace, and connect areas of identified biodiversity, geodiversity or landscape value. These strategic links, corridors and greenspaces will be safeguarded through;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refusal of development which compromises, degrades or reduces the sustainability of the green infrastructure network Fully utilising developer contributions and planning agreements to enhance and sustain habitat quality, biodiversity and the robustness and effectiveness of the green infrastructure network. The creation of new high quality built and natural environments by investment in enhancement and restoration. Decreasing fragmentation, by providing and enhancing green infrastructure. <p>Development, regardless of size or complexity will be required to contribute to the aims of the green infrastructure network. This will include the local links and greenspaces that form part of the sub-regional level links and corridors, so that a fully integrated approach is achieved.</p> <p>Priority will be given to those areas where net gains can be most effective and in particular where those gains contribute to the County Local Biodiversity Action Plan aims and objectives. Local deficiencies in open space and accessibility to natural greenspace will be addressed where possible, and additions to the Green Infrastructure network will be required to show that they improve landscape</p>	<p>'No effect' policy. Policy intended to protect the natural environment including biodiversity.</p>	<p>No</p>

Preferred Policy Approaches (PPA)	Description of Likely Effect	Potential Effect
<p>permeability for wildlife and / or people.</p>		
<p>Proposed Policy CS22 Open Space</p> <p>Open spaces in South Worcestershire will be improved through the protection and enhancement of existing areas and the development of new high quality, varied and well connected provision.</p> <p>Existing open spaces should not be built on unless an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown it to be surplus to requirements, after consideration of all the alternative functions that open space can perform has been exhausted, including its role as part of the green infrastructure network. Development may provide the opportunity to exchange the use of one site for another to substitute for any loss of open space provision.</p> <p>New development will contribute to open space provision in accordance with local provision standards, either by providing high quality, varied and accessible open space on site or through off site developer contributions to enhance existing provision in the locality. In accordance with National guidance, planning obligations and conditions will be used to ensure provision is undertaken adequately and that new facilities are capable of being maintained adequately through management and maintenance agreements Open spaces will be well connected particularly through sustainable means (such as cycling and walking) as this can help encourage healthy active lifestyles, a stronger community and an important public amenity that is accessible for all. However existing open spaces that provide a visual amenity not accessible to the public are also considered valuable.</p> <p>The many types of open space across South Worcestershire contribute to its local distinctiveness and help create a strong identity for the communities and settlements. Promoting, preserving and enhancing the locally distinctive areas of open space will be a requirement of future development.</p> <p>It is now widely recognised that open space has a major role to play in providing for flood mitigation and adaptation measures and enhancing and providing for Biodiversity and this is seen as particularly important in the South Worcestershire area.</p>	<p>'No effect' policy. Policy intended to protect the natural environment including biodiversity.</p>	<p>No</p>

Plans, Programmes and Projects Review

Regional	
Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands, January 2008.	
Plan Type	Regional Spatial Strategy
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	West Midlands Regional Assembly
Currency	2006-2026
Region/Geographic Coverage	West Midlands
Sector	Planning
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Phase II Revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands(URSUS & Treweek, 2007)
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>The Spatial Strategy provides a framework for the development of the Region up until 2026. It informs the development of strategies and programmes of other public agencies and service providers including those involved in health, education, skills and learning, and crime reduction. It also provides the spatial framework for the Regional Economic Strategy (RES).</p> <p>The RSS proposes the provision and distribution of 36,600 new homes across Worcestershire between 2006-2026, to be allocated between the districts as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Worcester City - 10,500; ▪ Wychavon - 9,100; ▪ Redditch - 6,600; ▪ Malvern Hills - 4,900; ▪ Wyre Forest - 3,400; and ▪ Bromsgrove - 2,100; <p>The RSS sets a target of 24,500 new dwellings and 183ha of</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Direct loss of habitat through development - Worcester has been designated as a 'Settlement of Significant Development', which could have implications for Lyppard Grange SAC. ▪ Housing and employment growth may lead to increased transport movements - the potential for in-combination effect is greater where housing sites are in close proximity to Natura 2000 sites. ▪ New communities require increased infrastructure - potential for land take, pollution increase, disturbance/ severance of habitats and species. ▪ Growth in the requirement for waste management/ transport disposal from new communities and businesses has the potential to increase pollution, and introduce land take issues. ▪ Recreation pressures may result from housing developments near/ adjacent to Natura 2000 sites. ▪ Atmospheric pollution generated as a result of housing, employment and transport growth.

Regional	
Regional Spatial Strategy for the West Midlands, January 2008.	
employment land development in South Worcestershire during 2006-2026.	
Worcester and Redditch to be designated 'Settlements of Significant Development'.	
Provision and distribution of 96ha of employment land as rolling five year reservoir for Worcester.	
Levels of office and retail use in the 'strategic centres' of Worcester, Redditch and Kidderminster.	

Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies	
The Worcestershire Middle Severn Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy 2006	
Plan Type	Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Environment Agency
Currency	2006-2012
Region/Geographic Coverage	Worcestershire Middle Severn Catchment
Sector	Water
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	HRA of the Worcestershire Middle Severn Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy 2006
Document Details	
	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
The document sets out how the Environment Agency will manage water abstraction from the Worcestershire Middle Severn catchment until 2012. The strategy provides the framework for any decision on an abstraction license application.	The catchment has been split into 2 Water Resource Management Units (WRMU) and 1 Groundwater Management Unit (GRMU). The document states that WRMU 1 has water available for abstraction, whereas WRMU 2 is over abstracted. The GRMU is also determined to be over abstracted. Lyppard Grange SAC is situated within WRMU 2 and the GWMU. Under

Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies	
The Worcestershire Middle Severn Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy 2006	
<p>The Worcestershire Middle Severn CAMS contains some urban areas such as parts of Telford, Wolverhampton, Dudley, Kidderminster and Worcester. The market town of Bridgnorth can also be found here. The urban development pressures are significant and are likely to increase in the future, due to further growth.</p> <p>The main watercourses are the Rivers Worfe, Stour and Salwarpe. This CAMS does not include the River Severn as it was considered in the Severn Corridor CAMS which was published in June 2003. There are also a number of brooks such as the Dowles Brook, Hadley Brook and Borle Brook. Canals in the area include Staffs-Worcester and Droitwich.</p> <p>The area contains significant quantities of groundwater (contained in the Triassic Sandstone aquifer). The groundwater is very heavily abstracted (92 per cent of all water abstracted in the area is from groundwater sources) with most abstractions made by historic licences. New licences have not been granted, from groundwater, in this area for many years. This increases the pressure on the existing water supplies. Groundwater abstraction in the area is largely for public water supply by the water companies South Staffordshire Water and Severn Trent Water.</p> <p>The Water Resource Management Units chosen for this area do not cover the whole of the catchment. Those areas not covered by a management unit have only small volumes of abstraction and no known water dependent issues.</p>	<p>the Habitats Regulations the EA have to assess the effects of existing abstraction licences and any new applications to make sure they are not impacting on internationally important nature conservation sites. The Strategy states, "we have reviewed the impact of current abstractions on Fens pool and Lyppard Grange and concluded that the sites are not at risk from abstraction". If the assessment of a new application shows that it could have an impact on a SAC/SPA the EA will have to follow strict rules in setting a time limit for that licence.</p>

Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies	
The Severn Corridor Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy 2003	
Plan Type	Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Environment Agency
Currency	2003-2009
Region/Geographic Coverage	Severn Corridor Catchment
Sector	Water
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>The document sets out how the Environment Agency will manage water abstraction from the Severn Corridor catchment until 2009. The strategy provides the framework for any decision on an abstraction license application. The Severn Corridor CAMS differs from the majority of other catchment strategies by only looking at the river corridor. The Severn Corridor CAMS considers the full range of flows within the main river channel but focuses predominately on the low to medium flow range. It does not look in detail at the water levels in the river or connected water environment.</p> <p>This Severn Corridor CAMS focuses exclusively on the regulated reaches of the River Severn from Afon Clywedog to the Severn Estuary. It includes the Afon Clywedog downstream of Clywedog reservoir, River Vyrnwy downstream of Lake Vyrnwy, the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal and the Montgomery Canal. It also takes into account discharges from the Shropshire Groundwater Scheme (SGS).</p> <p>The River Severn flows through an extensive area of England and Wales, with considerable variation in climate between its</p>	<p>The catchment has been split into 13 Water Resource Management Units (WRMU). WRMUs A, B and 1 to 4 are assessed as having 'water available' (Water likely to be available at all flows including low flows. Restrictions may apply), whereas WRMUs 5 to 11 has 'no water available' (No water available for further licensing at low flows although water may be available at higher flows with appropriate restrictions).</p> <p>Lyppard Grange SAC is situated within WRMU 6, which is rated as having 'no water available'. Walmore Common SAC is situated within WRMU 11, which is also rated as having 'no water available'. 'No water available' status effectively means that water has been licensed for abstraction within the sustainable limit for that unit.</p> <p>The Severn Corridor Catchment along with the many other sources of water that drain into the Severn Estuary has the potential to adversely affect the Severn Estuary SPA, Ramsar and cSAC. The resource assessment results for all assessment points above and including WRMU 4 the point where the River Worfe joins the Severn was 'water available'. Downstream, as the major public water supply abstractions take effect the result changes to 'no water available'. However, since all water upstream of a point in a catchment contributes to the water availability</p>

Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies	
The Severn Corridor Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy 2003	
<p>source and its mouth in the Bristol Channel. The annual rainfall ranges from around 1000 mm in the mountains of mid Wales to about 600 mm in Shropshire and Worcestershire.</p> <p>The River Severn is an important strategic river and provides public water supplies to six million people. This includes water exported out of the catchment to South Staffordshire and to Bristol via the Gloucester & Sharpness Canal. Water is also abstracted from the River Severn to meet the demands of agriculture, industry and navigation.</p>	<p>further downstream, the availability status of 'no water available' applies to the Severn Corridor in its entirety.</p>

Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies	
The Teme Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy 2003	
Plan Type	Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Environment Agency
Currency	2003-2009
Region/Geographic Coverage	Teme Catchment
Sector	Water
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>The Teme CAMS area covers the whole of the catchment of the River Teme which includes parts of the counties of Shropshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Powys. The major settlements wholly within the area include Ludlow, Tenbury Wells and Knighton, however the highest concentration of population occurs in Worcester City, only part of which falls within the CAMS area.</p>	<p>The majority of abstraction licences (95 out of 123) are for agricultural purposes and spray irrigation. Although there are only a small number of licensed abstractions for public water supply, they account for over 50% of the total licensed quantity from the Teme catchment. There are over 60 consented discharges to the catchment; the majority are for sewage effluent or sewerage system overflows. The largest discharge is from Ludlow Sewage Treatment Works.</p>

Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies	
The Teme Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy 2003	
<p>Major tributaries include the rivers Clun, Onny, Corve and Rea and larger brooks such as the Kyre, Leigh and Laughern. The whole of the River Teme is classed as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) as it represents a biologically rich river.</p> <p>Whilst there is an adequate supply of surface water resources in the Teme catchment during the winter period, in the summer the River Teme often experiences low flows. Unlike the River Severn, flows in the River Teme are not supported by releases from a reservoir. There is, therefore, a need to limit the volume of water abstracted during periods of low flows. This is achieved by imposing flow restriction conditions so that abstraction must reduce or cease during low flow periods. It is Environment Agency policy to time limit all new abstraction licences.</p> <p>Groundwater resources are limited in the catchment as the geology of the area is such that there are no major aquifers.</p>	<p>The resource assessment for the Unit (which is the entire Theme catchment) is 'Water Available'. However since the Teme flows into the River Severn, which is covered by the Severn Corridor CAMS and is classed as 'No Water Available', the Teme must also be classed as 'No Water Available'.</p>

Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies	
The Warwickshire Avon Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy 2006	
Plan Type	Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Environment Agency
Currency	2006-2013
Region/Geographic Coverage	Warwickshire Avon Catchment
Sector	Water

Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies	
The Warwickshire Avon Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy 2006	
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>The Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS) for the Warwickshire Avon catchment sets out how the Environment Agency will manage water abstraction until 2013.</p> <p>The catchment area includes most of the county of Warwickshire, significant areas of Worcestershire, Gloucestershire and small parts of Oxfordshire, Leicestershire and Northamptonshire. The River Avon is a major tributary of the River Severn, which rises in Naseby and flows southwest for approximately 179 kilometres until it joins the Severn at Tewkesbury.</p> <p>There are a total of approximately 1500 abstraction licences in the Warwickshire Avon CAMS area. Most of the abstracted water in the area is used for public water supply, 81% of the total licensed quantity. A much smaller proportion is abstracted for industrial and commercial use, domestic and agricultural purposes.</p>	<p>The catchment has been split into 15 Water Resource Management Units (WRMU) and 7 Groundwater Management Unit (GRMU).</p> <p>Bredon Hill SAC lies within the Upper Pound WRMU and is deemed to have 'no water available'. There is development occurring upstream of the site in Pershore and Evesham, which has the potential to increase levels of water abstraction. This is unlikely to have significant potential effects as the level of development is not significant and part of the EA duties when considering an application for a licence is the need to ensure that they do not cause river flows, groundwater levels or water levels in wetlands to fall artificially below the minimum level required for the conservation of the aquatic environment. Water efficiency is also tested by the EA before a new licence is granted.</p>

County

Minerals & Waste Strategies	
Worcestershire County Council Waste Core Strategy, Submission 2007	
Plan Type	Waste Core Strategy
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Worcestershire County Council
Currency	2007- 2021
Region/Geographic Coverage	Worcestershire County Council administrative boundary
Sector	Waste
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	SA Scoping Report of Worcestershire County Council Waste Core Strategy, 2005
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>The Waste Core Strategy (WCS) sets out the planning strategy for sustainable waste management within Worcestershire, which enables adequate provision of waste management facilities to be permitted in appropriate locations.</p> <p>The Preferred Options for the Draft Waste Core Strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A3 - that new waste development is appropriate anywhere in the Green Belt when in accordance with the objectives of PPG 2. ▪ B1 - to focus on development in urban locations throughout Worcestershire with justified minimal development in rural locations. ▪ C1 - to establish primarily large waste management facilities. ▪ D1 - to focus on centralising facilities, but with dispersed facilities justified; and ▪ E1 - to incorporate the adopted BPEO Strategy into the Waste Core Strategy. 	<p>Focusing waste development in urban locations could have implications for Lyppard Grange SAC as the site is situated on the outskirts of Worcester. This could have the potential to have in-combination effects through increased transport and associated impacts/ pollution incidents.</p>

Minerals & Waste Strategies	
Worcestershire County Council Waste Core Strategy, Submission 2007	
<p>Policy 11 - new waste management activity which cannot satisfactorily be undertaken on B8 or B2 land. In every case sites will only be acceptable if they are not affected by sites of, and/or the proximity of, species of international or national importance to nature conservation.</p> <p>Policy 13 - Household Recycling Centres New Reuse and Recycling sites will be developed in: Malvern Hills (Tenbury Wells, new location to be identified) Upton-upon-Severn (new location to be identified) Wychavon (Evesham, new location to be identified) Worcester City (Worcester, new location to be identified)</p>	

Minerals & Waste Strategies	
Gloucestershire County Council Minerals Core Strategy, Preferred Options 2008:	
Plan Type	Minerals Core Strategy
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Gloucestershire County Council
Currency	2008- 2026
Region/Geographic Coverage	Gloucestershire County Council administrative boundary
Sector	Minerals
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	Gloucestershire County Council Minerals Core Strategy Appropriate Assessment Report, January 2008. Gloucestershire County Council Minerals Core Strategy Preferred Options Sustainability Appraisal Report, January 2008.
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
The Mineral Core Strategy (MCS) provides the overarching	The MCS identifies the potential outward supply opportunity of crushed

Minerals & Waste Strategies	
Gloucestershire County Council Minerals Core Strategy, Preferred Options 2008:	
<p>framework for managing the Gloucestershire County’s mineral resources. The MCS does not provide specific sites, the evolution of its preferred options provides the parameters for how future working opportunities will be allocated in a later mineral site allocations development plan document.</p> <p>There are 7 Strategic Objectives which are based around the following themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provision & Supply ▪ Reuse & Recycling ▪ The Environment ▪ People ▪ Reclamation ▪ Resource Management ▪ Transport <p>The MCS identifies the following resource areas, which are of relevance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Cotswolds - provides limestone used as a crushed rock and building stone and clay for brick-making; ▪ The Severn Vale Corridor - also encompasses sand & gravel for aggregate use; and clay for engineering projects. <p>The MCS identifies the potential outward supply opportunity of crushed rock into Wales and the West Midlands. However, ensuring that proposed transport routes are carefully assessed against the capacity of the local environment, highway network and amenity of local communities.</p> <p>Preferred option MPO5a proposes a more dispersed strategy for future sand & gravel working. Whilst recognising the</p>	<p>rock into Wales and the West Midlands. This could have the potential to have in-combination effects through increased transport and associated impacts/ pollution incidents. Acid and nitrogen deposition currently exceed vegetation thresholds at Bredon Hill SAC.</p> <p>The MCS also identifies the provision potential of the Severn Vale Corridor resource area to provide potential new site allocations for sand and gravel working. A new site to the north of Tewkesbury would be in close proximity to the Bredon Hill SAC and could again have the potential for increased transport and associated impacts/ pollution incidents.</p>

Minerals & Waste Strategies	
Gloucestershire County Council Minerals Core Strategy, Preferred Options 2008:	
<p>strategic significance of the Upper Thames Valley resource area, it seeks to acknowledge the provision potential of the Severn Vale Corridor resource area. Where the spatial strategy indicates that new site allocations should be identified, the relative merits of potential sites within each resource area will be considered.</p> <p>The Appropriate Assessment Screening states that there is likely to be no significant effect on Bredon Hill SAC as a result of the Minerals Core Strategy Preferred Options.</p>	

Minerals & Waste Strategies	
Gloucestershire County Council Waste Core Strategy, Preferred Options 2008	
Plan Type	Waste Core Strategy
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Gloucestershire County Council
Currency	2008- 2026
Region/Geographic Coverage	Gloucestershire County Council administrative boundary
Sector	Waste
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	Gloucestershire County Council Waste Core Strategy Appropriate Assessment Report, January 2008. Gloucestershire County Council Waste Core Strategy Preferred Options Sustainability Appraisal Report, January 2008.
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
The Waste Core Strategy (WCS) will provide the framework for sustainable waste management in the County. Consultation has taken place on a centralised and dispersed spatial	The Gloucestershire approach mirrors neighbouring counties in focusing waste near source and making use of existing facilities. Screening has not identified likely significant effects from Waste facilities.

Minerals & Waste Strategies	
Gloucestershire County Council Waste Core Strategy, Preferred Options 2008	
<p>strategy for waste locations. Policies to avoid internationally designated sites are proposed.</p> <p>There are five strategic objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. To influence Gloucestershire's residents to reduce the amount of waste they produce through raising awareness of waste issues. And then subsequently to encourage them to view any waste they do generate as a resource for which they must take communal responsibility. b. To make the best use of Gloucestershire's waste by encouraging competitive markets for goods made from recycled materials and obtaining a benefit (value) from left over (residual) waste materials. c. To preserve and enhance the quality of Gloucestershire's environment and to avoid undesirable environmental effects, including risks to human health and unacceptable impacts on designated landscapes / nature conservation sites. d. To reduce the environmental impacts of transporting waste by managing the majority of Gloucestershire's waste within a reasonable distance from its source of arising, and to encourage the use of sustainable means of transporting waste. e. To co-locate similar or related facilities on existing waste sites or previously developed sites in preference to undesignated Greenfield locations (where appropriate) and to safeguard such land from development that may prevent this use. <p>An Appropriate Assessment Screening of the Preferred Options identified no likely significant effects of the policies of the N2K</p>	

Minerals & Waste Strategies	
Gloucestershire County Council Waste Core Strategy, Preferred Options 2008	
<p>sites. Uncertainties were identified for ten of the preferred options. The AA noted that this may require dropping the option, modifying the option or modifying/mitigating the option at the site allocations stage of the DPD.</p> <p>The AA Screening states that there is likely to be no significant effect on Bredon Hill SAC as a result of the Minerals Core Strategy Preferred Options. However the assessment was uncertain of the potential for significant effects in regard to Waste Preferred Option 4a, 7a, 7b, 7c, 7d and 8b.</p>	

Transport Plans	
Gloucestershire County Council Second Local Transport Plan 2006-2011.	
Plan Type	Local Transport Plan
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Gloucestershire County Council
Currency	2006- 2011
Region/Geographic Coverage	Gloucestershire County Council administrative boundary
Sector	Transport
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>The Second Local Transport Plan (LTP2) is a delivery programme designed to achieve targets reflecting national, regional and local priorities.</p> <p>The vision for transport in the county is: 'To enable people in Gloucestershire to enjoy real choices of</p>	<p>For Tewkesbury the road schemes under consideration include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Tewkesbury Northern Relief Road - Ashchurch Road to Bredon Road section <p>The Tewkesbury Northern Relief Road (TNRR) is a long-standing proposal and the route is protected in the Tewkesbury Local Plan. Completion</p>

Transport Plans	
Gloucestershire County Council Second Local Transport Plan 2006-2011.	
<p>ways of travel where there are viable alternatives to the car and be provided with high quality access to services on a safe and efficient transport network.'</p> <p>This vision has been expanded into six objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintenance and improvement; ▪ Economy and integration; ▪ Safety; ▪ Accessibility; ▪ Real choices and awareness; and ▪ Environment. <p>A substantial thrust of the strategy in LTP2 is to focus on the existing infrastructure and to manage it and invest in it to ensure it is functioning at its optimal level. This is in respect of condition, safety and utilisation of capacity. For these reasons, LTP2 prioritises investment in maintenance and safety measures</p>	<p>(2009/2010) of the TNRR from the B4080 Bredon Road to A438 Ashchurch Road will enable all through traffic to avoid the town centre and will link to the Tewkesbury Eastern Relief Road, funded by developer contributions, that was completed in January 1997. The specific objectives of the TNRR are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide environmental relief for residents of Tewkesbury ▪ Reduce traffic accidents on the A438 and on Tewkesbury High Street ▪ Reduce congestion on Tewkesbury High Street ▪ Improve air quality in Tewkesbury town centre. <p>The A46 north of junction 9 is identified as another concern. There is localised congestion on the approaches to junction 9 (and also on the A438 from the west to junction 9). In addition there is concern about the unimproved sections of the A46 between the M5 and M40. The A46 provides a strategically important alternative route from the South West to the Midlands and the North. Officers from Warwickshire and Worcestershire County Councils have agreed to work with Gloucestershire in lobbying for improvement schemes on this important inter-regional trunk road.</p> <p>Tewkesbury AQMA is exceeding the annual mean nitrogen dioxide concentration as a result of traffic on the M5 and Junction 10 slip roads.</p> <p>As the infrastructure improvements above will reduce congestion and improve air quality it is unlikely that they will add to ambient pollution levels in the area.</p>

Local Development Frameworks

Local Development Frameworks	
Wyre District Council LDF Core Strategy Revised - Issues and Options 2008	
Plan Type	Local Development Framework
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Wyre District Council
Currency	2026
Region/Geographic Coverage	Wyre District Council administrative boundaries
Sector	Planning
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report of Wyre District Council LDF Core Strategy DPD Issues & Options Consultation 2007
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>The Core Strategy provides the strategic focus for development in the District up to 2026. It also sets the context for the detailed parts of the LDF and the overall development strategy for the District including the broad areas where new housing and development will be located.</p> <p>The Core Strategy puts forward 4 options for the strategic approach to growth in the District:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Option SD) 1 - Accommodate 3,400 dwellings on allocated urban Brownfield sites principally within Kidderminster & within and to the east of Stuppport-on-Severn. ▪ Option SD) 1a - Accommodate significant growth at a specific Brownfield strategic site in Kidderminster on land at Churchfields/Clenmore/Stoney Lane. ▪ Option SD) 2 - Accommodate an increased number of dwellings through a limited number of small urban Greenfield sites and as a reserve the ADRs identified in the 	<p>Overarching Development Pressures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Housing and employment growth - increased transport movements and associated air pollutants - e.g. as a result of development in Kidderminster and surrounding areas. ▪ Water abstraction for expanding communities - potential to impact surface and groundwater.

Local Development Frameworks	
Wyre District Council LDF Core Strategy Revised - Issues and Options 2008	
<p>Adopted Local Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Option SD) 3 - Accommodate higher levels of housing growth through Greenfield urban sites or extensions including a review of the adopted Green Belt Boundary. <p>The document identified the following key inter-related issues and challenges facing the future development of the District.</p> <p>Sustainable Communities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Retain focus on Kidderminster as the strategic centre for the District and conserve and enhance the character and community identity of each town. 2) Retaining services within the District's rural settlements. 3) Providing a balanced housing market with a higher proportion of affordable homes. 4) Safeguarding and enhancing the District's unique historic character. <p>Regenerating the Local Economy</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5) Providing opportunities to diversify the local economy. 6) Addressing increasing traffic congestion within the District's three towns and reducing the need to travel. <p>Climate Change and the Natural Environment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7) The need to balance regeneration with flood risk and mitigation for climate change. 8) Safeguarding the District's landscape character and the greenbelt. 9) Maximising opportunities to safeguard and improve biodiversity within new development. <p>Health and Well Being</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10) Providing the environment to offer residents the choice of healthier lifestyles. 11) Helping local residents and visitors to feel safe, 	

Local Development Frameworks	
Wyre District Council LDF Core Strategy Revised - Issues and Options 2008	
<p>particularly within the three town centres and some of the most deprived neighbourhoods.</p> <p>12) Improving access to community, cultural, leisure and educational services for all sections of the community.</p> <p>13) Meeting the needs of an ageing population.</p>	

Local Development Frameworks	
Bromsgrove District Council LDF Core Strategy - Issues and Options 2007	
Plan Type	Local Development Framework
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Bromsgrove District Council
Currency	
Region/Geographic Coverage	Bromsgrove District Council administrative boundaries
Sector	Planning
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	Sustainability Appraisal of the LDD, Appraisal of Issues and Options Paper. Interim Report 2005
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>Over 90% of the land in Bromsgrove is designated as Green Belt and there are few large available brownfield sites. The Local Plan removed a number of areas of land on the edge of existing settlements from the Green Belt during the process of establishing Green Belt boundaries. These are called Areas of Development Restraint (ADRs) and they form a bank of land that is available to the Council if they need land for new housing, employment or other uses. As the Council has met its housing requirement to 2011 it is not anticipated that any ADR sites will be needed before then.</p>	<p>Overarching Development Pressures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Housing and employment growth - increased transport movements and associated air pollutants - e.g. as a result of development in Kidderminster and surrounding areas. ■ Water abstraction for expanding communities - potential to impact surface and groundwater.

Local Development Frameworks	
Bromsgrove District Council LDF Core Strategy - Issues and Options 2007	
The CS also attempts to reduce the need to travel, improve public transport and increase levels of walking and cycling.	

Local Development Frameworks	
Redditch Borough Council LDF Core Strategy - Issues and Options 2007	
Plan Type	Local Development Framework
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Redditch Borough Council
Currency	2026
Region/Geographic Coverage	Redditch Borough Council administrative boundaries
Sector	Planning
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	Draft Sustainability Appraisal for the Core Strategy Issues and Options document 2007
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>The Core Strategy provides the strategic focus for development in the Borough up to 2026. The spatial vision for the core strategy is that:</p> <p>“By 2026, Redditch Borough will be distinctively green. It will be highly accessible, culturally and ecologically rich, and the safest town in England. Redditch will have achieved regeneration of its pockets of deprived areas and the Borough will have attractive facilities, vibrant centres, diverse employment areas, new housing of the best possible quality, with development that has been carbon neutral for many years. The residents of Redditch Borough will be healthy and highly skilled.”</p>	<p>Overarching Development Pressures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Housing and employment growth - increased transport movements and associated air pollutants. ■ Water abstraction for expanding communities - potential to impact surface and groundwater.

Local Development Frameworks	
Redditch Borough Council LDF Core Strategy - Issues and Options 2007	
<p>Strategic Objectives</p> <p>So the council can achieve its Spatial Vision for Redditch Borough it must develop a set of Strategic Objectives. The Council have drafted the following set of Strategic Objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To have high quality open spaces, a key component of Redditch Borough; 2) To ensure that all new development in Redditch Borough is carbon neutral; 3) To reduce the causes of, minimise the impacts of, and adapt to climate change; 4) To protect, promote and enhance the quality and distinctiveness of the Borough's natural, rural and built environments; 5) To ensure efficient use and re-use of land; 6) To move towards safer, sustainable travel patterns and reduce the need to travel; 7) To enhance the visitor economy and Redditch's cultural and leisure opportunities; 8) Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and the fear of crime; 9) To improve the vitality and viability of Town and District Centres in the Borough by day and night; 10) To have sufficient homes meeting demographic needs, including affordable housing, providing for a range, mix, and type in the best locations; and 11) To have a strong, attractive and diverse economic base with employees with higher skills levels. <p>The Sustainable Community Strategy themes form the 'Key Themes' throughout this Issues and Options Document. The Key</p>	

Local Development Frameworks	
Redditch Borough Council LDF Core Strategy - Issues and Options 2007	
<p>Themes are the headings in which the issues in this document have been developed and form the basis for the development of the Vision and Objectives. The key themes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communities that are safe and feel safe ▪ A better environment for today and tomorrow ▪ Economic success that is shared by all ▪ Improving health and well-being ▪ Meeting the needs of children and young people ▪ Stronger communities 	

Local Plan	
Tewkesbury Borough Council Local Plan to 2011 (adopted March 2006)	
Plan Type	Local Development Framework
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Tewkesbury Borough Council
Currency	2011
Region/Geographic Coverage	Tewkesbury Borough Council administrative boundaries
Sector	Planning
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>The Plan's overall vision for the Borough is to ensure that development within the area contributes positively to creating sustainable communities. This will be achieved by directing development to locations where the mix of uses and proximity to existing facilities minimises the increase in transport demand whilst maximising residents' choice for access to the range of destinations they use in their daily lives.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Housing and employment growth - increased transport movements and associated air pollutants.

Local Plan	
Tewkesbury Borough Council Local Plan to 2011 (adopted March 2006)	
<p>Policy TY5 Land is allocated at Bredon road Tewkesbury for approximately 280 dwellings (6.3ha net). Within this area the borough council will support proposals for a comprehensive scheme which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ provides for the replacement of existing allotments, including translocation of the allotment topsoil, water standpipes within 20 metres of each allotment, a shed for each allotment and car parking ▪ safeguards the River Avon floodplain ▪ includes a high quality landscape framework ▪ makes provision for a 0.4 ha site for a community hall / church ▪ makes provision for safe pedestrian and cycle access to the local facilities and the town centre ▪ makes provision for local educational requirements, and ▪ contributes to improved public transport provision ▪ Addresses access and security issues relating to the Tewkesbury cruising and sailing club <p>To meet the local requirements of policy HOU13 to provide affordable housing to enable those currently excluded from participating in the housing market to participate, the council will seek to negotiate for the provision of about 84 dwellings on the site as affordable housing to include a frail elderly scheme.</p> <p>Policy NCN1 Development which is likely to have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of a site of international importance (i.e. potential and classified special protection areas, candidate</p>	

Local Plan	
Tewkesbury Borough Council Local Plan to 2011 (adopted March 2006)	
and designated special areas for nature conservation and Ramsar sites) will not be permitted.	

Local Development Frameworks	
Stratford-on-Avon District Council LDF Core Strategy Issues and Options 2007.	
Plan Type	Local Development Framework
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Currency	2011
Region/Geographic Coverage	Stratford-on-Avon District Council administrative boundaries
Sector	Planning
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>Policy STR.2</p> <p>Provision will be made for approximately 1450 dwellings to be completed in Stratford District during the period 2005-2011, in accordance with requirements of the RSS.</p> <p>Taking account of existing commitments and potential windfall development, the Plan identifies new sites for approximately 425 new dwellings.</p>	<p>Overarching Development Pressures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Housing and employment growth - increased transport movements and associated air pollutants. ▪ Water abstraction for expanding communities - potential to impact surface and groundwater. <p>The small scale of development is unlikely to have significant effects on any European Sites.</p>

Unitary Development Plan
Herefordshire County Council Unitary Development Plan (adopted March 2007)

Unitary Development Plan	
Herefordshire County Council Unitary Development Plan (adopted March 2007)	
Plan Type	Unitary Development Plan
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Herefordshire County Council
Currency	2011
Region/Geographic Coverage	Herefordshire County Council administrative boundaries
Sector	Planning
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	HRA Screening of the Herefordshire County Council Unitary Development Plan, 2007
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>S3 Housing</p> <p>Provision will be made for additional dwellings to be built at an annual rate of 800 dwellings a year for the period 2001-2007 and for 600 dwellings a year beyond 2007. Having regard to existing commitments and the likely supply of dwellings arising from windfall sites, a maximum of about 12,200 dwellings would thereby be built over the period 1996-2011. Priority will be given to the use of previously developed land, ahead of urban extensions, including making the most effective use of existing buildings through conversion and bringing vacant property back into use. The target is for 68% of housing completions in the period 2001-2011 to be on previously developed land.</p> <p>Dwelling completions 1996-2001 approximately 5,000 dwellings 2001-2007 approximately 4,800 dwellings at 800 dwellings a year 2007-2011 approximately 2,400 dwellings at 600 dwellings a year</p>	<p>Overarching Development Pressures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Housing and employment growth - increased transport movements and associated air pollutants. ■ Water abstraction for expanding communities - potential to impact surface and groundwater. <p>The HRA Screening indicates that a full Appropriate Assessment of the UDP is not necessary as development proposals will be required to comply with policy NC2 Sites of International Importance.</p> <p>NC2 Sites of international importance</p> <p>Development which may affect a European Site, a proposed or candidate European Site or a Ramsar site will be subject to the most rigorous examination. Development that is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site for nature conservation, which is likely to have significant effects on the site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) and where it cannot be ascertained that the proposal would not adversely affect the integrity of the site, will not be permitted unless:</p>

Unitary Development Plan	
Herefordshire County Council Unitary Development Plan (adopted March 2007)	
<p>A four tier housing location strategy has been adopted. Most provision will be concentrated in Hereford (the first tier) and the market towns (the second tier) principally from a combination of allocated sites, urban capacity sites and some urban extensions. The third tier locates housing on allocation sites in the more sustainable main villages. In addition, there will be some windfall development mainly on capacity sites in these villages. The fourth tier of the strategy caters for other rural housing needs essentially through windfall developments on infill plots in named smaller settlements.</p> <p>The distribution of housing is as follows: Hereford 3,781 dwellings Leominster 1,037 dwellings Ross-on-Wye 693 dwellings Ledbury 956 dwellings Bromyard 480 dwellings Kington 275 dwellings Main villages 3,044 dwellings Wider rural area 1,918 dwellings</p> <p>M3 Criteria for new aggregate mineral workings</p> <p>Planning applications for aggregate extraction will only be granted in exceptional circumstances, notably where the permitted aggregate reserves in the County prove insufficient to meet the County's sub-regional apportionment. In such cases planning permission for extraction will only be granted where the site is not affected by one or more primary constraints or two or more secondary constraints unless the adverse effects on the secondary constraints can be</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. there is no alternative solution; and 2. there are imperative reasons of over-riding public interest for the development. <p>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.</p>

Unitary Development Plan	
Herefordshire County Council Unitary Development Plan (adopted March 2007)	
<p>satisfactorily mitigated, or where the specialised nature of the mineral constitutes a material consideration sufficient to override the constraints, or there is no lesser constrained minerals bearing land elsewhere in the County.</p> <p>Primary Constraints</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; 2. sites and species of international and national importance to nature conservation; 3. Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other sites of national or regional archaeological importance. <p>Where a proposal satisfies the above constraints process, applicants will also be required to submit evidence to demonstrate the extent to which the development impacts on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ people and local communities; ▪ natural and cultural assets; ▪ the highway network and other public rights of way; ▪ land stability; ▪ public open space, and ▪ air, soil and water resources. <p>Unless such impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated, planning permission will be refused.</p> <p>W1 New waste management facilities</p> <p>Planning applications for new waste management facilities which do not fall into Class B1 and B2 will only be permitted where the site is not affected by one or more primary constraints or two or more secondary constraints except</p>	

Unitary Development Plan	
Herefordshire County Council Unitary Development Plan (adopted March 2007)	
<p>where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. in the case of sites affected only by two or more secondary constraints, such constraints can be satisfactorily mitigated; or b. where the specialised nature of the facility constitutes a material consideration sufficient to override the constraints or there is no other lesser constrained land elsewhere in the County. <p>Primary Constraints</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty; 2. sites and species of international and national importance to nature conservation; 3. Scheduled Ancient Monuments and other sites of national or regional archaeological importance; 4. Groundwater Source Protection Zones 1 and 2. <p>Where a proposal satisfies the above constraints, applicants will also be required to submit evidence to demonstrate the extent to which the development impacts on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ people and local communities; ▪ natural and cultural assets; ▪ the highway network and other public rights of way; ▪ public open space; and ▪ air, soil and water resources. <p>Unless such impacts can be satisfactorily mitigated, planning permission will be refused.</p>	

Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening

Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Table: Core Strategies				
Site	BREDON HILL Unitary Authority Worcestershire, Wychavon Area (ha): 359.86			
Potential Impacts from Core Strategy	Risk of Significant Effect?	Potential Impacts – other Plans and Programmes	Risk from 'In Combination' Effects?	AA Required
<p>Bredon Hill SAC lies to the approximately 4.4km to the South West of Evesham and falls within the Cotswolds AONB. Development arising from the SWJCS will not result in direct effects at this site as it directs primary growth to the North of the site. The closest development to the site is approximately 4.4km away in Evesham and consists of 800 dwellings.</p> <p>Indirect effects arising from proposed development in the SWJCS include increased levels of recreation, abstraction, air and water pollution.</p> <p>Air pollution The HRA of the Phase II Revision of the RSS for the West Midlands (2007) and the Air Pollution Information System (www.apis.ac.uk) identify that acid and nitrogen deposition currently exceeds vegetation thresholds at site. However, based on Natural England advice to Runnymede Borough Council on traffic-related air pollution¹ and the HRA of the SE Plan², it is generally felt that air pollution only needs to be considered at a site if a</p>	No	<p>Potential impacts arising from other plans and programmes relate to increased levels of diffuse air pollution and increased levels of abstraction.</p> <p>Site level management is the most significant factor in maintaining site integrity and improving site condition against the conservation objectives in the long term. The lack of a replacement generation of trees for the current ancient trees over much of the hill is a result of many of the younger trees being removed due to increased stock grazing areas.</p>	No	No

¹ English Nature (16 May 2006) letter to Runnymede Borough Council, 'Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994, Runnymede Borough Council Local Development Framework'.

² Levett-Therivel (2006) Appropriate Assessment of the Draft South East Plan. Final Report.

<p>road carrying a significant proportion of new traffic related to the plan runs within 200 meters of a European site. Beyond this distance air pollution impacts that may arise from traffic fall to background levels. No roads are situated within 200 meters of Bredon Hill SAC and the policies proposed in the SWJCS will help to mitigate or offset increases in air pollution through measures such as ensuring high levels of sustainable design for new buildings and a wide range of sustainable transport choices. Taking this into account increased air pollution as a result of the SWJCS Preferred Options will not have significant effects alone or in-combination on Bredon Hill SAC.</p> <p>Recreation Recreational pressure is not highlighted as a key issue at this site but any disturbance of the decaying wood in which the Violet Click Beetle develops should be avoided. Given the distance from settlements and the provision of new areas of open space and recreational facilities within policies in the SWJCS it is unlikely that increased recreation levels as a result of the proposed developments will have significant effects.</p> <p>Abstraction levels Bredon Hill SAC lies within the Warwickshire Avon Catchment. According to the Warwickshire Avon Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS) the site is within the Upper Pound Water Resource Management Unit (WRMU) and is deemed to have 'no water available'. There is development occurring upstream of the site in Pershore and Evesham, which has the potential to increase levels of water abstraction. Under the Habitats Regulations the Environment Agency has a duty to assess the effects of existing abstraction</p>				
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<p>licences and any new applications to make sure they are not impacting on internationally important nature conservation sites. Water efficiency is also tested by the EA before a new licence is granted. Taking this into account along with the requirement to carry out HRA against new abstraction licenses it is assessed that the SWJCS Preferred Options will not have a significant effect on water levels at this site.</p>				
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Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Table: Core Strategies				
Site	LYPPARD GRANGE PONDS Unitary Authorities: Worcestershire, Worcester City Area (ha): 1.09			
Potential Impacts from Core Strategy	Risk of Significant Effect?	Potential Impacts – other Plans and Programmes	Risk from ‘In Combination’ Effects?	AA Required
<p>Lyppard Grange Ponds SAC lies in the East of Worcester City in the outskirts approximately 0.67km from the M5. The Preferred Policy Approach for Worcester directs housing and employment land development in a major urban extension to the East and South of the City. A Regionally Significant Employment site has been identified less than 1km away from the site in the vicinity of Junction 6 on the M5. This development would require substantial improvements to Junction 6 on the M5.</p> <p>Given the sites current ‘favourable’ condition and the fact that it’s already surrounded by housing it is unlikely that the development proposed above will have any direct significant effects.</p> <p>Indirect effects arising from proposed development in the SWJCS include increased levels of recreation and abstraction.</p> <p>Recreation As previously stated the site is surrounded by housing so the likelihood of the proposed developments increasing recreation levels on the site are minimal, especially as there are suitable locations for recreation surrounding the areas designated in the SWJCS Preferred Options for development. Considering this and the small size of the site (1.09ha) it is assessed that the SWJCS will not have significant effects in regard to increased</p>	No	<p>Given that the site is situated within the outskirts of Worcester City and is currently considered in a ‘favourable’ condition it is unlikely that any plans or programmes will have significant effects on Lyppard Grange Ponds SAC.</p> <p>The HRA Final Screening Note of the RSS for the West Midlands Phase Two 2007 concluded that no likely significant effects were identified as a result of the RSS Phase Two draft Preferred Options, either alone or in combination with other plans or</p>	No	No

<p>recreation on the site.</p> <p>Abstraction levels The Great Crested Newts for which the site is designated are dependent on both the terrestrial habitat (to provide foraging areas and refuge) and aquatic habitat (for breeding). The two freshwater ponds are vulnerable to changes in water levels. The Worcester Middle Severn CAMS, which is required to carry out HRA states, “we have reviewed the impact of current abstractions on Fens Pool and Lyppard Grange and concluded that the sites are not at risk from abstraction”. If the assessment of a new application shows that it could have an impact on a SAC/SPA the EA will have to follow strict rules in setting a time limit for that licence. Policies within the SWJCS will also help to mitigate or offset increases in abstraction through measures such as ensuring high levels of sustainable design, which require high levels of water efficiency. Taking this into account future changes in abstraction levels as a result of the SWJCS will not have significant effects on the site.</p> <p>Water Quality The absence of pollution is identified as a key issue to maintain site integrity of the ponds, however according to the JNCC slight pollution is acceptable. It is unfavourable if pollution is affecting the suitability of the pond as a breeding site, e.g. causing major macrophyte losses. If significant pollution is found the source needs to be found and addressed. Contamination of the site is more likely to arise as a result of point sources rather than development proposed in the SWJC Preferred Options. Given the location of the site in an urban setting and the current ‘favourable’ condition status it is assessed that the SWJCS will not have significant effects either alone or in-combination on water quality at this site.</p>		<p>policies in regard to Lyppard grange ponds SAC.</p> <p>Site level management is the most significant factor in maintaining site integrity and improving site condition against the conservation objectives in the long term. This would include such activities as maintaining the connectivity of the two ponds and avoiding the introduction of fish, which affect the suitability of ponds as breeding habitats for great crested newts.</p>		
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