Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Newark and Sherwood District Council Plan Review

Amended Allocations & Development Management Development Plan Document - Options Report

Regulation 18 HRA Report

August 2021

LEPUS CONSULTING
LANDSCAPE, ECOLOGY, PLANNING & URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

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Regulation 18 HRA Report

LC-589	Document Control Box
Client	Newark and Sherwood District Council
Report Title	Regulation 18 HRA Report
Status	Draft for Client Comment
Filename	LC-713_NSDC_Regulation 18 HRA_Screening_5_160821AS.docx
Date	August 2021
Author	SC
Reviewed	NJD
Approved	NJD

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Acronyms

AA	Appropriate Assessment
AADT	Annual Average Daily Traffic
APIS	Air Pollution Information System
CJEU	Court of Justice of the European Union
DfT	Department for Transport
DMRB	Design Manual for Roads and Bridges
DPD	Development Plan Document
DTA	David Tyldesley and Associates
EEC	European Economic Community
ERF	Energy Recovery Facility
EU	European Union
GIS	Geographic Information System
HDV	Heavy Duty Vehicles
HRA	Habitat Regulation Assessment
IRZ	Impact Risk Zone
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JNCC	Joint Nature Conservation Committee
LDF	Local Development Framework
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LSE	Likely Significant Effect
N	Nitrogen
NBGRC	Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Records Centre
NE	Natural England
NO_2	Nitrogen Dioxide
NO_x	Nitrogen Oxides
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NSDC	Newark and Sherwood District Council
PACS	Publication Amended Core Strategy
ppSPA	Possible Potential Special Protection Area
PRoW	Public Right of Way
RBMP	River Basin Management Plan
RSPB	Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SIP	Site Improvement Plan
SPA	Special Protection Area

SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable Urban Drainage
TAG	Transport Analysis Guidance
UK	United Kingdom
WFD	Water Framework Directive
WwTW	Wastewater Treatment Works

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

1.1.1 Newark and Sherwood District Council (NSDC) are in the process of reviewing their Local Development Framework (LDF) through a Plan Review. The LDF consists of the following documents:

- Policies Map;
- Amended Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD) and Allocations and Development Management DPD;
- Supplementary Planning Documents; and
- Neighbourhood Plans.

1.1.2 The principal aim of the review is to ensure that the allocations and policies contained within the two DPDs continue to be appropriate, up-to-date and effective.

1.1.3 The Amended Core Strategy was adopted in March 2019[1] as part of the Plan Review process. NSDC are now in the process of reviewing remaining elements of the Plan Review. The main focus is on updating and amending the adopted Allocations and Development Management DPD. However, in addition to this, the review of a small amount of content from the Amended Core Strategy is also being undertaken. NSDC is currently consulting on a series of options for consideration as part of this stage of the Plan Review through publication of the Amended Allocations & Development Management DPD – Options Report (July 2021).

1.1.4 Lepus Consulting has therefore prepared this report to inform the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the NSDC Amended Allocations and Development Management DPD (referred to hereafter as the 'DPD') on behalf of NSDC.

1.2 Purpose of this report

1.2.1 The HRA has been prepared in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)[2], known as the Habitats Regulations. When preparing development plan documents, councils are required by law to carry out an HRA. The requirement for authorities to comply with the Habitats Regulations when preparing a Local Plan is also noted in the Government's online planning practice guidance[3].

[1] Newark and Sherwood District Council (2019) Amended Cote Strategy. Available at: https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/newarkandsherwood/imagesandfiles/planningpolicy/pdfs/corestrategy/ACS2019.pdf [Date Accessed: 14/11/19]

[2] The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 SI No. 2017/1012, TSO (The Stationery Office), London. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents [Date Accessed: 29/01/21] as amended by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111176573 [Date Accessed: 29/01/21]

[3] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (July 2019) Planning Practice Guidance Note, Appropriate Assessment, Guidance on the use of Habitats Regulations Assessment

1.2.2 The most effective way to deliver the outputs of HRA is to ensure that it is incorporated into the plan-making process as early as possible. This allows adverse impacts to be avoided in the first instance through strategic planning of options or, where this is not possible, effective mitigation. Mitigation measures can then be designed to avoid, cancel or reduce significant effects following the mitigation hierarchy. Such measures may take the form of guiding principles and policy requirements, drawing on existing best practice. Should mitigation not be possible there may be a need to consider alternatives which may require some more complex changes to a plan.

1.2.3 Regular contact with the plan-making team is essential to ensure that the planning and HRA processes run alongside each other effectively and iteratively. This will ensure that the plan-making team has plenty of time to respond to and incorporate the findings of the HRA process.

1.2.4 The purpose of this report is therefore to provide HRA guidance and advice to NSDC at the early stages of plan preparation. This HRA report aims to identify European sites that will be considered in the HRA process through application of a 'source-pathway-receptor' model. In addition, key threats at European sites and likely pathways of impact from the DPD are set out. An HRA screening assessment of the options considered in the Amended Allocations & Development Management DPD – Options Report (July 2021) has also been undertaken. Finally, this report highlights methodologies that will be taken forward in the next steps of the HRA process.

2 Development Plan Document

2.1 Background to the review

2.1.1 The Issues Paper[4] (2015) comprised the first consultation stage of the DPD review. This paper set the scope of the review, the issues identified as important and potential approaches to addressing them. Following receipt of comments on the Issues Paper and collection of the evidence base, consultation was undertaken on the first part of the 'Preferred Approach' stage in 2017. This set out the preferred approach to new development targets, based on the latest evidence, a refined spatial strategy, new affordable housing policies and a range of other minor changes. Following consultation on the first part of the Preferred Approach stage, concerning 'strategy', NSDC consulted on the remaining elements through the 'Preferred Approach - Sites and Settlements' and 'Preferred Approach - Town Centres and Retail' papers in 2017.

2.1.2 Following the 'Preferred Approach Stage' it became necessary to uncouple the Plan Review, and so the review of the Core Strategy was progressed ahead of that of the Allocations and Development Management DPD. Representations were sought on the Publication Amended Core Strategy between July and September 2017, with the Amended Core Strategy being submitted to the Secretary of State at the end of that month. Following completion of the examination hearings in February 2018 a period of consultation on the modifications necessary to make the Plan sound was carried out between August and September 2018. Subsequently the Amended Core Strategy was adopted by Full Council in March 2019.

2.2 NSDC Allocations and Development Management DPD

2.2.1 NSDC are now in the process of reviewing the Allocations & Development Management DPD. The first stage in this process was preparation of the Issues and Options paper which set out the position on the allocations and sought views on the remaining issues to be reviewed[5].

2.2.2 NSDC is now consulting on a series of options for consideration through publication of the Amended Allocations & Development Management DPD – Options Report (July 2021).

2.2.3 This incorporates the findings of a new Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment[6], which provides pitch requirements to cover the plan period (2013-33) and satisfies the various requirements of national planning policy - including those within the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites (2015).

[4] NSDC (2015) Plan Review Issues Paper. Available at: https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/newarkandsherwood/imagesandfiles/planningpolicy/pdfs/planreview/Issues%20Paper.pdf [Date Access ed: 14/11/19]

[5] NSDC (2019) Allocations and Development Management Issues Paper 2019. Available at: https://newark-sherwooddc.inconsult.uk/ADMIssuesPaper2019/consultationHome [Date Accessed: 28/07/21]

[6] NSDC (February 2020). Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment. Available at: https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk/media/newarkandsherwood/imagesandfiles/planningpolicy/pdfs/orsgtaa/2020%2002%2027%20Newark%20and%20Sherwood%20GTAA%20Final%20Report.pdf [Date Accessed: 28/07/21].

2.2.4 It also considers requirements set out it the updated NPPF[7] where Development Management Policies in the Adopted DPD may need to be amended to bring them in line with subsequent changes to national and local policy.

2.2.5 Whilst the Issues Paper prepared in 2019 noted that no further sites were being sought for housing or employment as part of the review of the Allocations & Development Management DPD, 10 sites were put forward as part of the consultation responses (at Bilsthorpe, Blidworth, Bulcote, Clipstone, Collingham, Newark Urban Area, Ollerton & Boughton, Southwell and Sutton-on-Trent). These sites were assessed by NSDC along with other sites which had come forward since the last the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment was produced and other sites which were requested to carry forward. As such a number of suggested changes have also been made to the employment and housing allocations.

[7] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. National Planning Policy Framework. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1005759/NPPF_July_2021.pdf [Date Sourced: 28/07/21]

3 The HRA process

3.1 Overview

3.1.1 The HRA process assesses the potential effects of a plan or project on the conservation objectives of European sites designated under the Habitats[8] and Birds[9] Directives. These sites form a system of internationally important sites throughout Europe known collectively as the 'Natura 2000 Network'. In line with the Habitats Regulations, UK sites which were part of the Natura 2000 Network before leaving the EU, have become part of the National Site Network. The Habitats Regulations[10] provide a definition of a European site[11] at Regulation 8 as follows:

- A Special Area of Conservation (SAC);
- A Site of Community importance which has been placed on the list referred to in the third sub-paragraph of Article 4(2) of the Habitats Directive (list of sites of Community importance) before exit day[12];
- An area classified before exit day, pursuant to Article 4(1) or (2) of the old Wild Birds Directive or the new Wild Birds Directive (classification of Special Protection Areas (SPA) or classified after exit day under the retained transposing regulations; or
- A site which before exit day has been proposed to the European Commission in accordance with Article 4(1) of the Habitats Directive, until such time as—
    i. the site is designated as a special area of conservation under regulation 12 or under a corresponding provision in the other retained transposing regulations; or
    ii. the appropriate authority gives the appropriate nature conservation body notice of its intention not to designate the site, setting out the reasons for its decision, in accordance with regulation 141A (3).

3.1.2 In addition, policy in England and Wales notes that the following sites should also be given the same level of protection as a 'European site'[13]:

- A potential SPA (pSPA);

[8] Official Journal of the European Communities (1992). Council Directive 92 /43 /EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

[9] Official Journal of the European Communities (2009). Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds.

[10] Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 SI No. 2017/1012, TSO (The Stationery Office), London. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2017/1012/contents [Date Accessed: 29/01/21] as amended by The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. Available at: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2019/9780111176573 [Date Accessed: 29/01/21]

[11] The term European site is taken here to include both European sites and European marine sites.

[12] Exit day from the European Union.

[13] Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (2019). National Planning Policy Framework. Para 176. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/810197/NPPF_Feb_2019_revised.pdf [Date Accessed: 05/01/21]

- A possible / proposed SAC (pSAC);
- Listed and proposed Ramsar Sites (Wetland of International Importance); and
- In England, sites identified or required as compensation measures for adverse effects on statutory European sites, pSPA, pSAC and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.

3.1.3 This report refers to both statutory sites and sites protected through national planning policy as a European site for ease of reference. Regulation 63 of the Habitats Regulations notes a competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project, must make an appropriate assessment of the implications of the plan or project for that site in view of its site conservation objectives. These tests are referred to collectively as a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

3.1.4 HRA applies to plans or projects which are likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and / or not directly connected with or necessary to the management of that site.

3.1.5 There is no set methodology or specification for carrying out and recording the outcomes of the assessment process. The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook, produced by David Tyldesley Associates (referred to hereafter as the 'DTA Handbook'), provides an industry recognised good practice approach to HRA. The DTA Handbook, and in particular 'Practical Guidance for the Assessment of Plans under the Regulations'[14], which forms part F, has therefore been used to prepare this report, alongside reference to Government Guidance on Appropriate Assessment[15]. The DTA Handbook is used by Natural England, the Government's statutory nature conservation organisation and is widely considered to be an appropriate basis for the HRA of plans.

3.1.6 A step-by-step guide to the methodology adopted in this assessment, as outlined in the DTA Handbook, is illustrated in **Figure 3.1**. In summary, the four key stages of the HRA process are as follows:

- **Stage 1. Screening:** Screening to determine if the Local Plan would be likely to have a significant effect on a European site. This stage comprises the identification of potential effects associated with the DPD on European sites and an assessment of the likely significance of these effects.
- **Stage 2. Appropriate Assessment and the 'Integrity Test':** Assessment to ascertain whether or not the DPD would have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of any European site to be made by the Competent Authority (in this instance the NSDC). This stage comprises an impact assessment and evaluation in view of a European site's conservation objectives. Where adverse impacts on site integrity are identified, consideration is given to alternative options and mitigation measures which are tested.
- **Stage 3. Alternative solutions:** Deciding whether there are alternative solutions which would avoid or have a lesser effect on a European site.

[14] Tyldesley, D., and Chapman, C. (2013) The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook (September) (2013) edition UK: DTA Publications Limited. Available at: www.dtapublications.co.uk

[15] Government Guidance on Appropriate Assessment. July 2019. Guidance on the use of Habitats Regulations Assessment. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appropriate-assessment

- **Stage 4. Imperative reasons of overriding public interest and compensatory measures:** Considering imperative reasons of overriding public interest and securing compensatory measures.

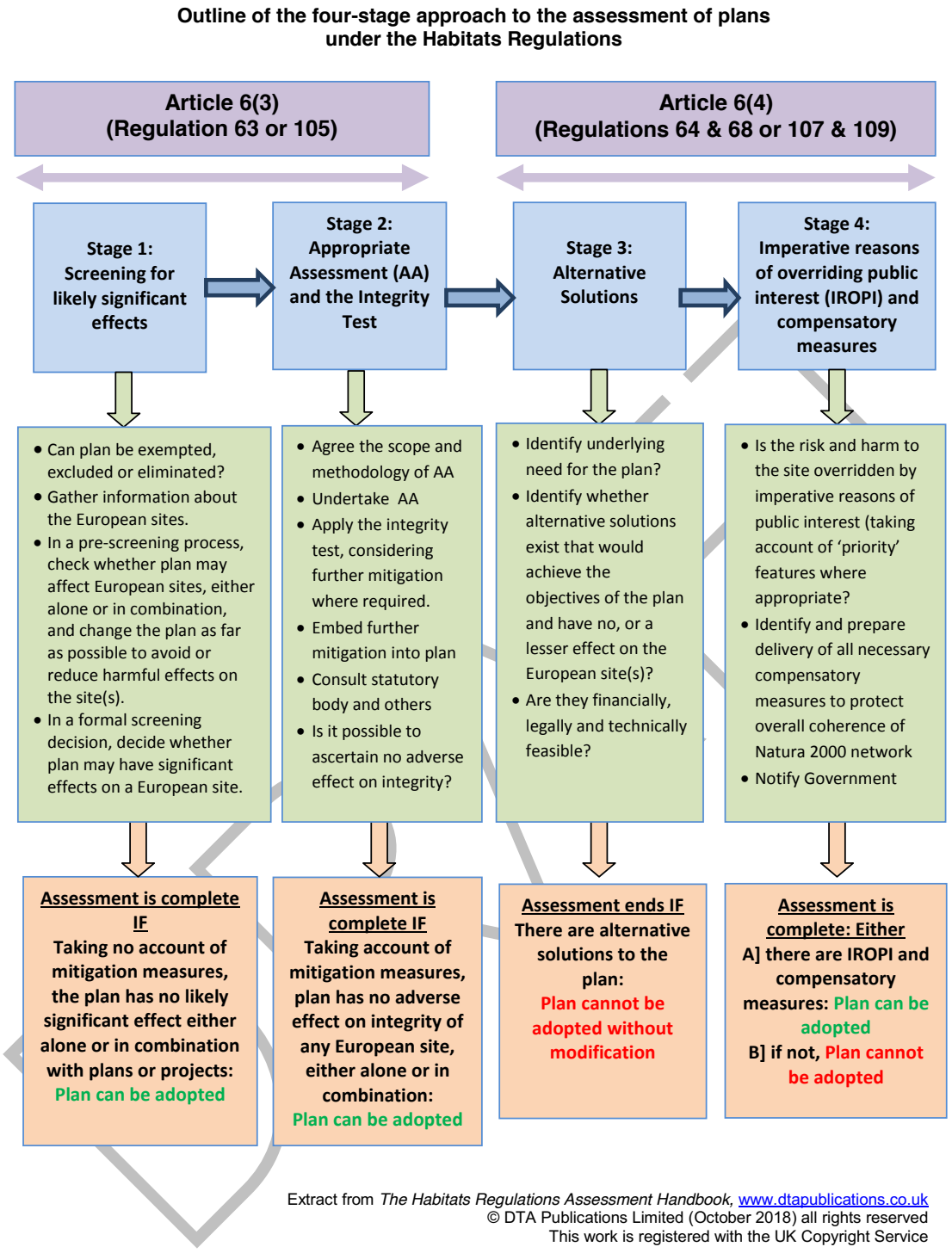

Figure 3.1: *Stages in the Habitats Regulations Assessment process*[16]

[16] Tyldesley, D., and Chapman, C. (2013) The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook (October) (2018) edition UK: DTA Publications Limited. Available at: www.dtapublications.co.uk

3.2 Previous HRA work

3.2.1 **Table 3.1** summarises the outcome of the HRA work that has been undertaken to date to support the plan-making process.

3.2.2 The re-screening process of the DPD review (July 2017) concluded that Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) could be objectively ruled out. Natural England agreed with this conclusion.

3.2.3 However, the conclusion of 'no LSEs' at the re-screening stage relied upon the incorporation of mitigation and the development of subsequent mitigating policies within the PACS. Recent case law has determined that this approach is no longer sound. The 'Sweetman' Ruling (see **Box 2**) determined that consideration of mitigation measures is only permitted as part of an Appropriate Assessment (AA).

Table 3.1: *Findings of previous HRA documents prepared to support the plan-making process.*

HRA Report	Findings
Allocations and Development Management Publication Development Plan Document – Assessment under the Habitats Regulations September 2012 Author: WSP	The 2012 HRA was prepared to support the Allocations and Development Management Development Plan Document (Adopted July 2013). The key issues identified included air pollution and recreational pressures on Birkland and Bilhaugh SAC as well as water abstraction in relation to a new water main. It was concluded that there will be no LSEs (either alone or in combination). It is noted that this screening exercise was undertaken before the 2018 'Sweetman ruling' (see **Box 2** for further details).
HRA Screening Report of Newark and Sherwood District DPD review (Strategy sites and settlements, and town centres and retail) January 2017 Author: Lepus	The 2017 Screening Report was prepared to support a Local Plan Review (LPR). The key issues identified included air pollution stemming from road traffic within 200m of the Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC, cat predation of nightjar and woodlark and pet dog disturbance of nightjar and woodlark. It was concluded, in agreement with Natural England, that these LSEs could not be ruled out at this stage.
Air Quality Assessment: Former Thoresby Colliery, Edwinstowe May 2017 Author: Redmore Environmental Ltd	Redmore Environmental Ltd was commissioned by Rodgers Leask Limited to undertake an Air Quality Assessment to support the planning application for a mixed-use development at the former Thoresby Coliery, Edwinstowe. Air quality impacts as a result on the construction and operational phase of the development were considered to be not significant.
HRA Re-screening Report of Newark and Sherwood District DPD Review (Strategy sites and settlements, and town centres and retail) July 2017 Author: Lepus	The 2018 Re-screening Report was prepared to support the LPR following the Redmore Air Quality Assessment (May 2017)[17]. It was concluded that there would be no LSE on the Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC as a result of air pollution caused by the scale of development proposed in the LPR. It was also considered that, following the application of mitigation, it would be unlikely that a LSE on the nightjar and woodlark of Sherwood Forest

[17] Redmore environmental (2017) Air Quality Assessment, Formery Thoresby Coilliery, Edwinstowe, 17th Febuary 2017

HRA Report	Findings
	possible potential Special Protection Area (ppSPA) would occur as a result of increased predation and disturbance. It is noted that this screening exercise was undertaken before the 2018 'Sweetman ruling' (see **Box 2** for further details).
HRA Appropriate Assessment Of Newark and Sherwood District Publication Amended Core Strategy (PACS) June 2018 Author: Lepus	The 2018 'Sweetman' ruling determined that mitigation measures are only permitted as part of an Appropriate Assessment. Therefore, the HRA AA of the PACS document was prepared to ensure the HRA process was Sweetman compliant. It concluded that the PACS satisfies the Habitat Regulations and LSEs were objectively ruled out for all European sites (Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC and Sherwood Forest ppSPA).

4 Methodology

4.1 HRA guidance

4.1.1 As noted in **Section 1.2**, the application of HRA to land-use plans is a requirement of the Habitats Regulations. HRA applies to plans and projects, including all Local Development Documents in England and Wales.

4.1.2 This report has been informed by the following guidance:

- Planning Practice Guidance: Appropriate Assessment[18]; and
- The Habitat Regulations Assessment Handbook - David Tyldesley and Associates (referred to hereafter as the DTA Handbook), 2013 (in particular Part F: '*Practical Guidance for the Assessment of Plans under the Regulations*').

4.2 HRA methodology

4.2.1 HRA is a rigorous precautionary process centred around the conservation objectives of a European site's qualifying interests. It is intended to ensure that designated European sites are protected from impacts that could adversely affect their integrity, as required by the Birds and Habitats Directives. A step-by-step guide to this methodology is outlined in the DTA Handbook and has been reproduced in **Figure 3.1**.

4.3 Stage 1: Screening for likely significant effects

4.3.1 The first stage in the HRA process comprises the screening stage. This process identifies likely significant effects (LSEs) of a plan or project upon a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This stage considers the potential 'significance' of adverse effects. Where elements of the plan will not result in an LSE on a European site these may be screened out and not considered in further detail in the process.

4.3.2 The screening stage follows a number of steps which are outlined in **Figure 4.1**.

[18] Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (July 2019) Planning Practice Guidance Note, Appropriate Assessment, Guidance on the use of Habitats Regulations Assessment

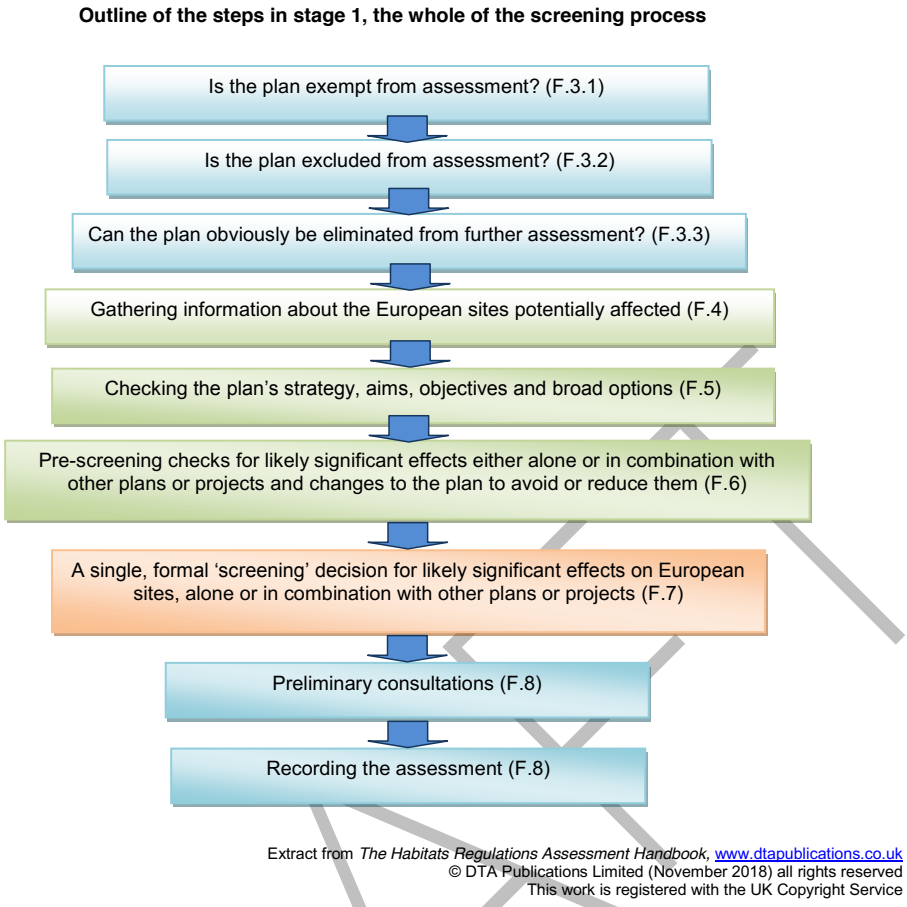

Figure 4.1: *Outline of steps in stage 1; the whole screening process.*

4.3.3 Pre-screening the components of a plan at the early stage of the plan-making process helps to minimise or avoid LSEs upon any European site and as such improve the plan. The pre-screening process uses a number of evaluation codes to summarise whether or not a plan component is likely to have LSEs alone or in-combination, see **Table 4.1,** and inform the formal screening decision.

Table 4.1: *Pre-screening assessment and reasoning categories from Part F of the DTA Handbook*

Pre-screening assessment and reasoning categories from Chapter F of The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook (DTA Publications, 2013):
A. General statements of policy / general aspirations.
B. Policies listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals.
C. Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan.
D. General plan-wide environmental protection / site safeguarding / threshold policies
E. Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects.
F. Policies or proposals that cannot lead to development or other change.
G. Policies or proposals that could not have any conceivable or adverse effect on a site.
H. Policies or proposals the (actual or theoretical) effects of which cannot undermine the conservation objectives (either alone or in combination with other aspects of this or other plans or projects).
I. Policies or proposals with a likely significant effect on a site alone.
J. Policies or proposals unlikely to have a significant effect alone.
K. Policies or proposals unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination.
L. Policies or proposals which might be likely to have a significant effect in combination.
M. Bespoke area, site or case-specific policies or proposals intended to avoid or reduce harmful effects on a European site.

4.4 What is a Likely Significant Effect?

4.4.1 HRA screening provides an analysis of LSEs identified during the HRA screening process. It considers the nature, magnitude and permanence of potential effects in order to inform the plan making process.

4.4.2 The DTA Handbook guidance provides the following interpretation of LSEs:

4.4.3 *"In this context, 'likely' means risk or possibility of effects occurring that cannot be ruled out on the basis of objective information. 'Significant' effects are those that would undermine the conservation objectives for the qualifying features potentially affected, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects… even a possibility of a significant effect occurring is sufficient to trigger an 'appropriate assessment'."*[19]

4.4.4 With reference to the conservation status of a given species in the Habitats or Birds Directives, the following examples would be considered to constitute a significant effect:

- Any event which contributes to the long-term decline of the population of the species on the site;
- Any event contributing to the reduction, or to the risk of reduction, of the range of the species within the site; and
- Any event which contributes to the reduction of the size of the habitat of the species within the site.

[19]Tyldesley, D. (2013) The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook – Chapter F. DTA Publications

4.4.5 Rulings from the 2012 'Sweetman[20]' case provide further clarification:

4.4.6 "*The requirement that the effect in question be 'significant' exists in order to lay down a de minimis threshold. Plans or projects that have no appreciable effect on the site are thereby excluded. If all plans or projects capable of having any effect whatsoever on the site were to be caught by Article 6(3), activities on or near the site would risk being impossible by reason of legislative overkill.*"

4.4.7 Therefore, it is not necessary for the Council to show that the DPD will result in no effects whatsoever on any European site. Instead, the Council is required to show that the DPD, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects, will not result in an effect which undermines the conservation objectives of one or more qualifying features.

4.4.8 Determining whether an effect is significant requires careful consideration of the environmental conditions and characteristics of the European site in question, as per the 2004 'Waddenzee[21]' case:

4.4.9 *"In assessing the potential effects of a plan or project, their significance must be established in the light, inter alia, of the characteristics and specific environmental conditions of the site concerned by that plan or project*".

4.5 In-combination effects

4.5.1 Where screening concludes that there are no LSEs from the DPD alone, it is next necessary to consider whether the effects of the policies in-combination with other plans and projects would combine to result in an LSE on any European site. It may be that the Plan alone may not have a significant effect but could have a residual effect that may contribute to in-combination effects on a European site.

4.5.2 The DTA Handbook[22] notes that "*where an aspect of a plan could have some effect on the qualifying feature(s) of a European site, but that aspect of the plan alone are unlikely to be significant, the effects of that aspect of the plan will need to be checked in combination firstly, with other effects of the same plan, and then with the effects of other plans and projects*".

4.5.3 As such an in-combination assessment has been undertaken as part of the HRA process at both the screening stage (where no LSE are considered possible alone but in-combination effects are likely) and will be undertaken at the appropriate assessment stage (where, following appropriate assessment and mitigation, an insignificant adverse effect is still likely which has the potential to act in-combination with other plans and projects).

4.5.4 The in-combination assessment presented in Chapter F of the DTA Handbook comprises a ten-step approach as illustrated in **Figure 4.2** below.

[20] Source: EC Case C-258-11 Reference for a Preliminary Ruling, Opinion of Advocate General Sharpston 'Sweetman' delivered on 22nd November 2012 (para 48)

[21] Source: EC Case C-127/02 Reference for a Preliminary Ruling 'Waddenzee' 7th Sept 2004 (para 48)

[22] Tyldesley, D. (2013) The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook. DTA Publications.

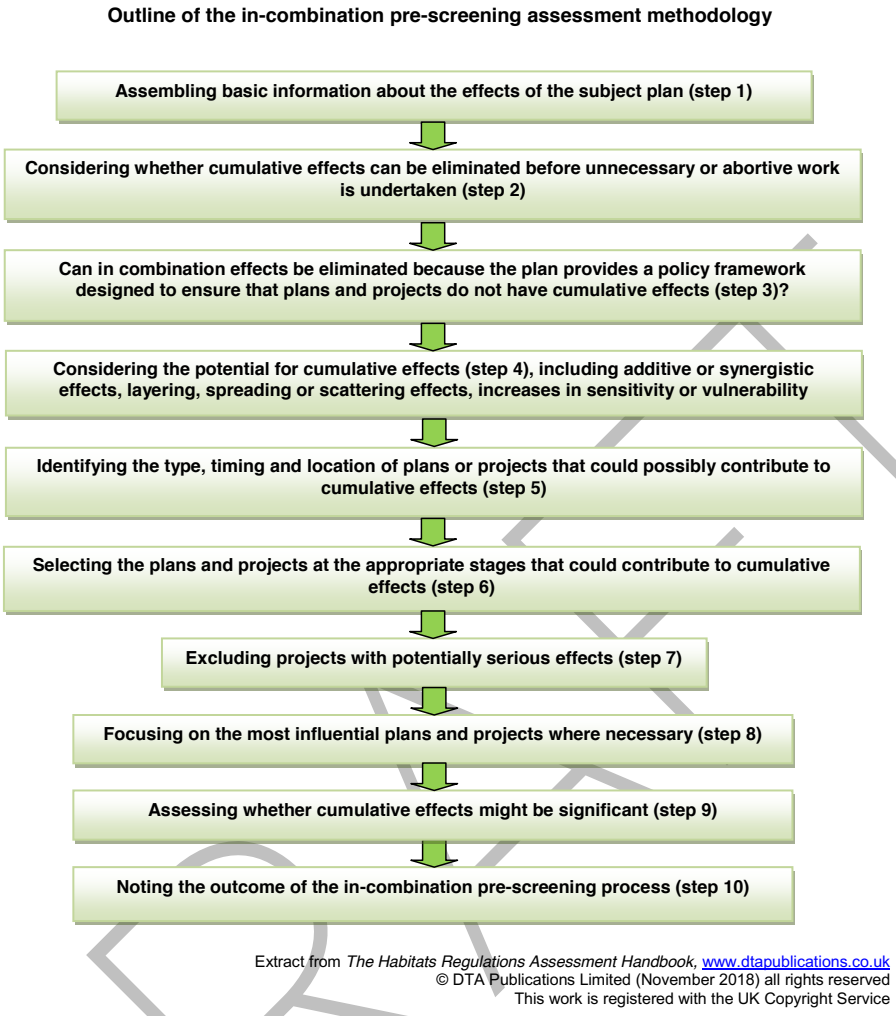

Figure 4.2: *Outline of the in-combination pre-screening assessment methodology*

4.5.5 Plans and projects which are considered to be of most relevance to the in-combination assessment of the DPD include those that have similar impact pathways. These include those plans and projects that have the potential to increase development in the HRA study area. In addition, other plans and projects with the potential to increase traffic across the study area which may act in-combination with the DPD, such as transport, waste and mineral plans and projects, have been taken into consideration. Plans which allocate water resources or are likely to influence water quality in the study area have been considered. Finally, neighbouring authority local plans which may increase development related public access and disturbance pressures at European sites have also been considered.

4.5.6 The following points describe how in-combination effects have been taken into account in the Regulation 18 HRA screening exercise, and how they will be taken into consideration in future stages of the HRA process.

- Air quality LSEs on all European sites within the HRA study area in-combination with the DPD will be taken into consideration within traffic modelling. This includes current and future growth within the DPD area and within the wider area.

- Consideration of in-combination impacts upon water quality and water quantity has been taken into consideration in the Water Cycle Study and will be taken into consideration in any related work undertaken to support the DPD specifically.
- Consideration of recreational in-combination effects created by housing development proposed by other land use plans will be taken into consideration in development of any strategic recreation strategy, the recommendations of which will feed into development of the DPD.

4.5.7 The assessment of potential in-combination effects at this stage of the assessment has not resulted in additional impact pathways being screened in, however, a number of links between other plans and projects and the DPD have been identified.

4.5.8 The following neighbouring authorities' local plans, and other relevant plans and projects, and their HRA work have been reviewed as part of this preliminary screening assessment (see **Appendix A**).

- Nottinghamshire County Council;
- Bassetlaw District Council;
- Mansfield District Council;
- Ashfield District Council;
- Gedling Borough Council;
- West Lindsey District;
- North Kesteven District;
- South Kesteven District;
- Melton District; and
- Rushcliffe District.

4.5.9 Traffic and roads represent a cross boundary issue. On 20th March 2017 a high court ruling[23] found that traffic increases and subsequent air pollution on roads within 200m of a European site also requires an in-combination approach that considers the development of neighbouring and nearby authorities (**Box 1**).

[23] Wealden District Council & Lewes District Council before Mr Justice Jay. Available at: http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Admin/2017/351.html [Date Accessed: 27/01/20]

Box 1: The Wealden Case (March 2017)

On 20th March 2017 a high court ruling found that traffic increases and subsequent air pollution on roads within 200m of an EU site also requires an in-combination approach that considers the development of neighbouring and nearby authorities. This is because projects and plans that increase road traffic flow have a high likelihood of acting together, or 'in-combination', with other plans or projects that would also increase traffic on the same roads. If the combined effects of borough's development will lead to increases of traffic of more than 1,000 cars a day, further consideration of the issue is required. This would be through traffic and air quality modelling.

It is therefore necessary to consider the potential impact of the Local Plan on roads within 200m of each EU site both alone and in-combination with relevant plans and projects.

4.5.10 The approach outlined above for an in-combination effects assessment is compliant with the Wealden Judgement.

4.6 Consideration of mitigation measures

4.6.1 The European Court Judgement on the interpretation of the Habitats Directive in the case of People Over Wind and Sweetman vs Coillte Teoranta (Case C-323/17[24]) determined that mitigation measures are only permitted to be considered as part of an appropriate assessment (**Box 2**).

Box 2: The Sweetman Case (April 2018)

A recent decision by the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) People Over Wind and Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta (C-323/17) (from here on known as the 'Sweetman Case') has important consequences for the HRA process in the UK.

In summary, the ruling reinforces the position that if an LSE is identified during the HRA screening process it is not appropriate to incorporate mitigation measures to prevent the LSE at this stage. An appropriate assessment (AA) of the potential effects and the possible avoidance or mitigation measures must be undertaken. The 're-screening the Plan after mitigation has been applied' is no longer an option which would be legally compliant:

"Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora must be interpreted as meaning that, in order to determine whether it is necessary to carry out, subsequently, an appropriate assessment of the implications, for a site concerned, of a plan or project, it is not appropriate, at the screening stage, to take account of the measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on that site."

4.6.2 In light of the above, it is necessary to further define mitigation measures. The DTA Handbook notes that there are two types of measures as follows:

- *"Measures intended to avoid or reduce harmful effects on a European site; or*
- *Features or characteristics of a plan which are essential in defining the nature, scale, location, timing, frequency or duration of the plan's proposals, or they may be inseparable aspects of the plan, without which an assessment of the plan could not properly be made, in the screening decision, even though these features or*

[24] InfoCuria (2018) Case C-323/17. Available at: http://curia.europa.eu/juris/document/document.jsf?docid=200970&doclang=EN [Date Accessed: 27/01/20]

characteristics may incidentally have the effect of avoiding or reducing some or all of the potentially adverse effects of a plan".

4.6.3 The HRA screening process undertaken for the DPD has not taken account of incorporated mitigation or avoidance measures that are intended to avoid or reduce harmful effects on a European site when assessing the LSE of the DPD on European sites. These are measures, which if removed (i.e. should they no longer be required for the benefit of a European site), would still allow the lawful and practical implementation of a plan.

4.7 Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment and Integrity Test

4.7.1 Stage 2 of the HRA process comprises the appropriate assessment and integrity test. The purpose of the appropriate assessment (as defined by the DTA Handbook) is to "*undertake an objective, scientific assessment of the implications for the European site qualifying features potentially affected by the plan in light of their consideration objectives and other information for assessment*".

4.7.2 As part of this process decision makers should take account of the potential consequences of no action, the uncertainties inherent in scientific evaluation and should consult interested parties on the possible ways of managing the risk, for instance, through the adoption of mitigation measures. Mitigation measures should aim to avoid, minimise or reduce significant effects on European sites. Mitigation measures may take the form of policies within the DPD or mitigation proposed through other plans or regulatory mechanisms. All mitigation measures must be deliverable and able to mitigate adverse effects for which they are targeted.

4.7.3 The appropriate assessment aims to present information in respect of all aspects of the DPD and ways in which it could, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects, affect a European site.

4.7.4 The plan-making body (as the Competent Authority) must then ascertain, based on the findings of the appropriate assessment, whether the DPD will adversely affect the integrity of a European site either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects. This is referred to as the Integrity Test.

4.8 Dealing with uncertainty

4.8.1 Uncertainty is an inherent characteristic of HRA and decisions can be made only on currently available and relevant information. This concept is reinforced in the 7th September 2004 'Waddenzee' ruling[25]:

[25]EC Case C-127/02 Reference for a Preliminary Ruling 'Waddenzee' 7th September 2004 Advocate General's Opinion (para 107)

4.8.2 *"However, the necessary certainty cannot be construed as meaning absolute certainty since that is almost impossible to attain. Instead it is clear from the second sentence of Article 6(3) of the habitats directive that the competent authorities must take a decision having assessed all the relevant information which is set out in particular in the appropriate assessment. The conclusion of this assessment is, of necessity, subjective in nature. Therefore, the competent authorities can, from their point of view, be certain that there will be no adverse effects even though, from an objective point of view, there is no absolute certainty."*

4.9 The Precautionary Principle

4.9.1 The HRA process is characterised by the precautionary principle. This is described by the European Commission as being:

4.9.2 *"If a preliminary scientific evaluation shows that there are reasonable grounds for concern that a particular activity might lead to damaging effects on the environment, or on human, animal or plant health, which would be inconsistent with protection normally afforded to these within the European Community, the Precautionary Principle is triggered."*

5 European sites

5.1 Identification of European sites

5.1.1 Each site of European importance has its own intrinsic qualities, besides the habitats or species for which it has been designated, that enables the site to support the ecosystems that it does. An important aspect of this is that the ecological integrity of each site can be vulnerable to change from natural and human induced activities in the surrounding environment (known as pressures and threats). For example, sites can be affected by land use plans in a number of different ways, including the direct land take of new development, the type of use the land will be put to (for example, an extractive or noise-emitting use), the pollution a development generates, and the resources used (during construction and operation for instance).

5.1.2 An intrinsic quality of any European site is its functionality at the landscape ecology scale. This refers to how the site interacts with the zone of influence of its immediate surroundings, as well as the wider area. This is particularly the case where there is potential for developments resulting from the plan to generate water or air-borne pollutants, use water resources or otherwise affect water levels. Adverse effects may also occur via impacts to mobile species occurring outside a designated site, but which are qualifying features of the site. For example, there may be effects on protected birds that use land outside the designated site for foraging, feeding, roosting or other activities.

5.1.3 There is no guidance that defines the study area for inclusion in HRA. Planning Practice Guidance for Appropriate Assessment (listed above) indicates that:

5.1.4 "*The scope and content of an appropriate assessment will depend on the nature, location, duration and scale of the proposed plan or project and the interest features of the relevant site. 'Appropriate' is not a technical term. It indicates that an assessment needs to be proportionate and sufficient to support the task of the competent authority in determining whether the plan or project will adversely affect the integrity of the site*".

5.1.5 The 2017 HRA Screening reports and 2018 HRA AA (see **Table 3.1**) considered a 15km study area from the plan area on the basis of identified impact pathways and previous HRA work undertaken for NSDC. These Screening Reports provided an assessment on one European site within this study area: Birkland and Bilhaugh SAC (the location of which is illustrated in **Figure 5.1**).

5.1.6 In order to determine a study area for the DPD HRA, consideration has been given to the nature and extent of potential impact pathways from the DPD and their relationship to European sites. The following sections set out those European sites which will be included in the HRA study area for this DPD.

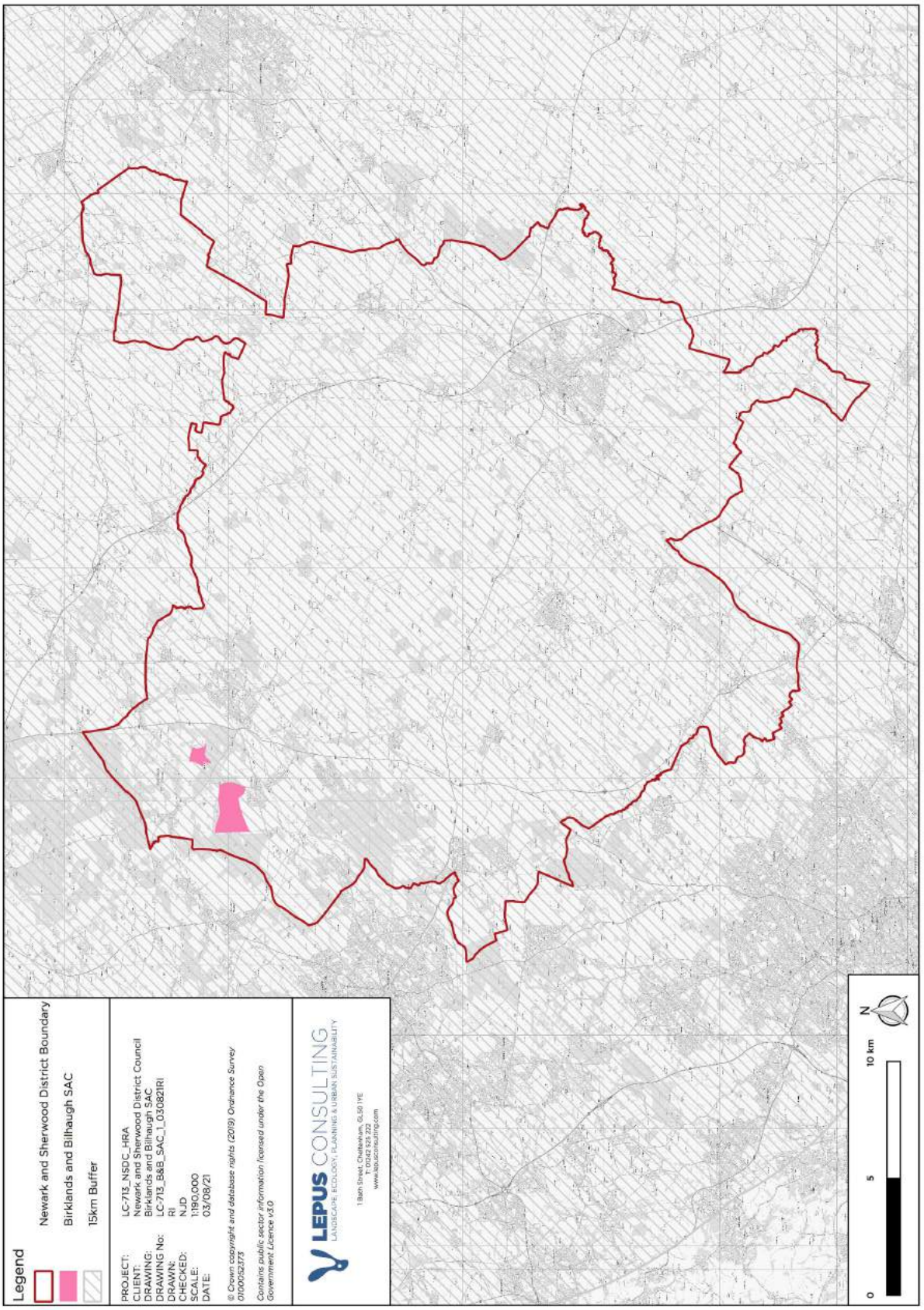

Figure 5.1: *Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC location map*

5.2 Birkland and Bilhaugh SAC

5.2.1 Birkland and Bilhaugh SAC is the only European site located wholly within the Plan area. It is the most northerly site selected for its qualifying feature of old acidophilous oak woods with *Quercus robur* on sandy plains. Both native oak species, *Quercus petraea* and *Quercus robur,* are present within the site and the mix of age-classes ensures good potential for maintaining the structure and function of the woodland system, including the continuity of dead-wood habitats. Birkland and Bilhaugh SAC is notable for its diverse fungal assemblage and abundant invertebrate fauna.

5.2.2 The SSSI condition (**Appendix C**) indicates that this site is in an 'unfavourable – recovering' condition with the exception of two units. Unit 8 and Unit 12 which are classified as 'unfavourable – no change' due to the replacement of woodland and heathland with areas of hardstanding, buildings and surfaced walkways as well as poor woodland management.

5.2.3 The SIP identifies that Birkland and Bilhaugh SAC is vulnerable to air pollution and public access and disturbance.

5.3 Humber Estuary SPA, Humber Estuary SAC and Humber Estuary Ramsar site

5.3.1 The Humber Estuary is located on the Lincolnshire Coast and is fed by the Rivers Ouse, Trent and Hull, Ancholme and Graveney. It supports a mosaic of estuarine habitats including tidal rivers, estuaries, mud flats, sand flats, lagoons and saltmarshes among others. It is designated as a SPA, SAC and Ramsar site due to these estuarine habitats and the species which they support.

5.3.2 Humber Estuary SAC, Humber Estuary SPA and Humber Estuary Ramsar sites are located approximately 36km to the north of NSDC and are hydrologically connected via the River Trent.

5.3.3 The River Trent enters the Plan area in the south west, close to Gunthorpe, flowing through the centre of the Plan area, through Newark on Trent and passing out the Plan area in the north eastern corner. The River Trent then flows in a north easterly direction joining the Humber Estuary to the north of Scunthorpe.

5.3.4 A number of tributaries within the Plan area feed into the River Trent, including the River Greet, the River Devon and the River Smite. The River Maun and the River Meden run through the north western area of the Plan area, flowing in a north westerly direction to join the River Idle which is also a tributary of the River Trent.

5.3.5 NSDC is located predominantly within the Humber River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) and straddles the 'Idle and Torne' and 'Lower Trent and Erewash' Humber RBMP sub catchments.

5.3.6 Given the hydrological connectivity between the Plan area and the Humber Estuary these designations will be considered further in the HRA process. Their location is show in **Figure 5.2**.

5.4 The Wash SPA, the Wash Ramsar and the Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC

5.4.1 A small part of the NSDC administrative area is located in the catchment of the River Witham which is located in the Anglian RBMP. The River Witham rises south of Grantham, passes through Lincoln and drains into the Wash at Boston.

5.4.2 The Wash is located on the east coast and extends from Lincolnshire, at Gibraltar Point, to North Norfolk. It comprises diverse estuarine habitats including intertidal mud and sand flats which in turn support a range of worms, algae and molluscs which provide an important food source for a number of species of birds.

5.4.3 Given the hydrological connectivity between the Plan area and the Wash, these designations will be considered further in the HRA process. Their location is shown in **Figure 5.2**.

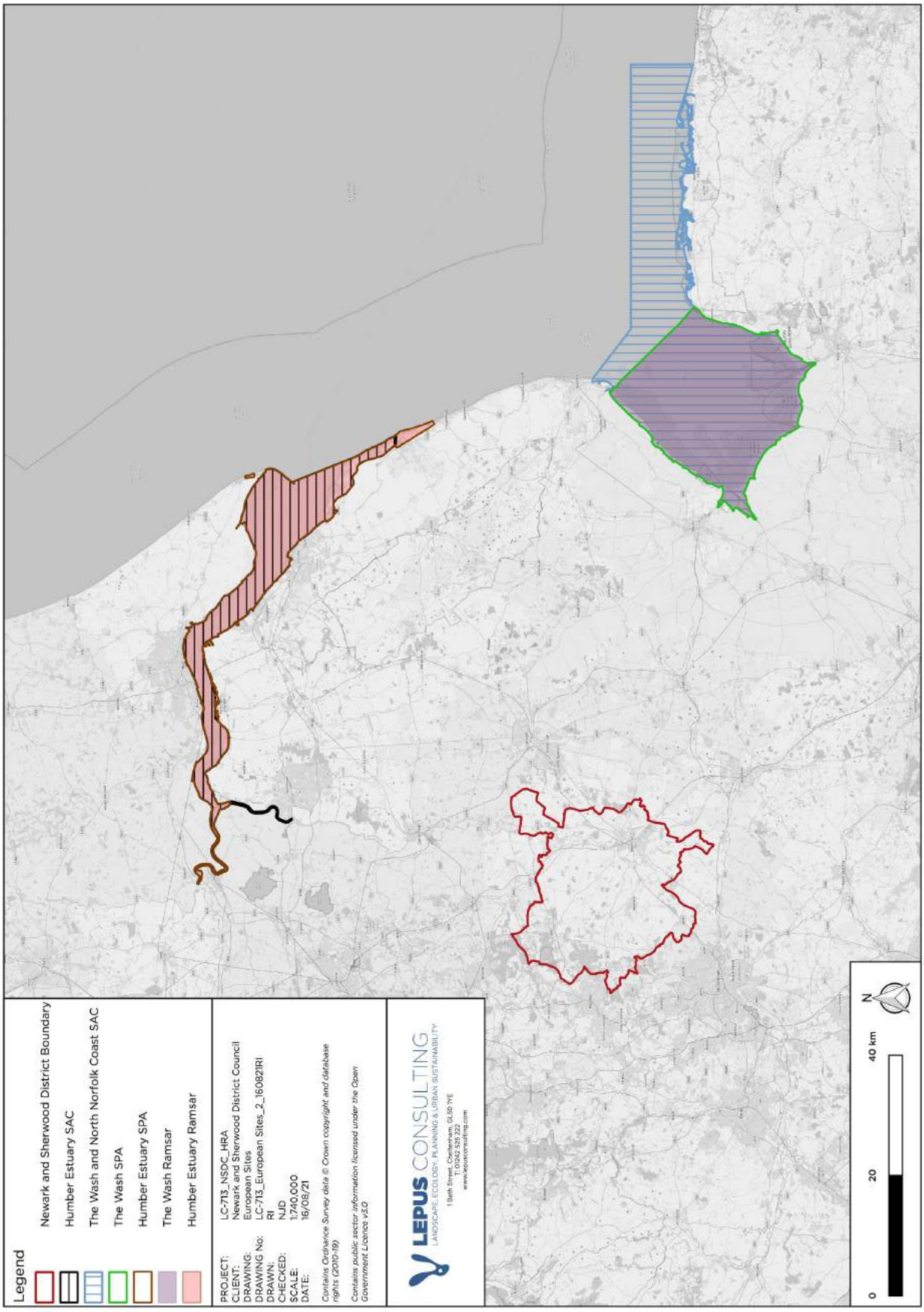

Figure 5.2: *Other European site location map*

5.5 European sites scoped into the HRA

5.5.1 Taking into consideration impact pathways and previous HRA work undertaken in 2017 and 2018, the following European sites will be considered further in this HRA.

- Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC;
- The Humber Estuary SPA;
- The Humber Estuary SAC;
- The Humber Estuary Ramsar;
- The Wash SPA;
- The Wash Ramsar; and
- The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC.

5.6 Ecological information

5.6.1 The CJEU ruling in the Holohan case (C-461/17[26]) confirmed that Appropriate Assessment should: (i) catalogue (i.e. list) all habitats and species for which the site is protected and (ii) include in its assessment other (i.e. non-protected) habitat types or species which are on the site and habitats and species located outside of the site if they are necessary to the conservation of the habitat types and species listed for the protected area (**Box 3**).

Box 3: Holohan v An Bord Pleanala (November 2018)

"Article 6(3) of Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora must be interpreted as meaning that an 'appropriate assessment' must, on the one hand, catalogue the entirety of habitat types and species for which a site is protected, and, on the other, identify and examine both the implications of the proposed project for the species present on that site, and for which that site has not been listed, and the implications for habitat types and species to be found outside the boundaries of that site, provided that those implications are liable to affect the conservation objectives of the site.

Article 6(3) of Directive 92/43 must be interpreted as meaning that the competent authority is permitted to grant to a plan or project consent which leaves the developer free to determine subsequently certain parameters relating to the construction phase, such as the location of the construction compound and haul routes, only if that authority is certain that the development consent granted establishes conditions that are strict enough to guarantee that those parameters will not adversely affect the integrity of the site.

Article 6(3) of Directive 92/43 must be interpreted as meaning that, where the competent authority rejects the findings in a scientific expert opinion recommending that additional information be obtained, the 'appropriate assessment' must include an explicit and detailed statement of reasons capable of dispelling all reasonable scientific doubt concerning the effects of the work envisaged on the site concerned".

5.6.2 This report fully considers the potential for effects on species and habitats. This includes those not listed as a qualifying feature for the European site, but which may be important to achieving its conservation objectives. This ensures that the functional relationships underlying European sites and the achievement of their conservation objectives are adequately understood.

[26] EUR-Lex (2018) Case C-461/17. Available at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:62017CJ0461&from=EN [Date Accessed: 05/11/19]

5.6.3 **Appendix B** identifies the qualifying features of each of these sites and presents details of their conservation objectives. This information is drawn from the Joint Nature Conservancy Council (JNCC)[27] and Natural England[28].

5.6.4 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) are protected areas in the United Kingdom designated for conservation. SSSIs are the building blocks of site-based nature conservation in the UK. A SSSI will be designated based on the characteristics of its fauna, flora, geology and/or geomorphology. Whilst typically analogous in ecological function, the reasons for its designation can be entirely different to those for which the same area is designated as a SAC, SPA or Ramsar.

5.6.5 Natural England periodically assesses the conservation conditions of each SSSI unit, assigning it a status. SSSIs located either entirely or partially within the European sites considered in this report are listed in **Appendix C** along with their current conservation status. The conservation status of each SSSI highlights any SAC/SPA that is currently particularly vulnerable to threats/pressures. Conservation status is defined as follows:

- Favourable;
- Unfavourable – recovering;
- Unfavourable – no change; or
- Unfavourable – declining.

5.6.6 SSSI units in either an 'Unfavourable – no change' or 'Unfavourable – declining' condition indicate that the European site may be particularly vulnerable to certain threats or pressures. It is important to remember that the SSSI may be in an unfavourable state due to the condition of features unrelated to its European designation. However, it is considered that the conservation status of SSSI units that overlap with European designated sites offer a useful indicator of habitat health at that location.

5.6.7 Natural England defines zones around each SSSI which may be at risk from specific types of development, these are known as Impact Risk Zones (IRZ). These IRZs are *"a GIS tool developed by Natural England to make a rapid initial assessment of the potential risks to SSSIs posed by development proposals. They define zones around each SSSI which reflect the particular sensitivities of the features for which it is notified and indicate the types of development proposal which could potentially have adverse impacts. The IRZs also cover the interest features and sensitivities of European sites, which are underpinned by the SSSI designation and "Compensation Sites", which have been secured as compensation for impacts on Natura 2000/Ramsar sites"*[29]. The location of IRZs has been taken into consideration in this assessment as they provide a useful guide as to the location of functionally linked land and likely vulnerabilities to development proposed within the DPD.

[27] JNCC (2019) Available at: http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-1458 [Date Accessed: 05/11/19]

[28] Natural England (2019) Available at: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/ [Date Accessed: 05/11/19]

[29] Natural England (2019) Natural England's Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest User Guidance. Available at: https://magic.defra.gov.uk/Metadata_for_magic/SSSI%20IRZ%20User%20Guidance%20MAGIC.pdf [Date Accessed: 05/11/19]

6 Sherwood Forest Possible Potential Special Protection Area (ppSPA)

6.1.1 The 2017 HRA Screening reports and 2018 HRA AA (see **Table 3.1**) also considered impacts upon an area of land informally known as the Sherwood Forest possible potential Special Protection Area (SPA).

6.1.2 It is noted that, whilst the Sherwood Forest ppSPA has not been formally designated as a European site, to ensure compliance with Natural England's recommended risk-based approach[30] to the consideration of impacts at this site on Annex 1 breeding birds, an assessment of the DPD has been undertaken as part of this HRA.

6.1.3 The locations of this site is shown in **Figure 6.1**. It is noted that the Sherwood Forest ppSPA boundary highlights the areas of greatest ornithological interest for breeding nightjar and woodlark[31]. This has been determined on the basis of evidence submitted to the Rufford ERF Public Inquiry[32,33].

[30] Natural England (2014) Advice Note to Local Planning Authorities regarding the consideration of likely effects on the breeding population of nightjar and woodlark in the Sherwood Forest region.

[31] This area has been established on the basis of evidence provided to the Rufford Colliery Public Inquiry and comprises national nightjar and woodlark surveys undertaken in 2004 and 2006.

[32] Natural England (2014) Advice note to Local Planning Authorities regarding the consideration of likely effects on the breeding population of nightjar and woodlark in the Sherwood Forest region. Available at: https://www.mansfield.gov.uk/downloads/file/329/natural-england-s-advice-notes-on-the-sherwood-ppspa-2014 [Date Accessed: 29/07/21]

[33] Rufford Colliery Public Inquiry. Secretary of State Decision Letter. https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20121029114856/http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planning-callins/pdf/1914959.pdf [Date Accessed: 29/07/21]

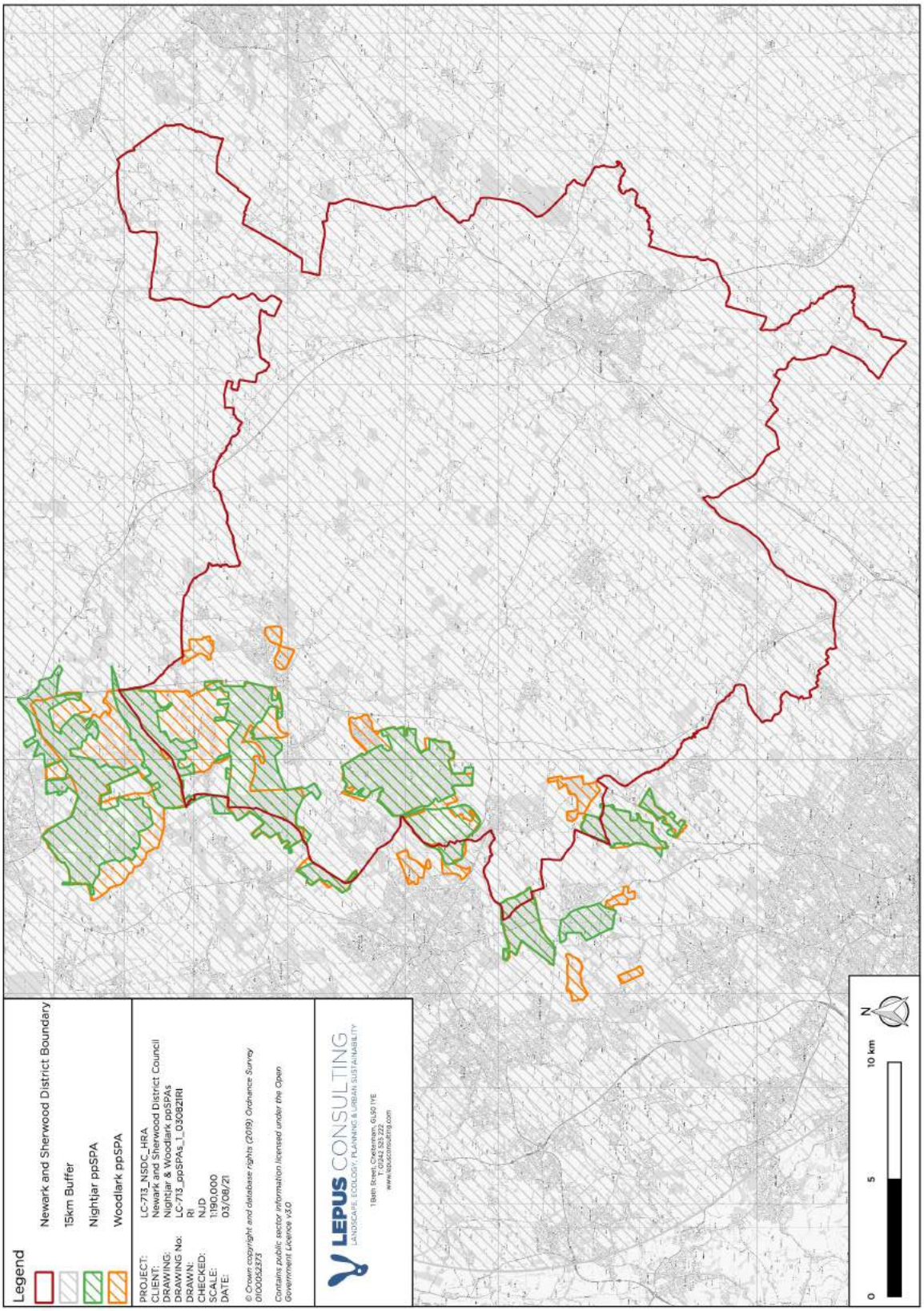

Figure 6.1: *Sherwood Forest ppSPA location map*

6.1.4 Sherwood Forest ppSPA has the potential for European protection due to the population of nightjar and woodlark which it supports[34]. Natural England therefore recommends adopting a 'risk-based' approach whereby Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) assess and mitigate the likely impacts of all proposals on the nightjar and woodlark populations of Sherwood Forest.

6.1.5 In accordance with Natural England's advice, Sherwood Forest ppSPA has been included to ensure that all potential impacts of the DPD on the breeding populations of nightjar and woodlark in Sherwood Forest area can be adequately avoided and/or minimised. Following a Public Inquiry in 2011, the Secretary of State refused planning permission for an Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) on land at the former Rufford Colliery site at Rainworth. This was due to the likely effects on breeding populations of nightjar and woodlark[35].

6.1.6 Sherwood Forest ppSPA supports a population of breeding nightjar[36]. The normal counting unit for nightjars is churring males. In 2004 the UK population of nightjar was estimated at 4,600 churring males[37]. The threshold for SPA classification is to support 1% of the UK population, which for nightjars would be 46 churring males. The most up-to-date nightjar data from Nottinghamshire Biological and Geological Records Centre (NBGRC) reveal the number of territories in Sherwood Forest, based on the number of churring males without adjustment, recorded during a 2016 survey, to be 90. Each territory is approximately 1km^2. Further analysis of the data gives a minimum estimate of 63 pairs, which is a slight decline from the 1987 recorded levels of 67.

6.1.7 Recently, a steep linear decrease in the number of successful fledglings per breeding attempt has become evident, with studies suggesting nest failure is most likely in areas frequented by walkers and dogs[38].

6.1.8 **Figure 6.2**, replicated from the NBGRC report, shows the number of churring males recorded across Sherwood Forest. This shows a fairly even distribution across the ppSPA, although populations might be denser in the more northern portions of the forest. This distribution of nightjar in Sherwood, according to **Figure 6.2**, accords well with the Important Bird Area (IBA) prepared by Natural England[39].

[34] Natural England (2014) Advice Note to Local Planning Authorities regarding the consideration of likely effects on the breeding population of nightjar and woodlark in the Sherwood Forest region.

[35] Communities and Local Government (2011) Town and Country Planning Act 1990 – Section 77. Application by Veolia Nottinghamshire Limited Land at Former Rufford Colliery, Rainworth, Nottinghamshire, NG21 0ET (Application Ref: 3/07/01793/CMW. Available at: https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20121029114856/http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/1914959.pdf [Date Accessed: 31/07/21]

[36] RSPB Futurescapes Sherwood Forest Available online at: https://www.rspb.org.uk/Images/sherwood-forest_tcm9-281889.pdf [Accessed 31/07/21]

[37] Conway, G., Wotton, S., Henderson, I., Langston, R., Drewitt, A. & Currie, F. (2007) Status and distribution of European Nightjars Caprimulgus europaeus in the UK in 2004. Bird Study 54: 98–111

[38] Langston, R.H.W., Liley, D., Murison, G., Woodfield, E. & Clarke, R.T. (2007) What effects do walkers and dogs have on the distribution and productivity of breeding European Nightjar Caprimulgus europaeus? Ibis 149, supplement 1: 27–36

[39] Natural England. 2014. Advice Note to Local Planning Authorities regarding the consideration of likely effects on the breeding population of nightjar and woodlark in the Sherwood Forest region. Available at: [Date Accessed: 31/07/21]

6.1.9 The 2004 national nightjar survey[40] estimated a 36% increase in the UK population. However, Sherwood Forest is experiencing a minor decline in populations. The 2004 national survey also estimated a density of 0.78 males/km^2 in the Midlands. The density at Sherwood Forest is thought to be 0.66 males/km^2 (63 males across 96m^2).

6.1.10 Habitat requirements for nightjar include[41]:

- Heathland;
- Open woodland;
- Clearings; and
- Heterogenic and semi-open natural habitats for foraging and nesting.

[40] Conway, G., Wotton, S., Henderson, I., Langston, R., Drewitt, A. & Currie, F. (2007) Status and distribution of European Nightjars Caprimulgus europaeus in the UK in 2004. Bird Study 54: 98–111

[41] Sierro, Antoine, et al. "Habitat use and foraging ecology of the nightjar (Caprimulgus europaeus) in the Swiss Alps: towards a conservation scheme." Biological conservation 98.3 (2001): 325-331.

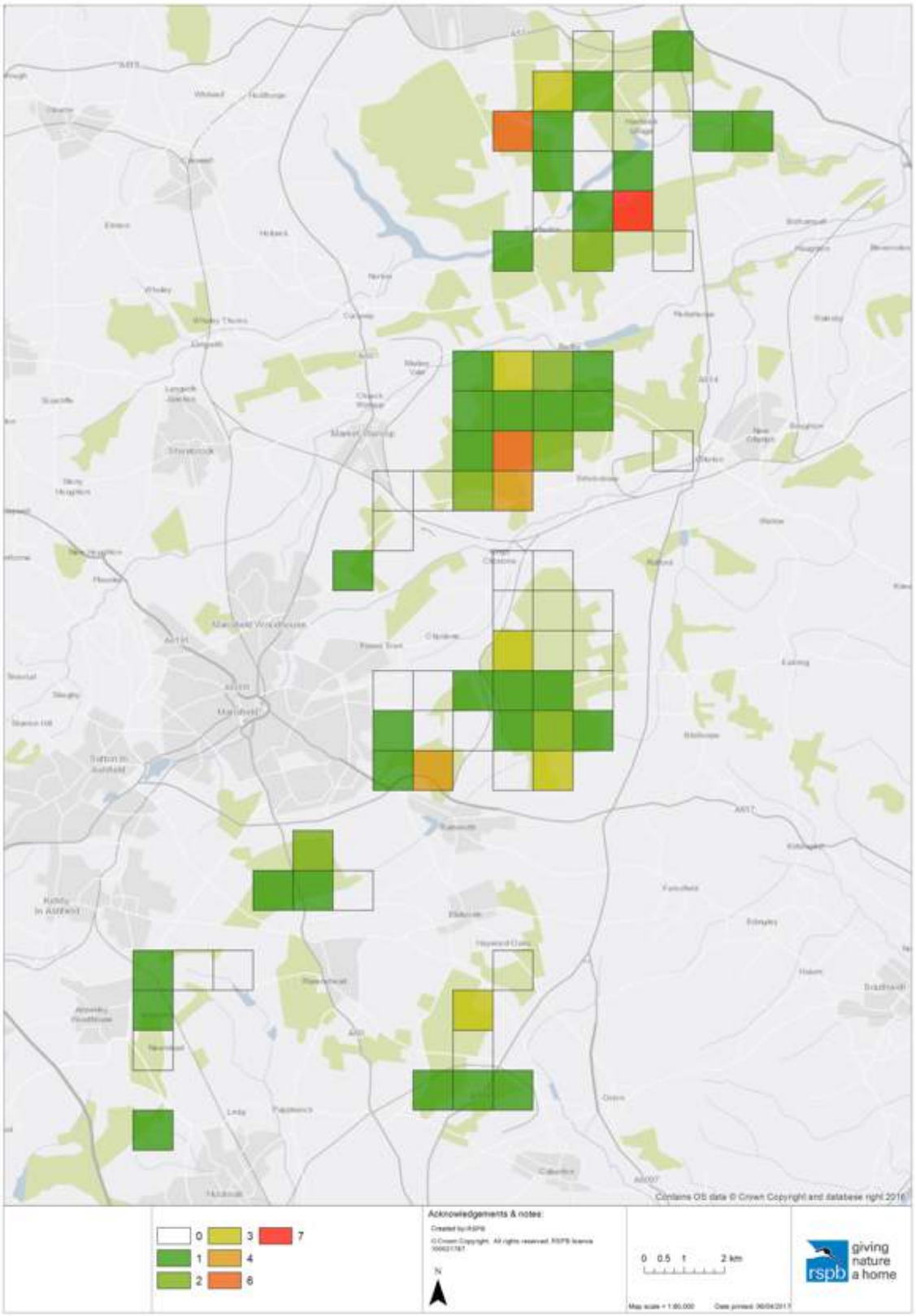

Figure 6.2: *Records of (nightjar) churring males at Sherwood Forest based on the nightjar survey completed in 2016 by the RSPB (source: NBGRC).*

6.1.11 Populations of woodlark in Sherwood Forest are less well established. Their territories are considered to average approximately 3.4ha, ranging from 0.9 to 8.3ha, whilst male territories rarely, if ever, overlap[42]. The mean distance woodlark travel from nest to forage site is 3.1km, with the majority travelling between 2km and 4km[43].

6.1.12 Their habitat requirements include:

- Lowland heathland with short, sparse, natural developed turf interspersed with tussocky vegetation;
- A high abundance of invertebrate prey on bare ground; and
- Heterogeneous land type with two to four land cover types suitable for foraging and nesting.

6.1.13 Sherwood Forest ppSPA coincides with seven SSSIs (**Appendix C**). The SSSI condition data for each of these sites indicated that all of the sites have some units that are in an 'Unfavourable' condition. The unfavourable condition of these units is due to poor woodland management of the scrub as well as public access and disturbance through the construction of surfaced walkways and buildings.

6.1.14 To ensure a risk-based approach is adopted, consideration will also be given to Sherwood Forest ppSPA within the DPD HRA.

[42] Sirami, C., Brotons, L., & Martin, J. L. (2011). Woodlarks Lullula arborea and landscape heterogeneity created by land abandonment. Bird Study, 58(1), 99-106

[43] Bright. J. A., Langston. R. H. W. and Anthony. S. (2009) Mapped and written guidance in relation to birds and onshore wind energy development in England. RSPB Research Report No 35

7 Impact Pathways

7.1 Gathering information about European sites and impact pathways

7.1.1 It is important to understand how the DPD may affect a European site in order to determine LSEs. Consideration must first be given to potential links or causal connections between the effects of the DPD and European sites. This section therefore scopes potential impact pathways at the European sites listed in **Paragraph 5.1.4**.

7.2 Threats and pressures

7.2.1 Threats and pressures to which each European site is vulnerable have been identified through reference to data held by the JNCC on Natura 2000 Data Forms and Site Improvement Plans (SIPs). This information provides current and predicted issues at each European site. Threats and pressures which are likely to be impacted by the DPD at each European site are provided at **Appendix B**.

7.2.2 Supplementary advice notices prepared by Natural England provide more recent information on threats and pressures upon European sites than SIPs. Additional threats flagged up by supplementary advice notices which may be impacted by the DPD have also been identified (**Appendix B**).

7.2.3 A number of similar threats and pressures have been considered together, for instance 'recreation' is considered under 'public access and disturbance'. A number of threats and pressures are considered to be beyond the scope of the potential impacts of DPD. These threats and pressures have not been included in this assessment having been scoped out.

7.2.4 Following a review of HRA assessment work undertaken to date for the Newark and Sherwood Publication Amended Core Strategy and an identification of causal connections and links, the remaining threats and pressures that are considered to be within the scope of influence of the DPD include:

- Atmospheric pollution;
- Public access and disturbance – consideration of recreational disturbance and urbanisation threats
- Habitat loss and fragmentation; and
- Hydrology.

7.2.5 Natural England's Supplementary Advice for the Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC notes that it is not sensitive to hydrological impacts. This is due to the site geology which is free draining sandstone allowing surface water to percolate quickly to the Sherwood aquifer some depths below. It also notes that surface water is not found on site and the water table is currently 15-20m below the surface. As such hydrology will not be considered for either the SAC or ppSPA.

7.3 Air Quality

7.3.1 Air pollution can affect European sites if it has an adverse effect on its features of qualifying interest. The main mechanisms through which air pollution can have an adverse effect is through eutrophication (nitrogen), acidification (nitrogen and sulphur) and direct toxicity (ozone, ammonia and nitrogen oxides)[44]. Deposition of air pollutants can alter the soil and plant composition and species which depend upon these.

7.3.2 As highlighted through the review of threats and pressures at European sites, and as reported upon in **Appendix B**, air pollution, and in particular atmospheric nitrogen deposition and acidification, has been identified as a threat or pressure for qualifying features of both the Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC and Sherwood Forest ppSPA within the relevant Natural England documentation.

7.3.3 The Supplementary Advice from Natural England for Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC provides a target to "*maintain or restore as necessary the concentrations and deposition of air pollutants to at or below the site-relevant Critical Load or Level values given for the H9190 feature of the site on the Air Pollution Information System*"[45]. It goes on to note that the SAC is considered sensitive to changes in air quality, in particular nitrogen and acidity.

7.3.4 Excess atmospheric nitrogen deposition within an ecosystem or habitat can disrupt the delicate balance of ecological processes interacting with one another. As the availability of nitrogen increases in the local environment, some plants that are characteristic of that ecosystem may become competitively excluded in favour of more nitrophilic plants. It also upsets the ammonium and nitrate balance of the ecosystem, which disrupts the growth, structure and resilience of some plant species.

7.3.5 Excess nitrogen deposition often leads to the acidification of soils and a reduction in the soils' buffering capacity (the ability of soil to resist pH changes). It can also render the ecosystem more susceptible to adverse effects of secondary stresses, such as frost or drought, and disturbance events, such as foraging by herbivores.

7.3.6 As an attempt to manage the negative consequences of atmospheric nitrogen deposition, 'critical loads' and 'critical levels' have been established for ecosystems in Europe. Each European site is host to a variety of habitats and species, the features of which are often designated a critical load for nitrogen deposition. The critical loads of pollutants are defined as a:

7.3.7 "*...quantitative estimate of exposure to one or more pollutants below which significant harmful effects on specified sensitive elements of the environment do not occur according to present knowledge*"[46].

[44] APIS (2016) Ecosystem Services and air pollution impacts. Available at: http://www.apis.ac.uk/ecosystem-services-and-air-pollution-impacts. [Date Accessed: 06/02/20]

[45] Natural England (2016) Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC Conservation Objectives Supplementary Advice. Available at: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6318128569516032 [Date Accessed: 29/07/21]

[46] Coordination Centre for Effects (CCE). Critical load and level definitions. Available at: https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/Coordination_Centre_for_Effects [Date Accessed: 29/07/21]

7.3.8 Critical levels are defined as *"concentrations of pollutants in the atmosphere above which direct adverse effects on receptors, such as human beings, plants, ecosystems or materials, may occur according to present knowledge"*[47].

7.3.9 Natural England has a standard methodology for the assessment of traffic related air quality impacts under the Habitats Regulations which is relevant to the HRA of land use plans[48]. In addition, the Institute of Air Quality Management (IAQM)[49] and the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM)[50] have also prepared advice on the assessment of air quality impacts at designated sites. This guidance sets a number of thresholds for screening of Likely Significant (air quality) Effects (LSEs) at the HRA screening stage (Stage 1 of the HRA process) and methodologies for further Appropriate Assessment of air quality impacts where relevant.

7.3.10 In order to inform this Regulation 18 HRA air quality assessment, a preliminary screening assessment has been undertaken to determine LSE from air quality. The first step involved the identification of a study area over which the DPD may potentially increase traffic related emissions due to growth. Data obtained from the Office for National Statistics highlights the most common destinations for journeys to work undertaken by car or van arising from and finishing in the DPD area[51] (**Figure 7.1**). It is noted that these figures do not include journeys to work that both start and end in the DPD area. Two sites are located within this study area – Birklands to Bilhaugh SAC and Sherwood Forest ppSPA, as such these are considered further in the HRA process in terms of air quality impacts.

[47] Coordination Centre for Effects (CCE). Critical load and level definitions. Available at: https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/en/Coordination_Centre_for_Effects [Date Accessed: 29/07/21]

[48] Natural England (2018) Natural England's approach to advising competent authorities on the assessment of road traffic emissions under the Habitats Regulations (NEA001). Available at: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4720542048845824 [Date Accessed: 29/07/21]

[49] Holman et al (2020). A guide to the assessment of air quality impacts on designated nature conservation sites – version 1.1, Institute of Air Quality Management, London.

[50] CIEEM (2021) Advice on Ecological Assessment of Air Quality Impacts. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management. Winchester, UK.

[51] Office for National Statistics (2011) Location of usual residence and place of work by method of travel to work (2011 census data). Available at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/WU03UK/chart/1132462281 [Date Accessed: 29/07/21]

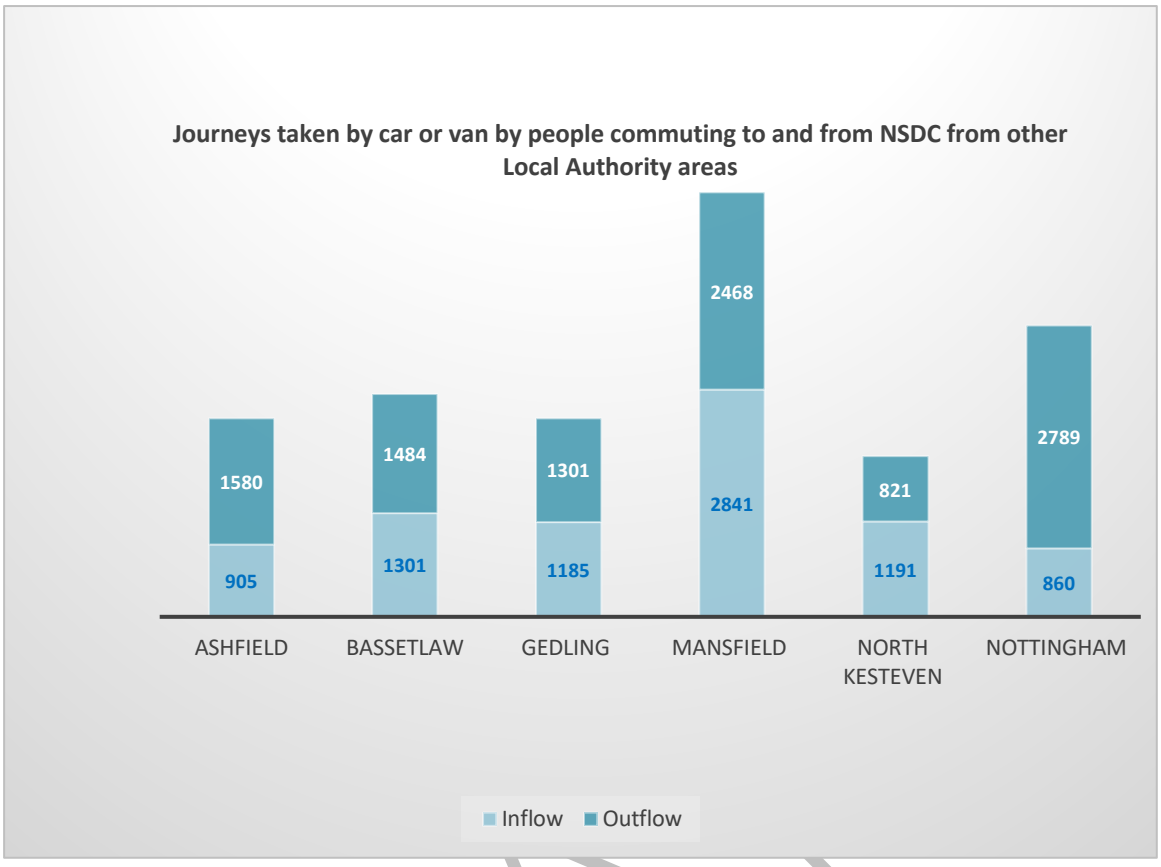

Figure 7.1: Inflow and outflow traffic over 1,000 AADT within the Newark and Sherwood (driving a car or van)

7.3.11 It is widely accepted that air quality impacts are greatest within 200m of a road source, decreasing with distance[52,53,54]. At the time of writing, traffic modelling data was not available for the DPD and as such this Regulation 18 HRA screening assessment focuses on determining whether there are roads within 200m of a European site, which may have the potential to result in increased traffic flows as a consequence of the DPD above thresholds set out in best practice methodologies, and where a European site has the potential to be sensitive to a reduction in air quality.

7.3.12 Air quality has been identified as a threat to the 'dry oak-dominated woodland' qualifying feature of Birklands to Bilhaugh SAC. Of particular concern is nitrogen and acidity.

7.3.13 **Table 7.1** summarises the critical levels and current nitrogen deposition at Birklands to Bilhaugh SAC. All data has been taken from Air Pollution Information Systems (APIS)[55].

[52] The Highways Agency, Transport Scotland, Welsh Assembly Government, The Department for Regional Development Northern Ireland (2007) Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Volume 11, Section 3, Part 1: Air Quality.

[53] Natural England (2016) The ecological effects of air pollution from road transport: an updated review. Natural England Commissioned Report NECR 199.

[54] Bignal, K., Ashmore, M. & Power, S. (2004) The ecological effects of diffuse air pollution from road transport. English Nature Research Report No. 580, Peterborough.

[55] Air Pollution Information Systems (APIS) Available at: http://www.apis.ac.uk/ [Date Accessed: 31/07/21]

Table 7.1: *Nitrogen Critical Loads at Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC*

Qualifying features	Relevant Nitrogen Critical Load Class	Empirical Critical Load (kg N/ha/yr)	Current Nitrogen Deposition (Kg N/ha/yr)
Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains (H9190)	Acidophilous Quercus – dominated woodland	10-15	Max: 31.3 Min: 31.3 Average: 31.3

7.3.14 The current levels of nitrogen deposition at Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC exceed the critical load for old acidophilous oak woods with *Quercus robur* on sandy plains. The current average nitrogen deposition is double that of the higher tier of the critical load for the qualifying feature.

7.3.15 Exceedance of the critical loads can modify the chemical status resulting in accelerating or damaging plant growth, altering vegetation structure and composition and causing loss of sensitive species[56].

7.3.16 The A616 passes in-between the two units of Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC. The A6075 runs to the south of the SAC and the A614 to the east. None of these strategic A roads pass within 200m of the SAC. However, the B6034 runs immediately adjacent to the eastern border of the south west section of the SAC. This route has the potential to be used by commuters to and from Neighbouring districts such as Mansfield District and Bassetlaw District. The Office for National Statistics commuting data[57] indicates that traffic flows over 1,000 AADT for these districts occurs as follows:

- Mansfield – inflow 2,841 / outflow 2,468
- Bassetlaw – inflow 1,301 / outflow 1,484

7.3.17 Although air quality was not identified as a threat or pressure on Sherwood Forest ppSPA, the SSSIs which under this area of land support many habitats which are sensitive to air pollution, upon which nightjar and woodlark populations depend. Given the diverse diet of these birds it is unlikely that a change in air quality will affect food availability. However, given their specific nesting requirements, impacts from air pollution upon these habitats has the potential to occur. Local air pollution sources in the area range from large farms, biomass and waste gas plants and main road traffic[58].

[56] Natural England (2016) Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC Supplementary Advice. Available at: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5179475394297856

[57] Location of usual residence and place of work by method of travel to work (2011 census data) Office for National Statistics, available at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/wu03uk/chart [Date accessed: 16/07/21]

[58] Clean Air Strategy https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/770715/clean-air-strategy-2019.pdf

7.3.18 **Table 7.2** summarises the critical loads and current nitrogen deposition for the SSSIs that coincide with Sherwood Forest ppSPA[59]. It is noted that not all habitat types listed below provide important habitat for nightjar and woodlarks. Nightjars can be found on heathlands, moorlands, in open woodland with clearings and in recently felled conifer plantations and feed on insects (moths and beetles)[60]. Woodlark feed on seeds and insects and require sparse, short grassy or heathy turf, together with bare ground, as they forage for food on the ground. They also require tussocky vegetation for nesting and scattered trees to use as song posts[61].

Table 7.2: *Nitrogen Critical Loads at SSSIs that coincide with Sherwood Forest ppSPA.*

Features	Relevant Nitrogen Critical Load Class	Empirical Critical Load (kg N/ha/yr)	Current Nitrogen Deposition (Kg N/ha/yr)
Clumber Park SSSI			
Acid grassland – Rumex Acetosella grassland	Inland dune siliceous grasslands	8-15	Max: 16.8 Min: 16.4 Average: 16.5
Acid grassland – Galium saxatile grassland	Non-Mediterranean dry acid and neutral closed grassland	10-15	
Acid grassland – Rumex acetosella lowland acid grassland			
Broad-leaved, mixed and yew woodland	Broadleaved deciduous woodland	10-20	Max: 27.9 Min: 26.8 Average: 27.2
Dwarf shrub heath	Dry heaths	10-20	Max: 16.8 Min: 16.4 Average: 16.5
Neutral grassland	Low and medium altitude hay meadows	20-30	
Invertebrate assemblage	No comparable habitat	N/a	Max: 16.6 Min: 12 Average: 14.9
Lowland open waters and their margins	No broad habitat assigned		
Assemblages of breeding birds			
Welbeck Lake SSSI			
Grey Heron	No broad habitat assigned	N/a	Max: 16.6 Min: 13.9 Average: 13.9
Lowland open water			
Thoresby Lake SSSI			
Acid grassland – Galium saxatile grassland	Non-Mediterranean dry acid and neutral closed grassland	10-15	Max: 16.4 Min: 16.4 Average: 16.4
Fen, marsh and swamp (Phragmites australis swamp and reed-beds)	Rich fens	15-30	
Birkland and Bilhaugh SSSI			
Broad-leaved, mixed and yew woodland (Quercus spp. Betula spp. Deschampsia flecuosa woodland)	Acidophilous Quercus – dominated woodland	10-15	Max: 31.1 Min: 31.1 Average: 31.1
Broad-leaved, mixed and yew woodland (Quercus robur, Pteridium aquilinum and Rubus fruticosus woodland)	Meso and eutrophic Quercus woodland	15-20	

[59] Air Pollution Information Systems (APIS) Available at: http://www.apis.ac.uk/ [Date Accessed: 31/07/21]

[60] RSPB. Bird A-Z. Available at: https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/bird-a-z/woodlark/ [Date Accessed: 31/07/21]

[61] RSPB. Land Management for Woodlarks. Available at: https://www.rspb.org.uk/our-work/conservation/conservation-and-sustainability/advice/conservation-land-management-advice/woodlarks/ [Date Accessed: 31/07/21]

Dwarf shrub heath	Dry heaths	10-20	Max: 19.2 Min: 19.2 Average: 19.2
Invertebrate assemblage	No comparable habitat	N/a	Max: 17.9 Min: 17.9 Average: 17.9
Birklands West and Ollerton Corner SSSI			
Dwarf shrub heath	Dry heaths	10-20	Max: 25.5 Min: 19.2 Average: 19.7
Invertebrate assemblage	No comparable habitat	N/a	Max: 17.9 Min: 15.4 Average: 17.4
Strawberry Hill Heaths SSSI			
Dwarf shrub heath (Calluna vulgaris – Deschampsia flexuosa heath)	Dry heaths	10-20	Max: 23.9 Min: 23.9 Average: 23.9
Dwarf shrub heath (Calluna vulgaris – Erica cinerea heath)			
Rainworth Heath SSSI			
Dwarf shrub heath (Calluna vulgaris – Deschampsia flexuosa heath)	Dry heaths	10-20	Max: 29.8 Min: 29.8 Average: 29.8
Dwarf shrub heath (Erica tetralix – Sphagnum compactum wet heath)	Northern wet heath: Erica tetralix dominated wet heath	10-20	

7.3.19 Current maximum nitrogen deposition exceeds the critical load for the majority of the features within each of the SSSIs.

7.3.20 As the ppSPA is composed of a number of components which are spread out over a large area, a number of strategic routes and non-strategic road links pass within 200m of the ppSPA. These routes are likely to be used by commuters to and from neighbouring districts such as Mansfield, Bassetlaw, Gedling and Ashfield. The Office for National Statistics commuting data[62] indicates that traffic flow over 1,000 AADT for these districts is as follows:

- Mansfield – inflow 2,841 / outflow 2,468
- Bassetlaw – inflow 1,301 / outflow 1,484
- Gedling – inflow 1,185 / outflow 1,301
- Ashfield – inflow 905 / outflow 1,580

7.3.21 Given the sensitivities of both Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC and Sherwood Forest ppSPA (in terms of habitats which supports woodlark and nightjar populations) to changes in air quality, both sites will be scoped for further consideration in the HRA process.

7.4 Public Access and Disturbance

7.4.1 Public access and disturbance can take a number of forms. It can include both physical and non-physical disturbance, which can be caused by urbanisation pressures and increased recreational activity.

[62] Location of usual residence and place of work by method of travel to work (2011 census data) Office for National Statistics, available at: https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/wu03uk/chart [Date accessed: 16/07/19]

7.4.2 These activities can result in damage to habitats through erosion and compaction, troubling of grazing stock, spreading invasive species, cat predation, dog fouling, litter and fly-tipping, tree climbing, wildfire and arson, noise, vibration, light pollution and vandalism. Typically, disturbance of habitats and species is the unintentional consequence of people's presence which can cause changes in bird behaviour at nesting and feeding sites and impact bird breeding success and survival.

7.4.3 Across the UK, public access and disturbance threats at European sites are often considered in terms of buffer distances. For recreational impacts, these are often determined through analysis of visitor and recreational survey data, baseline site information and take into consideration the proximity of new development.

7.4.4 As an example of where buffer distances have been derived for recreational impacts is the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Delivery Framework[63]. This makes recommendations for accommodating development while also protecting the SPA's qualifying features. This includes the recommendation of implementing a series of zones within which varying constraints would be placed upon development. In terms of recreational impacts, the Thames Basin Heaths SPA Delivery Framework states that within a 400m to 5km zone from the perimeter of a European Site, avoidance measures are considered necessary to avoid recreational impacts. It also notes that applications for large-scale development (i.e. those comprising more than 50 houses which are located between 5-7km from the edge of the European site) would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

7.4.5 Urbanisation effects relate to issues where development is located close to a European site boundary. These effects often include impacts such as cat predation, lighting (illumination), fly tipping, noise and vandalism. As with recreational impacts, urbanisation mitigation strategies are often implemented through the establishment of buffer zones. The Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Delivery Framework[64] makes recommendations for accommodating development while also protecting the SPA's qualifying features. A zone extending 400m from the SPA boundary concerns urbanisation (particularly predation of the chicks of ground-nesting birds by domestic cats). The Thames Basin Heaths SPA Delivery Framework concludes that the adverse effects of any net increase in residential development located within 400m of the SPA boundary could not be mitigated since this was the range within which cats could be expected to roam as a matter of routine and there was no realistic way of restricting their movements. As such, no new housing is to be located within this zone.

[63] Thames Basin Heaths Joint Strategic Partnership Board (2009). Thames Basin Heaths SPA Delivery Framework. https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/thames-basin-heaths-spa-delivery-framework.pdf [Date Accessed: 31/07/21].

[64] Thames Basin Heaths Joint Strategic Partnership Board (2009). Thames Basin Heaths SPA Delivery Framework. https://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/thames- basin-heaths-spa-delivery-framework.pdf [Date Accessed: 08/08/19].

7.4.6 Given the birds of importance at the Sherwood Forest ppSPA include some of the same species as those for which the Thames Basin Heaths SPA is designated (nightjar and woodlark), it is reasonable to assume that a similar buffer distance may apply. A study undertaken by Liley *et al*[65]. indicates a correlation which suggests that patches of heathland surrounded by a high human population are less likely to support nightjar (due to urbanisation effects). However, other factors may also contribute to distribution such as declining availability of foraging areas. The distance that these effects can be experienced range between 250 – 500m from developed land.

7.4.7 Research undertaken as part of the INTERREG IVB-Project "Tidal River Development" TIDE project has resulted in the development of the TIDE toolkit[66]. This aims to support managers in understanding the complexities of estuarine systems. It includes a 'Waterbird Disturbance Tool Kit' which provides a process whereby the level of potential disturbance (noise and visual disturbance) to waterbirds from a range of construction activities on or adjacent to wetland systems can be assessed. It is widely acknowledged that noise levels decrease from source. In terms of noise impacts, the toolkit indicates that plant generating 100dB(A) at source will likely result in an acceptable level of noise for birds (of below 70dB(A)) at a distance of 20m from the noise source. A maximum noise level of 120dB(A) at source would reduce to an acceptable level of noise for birds (of below 70dB(A)) at just over 300m from source[67]. In terms of visual disturbance, the toolkit indicates that flight response may be initiated between 100 – 150m from source, and up to 300m for more sensitive species such as Curlew.

7.4.8 Whilst this toolkit focuses on water birds, it gives an idea of a suitable buffer distances where impacts such as lighting and noise may be experienced by birds. This suggests that a distance of approximately 400m within which urbanisation effects may be experienced is reasonable and appropriate in terms of this assessment.

7.4.9 Due to the distance of the Humber Estuary and The Wash from the DPD area recreational and urbanisation impacts at these sites has not been considered further.

7.4.10 There is currently no established strategic approach to recreational mitigation at Biklands and Bilhaugh SAC. However, NSDC in partnership with other neighbouring authorities (Bassetlaw District Council), has commissioned a recreational impact assessment for the Clumber Park SSSI (which underpins part of the ppSPA) and Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC. This includes a visitor survey and breeding bird survey. The purpose of this is to establish a recreational zone of influence and a strategic approach to mitigation. This work was not available at the time of writing but will inform all future HRA work in this respect. Outputs are expected towards the end of 2021.

[65] Liley, D & Clarke, R.T. 2003. The impact of urban development and human disturbance on the numbers of nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* on heathlands in Dorset, England. Biological Conservation 114: 219- 230.

[66] Cutts N, Hemingway K and Spencer J (2013) The Waterbird Disturbance Mitigation Toolkit Informing Estuarine Planning and Construction Projects. Produced by the Institute of Estuarine and Coastal Studies (IECS). Version 3.2. Available at: https://www.tide-toolbox.eu/tidetools/waterbird_disturbance_mitigation_toolkit/ [Date Accessed: 20/07/21]

[67] The Waterbird Disturbance Mitigation Toolkit. TIDE tools - tide-toolbox.eu. Available at: https://gat04-live-1517c8a4486c41609369c68f30c8-aa81074.divio-media.org/filer_public/8f/bd/8fbdd7e9-ea6f-4474-869f-ec1e68a9c809/11367.pdf [Date Accessed: 20/07/21]

7.4.11 A visitor survey undertaken at the Sherwood Forest Country park in 2015[68] indicated that 78% of those surveyed accessed the forest from home. Approximately 47% of those surveyed were shown to have come from around the North Nottinghamshire area (with a focus around the M1 and A1 corridor), with around 27% from a wider area (the Midlands, Milton Keynes, Bedford, Birmingham and Leicester). 62% of respondents noted that previous visits / local knowledge is the main criteria which prompted their visit. The forest was the most popular place visited (97% of respondents) with 88% stopping at the Major Oak.

7.4.12 The Bassetlaw HRA contains a review of RSPB visitor survey data obtained from the Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre. It notes that in 2018/19 around 30% of visitors surveyed lived within 10 miles (16.1km) of the centre. The 2019/2020 visitor survey reviewed in the Bassetlaw HRA suggest that 60% of visitors live within a 60-minute drive of the site. The HRA notes that 2018/19 survey found that over 90% visitors drove to the site and concludes that this suggests a catchment of around 65km, based on an average driving speed of 40mph. A 65km search radius from the SAC and ppSPA covers the whole of the DPD plan area.

7.4.13 The SIP for Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC indicates that it is under threat from public access and disturbance impacts. It notes that the current visitor centre complex is located within the SAC and visitor pressure associated with this is preventing the restoration of the oak woodland to its full extent. Since preparation of the SIP the visitor centre has been moved out of the SAC itself to Edwinstowe, in order to provide an opportunity for habitat restoration. However, the visitor centre still represents a gateway to the forest and is only around 150m from the SAC itself. The recent use of the SAC as a public park has resulted in soil compaction, nutrient enrichment, direct loss of trees and introduction of invasive species[69].

7.4.14 In addition to recreational disturbance, other sources of disturbance associated with urban development can include noise, light and vibration. This has the potential to disturb species for which Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC is designated. Natural England supplementary advice[70] identifies illumination as a threat to the SAC. Biodiversity of the woodland has evolved with natural patterns of light and darkness, disturbance of those patterns can influence flora and fauna behaviour. For example, flowering and development of trees and plants can be modified, disrupting natural seasonal responses.

7.4.15 There are various recreational activities and uses of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA that are likely to attract visitors from a wide catchment area. Activities include Sherwood Forest Country Park and Visitor Centre, Rufford Abbey and Country Park and the Centre Parcs holiday resort near Sherwood Pines Forest.

7.4.16 Natural England recommend taking a risk-based approach to development plan making at the Sherwood Forest ppSPA in relation to the following impacts upon breeding nightjar and woodlark:

[68] Nottingham County Council. 2015. Sherwood Forest Country Park Survey of Visitors. Available at: https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/126996/sherwood_survey_2015_finalv2.pdf [Date Accessed: 01/08/21].

[69] Natural England (2015) Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC Site Improvement Plan. Available at: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6727956374224896 [Date Accessed: 31/07/21].

[70] Natural England (2016) Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC Conservation Objectives Supplementary Advice. Available at: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5179475394297856 [Date Accessed: 31/07/21].

- Disturbance to breeding birds from people, their pets and traffic;
- Loss, fragmentation and/or damage to breeding and/or feeding habitat;
- Bird mortality arising from domestic pets and/or predatory mammals and birds;
- Bird mortality arising from road traffic and/or wind turbines; and
- Pollution and/or nutrient enrichment of breeding habitats.

7.4.17 Given the sensitivities of both the Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC and Sherwood Forest ppSPA to public access and disturbance effects, these sites are both scoped in for further consideration in the HRA process.

7.5 Habitat fragmentation and loss

7.5.1 As noted in **Paragraph 6.4.9,** Natural England highlight habitat loss and fragmentation as a potential risk to Sherwood Forest ppSPA which should be considered when development plan making.

7.5.2 The DPD will not result in the direct loss of land within an area designated as a European site. However, there is potential for the DPD to result in the loss of habitat outside a European site which may be supporting habitat. Supporting habitat, also referred to as functionally linked habitat[71], may be located some distance from the European site. The fragmentation of habitats through the loss of connecting corridors would hinder the movement of qualifying species.

7.5.3 A detailed desk study has been undertaken as part of the Regulation 18 HRA screening process to determine potential areas where loss of supporting / functionally linked habitat has the potential to occur. This has drawn on Natural England SSSI IRZ data, IUCN data, magic, priority habitat inventory data and aerial photography. This review notes that there are areas of potential woodlark and nightjar habitat located outside land within the ppSPA. Given the existing fragmented nature of the ppSPA, any additional fragmentation of this habitat may have a significant effect on these bird populations. As such, habitat loss and fragmentation will therefore be considered further in this HRA process in respect of the ppSPA.

7.5.4 Habitat loss and fragmentation is not identified as a threat at Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC and is therefore not considered further in this assessment in relation this this SAC.

7.6 Hydrology

7.6.1 Both the Humber Estuary and The Wash are located downstream of the Plan area and are hydrologically connected by rivers which drain the area. Both sites are sensitive to water pollution.

[71] "*The term 'functional linkage' refers to the role or 'function' that land or sea beyond the boundary of a European site might fulfil in terms of ecologically supporting the populations for which the site was designated or classified. Such land is therefore 'linked' to the European site in question because it provides an important role in maintaining or restoring the population of qualifying species at favourable conservation status*". Source: Natural England. 2016. Commissioned Report. NECR207. Functional linkage: How areas that are functionally linked to European sites have been considered when they may be affected by plans and projects - a review of authoritative decisions.

7.6.2 A Water Cycle Study (WCS) was undertaken to inform the plan review[72]. This updated previous studies in light of planning legislation, River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) updates and current water utility forward planning. The WCS notes that according to Severn Trent Water's (STW) Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP)[73] details for the Newark Water Supply Zone (WSZ), proposed development within the district is not proposed to exceed that for which STW are planning. There is therefore no need to evaluate the impacts of water supply in the district independently of the WRMP and its HRA[74]. Water supply issues are therefore not considered further within the HRA process.

7.6.3 The Water Framework Directive (WFD) provides an indication of the health of the water environment and whether a water body is at good status or potential. This is determined through an assessment of a range of elements relating to the biology and chemical quality of surface waters and quantitative and chemical quality of groundwater. To achieve good ecological status or potential, good chemical status or good groundwater status every single element assessed must be at good status or better. If one element is below its threshold for good status, then the whole water body's status is classed below good. Surface water bodies can be classed as high, good, moderate, poor or bad status.

7.6.4 The WFD sets out areas which require special protection. These include areas designated for "*the protection of habitats or species where the maintenance or improvement of the status of water is an important factor in their protection including relevant Natura 2000 sites designated under Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive) and Directive 79/409/EEC (the Birds Directive)*"[75].

7.6.5 A River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) provides a framework for protecting and enhancing the benefits provided by the water environment. To achieve this, and because water and land resources are closely linked, it also informs decisions on land-use planning.

7.6.6 The Humber RBMP[76] sets out a number of water management issues to rivers within this river basin as follows:

- Physical modifications;
- Pollution from wastewater;
- Pollution from towns, cities and transport;

[72] White Young Green. 2016. Newark and Sherwood Water Cycle Study.

[73] Severn Trent (2019) Water Resources Management Plan 2019. Available at: https://www.severntrent.com/content/dam/stw-plc/our-plans/severn-trent-water-resource-management-plan.pdf [Date Accessed: 31/07/21]

[74] Ricardo (2019) Final Water Resources Management Plan 2019 Habitats Regulations Assessment. Available at: https://www.severntrent.com/content/dam/stw-plc/water-resource-zones/2019/WRMP19-HRA-Final-Report.pdf [Date Accessed: 3031/07/21]

[75] Official Journal of the European Communities (2000) Directive 2000/60/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 October 2000 establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy. Available at: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:5c835afb-2ec6-4577-bdf8-756d3d694eeb.0004.02/DOC_1&format=PDF [Date Accessed: 31/07/21]

[76] Environment Agency (2015) Humber River Basin Management Plan. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718328/Humber_RBD_Part_1_river_basin_management_plan.pdf [Date Accessed: 31/07/21]

- Changes to the natural flow and level of water;
- Negative effects of invasive non-native species;
- Pollution from rural areas; and
- Pollution from abandoned mines.

7.6.7 An HRA was prepared alongside the development of the Humber RBMP[77]. This concluded the following with respect to impacts on European sites: *"the updated RBMP … proposed measures are not likely to have any significant effects on any European sites, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects".* It notes that HRA requirements will continue to apply to lower tier plan and project level assessments.

7.6.8 The Anglian River Basin Management Plan (RBMP)[78] provides a framework for protecting and enhancing the benefits provided by the water environment. To achieve this, and because water and land resources are closely linked, it also informs decisions on land-use planning. It provides strategic level policy guidance in relation to baseline classification of water bodies, statutory objectives for protected areas and water bodies and a summary of measures to achieve statutory protection.

7.6.9 The Anglian RBMP outlines a number of measures to tackle water management issues and achieve a series of environmental objectives set out within the plan. Local measures are set out on a catchment basis. An HRA was undertaken alongside the preparation of the RBMP[79]. This HRA concluded that, at the strategic plan level, and given the range of potential mitigation options available, the RBMP is not likely to have any significant effects on any European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects. It notes the requirement for project level HRA where necessary for lower tier plans.

7.6.10 Development within the DPD has the potential to change water quality which may affect these downstream designations. As such, hydrology effects at the Humber Estuary SAC, Humber Estuary SPA, Humber Estuary Ramsar, The Wash SPA, The Wash Ramsar and The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC will be considered further in the HRA process.

[77] Environment Agency (2015) Humber River basin management plan HRA. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/496431/RBMP_HRA_Humber_FINAL_Jan_2016.pdf [Date Accessed: 31/07/21]

[78] Environment Agency (2015) Anglian River Basin Management Plan. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/718327/Anglian_RBD_Part_1_river_basin_management_plan.pdf [Date Accessed: 25/09/20]

[79] Environment Agency (2015). River basin management plan for the Anglian River Basin District Habitats Regulations Assessment Updated December 2015. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/496430/RBMP_HRA_Anglian_FINAL_Jan_2016.pdf [Date Accessed: 25/09/20]

7.7 Summary of threats and pressures

7.7.1 **Table 7.3** provides a summary of the scoping outputs in terms of European sites which will form the basis of the HRA screening assessment.

Table 7.3: *Pressures and threats for European sites that may potentially be affected by the DPD*

	Threats and pressures			
European sites	**Air Pollution**	**Public access/ disturbance**	**Habitat fragmentation / loss**	**Hydrology**
Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC	✓	✓	×	×
Sherwood Forest ppSPA	✓	✓	✓	×
Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar	×	×	×	✓
Humber Estuary SPA	×	×	×	✓
Humber Estuary Ramsar	×	×	×	✓
The Wash SPA	×	×	×	✓
The Wash Ramsar	×	×	×	✓
The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC	×	×	×	✓

8 DPD Screening (HRA Stage 1)

8.1 Policy and allocations pre-screening

8.1.1 Each proposed policy and allocation (both preferred and alternative approaches) of the Amended Allocations & Development Management DPD – Options Report have been appraised against the HRA pre-screening criteria (see **Table 4.1**), taking into consideration case law and best practice. **Appendix D** provides the output of this pre-screening exercise.

8.1.2 It is noted that this screening exercise will need to be updated as the plan review continues and policies are refined and options selected, with a final screening undertaken of the full Publication Version of the DPD at Regulation 19.

8.1.3 It is concluded that LSEs, either from the DPD alone or in- combination with other plans or projects, could be screened out for a number of allocations and policy options. This is because they fell into the following categories (see **Table 4.1** for a description of each category):

- Category B: Policies listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals;
- Category D: Environmental protection / site safeguarding; and
- Category F: Policies or proposals that cannot lead to development or other change.

8.1.4 A number of policies and allocation options were however considered likely to have an LSE on the basis of this assessment as they fell into the following categories:

- Category I: Policies or proposals with a likely significant effect on a site alone; and
- Category L: Policies or proposals which might be likely to have a significant effect in combination.

8.1.5 LSEs were identified at the following European sites:

- **Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC** – air pollution and public access and disturbance;
- **Humber Estuary SPA -** hydrology;
- **Humber Estuary SAC -** hydrology;
- **Humber Estuary Ramsar -** hydrology;
- **The Wash SPA -** hydrology;
- **The Wash Ramsar -** hydrology; and
- **The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC –** hydrology.

8.1.6 In addition, to ensure a risk-based approach to the HRA has been adopted, consideration has also been given to the following potential proposed SPA.

- **Sherwood Forest ppSPA -** air pollution, public access and disturbance and habitat loss / fragmentation.

8.2 Screening Conclusion

8.2.1 As required under Regulation 105 of the Habitats Regulations, an assessment has been undertaken of LSEs of the Regulation 18 DPD upon European sites. The pre-screening checks (**Appendix D**) indicate that the DPD has the potential to have LSEs on a number of European sites, both alone, and for a number of policies / allocations, in-combination and upon the undesignated Sherwood Forest ppSPA. The DPD is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any European site. The screening assessment takes no account of mitigation measures that the DPD may incorporate to mitigate adverse impacts upon European sites. It is therefore concluded that the DPD will be screened into the HRA process. The next stage of the HRA process will be Stage 2 - Appropriate Assessment.

9 Conclusions and Next Steps

9.1 Appropriate Assessment – HRA Stage 2

9.1.1 It is concluded that the DPD will be screened in for Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment because, taking no account of mitigation measures that the plan may incorporate, it is considered that it is likely to have a significant effect on a European site.

9.1.2 The purpose of the Appropriate Assessment stage is to undertake an objective scientific assessment of the implications of the Local Plan upon the qualifying features of each European site in light of its conservation objectives. It will be undertaken alongside the plan's development to ensure the outputs are incorporated as effectively as possible.

9.1.3 The following European sites have been screened into the HRA process and LSEs from the Local Plan, alone and in-combination, will be explored in further detail through an Appropriate Assessment (stage 2 of the HRA process).

- Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC;
- Humber Estuary SPA;
- Humber Estuary SAC;
- Humber Estuary Ramsar;
- The Wash SPA;
- The Wash Ramsar;
- The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC;

9.1.4 In addition, the following proposed potential SPA will also be considered in the Appropriate Assessment to take a risk based approach to the assessment at this site.

- Sherwood Forest ppSPA

9.1.5 The HRA Appropriate Assessment will focus on a consideration of the following impacts:

- Air quality;
- Public access and disturbance;
- Habitat loss and fragmentation; and
- Hydrology.

9.2 Next steps

9.2.1 The purpose of this report is to ensure that the HRA forms an integral element of the plan-making process and that best practice is followed.

9.2.2 The HRA screening process will be revisited as part of the Regulation 19 stage of the plan making process if new policies emerge or existing policy proposals are modified following the Regulation 18 Local Plan consultation stage.

9.2.3 Stage 2 of the HRA process – the Appropriate Assessment - will now be undertaken to better define LSEs upon European sites. An HRA Report will then be prepared at the Regulation 19 stage of the plan making process to support the Council, as the Competent Authority, make the Integrity Test in terms of the HRA.

9.2.4 It is considered best practice to engage with Natural England (and other stakeholders) upon the outputs of the screening exercise and also upon the scope of the HRA appropriate assessment. This ensures that all parties are in agreement with the direction of the HRA.

9.2.5 The Regulation 19 HRA report (which will detail the outputs of Stages 1 and 2 of the HRA process) will be submitted to Natural England for formal consultation. The Council must 'have regard' to Natural England's representations under the provisions of Regulations 63(3) and 105(2) prior to making a final decision as to whether they will 'adopt' the conclusions set out within the final HRA report as their own.

Appendix A: In-combination assessment

Plans and Policies	Plan Status	Proposed development – Key elements of the Plan that could cause in-combination effects	Summary of HRA findings	Potential in-combination Likely Significant Effect (LSE)
Nottinghamshire County Council Waste Local Plan[1]	Current Waste Plan was adopted in January 2002 The current waste local plan is being progressively replaced by the Replacement Waste Local Plan, which is being prepared in two parts; the Waste Core Strategy (Adopted 2013) and the Waste Sites and Policies Document. Consultation on the Issues and Options (Reg 18) was undertaken in 2020.	Objectives: Strategic objectives of the Waste Core Strategy: • Strengthen local economy; • Care for the environment; • Community well-being; • Energy and climate; • Sustainable transport; • Meet future needs; and • High quality design and operation. These are reflected in the plan review (issues and options report). The issues and options paper sets out broad locations for provision of waste management facilities. These are in or close to the main urban areas where most people live and work and where the majority of our waste is produced. Larger facilities are seen as being most suitable within the Nottingham and Mansfield/Ashfield areas with smaller/medium sized facilities to serve Worskop, Retford and Newark.	Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Joint Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Core Strategy and Nottinghamshire Minerals Core Strategy - Preliminary Screening Report (July 2011)[2] Outcome: In view of Natural England's advice it was considered premature to consider the potential for in-combination effects in the report. There is no HRA available at this time or the waste plan review.	Yes. This plan may increase vehicle movements in the study area and emissions to air. This plan has the potential to trigger LSEs in terms of air quality in-combination with the DPD.

[1] Nottinghamshire County Council (2002) Adopted Waste Local Plan. Available at: https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/109140/wastelocalplan.pdf [Date Accessed: 02/08/21]

[2] WSP Environment & Energy (2011) HRA for the Joint Nottinghamshire and Nottingham Waste Core Strategy and Nottinghamshire Minerals Core Strategy - Preliminary Screening Report. Available at: https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/2558/preliminary-screening-report.pdf [Date Accessed: 02/08/21]

Plans and Policies	Plan Status	Proposed development – Key elements of the Plan that could cause in-combination effects	Summary of HRA findings	Potential in-combination Likely Significant Effect (LSE)
Nottinghamshire County Council Minerals Local Plan[3]	The Nottinghamshire Minerals Plan was adopted in March 2021.	The Minerals Local Plan sets out the approach to minerals provision in Nottinghamshire up to 2036.	Nottinghamshire Minerals Plan HRA Screening Report (March 2019)[4] Outcome: The HRA found that the test of LSEs identified no linking impact pathways between site allocations in the Plan and the European sites (Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA). The HRA also considered Sherwood Forest ppSPA. Due to the distance between Bestwood II quarry and the ppSPA, it was considered that there were no linking pathways for LSEs on the ppSPA directly. However, the Bestwood II North site allocation is to take place within plantation woodland which could potentially provide suitable habitat for nightjar and woodlark. Therefore, it was concluded that the proposed development of land raises the potential for LSEs on SPA bird populations due to direct landtake and disturbance.	Yes. This plan may increase vehicle movements in the study area and emissions to air. This plan has the potential to trigger LSEs in terms of air quality in-combination with the DPD.

[3] Nottinghamshire County Council (2021) Nottinghamshire Minerals Local Plan. Available at: https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/3764136/adopted-minerals-local-plan.pdf [Date Accessed: 31/07/21]

[4] AECOM (2019) Nottinghamshire Minerals Plan HRA Screening Report. Available at: https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/3764136/adopted-minerals-local-plan.pdf [Date Accessed: 02/08/21]

Plans and Policies	Plan Status	Proposed development – Key elements of the Plan that could cause in-combination effects	Summary of HRA findings	Potential in-combination Likely Significant Effect (LSE)
			There is no legal obligation to conduct an appropriate assessment of the potential for adverse effects on the integrity of possible European sites. However, Natural England advises that local authorities take a 'risk-based approach' to forward planning and decision making. The HRA therefore provided mitigation/restrictions for Bestwood II in order to ensure that impacts on potential functionally linked land for nightjar and woodlark are investigated and mitigated before that land is lost.	
Nottinghamshire Local Transport Plan[5]	The current Local Transport Plan (The third Local Transport Plan) will run from 2011 to 2026. It is made up of two separate documents; the Local Transport Plan strategy and the Implementation Plan.	Objectives: The strategic transport goals for Nottinghamshire: • provide a reliable, resilient transport system which supports a thriving economy and growth whilst encouraging sustainable and healthy travel;	Nottinghamshire Local Transport Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment – Screening Report (March 2011)[6] Outcome: The HRA states that the policies and strategies of the LTP3 do not give direct or in-combination effects and therefore the Plan was screened out from requiring an Appropriate Assessment.	Yes. This plan will trigger change or development adjacent to the Plan area. There is potential for in-combination air quality impacts. Promotion of alternative modes of transport to the private car may result in positive LSEs in-combination with the DPD

[5] Nottinghamshire County Council (2019) Local Transport Plan. Available at: https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/transport/public-transport/plans-strategies-policies/local-transport-plan#ltps [Date Accessed: 31/07/21]

[6] URS Scott Wilson (2011) Nottinghamshire Local Transport Plan HRA – Screening Report. Available at: https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/123086/habitats-regs-assess-report.pdf [Date Accessed: 31/07/21]

Plans and Policies	Plan Status	Proposed development – Key elements of the Plan that could cause in-combination effects	Summary of HRA findings	Potential in-combination Likely Significant Effect (LSE)
		• improve access to key services, particularly enabling employment and training opportunities; and • minimise the impacts of transport on people's lives, maximise opportunities to improve the environment and help tackle carbon emissions. Potential for in-combination effects: LTP3 includes the prospect of undefined new roads, new road schemes, and public transport infrastructure. Worksop Bus Station could potentially take place within a distance of 2km of a possible future Sherwood Forest SPA, and could potentially lead to likely significant effects (without mitigation)	Nottinghamshire County Council will be required to undertake HRA screening on each project. The HRA concluded that some mitigation must be applied to reach a conclusion of no LSEs on European designated sites. As part of the mitigation local transport authority should avoid deteriorations in air quality within 200m of Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC and avoid deteriorations in air quality, noise and light pollution within 200m of Sherwood Forest ppSPA. It is noted that this screening exercise was undertaken before the 2018 'Sweetman ruling' (see Section 3 of main report for further details).	
Bassetlaw District Council	The Draft Bassetlaw Local Plan November 2020 included strategic policies and proposed site allocations and was consulted on in	Objectives: The Draft Bassetlaw Local Plan includes proposed strategic policies for the period 2018 to 2035 for the delivery of 3080 new homes – when taking into consideration existing commitments and completions there will be provision of 10,013 homes over the plan period, 10 gypsy and traveller pitches and 168ha of general employment land.	Bassetlaw Local Plan Habitat Regulations Assessment – Screening Assessment and Appropriate Assessment (2020)[8] Outcome: The HRA screening stage concluded that policies and site allocations in the Local Plan either alone or in-combination, will not result in LSEs on the integrity of the European sites (Birklands and	Yes. This plan will trigger change or development adjacent to the Plan area. There is potential for in-combination air quality, fragmentation and public access and disturbance LSEs.

[8] LUC (November, 2020) Bassetlaw Local Plan Habitat Regulations Assessment – Screening Assessment and Appropriate Assessment. Available at: https://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/media/5991/hra-report-for-further-reg-18-consutlation_autumn-2020.pdf [Date Accessed: 31/07/21]

Plans and Policies	Plan Status	Proposed development – Key elements of the Plan that could cause in-combination effects	Summary of HRA findings	Potential in-combination Likely Significant Effect (LSE)
	November 2020-January 2021[7]. Upon adoption, the Bassetlaw Plan will replace the 2011 Core strategy & Development Management Policies DPD.	Potential for in-combination effects: Some proposed potential sites are located within or in close proximity to Sherwood Forest ppSPA.	Bilhaugh SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC, Thorne Moor SAC and Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA). The potential for LSEs is limited to Sherwood Forest ppSPA as a result of: • Physical loss or damage to off-site habitat; • Noise/vibration and light pollution to off-site habitat; • Air pollution; • Impacts of recreation; and • Cat predation. The Appropriate Assessment examined detail regarding the impact pathways (for noise/vibration and light pollution to off-site habitat) and the incorporation of recommended mitigation measures within relevant policies. It concluded that no adverse effects on integrity of the ppSPA would occur as a result of the impact types listed above, with the exception of air pollution. The Appropriate Assessment concluded that adverse effects on the integrity of Sherwood ppSPA as a result of the Local Plan alone or in-	

[7] Bassetlaw District Council (2020) Draft Bassetlaw Local Plan. Available at: https://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/media/6023/draft-bassetlaw-local-plan-2020-full-version.pdf [Date Accessed: 31/07/21]

Plans and Policies	Plan Status	Proposed development – Key elements of the Plan that could cause in-combination effects	Summary of HRA findings	Potential in-combination Likely Significant Effect (LSE)
			combination cannot be ruled out in relation to air pollution due to insufficient evidence available. Therefore, further information relating to traffic data, as well as consultation with Natural England, will be required.	
Mansfield District Council	The Mansfield Local Plan was adopted in September 2020[9].	Objectives: At least 6500 new homes proposed for 2013 to 2033 (Mansfield urban area - 90% and Warsop Parish - 10%) At least 41 hectares of employment land from 2013 to 2033. Up to 17,240 sqm of retail and leisure floorspace between 2017 and 2033.	Local Plan Publication Final Habitat Regulations Assessment (2019)[10] Outcome: This comprised an AA of impacts upon the Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC and Sherwood Forest ppSPA. This focused specifically upon recreational impacts, urbanisation impacts, habitat fragmentation and air quality. Following inclusion of suitable policy wording in the plan around publicly accessible green space, green infrastructure and biodiversity the HRA reached a conclusion of no adverse effect on site integrity at any European site.	Yes. This plan will trigger change or development adjacent to the Plan area. There is potential for in-combination air quality, fragmentation and public access and disturbance LSEs.
Ashfield District Council	Ashfield District Council resolved at its	The council is currently collating an evidence base to inform the emerging local plan in	No HRA has been undertaken to inform the emerging plan.	Yes.

[9] Mansfield District Council (2020) Mansfield District Local Plan Adopted Plan. Available at: https://www.mansfield.gov.uk/downloads/file/1645/mdc-adopted-local-plan-2020 [Date Accessed: 01/08/21]

[10] Mansfield District Council in partnership with AECOM (2019) Final Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Mansfield District Council Local Plan. Available at: https://www.mansfield.gov.uk/downloads/file/1667/mdc-final-hra-dec-2019 [Date Accessed: 01/08/21]

Plans and Policies	Plan Status	Proposed development – Key elements of the Plan that could cause in-combination effects	Summary of HRA findings	Potential in-combination Likely Significant Effect (LSE)
	meeting on 6th September 2018 to withdraw the Local Plan 2016 and commence development of a New Local Plan immediately (Local Plan 2018 to 2037)[11]. The current Local Plan (Adopted 2002) set out a development framework for the Plan Period 1991 to 2011.	particular in relation to opportunities and constraints.		This plan will trigger change or development adjacent to the Plan area. There is potential for in-combination air quality, fragmentation and public access and disturbance LSEs.
Gedling Borough Council	The Council adopted the Aligned Core Strategy (Part 1 Local Plan) on 10th September 2014. The Local Planning Document (Part 2 Local Plan) was adopted 18th July 2018[12].	The objectives of the adopted plan include: 7,250 new homes over the Plan period. Gedling Borough is also to provide 10 hectares of industrial/warehousing land and 23,000sqm of office space over the Plan period to 2028.	Gedling Borough Council Habitats Regulations Assessment (May 2016)[13] Outcome: The HRA concluded that there are no LSEs on the Sherwood Forest ppSPA, and therefore an Appropriate Assessment is not required.	Yes. This plan will trigger change or development adjacent to the Plan area. There is potential for in-combination air quality, fragmentation and public access and disturbance LSEs.

[11] Ashfield District Council Emerging Local Plan. Available at: https://www.ashfield.gov.uk/planning-building-control/local-plan/emerging-local-plan/ [Date Accessed: 02/08/21]

[12] Gedling Borough Council (2018) Local Planning Document Part 2 Local Plan. Available at: https://www.gedling.gov.uk/media/gedlingboroughcouncil/documents/planningpolicy/acsandlpd/LPD.pdf [Date Accessed: 02/08/21]

[13] Gedling Borough Council (2016) Habitat Regulations Assessment. Available at: https://www.gedling.gov.uk/lpdexamination/media/documents/planningbuildingcontrol/localplanningdocument/HRA-May2016.pdf [Date Accessed: 02/08/21]

Plans and Policies	Plan Status	Proposed development – Key elements of the Plan that could cause in-combination effects	Summary of HRA findings	Potential in-combination Likely Significant Effect (LSE)
	Gedling Borough Council is preparing the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan with Broxtowe Borough Council, Nottingham City Council and Rushcliffe Borough Council to help guide future development across their combined areas. This Strategic Plan will form Part 1 of Gedling Borough Council's Local Plan and replace the Aligned Core Strategy adopted in 2014.			
Greater Nottinghamshire Planning Partnership	The Partnership includes: the Councils of Broxtowe, Erewash, Gedling, Nottingham City and Rushcliffe together with the Hucknall part of Ashfield District, and the two associated County Councils of Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. The aim of the partnership is to	The Partnership is currently working on a single joint evidence base spanning the whole of Greater Nottingham, to ensure a consistent approach to strategic policies. Consultation was undertaken on growth options in 2021. Consultation is currently taking place on a blue-green infrastructure strategy (until 13 August 2021)	The evidence base does not include HRA work to date. This will be kept under review as this HRA progresses.	Yes. This plan will trigger change or development adjacent to the Plan area. There is potential for in-combination air quality, fragmentation and public access and disturbance LSEs.

Plans and Policies	Plan Status	Proposed development – Key elements of the Plan that could cause in-combination effects	Summary of HRA findings	Potential in-combination Likely Significant Effect (LSE)
	prepare statutory strategic development plans which are consistent and provide a coherent policy framework across Greater Nottingham.			
West Lindsey District Council	The West Lindsey Local Plan was formally replaced by the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan on 24th April 2017.	Central Lincolnshire covers the combined areas of the City of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey. The adopted plan is currently being reviewed. Consultation on the Draft Central Lincolnshire Local Plan has now commenced (closes 24 August 2021) [14]. Objectives of the emerging Central Lincolnshire Local Plan include: The housing requirement for Central Lincolnshire is 1,060-1,325 dwellings per year, or between 23,320 and 29,150 dwellings between 2018 and 2040.	Central Lincolnshire HRA of the Consultation version of the Local Plan (2021)[15]. Outcome: The HRA screening concluded that the local plan has the potential to have a LSE on the following European sites: • The Wash SPA/ Ramsar • The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC • Humber Estuary SPA/ Ramsar • Humber Estuary SAC It concludes that these will be investigated further through an Appropriate Assessment.	Yes. This plan will trigger change or development adjacent to the Plan area. There is potential for in-combination air quality, fragmentation and public access and disturbance LSEs.
North Kesteven District Council	The North Kesteven Local Plan was formally replaced by the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan on 24th April 2017.			

[14] Central Lincolnshire (2021) Local Plan Review. Available at: https://central-lincs.inconsult.uk/CLLP.Draft.Local.Plan/consultationHome [Date Accessed: 02/08/21]

[15] Central Lincolnshire (2021) Habitats Regulations Assessment (Stage 1 – Screening) of the Central Lincolnshire Consultation Local Plan. Main Report. Available at: https://central-lincs.inconsult.uk/CLLP.Draft.Local.Plan/consultationHome [Date Accessed: 02/08/21]

Plans and Policies	Plan Status	Proposed development – Key elements of the Plan that could cause in-combination effects	Summary of HRA findings	Potential in-combination Likely Significant Effect (LSE)
South Kesteven District Council	The South Kesteven Local Plan was adopted in January 2020[16].	Objectives: 16,125 dwellings across the period 2011 to 2036 9 plots for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation from 2016 - 2036. 179.2 hectares of employment land.	South Kesteven District Council Local Plan 2011-2036 Habitat Regulations Assessment[17] Outcome: This HRA concluded that the policies within the South Kesteven Local Plan are not likely to have any LSEs on any Natura 2000 sites. South Kesteven District Council Local Plan 2011-2036. Habitats Regulations Assessment Addendum (September 2019)[18] Outcome: The report took into consideration the Sweetman Ruling and concluded that the Main Modifications will not have an LSE on the Natura 2000 sites, either alone, or in combination with other plans and projects.	Yes. This plan will trigger change or development adjacent to the Plan area. There is potential for in-combination air quality, fragmentation and public access and disturbance LSEs.

[16] South Kesteven District Council (January, 2020) South Kesteven District Council Local Plan 2011 - 2036. Available at: http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=26202 [Date Accessed: 02/08/21]

[17] South Kesteven District Council, Habitats Regulations Assessment. Available at: http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=24252&p=0 [Date Accessed: 02/08/21]

[18] South Kesteven District Council (2019) Habitats regulations Assessment Addendum. Available at: http://www.southkesteven.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=25269 [Date Accessed: 02/08/21]

Plans and Policies	Plan Status	Proposed development – Key elements of the Plan that could cause in-combination effects	Summary of HRA findings	Potential in-combination Likely Significant Effect (LSE)
Melton Borough Council	The Melton Local Plan 2011 -2036 was adopted on the 10th October 2018[19].	Objectives: 6,125 new homes over the plan period from 2011-2036. 20 hectares of employment land as part of the Melton South Sustainable Neighbourhood, 10 hectares as extensions to the Asfordby Business Park and 1 hectare of office-based employment at Melton Mowbray.	Melton Local Plan: Submission (Publication) Habitats Regulations Assessment Report (October 2016)[20] Outcome: The HRA concluded that a number of the policies may result in LSEs on European sites, in relation to offsite damage/disturbance to habitats and non-physical disturbance, increased air pollution and increased recreational pressures. Habitats Regulations Assessment - Technical Note (June 2017)[21] Outcome: All findings of the HRA AA of the pre-submission Local Plan remain valid and it was concluded that the Local Plan would not have an adverse effect upon the integrity of the Natura 2000 Network.	Yes. This plan will trigger change or development adjacent to the Plan area. There is potential for in-combination air quality, fragmentation and public access and disturbance LSEs.
Rushcliffe Borough Council	Rushcliffe Borough Council adopted the Local Plan Part 1: Core	Objectives: 13,150 new homes between 2011-2028.	Rushcliffe Local Plan Part 2: Land and Planning Policies. Habitats	Yes. This plan will trigger change or development adjacent to the Plan

[19] Melton Borough Council Local Plan. Available at: https://www.meltonplan.co.uk [Date Accessed: 02/08/21]

[20] LUC (2016) Melton Brough Local Plan HRA. Available at: http://www.melton.gov.uk/downloads/file/3325/mbcwp3_melton_local_plan_submission_publication_consultation_habitat_regulations_assessment_report_luc_october_2016pdf [Date Accessed02/08/21]

[21] LUC (2017) Habitats Regulations Assessment Technical Note. Available at: https://40598510-d83b-48fe-b4fd-63400f103e39.filesusr.com/ugd/d246bd_859aadc50e8e40628c3cac3b16ccfa6e.pdf [Date Accessed: 02/08/21]

Plans and Policies	Plan Status	Proposed development – Key elements of the Plan that could cause in-combination effects	Summary of HRA findings	Potential in-combination Likely Significant Effect (LSE)
	Strategy on the 22nd December 2014. The Rushcliffe Local Plan Part 2: Land and Planning Policies was formally adopted on the 8th October 2019. Broxtowe Borough, Gedling Borough, Nottingham City and Rushcliffe Borough Councils are developing the Greater Nottingham Strategic Plan which sets out the policies to help guide future development up to 2038. Details in relation to this plan are set out above.	Minimum of 20 hectares of employment land will be identified.	Regulations Assessment (April 2018)[22] Outcome: The HRA concluded that there are no LSEs, either alone, or in combination, on the Sherwood Forest ppSPA, and therefore an Appropriate Assessment is not required.	area. There is potential for in-combination air quality, and public access and disturbance LSEs.

[22] Rushcliffe Borough Council (2018) Local Plan Part 2 Habitat Regulations Assessment. Available at: https://www.rushcliffe.gov.uk/media/1rushcliffe/media/documents/pdf/planningandbuilding/planningpolicy/lp2examination/SUB13%20Habitats%20Regulation%20Assessment%20Screening%20of%20Likely%20Significant%20Effect.pdf [Date Accessed: 02/08/21]

Appendix B: European Site Conservation Objectives and Threats and Pressures

Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC[1]

Conservation objectives:

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;

- 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 qualifying natural habitats rely

Qualifying Features:

H9190. Old acidophilous oak woods with *Quercus robur* on sandy plains; Dry oak-dominated woodland

Threats and Pressures at European site which may be affected by DPD[2,3]:

- Air pollution – impact of nitrogen deposition and acidification; and
- Public access and disturbance.

Sherwood Forest ppSPA

No conclusion has been reached about the possible future classification of parts of Sherwood Forest as a SPA for its breeding bird interest. Natural England advises[4]:

"a precautionary approach should be adopted by LPAs which ensures that reasonable and proportionate steps have been taken in order to minimise, as far as possible, any potential adverse effects from development on the breeding populations of nightjar and woodlark in the Sherwood Forest area".

Bird species listed on Annex 1 of the European Wild Birds Directive:

European nightjar (Breeding) *Caprimulgus europaeus;* and
Woodlark (Breeding) *Lullula arborea.*

Threats and Pressures at the site which may be affected by DPD:

- Disturbance to breeding birds from people, their pets and traffic;

[1] Natural England (2018) Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC Conservation Objectives. Available at: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6070092765069312 [Date Accessed: 29/07/21]

[2] Natural England (2015) Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC SIP. Available at: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5351066822508544 [Date Accessed: 29/07/21]

[3] Natural England (2016) Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC Conservation Objectives Supplementary Advice. Available at: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6318128569516032 [Date Accessed: 29/07/21]

[4] Natural England (2014) Advice note to Local Planning Authorities regarding the consideration of likely effects on the breeding population of nightjar and woodlark in the Sherwood Forest region. Available at: https://www.mansfield.gov.uk/downloads/file/329/natural-england-s-advice-notes-on-the-sherwood-ppspa-2014 [Date Accessed: 29/07/21]

- Loss, fragmentation and/or damage to breeding and/or feeding habitat;
- Bird mortality arising from domestic pets and/or predatory mammals and birds;
- Bird mortality arising from road traffic and/or wind turbines; and
- Pollution and/or nutrient enrichment of breeding habitats.

Humber Estuary SAC[5]

Conservation objectives:
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;

- 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 habitats of qualifying species rely;
- The populations of qualifying species; and,
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

Qualifying features:

H1110. Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all of the time; Subtidal sandbanks

H1130. Estuaries

H1140. Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats

H1150. Coastal lagoons*

H1310. Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand

H1330. Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) H2110. Embryonic shifting dunes

H2120. Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ("white dunes"); Shifting dunes with marram

H2130. Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"); Dune grassland* H2160. Dunes with *Hippophae rhamnoides*; Dunes with sea-buckthorn
S1095. *Petromyzon marinus*; Sea lamprey
S1099. *Lampetra fluviatilis*; River lamprey

S1364. *Halichoerus grypus;* Grey seal

Threats and Pressures at European site which may be affected by DPD[6]**:**

- Water pollution.

Humber Estuary SPA[7]

Conservation objectives:
Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;
- The population of each of the qualifying features; and

[5] Natural England (2018) Humber Estuary SAC Conservation Objectives. Available at: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5009545743040512 [Date Accessed: 03/02/20]

[6] Natural England (2015) Humber Estuary SIP. Available at: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5730884670980096 [Date Accessed: 24/05/21]

[7] Natural England (2019) Humber Estuary SPA Conservation Objectives. Available at: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5382184353398784 [Date Accessed: 03/02/20]

- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

Qualifying features:

A021 *Botaurus stellaris*; Great bittern (Non-breeding)

A021 *Botaurus stellaris*; Great bittern (Breeding)
A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding)

A081 *Circus aeruginosus*; Eurasian marsh harrier (Breeding)

A082 *Circus cyaneus*; Hen harrier (Non-breeding)

A132 *Recurvirostra avosetta*; Pied avocet (Non-breeding)
A132 *Recurvirostra avosetta*; Pied avocet (Breeding)
A140 *Pluvialis apricaria*; European golden plover (Non-breeding)

A143 *Calidris canutus*; Red knot (Non-breeding)
A149 *Calidris alpina alpina*; Dunlin (Non-breeding)
A151 *Philomachus pugnax*; Ruff (Non-breeding)

A156 *Limosa limosa islandica*; Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)

A157 *Limosa lapponica*; Bar-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)

A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding)

A195 *Sterna albifrons*; Little tern (Breeding)
Waterbird assemblage

Threats and Pressures at European site which may be affected by DPD[8]:

- Water pollution.

Humber Estuary Ramsar [9]

Ramsar sites do not have the Conservation Objectives in the same way as SPAs and SACs. Information regarding the designation of Ramsar sites is contained in JNCC Ramsar Information Sheets. Ramsar Criteria are the criteria for identifying Wetlands of International Importance. The relevant criteria and ways in which this site meets the criteria are presented in the table below.

Ramsar Criterion	Justification for the application of each criterion
1	The site is a representative example of a near-natural estuary with the following component habitats: dune systems and humid dune slacks, estuarine waters, intertidal mud and sand flats, saltmarshes, and coastal brackish/saline lagoons. It is a large macro-tidal coastal plain estuary with high suspended sediment loads, which feed a dynamic and rapidly changing system of accreting and eroding intertidal and subtidal mudflats, sandflats, saltmarsh and reedbeds. Examples of both strandline, foredune, mobile, semi-fixed dunes, fixed dunes and dune grassland occur on both banks of the estuary and along the coast. The estuary supports a full range of saline conditions from the open coast to the limit of saline intrusion on the tidal rivers of the Ouse and Trent. Wave exposed sandy shores are found in the outer/open coast areas of the estuary. These change to the more moderately exposed sandy shores and then to sheltered muddy shores within the main body of the estuary and up into the tidal rivers. The lower saltmarsh of the Humber is dominated by common cordgrass *Spartina anglica* and annual glasswort *Salicornia* communities. Low to mid marsh communities are mostly represented by sea aster *Aster tripolium*, common saltmarsh grass *Puccinellia maritima* and sea purslane *Atriplex portulacoides* communities. The upper portion

[8] Natural England (2015) Humber Estuary SIP. Available at: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5730884670980096 [Date Accessed: 24/05/21]

[9] JNCC (2007) Ramsar Information Sheet: Humber Estuary. Available at: https://rsis.ramsar.org/RISapp/files/RISrep/GB663RIS.pdf [Date Accessed: 03/02/19]

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>of the saltmarsh community is atypical, dominated by sea couch Elytrigia atherica (Elymus pycnanthus) saltmarsh community. In the upper reaches of the estuary, the tidal marsh community is dominated by the common reed Phragmites australis fen and sea club rush Bolboschoenus maritimus swamp with the couch grass Elytrigia repens (Elymus repens) saltmarsh community. Within the Humber Estuary Ramsar site there are good examples of four of the five physiographic types of saline lagoon.</td></tr>
<tr><td>3</td><td>The Humber Estuary Ramsar site supports a breeding colony of grey seals Halichoerus grypus at Donna Nook. It is the second largest grey seal colony in England and the furthest south regular breeding site on the east coast. The dune slacks at Saltfleetby-Theddlethorpe on the southern extremity of the Ramsar site are the most north-easterly breeding site in Great Britain of the natterjack toad Bufo calamita.</td></tr>
<tr><td>5</td><td>Assemblages of international importance: 153,934 waterfowl, non-breeding season
(5 year peak mean 1996/97-2000/2001)</td></tr>
<tr><td>6</td><td>Species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.
<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">Qualifying species/populations (as identified at designation):</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Species with peak counts in winter:</td></tr>
<tr><td>Common shelduck, Tadorna tadorna, NW Europe</td><td>4464 individuals, representing an average of 1.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1996/7-2000/1)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Eurasian golden plover, Pluvialis apricaria altifrons subspecies, NW Europe, W Continental Europe, NW Africa population</td><td>30,709 individuals, representing an average of 3.3% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1996/7-2000/1)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Red Knot, Calidris canutus islandica subspecies</td><td>28165 individuals, representing an average of 6.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1996/7-2000/1)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Dunlin, Calidris alpina alpina, Europe</td><td>22222 individuals, representing an average of 1.7% of the population (5 year peak mean 1996/7-2000/1)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Black-tailed godwit, Limosa limosa islandica subspecies</td><td>1,113 individuals, wintering, representing an average of 3.2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1996/7-2000/1)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Bar-tailed godwit, Limosa lapponica lapponica subspecies</td><td>2,752 individuals, wintering, representing an average of 2.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1996/7-2000/1)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Common redshank, Tringa totanus totanus</td><td>4632 individuals, representing an average of 3.6% of the population (5 year peak mean 1996/7- 2000/1)</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
<tr><td>8</td><td>The Humber Estuary acts as an important migration route for both river lamprey Lampetra fluviatilis and sea lamprey Petromyzon marinus between coastal waters and their spawning areas.</td></tr>
</table>

Threats and Pressures at European site which may be affected by DPD:

- Water pollution (domestic sewage).

The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC[10]

Conservation objectives:

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;

- 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.

Qualifying Features:

H1110. Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all of the time; Subtidal sandbanks
H1140. Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Intertidal mudflats and sandflats
H1150. Coastal lagoons*
H1160. Large shallow inlets and bays
H1170. Reefs
H1310. Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Glasswort and other annuals colonising mud and sand
H1330. Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)
H1420. Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (*Sarcocornetea fruticosi*); Mediterranean saltmarsh scrub
S1355. *Lutra lutra*; Otter
S1365. *Phoca vitulina*; Common seal
* Priority natural habitats or species

Threats and Pressures at European site which may be affected by DPD[11]:

- Water levels.

The Wash SPA[12]

Conservation objectives:

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;

- The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;
- The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;
- The population of each of the qualifying features; and

[10] Natural England (2018) The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC Conservation Objectives. Available at: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5213489320951808 [Date Accessed: 23/09/20]

[11] Natural England (2014) The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SIP (to cover Gibraltar Point SPA, N Norfolk Coast SPA, North Norfolk Coast SAC, The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC and The Wash SPA). Available at: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6240487188987904 [Date Accessed: 24/09/20]

[12] Natural England (2019) The Wash SPA Conservation Objectives. Available at: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/4748062010638336 [Date Accessed: 23/09/20]

- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

Qualifying Features:

A037 *Cygnus columbianus bewickii*; Bewick's swan (Non-breeding)
A040 *Anser brachyrhynchus*; Pink-footed goose (Non-breeding)
A046a *Branta bernicla bernicla*; Dark-bellied brent goose (Non-breeding)
A048 *Tadorna tadorna*; Common shelduck (Non-breeding)
A050 *Anas penelope*; Eurasian wigeon (Non-breeding)
A051 *Anas strepera*; Gadwall (Non-breeding)
A054 *Anas acuta*; Northern pintail (Non-breeding)
A065 *Melanitta nigra*; Black (common) scoter (Non-breeding)
A067 *Bucephala clangula*; Common goldeneye (Non-breeding)
A130 *Haematopus ostralegus*; Eurasian oystercatcher (Non-breeding)
A141 *Pluvialis squatarola*; Grey plover (Non-breeding)
A143 *Calidris canutus*; Red knot (Non-breeding)
A144 *Calidris alba*; Sanderling (Non-breeding)
A149 *Calidris alpina alpina*; Dunlin (Non-breeding)
A156 *Limosa limosa islandica*; Black-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)
A157 *Limosa lapponica*; Bar-tailed godwit (Non-breeding)
A160 *Numenius arquata*; Eurasian curlew (Non-breeding)
A162 *Tringa totanus*; Common redshank (Non-breeding)
A169 *Arenaria interpres*; Ruddy turnstone (Non-breeding)
A193 *Sterna hirundo*; Common tern (Breeding)
A195 *Sterna albifrons*; Little tern (Breeding)
Waterbird assemblage

Threats and Pressures at European site which may be affected by DPD[13]:

- Water levels.

The Wash Ramsar[14]

Ramsar sites do not have the Conservation Objectives in the same way as SPAs and SACs. Information regarding the designation of Ramsar sites is contained in INCC Ramsar Information Sheets. Ramsar Criteria are the criteria for identifying Wetlands of International Importance. The relevant criteria and ways in which this site meets the criteria are presented in the table below.

Ramsar Criterion	Justification for the application of each criterion
1	Ramsar criterion 1 The Wash is a large shallow bay comprising very extensive saltmarshes, major intertidal banks of sand and mud, shallow water and deep channels.
3	Ramsar criterion 5 Qualifies because of the inter-relationship between its various components including saltmarshes, intertidal sand and mud flats and the estuarine waters. The saltmarshes and the plankton in the estuarine water provide a

[13] Natural England (2014) The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SIP (to cover Gibraltar Point SPA, N Norfolk Coast SPA, North Norfolk Coast SAC, The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC and The Wash SPA). Available at: http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6240487188987904 [Date Accessed: 24/09/20]

[14] JNCC. 2008. The Wash Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands. The Wash Ramsar https://jncc.gov.uk/jncc-assets/RIS/UK11072.pdf [Date Accessed: 23/10/20].

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>primary source of organic material which, together with other organic matter, forms the basis for the high productivity of the estuary.</td></tr>
<tr><td>5</td><td>Ramsar criterion 5
Assemblages of international importance: Species with peak counts in winter:
292541 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)</td></tr>
<tr><td>6</td><td>Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.

Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):
<table>
<tr><td colspan="2">Species with peak counts in spring/autumn</td></tr>
<tr><td>Eurasian oystercatcher , Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus, Europe & NW Africa -wintering</td><td>15616 individuals, representing an average of 1.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Grey plover , Pluvialis squatarola, E Atlantic/W Africa - wintering</td><td>13129 individuals, representing an average of 5.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3 - spring peak)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Red knot , Calidris canutus islandica, W & Southern Africa (wintering)</td><td>68987 individuals, representing an average of 15.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Sanderling , Calidris alba, Eastern Atlantic</td><td>3505 individuals, representing an average of 2.8% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Eurasian curlew , Numenius arquata arquata, N. a. arquata Europe (breeding)</td><td>9438 individuals, representing an average of 2.2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Common redshank , Tringa totanus totanus,</td><td>6373 individuals, representing an average of 2.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)</td></tr>
<tr><td>Ruddy turnstone , Arenaria interpres interpres, NE Canada, Greenland/W Europe & NW Africa</td><td>888 individuals, representing an average of 1.7% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3)</td></tr>
</table></td></tr>
</table>

Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:	
Pink-footed goose , *Anser brachyrhynchus*, Greenland, Iceland/UK	29099 individuals, representing an average of 12.1% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Dark-bellied brent goose, *Branta bernicla bernicla*,	20861 individuals, representing an average of 9.7% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Common shelduck , *Tadorna tadorna*, NW Europe	9746 individuals, representing an average of 3.2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Northern pintail , *Anas acuta*, NW Europe	431 individuals, representing an average of 1.5% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3)
Dunlin , *Calidris alpina alpina*, W Siberia/W Europe	36600 individuals, representing an average of 2.7% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)
Bar-tailed godwit , *Limosa lapponica lapponica*, W Palearctic	16546 individuals, representing an average of 13.7% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6.

Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:	
Ringed plover , *Charadrius hiaticula*, Europe/Northwest Africa	1500 individuals, representing an average of 2% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9- 2002/3)
Black-tailed godwit , *Limosa limosa islandica*, Iceland/W Europe	6849 individuals, representing an average of 19.5% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Species with peak counts in winter:	
European golden plover , *Pluvialis apricaria apricaria*, *P. a. altifrons* Iceland & Faroes/E Atlantic	22033 individuals, representing an average of 2.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

	Northern lapwing , *Vanellus vanellus*, Europe - breeding	46422 individuals, representing an average of 1.3% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)

Threats and Pressures at European site which may be affected by DPD:

None identified in Ramsar Information Sheet.

Appendix C: European Sites and Corresponding SSSI Conservation Status

European Site[1]	No. of SSSIs	Conservation Status of SSSIs[2]	Reason for unfavourable status where applicable.
Birkland and Bilhaugh SAC			
Birkland and Bilhaugh SSSI	12	10 Unfavourable - recovering	n/a
		2 Unfavourable – no change	Forestry and woodland management (Unit 8) No evidence of positive management being undertaken. Public access and disturbance (Unit 12) Replacement of the characteristic woodland and heathland with areas of hardstanding, buildings and surfaced walkways.
Sherwood Forest ppSPA			
Clumber Park SSSI	29	8 Favourable	n/a
		21 Unfavourable - recovering	The high cover of non-native trees and shrubs, bracken and scrub has been reduced by positive management.
Wellbeck Lake SSSI	6	5 Favourable	n/a
		1 Unfavourable - recovering	n/a
Thoresby Lake SSSI	4	1 Favourable	n/a
		2 Unfavourable – recovering	n/a
		1 Unfavourable - declining	Site being damaged at time of visit – enforcement instigated.
Birkland and Bilhaugh SSSI	12	10 Unfavourable - recovering	n/a
		2 Unfavourable – no change	Forestry and woodland management (Unit 8) No evidence of positive management being undertaken. Public access and disturbance (Unit 12) Replacement of the characteristic woodland and heathland with areas of hardstanding, buildings and surfaced walkways.

[1] Sites within a 15km of the Newark and Sherwood District boundary.

[2] Natural England. IRX https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/ [Date Accessed: 11.07.19].

European Site[1]	No. of SSSIs	Conservation Status of SSSIs[2]	Reason for unfavourable status where applicable.
Birklands West and Ollerton Corner SSSI	6	5 Unfavourable - recovering	n/a
		1 Unfavourable – no change	The removal of the pine plantations is crucial to the Unit 6 ever reaching favourable condition. Lack of bare areas within existing heather sward. Where it is bare, it is covered in smashed clay pigeon shells (needs removing from site).
Strawberry Hill Heaths SSSI	3	3 Unfavourable - recovering	Scrub levels too high and woodland structure poor.
Rainworth Heath SSSI	1	1 Unfavourable - recovering	Scrub levels too high and woodland structure poor.
The Wash and North Norfolk Coast SAC			
Gibraltar Point SSSI	5	2 Favourable	n/a
		2 Unfavourable - recovering	n/a
		1 Unfavourable – declining	Air pollution
North Norfolk Coast SSSI	70	67 Favourable	n/a
		3 Unfavourable - recovering	n/a
The Wash SSSI	60	48 Favourable	n/a
		11 Unfavourable - recovering	n/a
		1 Unfavourable – declining	No reason stated
The Wash SPA and The Wash Ramsar			
The Wash SSSI	60	48 Favourable	n/a
		11 Unfavourable - recovering	n/a
		1 Unfavourable – declining	No reason stated
The Humber Estuary SPA			
Humber Estuary SSSI	187	14 Favourable	N/A
		131 Unfavourable – recovering	Good range of habitats. Could be improved with targeted management.
		6 Unfavourable – no change	Unit is overrun with bramble, nettle and hawthorn.
		36 Unfavourable - declining	The site is considered to be unfavourable declining condition due to the large quantity of waste material on the beach, which is preventing natural geomorphological processes of the interest feature (i.e. erosion of the sediment

European Site[1]	No. of SSSIs	Conservation Status of SSSIs[2]	Reason for unfavourable status where applicable.
			within the coastal cliff that provides sediment to Spurn).
The Humber Estuary SPA and The Humber Estuary Ramsar			
Humber Estuary SSSI	187	14 Favourable	N/A
		131 Unfavourable – recovering	Good range of habitats. Could be improved with targeted management.
		6 Unfavourable – no change	Unit is overrun with bramble, nettle and hawthorn.
		36 Unfavourable - declining	The site is considered to be unfavourable declining condition due to the large quantity of waste material on the beach, which is preventing natural geomorphological processes of the interest feature (i.e. erosion of the sediment within the coastal cliff that provides sediment to Spurn).
North Killingholme Haven Pits SSSI	2	1 Favourable	Targets for all features are assessed as being met.
		1 Unfavourable – no change	N/A
Saltfleetby – Theddlethorpe Dunes SSSI	2	1 Favourable	The saltmarshes here show the full range of natural succession from samphire beds on the lower mud flats through to grassy swards with Carex extensa in higher areas less frequently flooded by the tide. There are no major human influences to disrupt natural coastal processes.
		1 Unfavourable - recovering	N/A
The Lagoons SSSI	1	1 Unfavourable - recovering	The SSSI assessment passes on all attributes apart from the extent (entire site and basin). Measures to avoid deterioration of the European and SSSI features will be provided by the development of alternative habitat by EA on adjacent land.

Appendix D: Regulation 18 Policy and Allocations Options Pre-Screening Summary

Table D.1: Pre-screening summary of the Regulation 18 DPD policies and allocations options

The assessment findings presented in this report provide a preliminary screening assessment which is proportionate to this stage of the plan making process (Regulation 18) and is intended to help shape and guide the plan's development. A final HRA report will accompany the submission version of the DPD at Regulation 19 which will include a plan wide HRA screening of all policies and allocations which form the DPD. It is noted that the below does not provide screening of all allocations or policies within the DPD and only focuses on the proposed revisions to the DPD at this stage of the assessment (as reported in the Regulation 18 options report).

Policy Number	Policy Name	Notes	Pre-Screening for LSE	Pre-Screening Conclusion
Core Policy 1	Affordable Housing Provision	Preferred Approach.	This objective sets out affordable housing targets it does not trigger any development or change and can therefore be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Core Policy 2A	Entry Level Exception Housing	Preferred Approach	The preferred approach is for a policy which sets out local parameters for the consideration for entry level exception sites. It does not trigger any development or change and can therefore be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
		Alternative Option 1	The alternative option is to not adopt a policy on entry-level exception sites and rely on the NPPF for determining applications for such proposals. It does not trigger any development or change and can therefore be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
		Alternative Option 2	This option does not set any locally specific locational criteria's other than setting out the policies which define edge of settlement in the Amended Core Strategy. It does not trigger any development or change and can therefore be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Core Policy 3	Housing Mix, Type and Density	Preferred Approach No alternatives proposed.	It is proposed that Core Policy 3 is updated to reflect new housing needs as set out in the Housing Needs Assessment (2020). It provides details on housing mix, type and density and does not trigger any development or change and can therefore be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
So/HN/1 and Lo/HN/1 and Policy HE/1	Southwell Neighbourhood Plan	Preferred Approach	Preferred approach is to delete Policies So/HN/1 and Lo/HN/1 to reflect Housing Needs Assessment (2020). It does not trigger any development or change and can therefore be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.

Policy Number	Policy Name	Notes	Pre-Screening for LSE	Pre-Screening Conclusion
Policy SNVC3	Policy SNVC3 – Housing Mix		This policy sets out requirements in terms of housing mix in new development. It does not trigger any development or change itself and can therefore be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Allocations				
Pitch Requirements		Preferred Approach	Incorporate pitch requirements as set out in the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (GTAA). With the 118 pitch planning definition need providing the local pitch targets for households meeting the planning definition (as set out in Annex 1 to the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites), and also the basis for the calculation of a 5 year land supply. The cumulative impact of this policy in-combination with other growth in the DPD and other plans and projects however has the potential to create LSEs at European sites as follows: • Possible LSEs in terms of increased air pollution from traffic sources. • Possible LSEs due to increased public access and disturbance pressures (recreation and urbanization). • Possible LSEs in terms of loss of habitat or fragmentation. • Possible LSEs due to hydrological changes. This policy is screened in under Category L.	Screened in.
		Alternative Approach	An alternative approach would be to use a lower figure for undetermined households (25% or 5 pitches) – in line with national evidence. However, this is not preferred, as this is not a locally specific figure and may lead to an underestimation of need. The cumulative impact of this policy in-combination with other growth in the DPD and other plans and projects however has the potential to create LSEs at European sites as follows: • Possible LSEs in terms of increased air pollution from traffic sources. • Possible LSEs due to increased public access and disturbance pressures (recreation and urbanization). • Possible LSEs in terms of loss of habitat or fragmentation. • Possible LSEs due to hydrological changes. This policy is screened in under Category L.	Screened in.
Meeting Gypsy and Traveller Needs		Preferred Approach	The preferred locational approach towards site identification is to reflect the direction provided both by Core Policy 4, and the pattern of existing gypsy and traveller settlement within the District. The cumulative impact of this policy in-combination with other growth in the DPD and other plans and projects however has the potential to create LSEs at European sites as follows: • Possible LSEs in terms of increased air pollution from traffic sources.	Screened in.

Policy Number	Policy Name	Notes	Pre-Screening for LSE	Pre-Screening Conclusion
			• Possible LSEs due to increased public access and disturbance pressures (recreation and urbanization). • Possible LSEs in terms of loss of habitat or fragmentation. • Possible LSEs due to hydrological changes. This policy is screened in under Category L.	
		Alternative Approach	An alternative would be to take a broader locational approach from the outset. This would however be inconsistent with the approach provided by Core Policy 4. The cumulative impact of this policy in-combination with other growth in the DPD and other plans and projects however has the potential to create LSEs at European sites as follows: • Possible LSEs in terms of increased air pollution from traffic sources. • Possible LSEs due to increased public access and disturbance pressures (recreation and urbanization). • Possible LSEs in terms of loss of habitat or fragmentation. • Possible LSEs due to hydrological changes. This policy is screened in under Category L.	Screened in.
Site Identification		Preferred Approach No Alternative Approach	The preferred approach is to identify existing sites and identify land elsewhere. The cumulative impact of this policy in-combination with other growth in the DPD and other plans and projects however has the potential to create LSEs at European sites as follows: • Possible LSEs in terms of increased air pollution from traffic sources. • Possible LSEs due to increased public access and disturbance pressures (recreation and urbanization). • Possible LSEs in terms of loss of habitat or fragmentation. • Possible LSEs due to hydrological changes. This policy is screened in under Category L.	Screened in.
Gypsy and Traveller Allocations				
Newark Urban Area				
None provided	Tolney Lane	45 pitches	This site has been identified as being suitable to meet identified Gypsy and Traveller needs. The preferred approach is to identify land at Tolney Lane which is suitable in planning and technical terms to meet future accommodation need, and also to develop a Tolney Lane Policy Area. Located over 18km from the closest area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA. Site is an existing traveller site.	Screened in.

Policy Number	Policy Name	Notes	Pre-Screening for LSE	Pre-Screening Conclusion
			The cumulative impact of this allocation in-combination with other growth in the DPD and other plans and projects however has the potential to create LSEs at European sites as follows: • Possible LSEs in terms of increased air pollution from traffic sources. • Possible LSEs due to increased public access and disturbance pressures (recreation and urbanisation). • Possible LSEs in terms of loss of habitat or fragmentation. • Possible LSEs due to hydrological changes. This allocation is screened in under Category L.	
Other Locations in the Newark Urban Area				
None provided	1 - Chestnut Lodge, Barnby (Ref: 19_0018) (Currently Considered Suitable)	20 pitches	This site has been categorised as currently considered suitable to meet identified need. Located over 22km from the closest area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA. Site is an agricultural field to the east of Newark-on-Trent. The cumulative impact of this allocation in-combination with other growth in the DPD and other plans and projects however has the potential to create LSEs at European sites as follows: • Possible LSEs in terms of increased air pollution from traffic sources. • Possible LSEs due to increased public access and disturbance pressures (recreation and urbanisation). • Possible LSEs in terms of loss of habitat or fragmentation. • Possible LSEs due to hydrological changes. This allocation is screened in under Category L.	Screened in.
None provided	Site 2 – Belvoir Ironworks North, Newark (Ref: 19_0004)	30 pitches	This site has been categorised as currently considered suitable to meet identified need. Located over 19km from the closest area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA. Site is a field to the south of Newark-on-Trent. The cumulative impact of this allocation in-combination with other growth in the DPD and other plans and projects however has the potential to create LSEs at European sites as follows: • Possible LSEs in terms of increased air pollution from traffic sources. • Possible LSEs due to increased public access and disturbance pressures (recreation and urbanisation). • Possible LSEs in terms of loss of habitat or fragmentation. • Possible LSEs due to hydrological changes. This allocation is screened in under Category L.	Screened in.

Policy Number	Policy Name	Notes	Pre-Screening for LSE	Pre-Screening Conclusion
None provided	Site 3 – Maltkiln Lane, Newark (Ref: 19_0017)	19 pitches	This site has been categorised as currently considered suitable to meet identified need. Located over 18km from the closest area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA. Site is developed on the bank of the River Trent to the north west of Newark-on-Trent. The cumulative impact of this allocation in-combination with other growth in the DPD and other plans and projects however has the potential to create LSEs at European sites as follows: • Possible LSEs in terms of increased air pollution from traffic sources. • Possible LSEs due to increased public access and disturbance pressures (recreation and urbanisation). • Possible LSEs in terms of loss of habitat or fragmentation. • Possible LSEs due to hydrological changes. This allocation is screened in under Category L.	Screened in.
None provided	Site 4 – Bower Abattoir, Tolney Lane, Newark (Ref: 19_0008)	45 pitches	This site has been categorised as currently considered suitable to meet identified need. Located over 17km from the closest area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA. Site is an existing traveller site to the north of Newark-on-Trent. The cumulative impact of this allocation in-combination with other growth in the DPD and other plans and projects however has the potential to create LSEs at European sites as follows: • Possible LSEs in terms of increased air pollution from traffic sources. • Possible LSEs due to increased public access and disturbance pressures (recreation and urbanisation). • Possible LSEs in terms of loss of habitat or fragmentation. • Possible LSEs due to hydrological changes. This allocation is screened in under Category L.	Screened in.
None provided	Site 5 – Green Park, Newark (Ref: 19_0007)	n/a	Not considered suitable and therefore this allocation is screened out of the HRA process under Category F.	Screened out.
None provided	Site 6 – Denton Close, Balderton (Ref: 19_0003)	n/a	Not considered suitable and therefore this allocation is screened out of the HRA process under Category F.	Screened out.
None provided	Site 7 – Fen Lane, Balderton (Ref: 19_0002)	n/a	Not considered suitable and therefore this allocation is screened out of the HRA process under Category F.	Screened out.

Policy Number	Policy Name	Notes	Pre-Screening for LSE	Pre-Screening Conclusion
None provided	Site 8 - Land to the North West of Winthorpe Road, Newark (Ref: 19_0009)	n/a	Not considered suitable and therefore this allocation is screened out of the HRA process under Category F.	Screened out.
None provided	Site 9 – Land at Barnby Road / Clay Lane, Newark (Ref: 19_0001)	n/a	Not considered suitable and therefore this allocation is screened out of the HRA process under Category F.	Screened out.
None provided	Site Identification – Newark Urban Area	Preferred approach	The preferred approach is to develop a detailed site identification strategy for the Newark urban area. This would include suitable sites as listed above. The cumulative impact of this policy in-combination with other growth in the DPD and other plans and projects however has the potential to create LSEs at European sites as follows: • Possible LSEs in terms of increased air pollution from traffic sources. • Possible LSEs due to increased public access and disturbance pressures (recreation and urbanisation). • Possible LSEs in terms of loss of habitat or fragmentation. • Possible LSEs due to hydrological changes. This allocation is screened in under Category L.	Screened in.
Western Area				
None provided	Site 10 - Seven Oaks, Edingley (Ref: 19_0019)	1 pitch	This site has been categorised as currently considered suitable to meet identified need. Located over 4km from the closest area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA. Site is already developed. The cumulative impact of this allocation in-combination with other growth in the DPD and other plans and projects however has the potential to create LSEs at European sites as follows: • Possible LSEs in terms of increased air pollution from traffic sources. • Possible LSEs due to increased public access and disturbance pressures (recreation and urbanisation). • Possible LSEs in terms of loss of habitat or fragmentation. • Possible LSEs due to hydrological changes. This allocation is screened in under Category L.	Screened in.
None provided	Site 11 – Shannon Caravan Site,	9 pitches	This site has been categorised as currently considered suitable to meet identified need.	Screened in.

Policy Number	Policy Name	Notes	Pre-Screening for LSE	Pre-Screening Conclusion
	Ollerton (Ref: 19_0020)		Located immediately adjacent to the closest area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA and just over 3km from the Birklands & Bilhaugh SAC. Site is an existing traveller site. The cumulative impact of this allocation in-combination with other growth in the DPD and other plans and projects however has the potential to create LSEs at European sites as follows: • Possible LSEs in terms of increased air pollution from traffic sources. • Possible LSEs due to increased public access and disturbance pressures (recreation and urbanisation). • Possible LSEs in terms of loss of habitat or fragmentation. • Possible LSEs due to hydrological changes. This allocation is screened in under Category L.	
None provided	Site 12 – The Paddock, Ollerton (19_0021)	6 pitches	This site has been categorised as currently considered suitable to meet identified need. Located 90m to the south of the closest area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA and just over 3km from the Birklands & Bilhaugh SAC. Site is an existing traveller site. The cumulative impact of this allocation in-combination with other growth in the DPD and other plans and projects however has the potential to create LSEs at European sites as follows: • Possible LSEs in terms of increased air pollution from traffic sources. • Possible LSEs due to increased public access and disturbance pressures (recreation and urbanisation). • Possible LSEs in terms of loss of habitat or fragmentation. • Possible LSEs due to hydrological changes. This allocation is screened in under Category L.	Screened in.
None provided	Site 13 – The Stables, Ollerton (Ref: 19_0022)	4 pitches	This site has been categorised as currently considered suitable to meet identified need. Located 90m to the south of the closest area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA and just over 3km from the Birklands & Bilhaugh SAC. Site is an existing traveller site. The cumulative impact of this allocation in-combination with other growth in the DPD and other plans and projects however has the potential to create LSEs at European sites as follows: • Possible LSEs in terms of increased air pollution from traffic sources. • Possible LSEs due to increased public access and disturbance pressures (recreation and urbanisation). • Possible LSEs in terms of loss of habitat or fragmentation. • Possible LSEs due to hydrological changes. This allocation is screened in under Category L.	Screened in.

Policy Number	Policy Name	Notes	Pre-Screening for LSE	Pre-Screening Conclusion
None provided	Site 14 – Dunromin, Ollerton (Ref: 19_0023)	8 pitches	This site has been categorised as currently considered suitable to meet identified need. Located within the designated boundary of the closest area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA and just over 3km from the Birklands & Bilhaugh SAC. Site is an existing traveller site. The cumulative impact of this allocation in-combination with other growth in the DPD and other plans and projects however has the potential to create LSEs at European sites as follows: • Possible LSEs in terms of increased air pollution from traffic sources. • Possible LSEs due to increased public access and disturbance pressures (recreation and urbanisation). • Possible LSEs in terms of loss of habitat or fragmentation. • Possible LSEs due to hydrological changes. This allocation is screened in under Category L.	Screened in.
None provided	Site 15 – Greenwood, Ollerton (Ref: 19_0024)	1 pitch	This site has been categorised as currently considered suitable to meet identified need. The northern tip of this site is located within the designated boundary of the closest area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA and just over 3km from the Birklands & Bilhaugh SAC. Site is an existing traveller site. The cumulative impact of this allocation in-combination with other growth in the DPD and other plans and projects however has the potential to create LSEs at European sites as follows: • Possible LSEs in terms of increased air pollution from traffic sources. • Possible LSEs due to increased public access and disturbance pressures (recreation and urbanisation). • Possible LSEs in terms of loss of habitat or fragmentation. • Possible LSEs due to hydrological changes. This allocation is screened in under Category L.	Screened in.
None provided	Site Identification – West of the District	Preferred approach	The preferred approach is to develop a detailed site identification strategy for the Newark urban area. This would include suitable sites as listed above. The cumulative impact of this policy in-combination with other growth in the DPD and other plans and projects however has the potential to create LSEs at European sites as follows: • Possible LSEs in terms of increased air pollution from traffic sources. • Possible LSEs due to increased public access and disturbance pressures (recreation and urbanisation). • Possible LSEs in terms of loss of habitat or fragmentation. • Possible LSEs due to hydrological changes. This allocation is screened in under Category L.	Screened in.

Policy Number	Policy Name	Notes	Pre-Screening for LSE	Pre-Screening Conclusion
Other Locations in the Western Area				
None provided	Site 16 - Newark Road/ Wellow Road North, Ollerton/Wellow (Ref 19_0012)	n/a	Not considered suitable and therefore this allocation is screened out of the HRA process under Category F.	Screened out.
None provided	Site 17 – Newark Road/ Wellow Road South, Wellow (Ref 19_0013)	n/a	Not considered suitable and therefore this allocation is screened out of the HRA process under Category F.	Screened out.
None provided	Site 18 – Land adjacent Shannon Caravan Park, Ollerton (Ref: 19_0011)	n/a	Not considered suitable and therefore this allocation is screened out of the HRA process under Category F.	Screened out.
None provided	Site 19 – Cottage Farm, Blidworth/Rainworth (Ref: 19_0014)	n/a	Not considered suitable and therefore this allocation is screened out of the HRA process under Category F.	Screened out.
Rest of the District				
None provided	Site 20 – Station Road, Collingham (Ref: 19_0010)	n/a	Not considered suitable and therefore this allocation is screened out of the HRA process under Category F.	Screened out.
None provided	Site 21 – The Mulberries, Collingham	n/a	Not considered suitable and therefore this allocation is screened out of the HRA process under Category F.	Screened out.
None provided	Site 22 – Gravelley Lane, Fiskerton (Ref: 19_0016)	n/a	Not considered suitable and therefore this allocation is screened out of the HRA process.	Screened out.
Site Identification – Rest of the District		Preferred approach	The preferred approach is to develop a detailed site identification strategy for the Newark urban and Western area. This would include suitable sites as listed above. There would be no sites	Screened out.

Policy Number	Policy Name	Notes	Pre-Screening for LSE	Pre-Screening Conclusion
			identified for the rest of the district. As such this does not trigger any development or change and can therefore be screened out under Category F.	
		Alternative Approach	Should circumstances change, and the preferred approach become unachievable then it may become necessary to consider land submitted elsewhere. This alternative approach would lead to the development of pitches elsewhere and would have the potential to have an in-combination effect with other development set out in the DPD and other plans and projects and as such would be screened in under Category L.	Screened in.
Meeting the Needs of Undetermined and Non-Planning Definition Households		Preferred approach	For the Newark Area the preferred approach is one that seeks to develop a detailed strategy, which as a minimum satisfies the requirements of the Planning Policy for Traveller Sites but where possible exceeds this to also address the potential need from undetermined households. With respect to the need from households who did not meet the planning definition, and who may be able to claim the right to culturally appropriate accommodation – this would be a matter left to the Development Management process, with the criteria within Core Policy 5 providing an appropriate means of considering applications on their merits. Both options would result in allocation of pitches to meet needs to some degree. The cumulative impact of the preferred option in-combination with other growth in the DPD and other plans and projects however has the potential to create LSEs at European sites as follows: • Possible LSEs in terms of increased air pollution from traffic sources. • Possible LSEs due to increased public access and disturbance pressures (recreation and urbanisation). • Possible LSEs in terms of loss of habitat or fragmentation. • Possible LSEs due to hydrological changes. This policy is screened in under Category L.	Screened in.
		Alternative Approach	Should it not prove possible to exceed the minimum requirements of national policy in Newark, or issues become apparent in the West of the District - then the potential need arising from undetermined households could also be addressed through application of Core Policy 5 to determine applications on a case by case basis. Both options would result in allocation of pitches to meet needs to some degree. The cumulative impact of this alternative approach in-combination with other growth in the DPD and other plans and projects however has the potential to create LSEs at European sites as follows: • Possible LSEs in terms of increased air pollution from traffic sources. • Possible LSEs due to increased public access and disturbance pressures (recreation and urbanisation). • Possible LSEs in terms of loss of habitat or fragmentation. • Possible LSEs due to hydrological changes.	Screened in.

Policy Number	Policy Name	Notes	Pre-Screening for LSE	Pre-Screening Conclusion
			This policy is screened in under Category L.	
Development Management Policies				
Policy DM1	Development within Settlements Central to Delivering the Spatial Strategy	Preferred Approach	This policy sets out the support for development in the settlements identified for growth in Spatial Policies 2 and 3 of the Amended Core Strategy This policy change is administrative and would not lead to any change or development which would trigger an LSE. As such this policy has been screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Policy DM2	Development on Allocated Sites	Preferred Approach	This policy amendment is proposed to make clear the Council's commitment to securing comprehensive planning and aligned delivery of allocated sites. The preferred approach is to include factual amendments to policy and set out a clear policy approach of comprehensive planning first, followed by a requirement regarding refusing proposals which prejudice overall delivery of an allocation. This policy does not trigger development itself and as such has been screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
		Alternative Approach.	This policy amendment is proposed to make clear the Council's commitment to securing comprehensive planning and aligned delivery of allocated sites. The alternative includes the factual amendments to policy and a requirement regarding refusing proposals which prejudice overall delivery of an allocation. This policy does not trigger development itself and as such has been screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Policy DM3	Developer Contributions and Planning Obligations	Preferred Approach	This policy sets outs the Council's approach to facilitating infrastructure provision to support new development. The preferred approach is to replace the current policy with new wording. This policy does not trigger development itself and as such has been screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Policy DM4	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	Preferred Approach	This policy does not identify sites for renewable and low carbon energy but sets a series of design criteria. This policy does not trigger development itself and as such has been screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
		Alternative Approach 1	This option is to retain text as it is. This policy does not trigger development itself and as such has been screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
		Alternative Approach 2	This option is to identify areas suitable for the development of new wind energy schemes involving turbines of sufficient size to require planning permission. This policy would trigger development which would have the potential to have an LSE alone on a European site and would be screened in under Category I. Effects upon European sites may include fragmentation, habitat loss, and air quality impacts.	Screened in.

Policy Number	Policy Name	Notes	Pre-Screening for LSE	Pre-Screening Conclusion
Policy DM5	Design	Preferred Approach	The preferred approach is to split Policy DM5 into two policies; one covering the design process and one covering design principles. This policy does not trigger development itself and as such has been screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
		Alternative Approach	The alternative approach is to retain DM5 as one policy and rely on national policy. This policy does not trigger development itself and as such has been screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Policy DM5(c)	Sequential Test	Preferred Approach	The preferred approach is to give local guidance to assist the consistency of how the Test is applied. This policy does not trigger development itself and as such has been screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
		Alternative Approach	The alternative approach would be to continue with the sequential test content in Core Policy 5 and Policy DM5, in combination with national policy to guide its application. This policy does not trigger development itself and as such has been screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Policy DM5(d)	Water Efficiency Standard	Preferred Approach	Creation of a new Policy – Policy DM5d 'Water Efficiency Measures in New Dwellings'. This policy does not trigger development itself and as such has been screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
		Alternative Approach	Apply the standard purely within the part of the District served by Anglian Water. This policy does not trigger development itself and as such has been screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Policy DM6	Householder Development	Preferred Approach	The preferred option is to include reference to the forthcoming SPD. This policy does not trigger development itself and as such has been screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Policy DM7	Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure	Preferred Approach	The preferred approach is to include reference to enhancing biodiversity in this policy. This policy is a plan wide policy to safeguard the environment and will be screened out under Category D.	Screened out.
		Alternative Approach	No change to Policy DM7. This policy is a plan wide policy to safeguard the environment and will be screened out under Category D.	Screened out.
Policy DM8	Development in the Open Countryside	Preferred Approach	It is proposed to amend Policy DM8 in order to reflect the new approach towards development in villages covered by Spatial Policy 3 and tourism development in Core Policy 7 of the Amended Core Strategy. This policy sets out requirements in terms of development in the open countryside but does not trigger development itself and as such has been screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Policy DM9	Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Environment	Preferred Approach	The preferred approach is to amend Policy DM9 in order to reflect the changes in the 2019 NPPF and seek to strengthen the existing policy position in relation to the historic environment. This policy is a plan wide policy to safeguard the environment and will be screened out under Category D.	Screened out.
Policy DM10	Pollution and Hazardous Materials	Preferred Approach	The preferred approach is to add reference to the Air Quality Strategy for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire 2020 - 2030. This policy is a plan wide policy to safeguard the environment and will be screened out under Category D.	Screened out.

Policy Number	Policy Name	Notes	Pre-Screening for LSE	Pre-Screening Conclusion
		Alternative Approach	No change to Policy DM10. This policy is a plan wide policy to safeguard the environment and will be screened out under Category D.	Screened out.
Policy DM11	Retail and Town Centre Uses	Preferred Approach	Currently Policy DM11 doesn't address non-retail main town centre uses in a comprehensive way, leaving it short of full conformity with national policy. This policy does not trigger development but sets out requirements for retain and main town centre uses and as such has been screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
		Alternative Approach 1	This would involve no reference being made to residual expenditure as an Impact Test requirement. This policy does not trigger development but sets out requirements for retain and main town centre uses and as such has been screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
		Alternative Approach 2	This approach would involve the reference to disaggregation being removed as an explicit local consideration as part of the Sequential Test. This policy does not trigger development but sets out requirements for retain and main town centre uses and as such has been screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Policy DM12	Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	Preferred Approach	No change. This policy provides high level aspirations to test development for sustainable development and as such will be screened out under Category B.	Screened out.
Housing, mixed use and employment allocations				
Preferred Approach			The preferred approach is to update the housing, mixed use and employment allocations to take into consideration sites which have come forward since the last the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment was produced and other sites which have been requested to carry forward. In addition to the employment allocations, there are five sites categorised as 'available employment land in a designated employment area' which contribute to the overall employment land supply. The preferred approach is that land designated as 'available employment land in a designated employment area' in the most recent Newark & Sherwood District Employment Land Availability Study will, subject to assessment of the ongoing value of the designation, be defined on the Policies Map as part of the Plan Review Process. No alternative approach is currently considered appropriate. The following section sets out housing and employment allocations which are proposed for de-allocation or amendment, along with other consequential changes to Urban Boundaries and Village Envelopes. The cumulative impact of these allocations in-combination with other growth in the DPD and other plans and projects however has the potential to create LSEs at European sites as follows: • Possible LSEs in terms of increased air pollution from traffic sources.	Screened in.

Policy Number	Policy Name	Notes	Pre-Screening for LSE	Pre-Screening Conclusion
			• Possible LSEs due to increased public access and disturbance pressures (recreation and urbanisation). • Possible LSEs in terms of loss of habitat or fragmentation. • Possible LSEs due to hydrological changes. This policy is screened in under Category L.	
Allocations - Proposed Changes: Newark Area				
NUA /Ho/1	Land at Alexander Avenue and Stephen Road	Preferred Approach	Site NUA/Ho/1 Alexander Avenue/Steven Road, Newark will be deallocated as such this allocation will be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
		Alternative Approach	The site could remain allocated but as there is uncertainty over its delivery within the Plan Period this is not considered appropriate. This allocation would trigger development and would therefore be screened in under category L as set out above for overall housing and employment allocation preferred approach. Located over 18km from the closet area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA.	Screened in.
NUA/Ho/2 –	Land South of Quibell's Lane	Preferred Approach	The allocation will be amended to remove the area to the west and the operational area of the homeless hostel from the allocation. The remaining site area will be allocated for around 25 dwellings. This allocation would trigger development and would therefore be screened in under category L as set out above for overall housing and employment allocation preferred approach. Located over 18km from the closet area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA and Birklands to Bihaugh SAC.	Screened in.
		Alternative Approach 1	The allocation could remain unchanged but as the part of the site is no longer available and it is likely that the Hostel provision will now be replaced on instead of off-site this is not considered appropriate This allocation would trigger development and would therefore be screened in under category L as set out above for overall housing and employment allocation preferred approach. Located over 18km from the closet area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA and Birklands to Bihaugh SAC.	Screened in.
		Alternative Approach 2	The allocation could be deallocated, as such this allocation will be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
NUA/Ho/3	Lincoln Road	Preferred Approach	Site NUA/Ho/3 Lincoln Road, Newark will be deallocated as such this allocation will be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
		Alternative Approach	The site could remain allocated but as there is uncertainty over its delivery within the Plan Period this is not considered appropriate. This allocation would trigger development and would therefore	Screened in.

Policy Number	Policy Name	Notes	Pre-Screening for LSE	Pre-Screening Conclusion
			be screened in under category L as set out above for overall housing and employment allocation preferred approach. Located over 18km from the closet area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA and Birklands to Bihaugh SAC.	
NUA/Ho/5	North of Beacon Hill Road	Preferred Approach	Site NUA/Ho/5 North of Beacon Hill Road, Newark is proposed for re-allocation as an Opportunity Site. This allocation would trigger development and would therefore be screened in under category L as set out above for overall housing and employment allocation preferred approach. Located over 19km from the closet area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA and Birklands to Bihaugh SAC.	Screened in.
		Alternative Approach 1	The site could be de-allocated, as such this allocation will be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
		Alternative Approach 2	The site could remain as an allocation. This allocation would trigger development and would therefore be screened in under category L as set out above for overall housing and employment allocation preferred approach. Located over 19km from the closet area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA and Birklands to Bihaugh SAC.	Screened in.
NUA/Ho/7	Bowbridge Road Policy Area	Preferred Approach	It is proposed to increase the allocation figure to around 86 dwellings and amend the first paragraph of the policy. This allocation would trigger development and would therefore be screened in under category L as set out above for overall housing and employment allocation preferred approach. Add Information on location	Screened in.
		Alternative Approach	The site could remain as an allocation for 66 dwellings. This allocation would trigger development and would therefore be screened in under Category L as set out above for overall housing and employment allocation preferred approach. Add Information on location	Screened in.
NUA/Ho/10	Land North of Lowfield Lane	Preferred Approach	It is proposed to amend both the site area and the number of dwellings to around 170 dwellings. This allocation would trigger development and would therefore be screened in under Category L as set out above for overall housing and employment allocation preferred approach. Located over 20km from the closet area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA and Birklands to Bihaugh SAC.	Screened in.
		Alternative Approach	The site could remain as an allocation for 120 dwellings. This allocation would trigger development and would therefore be screened in under Category L as set out above for overall housing and employment allocation preferred approach.	Screened in.

Policy Number	Policy Name	Notes	Pre-Screening for LSE	Pre-Screening Conclusion
			Located over 20km from the closet area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA and Birklands to Bihaugh SAC.	
NUA/MU/1 (Land North of A17) and NUA/SPA/1	Newark Showground Policy Area	Preferred Approach	It is proposed that the masterplan for the Showground Policy Area be further developed, on a partnership basis, with the existing NUA/MU/1 area remaining as existing. This allocation would trigger development and would therefore be screened in under Category L as set out above for overall housing and employment allocation preferred approach. Located over 17km from the closet area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA and Birklands to Bihaugh SAC.	Screened in.
NUA/MU/2	Land at Brownhills Motor Homes	Preferred Approach	The site could be de-allocated, as such this allocation will be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
		Alternative Approach	The site could remain as an allocation. This allocation would trigger development and would therefore be screened in under Category L as set out above for overall housing and employment allocation preferred approach. Located over 18km from the closet area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA and Birklands to Bihaugh SAC.	Screened in.
NUA/MU/3	Land at NSK	Preferred Approach	Site NUA/MU/3 Land at NSK, Northern Road, Newark is proposed for re-allocation as an Opportunity Site. This allocation would trigger development and would therefore be screened in under Category L as set out above for overall housing and employment allocation preferred approach. Located over 18km from the closet area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA and Birklands to Bihaugh SAC.	Screened in.
		Alternative Approach	The site could be de-allocated, as such this allocation will be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Collingham – No changes proposed				
Sutton-on-Trent – No changes proposed				
Allocations - Proposed Changes: Southwell Area				
So/Ho/4 and So/Ho/5	Southwell Neighbourhood Plan	Preferred Approach	Changes proposed to ensure that the additional requirements in the Southwell Neighbourhood Plan allocations policies are addressed. This policy allocates housing and as such would trigger development and would therefore be screened in under Category L as set out above for overall housing and employment allocation preferred approach. Located over 8km from the closet area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA	Screened in.

Policy Number	Policy Name	Notes	Pre-Screening for LSE	Pre-Screening Conclusion
So/MU/1	Land at Former Minster School	Preferred Approach	Site no longer available as such this allocation will be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
So/Ho/7	Southwell Depot	Preferred Approach	There is no longer a requirement to provide a bypass for Southwell and therefore no need to protect a route. It is therefore proposed to amend the site area to include the whole of the depot site and increase the allocation to 18 dwellings. This allocation would trigger development and would therefore be screened in under Category L as set out above for overall housing and employment allocation preferred approach. Located over 9.5km from the closet area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA	Screened in.
		Alternative Approach 1	The allocation could be retained at its existing size for around 15 dwellings. This allocation would trigger development and would therefore be screened in under Category L as set out above for overall housing and employment allocation preferred approach. Located over 9.5km from the closet area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA	Screened in.
		Alternative Approach 2	Enlarge the site to include all the land to the south of the existing So/Ho/7 and the residual element of the depot site. This allocation would trigger development and would therefore be screened in under Category L as set out above for overall housing and employment allocation preferred approach. Located over 9.5km from the closet area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA	Screened in.
So/E/2	Land east of Crew Lane	Preferred Approach	It is proposed to include the area formerly protected as the line of the Southwell Bypass within the allocation. This allocation would trigger development and would therefore be screened in under Category L as set out above for overall housing and employment allocation preferred approach. Located over 9.5km from the closet area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA	Screened in.
So/E/3	Land South of Crew Lane	Preferred Approach	De-allocate the site and designate it as reserved land as such this allocation will be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
		Alternative Approach	The site could remain as an allocation. This allocation would trigger development and would therefore be screened in under Category L as set out above for overall housing and employment allocation preferred approach. Located over 9.5km from the closet area of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA	Screened in.
So/E/1	Crew Lane Industrial Estate Policy Area	Preferred Approach	Amend So/E/1 Southwell - Crew Lane Industrial Estate Policy Area and include a new reference to the Reserved Land. This allocation would trigger development and would therefore be screened in under Category L as set out above for overall housing and employment allocation preferred approach. Add information on location	Screened in.
Farnsfield				

Policy Number	Policy Name	Notes	Pre-Screening for LSE	Pre-Screening Conclusion
Fa/Ho/1 Fa/Mu/1	Farnsfield	Preferred Approach	Fa/Ho/1 and Fa/Mu/1 complete – amend village envelope to include new development at Southwell Road. No LSE from this change and therefore screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Allocations - Proposed Changes: Nottingham Fringe Area				
Fa/Ho/1 Fa/Mu/1	Lowdham	Preferred Approach	Fa/Ho/1 and Fa/Mu/1 complete – amend village envelope to include new development at Southwell Road. No LSE from this change and therefore screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Allocations - Proposed Changes: Sherwood Area				
Fa/Ho/1 Fa/Mu/1	Ollerton & Boughton	Preferred Approach	Fa/Ho/1 and Fa/Mu/1 complete – amend village envelope to include new development at Southwell Road. No LSE from this change and therefore screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Fa/Ho/1 Fa/Mu/1	Edwinstowe	Preferred Approach	Fa/Ho/1 and Fa/Mu/1 complete – amend village envelope to include new development at Southwell Road. No LSE from this change and therefore screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Bilsthorpe				
Bi/Ho/1	North of Kirklington Road	Preferred Approach	Site deallocated. No LSE from this change and therefore screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
		Alternative Approach	Remain allocated. This allocation would trigger development and would therefore be screened in under Category L as set out above for overall housing and employment allocation preferred approach. 790m from closest area of Sherwood ppSPA	Screened in.
Bi/Ho/2	Wycar Leys	Preferred Approach	It is proposed to amend the site area to include the site to the east and increase the allocation to 136 dwellings. This allocation would trigger development and would therefore be screened in under Category L as set out above for overall housing and employment allocation preferred approach. 1.4km from closest area of Sherwood ppSPA	Screened in.
		Alternative Approach	Retain the allocation at its existing size for around 55 dwellings. This allocation would trigger development and would therefore be screened in under Category L as set out above for overall housing and employment allocation preferred approach. 1.4km from closest area of Sherwood ppSPA	Screened in.

Policy Number	Policy Name	Notes	Pre-Screening for LSE	Pre-Screening Conclusion
Allocations - Proposed Changes: Mansfield Fringe				
Rainworth - No Changes Proposed				
Clipstone - No Changes Proposed				
Blidworth				
New Lane	Bl/Ho/3	Preferred Approach	Amend Site Bl/Ho/3, South of New Lane, Blidworth to allocate less residential development - providing up to 81 dwellings. This allocation would trigger development and would therefore be screened in under Category L as set out above for overall housing and employment allocation preferred approach. 888m from closest area of Sherwood ppSPA	Screened in.
		Alternative Approach	Site deallocated. No LSE from this change and therefore screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Bl/Ho/4	Dale Lane Allotments	Preferred Approach	Site deallocated. No LSE from this change and therefore screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Bl/E/1	Land on Blidworth Industrial Park	Preferred Approach	Site deallocated. No LSE from this change and therefore screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
		Alternative Approach	Allocate entire site. This allocation would trigger development and would therefore be screened in under Category L as set out above for overall housing and employment allocation preferred approach. 2.4km from closest area of Sherwood ppSPA	Screened in.
NUA/OS	Opportunity Sites	Preferred Approach	This option allocates opportunity sites. This policy would trigger development and would therefore be screened in under Category L as set out above for overall housing and employment allocation preferred approach. This overarching policy area is comprised of a number of allocations: NUA/OS/1, NUA/OS/2 and NUA/OS/3. NUA/OS/1: Located to the north of Newark approximately 18km from the closest point of the Sherwood ppSPA. NUA/OS/2: Located to the north of Newark approximately 18km from the closest point of the Sherwood ppSPA.	Screened in

Policy Number	Policy Name	Notes	Pre-Screening for LSE	Pre-Screening Conclusion
			NUA/OS/3: Located to the north of Newark approximately 18km from the closest point of the Sherwood ppSPA.	
Open Breaks and Main Open Areas				
NUA/OB/1	Newark Open Breaks	Preferred Approach	This policy controls development in three areas between Newark and the surrounding villages of Farndon, Winthorpe and Coddington in order to prevent coalescence where there is otherwise significant pressure to develop. It reflects a strategic consideration of these breaks. The preferred approach allows flexibility to allow for more minor forms of development, unlikely to detrimentally impact to openness of the designation to be determined in a more proportionate way. This policy would not trigger development itself and therefore would be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
		Alternative Approach 1	Thought was given the introducing a new designation between Newark and Hawton as part of alternative approach 1. This policy would not trigger development itself and therefore would be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
		Alternative Approach 2	No edits to existing open breaks policy. This policy would not trigger development itself and therefore would be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
		Alternative Approach 3	Delete policy. No LSE from this change and therefore screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Policy NA/MOA	Main Open Areas	Preferred Approach	This policy identifies those Main Open Areas that lie within settlements that do not have an Inset Map. The preferred approach is to add North Clifton to the list. This policy would not trigger development itself and therefore would be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Policy NUA/TC/1	Newark Town Centre	Preferred Approach	Policies to be updated to reflect Newark's successful bid to the Government's 'Towns Deal' initiative, and the future production of a Town Centre Strategy and similar strategies for Ollerton and Southwell District Centres. This policy would not trigger development itself and therefore would be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
NUA/LC/1	Balderton Local Centre North	Preferred Approach	No Change. These policies would not trigger development itself and therefore would be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
NUA/LC/2	Balderton Local Centre South	Preferred Approach	No Change. These policies would not trigger development itself and therefore would be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Policy Co/LC/1	Collingham Local Centre	Preferred Approach	No Change. These policies would not trigger development itself and therefore would be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.

Policy Number	Policy Name	Notes	Pre-Screening for LSE	Pre-Screening Conclusion
Policy ST/LC/1	Sutton on Trent Local Centre	Preferred Approach	No Change. These policies would not trigger development itself and therefore would be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Policy So/DC/1	Southwell Area	Preferred Approach	Updated as per Newark Town Centre. This policy would not trigger development itself and therefore would be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Policy Fa/LC/1	Farnsfield Local Centre	Preferred Approach	No Change. These policies would not trigger development itself and therefore would be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Policy Lo/LC/1–	Lowdham Local Centre	Preferred Approach	No Change. These policies would not trigger development itself and therefore would be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Policy OB/DC/1 & OB/LC/1 -	Ollerton District Centre & Boughton Local Centre	Preferred Approach	Updated as per Newark Town Centre. This policy would not trigger development itself and therefore would be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Policy ED/DC/1	Edwinstowe District Centre	Preferred Approach	No Change. These policies would not trigger development itself and therefore would be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Policy Bi/LC/1	Bilsthorpe Local Centre	Preferred Approach	No Change. These policies would not trigger development itself and therefore would be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Policy Ra/DC/1	Rainworth Local Centre	Preferred Approach	Updated as per Newark Town Centre. This policy would not trigger development itself and therefore would be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Policy Cl/LC/1	Local Centre	Preferred Approach	No Change. These policies would not trigger development itself and therefore would be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
Policy Bl/LC/1	Blidworth Local Centre	Preferred Approach	No Change. These policies would not trigger development itself and therefore would be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
None	Open Space	Preferred Approach	Updated to reflect the recent open space strategy. This policy would not trigger development itself and therefore would be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
None	Playing Pitch Strategy	Preferred Approach	Updated to reflect the latest Sport England Methodology. This policy would not trigger development itself and therefore would be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
None	Archaeology	Preferred Approach	The preferred approach is to create new policy content in the Newark Area chapter of the Amended Allocations & Development Management DPD to protect the Farndon and River Devon Ice Age Landscape. This policy is a plan wide policy to safeguard the environment and will be screened out under Category D.	Screened out.

Policy Number	Policy Name	Notes	Pre-Screening for LSE	Pre-Screening Conclusion
None	Newark Civil War	Preferred Approach	The preferred approach is to develop a coherent approach towards Civil War heritage assets. This may entail creation of new policy content in the Newark Area chapter of the Amended Allocations & Development Management DPD. This policy is a plan wide policy to safeguard the environment and will be screened out under Category D.	Screened out.
None	Southwell Roman Villa	Preferred Approach	The preferred approach is to refine the area to be covered by the designation. This will entail new policy content being added into the Southwell Area chapter of the Amended Allocations & Development Management DPD. This policy is a plan wide policy to safeguard the environment and will be screened out under Category D.	Screened out.
None	Regeneration Programmes and Schemes	Preferred Approach	The preferred approach is to include policy wording to secure the aims and objectives of the Newark-on-Trent Town Investment Plan (TIP) and Newark High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ). This policy would not trigger development itself and therefore would be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.
		Preferred Approach	Not to integrate emerging and future regeneration programmes and schemes into the Development Plan. This policy would not trigger development itself and therefore would be screened out under Category F.	Screened out.

Ecological Services

Green Infrastructure

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

Landscape Character Assessment

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Sustainability Appraisal

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