

Bassetlaw District Council

Local Development Framework

Habitat Regulations Assessment – Screening Report (May 2010)

1. INTRODUCTION

Aims of the report

Bassetlaw District Council is in the process of preparing its Local Development Framework (LDF) and is currently consulting on the Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Preferred Options, in which consideration must be given to the potential effects of proposed policies on European nature conservation sites.

This report summarises the results of the process of screening the proposed policies in the Preferred Options document and contributes to the audit trail of the Habitat Regulation Assessment for the Bassetlaw LDF.

Background

Natura 2000 sites are a network of sites spanning Europe that are considered to represent natural habitats of the highest value for nature conservation. The sites can be important for plants and animals that are rare or considered threatened in a European context. The network of sites were established under the 1992 Habitats Directive¹ and 1979 Birds Directive² and consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). These sites are often simply referred to as 'European Sites'. SACs are designated for their importance for habitats while SPAs are designated for their importance for birds.

Although there are no European Sites within the Bassetlaw administrative area, three sites have been identified that lie within 15km of the boundary:

- Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC
- Hatfield Moors SAC and SPA
- Thorne Moors SAC and SPA

Methodology

Details of the methodology adopted for this assessment can be found in the Bassetlaw District Council Habitat Regulation Assessment Methodology, prepared by Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council (May 2010).

This screening assessment was undertaken using the matrix from Flow Chart 1/Table 3 in the Methodology and is detailed in Appendix 1 of this document.

The Core Strategy

The Core Strategy will provide the overarching framework for all other documents to be produced as part of the Local Development Framework. It will be a District-wide document that will set out a vision for change in Bassetlaw to 2026, along with the strategic policy approaches to be taken in order to achieve this vision. The strategic policies will be underpinned by a small number of more detailed development management policies, designed to provide greater detail, and facilitate implementation of initiatives, in relation to specific policy areas.

¹ Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.

² Council Directive 79/409/ECC on the conservation of wild birds (as amended and subsequently codified in Directive 2009/147/EC).

2. ISSUES AFFECTING EUROPEAN SITES

Conservation Objectives

The proposed policies in the Preferred Options document have been assessed against the criteria set out in the Council's methodology, based on the Conservation Objectives and Site Sensitivities, as identified by Natural England. The main issues that have been considered in the assessment include the impacts of:

- Water abstraction;
- Air pollution;
- Recreational pressure/disturbance; and
- Climate change

The following section highlights the specific nature of the issues that can adversely affect the integrity of the European Sites, the potential impact of the different sections of the Preferred Options document in relation to these issues and the outcome of the screening assessment.

Water Abstraction

Issues arising:

Thorne and Hatfield Moors are designated because of their potential to be restored to bog habitats. Bogs are water fed systems and hence critically dependant on water levels. A change in the water table (increase or decrease) has the potential to have a significant negative impact on this type of habitat.

The geology beneath Thorne Moor differs from that under Hatfield Moor. Hatfield Moor sits on a bed of sand and gravel moraine that is part of the Sherwood Sandstone bedrock. This is a permeable substrate and is hence vulnerable to vertical movements in the water table. If water is removed from the aquifer, causing the water table to drop under areas of the site, then this could cause habitat damage. Thorne Moor is underlain by a band of alluvial clay which is not susceptible to such impacts, given the distance of the Bassetlaw boundary from Thorne Moor.

While the habitats present in Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC are not specifically reliant on water, they could be vulnerable to stress if subject to low groundwater levels. Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC is located over the Sherwood Sandstone Aquifer therefore extraction of water from this source could impact the site.

Potential impacts:

Any type of development that would lead to the need for water to be abstracted from the Sherwood Sandstone aquifer has the potential to negatively impact on Hatfield Moor and Birklands and Bilhaugh. New housing and industrial development would increase the demand for water in an area therefore it is important to determine how the demand for water, resulting from policies promoting housing and economic growth, will be met without impacting the Sherwood Sandstone aquifer water levels.

Policies in the Preferred Options that may have an impact on water abstraction in relation to these sites include:

- Strategic Objective 1: Housing provision
- Strategic Objective 2: Employment land provision
- Strategic Objective 3: Community regeneration
- Development Strategy Policies CS1 – 7

- Development Management Policy 1: Farm diversification and agricultural/ forestry buildings

Screening Assessment Outcome:

While it has been determined through the screening assessment matrix that the above aspects of the Preferred Options could have a potentially adverse impact on the identified European sites, the proposed policies have been developed on the basis of evidence gained through background studies undertaken to inform the LDF. In light of this, we are satisfied that any potential impacts generated through water abstraction will be successfully avoided by virtue of the information gained through the *Bassetlaw Water Cycle Study – Outline Report* (Scott Wilson, March 2010). This states that:

'There are no internationally designated wildlife sites (SACs, SPAs or RAMSAR sites) within Bassetlaw. There are three such sites, Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC and Torne and Hatfield Moor SPA within 10 km of the district boundary. However, these are not hydrologically connected to any features within the district that are likely to be used for Public Water Supply to new housing, such that it can be scoped out of consideration in the WCS.' (Para. 8.2.1).

In addition, the screening process indicated that under Policy DM1 the cumulative impact of farm diversification or agricultural/ forestry buildings, which may be permitted in conjunction with all other forms of development, proposed in this DPD, may impact on levels of water abstraction which could affect European sites. However, given that the overall scale and distribution of development of this type cannot be determined in strategic planning policy documents and the fact that farming activities requiring high volumes of water (i.e. irrigation) sit outside the control of the planning system, the Council's ability to identify suitable mitigation measures is somewhat limited. Any changes to this policy would not have any significant impact on reducing the potential effects of water abstraction through farming activities on European Sites.

Providing Natural England or other consultees concur that this is an accurate judgement of likely impacts of Bassetlaw's future development proposals on water abstraction, it is considered unnecessary to undertake a full Appropriate Assessment (AA) for these policies, in relation to this potential impact.

Air Pollution

Issues arising:

Various sources of pollution produce Nitrogen containing gases. Nitrogen deposition into a habitat can happen as particles in the air are dissolved in water and fall as precipitation, or through direct input of particles into the soil.

Data from the UK Air Pollution Information System³ shows that the current levels of nitrogen deposition at Thorne and Hatfield Moors and Birklands and Bilhaugh exceed critical thresholds for bog habitats and for this type of woodland.

Lowland raised bog habitats are nutrient poor systems. The lowland raised bog habitats present on Thorne and Hatfield Moors are ombrotrophic, meaning they derive their water and nutrients from the atmosphere. This type of habitat is highly sensitive to nitrogen deposition because higher nutrient levels lead to the preferential growth of competitive grass and tree species, rather than bog forming sphagnum mosses.

³ <http://www.apis.ac.uk/>

Nitrogen deposition can therefore lead to an increase in nutrient levels that would have a significantly adverse impact on the lowland raised mire habitat. Similarly, Nitrogen deposition could be harmful to the habitats present on the site as it could result in changes in species composition as nitrogen loving species increase.

Acid deposition is a process where pollutants in the air lead to acidification of soils. This can happen through direct uptake of particles or input from precipitation.

As with Nitrogen levels, data from the UK Air Pollution Information System shows that the current levels of acid deposition at Thorne and Hatfield Moors and Birklands and Bilhaugh exceed critical thresholds for these habitats.

Changing the pH of soils could be damaging to the habitats present on Thorne and Hatfield Moors. While the sphagnum moss communities present in restored bog habitats thrive in acidic conditions, increases in acid deposition may take acidity levels beyond the tolerance for this habitat. Increased acidity on the site may result in a fall in tree vitality and changes in ground flora composition. It could also have a direct impact on bryophytes and lichens.

Potential impacts:

Because of the distance of Bassetlaw from Thorne and Hatfield moors it is considered that dry deposition is unlikely to be an issue. However, given that critical thresholds have already been exceeded for all of the European Sites in question, the impacts of air pollution in terms of wet deposition should be taken into account. Policies relating to increased housing provision and new roads will lead to a rise in the number of car owners in the region and hence a rise in Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) emissions. In addition, Policies relating to the provision of heavy industry, waste or power facilities also have the potential to increase NOx pollution and acid deposition.

Policies in the Preferred Options that may have an impact on air pollution in relation to these sites include:

- Strategic Objective 1: Housing provision
- Strategic Objective 2: Employment land provision
- Strategic Objective 3: Community regeneration
- Development Strategy Policies CS1 – 7

Screening Assessment Outcome:

These objectives and policies will contribute to the growth of housing in Bassetlaw over the period of the LDF and could potentially allow the development of heavy industry, the impacts of which are highlighted above.

With regard to the level of housing development in Bassetlaw and subsequent levels of car ownership/use and NOx levels, it was determined that there is limited scope for the LDF to address the issues that arise.

While Strategic Objective 6 from the Preferred Options seeks to ensure opportunities for sustainable transport solutions are realised, Bassetlaw District Council itself is not a transport authority; it is Nottinghamshire County Council that has overall responsibility for public highways. These objectives and policies seek to locate housing growth in the District's most sustainable settlements, in terms of employment opportunities and access to services, with the greatest accessibility to public transport. Any changes to the geographical distribution of the RSS housing growth target across Bassetlaw would not make any significant changes to this potential impact. The Strategic Environmental Assessment of the next Local Transport Plan

should therefore be consulted, in order to establish what impacts the RSS housing growth targets will have on air quality and what mitigation measures the County Council will have to introduce. As such, it is considered unnecessary to undertake an AA for these policies in relation to these impacts.

In addition to the potential effects of housing growth, these objectives and policies could allow the development of heavy industry on new and existing employment sites across the District. However, given that the policies support a wide range of employment growth, it is not possible to predict if heavy industries will emerge. Appropriate Assessments will therefore only be required at the application stage for such a development if it comes forward.

Recreational Pressure/Disturbance

Issues arising:

The habitats present at Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC are fragile and vulnerable to damage caused by people visiting the site, straying from paths and causing ground compaction that damages tree roots and ground flora.

The HRA for the Core Strategy Options for Newark and Sherwood⁴ assumed that visitors to Sherwood Forest would travel from settlements up to 20km away to visit the site. Housing developments within 20km of the site would therefore have the potential to increase the recreational pressure on the site.

On Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA, Nightjar are vulnerable to recreational disturbance caused by people and dogs. As a summer resident to the UK this pressure is most acute during the breeding season.

The provision of good quality areas of public open space within new housing developments, as well as the improvement of existing areas, can help to alleviate recreational pressure on important wildlife sites.

Potential impacts:

Policies that increase housing numbers in the Bassetlaw area will increase the number of people living near to Hatfield Moors and Birklands and Bilhaugh SACs. Some of these people will visit these sites for recreational purposes and hence policies of this type have the potential to impact upon the sites. Given the distance to Thorne Moors it is considered less likely that increased housing in Bassetlaw will increase recreational disturbance on this site.

Weak public open space policies have the potential to lead to increased numbers of people visiting international sites such as Thorne and Hatfield Moors for recreational purposes. This would be particularly the case if new housing developments do not provide alternative high quality publicly accessible open spaces. Also, policies that make access to Thorne and Hatfield Moor easier by carrying out public rights of way improvements have the potential to increase recreational pressure on these sites.

Policies in the Preferred Options that may have an impact on recreational pressure and disturbance in relation to these sites include:

- Strategic Objective 1: Housing provision
- Strategic Objective 3: Community regeneration

⁴ Newark and Sherwood Core Strategy Options Report: Assessment under the Habitat Regulations Oct 2009

- Development Strategy Policies CS1 – 6

Screening Assessment Outcome:

These policies state that new development will provide open space and play facilities. This aim, along with Strategic Objective 8 and Development Management Policy 9, will see quantitative and qualitative growth of the District's existing green infrastructure network which includes more recreational and open spaces to cater for the increased recreational demands of new housing developments. These policies therefore provide effective mitigation measures that will limit the need for people to travel to these protected areas for recreation purposes.

Providing consultees are satisfied that this is a fair judgement of likely impacts of Bassetlaw's future development proposals on issues relating to recreational pressure and disturbance, it is considered unnecessary to undertake a full AA for these policies.

Climate Change

Issues arising:

Thorne and Hatfield Moors comprise degraded bog habitat that is critically dependant on water. Rainfall is a crucially important resource needed to maintain and restore the habitat. Climate change has the potential to threaten the integrity of both sites were it to result in a fall in the amount of rainfall they receive. Climate change is thought to be caused by increases in the levels of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere. Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxides and fluorocarbons.

The Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC is considered much less susceptible to the impacts of climate change.

Potential impacts:

A variety of policies could lead to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions. These include policies that relate to car and air travel, industry, creation of new houses and deforestation. Policies in Bassetlaw's Preferred Options document that may have an impact on this factor include:

- Strategic Objective 1: Housing provision
- Strategic Objective 2: Employment land provision
- Strategic Objective 3: Community regeneration
- Development Strategy Policies CS1 – 7

Screening Assessment Outcome:

These objectives and policies could lead to an increase in the emissions of greenhouse gases through the development of new housing, industry and wider regeneration of individual settlements. These could all potentially contribute to factors that influence climate change therefore lead to negative impacts on the European Sites.

However, having considered the likely impacts of these objectives and policies, there are distinct mitigation measures to restrict or minimise any impacts within other parts of the Preferred Options. Set against the in-combination benefits of Strategic Objective 6, Development Management Policy 10 and the progressive tightening of Building Regulations on carbon emissions from 2010, we are confident in concluding that these measures will result in the reduction of greenhouse gases therefore

reducing the impact of new developments on climate change and limiting the need for an AA for these policies.

3. CONCLUSION AND NEXT STEPS

This document and the accompanying methodology set out the Council's statement on the need for Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Preferred Options Core Strategy and Development Management Policies. The process has examined each policy within the Preferred Options document to identify whether there is potential for it to give rise to significant effects on European sites.

It is considered that, at this stage, it cannot be demonstrated that the plan will have any adverse effects on the integrity of any of the European sites included in the scope of this screening report, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Following consultation with Natural England and other consultees this report will be consulted on and should be updated in light of comments and as the Core Strategy develops.

APPENDIX 1

Screening and Scoping

Section of document, policies or objectives being screened	Policy Reference / Section Reference	Categorisation in initial screening with explanation	Comments and recommendations where initial screening is Category F or G	Following detailed consideration of the issues and taking into account changes to plan or policy, or supporting evidence, is an AA required?
Vision				
Vision for Bassetlaw	Section 5.1 – 5.5	<p>Category B</p> <p>The Vision is not a policy in its self but reflects the aspirations of the Council for the Local Development Framework. The Vision will be delivered by the policies contained in the Core Strategy. Therefore it is considered that this vision will not have any direct impacts on a European site.</p>	N/A	N/A

Strategic Objectives				
Strategic Objective 1	Section 6	<p>Category F</p> <p><u>Water abstraction:</u> Objective seeks to deliver the District's housing growth target within key settlements. This growth in new housing increases the demand for water in an area. It is therefore important that it is determined how the demand for water, resulting from this objective, will be met without impacting the Sherwood Sandstone aquifer water levels.</p>	<p>The Bassetlaw Water Cycle Study – Outline Report (Scott Wilson, March 2010, para. 8.2.1) states, of Birklands and Bilhaugh and Thorne and Hatfield Moors, that '<i>... these [sites] are not hydrologically connected to any features within the district that are likely to be used for Public Water Supply to new housing, such that it can be scoped out of consideration in the WCS</i>'. In light of this finding, it is considered that this policy is unlikely to have an impact on European Sites.</p>	No
		<p><u>Recreational pressure and disturbance:</u></p> <p>Similarly, an increase housing numbers in Bassetlaw will increase the number of people living near to Hatfield Moors and Birklands and Bilhaugh protected areas. Some of these people will visit these sites for recreational purposes and hence objectives of this type have the potential to impact upon these sites.</p>	<p>Strategic Objective 8 and Development Management Policy 9 seek quantitative and qualitative growth in green infrastructure which includes more recreational and open spaces within Bassetlaw to cater for the increased recreational demands of new housing developments. This will therefore limit the need for people to travel to these protected areas to access recreation areas.</p>	No

		<p><u>Air pollution:</u> Policies relating to increased housing provision will lead to a rise in the number of car owners in the region and hence a rise in NOx emissions, therefore potentially effecting air pollution on the SACs.</p>	<p>Although Strategic Objective 6 seeks to ensure opportunities for sustainable transport solutions are realised, Bassetlaw District Council is not a transport authority and as such Nottinghamshire County Council has overall responsibility for public highways. This objective seeks to locate housing growth in the most sustainable settlements, with the greatest accessibility to public transport. Any changes to the geographical distribution of the RSS housing growth target across Bassetlaw would not make any significant changes to this potential impact. This issue must be addressed by the County Council, who have responsibility for this, through the LTP.</p>	<p>This matter sits outside of the scope of Bassetlaw District Council's responsibility as a planning authority and subsequently this DPD. Therefore, it is suggested that the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the next Transport Plan (LTP3) should be consulted, in order to establish what impacts the RSS housing growth targets will have on air quality and what mitigation measures the County Council will have to introduce.</p>
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		<p><u>Climate Change:</u> This objective could lead to an increase in the emissions of greenhouse gases through the creation of new houses. This could potentially lead to a negative impacts on SACs.</p>	<p>The in-combination benefits of Strategic Objective 6, Development Management Policy 10 and the progressive tightening of Building Regulations on carbon emissions from 2010 will result in the reduction of greenhouse gases and therefore reduce the impact of house building on climate change.</p>	No.
Strategic Objective 2	Section 6	<p>Category F/G <u>Water abstraction:</u> Industry has the potential to increase the demand for water. This objective targets an increase in sites for employment-creating uses which have the potential to impact water levels.</p>	<p>The Bassetlaw Water Cycle Study – Outline Report (Scott Wilson, March 2010, para. 8.2.1) states, of Birklands and Bilhaugh and Thorne and Hatfield Moors, that ‘... <i>these [sites] are not hydrologically connected to any features within the district that are likely to be used for Public Water Supply to new housing, such that it can be scoped out of consideration in the WCS</i>’. In light of this finding, it is considered that this policy is unlikely to have an impact on European Sites.</p>	No

		<p><u>Air Pollution:</u> This objective could allow the development of heavy industry on new employment sites.</p>	<p>The objective is open-ended and supports all forms of employment growth. As such, it is not possible to predict if heavy industries will emerge. An AA will therefore only be required at the application stage for such a development if it comes forward.</p>	<p>No.</p>
		<p><u>Climate Change:</u> This objective could lead to an increase in the emissions of greenhouse gases through the development of new industry. This could potentially lead to negative impacts on SACs.</p>	<p>The in-combination benefits of Strategic Objective 6, Development Management Policy 10 and the progressive tightening of Building Regulations on carbon emissions from 2010 will result in the reduction of greenhouse gases and therefore reduce the impact of new industrial development on climate change.</p>	<p>No</p>

Strategic Objective 3	Section 6	<p>Category F</p> <p><u>Water abstraction:</u> Objective seeks to deliver the regeneration within key settlements. This will include an increase in new housing and possible industrial development. This will increase the demand for water in the area. It is therefore important that it is determined how the demand for water, resulting from this objective, will be met without impacting the Sherwood Sandstone aquifer water levels.</p>	<p>The Bassetlaw Water Cycle Study – Outline Report (Scott Wilson, March 2010, para. 8.2.1) states, of Birklands and Bilhaugh and Thorne and Hatfield Moors, that ‘... these [sites] are not hydrologically connected to any features within the district that are likely to be used for Public Water Supply to new housing, such that it can be scoped out of consideration in the WCS’. In light of this finding, it is considered that this policy is unlikely to have an impact on European Sites.</p>	No
		<p><u>Recreational pressure and disturbance:</u></p> <p>Regeneration growth will increase housing numbers in specific parts of Bassetlaw will increase the number of people living near to Hatfield Moors and Birklands and Bilhaugh protected areas. Some of these people will visit these sites for recreational purposes and hence objectives of this type have the potential to impact upon these sites.</p>	<p>Strategic Objective 8 Development Management Policy 9 seek quantitative and qualitative growth in green infrastructure which includes more recreational and open spaces within Bassetlaw to cater for the increased recreational demands of new housing developments. This will therefore limit the need for people to travel to these protected areas to access recreation areas.</p>	No

		<p><u>Air pollution:</u> Policies relating to regeneration will increase housing provision which will lead to a rise in the number of car owners in the region and lead to a rise in NOx emissions, therefore potentially effecting air pollution on the SACs.</p>	<p>Although Strategic Objective 6 seeks to ensure opportunities for sustainable transport solutions are realised, Bassetlaw District Council is not a transport authority and as such Nottinghamshire County Council has overall responsibility for public highways. This objective seeks to locate housing growth in the most sustainable settlements, with the greatest accessibility to public transport. Any changes to the geographical distribution of the RSS housing growth target across Bassetlaw would not make any significant changes to this potential impact. This issue must be addressed by the County Council, who have responsibility for this, through the LTP.</p>	<p>This matter sits outside of the scope of Bassetlaw District Council's responsibility as a planning authority and subsequently this DPD. Therefore, it is suggested that the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the next Transport Plan (LTP3) should be consulted, in order to establish what impacts the RSS housing growth targets will have on air quality and what mitigation measures the County Council will have to introduce.</p>
		<p><u>Air Pollution:</u> This objective could allow the development of heavy industry on new employment sites in regeneration areas.</p>	<p>The objective is open-ended and supports all forms of employment growth through regeneration. As such, it is not possible to predict if heavy industries will emerge. An AA will therefore only be required at the application stage for such a development if it comes forward.</p>	<p>No</p>

		<p><u>Climate Change:</u> This objective could lead to an increase in the emissions of greenhouse gases through new development associated with regeneration of key settlements. This could potentially lead to a negative impact on SACs.</p>	<p>The in-combination benefits of Strategic Objective 6, Development Management Policy 10 and the progressive tightening of Building Regulations on carbon emissions from 2010 will result in the reduction of greenhouse gases and therefore reduce the impact of all new development on climate change.</p>	No
Strategic Objective 4	Section 6	<p>Category E The objective helps steer development away from sensitive sites as it promotes development of existing town centres.</p>	N/A	N/A
Strategic Objective 5	Section 6	<p>Category B/D The emphasis of this objective is to protect and enhance services and facilities to ensure the continued viability of rural settlements. It also supports enterprises requiring a rural location, however, at this tier of policy there is a lack of sufficient detail to determine specific locations or types of development that will occur. This will be addressed in a lower tier policy or through the determination of individual applications.</p>	N/A	N/A
Strategic Objective 6	Section 6	<p>Category C/D</p>	N/A	N/A

		<p>This objective seeks to enhance the environmental sensitivity of developments by protecting the natural environment and ensuring prudent use of natural resources. This will be achieved by promoting development that reduces impacts on climate change; reduces or mitigates flood risk; utilising low carbon energy opportunities; promoting the use of sustainable transport solutions and sustainable drainage systems.</p>		
Strategic Objective 7	Section 6	<p>Category A This objective seeks to enhance the built environment through design and other qualitative considerations. The objective itself will not lead to development.</p>	N/A	N/A
Strategic Objective 8	Section 6	<p>Category C/D The objective seeks to protect Bassetlaw's natural environment by maintaining, conserving and enhancing its characteristic landscapes, biodiversity, habitats and species and seeking quantitative and qualitative growth in the green infrastructure network.</p>	N/A	N/A
Strategic Objective 9	Section 6	<p>Category D Objective is intended to conserve and enhance Bassetlaw's heritage assets therefore protecting the built</p>	N/A	N/A

		and historic environment of the District. Enhancements through this objective will not incur any effects on European Sites.		
Development Strategy				
Policy CS1: Worksop, Sub-Regional Centre	Section 7.1	Category F <u>Water Abstraction:</u> Policy for development of Worksop seeks to deliver the housing growth, employment growth (including industrial development) and the wider regeneration of the Sub-Regional Centre. All of this development will increase the demand for water in the area. It is therefore important that it is determined how the demand for water, resulting from this policy, will be met without impacting the Sherwood Sandstone aquifer water levels.	The Bassetlaw Water Cycle Study – Outline Report (Scott Wilson, March 2010, para. 8.2.1) states, of Birklands and Bilhaugh and Thorne and Hatfield Moors, that ‘... <i>these [sites] are not hydrologically connected to any features within the district that are likely to be used for Public Water Supply to new housing, such that it can be scoped out of consideration in the WCS</i> ’. In light of this finding, it is considered that this policy is unlikely to have an impact on European Sites.	No
		<u>Climate Change:</u> This policy could lead to an increase in the emissions of greenhouse gases through new development associated with the future development of Worksop, as the Sub-Regional Centre. This could potentially lead to a negative impact on SACs.	The in-combination benefits of Strategic Objective 6, Development Management Policy 10 and the progressive tightening of Building Regulations on carbon emissions from 2010 will result in the reduction of greenhouse gases and therefore reduce the impact of all new development on climate	No

			change.	
		<p><u>Air Pollution:</u> This policy for Worksop will increase housing provision which will lead to a rise in the number of car owners in the region and lead to a rise in NOx emissions, therefore potentially effecting air pollution on the SACs.</p>	<p>Although Strategic Objective 6 seeks to ensure opportunities for sustainable transport solutions are realised, Bassetlaw District Council is not a transport authority and as such Nottinghamshire County Council has overall responsibility for public highways. This policy seeks to locate the largest proportion of housing growth in Worksop, considered to be the most sustainable settlement in the District, with some of the greatest levels of accessibility to public transport. Redistributing housing growth across Bassetlaw to either increase or decrease Worksop's housing growth target will not make any significant changes to the level of car ownership in the District.</p> <p>Any changes to this issue must be addressed by the County Council, as the transport authority, through such measures as the LTP.</p>	<p>This matter sits outside of the scope of Bassetlaw District Council's responsibility as a planning authority and subsequently this DPD. Therefore, it is suggested that the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the next Transport Plan (LTP3) should be consulted, in order to establish what impacts the RSS housing growth targets will have on air quality and what mitigation measures the County Council will have to introduce.</p>
		<p><u>Air Pollution:</u> This policy could allow the development of heavy industry on</p>	<p>The policy supports a wide range of employment growth. As such, it is not possible to</p>	<p>No</p>

		new employment sites in Worksop.	predict if heavy industries will emerge. An AA will therefore only be required at the application stage for such a development if it comes forward.	
		<p><u>Recreational pressure and disturbance:</u> An increase housing numbers in Worksop will increase the number of people living near to Hatfield Moors and Birklands and Bilhaugh protected areas. Some of these people will visit these sites for recreational purposes and hence this policy has the potential to impact upon these sites.</p>	This policy states that new development will provide open space and play facilities. This aim, along with Strategic Objective 8 and Development Management Policy 9, will see quantitative and qualitative growth in green infrastructure which includes more recreational and open spaces within Worksop to cater for the increased recreational demands of new housing developments. This will therefore limit the need for people to travel to these protected areas to access recreation areas.	No
Policy CS2: Retford, Core Service Centre	Section 7.2	<p>Category F <u>Water Abstraction:</u> The policy for development of Retford seeks to deliver the housing growth, employment growth (including industrial development) and the wider regeneration of the town. All of this development will increase the demand for water in the area. It is therefore important that it</p>	The Bassetlaw Water Cycle Study – Outline Report (Scott Wilson, March 2010, para. 8.2.1) states, of Birklands and Bilhaugh and Thorne and Hatfield Moors, that ‘... <i>these [sites] are not hydrologically connected to any features within the district that are likely to be used for Public Water Supply to new housing, such</i>	No

		is determined how the demand for water, resulting from this policy, will be met without impacting the Sherwood Sandstone aquifer water levels.	<i>that it can be scoped out of consideration in the WCS'.</i> In light of this finding, it is considered that this policy is unlikely to have an impact on European Sites.	
		<u>Climate Change:</u> This policy could lead to an increase in the emissions of greenhouse gases through new development associated with the future development of Retford. This could potentially lead to a negative impact on protected sites.	The in-combination benefits of Strategic Objective 6, Development Management Policy 10 and the progressive tightening of Building Regulations on carbon emissions from 2010 will result in the reduction of greenhouse gases and therefore reduce the impact of all new development on climate change.	No
		<u>Air Pollution:</u> This policy for Retford will increase housing provision which will lead to a rise in the number of car owners in the region and lead to a rise in NOx emissions, therefore potentially effecting air pollution on the SACs.	Although Strategic Objective 6 seeks to ensure opportunities for sustainable transport solutions are realised, Bassetlaw District Council is not a transport authority and as such Nottinghamshire County Council has overall responsibility for public highways. This policy seeks to locate a significant proportion of housing growth in Retford, considered to be one of the most sustainable settlements in the District, with the greatest level of accessibility to public	This matter sits outside of the scope of Bassetlaw District Council's responsibility as a planning authority and subsequently this DPD. Therefore, it is suggested that the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the next Transport Plan (LTP3) should be consulted, in order to establish what impacts the RSS housing growth targets will have on air quality and what mitigation

			<p>transport. Redistributing housing growth across Bassetlaw to either increase or decrease Retford's housing growth target will not make any significant changes to the level of car ownership in the District.</p> <p>Any changes to this issue must be addressed by the County Council, as the transport authority, through such measures as the LTP.</p>	measures the County Council will have to introduce.
		<p><u>Air Pollution:</u> This policy could allow the development of heavy industry on new employment sites in Retford.</p>	The policy supports a wide range of employment growth. As such, it is not possible to predict if heavy industries will emerge. An AA will therefore only be required at the application stage for such a development if it comes forward.	No
		<p><u>Recreational pressure and disturbance:</u> An increase housing numbers in Retford will increase the number of people living near to Hatfield Moors and Birklands and Bilhaugh protected areas. Some of these people will visit these sites for recreational purposes and hence this policy has the potential to impact upon these sites.</p>	This policy states that new development will provide open space and play facilities. This aim, along with Strategic Objective 8 and Development Management Policy 9, will see quantitative and qualitative growth in green infrastructure which includes more recreational and open spaces within Retford to cater for the increased recreational demands of new housing	No

			developments. This will therefore limit the need for people to travel to these protected areas for recreation purposes.	
Policy CS3: Harworth Bircotes, Main Regeneration Settlement	Section 7.3	<p>Category F</p> <p><u>Water Abstraction:</u> Policy for development of Harworth Bircotes seeks to deliver the housing growth, employment growth (including industrial development) and the wider regeneration of the settlement. All of this development will increase the demand for water in the area. It is therefore important that it is determined how the demand for water, resulting from this policy, will be met without impacting the Sherwood Sandstone aquifer water levels.</p>	<p>The Bassetlaw Water Cycle Study – Outline Report (Scott Wilson, March 2010, para. 8.2.1) states, of Birklands and Bilhaugh and Thorne and Hatfield Moors, that ‘... <i>these [sites] are not hydrologically connected to any features within the district that are likely to be used for Public Water Supply to new housing, such that it can be scoped out of consideration in the WCS</i>’.</p> <p>In light of this finding, it is considered that this policy is unlikely to have an impact on European Sites.</p>	No
		<p><u>Climate Change:</u> This policy could lead to an increase in the emissions of greenhouse gases through new development associated with the future development of Harworth Bircotes, as the District’s Main Regeneration Settlement. This could potentially lead to a negative impact on European Sites.</p>	<p>The in-combination benefits of Strategic Objective 6, Development Management Policy 10 and the progressive tightening of Building Regulations on carbon emissions from 2010 will result in the reduction of greenhouse gases and therefore reduce the impact of all new development on climate change.</p>	No

		<p><u>Air Pollution:</u> This policy for Harworth Bircotes will increase housing provision which will lead to a rise in the number of car owners in the region and lead to a rise in NOx emissions, therefore potentially effecting air pollution on the SACs.</p>	<p>Although Strategic Objective 6 seeks to ensure opportunities for sustainable transport solutions are realised, Bassetlaw District Council is not a transport authority and as such Nottinghamshire County Council has overall responsibility for public highways. This policy seeks to locate a significant proportion of housing growth in Harworth Bircotes, considered a sustainable settlement with a good level of accessibility to public transport. Redistributing housing growth across Bassetlaw to either increase or decrease Harworth Bircotes' housing growth target will not make any significant changes to the level of car ownership in the District.</p> <p>Any changes to this issue must be addressed by the County Council, as the transport authority, through such measures as the LTP.</p>	<p>This matter sits outside of the scope of Bassetlaw District Council's responsibility as a planning authority and subsequently this DPD. Therefore, it is suggested that the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the next Transport Plan (LTP3) should be consulted, in order to establish what impacts the RSS housing growth targets will have on air quality and what mitigation measures the County Council will have to introduce.</p>
		<p><u>Air Pollution:</u> This policy could allow the development of heavy industry on new employment sites in Harworth Bircotes.</p>	<p>The policy supports a wide range of employment growth. As such, it is not possible to predict if heavy industries will emerge. An AA will therefore</p>	<p>No</p>

			only be required at the application stage for such a development if it comes forward.	
		<p><u>Recreational pressure and disturbance:</u> An increase housing numbers in Harworth Bircotes will increase the number of people living near to Hatfield Moors and Birklands and Bilhaugh protected areas. Some of these people will visit these sites for recreational purposes and hence this policy has the potential to impact upon these sites.</p>	This policy states that new development will provide open space and play facilities. This aim, along with Strategic Objective 8 and Development Management Policy 9, will see quantitative and qualitative growth in green infrastructure which includes more recreational and open spaces within Harworth Bircotes to cater for the increased recreational demands of new housing developments. This will therefore limit the need for people to travel to these protected areas for recreation purposes.	No
Policies CS4, 5 & 6: Carlton-in-Lindrick/ Langold, Tuxford and Misterton, Local Service Centres	Sections 7.4 – 7.6	<p>Category G <u>Water Abstraction:</u> The policy for development of Bassetlaw’s Local Service Centres seeks to deliver small-scale housing and employment growth (potentially including industrial development) and the wider regeneration of the settlements. The cumulative impacts of this development may increase the demand for water in these respective areas. It is therefore</p>	The Bassetlaw Water Cycle Study – Outline Report (Scott Wilson, March 2010, para. 8.2.1) states, of Birklands and Bilhaugh and Thorne and Hatfield Moors, that ‘... <i>these [sites] are not hydrologically connected to any features within the district that are likely to be used for Public Water Supply to new housing, such that it can be scoped out of consideration in the WCS</i> ’.	No

		important that it is determined how the demand for water, resulting from this policy, will be met without impacting the Sherwood Sandstone aquifer water levels.	In light of this finding, it is considered that this policy is unlikely to have an impact on European Sites.	
		<u>Climate Change:</u> This policy could lead to an increase in the emissions of greenhouse gases through new development in-combination with the effects of neighbouring authorities' DPDs. This could potentially lead to a negative impact on European Sites.	The in-combination benefits of Strategic Objective 6, Development Management Policy 10 and the progressive tightening of Building Regulations on carbon emissions from 2010 will result in the reduction of greenhouse gases and therefore reduce the impact of all new development on climate change.	No
		<u>Air Pollution:</u> This policy for Bassetlaw's Local Service Centres will result in a small increase in housing provision which, in-combination with development in neighbouring areas, will lead to a rise in the number of car owners and lead to a rise in NOx emissions, therefore potentially effecting air pollution on the protected sites.	Although Strategic Objective 6 seeks to ensure opportunities for sustainable transport solutions are realised, Bassetlaw District Council is not a transport authority and as such Nottinghamshire County Council has overall responsibility for public highways. This policy seeks to locate a small proportion of housing growth in the identified Local Service Centres, as they are considered to be well-connected to the larger settlements, with a reasonable level of accessibility to public	This matter sits outside of the scope of Bassetlaw District Council's responsibility as a planning authority and subsequently this DPD. Therefore, it is suggested that the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the next Transport Plan (LTP3) should be consulted, in order to establish what impacts the RSS housing growth targets will have on air quality and what mitigation measures the County

			<p>transport. Redistributing housing growth across Bassetlaw to either increase or decrease the Local Service Centres' housing growth target will not make any significant changes to the level of car ownership in the District.</p> <p>Any changes to this issue must be addressed by the County Council, as the transport authority, through such measures as the LTP.</p>	Council will have to introduce.
		<p><u>Air Pollution:</u> This policy could allow for limited development of heavy industry on extensions of existing employment sites in the Local Service Centres.</p>	<p>The policy supports a wide range of employment growth. As such, it is not possible to predict if heavy industries will emerge. An AA will therefore only be required at the application stage for such a development if it comes forward.</p>	No
		<p><u>Recreational pressure and disturbance:</u> An increase of housing numbers in Bassetlaw's Local Service Centres will increase the number of people living near to Hatfield Moors and Birklands and Bilhaugh protected areas. Some of these people may visit these sites for recreational purposes and hence this policy has the potential to impact upon these sites.</p>	<p>This policy states that new development will provide open space and play facilities. This aim, along with Strategic Objective 8 and Development Management Policy 9, will see quantitative and qualitative growth in green infrastructure which includes more recreational and open spaces across the District and within the Local Service Centres to</p>	No

			cater for the increased recreational demands of new housing developments here and in other nearby areas. This will therefore limit the need for people to travel to these protected areas for recreation purposes.	
Policy CS7: Rural Service Centres	Section 7.7	<p>Category G</p> <p><u>Water Abstraction:</u> The policy for development of Bassetlaw's Rural Service Centres seeks to deliver limited housing and employment growth (potentially including industrial development). The impacts of this development may increase demand for water across the District. It is therefore important that it is determined how the demand for water, resulting from this policy, will be met without impacting the Sherwood Sandstone aquifer water levels.</p>	<p>The Bassetlaw Water Cycle Study – Outline Report (Scott Wilson, March 2010, para. 8.2.1) states, of Birklands and Bilhaugh and Thorne and Hatfield Moors, that '<i>... these [sites] are not hydrologically connected to any features within the district that are likely to be used for Public Water Supply to new housing, such that it can be scoped out of consideration in the WCS</i>'. In light of this finding, it is considered that this policy is unlikely to have an impact on European Sites.</p>	No
		<p><u>Air Pollution:</u> This policy for Bassetlaw's Rural Service Centres will result in a small increase in housing provision which, in-combination with development in neighbouring areas, will lead to a rise in the number of car owners and lead to a rise in NOx emissions, therefore potentially effecting air pollution on the protected sites.</p>	<p>Although Strategic Objective 6 seeks to ensure opportunities for sustainable transport solutions are realised, Bassetlaw District Council is not a transport authority and as such Nottinghamshire County Council has overall responsibility for public</p>	<p>This matter sits outside of the scope of Bassetlaw District Council's responsibility as a planning authority and subsequently this DPD. Therefore, it is suggested that the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the next</p>

			<p>highways. This policy seeks to locate a small proportion of housing growth across the identified Rural Service Centres to maintain the vitality and viability of rural Bassetlaw. Redistributing housing growth across Bassetlaw to either increase or decrease the Rural Service Centres' housing growth target will not make any significant changes to the level of car ownership in the District.</p> <p>Any changes to this issue must be addressed by the County Council, as the transport authority, through such measures as the LTP.</p>	<p>Transport Plan (LTP3) should be consulted, in order to establish what impacts the RSS housing growth targets will have on air quality and what mitigation measures the County Council will have to introduce.</p>
		<p><u>Climate Change:</u> This policy could lead to an increase in the emissions of greenhouse gases through new development in Rural Service Centres, in-combination with the effects of neighbouring authorities' DPDs. This could potentially lead to a negative impact on European Sites.</p>	<p>The in-combination benefits of Strategic Objective 6, Development Management Policy 10 and the progressive tightening of Building Regulations on carbon emissions from 2010 will result in the reduction of greenhouse gases and therefore reduce the impact of all new development on climate change.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Policy CS8: Other Settlements</p>	<p>Section 7.8</p>	<p>Category E This policy steers development away from sensitive sites and promotes development in other areas.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>N/A</p>

		Development that is permitted in these settlements will be strictly limited in terms of scale and must accord with the role of the settlement.		
Development Management Policies				
Policy DM1: Farm Diversification and Agricultural/ Forestry Buildings	Section 8.1.1	Category G The cumulative impact of farm diversification or agricultural/ forestry buildings which may be permitted through this policy, in conjunction with all other forms of development proposed in this DPD, may impact on levels of water abstraction which could affect European sites.	The scale of development of this type cannot be determined in strategic planning policy documents. Additionally, farming activities that would require high volumes of water (i.e. irrigation) sit outside the control of the planning system therefore changes to this policy would not have any significant impact on reducing the potential effects of farming activities on protected sites.	No
Policy DM2: Development in the Countryside	Section 8.1.2	Category B This policy makes provision for, but does not actually seek, certain types of development. As such, this policy does not actually allocate or set any growth targets. The impact of any growth is dependent on applications coming forward therefore the assessment of any impact will need to be determined through the application.	N/A	N/A
Policy DM3: Conversion of Rural	Section 8.1.3	Category B This policy makes provision for	N/A	N/A

Buildings		certain types of development to be permitted, although this does not actually allocate or set any growth targets. The impact of any growth is dependent on applications coming forward therefore the assessment of any impact will need to be determined at that stage.		
Policy DM4: Design and Character	Section 8.2	Category A This policy seeks to enhance the built environment through design and other qualitative considerations. The objective itself will not lead to development.	N/A	N/A
Policy DM5: Housing Mix and Density	Section 8.3	Category A/D This policy seeks to enhance the built environment through the qualitative consideration of housing mix. Recommendations for different densities appropriate to different locations will ensure developments conserve or enhance the built/historic environment. With no significant impact on the overall levels of housing growth in Bassetlaw, this policy will impose no significant impact on protected sites.	N/A	N/A
Policy DM6: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show People	Section 8.4	Category B This policy makes provision for certain types of development to be permitted, although the locations of these developments will be	N/A	N/A

		considered in a lower tier plan (Site Allocations DPD). Potential impacts on protected sites will be considered in the preparation stages of that DPD.		
Policy DM7: Economic Development Land	Section 8.5	Category E The policy helps steer development away from sensitive sites as it promotes development in existing economic centres and re-use of existing employment sites.	N/A	N/A
Policy DM8: Conservation and Built Heritage	Section 8.6	Category D The policy is intended to conserve and enhance Bassetlaw's heritage assets therefore protecting the built and historic environment of the District. Enhancements through this policy will not incur any effects on European Sites.	N/A	N/A
Policy DM9: Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity, Landscape, Open Space and Sports Facilities	Section 8.7	Category C/D The policy seeks to protect Bassetlaw's natural environment by maintaining, conserving and enhancing its characteristic landscapes, biodiversity, habitats and species and seeking quantitative and qualitative growth in the green infrastructure network through provision of new open spaces.	N/A	N/A
Policy DM10: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy	Section 8.8	Category C/D	N/A	N/A

Carbon Energy		This policy will support a reduction in the emission of greenhouse gases by promoting the use of renewable and low carbon energy technologies and therefore reduce the impact of all new development on climate change and as such, protecting the natural environment from the associated implications.		
Policy DM11: Developer Contributions and Infrastructure	Section 8.9	<p>Category A</p> <p>This policy will not itself lead to development. However, the policy will change what is developed through planning applications by imposing a duty for developers to contribute towards the wider sustainability agenda by delivering the following as part of their proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green infrastructure • Public transport improvements • Flood mitigation measures • Renewable and low carbon energy <p>The implications of these enhancements to development proposals will help to minimise potential impact on protected sites.</p>	N/A	N/A
Policy DM12: Flood Risk, Sewerage and Drainage	Section 8.10	<p>Category A</p> <p>This policy will not itself lead to development as it seeks to steer development away from areas of flood risk and ensure that all new</p>	N/A	N/A

		development incorporates sustainable drainage systems wherever possible. The policy also imposes restrictions on developments which might exacerbate existing land drainage or sewerage problems.		
Policy DM13: Parking Standards	Section 8.11	Category A This policy will not itself lead to development as it supplements other development policies within this DPD. It simply sets parking standards for developments but does not control the type or location of development.	N/A	N/A