



## Habitat Regulations Assessment: Lichfield District & Tamworth Borough

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## 1 Introduction

**1.1** The purpose of this report is to assess the impacts of the land use plans against the conservation objectives of Natura 2000 wildlife sites. The assessment must determine whether the plans would adversely affect the integrity of a site(s) in terms of its nature conservation objectives. Where negative effects are identified other options should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects.

**1.2** The requirement for Appropriate Assessment of plans is outlined in Article 6(3) and (4) of the European Communities (1992) Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna (Habitats Directive). This has been transposed into UK law as the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c.) Regulations (1994: “Habitats Regulations”). Natura 2000 sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC’s), Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Offshore Marine Sites (OMSs). In line with Government policy this assessment also relates to Ramsar sites, although these are not part of Natura 2000; these sites support internationally important wetland habitats and are listed under the Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention, 1971).

**1.3** Lichfield District Council intends to publish its Local Plan: Strategy in July 2012 (formerly referred to as the Core Strategy) for a six week consultation. It has already been established that the Cannock Chase SAC could potentially be affected by land-use proposals within the Local Plans of Lichfield, Cannock and Stafford and studies to consider potential impact and mitigation are currently being undertaken, being led by a Cannock Chase SAC Partnership. Tamworth Borough Council published its Local Plan (formerly referred to as the Core Strategy) for a six week consultation period during June-July 2012.

## 2 Methodology

**2.1** There are 4 main stages involved in completing an Appropriate Assessment. The outcome of each stage indicates whether the next stage is required.

- **Screening:** Determining whether the plan (alone or in combination with other plans) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site.
- **Scoping:** Preparation for the Appropriate Assessment (this stage aims to identify more precisely what impacts the Appropriate Assessment should cover to ensure that the Appropriate Assessment can be carried out. This stage is only required where the screening exercise has indicated that there is a likely significant impact upon a European Site.
- **Appropriate Assessment:** Evaluating the evidence gathered on impacts and considering whether changes to the plan will be needed to ensure that it will not have an adverse impact on any European site.
- **Assessment of alternative options:** Where the plan is assessed as having an adverse effect, or risk of this, then alternative options should be assessed.
- **Assessment of compensatory measures:** Where in light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest, it is deemed that a plan should proceed.

**2.2** This report primarily considers the first stage and involves gathering evidence and screening for likely impacts unless more information is known. It has been prepared in light of information from Natural England and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee<sup>(i)</sup> as well as the Environment Agency and the local water and sewage undertakers. The purpose of this initial screening is to:

- identify those European sites that could possibly be affected by the Lichfield District and Tamworth Borough Local Plans, the qualifying features of those sites, and key environmental conditions to support the sites' integrity;
- identify the possible impacts on the sites arising from the implementation of the Lichfield District Local Plan and Tamworth Borough Local Plan;
- identify impacts, which on the basis of the initial evidence gathering could be screened out, and those which are likely to require more detailed appropriate assessment; and
- outline a number of conclusions regarding the "in combination" effects if implementing the Lichfield District Local Plan and Tamworth Borough Local Plan alongside other identified land use plans being prepared by neighbouring authorities on European nature conservation sites.

**2.3** Where an uncertainty exists as to whether effects on the Natura site identified are significant, an informed judgement will be made and the Authorities will need to assume that a significant effect is possible in line with the precautionary principle and the next step in the Appropriate Assessment process will be followed.

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i <http://www.jncc.gov.uk>

## 3 Report Structure

### 3.1 Description of Lichfield District & Tamworth Borough's Local Plans

#### Regional Plan

**3.1** Following the election of the new government proposed changes to the planning system are seeking to abolish the regional spatial strategies, and are seeking the setting of local targets for employment and housing provision. The legislation is not yet formally in place and for the purposes of assessing cumulative impact the figures published by the local authorities will be used and where these are not available then figures incorporated in the most recent version of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy will be used. It should be noted that significant local evidence has been published that is more up to date than that which informed

#### Description of Lichfield District Local Plan: Our Strategy

**3.2** Lichfield District have undertaken a number of informal consultations that have informed the emerging Local Plan: Strategy, including the 'Shaping our District,' consultation in 2010/11 and this screening report has helped to inform the proposed submission Local Plan: Strategy, due to be published in July 2012. The Local Plan: Strategy is an important component of the development plan for the District that will be complemented by a subsequent Allocations document. It is a strategic district-wide plan that will put the key strategies and policies in place and form part of the development plan for the District, guiding development to 2028 and beyond.

**3.3** The Local Plan sets out what the District Council would like to achieve in Lichfield City, Burntwood and the rural areas and broadly what type of development is required in the District, how much and where. It is broader than a traditional land use planning document in that it will have a significant influence on the physical environment; the way people live and work; and will help deliver the needs of the District's residents, employers, retailers and visitors. The Local Plan identifies the following levels of growth:

- **Housing:** 8,700 homes.
- **Employment Land:** 79.1 to 89.1 hectares of readily available land for general employment uses between 2008 and 2028.
- **Retail:** Up to an additional 36,000sqm of retail floorspace (gross) within Lichfield City and up to 14,000sqm (gross) in Burntwood.
- **Offices:** Up to 30,000sqm of floorspace focused on Lichfield City Centre and allowing up to 5,000sqm within Burntwood town centre.

**3.4** The Local Plan incorporates the spatial strategy and a number of policies that deal with the following topics: sustainable communities; infrastructure provision; sustainable transport; homes for the future; economic development and enterprise; healthy and safe communities; natural resources; and the built and historic environment. The Strategy also

incorporates a monitoring framework. A number of changes have been made in light of the comments received to the 'Shaping our District' consultation and specific polices are included for the Cannock Chase SAC and River Mease SAC.

**3.5** Significant changes to the 'Shaping our District' consultation is the inclusion of an additional broad location for development located to the north of Tamworth to be built in association with the Anker Valley Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood which lies to the south and is within the Tamworth Borough administrative area.

**3.6** The Lichfield Local Plan: Strategy includes a desire to reinstate the Lichfield Canal, in its entirety this extends from Huddlesford Junction to the Hatherton Canal, this would impact significantly on the Cannock Extension Canal SAC, however there are many constraints which are yet to be addressed in order to achieve this, so within this plan period the proposal is to construct the first 3 phases of the Canal which will extend it from Huddlesford to Fosseway Lane. This will result in no impact upon the Cannock Extension SAC and any future ambitions are not prejudiced without full consideration of all the aspects concerned.

**3.7** The Lichfield District Local Plan will lead to the preparation of further documents that will provide more detailed consideration of site development policies and proposals, in particular a Local Plan: Allocations document.

### **Description of Tamworth Borough Council Local Plan: Proposed Spatial Strategy**

**3.8** The Local Plan sets out the basic principles and policy direction for planning and development in Tamworth up to 2028 and which will be locally distinctive. It is part of a portfolio of documents that together will form the Local Development Framework for Tamworth. It covers a range of topic areas, including housing, employment, green spaces, biodiversity, leisure and retail. It is considered that it represents the most appropriate way of achieving the spatial vision and objectives for the borough whilst delivering identified future development needs in the most appropriate and sustainable way.

**3.9** Tamworth Borough Council intends to publish their Local Plan in June 2012. A change to the scope and content of the Local Plan has arisen in response to government amendments to the proposed scope of Local Development Frameworks. Consequently, the Local Plan's remit has been broadened to include site allocations.

**3.10** The evidence base for the Local Plan proposes that Tamworth should seek to accommodate at least 5,500 new dwellings (4,500 within the borough boundary), 36 hectares of employment land, 20,000sqm of office floorspace and 38,400sqm of comparison retail floorspace up to 2028.

**3.11** The proposed spatial strategy remains broadly similar to the approach set out in previous consultation versions of the Core Strategy. The one strategic housing site-the Anker Valley Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood remains albeit with an extended site boundary. The Strategic employment sites previously identified are also carried forward along with the existing network of local and neighbourhood centres.

**3.12** Tamworth Town Centre is reinforced as the focus for new retail, leisure, tourism and cultural, office and high density residential development resulting in a number of strategic development sites being allocated to accommodate future growth. The borough's network of local and neighbourhood centres are identified for protection and future enhancement.

**3.13** The reliance on one greenfield strategic housing site-the Anker Valley Sustainable Urban Extension has resulted in a number of sustainability related disadvantages. To overcome these; and to ensure that the borough makes the most efficient use of land, a series of regeneration priority areas are now proposed. These include The Wilnecote Regeneration Corridor; focusing on a comprehensive approach to housing and employment led regeneration and in the Post War Social Housing Estates. The latter builds on the current Locality Working initiative to support housing led regeneration within some of the borough's most deprived neighbourhoods.

**3.14** With the overall goal of reducing the need to travel by locating transport generating development in sustainable locations and/or supporting a measures to encourage sustainable modes of transport, the transport policies aims to deliver priorities to tackle congestion hot spots contained within the Local Transport Plan and junction improvements along the A5. Other key objectives relate to supporting the cycle and pedestrian cycleways across the borough and expansions to the capacity and appearance of the two railway stations.

**3.15** Existing high quality open space is retained; to deliver the character of the borough as 'Urban Green'. Green and blue (rivers and canal) linkages are emphasised to both project a positive image of the town and deliver health related benefits.

**3.16** Existing historic assets remain protected and a policy requiring high quality design of new development is included.

**3.17** The Council has assessed planning measures needed in response to climate change. This includes an assessment of renewable energy generation potential and a flood mitigation strategy.

**3.18** Whilst the spatial strategy seeks to accommodate as much development within Tamworth's boundaries, not all of it is capable of being accommodated without impacting negatively on the quality of life of Tamworth's communities. The scarcity of developable land within the borough (as a result of constraints such as flood risk areas, biodiversity designated sites, greenbelt designation and a general lack of brownfield land) restricts the amount of new dwellings that Tamworth is capable of delivering within its boundary to 4,500. This results in land outside the borough's boundary, to the north of the borough in Lichfield district and within North Warwickshire being identified for up to 1,000 dwellings.

### **Nature of Impacts**

**3.19** The main areas which could have an impact upon nature conservation interests of Natura 2000 sites are physical impacts from development proposed on the sites themselves and associated infrastructure such as roads, public transport, water abstraction, sewage, surface water run-off, pollution, energy and flood alleviation schemes and impacts such as increased air pollution from increased levels of traffic passing through the sites.

### 3.2 Relevant plans, programmes and projects to be considered in combination

**3.20** The following list has been identified as plans, programmes and projects which could potentially impact upon the Natura 2000 sites identified within this scoping report. A brief description of each of the following documents is included as **Appendix A** and their effects in combination are considered when the sites are assessed later in this document.

- West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy and Phase II Revision
- Staffordshire Minerals Core Strategy
- Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Waste Core Strategy 2010-2026
- Staffordshire Local Transport Consultation Plan 2011-2026 (LTP3)
- Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan 2009 – 2014
- Evidence Base relating to Cannock Chase SAC and the Appropriate Assessment of Local Authorities Core Strategies. November 2009
- Cannock Chase Visitor Impact Mitigation Strategy November 2009.
- Cannock Chase Local Plan
- The Plan for Stafford Borough - Strategic Policy Choices
- South Staffordshire District Core Strategy: Proposed Modifications
- East Staffordshire emerging Local Plan
- Black Country Joint Core Strategy
- Birmingham Core Strategy 2026 : March 2011
- Big City Plan: Birmingham City Council
- South Derbyshire emerging Core Strategy
- North West Leicestershire Pre-Submission Core Strategy May 2012
- North Warwickshire Core Strategy: Draft Pre-Submission June 2012
- Rugeley Power Station Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) plans
- Environment Agency consents for water extraction
- Severn Trent Water: Water Resources Plan
- South Staffs Water Resources Plan 2009
- Tame, Anker and Mease Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy. March 2008
- River Mease Water Quality Management Plan, Nutrient Management Plan and River Restoration Plan
- River Mease Developer Contribution Strategy July 2012
- Staffordshire Trent Valley Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy July 2007
- National Forest Strategy 2009-2014
- Humber River Basin Management Plan 2009

**Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites potentially affected by the Local Plans, including the conservation objectives of each site and the potential sensitivities of each site to adverse impacts.**

**3.21** The sites included within this assessment have been identified using information within the RSS Scoping and Screening Report, by identifying all those sites within a 20km buffer of the Districts' boundaries as listed on the JNCC website and through consultation with Natural England.

**3.22** A list of sites in a 20km radius of Lichfield District and Tamworth Borough are shown on the map at **Appendix B** and are included within the table. Some sites are only within the 20km radius of one of the Districts in this joint report, however should any effects arise from either Local Plan which effect any of the Natura 2000 sites identified these have also been considered. In addition the Humber Estuary SAC and Ramsar site have been incorporated, this is following consultation with Natural England who have advised that the water from the River Trent and Tame which flows within Lichfield and Tamworth District flows to the Humber Estuary.

**3.3 Table of Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites potentially affected by the emerging Core Strategies**

Name of Site	Reason for Designation	Conservation Objectives	Distance from Lichfield District Boundary & Tamworth Borough Boundary	Identified Impacts
<b>River Mease SAC</b>	<p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation</li> </ul> <p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spined loach <i>Cobitis taenia</i></li> <li>Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i></li> </ul> <p>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i></li> <li>Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i></li> </ul>	<p>Maintain the river as a favourable habitat for floating formations of water Crowfoot (ranunculus), populations of bull head, spined loach and white clawed crayfish and the river and adjoining land as habitat for populations of otter.</p>	<p>Within Lichfield District</p> <p>Tamworth: 4,500m</p>	<p>The River Mease is an unusually semi-natural system in a largely rural landscape, dominated by intensive agriculture. Water quality and quantity are vital to the European interests, whilst competition for water resources is high. Diffuse pollution and excessive sedimentation are catchment-wide issues which have the potential to affect the site. The SSSI assessment report undertaken in 2007 notes the site's adverse condition and identifies the following issues: drainage, invasive freshwater species, water pollution – agriculture/run-off, water pollution – discharge. Significant new development could take place within the catchment as a result of new housing and employment development in North-West Leicestershire, South Derbyshire and East Staffs which may impact upon water quality and quantity. The continuing creation of the National Forest will lead to further catchment wide changes in land use.</p>
<b>Cannock Extension Canal SAC</b>	<p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Floating water-plantain <i>Luronium natans</i></li> </ul>	<p>Maintain favourable condition as this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.</p>	<p>Lichfield 1,100m</p> <p>Tamworth 16,000m</p>	<p>The population of <i>Luronium natans</i> in this cul-de-sac canal is dependent upon a balanced level of boat traffic. If the canal is not used, the abundant growth of other aquatic macrophytes may shade-out the <i>Luronium natans</i> unless routinely controlled by cutting. An</p>

Name of Site	Reason for Designation	Conservation Objectives	Distance from Lichfield District Boundary & Tamworth Borough Boundary	Identified Impacts
<b>Cannock Chase SAC</b>	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● European dry heaths</li> </ul> <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></li> </ul>	<p>Maintain in favourable condition Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p>European dry heaths for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom</p>	<p>Lichfield 2,400m</p> <p>Tamworth &gt;20,000m</p>	<p>increase in recreational activity would be to the detriment of <i>Luronium natans</i>. Existing discharges of surface water run-off, principally from roads, cause some reduction in water quality.</p> <p>Visitor pressures include dog walking, horse riding, mountain biking and off-track activities such as orienteering, all of which cause disturbance and result in erosion, new track creation and vegetation damage. Bracken invasion is significant, but is being controlled. Birch and pine scrub, much of the latter from surrounding commercial plantations, is continually invading the site and has to be controlled. High visitor usage and the fact that a significant proportion of the site is Common Land, requiring Secretary of State approval before fencing can take place, means that the reintroduction of sustainable management in the form of livestock grazing has many problems. Cannock Chase overlies coal measures which have been deep-mined. Mining fissures continue to appear across the site even though mining has ceased and this is thought to detrimentally affect site hydrology.</p> <p>Furthermore the underlying Sherwood Sandstone is a major aquifer with water abstracted for public and industrial uses</p>

Name of Site	Reason for Designation	Conservation Objectives	Distance from Lichfield District Boundary & Tamworth Borough Boundary	Identified Impacts
<b>Pasturefields Salt Marsh SAC</b>	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Inland salt meadows *Priority feature</li> </ul>	Maintain the saltmarsh in favourable	Lichfield 4,200m Tamworth >20,000m	and the effects of this on the wetland features of the Chase are not fully understood.
<b>West Midland Mosses &amp; Chartley Moss SAC</b>	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds</li> <li>● Transition mires and quaking bogs</li> </ul>	Maintain natural dystrophic lakes and ponds, for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom and transition mires and quaking bogs.	Lichfield 4,500m Tamworth >20,000m	This inland saltmarsh is dependent upon traditional agricultural management, with livestock grazing and no, or minimal use, of agricultural chemicals. It is also dependent upon the brine source being maintained and, whilst the hydrogeology of the site is not fully understood, it would be likely to be vulnerable to any abstractions of water from the underground aquifer. The site is managed by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust with support from Natural England's Reserve Enhancement Scheme.  Site threatened by nutrient enrichment, including atmospheric deposition of nutrients. A Management Agreement controls agricultural run-off at Chartley Moss. Trees at this site trap airborne nutrients and provide roost areas for birds, but the enrichment effect of both is only localised. All parts of that site are vulnerable to recreational disturbance, particularly the northern portion which is a scout camp.

Name of Site	Reason for Designation	Conservation Objectives	Distance from Lichfield District Boundary & Tamworth Borough Boundary	Identified Impacts
<b>Ensors Pool SAC</b>	<p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White clawed (or atlantic stream) crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i></li> </ul>	Maintain favourable condition as a refuge site, one of the best areas in the United Kingdom	<p>Lichfield: &gt;20,000m</p> <p>Tamworth: 14,900m</p>	The crayfish would be vulnerable to pollution and introduction of non-native crayfish, through uncontrolled access. To address this, since 1995 the area has been leased by Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and is managed as a Local Nature Reserve.
<b>Fens Pool SAC</b>	<p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater crested Newt (or <i>Triturus cristatus</i>)</li> </ul>	Maintain favourable condition, as considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom	<p>Lichfield: 19,200m</p> <p>Tamworth: &gt;20,000m</p>	The greater crested newt population at this site is dependent on the control of fish, maintenance of adequate water quality and the protection of surrounding terrestrial habitat from major ground disturbance. The number of ponds are being expanded to reduce vulnerability although land contamination may be future issue.
<b>Humber Estuary</b>	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estuaries</li> <li>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</li> </ul> <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time</li> <li>Coastal lagoons * Priority feature</li> </ul>	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time - for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. Estuaries, for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom. Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide, of which this is considered	<p>Lichfield: &gt;20,000m</p> <p>Tamworth: &gt;20,000m</p>	The Humber Estuary is subject to the impacts of human activities (past and present) as well as ongoing processes such as sea level rise and climate change. Management intervention is therefore necessary to enable the estuary to recover and to secure the ecological resilience required to respond to both natural and anthropogenic change. Key issues include coastal squeeze, impacts on the sediment budget, and geomorphological structure and function of the estuary (due to sea level rise, flood defence works, dredging,

Name of Site	Reason for Designation	Conservation Objectives	Distance from Lichfield District Boundary & Tamworth Borough Boundary	Identified Impacts
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand</li> <li>● Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)</li> <li>● Embryonic shifting dunes</li> <li>● Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ('white dunes')</li> <li>● Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes') * Priority feature</li> <li>● Dunes with <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i></li> </ul> <p>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i></li> <li>● River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i></li> <li>● Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i></li> </ul>	<p>to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.</p> <p>Coastal lagoons, for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p>Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand, for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)</p> <p>for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p>Embryonic shifting dunes, which are considered to be rare as its total extent in the United Kingdom is estimated to be less</p>		<p>and the construction, operation and maintenance of ports, pipelines and other infrastructure), changes in water quality and flows, pressure from additional built development, and damage and disturbance arising from access, recreation and other activities. Coastal squeeze is being addressed through the development and implementation of the Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy. All proposals for flood defence, development, dredging, abstractions and discharges which require consent from any statutory body, and land use plans which may have impacts upon the site are subject to assessment under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &amp;c.) Regulations 1994 (the "Habitats Regulations"). Diffuse pollution will be addressed through a range of measures including implementation of the Waste Water Framework Directive and Catchment Sensitive Farming initiatives.</p> <p>Other issues are addressed via a range of measures including regulation of on-site land management activities and implementation of the Humber Management Scheme, developed by</p>

Name of Site	Reason for Designation	Conservation Objectives	Distance from Lichfield District Boundary & Tamworth Borough Boundary	Identified Impacts
		<p>than 1000 hectares, for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes"), for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p>Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"), for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p>Dunes with <i>Hippophae rhamnoides</i>, which is considered to be rare as its total extent in the United Kingdom is estimated to be less than 1000 hectares, for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p><i>Petromyzon marinus</i>, for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p>		<p>all relevant statutory bodies to assist in the delivery of their duties under the Habitats Regulations.</p>

Name of Site	Reason for Designation	Conservation Objectives	Distance from Lichfield District Boundary & Tamworth Borough Boundary	Identified Impacts
		<p>Lampetra fluviatilis for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p>Halichoerus grypus for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p>		

Table 3.1 Sites potentially effected by the emerging Local Plans

### **3.4 Significance of any effects on Natura 2000 sites**

**3.23** The likelihood of significant effects have been assessed in relation to the specific features and environmental conditions of the protected sites, as could be effected by the Lichfield Local Plan and the Tamworth Local Plan, or in combination with other known plans and projects listed previously, taking particular account of the site's conservation objectives. As part of establishing what effects are significant, the probability of impact, duration of the impact, frequency of any impact and reversibility of impact have been considered.

River Mease SAC									
Conclusion: No significant effects									
	Direct Habitat loss	Impact on protected species	Air Quality	Water Quality	Recreational Pressure	Water Quantity	Change in Surrounding Land Use	Invasive Species	
<b>Are Local Plans likely to impact upon this site</b>	No	Potential	No	Potential	No – the Local Plans do not contain any proposals in the National Forest area	No	No	No	
<b>Possible effects in combination with other plans</b>		Potential impact due to increased pressure on waste water treatment works until upgrades are achieved.		Potential impact as a result of new housing and employment development in North west Leicestershire, South Derbyshire and East Staffs until upgrades are achieved.	Potential with the continuing creation of the National Forest will lead to further catchment wide changes in land use	Potential impact as a result of competition for water supply arising from new housing and employment development in Swadlincote and Coalville and Potential risk identified in ESBC AA Scoping Report. RSS suggests -Water neutrality required in new development			
<b>Assessment of effects and why not considered significant</b>	<p>Site is within Lichfield District and within 1 kilometre of Tamworth Borough. The vulnerability of the site from siltation, run off, diffuse pollution, excessive sedimentation and invasive freshwater species; the proposals for 8,700 homes in Lichfield District and 4,500 for Tamworth will have no significant impact on these factors. The Southern Staffordshire Water Cycle Study has identified issues relating to the waste water treatment works where the Mease is the receiving watercourse. There could potentially be significant effect upon the SAC from development in the affected areas. No allocations of land are proposed within these areas by either Local Plan. The Lichfield Local Plan: Strategy includes policies to ensure proposals do not have a negative impact upon water quality and the River Mease SAC and has policies to protect and enhance biodiversity, protected species</p>								

<b>River Mease SAC</b>
<b>Conclusion: No significant effects</b>
and their habitats. Evidence has been prepared which identifies mitigation is possible through a variety of means including a Developer Contributions Scheme prepared by a joint working group. Atmospheric pollution may be generated from the increased vehicular movements associated with new development as part of the Local Plan, this is generally restricted to roads within 200m of the site. With the exception of the M42, there are no major routes passing close to the SAC and therefore due to the distance any proposed development would be from the River Mease there is unlikely to be any significant impact arising and any in combination assessments are not expected to arise from implementing the proposed Local Plans and other plans and proposals listed previously, and improvements should occur.

**Table 3.2 River Mease SAC significant effects table**

<b>Cannock Extension Canal SAC</b>								
<b>Conclusion: No significant effects</b>								
	<b>Direct Habitat loss</b>	<b>Impact on protected species</b>	<b>Air Quality</b>	<b>Water Quality</b>	<b>Recreational Pressure</b>	<b>Water Quantity</b>	<b>Change in Surrounding Land Use</b>	<b>Invasive Species</b>
<b>Are Local Plans likely to impact upon this site</b>	No	None	No	Yes-increased run-off from adjacent land could cause changes in water quality.	Yes – through increased population within 2.9km of site.	No	Yes- increased run-off from adjacent land could cause changes in water quality.	No
<b>Possible effects in combination with other plans</b>	The RSS identified levels of recreational use of the Cannock Extension Canal are expected to go up as a result of policies in the RSS, the Visitor Economy Strategy and Regional Housing Strategy. Significant effects are possible if this translates into increases in boat traffic and associated physical disturbance. Increased levels of deposition of atmospheric pollutants are likely, but these are not expected to translate into significant changes in water chemistry. A degree of disturbance is desirable in terms of maintaining habitat for floating water-plantain (JNCC site notification), where low levels of boat traffic have suppressed the growth of emergent vegetation, whilst allowing open-water plants to flourish. Increased levels of boat disturbance may cause a decline in the population of open-water plants, as well as reducing water quality. Numbers of boats should therefore be regulated, the RSS concluded that boat traffic levels 'should be controllable at local level' An Appropriate Assessment is being undertaken as part of the Cannock Chase Local Plan, the findings of this have not yet been published. Lichfield District Local Plan: Strategy supports proposals to restore the Lichfield Canal, however during this plan period this will not join the Hatherton Canal and will not therefore have an impact upon the Cannock Extension Canal.							

Cannock Extension Canal SAC	
<b>Conclusion: No significant effects</b>	
<b>Assessment of effects and why not considered significant</b>	Site is 1.1km from Lichfield District and approx 16km from Tamworth Borough. The vulnerabilities of the site are from recreational pressure, water quality through increased run off from adjacent land and atmospheric pollution. The proposals for 4,500 homes by Tamworth Borough will have no significant impact on this due to the distance from the site. The directions of growth proposed around Burntwood are some distance from the site and any impact would be from associated vehicle movements using the A5 and would be from atmospheric pollution, however this is not considered to translate to significant changes in water chemistry. Recreation pressure which would result in an increase in boat traffic could be detrimental – the number of boats should therefore be regulated at local level. Studies have identified that run-off from the A5 does not drain to the Cannock Extension Canal and the effects on water quality from implementing the proposals in the Lichfield District Local Plan should not be significant. Neither should there be any in combination effects from implementing the Lichfield Local Plan and other plans and proposals listed previously, specifically the Black Country Joint Core Strategy and the Cannock Chase Local Plan.

Table 3.3 Cannock Extension Canal SAC

Cannock Chase SAC								
<b>Conclusion: Potential significant effects</b>								
	Direct Habitat loss	Impact on protected species	Air Quality	Water Quality	Recreational Pressure	Water Quantity	Change in Surrounding Land Use	Invasive Species
<b>Are Local Plans likely to impact upon this site</b>	Potential	Potential	Potential	No	Yes	No	No	No
<b>Possible effects in combination with other plans</b>	The site is influenced by traffic and visitors from a wide area. The proposed increase in housing and employment identified in the RSS and in other plans for the districts surrounding the SAC will result in an increase in both visitors and car movements to the SAC which would be detrimental to it unless appropriate mitigation is in place. Work has been undertaken to consider the impact upon the water environment of the SAC and this has resulted in a need to monitor the effects but no direct impact attributable to future development in Lichfield District and Tamworth can be identified at present.							
<b>Assessment of effects and why not</b>	Site is 2.4km from the closest part of Lichfield District and over 20km from Tamworth Borough. The vulnerabilities of the site are to changes in water quality and water quantity, damage to the site, its species and habitat from visitors and air pollution from increased traffic both visiting and driving through the sites. A report has been prepared to advise local authorities on the impacts of development on the SAC. It has established that there will							

Cannock Chase SAC	
<b>Conclusion: Potential significant effects considered significant</b>	<p>be no greater impact on the SAC from water abstraction associated with new development and it has identified a zone of influence and criteria to mitigate for the impact on the SAC from an increase in visitors and air pollution. The proposals for 8,700 homes in Lichfield District could have a significant impact on the Cannock Chase SAC due to the proximity of the proposals being within an identified zone of influence and strategic allocations within Tamworth i.e. those of over 100 dwellings the study advises will also need to incorporate a visitor impact strategy. However neither of the districts are in a zone where no net increase in residential properties should be permitted. In order to assess if development will have an impact on the SAC, and to identify what measures are necessary to prevent damaging impact (either through providing alternative sites (SANG) or through financial contributions to the Cannock Chase Visitor Mitigation Strategy), and these studies are being undertaken. The study recommended policies be incorporated in Local Plans including the inclusion of a policy to ensure that the impact on the SAC can be adequately mitigated and that there will be adequate monitoring of the effects of mitigation to maintain the SAC. The Lichfield District Local Plan: Strategy also incorporates additional policies to protect and enhance biodiversity, protected species and their habitats, which in combination with other plans could deliver improvements to the SAC.</p>

**Table 3.4 Cannock Chase SAC significant effects table**

Pasturefields Saltmarsh SAC																	
<b>Conclusion: No significant effects</b>																	
<b>Are Local Plans likely to impact upon this site</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Direct Habitat loss</th> <th>Impact on protected species</th> <th>Air Quality</th> <th>Water Quality</th> <th>Recreational Pressure</th> <th>Water Quantity</th> <th>Change in Surrounding Land Use</th> <th>Invasive Species</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>None</td> <td>No</td> <td>No</td> <td>No</td> <td>No</td> <td>No</td> <td>No</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Direct Habitat loss	Impact on protected species	Air Quality	Water Quality	Recreational Pressure	Water Quantity	Change in Surrounding Land Use	Invasive Species	No	None	No	No	No	No	No	No
Direct Habitat loss	Impact on protected species	Air Quality	Water Quality	Recreational Pressure	Water Quantity	Change in Surrounding Land Use	Invasive Species										
No	None	No	No	No	No	No	No										
<b>Possible effects in combination with other plans</b>	<p>The RSS identifies that there are sites periodically affected by flood water from River Trent which has high sewage loadings and additional loadings from surface water runoff. This problem could be exacerbated by housing development upstream. There are also possible impacts associated with water abstraction.</p>																
<b>Assessment of effects and</b>	<p>Site is 4.2km from Lichfield District and over 20km from Tamworth Borough. The vulnerabilities of the site are to changes in water quality and water quantity. The proposals for 8,700 homes in Lichfield District and 4,500 in Tamworth Borough will have no significant impact on this site due to the</p>																

Pasturefields Saltmarsh SAC	
<b>Conclusion: No significant effects</b>	
<b>why not considered significant</b>	distance from the site and being downstream of the Trent. The Southern Staffordshire Water Cycle Study has identified potential in combination effects arising from increased use of Lichfield WwTW, further enquiries with the sewage undertakers have concluded that the necessary improvements to the WwTW are able to be implemented to address needs arising from development, as such significant in-combination assessments are not expected to arise from implementing the proposed Local Plans and other plans and proposals listed previously.

Table 3.5 Pasturefields Saltmarsh significant effects table

West Midland Mosses and Chartley Moss SAC								
<b>Conclusion: No significant effects</b>								
	Direct Habitat loss	Impact on protected species	Air Quality	Water Quality	Recreational Pressure	Water Quantity	Change in Surrounding Land Use	Invasive Species
<b>Are Local Plans likely to impact upon this site</b>	No	None	No	No	No	No	No	No
<b>Possible effects in combination with other plans</b>	The RSS identifies that housing development under Phase II is likely to create water deficit problems, although it is not currently known to what extent this would affect sites. The site is also over its critical load for Nitrogen and acid pollution, the main contributors of which would be through increased atmospheric pollution arising through increases in vehicle movements near the site. The site is also vulnerable to recreational disturbance, particularly the northern part which is a Scout camp.							
<b>Assessment of effects and why not considered significant</b>	Site is 4.5km from Lichfield District and over 20km from Tamworth. The vulnerability of the site arises from localised agricultural run off, water quality, water quantity and recreational disturbance. The proposals for 8,700 homes in Lichfield District and 4,500 in Tamworth Borough are beyond the boundaries of the site and are so far away that recreational pressure will not be generated from the developments. In addition the proposals will utilise water from beyond the catchment for this site and will therefore have no significant impact on this. Atmospheric pollution may be generated from the increased vehicular movements associated with new development as part of the Local Plans, again due to the distance involved no significant in combination effects are expected to arise from implementing the proposed Local Plans and other plans and proposals listed previously.							

Table 3.6 West Midland Mosses and Chartley Moss significant effects table

Ensor's Pool SAC									
Conclusion: No significant effects									
	Direct Habitat loss	Impact on protected species	Air Quality	Water Quality	Recreational Pressure	Water Quantity	Change in Surrounding Land Use	Invasive Species	
Are Local Plans likely to impact upon this site	No	None	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Possible effects in combination with other plans	The RSS identifies that the site is currently managed as a Local Nature Reserve. It would be vulnerable to alterations to the water quality and quantity. It has been concluded that the proposals of the RSS were not likely to impact on these aspects.								
Assessment of effects and why not considered significant	Site is over 20km from Lichfield District and approximately 15 km from Tamworth Borough. Development proposals within Lichfield and Tamworth will have no significant impact on this. Significant in-combination assessments are not expected to arise from implementing the proposed Local Plans and other plans and proposals listed previously.								

Table 3.7 Ensor's Pool significant effects table

Humber Estuary									
Conclusion: No significant effects									
	Direct Habitat loss	Impact on protected species	Air Quality	Water Quality	Recreational Pressure	Water Quantity	Change in Surrounding Land Use	Invasive Species	
Are Local Plans likely to impact upon this site	No	None	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Possible effects in combination	The site is currently managed as a National Nature Reserve. It would be vulnerable to on site physical alterations and alterations to the water quality and quantity. There are many plans still being developed along the length of the the River system.								

<b>Humber Estuary</b>	
<b>Conclusion: No significant effects</b>	
<b>with other plans</b>	
<b>Assessment of effects and why not considered significant</b>	Site is over 20km from both Lichfield District and Tamworth Borough. Development proposals within both local authority areas will not affect the site physically and any effects would be through discharges into the River Tame and Trent as this eventually flows to the Humber. The local water providers and foul waste company have been contacted and have up to date plans agreed with EA with regard to the impact on the River Tame and River Trent. They have advised that no additional treatment works or changes to any of their existing consents would be necessary to accommodate the proposed level of growth in the broad locations currently identified, nor any increase proposed by the RSS. As there are no large scale developments which would have an impact directly on either of these Rivers proposed in either Local Plan there is likely to be no significant impact arising from in combination effects from implementing the proposed Local Plans with other plans and proposals.

**Table 3.8 Humber Estuary significant effects table**

<b>Fens Pool SAC</b>																			
<b>Conclusion: No significant effects</b>																			
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Direct Habitat loss</th> <th>Impact on protected species</th> <th>Air Quality</th> <th>Water Quality</th> <th>Recreational Pressure</th> <th>Water Quantity</th> <th>Change in Surrounding Land Use</th> <th>Invasive Species</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><b>Are Local Plans likely to impact upon this site</b></td> <td>No</td> <td>None</td> <td>No</td> <td>No</td> <td>No</td> <td>No</td> <td>No</td> <td>No</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Direct Habitat loss	Impact on protected species	Air Quality	Water Quality	Recreational Pressure	Water Quantity	Change in Surrounding Land Use	Invasive Species	<b>Are Local Plans likely to impact upon this site</b>	No	None	No	No	No	No	No	No
	Direct Habitat loss	Impact on protected species	Air Quality	Water Quality	Recreational Pressure	Water Quantity	Change in Surrounding Land Use	Invasive Species											
<b>Are Local Plans likely to impact upon this site</b>	No	None	No	No	No	No	No	No											
<b>Possible effects in combination with other plans</b>	The RSS and the Black Country Core Strategy identify that the site is vulnerable to further land take of supporting habitat, and this should be prevented to avoid adverse impacts.																		
<b>Assessment of effects and why not considered significant</b>	Site is over 19km from Lichfield District and over 20km from Tamworth Borough. Development proposals within both local authority areas will have no significant impact on this. Significant in-combination assessments are not expected to arise from implementing the proposed Local Plans and other plans and proposals listed previously.																		

**Table 3.9 Fens Pool significant effects table**

## 4 Conclusions and Summary

**4.1** For most of the sites the Lichfield District Local Plan and the Tamworth Borough Local Plan will result in no significant effects and no in-combination effects on the Natura 2000 sites and Ramsar sites identified. The most likely effects of the Local Plans on the Natura 2000 sites are related to additional homes and how these may increase traffic within close proximity to the sites or result in additional recreational pressure, causing an increase in air pollution, habitat disturbance, species disturbance and nutrient enrichment. In the case of Cannock Chase SAC and for the River Mease SAC, no specific allocations are included within the Lichfield Local Plan, however the rural areas are expected to deliver some housing development during the plan period and impacts could arise either directly on the Mease or through increased discharges from sewage works/waste water treatment works within the water catchment. With regard to the Cannock Chase SAC a specific scoping and screening report identified that there could be significant effects on this SAC, and the next stages of separate Appropriate Assessment have therefore been undertaken. The River Mease SAC and the Cannock Extension SAC are the other most likely Natura 2000 sites affected by the Lichfield District and Tamworth Borough Local Plans.

**4.2** The Evidence Base relating to Cannock Chase SAC and the Appropriate Assessment of Local Authority Local Plans and accompanying Visitor Mitigation Report, carried out by Footprint Ecology, has concluded that the impact from the pressures of the surrounding Local Plans can be mitigated with appropriate levels of financial support and/or alternative alternative natural greenspace provision. Further visitor surveys have been identified by the Cannock Chase SAC Partnership and are currently being commissioned to be carried out over a 12 month period. The published Footprint Ecology report recommended that policies are incorporated within the Local Plans of local authorities within the 'zone of influence' of the SAC in order to support this, and strategic allocations beyond this distance will have to demonstrate they will have no adverse effect on the integrity of the SAC.

**4.3** The River Mease SAC lies within Lichfield District; neither Tamworth Borough Council nor Lichfield District Council are responsible for its management. Any pressure on the River Mease will arise from development mainly upstream, and potentially through outflows from sewage treatment works which are already at capacity. Severn Trent Water Authority (STWA) are the waste water undertakers for both Local Plan areas and have recently had their consents reviewed by the Environment Agency. There is no requirement to alter their consents in light of the proposed levels and locations of development in either of the Local Plans. The Lichfield District Local Plan: Strategy does include specific policies which enable protection of water quality, quantity and biodiversity of the SAC to be safeguarded from development. It is therefore considered that the impacts on the River Mease arising from the Lichfield Local Plan and Tamworth Local Plan will not be significant, however this is based on the information known at the present time and does not preclude the need to undertake further assessment work when more information is known and other plans such as Lichfield District Local Plan Land Allocations are prepared. It should be noted that as the River Mease passes through Lichfield District there is potential for the Local Plan to contribute positively to the health of the River Mease SAC through the policies within the Local Plan and supplementary documents, such as supporting the creation of linked habitat corridors and the National Forest. A River Mease Developer Contribution Strategy has been published for consultation.

**4.4** The Cannock Extension Canal SAC lies close to Lichfield District and is approximately 16km from Tamworth Borough. Increases in recreational pressure could affect the SAC in addition to run-off from adjacent land. Following studies undertaken it has been agreed that no affect on the SAC will arise from the increase in traffic within 200m of this site and there is no need for the next stages of Appropriate Assessment to be followed (see Appendix C). Local management of the recreational pressure should address the effects of increased boat traffic. Beyond the plan period if the aspiration to join the Lichfield Canal to the Wyrley and Essington Canal is to be realised an Appropriate Assessment will be necessary.

## 5 The Next Steps

**5.1** The results of the Appropriate Assessment for Cannock Chase SAC require the local authorities to include a policy to require financial contributions or other mitigation measures to alleviate impact on the SAC from the impacts of the Local Plans, and a policy has been included in the Lichfield District Local Plan: Strategy which seeks to achieve this. As parts of Tamworth Borough are beyond the 'zone of influence' this will only apply to large scale developments i.e those of over 100 dwellings, which will then have to be assessed on an individual basis, and the policy for the Anker Valley Sustainable Urban Extension incorporates this requirement.

**5.2** If the local authority does not incorporate a policy then each future planning proposal is likely to require an Appropriate Assessment itself to assess its impact using the evidence gathered for the visitor mitigation strategy. Lichfield District Council is one of the partners on the Cannock Chase AONB Panel which incorporates the Cannock Chase SAC designation and has helped fund the joint study and monitor the effectiveness of the policy. The Local Plans for both Tamworth and Lichfield District have considered these impacts, included appropriate policies including general policies to protect and enhance biodiversity, protected species and their habitats and monitoring of the impact on the Cannock Chase SAC and no additional work as part of the compliance with the Habitat Regulations will be required.

**5.3** With regard to the impacts upon the River Mease SAC no specific allocations are made which directly impact upon the River Mease. Evidence shows that mitigation is possible for potential small scale impacts which may arise through the Lichfield District Local Plan: Strategy, this is to be delivered through appropriate policies within the Lichfield District Local Plan and by working with our partners to deliver a variety of methods and a developer contributions scheme. Further work will need to be undertaken to establish any specific mitigation required when allocations are made through the Lichfield District Local Plan Allocations document. The Local Plan for Tamworth will have no impact upon the Mease SAC and the Lichfield District Local Plan: Strategy has considered impacts and included appropriate policies including general policies to protect and enhance biodiversity, protected species and their habitats and monitoring of the impact on the Mease SAC. No additional work as part of the compliance with the Habitat Regulations will be required.

**5.4** In addition it can be concluded that no further work as part of the compliance with the Habitat Regulations is required for the other Natura 2000 sites and Ramsar sites referred to as part of this assessment.

## Appendix A Relevant Plans

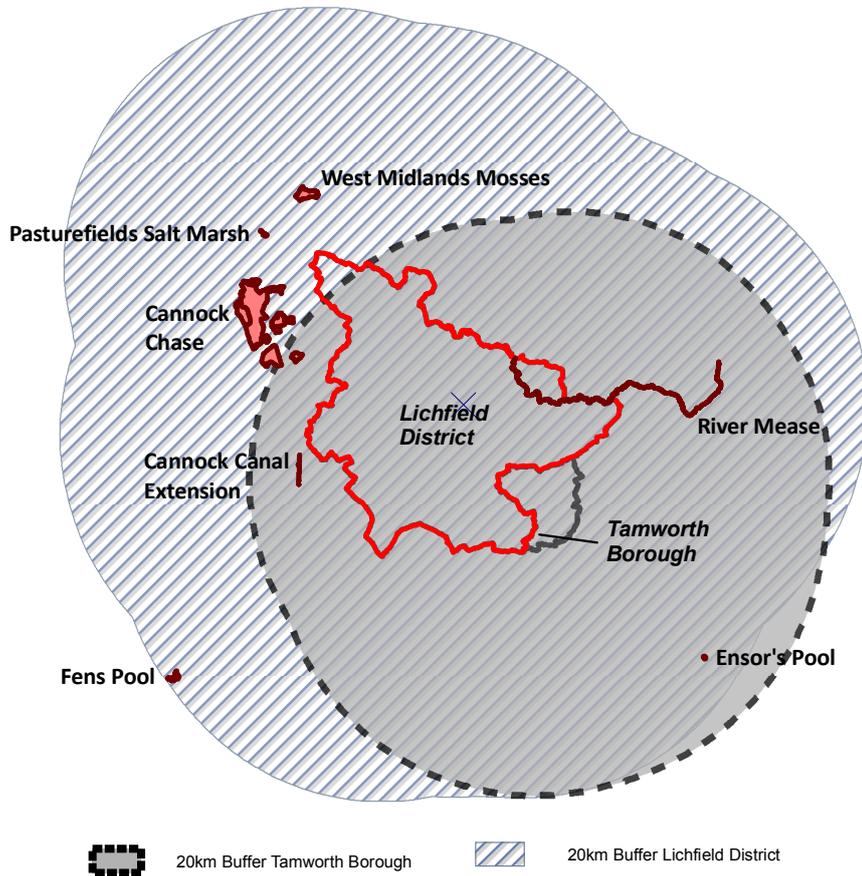
<b>WM Regional Spatial Strategy and Phase II Revision</b>	Identifies the need to locate 365,600 new homes within the West Midlands region to 2026. The Plan identifies impacts are likely and further work has been commissioned, the effects have been considered in detail in the preparation of more specific and local development plans.
<b>Staffordshire Local Transport Consultation Plan 2011-2026 (LTP3)</b>	This is the transport plan for Staffordshire County area, it is a strategic document based on the themes - supporting growth and regeneration; maintaining the highway network; promoting equality of access and opportunity; maintaining safety and security; reducing road transport and emissions and its effect on the highway network; improving health and quality of life; respecting the environment. The plan is not yet adopted. HRA undertaken for the document and effects on Cannock Chase SAC and are being considered as part of the joint study.
<b>Staffordshire Minerals Core Strategy</b>	This document sets out a long-term spatial vision for the development of minerals within Staffordshire County and will indicate where minerals can be worked. The Plan identifies broad areas of search where new minerals development could take place. Whilst proposed areas of search are located in both districts they are not close to areas of significant growth. Given this fact, the Local Plans are not expected to give rise to in combination effects alongside this or other strategies.
<b>Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Waste Core Strategy 2010 - 2026</b>	This document is expected to be adopted in September 2012. Significant in combination assessments are not expected to arise as a consequence of implementing the Local Plans for Lichfield and Tamworth.
<b>Cannock Chase Local Plan</b>	The West Midlands RSS Phase 2 Preferred Option sets out a draft requirement for 5,800 new homes to 2026 together with 84 hectares of employment land. Cannock Chase D.C are currently undertaking work as part of the Habitats Regulations and in combination effects have been considered for both the Cannock Extension SAC and Cannock Chase SAC.
<b>East Staffordshire Local Development Framework</b>	A review of the Appropriate Assessment identifies there is potential risk to water resources and air pollution in combination due to the proximity of development to the Mease the effects are unlikely. Further AA work is likely to be necessary as work on the plan progresses..
<b>The Plan for Stafford Borough - Strategic Policy Choices</b>	The current consultation is proposing 500 dwellings per year upto 2031. In combination effects on Cannock Chase SAC are possible and are being investigated with a joint assessment.
<b>South Staffordshire District Core Strategy Development Plan Document : Proposed Modifications</b>	A review of the Appropriate Assessment for the document incorporates the preferred spatial strategy and policies for steering and shaping development as well as defining areas where development should be limited. The plan period is 2008-2026. The Appropriate Assessment review considered that with the provisions in the policies it is unlikely that there will be an adverse impact on any of the European sites. However in combination effects on Cannock Chase SAC are being investigated with a joint assessment.
<b>Black Country Joint Core Strategy</b>	The joint core strategy for Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton, will provide 63,000 houses upto 2026. There is potential for in combination effects on the Cannock Extension SAC which are being investigated with Cannock Chase District Council and the Cannock Chase SAC which are being investigated with a joint assessment.

<b>Birmingham Core Strategy 2026: March 2011</b>	The emerging Core Strategy seeks to provide 50,600 homes and deliver 100,000 new jobs upto the period 2026. There is potential for in combination effects on the Cannock Chase SAC and these are being investigated with a joint assessment.
<b>Big City Plan: Birmingham</b>	The plan states the population will grow by 100,000. With over 5,000 homes in the City Centre. Increase the size of the City centre. No in combination effects are likely due to the proximity of the Natura 2000 sites and the strategic growth points contained within the Lichfield and Tamworth Local Plans.
<b>South Derbyshire emerging Core Strategy</b>	Plan covering Derby City, South Derbyshire and Amber Valley District Council Potential urban extensions to Swadlincote are being considered. There are potential in combination effects on the Mease SAC as a result of combined new housing growth in North-west Leicestershire and East Staffordshire.
<b>North West Leicestershire Core Strategy: Consultation May 2012</b>	The plan seeks a requirement for 9,700 houses from 2006-2031. There are potential in combination effects on the Mease SAC as a result of combined new housing growth in North-west Leicestershire and South Derbyshire
<b>North Warwickshire emerging Core Strategy</b>	Housing and employment land is beyond the catchment of the River Mease. No in combination effects are likely due to the proximity of the Natura 2000 sites and the strategic growth points contained within the Lichfield and Tamworth Local Plans.
<b>Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan 2009-2014</b>	Plan setting out the importance of Cannock Chase and how the area should be managed with regard to landscape, visitors, education and awareness and quality. The plan is now agreed. The plan has undertaken as Appropriate Assessment and concluded that there could potentially be positive effects upon the biodiversity in the area and that certain policies could have harmful impacts from increase in visitor usage, this could lead to trampling of vegetation and erosion, these aspects will be monitored and mitigation measures will be put into effect to reduce the impact. In combination effects on Cannock Chase SAC are possible and are being investigated with a joint assessment.
<b>Evidence Base relating to Cannock Chase SAC and the Appropriate Assessment of Local Authorities Core Strategies. Nov 2009 - ongoing</b>	Joint study and research on the impact of the surrounding Core Strategies/Local Plans on the Cannock Chase SAC and appropriate mitigation.
<b>Cannock Chase Visitor Impact Mitigation Strategy</b>	Study to identify how the impact of changes to the the SAC can be mitigated for both on-site and off-site.
<b>Rugeley Power Station Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) plans</b>	Rugeley Power Station is presently installing a flue gas desulphurisation plant in order to comply with European Union Large Combustion Plant Directive, which aims to apply tighter limits on sulphur dioxide emissions. The 2002 Rugeley Power Station Proposed FGD Plant – Environmental Statement states that the plant may lead to an increase in carbon dioxide emissions, but these should be insignificant. The process will result in decreased Sulphur emissions but there will be an increase in Nitrogen. These effects will be considered in the further in relation to the in combination effects on the Cannock Chase SAC.
<b>Environment Agency consents for water extraction</b>	The purpose of The Tame, Anker and Mease Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy Consultation Draft 2007 plan is to enable the Environment Agency to manage water resources at the local level in order that the need for water for housing, employment and agricultural users can

	<p>be balanced with the needs of the water environment. The existing CAMS indicated that there is no water available for abstraction from the River Mease to serve additional abstraction need.</p>
<p><b>Severn Trent Water Limited: Water Resource Plan Asset Management Period 2005-10</b></p>	<p>Looks to 2030, but specifically covers the period to 2010. It considers key issues, which could have an impact on water supply, and sets out objectives to ensure STW can deliver its planned level of service. The plan considers drought management, abstraction reductions, leakage water efficiency etc.</p>
<p><b>South Staffordshire Water PLC Water Resources Plan 2009</b></p>	<p>The report identifies that there is sufficient capacity for the proposed increase in population during the 25 year period 2010-2035. Sets out objectives to improve service, reduce leakage and improve resource development to meet future needs. Also reports on performance of previous water management plan including efforts to reduce the impact of water abstraction from sensitive sites. The report identifies that work is needed to consider a reduction in water abstraction licences on the River Mease and River Humber and that Environment Agency will be involved in this process.</p>
<p><b>Tame, Anker and Mease Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy March 2008</b></p>	<p>Strategy which considers the impact of abstraction on the Tame, Anker and Mease Rivers. Existing abstraction licences, including those for public water supply in the Mease catchment, were assessed for their impact on the SAC during the review of consents process.</p>
<p><b>River Mease Nutrient Management Plan, Water Quality Management Plan and Mease Restoration Plan 2012</b></p>	<p>Various strategies to deliver an improvement in water quality and other improvements to the River Mease SAC to enable it to achieve a 'favourable condition' and to comply with the Water Framework Directive to achieve a 'good status' status by 2015. There is potential for significant positive incombination impacts on the River Mease.</p>
<p><b>Humber River Basin Management Plan 2009</b></p>	<p>Sets out a strategy to achieve favourable status for the River Humber SAC. No incombination effects are expected to arise as a consequence of implementing the Local Plans for Lichfield and Tamworth.</p>
<p><b>National Forest Strategy 2009-2014</b></p>	<p>Sets out a strategy to increase tree cover from 6% to around 33% across an area of around 200 square miles of Staffordshire, Derbyshire and Leicestershire. Parts of the National Forest lie within Lichfield District and Tamworth. To date over 7 million trees have been planted in the entire National Forest since 1994 increasing woodland cover to 16%. The strategy also promotes the development of woodland related tourism and business development throughout the National Forest. The strategy also promotes the development of woodland related tourism and business development throughout the National Forest.</p>

**Table A.1 Relevant Plans**

## Appendix B Locations of Natura 2000 sites & Ramsar sites



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**Picture B.1 Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites and a 20km buffer around Lichfield District and Tamworth Borough**

## **Appendix C Relevant Correspondence**

Lichfield District Council  
District Council House Frog Lane  
Lichfield  
Staffordshire  
WS13 6YZ

**Our ref:** UT/2009/107002/01-  
L01  
**Your ref:** SAC Enquiry  
**Date:** 23 October 2009

Dear Madam,

**JOINT SCOPING AND SCREENING FOR RIVER MEASE SAC**

**ABSTRACTION AND INFLOW FROM TREATMENT WORKS.**

**LICHFIELD DISTRICT COUNCIL FROG LANE LICHFIELD STAFFS**

Thank you for consulting us with this information which we received on 16 September 2009. We apologise for the delay in replying.

**Water Resources**

The impact of abstraction on the Mease SAC is and has already been considered as part of the abstraction licensing and Habitats Directive legislation. Existing abstraction licences, including those for public water supply in the Mease catchment, were assessed for their impact on the SAC during the review of consents process.

If more water is required to meet future demands, any proposed changes to the existing licences or any new licence proposals would be assessed for impact on the Mease and Natural England would be consulted too. Proposals that impacted upon the Mease would not be permitted.

South Staffs Water would need to provide comments on their ability to meet future demands given the constraints on abstraction imposed by the licences they hold.

(Incidentally in Appendix A, Relevant Plans, it mentions the Tame, Anker and Mease Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS) Consultation document. This document has been superseded by the Tame Anker and Mease CAMS which was published in March 2008.)

**Water Quality**

We have had a quick look through this and have a couple of concerns, these relate to the River Mease SAC. The EA does not recognise the potential impact of sewage discharge on WQ in the river. Phosphate levels in the river already greatly exceed the Conservation Objective for the river and the principle source of this phosphate is the sewage treatment works in the catchment.

Work is being undertaken to reduce the Phosphates coming from the sewage treatment works in the catchment through schemes with Severn Trent water. Any development which will discharge its foul water through works into the River Mease will need to be assessed. The capacity of the Sewage Treatment works both in terms of the ability of the works to accommodate the extra flow and the levels set by the discharge consent will need to be assessed. Any development which would require a change to the discharge consent will need to be discussed with Severn Trent Water and the Environment Agency as the extra flow might lead to a changed consent limit which requires significant alteration to the existing sewage works.

Yours faithfully,

**Mr Richard Austen**  
**Planning Liaison Team Leader**

Please ask for: Martin Ross

Direct Dial: 01543 405047

Direct Fax: 01543 444161

Direct email: [martin.ross@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:martin.ross@environment-agency.gov.uk)

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Matthew J. Hudson [mailto:matthewhudson@south-staffs-water.co.uk]

**Sent:** 29 October 2009 12:46

**To:** Hollins, Heidi

**Subject:** RE: Habitat Regs for Lichfield District

Heidi,

[Impact of Our Existing Abstraction Licences on the Mease,Humber and Lichfield Canal SAC's](#)

The impact of the company's existing abstraction licences on the SAC's you identified has been undertaken by the Environment Agency and Natural England. This Review of Consents has concluded that there are no issues, with the exception of an emergency licence we have associated with our Chilcote groundwater source in the Mease catchment. We are proposing to revoke this unused component of our licence.

[Impact of the Proposed Housing Growth on the Mease,Humber and Lichfield Canal SAC's](#)

I can confirm that the RSS housing proposals will not have a material impact on our long term supply demand forecast. We recently published our Final Water Resources Plan (August 2009), which included the latest (Nathaniel Lichfield) RSS housing forecasts. Our plan shows a healthy surplus of supply over demand for the entire 25 year period, so even modest changes to the reported RSS will not result in a requirement for any additional water resource development. As such there can be no additional impact on the SAC's that you identified.

I trust this response is sufficient, however if you require further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Matt

Matt Hudson  
Water Resources Manager  
South Staffs Water  
01922 638282

Date: 17 November 2009  
Our ref:  
Your ref: JRM/LDF/CECAA



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Principal Planning Officer – Planning Policy  
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Dear John

**Cannock Extension Canal SAC Habitats Regulations Assessment**

I refer to your letter dated 27 August 2009 and our subsequent meetings and exchanges of correspondence.

I am able to confirm that, after the preliminary investigations, it is now clear that any road drainage reaching the canal is only off a very short stretch of the B4154 and, as consequence, any increase in road traffic along this road resulting from the proposal of either your own authorities core strategy or that of The Black Country authorities.

Indeed, it is now clear that the polluted water originates off Wyrley Common and matter are now in hand to resolve that issue.

As a consequence, Natural England agrees that it is not necessary for you to proceed to the next stages of the HRA in terms of this particular issue. However, I must take this opportunity to remind you that this does not mean that the two Core Strategies do not require a HRA as all documents forming part of the LDF should be assessed to ensure they comply with the Habitats Regulations ie are not proposing development or other activities that would compromise an international site.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G J Walker".

G J Walker  
Senior Specialist SSSI Management

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**Natural England letter confirming no further action required for Cannock Extension SAC**

## Appendix D Review of Proposed Policies in Lichfield District Local Plan: Strategy

Policy Number	Description of Policy	Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy?
<b>Core Policy 2 Principles for Sustainable Development</b>	Identifies the principles for sustainable development	<b>No:</b> Not locationally specific, policy includes reference to conserve and enhance natural assets.
<b>Core Policy 3 Use of Energy and Resources</b>	Careful use of energy and resources, including waste minimisation and management	<b>No:</b> The policy does not propose specific sites, so it is impossible to assess any likely significant effects. The policy does propose use of SuDs and other techniques, however it does not incorporate safeguards for the SAC or reference to the natural environment. Policy can be improved by cross reference to the development management policies.
<b>Development Management Policy SC1</b>	Renewable Energy including setting out the criteria for generating energy from biomass and wind	<b>No:</b> Does incorporate a requirement for the assessment upon the biodiversity value. Locations are incorporated within the policy in relation to wind energy, none of these will result in direct loss of land within either the Cannock Chase SAC, Cannock Extension Canal SAC or Mease SAC.
<b>Development Management Policy SC2</b>	Policy identifies minimum sustainability standards for new build and retrofitting. Development and Sustainable Construction	<b>No:</b> Policy seeks to lower the demand for energy and water, and refers to the need identified in the Water Cycle Study and Surface Water Management Plan, which could have positive effect upon the Mease SAC.
<b>Core Policy 4 Delivering our Infrastructure</b>	Policy requires the provision of infrastructure at appropriate stages in development.	<b>No:</b> The policy refers to the Infrastructure Delivery Plan which has identified strategic infrastructure requirements. These include water and sewage which could protect water quality and quantity and visitor mitigation required to protect the Cannock Chase SAC
<b>Development Management Policy IP1</b>	Policy requires infrastructure provision	<b>No:</b> The policy will not itself lead to development as it relates to how the developer should contribute to the provision of additional infrastructure and community facilities
<b>Development Management Policy IP2</b>	Policy for the establishment of a Carbon Investment Fund to ensure developments can meet carbon reductions targets	<b>No:</b> Refers to provision of one-off payments where on-site carbon reductions are prohibitive, whilst not specifically referred to this may include harmful effects on the SAC, and could thus have positive impacts although these are impossible to assess due to the lack of site specific information
<b>Core Policy 5 Sustainable Transport</b>	Policy seeks to reduce the need to travel, encourage use of sustainable transport, improve road safety and air quality and includes schemes which improve public transport	<b>No:</b> The policy does not propose development it seeks the provision of sustainable transport opportunities and the reduction of use of the private car, which could have positive effects upon SAC vulnerable from air-borne pollution. Town centre improvements in Burntwood are referred to in the policy, these alone will not lead to increased traffic, and seek to reduce trips by private car, comments should be considered in relation to Core Policy 8 Our Centres

Policy Number	Description of Policy	Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy?
Development Management Policy ST1	Seeks to secure more sustainable travel patterns	<b>No:</b> The policy is not site specific and seeks to secure sustainable transport
Development Management Policy ST2	Policy requires appropriate provision of parking	<b>No:</b> No details of locations or type of construction are proposed, it is therefore impossible to assess any impact from the policy, it needs to be considered in association with other policies
Core Policy 6 Housing Delivery	Identifies the level and strategic locations for the provision of housing upto 2026	<b>Yes:</b> The locations specified included those within the 12 mile zone of influence for Cannock Chase SAC. Reference is made within the policy which requires the delivery of social, physical and green infrastructure and reference to the Strategic Development Location Insets which contain details of infrastructure and will contain mitigation for Cannock Chase SAC when these have been established through the studies currently being undertaken.
Development Management Policy H1	Seeks to deliver a range of dwelling types	<b>No:</b> Not site specific and does result in development directly
Development Management Policy H2	Policy to secure affordable housing	<b>No:</b> Policy incorporates having regard to other policies in the Core Strategy (Core Policy 13 and NR7)
Development Management Policy H3	Sets criteria for sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	<b>No:</b> Policy incorporates requirement to have regard to other policies in the Core Strategy (Core Policy 13 and NR7)
Core Policy 7 Employment and Economic Development	Identifies levels and sites for employment	<b>No:</b> The locations specified are within the 12 mile zone of influence for Cannock Chase SAC. Whilst policies seek to reduce the use of the private car, further studies will need to be undertaken to assess if there will be any impact through air pollution from increased traffic generation on the SAC. Policy includes reference to diversifying the rural economy and supports the re-use of rural buildings where this does not conflict with other core policies (Core Policy 13 and NR7)
Core Policy 8 Our Centres	Identifies levels of floorspace growth for Burntwood and Lichfield City and a hierarchy for other centres	<b>No:</b> The locations specified are within the 12 mile zone of influence of Cannock Chase SAC. Whilst policies within the plan seek to focus development in accessible locations, further studies will be required to assess any impact through air pollution from increased traffic generation on the SAC.
Core Policy 9 Tourism	Supports sustainable tourism and focuses tourism in Lichfield City	<b>Yes:</b> The policy focuses tourism in the most sustainable locations where these do not conflict with other Core Policies and thus the SAC are protected by Core Policy 13 and development management policy NR6. Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is mentioned specifically for tourism, no reference is made to the potential impact upon the Cannock Chase SAC, should the current study identify that SANG are an acceptable method to divert tourism impact from the SAC.

Policy Number	Description of Policy	Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy?
Development Management Policy E1	Identifies thresholds for retail assessments	<b>No:</b> The policy relates to assessing the impact upon the viability and vitality of retail proposals on other retail centres
Core Policy 10 Healthy and Safe Communities	Encourages people to live healthy and safe lifestyles	<b>No:</b> The policy requires no decline in air quality and seeks to enable better access to open space, sport and recreation, play facilities, cultural assets and facilities for local communities, thus reducing the need to travel. The policy also supports energy efficiency.
Core Policy 11 Participation in Sport	Encourage, protect and enhance existing sport facilities and identifies the need for a new leisure facility serving Lichfield City	<b>No:</b> No direct impact and the locations identified will have no impact upon the conservation objectives for the SAC
Core Policy 12 Cultural Assets	Protects and supports cultural assets and events	<b>No:</b> No direct impact and the policy includes reference to consideration of other policies and objectives within the LDF, Core Policy 13 and NR7 which seek to protect and enhance the natural environment
Development Management Policy HSC1	The policy seeks provision of adequate quantity, quality and accessible open space, and supports the creation of green corridors	<b>No:</b> The policy identifies the potential threat to Cannock Chase from increased visitor numbers and states this will be monitored to ensure that no harm is caused, it also supports the provision of new semi-natural greenspace where appropriate opportunities arise.
Core Policy 13 Our Natural Resources	Protects and enhances where appropriate all designated and non-designated priority habitats and historic landscapes, and encourages linkages to address the impacts of climate change	<b>No:</b> The policy seeks to protect designates sites which includes SAC. It specifically identifies the Cannock Chase SAC and states it will contribute to the management and protection of it.
Development Management Policy NR1	Aims to protect the countryside and recognises its economic role, supports preparation of Parish Plans	<b>No:</b> The policy is not site specific, and as it is a development management policy it does not override Core Policy 13 above
Development Management Policy NR2	Only allows development where the impacts on biodiversity and protected / locally important species can be compensated for	<b>No:</b> The policy seeks to protect biodiversity and would thus prevent harm to the SAC
Development Management Policy NR3	Ensures protection of trees, woodland and hedgerow and seeks space for large trees within new developments	<b>No:</b> The policy seeks to protect trees, tree planting can remove impurities from soil and air. The policy is a development management policy and does not override Core Policy 13 above.
Development Management Policy NR4	Seeks to prevent negative impacts upon geological, archaeological and historically important landscapes	<b>No:</b> The policy is not site specific, and as it is a development management policy it does not override the Core Policy 13 above

Policy Number	Description of Policy	Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy?
<b>Development Management Policy NR5</b>	Encourages habitats to be linked and multi-functional green spaces	<b>No:</b> The policy refers to river corridors and green corridors, however the policy is to read in conjunction with Core Policy 13 and seeks to enhance biodiversity and to mitigate against climate change
<b>Development Management Policy NR6</b>	Seeks to protect the Cannock Chase SAC and identifies a 12 mile zone of influence	<b>No:</b> The policy seeks to safeguard the SAC and identifies that development within a 12 mile radius may have an impact and needs to identify what that impact is and demonstrate how that impact will be mitigated, including provision of alternative natural green recreational space. The policy should have a positive impact upon the SAC
<b>Development Management Policy NR7</b>	Identifies watercourse catchments which may be impacted by water abstraction and wastewater treatment limitations. Seeks to prevent a negative impact on water quality	<b>No:</b> The Mease SAC is sensitive to changes in water quality and this policy seeks to prevent a negative impact upon water quality and abstraction
<b>Core Policy 14 Our Built &amp; Historic Environment</b>	Seeks to protect and improve the built and historic environment and their natural and historic landscapes	<b>No:</b> The policy relates to the built fabric
<b>Development Management Policy BE1</b>	Ensures high quality sustainable built environment can be achieved	<b>No:</b> The policy relates to the built fabric

Table D.1 Assessment of policies from proposed submission Lichfield District Local Plan: Strategy

Policy Number	Description of Policy	Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy?
<b>Core Policy 1: The Spatial Strategy</b>	The overall approach to providing for new homes, jobs, infrastructure and community facilities over the plan period and the broad approach to managing development and change to 2028.	<b>Yes:</b> The locations and levels of development will have a significant effect upon the Cannock Chase SAC however evidence has been gathered which has identified that mitigation is possible and can be delivered by the development, this will be delivered through adherence to other policies within the Local Plan.
<b>Core Policy 2: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development</b>	Will have a positive approach that reflects presumption in favour of sustainable development.	<b>No:</b> Policy refers to securing development which improves environmental condition in the area which is in accordance with other policies in the Local Plan
<b>Core Policy 3: Delivering Sustainable Development</b>	Identifies the principles for sustainable development	<b>No:</b> Not locationally specific, policy includes reference to conserve and protect natural assets.

Policy Number	Description of Policy	Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy?
<b>Core Policy 4: Delivering our Infrastructure</b>	Policy requires the provision of infrastructure at appropriate stages in development.	<b>No:</b> The policy refers to the Infrastructure Delivery Plan which has identified strategic infrastructure requirements. These include water and sewage which could protect water quality and quantity and visitor mitigation required to protect the Cannock Chase SAC
<b>Core Policy 5: Sustainable Transport</b>	Policy seeks to reduce the need to travel, encourage use of sustainable transport, improve road safety and air quality and includes schemes which improve public transport	<b>No:</b> The policy does not propose development it seeks the provision of sustainable transport opportunities and the reduction of use of the private car, which could have positive effects upon SAC vulnerable from air-borne pollution and road run-off. Town centre improvements in Burntwood are referred to in the policy, these alone will not lead to increased traffic, and seek to reduce trips by private car, comments should be considered in relation to Core Policy 8 Our Centres
<b>Core Policy 6: Housing Delivery</b>	Identifies the level of housing including strategic locations for the plan period to 2028	<b>Yes:</b> The locations specified included those within the 12 mile zone of influence for Cannock Chase SAC. Reference is made within the policy which requires the delivery of social, physical and green infrastructure and reference to the Strategic Development Allocation Insets which contain details of infrastructure and will contain mitigation for Cannock Chase SAC when these have been established through the studies currently being undertaken.
<b>Core Policy 7: Employment &amp; Economic Development</b>	Identifies levels for employment	<b>No:</b> The locations referred to are within the zone of influence for Cannock Chase SAC. Evidence is not identifying any significant effects arising from the economic strategy of the Local Plan.
<b>Core Policy 8: Our Centres</b>	Identifies Burntwood and Lichfield City as commercial centres and defines a hierarchy for other centres	<b>No:</b> The locations referred to are within the zone of influence for Cannock Chase SAC. Evidence is not identifying any significant effects arising from the economic strategy of the Local Plan.
<b>Core Policy 9: Tourism</b>	Supports sustainable tourism and focuses tourism in Lichfield City	<b>Yes:</b> The policy focuses tourism in the most sustainable locations where these do not conflict with other Core Policies and thus the SAC are protected by Core Policy 13 and development management policy NR7 and 8. Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is mentioned specifically for tourism, no reference is made to the potential impact upon the Cannock Chase SAC, this is however addressed within Core Policy 13 and NR7, research shows that mitigation is possible and further research is being undertaken to assess if SANG are an acceptable method to divert tourism impact from the SAC.
<b>Core Policy 10: Healthy &amp; Safe Lifestyles</b>	Encourages people to live healthy and safe lifestyles	<b>No:</b> The policy requires no decline in air quality and seeks to enable better access to open space, sport and recreation, play facilities, cultural assets

Policy Number	Description of Policy	Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy?
		and facilities for local communities, thus reducing the need to travel. The policy also supports energy efficiency.
<b>Core Policy 11: Participation in Sport &amp; Physical Activity</b>	Encourage, protect and enhance existing sport facilities and identifies the need for a new leisure facility serving Lichfield City	<b>No:</b> No direct impact and the locations identified will have no impact upon the conservation objectives for the SAC
<b>Core Policy 12: Provision for Arts &amp; Culture</b>	Protects and supports cultural assets and events	<b>No:</b> No direct impact and the policy includes reference to consideration of other policies and objectives within the LDF, Core Policy 13 and NR7 and 8 which seek to protect and enhance the natural environment
<b>Core Policy 13: Our Natural Resources</b>	Protects and enhances where appropriate all designated and non-designated priority habitats and historic landscapes, and encourages linkages to address the impacts of climate change	<b>No:</b> The policy seeks to protect designates sites which includes SAC. It specifically identifies the Cannock Chase SAC and states it will contribute to the management and protection of it.
<b>Core Policy 14: Our Built Environment</b>	Seeks to protect and improve the built and historic environment and their natural and historic landscapes	<b>No:</b> The policy relates to the built fabric
<b>Policy SC1: Sustainable Standards for Development</b>	Policy identifies minimum sustainability standards for new build and retrofitting. development and sustainable construction.	<b>No:</b> Policy seeks to lower the demand for energy and water, and refers to the need identified in the Water Cycle Study and Surface Water Management Plan, which could have positive effect upon the Mease SAC.
<b>Policy SC2: Renewable Energy</b>	Renewable Energy including setting out the criteria for generating energy from biomass and wind	<b>No:</b> Does incorporate a requirement for the assessment upon the biodiversity value. Locations are incorporated within the policy in relation to wind energy, none of these will result in direct loss of land within either the Cannock Chase SAC, Cannock Extension Canal SAC or Mease SAC.
<b>Policy IP1: Supporting &amp; Providing our Infrastructure</b>	Policy requires infrastructure provision	<b>No:</b> The policy will not itself lead to development as it relates to how the developer should contribute to the provision of additional infrastructure and community facilities
<b>Policy ST1: Sustainable Travel</b>	Seeks to secure more sustainable travel patterns	<b>No:</b> The policy is not site specific and seeks to secure sustainable transport
<b>Policy ST2: Parking Provision</b>	Policy requires appropriate provision of parking	<b>No:</b> No details of locations or type of construction are proposed, it is therefore impossible to assess any impact from the policy, it needs to be considered in association with other policies
<b>Policy H1: A Balanced Housing Market</b>	Seeks to deliver a range of dwelling types	<b>No:</b> Not site specific and does result in development directly

Policy Number	Description of Policy	Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy?
<b>Policy H2: Provision of Affordable Housing</b>	Policy to secure affordable housing	<b>No:</b> Policy incorporates having regard to other policies in the Local Plan (Core Policy 13 and NR7, NR8)
<b>Policy H3: Gypsies, Travellers &amp; Travelling Showpeople</b>	Sets criteria for sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	<b>No:</b> Policy incorporates requirement to have regard to other policies in the Local Plan (Core Policy 13 and NR7, NR8)
<b>Policy E1: Retail Assessments</b>	Identifies thresholds for retail assessments	<b>No:</b> The policy relates to assessing the impact upon the viability and vitality of retail proposals on other retail centres.
<b>Policy HSC1: Open Space Standards</b>	The policy seeks provision of adequate quantity, quality and accessible open space, and supports the creation of green corridors	<b>No:</b> The policy identifies the potential threat to Cannock Chase from increased visitor numbers and states this will be monitored to ensure that no harm is caused, it also supports the provision of new semi-natural greenspace where appropriate opportunities arise.
<b>Policy HSC2: Playing Pitch &amp; Sport Facility Standards</b>	Encourage, protect and enhance existing sport facilities.	<b>No:</b> No direct impact upon the conservation objectives for the SAC
<b>Policy NR1: Countryside Management</b>	Aims to protect the countryside and recognises its economic role, supports preparation of Parish Plans	<b>No:</b> The policy is not site specific, and as it is a development management policy it does not override Core Policy 13 and would be read in conjunction with other policies in the Local Plan namely NR7 and NR8.
<b>Policy NR2: Development in the Green Belt</b>	Seeks to enhance the beneficial use of the Green Belt, retaining its character and openness.	<b>No:</b> The policy is not site specific, and as it is a development management policy it does not override Core Policy 13 and would be read in conjunction with other policies in the Local Plan namely NR7 and NR8.
<b>Policy NR3: Biodiversity, Protected Species &amp; their Habitats</b>	Aims to protect and enhance biodiversity and/or geodiversity in the district with particular contribution towards the United Kingdom Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP)	<b>No:</b> Policy seeks to protect biodiversity and would thus prevent harm to the SAC.
<b>Policy NR4: Trees, Woodland &amp; Hedgerows</b>	Aims to protect and enhance trees, woodland and hedgerows in the district.	<b>No:</b> The policy seeks to protect trees and hedgerows Tree planting is identified within evidence as having a beneficial effect upon the River Mease SAC, and as it is a development management policy would be read in association with other policies in the Local Plan namely NR7 and NR8 and Core Policy 13, a significant effect on the SAC would therefore be avoided.
<b>Policy NR5: Natural &amp; Historic Landscapes</b>	Aims to protect geological, archaeological and historically important landscapes in the District.	<b>No:</b> Reference to the Cannock Chase SAC is mentioned within the policy and protection of the integrity of the SAC.

Policy Number	Description of Policy	Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy?
<b>Policy NR6: Linked Habitat Corridors &amp; Multi-functional Greenspaces</b>	Considers creation of new habitats and links between habitats to enhance biodiversity and to mitigate against climate change.	<b>No:</b> Policy refers to river and green corridors and their uses including for biodiversity, ecology, species movement in line with the Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping, Lichfield Biodiversity Strategy and Local Environmental Action Plan (SBAP)
<b>Policy NR7: Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation</b>	Seeks to protect the Cannock Chase SAC	<b>No:</b> The policy seeks to safeguard the SAC and identifies that development within a zone of influence may have an impact and needs to identify what that impact is and demonstrate how that impact will be mitigated, including provision of alternative natural green recreational space. The policy should have a positive impact upon the SAC
<b>Policy NR8: River Mease Special Area of Conservation</b>	Aims to protect and enhance the integrity of the Mease Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	<b>No:</b> The policy identifies that impact may arise either directly but may also arise by development within the water catchment. Development will have to show no adverse impacts and how it can mitigate in line with the Nutrient Management Plan. The policy should have a positive impact upon the SAC.
<b>Policy NR9: Water Quality</b>	Identifies watercourse catchments which may be impacted by water abstraction and wastewater treatment limitations. Seeks to prevent a negative impact on water quality	<b>No:</b> The Mease SAC is sensitive to changes in water quality and this policy seeks to prevent a negative impact upon water quality and abstraction.
<b>Policy BE1: High Quality Development</b>	Ensures high quality sustainable built environment can be achieved	<b>No:</b> The policy relates to the built fabric
<b>Policy Lichfield 1: Lichfield Environment</b>	Aims to maintain and enhance Lichfield City as a separate, freestanding community, surrounded by Green Belt and open countryside, offering a high quality environment in which to live, work and visit.	<b>No:</b> Lichfield City lies within the zone of influence of Cannock Chase SAC and further studies will identify appropriate mitigation. Evidence has shown mitigation is possible.
<b>Policy Lichfield 2: Lichfield Services &amp; Facilities</b>	Aims to protect and enhance services and facilities in Lichfield City, meeting the needs of residents, businesses and visitors..	<b>No:</b> Policy seeks to reduce the need to travel.
<b>Policy Lichfield 3: Lichfield Economy</b>	Aims to promote Lichfield City Centre as a strategic centre, whilst sustaining and enhancing the significance of its historic environment and heritage assets and their setting.	<b>No:</b> Evidence is not identifying any significant effects arising from the economic strategy of the Local Plan. Policy seeks to reduce the need to travel.

Policy Number	Description of Policy	Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy?
<b>Policy Lichfield 4: Lichfield Housing</b>	Identifies quantity and area of housing growth within and around Lichfield City by 2028.	<b>Yes:</b> Lichfield City lies within the zone of influence of Cannock Chase SAC and further studies will identify appropriate mitigation. Evidence has shown mitigation is possible.
<b>Policy Lichfield 5: East of Lichfield (Streethay)</b>	Identifies area to the north of Streethay for mixed use development to be delivered by 2028.	<b>Yes:</b> Site forms part of the spatial strategy and Core Policy 6. The site lies within the zone of influence of Cannock Chase SAC and further studies will identify appropriate mitigation. Evidence has shown mitigation is possible. Policy requires adherence to all other policies in the Local Plan this will include Core Policy 13 and NR7. Appendix D relates to this site and requires protection of habitats of biological interest.
<b>Policy Lichfield 6: South Lichfield</b>	Identifies area south of Lichfield City for mixed use development to be delivered by 2028.	<b>Yes:</b> Site forms part of the spatial strategy and Core Policy 6. The site lies within the zone of influence of Cannock Chase SAC and further studies will identify appropriate mitigation. Evidence has shown mitigation is possible. Policy requires adherence to all other policies in the Local Plan this will include Core Policy 13 and NR7. Appendix C relates to this site and requires protection of habitats of biological interest.
<b>Policy Burntwood 1: Burntwood Environment</b>	Aims to maintain and enhance Burntwood's role as a separate and freestanding community, bounded by the Green Belt and functioning as a town which offers range of services and facilities.	<b>No:</b> Policy specifically mentions having regard to the SAC.
<b>Policy Burntwood 2: Burntwood Services &amp; Facilities</b>	Aims to protect and enhance services and facilities in Burntwood.	<b>No:</b> Policy seeks to reduce travel.
<b>Policy Burntwood 3: Burntwood Economy</b>	Aims to create a vibrant and diverse town centre, through regeneration.	<b>No:</b> Evidence is not identifying any significant effects arising from the economic strategy of the Local Plan. With regard to any new residential development delivered as part of a mixed use scheme, mitigation would be required to be delivered as the location is within the zone of influence of Cannock Chase SAC. An element of housing has been incorporated within the spatial strategy of the Local Plan and evidence has shown that mitigation is possible.
<b>Policy Burntwood 4: Burntwood Housing</b>	Aims to accommodate new housing in and around Burntwood, with redevelopment of existing brownfield sites to be encouraged.	<b>Yes:</b> Sites fall within zone of influence and mitigation will be sought to compensate for these effects. Evidence prepared for the Core Strategy has shown mitigation is possible.
<b>Policy Burntwood 5: East of Burntwood Bypass</b>	Seeks creation of a sustainable, safe and well designed mixed use development by 2028.	<b>Yes:</b> Site forms part of the spatial strategy and Core Policy 6. The site lies within the zone of influence of Cannock Chase SAC and further

Policy Number	Description of Policy	Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy?
		studies will identify appropriate mitigation. Evidence has shown mitigation is possible. Policy requires adherence to all other policies in the Local Plan this will include Core Policy 13 and NR7. Appendix F relates to this site and requires protection of habitats of biological interest.
<b>Policy North of Tamworth 1</b>	Seeks to creation of a sustainable, safe and well designed mixed use development by 2028.	<b>No:</b> Site forms part of the spatial strategy and Core Policy 6. The site lies beyond the zone of influence of Cannock Chase SAC and River Mease SAC As the site is a large site evidence will need to be prepared to establish if there will be an impact upon Cannock Chase SAC and further studies will identify appropriate mitigation. Evidence has shown mitigation is possible. Policy requires adherence to all other policies in the Local Plan this will include Core Policy 13 and NR7, NR8.
<b>Policy East of Rugeley1</b>	Seeks to creation of a sustainable, safe and well designed mixed use development by 2028.	<b>Yes:</b> Site forms part of the spatial strategy and Core Policy 6. The site lies within the zone of influence of Cannock Chase SAC and further studies will identify appropriate mitigation. Evidence has shown mitigation is possible. Policy requires adherence to all other policies in the Local Plan this will include Core Policy 13 and NR7. Appendix G relates to this site and requires protection of habitats of biological interest.
<b>Policy Rural 1: Rural Areas</b>	Seeks creation of approximately 29% of District's local housing growth within rural areas. New allocations in key rural settlements identified.	<b>Yes:</b> This forms part of the spatial strategy and Core Policy 6. Evidence has shown that mitigation for these levels of growth are possible for effects upon the Cannock Chase SAC and River Mease SAC. Mitigation will be delivered through adherence to policies within the Local Plan.
<b>Policy Frad1: Fradley Environment</b>	Aims to provide high quality green infrastructure incorporating physical and visual connections to the countryside and a variety of natural habitats.	<b>No:</b> Policy does not propose development which will have a significant effect upon the SAC.
<b>Policy Frad 2: Fradley Services &amp; Facilities</b>	Identifies various provisions and improvements including land for new health care facility, sports pitches etc.	<b>No:</b> Policy does not propose development which will have a significant effect upon the SAC
<b>Policy Frad 3: Fradley Economy</b>	Proposes that Fradley remains as a major focus for employment through the implementation of existing commitments and redevelopment.	<b>No:</b> Evidence is not identifying any significant effects arising from the economic strategy of the Local Plan.
<b>Policy Frad4: Fradley Housing</b>	Proposes that Fradley plays a significant role in meeting rural housing needs.	<b>Yes:</b> Site forms part of the spatial strategy and Core Policy 6. The site lies within the zone of influence of Cannock Chase SAC and further studies will identify appropriate mitigation. Evidence has shown mitigation is possible. Policy

Policy Number	Description of Policy	Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy?
		requires adherence to all other policies in the Local Plan this will include Core Policy 13 and NR7. Appendix E relates to this site and requires protection of habitats of biological interest.
<b>Policy Alr1: Alrewas Environment</b>	Proposes that Alrewas maintains its role as a separate, freestanding, healthy, safe and stable community offering a range of services and facilities for the village and its hinterland.	<b>No:</b> Policy does not propose development which will have a significant effect upon the SAC.
<b>Policy Alr2: Alrewas Services &amp; Facilities</b>	Proposes that Alrewas functions as a Key Rural Centre. Initiatives to improve, enhance and deliver local facilities and amenities to be supported.	<b>No:</b> Policy does not propose development which will have a significant effect upon the SAC.
<b>Policy Alr3: Alrewas Economy</b>	Importance of local employment in the settlement to be recognised. New business, services and facilities to be supported.	<b>No:</b> Evidence is not identifying any significant effects arising from the economic strategy of the Local Plan.
<b>Policy Alr4: Alrewas Housing</b>	Seeks to provide a range of between 90-180 homes for the local community, with particular emphasis on affordable homes.	<b>Yes:</b> An allocation in Alrewas of the size identified forms part of the spatial strategy and Core Policy 6. Alrewas village lies within the zone of influence of Cannock Chase SAC and further studies will identify appropriate mitigation. Evidence has shown mitigation is possible. Policy identifies that the final numbers and locations will be identified via the Local Plan Allocations document. Any development in advance of this will be required to adhere to all other policies in the Local Plan this will include Core Policy 13 and NR7.
<b>Policy Arm1: Armitage with Handsacre Environment</b>	Proposes that Armitage maintains and enhances its role as a freestanding settlement, which functions as a local service centre serving the village and its hinterland.	<b>No:</b> Policy does not propose development which will have a significant effect upon the SAC.
<b>Policy Arm2: Armitage with Handsacre Services &amp; Facilities</b>	Proposes that Armitage will function as a Key Rural Centre, with a range of services and facilities which serve the local community and its hinterland.	<b>No:</b> Policy does not propose development which will have a significant effect upon the SAC.
<b>Policy Arm3: Armitage with Handsacre Economy</b>	The importance of local employment in the settlement to be recognised. New and existing business, services and facilities to be supported.	<b>No:</b> Policy does not propose development which will have a significant effect upon the SAC.
<b>Policy Arm4: Armitage with Handsacre Housing</b>	Seeks to provide a range of between 120-210 homes to provide for the needs of the local community with	<b>Yes:</b> An allocation in Armitage of the size identified forms part of the spatial strategy and Core Policy 6. Armitage village lies within the zone of influence of Cannock Chase SAC and further studies will

Policy Number	Description of Policy	Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy?
	particular emphasis on affordable homes.	identify appropriate mitigation. Evidence has shown mitigation is possible. Policy identifies that the final numbers and locations will be identified via the Local Plan Allocations document. Any development in advance of this will be required to adhere to all other policies in the Local Plan this will include Core Policy 13 and NR7.
<b>Policy Faz1: Fazeley Environment</b>	Seeks to maintain its role as a separate, freestanding and stable community, functioning as a local service centre offering a range of services and facilities.	<b>No:</b> Policy does not propose development which will have a significant effect upon the SAC.
<b>Policy Faz2: Fazeley Services &amp; Facilities</b>	Proposes that Fazeley, Mile Oak and Bonehill will function as a Key Rural Centre, with a range of services and facilities which serve the local community and its hinterland.	<b>No:</b> Policy does not propose development which will have a significant effect upon the SAC.
<b>Policy Faz3: Fazeley Economy</b>	The importance of local employment and retail in the settlement to be recognised with initiatives to ensure it links positively and in a way which is relevant to the local community will be supported.	<b>No:</b> Policy does not propose development which will have a significant effect upon the SAC.
<b>Policy Faz4: Fazeley Housing</b>	Seeks to provide a range of between 280- 350 homes to provide for the needs of the local community, with particular emphasis on smaller affordable homes.	<b>Yes:</b> An allocation in Fazeley of the size identified forms part of the spatial strategy and Core Policy 6. Fazeley village lies within the zone of influence of Cannock Chase SAC and further studies will identify appropriate mitigation. Evidence has shown mitigation is possible. Policy identifies that the final numbers and locations will be identified via the Local Plan Allocations document. Any development in advance of this will be required to adhere to all other policies in the Local Plan this will include Core Policy 13 and NR7.
<b>Policy Shen1: Shenstone Environment</b>	Seeks to maintain Shenstone as a separate, freestanding, healthy and stable community offering a high quality local living environment and functioning as a local service centre offering a range of services and facilities.	<b>No:</b> Policy does not propose development which will have a significant effect upon the SAC.
<b>Policy Shen2: Shenstone Services &amp; Facilities</b>	Proposes that Shenstone will function as a Key Rural Centre, with a range of services and facilities which serve the local community and its hinterland.	<b>No:</b> Policy does not propose development which will have a significant effect upon the SAC.
<b>Policy Shen3: Shenstone Economy</b>	The importance of local employment in the settlement will be recognised and initiatives to ensure it links	<b>No:</b> Policy does not propose development which will have a significant effect upon the SAC.

Policy Number	Description of Policy	Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy?
	positively and in a way which is relevant to the local community will be supported. Measures to improve rail services and facilities in the village to be supported.	
<b>Policy Shen4: Shenstone Housing</b>	Seeks to provide a range of around 50-150 homes to provide for the needs of the local community with particular emphasis on affordable homes.	<b>Yes:</b> An allocation in Shenstone of the size identified forms part of the spatial strategy and Core Policy 6. Shenstone village lies within the zone of influence of Cannock Chase SAC and further studies will identify appropriate mitigation. Evidence has shown mitigation is possible. Policy identifies that the final numbers and locations will be identified via the Local Plan Allocations document. Any development in advance of this will be required to adhere to all other policies in the Local Plan this will include Core Policy 13 and NR7.
<b>Policy Whit1: Whittington Environment</b>	Seeks to maintain Whittington as a separate, freestanding, safe, healthy and stable community offering a high quality local living environment and functioning as a local service centre offering a range of services and facilities.	<b>No:</b> Policy does not propose development which will have a significant effect upon the SAC.
<b>Policy Whit2: Whittington Services &amp; Facilities</b>	Proposes that Whittington will function as a Key Rural Centre, with a range of services and facilities which serve the local community and its hinterland.	<b>No:</b> Policy does not propose development which will have a significant effect upon the SAC.
<b>Policy Whit3: Whittington Economy</b>	Propose that Whittington will function as a Key Rural Centre, with a range of economic functions with serve the local community and its hinterland. Initiatives to ensure it links positively and in a way which is relevant to the local community will be supported.	<b>No:</b> Policy does not propose development which will have a significant effect upon the SAC.
<b>Policy Whit4: Whittington Housing</b>	Proposes that a range of between 35-110 homes will be provided to provide for the needs of the local community, with particular emphasis on affordable homes, starter homes etc..	<b>Yes:</b> An allocation in Whittington of the size identified forms part of the spatial strategy and Core Policy 6. Whittington village lies within the zone of influence of Cannock Chase SAC and further studies will identify appropriate mitigation. Evidence has shown mitigation is possible. Policy identifies that the final numbers and locations will be identified via the Local Plan Allocations document. Any development in advance of this will be required to adhere to all other policies in the Local Plan this will include Core Policy 13 and NR7.

Policy Number	Description of Policy	Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy?
<b>Policy Rural 2: Other Rural Areas</b>	Rural Settlements wishing to provide small scale developments to meet local needs, will be supported.	<b>Yes:</b> This forms part of the spatial strategy and Core Policy 6. Evidence has shown that mitigation for these levels of growth are possible for effects upon the Cannock Chase SAC and River Mease SAC. Mitigation will be delivered as development is required to be in accordance policies within the Local Plan.

**Table D.2 Assessment of policies from Lichfield District Local Plan: Strategy (Proposed Submission)**

## Appendix E Review of Proposed Policies in Tamworth Borough Local Plan

Policy Description	Remit of Policy	Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy?
<b>SP1: A Spatial Strategy for Tamworth</b>	Provides a guide to how the spatial vision and strategic objectives will be achieved in practical terms. The role of the spatial strategy is to set out how much development there will be, broadly where it will go, when it will take place and who will deliver it. It emphasises the 'centres first' objective, spatial direction for delivering housing and employment needs whilst identifying key spatial priorities for infrastructure and environmental improvements.	No: The strategy is based on delivering development in sustainable locations supplemented by improvements to the natural environment. The impact of the Anker Valley allocation is covered in the assessment of Policy SP6.
<b>SP2: Supporting investment in Tamworth Town Centre</b>	Identifies strategic sites and opportunities for retail, leisure, culture/tourism & office development along with encouraging higher density residential and improved linkages within the town centre and to the out of centre retail areas. It also identifies the key gateway sites and introduces design and conservation principles.	No: The town centre lies outside of the 12 mile zone of influence for Cannock Chase SAC and no proposals which exceed 100 dwellings are proposed.
<b>SP3: Supporting investment in local &amp; neighbourhood centres</b>	Sets out guidance for achieving environmental and accessibility improvements and where applicable linked to delivering community regeneration objectives.	No: No large scale developments are proposed by this policy.
<b>SP4: Sustainable economic growth</b>	Identifies the employment land requirement along with main employment sites, and introduces a proposed two tiered approach; 'strategic sites' and 'local sites' to ensure Tamworth has sufficient capacity to serve need whilst offering a degree of flexibility over allowing future housing development in the more poorly performing local sites. The policy also sets out environmental and accessibility related improvements required to regenerate and enhance employment sites.	No: The employment areas are located outside of the 12 mile zone of influence for Cannock Chase SAC and no proposals which exceed 100 dwellings are proposed.
<b>SP5: Housing delivery</b>	This policy will set out the overall future housing need release of land to achieve a balanced delivery over the plan period to meet identified housing need including the criteria for achieving high quality development in sustainable locations.	No: Notwithstanding Anker Valley strategic location, no other strategic housing sites are proposed
<b>SP6: Anker Valley Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood</b>	Includes a criteria based policy for delivering the proposed strategic housing site including the housing numbers and associated infrastructure required to deliver a new sustainable neighbourhood.	Yes: The proposal exceeds 100 dwellings and will be required to include an assessment of measures to mitigate any impacts on the Cannock Chase SAC. Reference is made within the policy which requires the delivery of social, physical and green infrastructure including a SANG.

Policy Description	Remit of Policy	Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy?
<b>SP7: Regeneration Priority Areas</b>	Identifies Regeneration Priority Areas: Post War Social Housing areas, and the Wilnecote Corridor as a result of them demonstrating high levels of deprivation and/or a poor quality environment. Sets out a series of priorities to address in each area and commits the council and its partners to work in partnership to deliver spatial interventions to improve the physical environment and deliver social and economic renewal.	No: The Regeneration Priority Areas are located outside of the 12 mile zone of influence for Cannock Chase SAC and no proposals which exceed 100 dwellings are proposed.
<b>SP8: Environmental Assets</b>	Maps green and blue infrastructure and identifies a series of priority areas and schemes and policy principles to deliver enhancements and improvements. These include improving and enhancing the network of green linear linkages across the town and to the, canal and river network.	No: However, the policy seeks to protect and enhance natural infrastructure which have the potential to act as alternative destinations to Cannock Chase SAC thus mitigating impacts.
<b>SP9: Sustainable Infrastructure</b>	Identifies the supporting infrastructure required to deliver the sustainable pattern of growth identified in the strategy. It refers to key strategic locations for transport improvements including to A5 junctions, Anker Valley Linkages, Tamworth & Wilnecote stations, cycle and pedestrian routes along with general principles for improving accessibility. The policy also seeks to provide community facilities in accessible locations whilst promoting opportunities for zero carbon development and maximising opportunities for renewable energy generation and mapping the areas at risk of flooding.	No: The policy seeks to enable better access to facilities through alternative to car use and ensuring development is located in sustainable locations whilst tackling congestion. The emphasis on low carbon development and renewable energy should help mitigate against the effects of climate change.
<b>CP1: Hierarchy of centres</b>	Reinforces the 'centre first' approach to delivering identified future convenience and comparison retail need and defines the hierarchy of centres and sets out acceptable uses in each tier of centre. Sets out the approach to retail & leisure proposals outside of centres including floor space thresholds as a basis to undertake impact assessments. Sets out restrictions on future retail/leisure expansion at out of town retail parks.	No: The policy relates to assessing the impact upon the viability and vitality of retail proposals on other retail centres.
<b>CP2: Employment Areas</b>	This policy defines the acceptable uses within the employment areas- B1 (b,c), B2 & B8. Provides detail of environmental and accessibility improvements. Promotes preferred location for offices as being the town centre and edge of centre locations and refers to identified strategic sites. Also introduces Local Development Orders as potential delivery mechanisms for strategic sites.	No: Not site specific and does result in development directly.
<b>CP3: Supporting growth in culture &amp; tourism</b>	Sets out support for tourism and culture led development; in particular related to the town centre and its proposed leisure zone. Identified supporting infrastructure including hotels and	No: No direct impact. The policy promotes and protects designated nature and natural sites which may act as an alternative destinations (SANGs) to Cannock Chase SAC therefore

<b>Policy Description</b>	<b>Remit of Policy</b>	<b>Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy?</b>
	accessibility improvements including to Drayton Manor	reducing visitor numbers and associated impacts on the SAC.
<b>CP4: Affordable Housing</b>	This policy will establish thresholds and the level of developer contribution towards the provision of affordable housing target.	No: Not site specific and does result in development directly.
<b>CP5: Housing needs</b>	The policy will establish standards for new housing development including the size and type of units, specific types based on evidence arising from the ongoing update of the Housing Needs Study.	No: Not site specific and does result in development directly.
<b>CP6: Housing density</b>	This will contain a banded density target for particular borough wide locations including a higher density target for centres, transport nodes and a lower target for elsewhere whilst respecting the local context.	No: Not site specific and does result in development directly.
<b>CP7: Gypsy &amp; Traveller provision</b>	Whilst not allocating specific sites, this policy establishes criteria for assessing applications for site proposals.	No: Not site specific and does result in development directly.
<b>CP8: Sport &amp; Recreation</b>	This provides and promotes a network of high quality sport and recreation facilities across the borough to meet needs whilst aiming to protect existing facilities.	No: No direct impact identified.
<b>CP9: Open Space</b>	This seeks to protect the existing network of high quality open space across the borough and sets out criteria for assessing proposals which involve a loss of open space.	No: The policy seeks to protect and enhance the natural environment.
<b>CP10: Design of new development</b>	This policy introduces a number of principles to achieve high quality buildings and places.	No: The policy relates to the existing built fabric.
<b>CP11: Protecting the historic environment</b>	This includes a list of principles to be considered when proposing development which impacts on the historic environment including listed buildings, Conservation Area & scheduled monuments.	No: The policy relates primarily to the existing built fabric.
<b>CP12: Protecting and enhancing biodiversity</b>	This aims to preserve sites and species, reinforce links between habitats and ensure appropriate consideration to development depending on status of sites i.e. national and local. It also encourages habitat restoration and creation, with emphasis on community led initiatives and list priority schemes.	No: The policy seeks to protect biodiversity and would thus prevent harm to the SAC. The policy seeks to safeguard the SAC and identifies that development over 100 dwellings radius may have an impact and needs to identify what that impact is and demonstrate how that impact will be mitigated including provision of alternative natural green creational space. The policy should have a positive impact upon the SAC.

Policy Description	Remit of Policy	Any likely significant effects on European Sites anticipated as a result of the policy?
<b>CP13: Delivering Sustainable Transport</b>	The policy sets out priority measures for improving accessibility and linkages, particularly by public transport, walking and cycling on a borough wide basis and to/from strategic development sites. and sets out the criteria for the requirement for transport assessments and travel plans.	No: The policy does not propose development it seeks the provision of sustainable transport opportunities and the reduction of use of the private car, which could have positive effects upon SACs vulnerable from air-borne pollution.
<b>CP14: Sustainable Development &amp; Climate Change Mitigation</b>	This supports measures to achieve carbon zero development including renewable energy proposals and resource management.	No: Not site specific and does result in development directly. Policy seeks to lower the demand for energy which could have a positive effect upon the Mease SAC.
<b>CP15: Water Management</b>	This policy requires new development to consider areas susceptible to fluvial and pluvial flooding including the application of SUDs and sustainable urban design.	No: The Mease SAC is sensitive to changes in water quality and this policy seeks to prevent a negative impact upon water quality and abstraction.
<b>CP16: Providing and protecting Community Infrastructure</b>	This sets out support for community facilities and infrastructure to be located in accessible locations and encourages dual use to be considered where appropriate in sustainable locations.	No: Not site specific and does result in development directly.
<b>CP17: Infrastructure &amp; Developer Contributions</b>	This policy includes the key infrastructure required to deliver the strategy and introduces the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.	No: The policy refers to the Infrastructure Delivery Plan which has identified strategic infrastructure requirements. These include water and sewage which could protect water quality and quantity and visitor mitigation required to protect the Cannock Chase SAC and River Mease SAC.

Table E.1 Assessment of policies from Tamworth Borough Local Plan

**Appendix F Critical Friend Review of HRA**

Technical Note

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## Tamworth Habitats Regulation Assessment of Core Strategy Review

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### 1. Introduction

Tamworth Borough Council and Lichfield District Council have prepared a joint Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of their proposed emerging core strategies as required under Article 6(3) and (4) of the *European Communities (1992) Council Directive 92/43/EEC*, which is transposed into UK law as the *Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010)* (as amended).

In March 2011 a draft version of the HRA was published and made available for statutory organisations (such as Natural England and the Environment Agency) to formally comment upon (although they had also been consulted informally during preparation of the document). The main points raised by the statutory organisations were in relation to the assessment of potentially significant effects on Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and the River Mease SAC, and the mechanism by which these potential effects could be avoided and/or mitigated within the emerging core strategies.

Working on behalf of the Planning Advisory Service (PAS), AMEC Environment & Infrastructure UK Ltd (AMEC) has undertaken a review of the HRA and the comments provided by Natural England (NE) and the Environment Agency (EA). This Technical Note represents the output of this review and sets out recommendations for addressing the statutory organisation comments. It is issued to the Council in the spirit of a 'critical friend' and does not represent a detailed review of whether the documents will be compliant with either legal or policy requirements.

### 2. Review of HRA and understanding of consultee concerns

#### 2.1 Overview of HRA

The HRA for Lichfield District and Tamworth Borough follows a clearly defined methodology that accords well with recognised guidance such as the "Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (2001)" document, produced by Oxford

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Brookes University on behalf of the European Commission. The policies of the emerging core strategies most likely to have the potential to affect the Natura 2000 sites within 20km of the district's and the Natura 2000 sites themselves are described within the document and this information is brought together to identify which Natura 2000 sites are potentially significantly effected by the plans alone or in-combination with other plans. The rationale for concluding significant or no significant effects is clearly set out within tables. The document could benefit from more detailed plans using Ordnance Survey basemaps to more clearly show the locations and boundaries of the Natura 2000 sites.

## 2.2 Summary of consultee comments

### 2.2.1 Cannock Chase SAC

The draft HRA identified the potential for significant effects to occur on this Natura 2000 site as a result of the emerging core strategies. Based on comments on the draft HRA from statutory consultees, policy CP12 (Protecting and enhancing biodiversity) from the Tamworth core strategy has been amended to highlight the requirement for developments over a certain number of dwellings to assess the potential impact of increased visitor pressure on the SAC, and details potential mitigation measures to minimise this impact (such as financial contributions, provision of alternative open space and access management).

### 2.2.2 River Mease SAC

The draft HRA concludes that no significant effects would occur on the River Mease SAC as a result of the emerging core strategies. However NE and EA highlighted, in their responses to the draft HRA, additional pathways by which the River Mease SAC could potentially be significantly affected by the emerging core strategies. These pathways primarily relate to the following occurring within the River Mease catchment area:

- additional waste water arising from new housing being discharged via sewage treatment works into the river; and
- developments decreasing surface water discharging into the river by diverted it into mains drainage.

These changes in water quality and quantity could exacerbate the existing unfavourable condition of the SAC. As the unfavourable condition is partly the result of high phosphate levels<sup>1</sup>, there is therefore no capacity for the river to receive additional phosphate inputs (e.g. from waste water).

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<sup>1</sup> As described in the River Mease SAC Water Quality (Phosphate) Management Plan produced by the Environment Agency and Natural England, June 2011

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### 3. Recommendations

The following recommendations are made based on the review of the HRA and the comments received from NE and EA:

- Based on the information available about the condition of the River Mease SAC, it is not possible to conclude no likely significant effect resulting from the emerging core strategies. Therefore the HRA should be amended, specifically the table in Section 3.4, to reflect that additional housing within the river catchment area (or that would be affiliated with a STW discharge to the river) could result in increases in phosphate, which could prevent the SAC reaching and maintaining favourable conservation status.
- Tamworth Borough lies outside the River Mease catchment and development within the borough is therefore unlikely to contribute to the identified potentially significant effect. In addition, the Policy CP12 currently states 'development will not be permitted that has a negative impact on the water quality of the...River Mease SAC'. As a result no amendments to the Policy CP12 are proposed. However, as Tamworth and Lichfield Councils are working together in relation to housing allocation, it may be prudent to note this within the rationale for the Policy.
- Areas of Lichfield District lie within the River Mease catchment. If housing is proposed in these areas, it is recommended that any policies relating to biodiversity include provision for developments to assess potential effects on the SAC and where required provide mitigation, which may include developer contributions to improve waste water treatment and prevent additional phosphate being discharged to the river or to support aspects of the River Mease SSSI/SAC Restoration Plan (NE/EA, 2011).

### 4. Conclusions

The draft HRA for Lichfield District and Tamworth Borough core strategies follows an appropriate method and clearly sets out the screening of potential significant effects on Natura 2000 sites within 20km of the district/borough boundaries. With the implementation of the recommendations above, it is considered that the statutory consultees concerns raised in the consultation process would be addressed. To confirm this, it is further recommended that the proposed changes are discussed with NE and EA.

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## Glossary

<b>Appropriate Assessment</b>	AA	An assessment of potential effects of a proposed plan, in-combination with other plans and projects, on one or more Natura 2000 sites or Ramsar sites
<b>Joint Nature Conservation Committee</b>	JNCC	The statutory adviser to Government on UK and international nature conservation
<b>Local Plan</b>		The plan for the future development of the local area, drawn up by the local planning authority in consultation with the community. In law this is described as the development plan documents adopted under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
<b>Natura 2000</b>		Includes sites which are designated as Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Offshore Marine Sites
<b>Ramsar Site</b>		Specific site designated for supporting internationally important wetland habitats and are listed under the Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl habitat, (Ramsar Convention, 1971)
<b>Regional Spatial Strategy</b>	RSS	A Strategy for how a region should look over a 15-20 year period. It identifies the scale and distribution of new housing, indicates areas for regeneration, expansion or sub-regional planning and specifies priorities for the environment, transport, infrastructure, economic development, agriculture, minerals and waste treatment and disposal.
<b>Special Area of Conservation</b>	SAC	Strictly protected sites for rare or threatened species and habitats on land or sea as designated by the EC Habitats Directive
<b>Special Protection Area</b>	SPA	Sites classified in accordance with Article 4 of the EC Birds Directive April 1979, classified for rare and vulnerable birds as listed in Annex 1 of the Directive and for regularly occurring migratory species.
<b>Significant Effects Indicators</b>		Specific features or environmental conditions which are likely to have a significant effect on a protected site
<b>Waste Water Treatment Works</b>	WwTw	Waste Water Treatment Works

Table .1