

Lichfield District Council



Local Plan Allocations Habitat Regulations Assessment

January 2017

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Draft Local Plan Allocations

Summary

A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of spatial development plans is a requirement of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) as set out in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended). This report details the HRA for Lichfield District Council's Local Plan Allocations document. The Local Plan Allocations document includes:

- reviewed local plan policies from the 1998 Local Plan;
- non-strategic housing allocations
- Non strategic employment allocations
- Non-strategic gypsy, traveler and travelling showpeople allocation
- Revised policy framework for Lichfield City and Burntwood Town Centre

This report sets out the method, findings and conclusions of the HRA undertaken by the Council.

The findings of the HRA work for the Local Plan Strategy was a key consideration and helped to inform this Appropriate Assessment for the Draft Local Plan Allocations. In the HRA of the Local Plan Strategy, the authority concluded that an adverse effect on the integrity of Cannock Chase and the River Mease SACs would arise from residential development within the zone of influence of Cannock Chase SAC and the catchment of the River Mease SAC in the absence of mitigation.

This document forms part 2 of the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) process setting out the outcomes from the Appropriate Assessment stage of HRA and provides a record of Lichfield District Council's conclusion that the policies and non-strategic allocations proposed through the Local Plan Allocations (which are in line with the housing numbers proposed within the Local Plan Strategy), will have no adverse effects on the integrity of the Cannock Chase and River Mease SACs through the implementation of Policies NR7 and NR8 of the Local Plan Strategy and/or a developer contribution scheme utilising both the Community Infrastructure Levy and S106 funding. The Cannock Chase SAC Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Measures (SAMMM) and the River Mease Developer Contributions Scheme (DCS1 and 2) provides mitigation ruling out adverse effects on the integrity of these European sites. In addition there will be no adverse effects on the integrity of the Cannock Extension Canal SAC through the implementation of the Lichfield Canal policy.

1. Background

In October 2005, a judgment of the European Court of Justice required the UK to extend the requirements of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive to include the assessment of the potential effects of spatial and land use plans on European sites.

The Lichfield District Local Plan Strategy 2008-2029 was adopted on 17th February 2015 and provides the planning framework and spatial strategy that guides development within the District over the plan period to 2029. The Local Plan Strategy was subject to its own Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment.

Lichfield District Council is currently preparing its Local Plan Part 2 - referred to as the Local Plan Allocations document. The Local Plan Allocations will inter alia (set out above) allocate non-strategic housing sites, employment sites and a site for gypsy and travellers as set out in the Local Plan Strategy 2008-2029 and via a review of the saved policies of the 1998 Local Plan provide up to date retail and development management policies to meet the needs of the District.

1.1 The Local Plan Strategy

The Lichfield District Local Plan Strategy sets out the overall level of future growth and broad locations for development, providing the broad policy framework and establishing a long-term strategy to manage development, provide services, deliver infrastructure and create sustainable communities. The Strategy consists of a vision and strategic objectives, a spatial development strategy, core policies and development management policies and sets out how the strategy will be implemented and monitored.

The Spatial Strategy concentrates growth in and around Lichfield District's most sustainable settlements and makes best use of existing infrastructure. The Strategic Development Allocations (SDAs) and Broad Development Location (BDL) are located in accordance with the settlement hierarchy and in and around sustainable settlements, namely Lichfield, Burntwood, Fradley, Armitage with Handsacre and to the north of Tamworth. Together these sites will deliver almost 6,000 homes within the District within the plan period.

With regard to employment and economic development, the District Council aims to build on the strengths of the existing local economy by allocating land for employment and supporting the redevelopment and modernisation of existing employment sites as well as supporting new and more sustainable working practices.

Other policies within the Local Plan Strategy cover other thematic areas of sustainable transport, homes for the future, economic development, healthy and safe communities, natural resources and the built and historic environment.

The Local Plan Strategy sets out a requirement to deliver a minimum of 10,030 homes to be across strategic and non-strategic sites.

The HRA screening report on the Local Plan Strategy was consulted upon in March 2014. This assessed the potential for the Plan to affect a number of European sites as follows:

- River Mease (within District)
- Cannock Extension Canal
- Cannock Chase SAC
- Pasturefields Salt Marsh
- West Midlands Mosses and Chartley Moss SAC

- Ensors Pool SAC
- Fens Pool SAC
- Humber Estuary

The HRA of the Local Plan summarised that for the majority of the Natura 2000 sites the Lichfield District Local Plan Strategy would result in no significant effects and no in-combination effects. However potential effects were identified on Cannock Chase SAC and the River Mease SAC as a result of the proposed additional planned housing growth. The HRA Screening Reports for the Local Plan Strategy can be viewed on the Council's [website](#).

1.2 The Local Plan Allocations

A key element of Local Plan Allocations is to add detail to the development strategy set out in the Local Plan Strategy by allocating sites as necessary to meet development needs. Furthermore, the Local Plan Allocations also provides the opportunity to develop detailed development management policies required to assess and determine planning proposals and applications, particularly where these are not already covered by the general policies set out in the Local Plan Strategy.

The Local Plan Allocations sets out detailed development management policies and allocations to meet the needs of the District, which includes retail, housing, employment and provision for a gypsy site. The housing sites which have been allocated comprise sites of 5 dwellings or more, with sites of less than 5 considered as windfall. It has been assumed that around 50-55 windfall dwellings per annum will come forward based on previous delivery rates.

The Local Plan Allocations does not change the distributional strategy or the number of homes to be delivered in Lichfield District as detailed in the Local Plan Strategy and on this basis the Local Plan Allocations is unlikely to have any effect on European sites located other than Cannock Chase SAC and the River Mease SAC as concluded in the Local Plan Strategy HRA.

The Council has also updated settlement boundaries where necessary to accommodate sites which have been allocated.

Other detailed development management policies have been included following a review of the saved policies of the 1998 Local Plan. This includes a policy to safeguard a route for the Lichfield Canal. A potential to impact upon the Cannock Extension Canal SAC was identified and this was included within the scope of this assessment.

2. Purpose of this Report

The findings of the HRA for the Local Plan Strategy was a key consideration and helped to inform the assessment for this Draft Local Plan Allocations. The HRA of the Local Plan Strategy concluded that the development within the Local Plan Strategy would only have an adverse effect on the integrity of Cannock Chase and the River Mease SACs with effects on other European sites screened out. The Draft Local Plan Allocations does not propose any additional growth over and above the adopted Local Plan Strategy and includes a revised policy in

relation to the Lichfield Canal which links to the wider canal network and thus Cannock Extension Canal SAC. On this basis the Authority has concluded that it would be sufficient to limit the scope of this screening exercise to potential effects on the Cannock Chase, River Mease and Cannock Extension Canal SACs only.

This report reviews the potential for the Local Plan Allocations (including the proposed site allocations) to affect the Cannock Chase, River Mease SAC and Cannock Extension Canal SACs and provides a proportionate assessment of this Plan in order to satisfy the Habitats Regulations.

Detailed descriptions of Cannock Chase SAC, River Mease SAC and Cannock Extension Canal SAC are at Appendix A.

The report will consider the following:

- The requirement for HRA and the guidance published to inform the process
- The need for further assessment

3. Habitat Regulations Assessment and the Local Plan Allocations

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive requires that any plan or project, which is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site, but would be likely to have a significant effect on such a site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to an ‘appropriate assessment’ of its implications for the European site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In light of the conclusions of that assessment, and subject to the provisions of Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, the Competent Authority shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, having obtained the opinion of the general public. Article 6(4) provides that if, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site, and in the absence of alternative solutions, the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (often referred to as the Habitats Regulations) transpose the Habitats Directive into national law in England and Wales and require that HRA is applied to all statutory land use plans. The aim of the HRA process is to assess the potential effects arising from a plan against the conservation objectives of any European site.

Reference in this report to ‘European sites’ should be taken to include the following:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for habitats and species designated through the EU Habitats Directive;
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for the protection of wild birds and their habitats designated through the EU Birds Directive;
- Ramsar sites, identified through the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance;

- Sites that are being considered for designation, referred to as Sites of Community Interest, candidate SACs or proposed SPAs.

This Draft Local Plan Allocations assessment has been carried out in accordance with guidance set out in 'Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment' which provides guidance in respect of the Habitat Regulations in preparing land use plans. Section 2.1 of this guidance document summarises the HRA process as comprising of three main tasks:

Stage 1: Identifying whether a Plan is likely to have a significant effects

This stage consists of identifying 'European' sites which could be affected by the Plan and reviewing the conservation objectives for each feature of the site. The changes that policies and proposals in the plan may cause are appraised and the likely effects on the interest feature of each site, either indirectly, directly, alone or in combination with other projects and plans is considered. Where no likely significant effects occur as a result of implementation, no further assessment is required.

Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment

Undertake an assessment of the implications of the plan (ie those policies and proposals identified in Stage 1 as requiring further assessment) for each European site likely to be affected, in light of their conservation objectives. Review how the plan in combination with other plans or projects will interact and affect the site when implemented and consider how the effects of the plan on the integrity of the site could be mitigated and consider alternatives. If it can be demonstrated that the plan will not have an adverse effect on the European sites, the plan can be adopted. If the plan is still likely to have an adverse impact on the site(s) the Authority would be required to progress to stage 3 of the process.

Stage 3: Assessment where no alternatives exist

The competent authority must demonstrate that there are no alternative solutions to the plan which are less damaging. The competent authority must establish whether there are '*imperative reasons of overriding public interest*' making it necessary to proceed with the plan or policy and identify and agree compensation measures and how these will be monitored.

This document sets out the Council's findings in respect of Stage 1 of the above process. The following section clarifies the scope of the assessment.

4. The Habitat Regulations Assessment Process

The Draft Local Plan Allocations aims to refine the requirements and locations for non-strategic development to meet the level of growth set out in the adopted Local Plan Strategy. The Council previously undertook a Habitat Regulations Screening Assessment on the Local Plan Strategy in 2012 with an addendum in 2014 to take into account modifications arising from its Examination in Public. These HRA's set out in full the scale of growth, its distribution as well as the strategic policies to guide this growth; it also assessed the potential European sites that could be affected in light of their conservation objectives and their specific vulnerabilities. This assessment indicated that the Local Plan Strategy would have likely significant effects on three European sites either alone or in combination with other plans and programmes.

These HRAs produced in 2012 and 2014 assessed the locations of the strategic development allocations and the proposed growth requirements for each of the key rural settlements. There was additionally other growth required to be accommodated in general within the wider rural area. As the Local Plan Allocations identifies housing in locations where impacts on the Cannock Chase SAC and River Mease SAC could occur, it is considered appropriate to reconsider the potential for the Local Plan Allocations to impact on these two European sites.

The third European site is the Cannock Extension Canal SAC, a Heritage Towpath Trail has already been considered as part of the Local Plan Strategy, and the assessment concluded that no significant impacts would arise either alone or in combination with other plans or programmes, the current proposed policy seeks to safeguard a route for the canal associated with the Heritage Towpath Trail, as the route is the same as the Heritage Towpath Trail it is considered appropriate to consider the potential to impact upon the Cannock Extension Canal SAC.

The Local Plan Strategy identified the delivery of 10,030 houses (Table 8.1) and locations for employment. It should be noted that table 8.1 of the Local Plan Strategy provides slightly in excess of the 10,030 required at 10,244. The amount of housing sites identified within the Allocations document identifies the delivery of a total number of 11,490 homes within Lichfield District during the Plan period which is above the housing numbers identified within the Local Plan Strategy, however the 11,490 provides an appropriate buffer, taking into account general rates of non-delivery. When preparing the Local Plan Strategy it was acknowledged that a buffer would be required, this is good practice in plan making terms. The buffer proposed within the Local Plan Allocations is in line with delivering the Local Plan Strategy.

Of the total allocations, the Plan has identified a total of 2,650 homes which remain to be delivered within the 0-15km Zone of Influence of the Cannock Chase SAC ie those without permissions or built. Of this housing, 960 homes are to be delivered within the 0-8km Zone of Influence of the Cannock Chase SAC (based on 810 allocated sites and a windfall calculation of 150, based as a precautionary measure on the percentage area of Lichfield District covered by the 0-8km zone of influence multiplied by the District's windfall allowance). Evidence commissioned by the Cannock Chase SAC Partnership suggests that the planned level of growth within a 15 kilometre radius of the SAC is likely to have a significant effect on this designated site. The greater part of this effect would arise from development within a 0-8km zone as it has been determined through research that this zone would contribute the most visitors to the SAC¹.

As part of the 2,650 homes required, housing provision has been identified on the recently vacated Rugeley Power Station site with a likely net increase of 290 houses. From a pure numbers perspective, the potential under delivery on Strategic Development Allocations within Lichfield District outweigh this net increase. This site falls within the 0-8km zone of influence of Cannock Chase SAC, however through the Cannock Chase SAC Partnership a [mitigation strategy](#) is in place (Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Measures (SAMMM)) to accommodate the planned growth within the 0-15km Zone of Influence. A

¹ Further Analysis of Cannock Visitor Survey Data to Consider Apportioning Costs between Zones – Durwyn Liley, 30th September 2013.

charge of £178.60 is collected within the 0-8km zone in Lichfield District in order to fund the mitigation and enable housing proposals to meet the requirements of the Habitats Regulations. Further evidence is currently being sought to extend the mitigation to accommodate future growth within the Zone of Influence. Policy NR7 of the Local Plan Strategy protects the integrity of the Cannock Chase SAC and should it be required an HRA of the additional growth at Rugeley Power Station could be undertaken and bespoke mitigation agreed.

Additional windfall housing will be accommodated in the catchment of the River Mease, however it is anticipated this will be minimal due to the rural nature of this part of the District. A River Mease SAC Partnership has been formed and a [Developer Contribution Scheme](#) is in place, with charging based on the amount of water and therefore phosphate produced by size of property in order to fund a mitigation strategy to accommodate the planned growth within the River Mease Catchment.

The Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan Strategy identified that in combination with neighbouring authorities, the housing growth within Lichfield District would have an adverse effect on Cannock Chase SAC and the River Mease SAC. Mitigations for the housing development within the 0-15km Zone of Influence of Cannock Chase SAC and River Mease SAC catchment are currently being delivered through strategic Partnership projects and to ensure that the amount of housing allocated in the Lichfield District Local Plan Strategy will have no adverse impact on the integrity of any European site. The in-combination effect of sites within the Allocations Document has therefore been considered within the Local Plan Strategy and therefore need not be repeated in this document.

In respect of the potential for growth to act in combination with other Plans with regard to the River Mease SAC, North West Leicestershire District Council has recently submitted a Local Plan which once adopted could deliver a further 2,200 homes in the catchment of the Mease with South Derbyshire District Council providing a further 600 within the catchment through their Local Plan Part 2. Both authorities have similar requirements in their Local Plans to those within Lichfield District Council's Local Plan Strategy to ensure developments mitigate for their impact on the River Mease SAC. On this basis development at the level proposed would not lead to likely significant effects in combination with Local Plan Part 2.

A number of saved policies from the Lichfield Local Plan 1998 are still in existence and these have been reviewed as part of the Local Plan Allocations process. The table in Appendix B lists each policy, with a brief explanation of the policy, and an assessment of whether the policy is likely to have a significant effect upon a European site. Assessment of policies in the Local Plan Allocations Document is therefore restricted to assessing each policy alone rather than in combination with others, unless there are specific circumstances suggesting otherwise. The policies included in the Local Plan Allocations are principally for the purpose of guiding development management decisions and due to their non-strategic nature would be unlikely to deliver growth at levels beyond that proposed in the Local Plan Strategy. Any development which may occur will need to accord with the strategic policies in the Local Plan Strategy and the mitigation provided through policies NR7 and NR8 of the Local Plan Strategy will ensure that any proposals for development do not have likely significant effects on any European sites either alone or in combination.

The employment land identified within the Local Plan Allocations is outside the River Mease catchment and therefore will have no adverse effect on the River Mease SAC. Research has shown that it is only the increase in homes and tourism which affects Cannock Chase SAC through the generation of additional visits and as such, it can be concluded that the employment allocations have no adverse impact on the integrity of Cannock Chase SAC.

The proposed Lichfield Canal policy seeks to safeguard the route for the Lichfield Canal including the Heritage Towpath rail (which has already been safeguarded as part of the Local Plan Strategy). As with the existing Heritage Towpath Trail there is a need to demonstrate that there will be no significant impact upon the Cannock Extension Canal SAC or on the functions of the ecology of the wider canal network and whilst progress has been made towards this further studies will be needed to establish this. The safeguarding of the route will enable this long term restoration project to not be prejudiced. The Cannock Extension Canal SAC is safeguarded through the existing policies within the Local Plan Strategy and the proposed Lichfield Canal policy will have no adverse impact on the integrity of the Cannock Extension Canal SAC either alone or in combination.

5. Timescale

The timescales over which the effects (both alone and in-combination) have been considered are for the period of the Local Plan Strategy 2008-2029.

6. HRA Conclusions

This report outlines the scope of the Lichfield District Local Plan Allocations. It has been undertaken in accordance with best practice and guidance and has been informed by the previous Habitat Regulations Assessment for the Lichfield District Local Plan Strategy, which considered the potential for the Council's growth strategy to affect European sites.

The HRA for the Local Plan Allocations has focused on the Cannock Chase, River Mease and Cannock Extension Canal SACs. The other sites as outlined at 2.1 above have previously been considered in the Local Plan Strategy HRA and given the Plan as a whole would have no effect on these European designated sites and as such further appraisal in respect of non-strategic sites and development management policies is not considered necessary.

Further consideration in respect of the River Mease and Cannock Chase SAC was judged appropriate, however, it was determined that the Local Plan Strategy identified the amount of growth required within the towns, key rural settlements and 'other rural' and as such the amount of development expected to impact on these designated sites was anticipated and was therefore considered as part of the Local Plan Strategy HRA.

However where growth does come forward, either through allocations, or elsewhere (for example as windfalls) the environmental effects associated with this growth will be controlled through existing policies included in the Local Plan Strategy including Policies NR7 and NR8 which cover Cannock Chase SAC and River Mease SAC respectively. In complying with

these policies and/or contributing to the respective developer contribution schemes ensure that any development does not lead to any effect on the integrity of these SACs.

In respect of the potential for growth to act in combination with other Local Plans, with regard to both the Cannock Chase and River Mease SACs, the respective authorities have similar requirements within their Local Plans to those within Lichfield District Council's Local Plan Strategy to ensure development mitigates for its impact on these European Sites. On this basis development at the level proposed would not lead to likely significant effects in combination with the Lichfield District Local Plan Allocations.

The policies included in Local Plan Allocations are principally for the purpose of guiding development management decisions and due to their non-strategic nature would be unlikely to deliver growth at levels beyond that proposed in the Local Plan Strategy. The Lichfield Canal policy in combination with the existing adopted policies within the Local Plan Strategy and those in Walsall Council's emerging Site Allocations document will not lead to any effect on the integrity of the Cannock Extension Canal SAC.

The Draft Local Plan Allocations does not propose any additional growth on top of what is already proposed through the adopted Local Plan Strategy. It is considered that suitable mitigation is provided through strategic policies in Local Plan Strategy and development management policies in Local Plan Allocation and mitigation options available at the project level to ensure that there will be no significant in combination effects on European sites.

At Appendix C the responses from Natural England and the Environment Agency have been included in this report. The minor addition recommended by Natural England has been incorporated into this report and both Natural England and the Environment Agency concur with the findings below.

This assessment concludes that it can be demonstrated that through the mitigation proposed none of the policies/allocations in the Draft Local Plan Allocations are likely to have a significant effect alone or in combination with other plans and projects upon the identified European sites.

Details of European Site potentially affected	
European Site Name	Cannock Chase
Designation Status	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Site Code	UK0030107
Date of Designation	2005
Qualifying Features	H4030. European dry heaths H4010. Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath
Conservation Objectives	<p>European Site Conservation Objectives for Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation. Site Code: 0030107</p> <p>With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;</p> <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and, • The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely <p>This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Supplementary Advice document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.</p>
Site condition	Unfavourable recovering
Factors currently influencing the site	The principal impact is visitor pressure leading to loss of the SAC dry heath vegetation to new paths, path expansion, associated erosion and eutrophication. The component of the SAC involved is the dwarf woody shrub community (e.g. heather and bilberry), rather than the extent of bare ground forming the paths and tracks. This means that visitors have an impact on a small proportion of a large habitat component of the site, rather than a large proportion of a more restricted feature. Current visitor use of the site is high.

Details of European Site potentially affected	
European Site Name	River Mease
Designation Status	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Site Code	UK0030258
Date of Designation	2005
Qualifying Features	<p>H3260. Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculon fluitantis</i> and <i>CallitrichoBatrachion</i> vegetation; Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot</p> <p>S1092. <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>; White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish</p> <p>S1149. <i>Cobitis taenia</i>; Spined loach</p> <p>S1163. <i>Cottus gobio</i>; Bullhead</p> <p>S1355. <i>Lutra lutra</i>; Otter</p>
Conservation Objectives	<p>European Site Conservation Objectives for River Mease Special Area of Conservation Site Code: UK0030258</p> <p>With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;</p> <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying species, and, • The distribution of qualifying species within the site. <p>This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying <i>Supplementary Advice</i> document, which</p>

	provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.
Site condition	Unfavourable recovering
Factors currently influencing the site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excessive phosphate-rich fine sediment is currently being supplied to the River Mease from within its catchment, primarily from diffuse sources from both agricultural and urban use. • The River Mease is not currently meeting flow targets. • Excessive fine sediment supply can lead to the smothering of coarse substrates and the loss of flora and fauna dependent on them. • There is excess water from discharges entering the river system. This is causing the loss of naturalised low flow conditions which are considered necessary for the long term health and integrity of the site. • High impact species have been found in and along the River Mease and include North American signal crayfish, Japanese knotweed and Himalayan balsam.

Details of European Site potentially affected	
European Site Name	Cannock Extension Canal
Designation Status	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Site Code	UK0012672
Date of Designation	2005
Qualifying Features	S1831. <i>Luronium natans</i> floating water plantain
Conservation Objectives	<p>European Site Conservation Objectives for Cannock Extension Canal Special Area of Conservation Site Code: UK0012672</p> <p>With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;</p> <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function of qualifying species • The supporting processes on the habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying species, and, • The distribution of qualifying species within the site. <p>This document should be read in conjunction with the accompanying <i>Supplementary Advice</i> document, which provides more detailed advice and information to enable the application and achievement of the Objectives set out above.</p>
Site condition	Good conservation status habitat
Factors currently influencing the site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pollution to ground water • Invasive non-native species • Air pollution, air borne, pollutants • Grazing inside the SAC

Local Plan Allocations Policy Number	Policy Subject	Comments	Likely Significant Effects
	Road line Safeguarding	The proposals do not relate to any European Sites directly and will not result in greater pressures on the factors influencing European Sites. There will be no significant in combination effects	No
Policy EMP1	Employment Areas and Allocations	The proposals do not relate to any European Sites directly and will not result in greater pressures on the factors influencing European Sites. There will be no significant in combination effects	No
Site EMP1	Land South of Fradley Park	The proposals do not relate to any European Sites directly and will not result in greater pressures on the factors influencing European Sites. There will be no significant in combination effects	No
Site EMP2:	Land east of A38	The proposals do not relate to any European Sites directly and will not result in greater pressures on the factors influencing European Sites. There will be no significant in combination effects	No
Site EMP3	Land at Main Street, Alrewas	The proposals do not relate to any European Sites directly and will not result in greater pressures on the factors influencing European Sites. There will be no significant in combination effects	No
	Service access to our centres	The proposals do not relate to any European Sites directly and will not result in greater pressures on the factors influencing European Sites. There will be no significant in combination effects	No
	Lichfield Canal	Potential as no study has yet established the impacts upon the	No

		Cannock Extension Canal SAC. The adopted policy protects the SAC/SSSI and the proposed policy reiterates the requirements.	
	Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty	Potential as contiguous with the SAC. The policy safeguards the AONB and does not propose development and will not result in greater pressures on the factors influencing European Sites.	No
	National Forest	Potential as in Mease catchment, the policy does not propose development and seeks delivery of the National Forest through enhanced landscaping, existing adopted policies will ensure the Mease SAC is safeguarded. The policy will not result in greater pressures on the factors influencing European Sites.	No
	Heritage Assets	The proposed policy seeks to safeguard heritage assets and will not result in greater pressures on the factors influencing European Sites.	No
	Shopfronts and Advertisements	The proposed policy promotes good design and will not result in greater pressures on the factors influencing European Sites.	No
Policy LC1	Lichfield City Housing Land Allocations	The proposals accord with the adopted Local Plan Strategy, suitable mitigation is provided through strategic policies in the Local Plan Strategy and development management policies in Local Plan Allocations and mitigation options are available at the project level to ensure that there will be no significant in combination effects on European sites.	No
L2	East of Lichfield (Streethay) SDA extension	The proposals accord with the adopted Local Plan Strategy, suitable mitigation is provided through strategic policies in the	No
L3	Land at Greenhough Road	Local Plan Strategy and	No

L4	Land at Swan Road, Former Sandford Gate	development management policies in Local Plan Allocations and mitigation options are available at the project level to ensure that there will be no significant in combination effects on European sites.	No
L5	Land off Limburg Avenue and Sainte Foy Avenue		No
L6	St Chad's House, Cross Keys		No
L7	Former Day Nursery, Scotch Orchard		No
L8	Former St Michaels Playing Fields, Deans Croft		No
L9	Land off Burton Road (East), Streethay		No
L10	Land off Burton Road (West), Streethay		No
L11	Land south of 75 Shortbutts Lane		No
L12	Land at St Johns Hospital, Birmingham Road		No
L13	Lombard Court, Lombard Street		No
L14	Former Integra Hepworth, Eastern Avenue		No
L15	Land adjacent to Lichfield Library, The Friary		No
L16	Former Windmill Public House, Grange Lane		No
L17	Land to the rear of The Greyhound Public House, Upper St John Street		No
L19	Angel Croft Hotel, Beacon Street		No
L20	Land at The Rosaries, Trent Valley Road		No
L21	Hawthorn House, Hawthorn Close		No

L23	Land off Cherry Orchard		No
L24	Trent Valley Buffer Depot, Burton Road, Streethay		No
L25	Land at 41, Cherry Orchard		No
L28	Former Beatrice Court, St John Street		No
Policy LC2	Lichfield City Mixed Use Allocations		No
L1	Beaconsfield House, Sandford Street		No
L18	Land at Cross Keys (Former What! Store) Cross keys		No
L22	Former Regal Cinema (former Kwik Save) Tamworth Street		No
L26	Friarsgate, Birmingham Road		No
L27	Former Norgren site, Eastern Avenue		No
L29	Land at Quonians Lane 9(former Auction Centre), Cross Keys		No
L30	Lichfield South Business Park	The proposals do not relate to any European Sites directly and will not result in greater pressures on the factors influencing European Sites. There will be no significant in combination effects	No
Policy Lichfield 3	Lichfield Economy	The proposals do not relate to any European Sites directly and will not result in greater pressures on the factors influencing European Sites. There will be no significant in combination effects.	No
	Road and Junction Improvements - Lichfield	The proposals do not relate to any European Sites directly and will not result in greater pressures on the factors influencing European Sites. There	No

		will be no significant in combination effects	
Policy B1	Burntwood Housing Land Allocations	The proposals accord with the adopted Local Plan Strategy, suitable mitigation is provided through strategic policies in the Local Plan Strategy and development management policies in Local Plan Allocations and mitigation options are available at the project level to ensure that there will be no significant in combination effects on European sites.	No
B1	99-101, High Street, Chasetown	The proposals accord with the adopted Local Plan Strategy, suitable mitigation is provided through strategic policies in the Local Plan Strategy and development management policies in Local Plan Allocations and mitigation options are available at the project level to ensure that there will be no significant in combination effects on European sites.	No
B2	82-84, Queen Street		No
B3	Land at Maple Close, Sycamore Road		No
B4	Land at Mount Road/New Road		No
B5	Land at rear of Chase Terrace Primary School		No
B6	103, High Street, Chasetown		No
B7	Land South of Cannock Road		No
B8	Cottage of Content Public House, Queen Street		No
B9	7-9, High Street, Chasetown		No
B10	Land off Milestone Way, Chasetown		No
B11	Former Greyhound Public House, Boney Hay Road		No
B12	78 Princess Street, Chase Terrace		No
B13	Bridge Cross Garage, Cannock Road		No
B14	Land south of Highfields Road		No
B15	Land east of Coulter Lane, St Matthews		No

B16	Coney Lodge Farm, Rugeley Road		No
B17	9 Queens Drive, Chasetown		No
B18	Land at Baker Street		No
Policy B2	Burntwood Mixed Use Allocations	The proposals accord with the adopted Local Plan Strategy, suitable mitigation is provided through strategic policies in the Local Plan Strategy and development management policies in Local Plan Allocations and mitigation options are available at the project level to ensure that there will be no significant in combination effects on European sites.	No
Policy Burntwood 3	Burntwood Economy	The proposals do not relate to any European Sites directly and will not result in greater pressures on the factors influencing European Sites. There will be no significant in combination effects	No
Policy NT1	North of Tamworth Housing Land Allocations	The proposal is outside the areas identified as having the potential to impact upon the SACs and will not result in greater pressures on the factors influencing European Sites. There will be no significant in combination effects.	No
Site NT1	Land at Arkall Farm, Ashby Road		No
Site NT2	Land north of Brown's Lane, Tamworth		No
Policy R1	East of Rugeley Housing Land Allocations	The proposals in part accord with the adopted Local Plan Strategy and suitable mitigation is provided through strategic policies in the Local Plan Strategy and development management policies. Mitigation options are available at the project level to ensure that there will be no significant in combination effects on European sites. Policy NR7 of the Local Plan Strategy protects the integrity of the Cannock Chase SAC and should it be required an HRA of the additional growth at Rugeley	No

		Power Station could be undertaken and bespoke mitigation agreed.	
Site R1	Former Rugeley Power Station	The proposals in part accord with the adopted Local Plan Strategy and suitable mitigation is provided through strategic policies in the Local Plan Strategy and development management policies. Mitigation options are available at the project level to ensure that there will be no significant in combination effects on European sites. Policy NR7 of the Local Plan Strategy protects the integrity of the Cannock Chase SAC and should it be required an HRA of the additional growth at Rugeley Power Station could be undertaken and bespoke mitigation agreed.	No
Policy Fradley 1	Fradley Housing Land Allocations	The proposals accord with the adopted Local Plan Strategy, suitable mitigation is provided through strategic policies in the Local Plan Strategy and development management policies in Local Plan Allocations and mitigation options are available at the project level to ensure that there will be no significant in combination effects on European sites.	No
F1	Bridge Farm, Fradley	The proposals accord with the adopted Local Plan Strategy, suitable mitigation is provided through strategic policies in the Local Plan Strategy and development management policies in Local Plan Allocations and mitigation options are available at the project level to ensure that there will be no significant in combination effects on European sites.	No
	Road and Junction Improvements - Fradley	The proposals do not relate to any European Sites directly and will not result in greater pressures on the factors influencing European Sites. There	No

		will be no significant in combination effects	
Policy A1	Alrewas Housing Land Allocations	The proposals accord with the adopted Local Plan Strategy, suitable mitigation is provided through strategic policies in the Local Plan Strategy and development management policies in Local Plan Allocations and mitigation options are available at the project level to ensure that there will be no significant in combination effects on European sites.	No
A1	Former Park Road Printers, Park Road, Alrewas	The proposals are outside the areas identified as having the potential to impact upon the SACs and will not result in greater pressures on the factors influencing European Sites. There will be no significant in combination effects	No
A2	Land north of Dark Lane, Alrewas	The proposals accord with the adopted Local Plan Strategy, suitable mitigation is provided through strategic policies in the Local Plan Strategy and development management policies in Local Plan Allocations and mitigation options are available at the project level to ensure that there will be no significant in combination effects on European sites. Not all of the site lies within the zone of influence.	No
A3	Land at Bagnall Lock, Kings Bromley Road, Alrewas	The proposals accord with the adopted Local Plan Strategy, suitable mitigation is provided through strategic policies in the Local Plan Strategy and development management policies in Local Plan Allocations and mitigation options are available at the project level to ensure that there will be no significant in combination effects on European sites.	No
A4	The New Lodge, Kings Bromley Road, Alrewas		No
A5	Land east of A513/South of Bagnall Lock, Alrewas		No

		significant in combination effects on European sites.	
Policy AH1	Armitage with Handsacre Housing Land Allocations	The proposals accord with the adopted Local Plan Strategy, suitable mitigation is provided through strategic policies in the Local Plan Strategy and development management policies in Local Plan Allocations and mitigation options are available at the project level to ensure that there will be no significant in combination effects on European sites.	No
AH1	Land adjacent to Hayes Meadow School, Armitage with Handsacre	The proposals accord with the adopted Local Plan Strategy, suitable mitigation is provided through strategic policies in the Local Plan Strategy and development management policies in Local Plan Allocations and mitigation options are available at the project level to ensure that there will be no significant in combination effects on European sites.	No
Policy FZ1	Fazeley, Mile Oak and Bonehill Housing Land Allocations	The proposals are outside the areas identified as having the potential to impact upon the SACs and will not result in greater pressures on the factors influencing European Sites. There will be no significant in combination effects.	No
FZ1	Land west of Sir Robert Peel Hospital, Lichfield Street, Mile Oak	The proposals are outside the areas identified as having the potential to impact upon the SACs and will not result in greater pressures on the factors influencing European Sites. There will be no significant in combination effects.	No
FZ2	Tolsons Mill, Lichfield Street, Fazeley		No
FZ3	Land at 15, The Green, Bonehill		No
Policy GT1	Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations		No
GT1	Land at Bonehill Road, Mile Oak		No

Policy S1	Shenstone Housing Land Allocations	The proposals accord with the adopted Local Plan Strategy, suitable mitigation is provided through strategic policies in the Local Plan Strategy and development management policies in Local Plan Allocations and mitigation options are available at the project level to ensure that there will be no significant in combination effects on European sites.	No
S1	Land at Lynn Lane, Shenstone	The proposals accord with the adopted Local Plan Strategy, suitable mitigation is provided through strategic policies in the Local Plan Strategy and development management policies in Local Plan Allocations and mitigation options are available at the project level to ensure that there will be no significant in combination effects on European sites.	No
S2	Land adjacent Shenstone Pumping Station, Lynn Lane, Shenstone		No
S3	Land off Millbrook Drive, Shenstone		No
Policy W1	Whittington Housing Land Allocations	The proposals are outside the areas identified as having the potential to impact upon the SACs and will not result in greater pressures on the factors influencing European Sites. There will be no significant in combination effects.	No
W1	Land at Huddlesford Lane, Whittington	The proposals are outside the areas identified as having the potential to impact upon the SACs and will not result in greater pressures on the factors influencing European Sites. There will be no significant in combination effects.	No
W2	Former Whittington Youth Centre, Main Street, Whittington		No
W3	Land at Chapel Lane and Blacksmith Lane, Whittington		No
W4	Land west of Common Lane, Whittington		No
Policy OR1	Other Rural Housing Land Allocations	The proposals accord with the adopted Local Plan Strategy, suitable mitigation is provided through strategic policies in the	No

		Local Plan Strategy and development management policies in Local Plan Allocations and mitigation options are available at the project level to ensure that there will be no significant in combination effects on European sites.	
H1	Fish Pitts Farm, Harlaston	The proposals accord with the adopted Local Plan Strategy, suitable mitigation is provided through strategic policies in the Local Plan Strategy and development management policies in Local Plan Allocations and mitigation options are available at the project level to ensure that there will be no significant in combination effects on European sites.	No
HR1	Land at Uttoxeter Road, Hill Ridware	The proposals accord with the adopted Local Plan Strategy, suitable mitigation is provided through strategic policies in the Local Plan Strategy and development management policies in Local Plan Allocations and mitigation options are available at the project level to ensure that there will be no significant in combination effects on European sites.	No
KB1	Land at Lichfield Road, Kings Bromley	The proposals accord with the adopted Local Plan Strategy, suitable mitigation is provided through strategic policies in the Local Plan Strategy and development management policies in Local Plan Allocations and mitigation options are available at the project level to ensure that there will be no significant in combination effects on European sites.	No
OR1	Packington Hall, Tamworth Road	The proposal is outside the areas identified as having the potential to impact upon the SACs and will	No

		not result in greater pressures on the factors influencing European Sites. There will be no significant in combination effects.	
OR2	Lamb Farm , London Road, Canwell	The proposal is outside the areas identified as having the potential to impact upon the SACs and will not result in greater pressures on the factors influencing European Sites. There will be no significant in combination effects.	No
OR3	Footherley Hall, Footherley Lane	The proposals accord with the adopted Local Plan Strategy, suitable mitigation is provided through strategic policies in the Local Plan Strategy and development management policies in Local Plan Allocations and mitigation options are available at the project level to ensure that there will be no significant in combination effects on European sites.	No
OR4	Derry Farm, Birmingham Road	The proposal is outside the areas identified as having the potential to impact upon the SACs and will not result in greater pressures on the factors influencing European Sites. There will be no significant in combination effects.	No
OR5	Station Works, Colton Road	The proposals accord with the adopted Local Plan Strategy, suitable mitigation is provided through strategic policies in the Local Plan Strategy and development management policies in Local Plan Allocations and mitigation options are available at the project level to ensure that there will be no significant in combination effects on European sites.	No

Date: 19 January 2017
Our ref: 204736
Your ref: N/a



Lichfield District Council

For the attention of Heidi Hollins

BY EMAIL ONLY

Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
Electra Way
Crewe
Cheshire
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Heidi

Planning consultation: Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Lichfield District Local Plan Allocations Document

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 23 December 2016 which was received by Natural England on the same day.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England notes and agrees with the narrative and conclusion reached in the Council's HRA report (ref Allocations document). In order to make the HRA conclusion clearer we suggest the following text is amended, as follows:

Section 6 HRA conclusions (page 10/27 – last paragraph)

“This assessment concludes that it can be demonstrated that through the mitigation proposed none of the policies/allocations in the Draft Local Plan Allocations are likely to have a significant effect alone or in combination with other plans and projects upon the identified European sites.”

(New text in blue font and underlined)

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact me on 020 802 60939. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Antony Muller
Lead Adviser – Sustainable Development Team – North Mercia Area

Mrs Heidi Hollins
Spatial Policy and Delivery Officer
Lichfield District Council
Planning Policy
PO Box 66
Lichfield
Staffordshire
WS13 6QB

Our ref: UT/2007/101798/SE-
15/SP1-L01
Your ref:
Date: 19 January 2017

Dear Mrs Hollins

DRAFT LOCAL PLAN ALLOCATIONS

HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT (DECEMBER 2016)

Thank you for referring the above report, which was received on 23 December 2016.

The Environment Agency concurs with the findings of the report, and considers the measures outlined within the report are sufficient to protect the River Mease, Cannock Extension Canal and Cannock Chase from detrimental impact as a result of the site allocation proposals.

Comments should also be sought from Natural England for their views on this.

Yours sincerely

Miss Jane Field
Planning Specialist

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End