



**Bassetlaw District Council**

**Bassetlaw Local Plan  
Habitats Regulations  
Assessment**

**Screening Assessment and  
Appropriate Assessment**

**Final report**

Prepared by LUC

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**Bassetlaw District Council**

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Assessment**  
Screening Assessment and Appropriate  
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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

**1.1** LUC was commissioned by Bassetlaw District Council (BDC) to carry out a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of its Local Plan. This report presents the methodology and findings of the HRA screening and Appropriate Assessment for the Draft Bassetlaw Plan (Local Plan).

### Background

**1.2** Bassetlaw District Council (BDC) began work on its new Local Plan in 2015. The new Local Plan will provide the long term approach to development in the District up to the year 2037 and once adopted, will replace the existing Core Strategy and Development Management Policies Development Plan Document (DPD) which was adopted in December 2011.

**1.3** The Initial Draft Bassetlaw Plan was published for consultation in October 2016 and set out a Vision and a list of Strategic Objectives for the Local Plan, as well as Strategic Proposals which detail the spatial hierarchy for the District and a proposed planning approach and development principles for each tier of the hierarchy. The Initial Draft Bassetlaw Plan also set out proposed thematic policy approaches relating to housing growth; economic development; town and service centres; the historic environment; the natural environment; design; affordable and specialist housing; rural buildings and residential development in wider ST2 - Rural Bassetlaw; responding to a changing climate; infrastructure delivery and planning obligations; and Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. These proposed policy approaches were high level indications of the likely direction of the Local Plan policy and did not comprise detailed draft policy wording.

**1.4** BDC has now prepared the next iteration of the Local Plan, including revised strategic policies, site allocations and more detailed policies.

**1.5** The HRA of the Bassetlaw Plan considers whether the plan could have a significant effect on the integrity of internationally important wildlife sites, either alone or in combination with other plans.

### The requirements to undertake HRA of development plans

**1.6** The requirement to undertake HRA of development plans was confirmed by the amendments to the Habitats Regulations published for England and Wales in July 2007

and updated in 2010 and again in 2012. These updates were consolidated into the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017<sup>1</sup>.

**1.7** The HRA refers to the assessment of the potential effects of a development plan on one or more European Sites, including Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs):

- SPAs are classified under the European Council Directive “on the conservation of wild birds” (79/409/EEC; ‘Birds Directive’) for the protection of wild birds and their habitats (including particularly rare and vulnerable species listed in Annex 1 of the Birds Directive, and migratory species);
- SACs are designated under the Habitats Directive and target particular habitats (Annex 1) and/or species (Annex II) identified as being of European importance.

**1.8** Currently, the Government also expects potential SPAs (pSPAs), possible SACs (pSACs) and Ramsar sites to be included within the assessment<sup>2</sup>.

- Ramsar sites support internationally important wetland habitats and are listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar Convention, 1971).

**1.9** Candidate SACs (cSACs) and Sites of Community Importance (SCIs), which are sites that have been adopted by the European Commission but not yet formally designated by the government, must also be considered.

**1.10** For ease of reference during HRA, these designations are collectively referred to as European sites, despite Ramsar designations being at the wider international level.

**1.11** The overall purpose of the HRA is to conclude whether or not a proposal or policy, or whole development plan would adversely affect the integrity of the site in question. This is judged in terms of the implications of the plan for a site’s ‘qualifying features’ (i.e. those Annex I habitats, Annex II species, and Annex I bird populations for which it has been designated). Significantly, HRA is based on the precautionary principle. Where uncertainty or doubt remains, an adverse effect should be assumed.

## Stages of Habitats Regulations Assessment

**1.12** Table 1.1 summarises the stages and associated tasks and outcomes typically involved in carrying out a full HRA, based on various guidance documents<sup>3 4 5</sup>.

Table 1.1: Stages of HRA

Stage	Tasks
<b>Stage 1: HRA Screening</b>	Description of the development plan  Identification of potentially affected European sites and factors contributing to their integrity  Review of other plans and projects  Assessment of likely significant effects ('LSEs') of the development plan alone or in-combination with other plans and projects.
<b>Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment (where Stage 1 does not rule out likely significant effects)</b>	Information gathering (development plan and European Sites).  Evaluation of development plan impacts in view of conservation objectives.  Where impacts are considered to affect qualifying features, identify how these effects will be avoided or reduced.
<b>Stage 3: Assessment where no alternatives exist and adverse impacts remain taking into account mitigation</b>	Identify 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI).  Demonstrate no alternatives exist.  Identify potential compensatory measures.

**1.13** In assessing the effects of a Plan in accordance with Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, there are potentially two tests to be applied by the competent authority: a ‘Significance Test’, followed if necessary, by an Appropriate Assessment which would inform

<sup>1</sup> The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (Statutory Instrument 2017 No. 1012) consolidate the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 with subsequent amendments.

<sup>2</sup> Department of Communities and Local Government (July 2018) National Planning Policy Framework (para 176).

<sup>3</sup> European Commission (2001) Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting European Sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.

<sup>4</sup> UK Government Planning Practice Guidance, available from <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appropriate-assessment>

<sup>5</sup> The HRA Handbook. David Tyldesley & Associates, a subscription based online guidance document: <https://www.dtapublications.co.uk/handbook/European>

the 'Integrity Test'. The relevant sequence of questions is as follows:

- Step 1: Under Reg. 105(1)(b), consider whether the plan is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the sites. If not, then the considerations proceed to Step 2.
- Step 2: Under Reg. 105(1)(a) consider whether the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects (the 'Significance Test'). If yes, proceed to Step 3.
- Step 3: Under Reg. 105(1), make an Appropriate Assessment of the implications for the European site in view of its current conservation objectives (the 'Integrity Test'). In so doing, it is mandatory under Reg. 105(2) to consult Natural England, and optional under Reg. 105(3) to take the opinion of the general public.
- Step 4: In accordance with Reg. 105(4), but subject to Reg. 107, give effect to the land use plan only after having ascertained that the plan would not adversely affect the integrity of a European site.
- Step 5: Under Reg. 107, if Step 4 is unable to rule out adverse effects on the integrity of a European site and no alternative solutions exist then the competent authority may nevertheless agree to the plan or project if it must be carried out for 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI).

**1.14** It is normally anticipated that an emphasis on Stages 1 and 2 of this process will, through a series of iterations, help ensure that potential adverse effects are identified and eliminated through the inclusion of mitigation measures designed to avoid, reduce or abate effects. The need to consider alternatives could imply more onerous changes to a plan document. It is generally understood that so called 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI) are likely to be justified only very occasionally and would involve engagement with both the Government and European Commission.

**1.15** The HRA should be undertaken by the 'competent authority' - in this case BDC, and LUC has been commissioned to do this on its behalf. The HRA also requires close working with Natural England as the statutory nature conservation body<sup>6</sup> in order to obtain the necessary information and agree the process, outcomes and any mitigation proposals. The Environment Agency, while not a

statutory consultee for the HRA, is also in a strong position to provide advice and information throughout the process.

## Recent case law changes

**1.16** This HRA has been prepared in accordance with recent case law findings, including most notably the recent 'People over Wind' and 'Holohan' rulings from the Court of Justice for the European Union (CJEU).

**1.17** The *People over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta* (April 2018) judgment ruled that Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive should be interpreted as meaning that mitigation measures should be assessed as part of an Appropriate Assessment, and should not be taken into account at the screening stage. The precise wording of the ruling is as follows:

**1.18** *"Article 6(3) .....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 measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on that site.*

**1.19** In light of the above, the HRA screening stage will not rely upon avoidance or mitigation measures to draw conclusions as to whether the AAP could result in likely significant effects on European sites, with any such measures being considered at the Appropriate Assessment stage as relevant.

**1.20** The HRA will also fully consider the *Holohan v An Bord Pleanala* (November 2018) judgement which stated that:

**1.21** *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.*

**1.22** *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*

<sup>6</sup> Regulation 5 of *The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017* (Statutory Instrument 2017 No. 1012).

*the development consent granted establishes conditions that are strict enough to guarantee that those parameters will not adversely affect the integrity of the site.*

**1.23** 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.

**1.24** LUC will fully consider the potential for effects on species and habitats, including those not listed as qualifying features, to result in secondary effects upon the qualifying features of European sites, including the potential for complex interactions and dependencies. In addition, the potential for offsite impacts, such as through impacts to functionally linked land, and or species and habitats located beyond the boundaries of European site, but which may be important in supporting the ecological processes of the qualifying features, has also been fully considered in this HRA.

## Structure of this report

**1.25** This chapter has introduced the requirement to undertake HRA of the Local Plan. The remainder of the report is structured as follows:

- **Chapter 2: Bassetlaw Local Plan** summarises the content of the Local Plan, which is the subject of this report.
- **Chapter 3: Methodology** sets out the approach used and the specific tasks undertaken during the screening stage of the HRA.
- **Chapter 4: HRA Screening Assessment** describes the findings of the screening stage of the HRA.
- **Chapter 5: Appropriate Assessment** describes the findings of the appropriate assessment stage of the HRA.
- **Chapter 6: Conclusions** summarises the HRA conclusions and describes the next steps to be undertaken.
- **Appendix A** presents a map highlighting European sites situated within the Bassetlaw district, and those within a 15km radius of the district’s boundary.
- **Appendix B** presents the Screening matrices.
- **Appendix C** sets out the plans with potential for in-combination effects.

## Chapter 2

### Bassetlaw Local Plan

#### Local Plan

**2.1** This document relates to the Draft Bassetlaw Plan (Local Plan). It sets out proposed strategic policies (including site allocations) and thematic policies, which are focused on various topics for development management purposes. These policies set out the requirements that development within the District should meet.

#### Potential impacts of the Local Plan on European sites

**2.2** All potential impacts that development in general and related activities may have on European sites have been considered to inform this HRA. Impacts considered include a broad range of physical, non-physical, direct and indirect impacts, drawing on LUC's experience of HRA, the professional judgement of assessors, impacts noted specifically for those European sites included within the HRA and comments previously provided by Natural England relating to the potential impacts and activities that could affect European sites. Further information regarding the types of impacts that the Local Plan could have, and which therefore need to be considered in this HRA, is provided in **Chapter 4**.



## Chapter 3

### Methodology

**3.1** HRA screening of the Draft Bassetlaw Plan (Local Plan) has been undertaken in line with current available guidance and seeks to meet the requirements of the Habitats Regulations, and takes into account the recent 'People over Wind' judgment and Holohan CJEU rulings. The tasks that have been undertaken during the screening and appropriate assessment stages of the HRA are described in detail below.

#### Identification of European sites which may be affected by the Plan

**3.2** In order to initiate the search of European sites that could potentially be affected by a Local Plan, it is established practice in HRAs to consider European sites within the local planning authority area covered by the Local Plan, and other sites that may be affected beyond this area.

**3.3** The neighbouring Borough of Doncaster Metropolitan Council was appointed in 2010 by BDC to prepare a methodology that future development plans and documents can use to undertake the HRA process. This methodology<sup>7</sup> used a 15km area of search outside the District boundary to identify European sites that may be affected by plans and projects within Bassetlaw, which is common practice in HRAs of English Local Plans.

**3.4** Although there are no European Sites within Bassetlaw District, four sites have been identified that lie within 15km of the boundary:

- Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC;
- Hatfield Moor SAC;
- Thorne Moor SAC; and
- Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA.

**3.5** The Doncaster MBC methodology also recognises that European sites outside this 15km zone may need to be considered in exceptional circumstances and therefore each plan subject to HRA should consider whether there are any pathways by which effects could occur on more distant European sites. The Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar lies north of Bassetlaw District and has hydrological connectivity via the River Trent which forms the eastern

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.bassetlaw.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-services/planning-policy/core-strategy-and-development-policies/background-studies/habitat-regulations-assessment/>

boundary of the District. Therefore this European site has been considered within this HRA.

**3.6** As mentioned in the previous chapter, it is necessary for potential SPAs (pSPAs) to be included in the HRA. Although not formally a pSPA, Natural England has advised that there is a possibility of a Sherwood Forest pSPA being designated in the future on account of supporting populations of breeding nightjar and woodlark. In an Advice Note to Local Planning Authorities dated March 2014<sup>8</sup>, Natural England advocates a precautionary approach to any plans or projects which could affect such a site, and identifies Core Breeding Areas and Important Bird Areas (IBAs), which together would be likely to constitute component sites of any Sherwood Forest 'prospective potential' SPA (ppSPA). Natural England has clarified that, the most up to date Sherwood Forest IBA boundaries differ from those in the 2014 advice note, and that these should be used when considering the potential extent of the ppSPA.

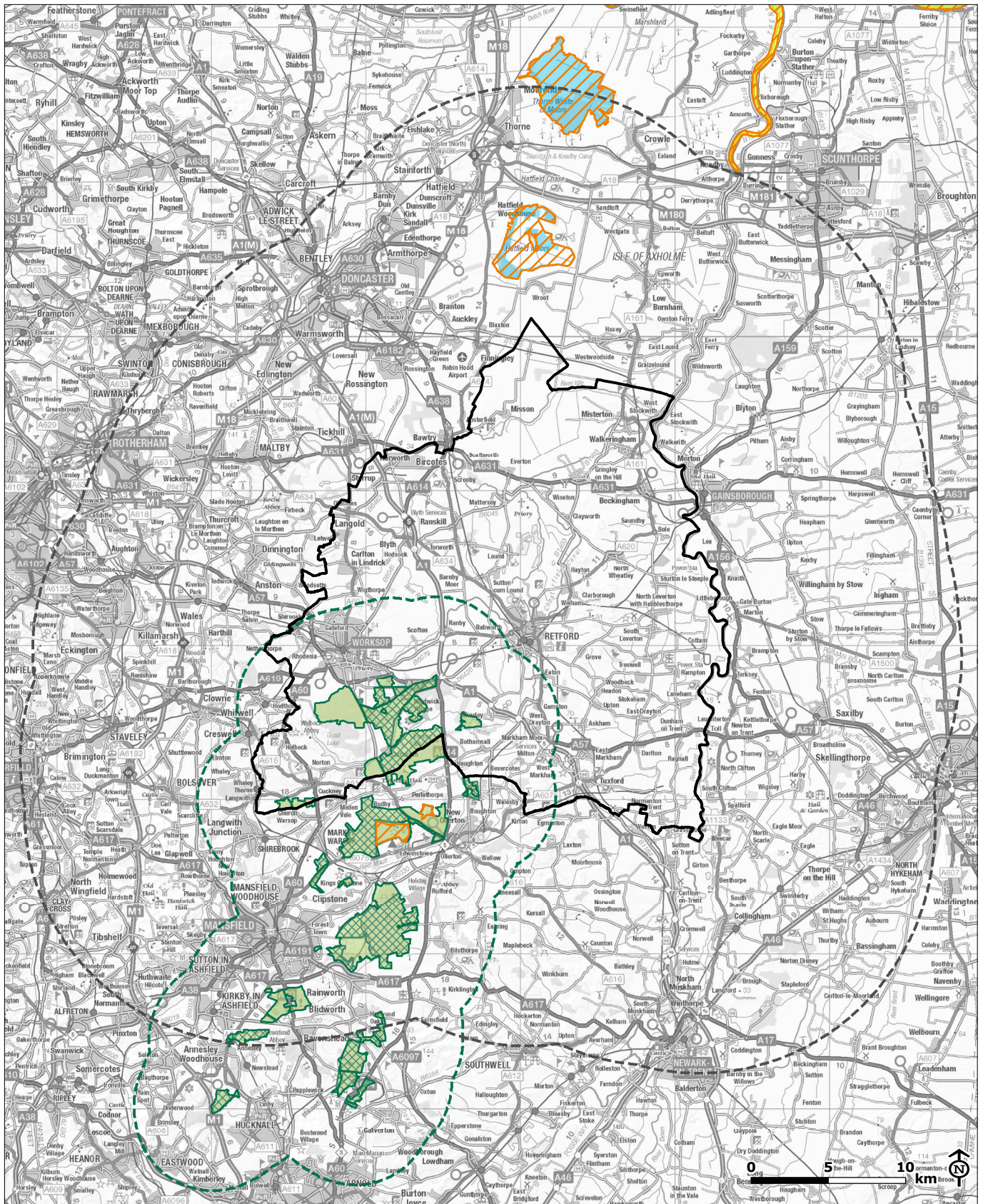
**3.7** Natural England's 2014 advice note advises Local Planning Authorities in the vicinity of affected by parts of Sherwood Forest, to be mindful of the Secretary of State's decision in 2011, following Public Inquiry, to refuse to grant planning permission for an Energy Recovery Facility at Rainworth where the potential impacts on these birds and their supporting habitats was given significant weight. This note indicates that, with regards to planning, a risk-based approach should be taken by considering Sherwood Forest in the HRA process as a ppSPA.

**3.8** While no conclusion has been reached, or progress published about the possible future classification of a Sherwood Forest pSPA, Natural England recommend that the ppSPA be considered as part of any relevant HRA, in line with the precautionary principle and to ensure that any planning proposals are adequately future proofed. The site has therefore been treated as a pSPA in this assessment but is referred to as the Sherwood Forest ppSPA.

**3.9** The locations of the European sites are mapped in **Figure 3.1**. As the status of Sherwood Forest is still uncertain, there are no boundaries for the ppSPA, a possible boundary for the purposes of this assessment has been based upon the information provided within the Natural England advice note, as described above. This indicative area is provided in **Figure 3.1**.

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<sup>8</sup><https://www.mansfield.gov.uk/downloads/file/482/natural-england-s-advice-notes-on-the-sherwood-ppspa-2014>



**BASSETLAW**  
**Habitats Regulation**  
**Assessment Screening**

**Figure 3.1: European Sites within 15km of Bassetlaw District**

- Bassetlaw District Council
- 15km from Council boundary
- Special Area of Conservation
- Ramsar
- Special Protection Area
- Sherwood Forest Important Bird Area\*
- Indicative core area of breeding of Nightjar and Woodlark

- Indicative prospective potential Special Protection Area (ppSPA)
  - Sherwood Forest Important Bird Area 5km buffer
- Source: Natural England, NWT  
 \* IBA boundary from 2018 is shown. IBAs outside of Sherwood Forest are not shown on this map as they have not been considered in the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) Screening.

Map Scale @ A4: 1:350,000



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## Ecological attributes of the European sites

**3.10** Detailed information about the location, qualifying features and vulnerabilities of the European sites included in the assessment is presented in **Appendix A**. The attributes that contribute to and define the integrity of the European sites considered in this HRA have been identified using the Conservation Objectives for each site, Standard Data Forms for SACs and SPAs<sup>9</sup> and Information Sheets for Ramsar Wetlands<sup>10</sup>, as well as Natural England’s Site Improvement Plans<sup>11</sup> (SIPs). This analysis enabled European site interest features to be identified, along with the features of each site that determine site integrity and the specific sensitivities and threats facing the site. This information was then used to inform an assessment of how the potential impacts of the Local Plan may affect the integrity of each site.

**3.11** This approach has also been useful for informing the inter-dependencies of non-qualifying species and habitats which the qualifying species depend, as recently highlighted as a requirement by the ‘Holohan’ ruling.

**3.12** As the Sherwood Forest ppSPA is not currently designated as a European site, there is no Standard Data form or SIP for it. However, other comparable SPAs within the UK, such as the Thames Basin Heaths SPA, which is designated for nesting nightjar and woodlark (and Dartford Warbler), have been used to understand likely pressures and threats, and factors contributing to the coherence and function of the sites qualifying features.

## Assessment of ‘likely significant effects (LSEs)’ on the Local Plan

**3.13** As required under Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017<sup>12</sup> (the ‘Habitats Regulations’), an assessment has been undertaken of the ‘likely significant effects’ of the Local Plan. A risk-based approach involving the application of the precautionary principle has been adopted in the assessment, such that a conclusion of ‘no significant effect’ has only been reached where it is considered very unlikely, based on current knowledge and the information available, that a proposal in the Local Plan would have a significant effect on the integrity of a European site.

A screening matrix has been prepared (**Appendix B**), which considers the potential for likely significant effects resulting from each policy and site allocation in the Draft Bassetlaw Plan. A ‘traffic light’ approach has been used in the screening matrix to record the likely effects of the policies and site allocations on European sites and their qualifying habitats and species, using the colour categories shown below. The findings of the Screening Assessment are described in **Chapter 4**. Interpretation of ‘likely significant effect’

Red	There are likely to be significant effects (Appropriate Assessment required).
Amber	There may be significant effects, but this is currently uncertain (Appropriate Assessment required).
Green	There are unlikely to be significant effects (Appropriate Assessment <b>not</b> required).

**3.14** Relevant case law helps to interpret when effects should be considered as a likely significant effect, when carrying out HRA of a land use plan.

**3.15** In the Waddenzee case<sup>13</sup>, the European Court of Justice ruled on the interpretation of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (translated into Reg. 105 in the Habitats Regulations), including that:

- An effect should be considered ‘likely’, “if it cannot be excluded, on the basis of objective information, that it will have a significant effect on the site” (para 44);
- An effect should be considered ‘significant’, “if it undermines the conservation objectives” (para 48); and
- Where a plan or project has an effect on a site “but is not likely to undermine its conservation objectives, it cannot be considered likely to have a significant effect on the site concerned” (para 47).

**3.16** A relevant opinion delivered to the Court of Justice of the European Union<sup>14</sup> commented that:

<sup>9</sup> These were obtained from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee and Natural England websites (www.jncc.gov.uk and www.naturalengland.org.uk)

<sup>10</sup> These were obtained from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee website (www.jncc.defra.gov.uk)

<sup>11</sup> Natural England is in the process of compiling Site Improvement Plans for all Natura 2000 sites in England as part of the Improvement Programme for England’s Natura 2000 sites (IPENS).

<sup>12</sup> SI No. 2017/2012

<sup>13</sup> ECJ Case C-127/02 “Waddenzee” Jan 2004.

<sup>14</sup> Advocate General’s Opinion to CJEU in Case C-258/11 Sweetman and others v An Bord Pleanala 22nd Nov 2012.

*“The requirement that an 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.”*

**3.17** This opinion (the ‘Sweetman’ case) therefore allows for the authorisation of plans and projects whose possible effects, alone or in-combination, can be considered ‘trivial’ or *de minimis*; referring to such cases as those *“that have no appreciable effect on the site”*. In practice such effects could be screened out as having no likely significant effect; they would be ‘insignificant’.

### Mitigation at the screening stage

**3.18** As mentioned in **Chapter 1**, Court of Justice of the European Union judgement in relation to the ‘People over Wind, Peter Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta’ case ruled that Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive should be interpreted as meaning that mitigation measures should be assessed as part of an Appropriate Assessment, and should not be taken into account at the screening stage.

**3.19** Potential effects identified through the Screening exercise as set out in Appendix B and the next chapter could be mitigated through the implementation of policies within the

Local Plan itself. These may include policies such as those relating to the provision of improved sustainable transport links which could help to mitigate potential increases in air pollution associated with increased vehicle traffic, and the provision of green infrastructure within new developments which may help to relieve increases in visitor pressure at European sites.

**3.20** Potential avoidance and mitigation included in the plan itself has not therefore been considered at the screening stage, but has, if required, been considered during the Appropriate Assessment, thereby ensuring full compliance with the ‘People over Wind’ judgment. Nevertheless, in order to inform the preparation of the plan any recommended mitigation and avoidance measures have been identified at the screening stage for potential inclusion in the Local Plan.

### Appropriate Assessment

**3.21** The Appropriate Assessment stage of HRA focuses on those impacts judged likely at the Screening stage to have a significant effect, and seeks to conclude whether, in light of mitigation and avoidance measures, they would result in an adverse effect on the on the integrity of the qualifying features of a European site(s), or where insufficient certainty regarding this remains. The integrity of a site depends on the site being able to sustain its ‘qualifying features’ across the whole of the site and ensure their continued viability. The findings of the Appropriate Assessment are described in **Chapter 5**.

## Chapter 4

# HRA Screening Assessment

**4.1** For some types of impacts, screening for likely significant effects has been determined on a proximity basis, using GIS data to determine the proximity of potential development locations to the European sites that are the subject of the assessment. Where an impact pathway from the Local Plan to a European site cannot be identified, such impacts can be screened out of further assessment. The detailed Screening matrix is presented in **Appendix B**, and the findings are described below in relation to each broad type of potential impact that the Local Plan could give rise to.

### Physical damage/loss of habitat

**4.2** Any development resulting from the Local Plan will be located within Bassetlaw District. Therefore, loss of habitat from within the boundaries of a European site can be ruled out in relation to those sites that lie entirely outside of Bassetlaw. With the exception of Sherwood Forest ppSPA, all European sites lie outside of the District boundary. None of the policies result in development within the likely boundary of Sherwood Forest ppSPA itself, therefore impacts from physical damage or loss of onsite habitat can be screened out.

**4.3** Loss of habitat from outside the boundaries of a European site could still result in likely significant effects if that habitat supports qualifying species from within the European sites, for example habitat that is used for foraging by birds (usually referred to as 'functionally linked' habitat).

**4.4** All European sites lying entirely beyond the boundary of Bassetlaw have no notable ecological/functional connectivity to the District and/or are of a distance that loss or damage to habitats within the district is unlikely to impact upon them. For example, Hatfield and Thorne SPA is sensitive to impacts of damage or loss of off-site habitat due to its qualifying feature being nightjar, a mobile bird species which will forage within off-site habitat. However, given the distance of the European site being over 20km from development allocations and the presence of intervening infrastructure, it would not be expected for SPA birds to be dependent on the habitat within the allocations in Bassetlaw District.

**4.5** Therefore, likely significant effects on all European sites can be screened out in relation to physical damage or loss of off-site habitat, with the exception of Sherwood Forest ppSPA. Sherwood Forest ppSPA lies within the District. The following site allocation policies comprise potentially suitable foraging

and/or breeding habitat for the ppSPA bird species, and will result in housing and employment development:

- ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village;
  - ST9: Site SEM1 – Apleyhead Junction, Worksop.
  - ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop;
  - 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop;
  - 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop
  - 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford;
  - 23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford;
  - 24: Site NP04 - Ollerton Road, Tuxford;
  - 25: Site NP11/NP18 - Land at Ashvale Road, Tuxford;
- and

**4.6** Sherwood Forest ppSPA has been identified as being important for woodlark and nightjar. The preferred habitat type for these species during the breeding season is heathland and rotational coniferous plantation habitats. Nightjar do not overwinter in the UK, and will utilise a much broader range of habitat types for nocturnal foraging including open grasslands, woodlands and wetland habitats. Woodlark typically have large territories which incorporate early successional stage habitat that provides the low vegetation sward preferred for nesting, but usually within woodland clearings. Woodlark also overwinter in the UK when they often forage in arable habitats.

**4.7** A review of aerial imagery indicated that woodland arable and pasture / grassland habitats within the Local Plan site allocations at ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop, ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village and 9: Site SEM1 – Apleyhead Junction, Worksop is suitable for foraging woodlark and nightjar. Furthermore, although the woodland habitats within these sites are unlikely to support breeding woodlark and nightjar as the areas are generally small and do not have the clearings which would be required for these species to breed, effects as a result of development at these sites is uncertain. Additionally, the site allocation at 9: Site SEM1 – Apleyhead Junction, Worksop supports a large area of woodland in close proximity to the ppSPA. Therefore, impacts resulting from the loss of off-site foraging and breeding habitat should be considered at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

**4.8** The site allocation policies for 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford ; 23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford; 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop; 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop and 24: Site NP04 - Ollerton Road, Tuxford all include either arable habitat suitable for foraging woodlark over-winter and/or pasture/meadow habitat

which has potential to provide suitable habitat for foraging nightjar. No potential breeding habitat is present within these sites. Although in most cases due to small sizes of the sites, surrounding urban landscape, distance from Sherwood Forest ppSPA and/or the presence of sufficient and optimal foraging habitat in the wider landscape it is considered unlikely these species would rely upon these sites for foraging. However, taking a precautionary approach, impacts resulting from the loss of off-site foraging habitat should be considered at the Appropriate Assessment stage for these sites.

**4.9** The remaining housing and employment site allocations (21: Site HS7 – Leafields Allotment, Retford, 18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop , 17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop, 16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop, ST8 - Strategic Employment Sites, Existing Employment Sites, ST5 - Cottam Priority Regeneration Area and ST7: Site EM007 - High Marnham Energy Hub) do not support habitat which is suitable for nightjar or woodlark, therefore these site allocations will not result in effects of loss or damage of off-site habitat and have been screened out.

**It is not possible to screen out likely significant effects on the Sherwood Forest ppSPA as a result of physical damage/loss of off-site habitat. As a result, this issue requires further consideration at the Appropriate Assessment stage to determine whether the Local Plan would result in adverse effects on site integrity, either alone or in-combination.**

#### Non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light)

**4.10** Noise and vibration effects, e.g. during the construction of new housing or employment development, are most likely to disturb bird species and are thus a key consideration with respect to European sites where birds are the qualifying features, although such effects may also impact upon some mammals and fish species. Artificial lighting at night (e.g. from street lamps, flood lighting and security lights) is most likely to affect bat populations and other nocturnal animals, and therefore have an adverse effect on the integrity of European sites where bats or nocturnal animals are a qualifying feature.

**4.11** It has been assumed that the effects of noise, vibration and light are most likely to be significant within a distance of 500m from the European site. There is also evidence of 300m being used as a distance up to which certain bird species can be disturbed by the effects of noise<sup>15</sup>; however, it has been assumed (on a precautionary basis) that the effects of noise, vibration and light pollution are most likely to cause an adverse effect if development takes place within 500m of a European site with qualifying features sensitive to these

<sup>15</sup> British Wildlife Magazine. October 2007.

disturbances, or within 500m of known off-site breeding, foraging or roosting areas.

**4.12** The ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village and 9: Site SEM1 – Apleyhead Junction, Worksop site allocation policies include provision for housing and associated economic development and infrastructure within 500m from the likely boundary of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA. Therefore, development at these sites has the potential, through non-physical disturbance, such as from noise, vibration and light, to displace, disturb and reduce the survival or productivity of breeding birds.

**4.13** The remaining site allocations lie more than 500m from the Sherwood Forest ppSPA, and are also either within or the other side of intervening urban settlements or large infrastructure such as A or M roads. It is therefore considered unlikely for there to be an increase in non-physical disturbance as a result of development at these locations.

**4.14** The remaining European sites lie outside of the District boundary and are all well over 500m from new development allocations and as noted above, are less likely to contain functionally linked habitat within the District, therefore there is no impact pathway associated with the Local Plan development and likely significant effects as a result of non-physical disturbance are not expected to occur.

**Likely significant effects upon Sherwood Forest ppSPA associated with non-physical disturbance as a result of the ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village and 9: Site SEM1 – Apleyhead Junction, Worksop site allocations cannot be ruled out and will therefore need to be considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.**

#### Air pollution

**4.15** Air pollution is most likely to affect European sites where plant, soil and water habitats are the qualifying features, but some qualifying animal species may also be affected, either directly or indirectly, by any deterioration in habitat as a result of air pollution. Deposition of pollutants to the ground and vegetation can alter the characteristics of the soil, affecting the pH and nitrogen availability that can then affect plant health, productivity and species composition.

**4.16** In terms of vehicle traffic, nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>, i.e. NO and NO<sub>2</sub>) are considered to be the key pollutants. Subsequent deposition of nitrogen compounds may lead to both soil and freshwater acidification, and eutrophication of soils and water.

**4.17** Based on the Highways Agency Design Manual for Road and Bridges (DMRB) Volume 11, Section 3, Part 1<sup>16</sup> (which was produced to provide advice regarding the design, assessment and operation of trunk roads (including motorways)), it is assumed that air pollution from roads is unlikely to be significant beyond 200m from the road itself. Where increases in traffic volumes are forecast, this 200m buffer needs to be applied to the relevant roads in order to make a judgement about the likely geographical extent of air pollution impacts.

**4.18** The DMRB Guidance for the assessment of local air quality in relation to highways developments provides criteria that should be applied at the screening stage of an assessment of a plan or project, to ascertain whether there are likely to be significant impacts associated with routes or corridors. Based on the DMRB guidance, affected roads which should be assessed are those where:

- Daily traffic flows will change by 1,000 AADT (Annual Average Daily Traffic) or more; or
- Heavy duty vehicle (HDV) flows will change by 200 AADT or more; or
- Daily average speed will change by 10 km/hr or more; or
- Peak hour speed will change by 20 km/hr or more; or
- Road alignment will change by 5 m or more.

**4.19** All the European sites which lie outside of the District boundary are located over 200m from major roads which also pass through Bassetlaw. There is no impact pathway in relation to air pollution effects and they have therefore been screened out in relation to air pollution (alone and in-combination).

**4.20** It has been assumed that only those roads forming part of the primary road network (motorways and primary 'A' roads) are likely to experience any significant increases in vehicle traffic as a result of development (i.e. greater than 1,000 AADT). As such, where a site is within 200m of only minor roads, no significant effect from traffic-related air pollution is considered to be the likely outcome.

**4.21** A small section of the A1(M) motorway lies within Bassetlaw, from the Blyth North junction, northwards towards Doncaster. Five A roads pass through the District, they are the:

- A631 from Bawtry to Beckingham/Gainsborough.
- A57 from Shireoaks to Dunham on Trent.
- A1 from Tuxford to Harworth.

<sup>16</sup> Design Manual for Road and Bridges. Highways Agency.  
<http://dft.gov.uk/ha/standards/dmrb/index.htm>



- A60 from Medan Vale to Oldcotes.
- A614 from Hardwick to Bawtry.

**4.22** The A60, A1, A57 and A614 all pass through and/or within 200m of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA. Therefore, an increase in population and traffic on the road network associated with the following policies has the potential to lead to increased air pollution on roads within 200m of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA:

- ST1: Bassetlaw Spatial Strategy;
- ST2: Rural Bassetlaw;
- ST3: Bassetlaw Garden Village;
- ST5: Cottam Priority Regeneration Area;
- ST6: Provision of Land for Employment Development;
- ST7: Site EM007 - High Marnham Energy Hub;
- ST8: Strategic Employment Sites;
- 9: Site SEM1 – Apleyhead Junction, Worksop;
- ST10: Existing Employment Sites and Buildings;
- ST11: Rural Economic Growth;
- ST12: Visitor Economy;
- ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop;
- 16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop;
- 17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop;
- 18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop;
- 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop;
- 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop;
- 21: Site HS7 – Leafields Allotment, Retford;
- 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford;
- 23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford;
- 24: Site NP04 - Ollerton Road, Tuxford; and
- 25: Site NP11/NP18 - Land at Ashvale Road, Tuxford

**4.23** Given the habitats within Sherwood Forest ppSPA are communities which thrive in nutrient poor conditions, the site is particularly sensitive to nutrient enrichment, which can result in increased competition by dominant grasses and scrub and changes in habitat composition. These habitat changes lead to faster succession of habitat and reduce the availability of early

stage successional phases favoured by the bird species the site would be designated for (i.e. reducing the extent of nesting habitat). These habitat changes could also lead to a potential change in prey abundance and diversity, and a likely significant effect on the ppSPA birds.

**4.24** Recent case law, known as the Wealden judgement<sup>17</sup>, has revised the method by which Natural England expects to see in-combination air pollution effects assessed. The implication of the judgment is that, where the road traffic effects of other plans or projects are known or can be reasonably estimated (including those of adopted plans or consented projects), then these should be included in road traffic modelling by the local authority whose local plan or project is being assessed. The screening criteria of 1,000 AADT should then be applied to the traffic flows of the plans in-combination.

**4.25** The policies listed above are likely to result in an increase in population and therefore result in an increase in traffic flows on roads throughout the District as a whole. These policies could have an air pollution effect in-combination with growth proposed in neighbouring plans. Therefore, this should be considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

**The potential for the Local Plan to result in likely significant effects on the Sherwood Forest ppSPA as a result of air pollution cannot be ruled out, either alone or in-combination, and therefore this will require further consideration at the Appropriate Assessment stage to determine assessment of likely impacts either alone or in-combination.**

#### Impacts of recreation

**4.26** Recreational activities can result in likely significant effects on European sites as a result of erosion, trampling and nutrient enrichment of habitats, and disturbance of species by humans or dogs resulting in a compromised ability to breed or survive. Where Local Plan policies are likely to result in an increase in the local population, or where an increase in visitor numbers to the European site is considered likely, there may be potential for associated recreational impacts.

**4.27** A well-established approach to avoiding recreational pressures has been developed as part of planning decisions which involve the Thames Basin Heaths SPA (TBH SPA). The TBH SPA, located in southern England, is designated for ground nesting heathland birds including nightjar and woodlark, and like the Sherwood Forest ppSPA it comprises a mosaic of plantation coniferous and broadleaved woodlands,

<sup>17</sup> Wealden District Council v. (1) Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government; (2) Lewes District Council; (3) South Downs National Park Authority and Natural England

open heathland and grassland habitats. The TBH SPA is particularly susceptible to recreational pressures because the qualifying bird species nest on the ground and are therefore vulnerable to disturbance, displacement and predation, for example associated with dog walking or the effects of cat predation from nearby residential development. The habitats are also susceptible to nutrient enrichment (e.g. through dog excretion) and direct disturbance resulting in degradation through erosion and trampling.

**4.28** To ensure adverse effects on the TBH SPA are avoided, a Joint Strategic Partnership involving Natural England and relevant planning authorities was established. The Partnership produced a Delivery Framework which uses a 'zone' system based on distance from the SPA to identify the likely significance of effects resulting from recreational pressures and also to inform development and mitigation requirements within each zone. Given the likely similar recreational appeal and nature of the sites, it is therefore reasonable to make comparisons between the TBH SPA and Sherwood Forest ppSPA in using a distance-based approach in determining the likelihood of recreational pressures resulting in significant effects. Even where European sites are not similar in nature, the use of a 7 km distance to identify the potential for significant effects from recreational disturbance is considered reasonable and precautionary, as numerous other visitor survey work has been undertaken for different European sites around the country and generally concluded that visitors travel between 5-7 km to access European sites for recreation.

**4.29** As all of the European sites considered in this HRA (except the Sherwood Forest ppSPA) are greater than 7 km from the allocated sites in the Bassetlaw Local Plan, there is unlikely to be any impacts from recreation associated with new housing development in Bassetlaw for those European sites outside the District boundary.

**4.30** The TBH Delivery Framework suggests that at distances between 400m and 5 km, residential housing is likely to result in significant effects associated with recreation and other urban edge effects such as cat predation. Beyond this distance, larger developments (above 50 dwellings) between 5 and 7 km from the SPA need to be assessed and may be required to provide appropriate mitigation. These distances have been based on various research commissioned by Natural England which investigated people's recreational movements, behaviour and distance travelled to woodland and heathland sites. Importantly, the research indicates that beyond 7km the effect of recreational pressures on a heathland and woodland site are likely to be minimal. And this distance is reduced to 5km for smaller developments of below 50 dwellings. This provides useful context in assessing whether proposed housing locations specified within the Bassetlaw Local Plan will result in likely significant effects on

the Sherwood Forest ppSPA as a result of recreation. For the purposes of the screening assessment, only those allocation sites within 7 km of Sherwood Forest ppSPA were assessed.

**4.31** As specified above, it has been assumed that housing increases within 7 km of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA could contribute, either alone or in-combination, to likely significant effects associated with increases in recreational pressures.

**4.32** The following site allocation policies within the Local Plan would result in housing development and associated economic development within 7 km of Sherwood Forest ppSPA:

- ST1: Bassetlaw's Spatial Strategy;
- ST3: Bassetlaw Garden Village;
- ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop;
- 16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop;
- 17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop;
- 18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop;
- 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop;
- 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop;
- 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford;
- 23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford; and

**4.33** These policies could therefore result in an increase in recreation impacts upon Sherwood Forest ppSPA. Avoidance and mitigation safeguards, like those described for the TBH SPA are likely to be required, but cannot be relied upon at this Screening Stage.

**4.34** Additionally, the policy:

- ST12 - Visitor Economy;

**4.35** Policy promotes an increase in the number of visitors to the District in general, and therefore this policy along with the sites listed above require further consideration at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

**4.36** The other site allocations proposed in the Local Plan are all either over 7km, or would have less than 50 dwellings between 5-7km from Sherwood Forest ppSPA and therefore do not need further consideration.

**The Local Plan has the potential to result in likely significant effects on the Sherwood Forest ppSPA as a result of increases in recreational pressure, both alone and in-combination with other plans and projects and will therefore require further consideration at the Appropriate Assessment stage.**

### Cat predation

**4.37** Cat predation due to an increase in residential populations and cat ownership can result in likely significant effects on European sites where ground nesting bird species are the qualifying features and the new residential development is in close proximity. Nightjar and woodlark (for which the Sherwood Forest ppSPA is likely to be designated) are ground nesting species, and therefore these birds and their nests are vulnerable to predation by domestic cats. All of the other European sites included within this HRA are outside the District boundary and/or do not contain ground nesting birds as their qualifying features and can therefore be screened out given the lack of impact pathways.

**4.38** The increased risk of cat predation associated with residential schemes in relation to the TBH SPA resulted in the adoption of a 400m development exclusion zone within the Delivery Framework. NE specifies that at distances of less than 400m avoidance measures are likely to be ineffective at reducing the risks associated with predation. As described above, it is considered reasonable to apply a similar approach to the Sherwood Forest ppSPA given the similarities in habitat types and qualifying species. Only the ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village housing allocation is within 400m of the likely boundary of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA, and although it is considered that the small isolated areas of woodland within the Garden Village site itself are unlikely to support breeding habitat, it is uncertain if this policy could result in cat predation of ppSPA birds using those areas of habitat. Therefore, taking a precautionary approach given the close proximity to Sherwood Forest ppSPA, impacts resulting from cat predation should be considered at the Appropriate Assessment stage for this site as likely significant effects on Sherwood Forest ppSPA cannot be ruled out.

**It is uncertain if Policy ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village has the potential for likely significant effects on the Sherwood Forest ppSPA as a result of increased residential dwelling and cat predation. Therefore, this policy will require further consideration at the Appropriate Assessment stage.**

### Water quantity and quality

**4.39** An increase in demand for water abstraction and treatment resulting from the growth proposed in the Local Plan could result in changes in hydrology at European sites, specifically a decrease in water quality or changes to water levels. Depending on the qualifying features and particular vulnerabilities of the European sites, this could lead to likely significant effects on the sites qualifying features.

**4.40** The Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar lies north of Bassetlaw District and has hydrological connectivity via the River Trent which forms the eastern boundary of the District. However, the SAC and Ramsar are just over the 15km buffer in which significant effects are considered likely, and the SPA is over 25km north. In addition, the River Trent is a main river with several large settlements along it. Therefore, it is not considered the Local Plan will result in likely significant effects upon this European site.

**4.41** All of the other European sites included within this HRA with the exception of Sherwood Forest ppSPA are not within the District or connected via waterways and can therefore be screened out given the lack of impact pathways. Although Sherwood Forest ppSPA lies within the District and in proximity to waterways, the habitats within the ppSPA which the birds rely upon are not vulnerable to changes in hydrology. Therefore, the qualifying bird species would nest and continue to breed, hence this would not be expected to affect the European site or its qualifying features.

**The potential for the Local Plan alone to result in likely significant effects on any European site as a result of changes in water quality and quantity can be ruled out, and does not need consideration at Appropriate Assessment.**

### Identification of other plans and projects which may have 'in-combination' effects

**4.42** Regulation 105 of the Amended Habitats Regulations 2017 requires an Appropriate Assessment where “a land use plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects) and is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site”. Therefore, it is necessary to consider whether there may be significant effects from the Local Plan in-combination with other plans or projects.

**4.43** Where the Local Plan is likely to have an effect on its own (due to impact pathways being present), whether significant or not, there may also be the same types of effects from other plans or projects that could combine with the Local Plan to produce adverse effects on integrity, and therefore these need to be considered through the Appropriate Assessment stage. Where the screening assessment has concluded that there is no impact pathway between development proposed in the Local Plan and the conditions necessary to maintain qualifying features of a European site, then there will be no in-combination effects to assess.

**4.44** As part of helping to identify what other 'in-combination' effects could arise from other plans and projects in addition to the Bassetlaw Local Plan, a review has been undertaken

focusing on planned spatial growth within the authorities adjacent to the District, as these are the ones most likely to give rise to in-combination effects on the European sites within 15km of the District boundary. **Appendix C** lists the plans that were considered, outlining the components of each that could have an impact on nearby European sites or the ppSPA and considering the findings of the accompanying HRA work (where available). There is some uncertainty with regards to new plans which are in the early stages of development. Any updates to these emerging plans will be considered in future iterations of the HRA.

**4.45** The screening assessment has concluded that the Bassetlaw Local Plan will not result in any effects upon the European sites outside its boundary (i.e. Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC, Hatfield Moor SAC, Thorne Moor SAC, Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA and the Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site) due to a lack of impact pathway in relation to the following impacts; therefore, in-combination assessment is not required for these sites in relation to:

- Physical damage and loss of habitat;
- Non-physical disturbance;
- Air quality;
- Cat predation.
- Recreational disturbance.

**4.46** The screening assessment has concluded that the Bassetlaw Local Plan will not result in any effects (significant or not) in relation to water quality upon any of the European sites or the ppSPA, with exception of the Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar. This is due to a lack of impact pathway, and therefore in-combination effects are not predicted. However, although there are no significant effects as a result of the Local Plan upon the Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar identified, given there is an impact pathway via hydrological connectivity, impacts upon this site resulting from changes in water quality and quantity cannot be ruled out in-combination with other plans and projects. Therefore in-combination effects upon the Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar have been considered in the Appropriate Assessment for:

- Water quality and quantity.

**4.47** Sherwood Forest ppSPA has been assessed as having likely significant effects from the Local Plan on its own for:

- Physical damage and loss of off-site habitat;
- Non-physical disturbance;
- Cat predation;
- Air quality; and

- Recreational pressure.

**4.48** Given there are assumed distances at which effects could be significant for impacts resulting from cat predation (400m from the ppSPA boundary) and non-physical disturbance (500m from the ppSPA boundary), in combination effects from these impacts are unlikely and do not need to be considered at Appropriate Assessment. However, close distances are not a limiting factor for the other impact types:

- Physical damage and loss of off-site habitat;
- Air quality; and
- Recreational pressure.

**4.49** Therefore in-combination effects for these impacts have been assessed at Appropriate Assessment in relation to the ppSPA.

**Taking a precautionary approach, in-combination effects for physical damage and loss of off-site habitat; air quality; and recreational pressure are considered at Appropriate Assessment for Sherwood Forest ppSPA. In addition, the potential for in-combination effects from changes to water quality are considered in relation to the Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar.**

## Screening Conclusion

### Summary of screening outcomes

**4.50 Table 4.1:** summarises the HRA screening conclusions regarding whether likely significant effects (LSEs) in relation to each broad impact type would occur for each European site as a result of the Bassetlaw Local Plan.

**4.51** The screening assessment concluded the Bassetlaw Local Plan alone would not result in likely significant effects on any of the European sites outside of the District. However likely significant effects in-combination with other Local Plans on water quality in relation to Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar cannot be ruled out.

**4.52** It is concluded that the Sherwood Forest ppSPA would not be affected by changes in water quantity or quality as a result of the Local Plan alone or in-combination. However, likely significant effects as a result of physical damage or loss of off-site habitat, disturbance from noise, vibration and light, air pollution, recreation impacts and cat predation associated with the housing and employment development proposed to be delivered through policies and site allocations in the Local Plan are uncertain and therefore require further assessment at the Appropriate Assessment stage.

**Table 4.1: Summary of Screening Conclusions**

European site	Physical damage/loss of habitat	Non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light pollution)	Air pollution	Impacts of recreation	Cat predation	Water quantity and quality
Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Hatfield Moor SAC	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Thorne Moor SAC	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE
The Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	No LSE	LSE uncertain (in-combination)
Sherwood Forest ppSPA	LSE uncertain (off-site) – alone and in-combination	LSE uncertain (off-site)	LSE uncertain – alone and in-combination	LSE uncertain – alone and in-combination	LSE uncertain	No LSE

## Chapter 5

### Appropriate Assessment

**5.1** Following the screening stage, the plan-making authority is required under Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended) to make an ‘Appropriate Assessment’ of the implications of the plan for European sites, in view of their conservation objectives.

**5.2** European Commission Guidance<sup>18</sup> states that the Appropriate Assessment should consider the impacts of the plan (either alone or in-combination with other projects or plans) on the integrity of European sites with respect to their conservation objectives and to their structure and function.

**5.3** A European site’s integrity depends on it being able to sustain its ‘qualifying features’ (i.e. those Annex 1 habitats, Annex II species, and Annex 1 bird populations for which it has been designated) and to ensure their continued viability. A high degree of integrity is considered to exist where the potential to meet a European site’s conservation objectives is realised and where the European site is capable of self-repair and renewal with a minimum of external management support.

**5.4** The Appropriate Assessment stage seeks to determine whether implementation of the Bassetlaw Local Plan will result in an adverse effect on the integrity of the whole European site in question (many European sites are made up of a number of fragments of habitat). This stage therefore needs to focus on those impacts judged likely to have a significant effect on the qualifying features of European sites, or where insufficient certainty regarding this remained at the screening stage. It also considers the potential for in-combination effects from development proposed in neighbouring authorities’ Local Plans. Consideration was given to mitigation measures that already are or may be included in the Local Plan to reduce the likelihood and significance of effects on European sites.

**5.5** The full Appropriate Assessment is set out below by type of impact likely to have a significant effect (as identified at the screening stage see **Table 4.1**:).

**5.6** Likely significant effects arising from the Bassetlaw Local Plan, were only identified for Sherwood Forest ppSPA in relation to the following impact types:

- Physical damage/loss of offsite habitat;
- Air quality;

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<sup>18</sup> *Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting European sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.* European Commission Environment DG, November 2001.

- Recreational pressure;
- Noise vibration and light pollution; and
- Cat predation.

**5.7** Although the Sherwood Forest ppSPA is not yet a designated European site, in line with the Natural England Advice Note (March 2014) referred to in Chapter 3 and the precautionary principle underpinning HRA, Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken for the Sherwood Forest ppSPA to determine whether the Local Plan will result in Adverse Effects on its Integrity (AEol). The Appropriate Assessment findings are detailed below. A conclusion has been reached as to whether or not policies and site allocations in the Bassetlaw Local Plan would adversely affect the integrity of the ppSPA by considering whether the predicted impacts of the proposals (either alone or in-combination) have the potential to:

- Delay the achievement of conservation objectives for the site
- Interrupt progress towards the achievement of conservation objectives for the site
- Disrupt factors that help to maintain the favourable conditions of the site
- Interfere with the balance, distribution and density of key habitats and species that are the indicators of the favourable condition of the site

**5.8** The conservation objectives for the Sherwood Forest ppSPA are not yet defined, but are likely to be similar to other designated SPAs, i.e. to ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and to ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, 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,
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

### Physical Damage/Loss of Off-site Habitat

**5.9** None of the site allocations include habitat types considered suitable for supporting breeding populations of nightjar or woodlark, for which the ppSPA is likely to be designated (e.g. heathlands or felled forestry plantation). As a result, the consideration of damage and loss of off-site habitat

relates solely to the potential for land within site allocations to contribute towards maintaining the extent of foraging habitats and movement corridors.

**5.10** Outside of the breeding season, woodlark will use arable land for foraging in the winter often roaming widely as part of mixed flocks. Nightjar, during the breeding season will often travel several kilometres from their breeding sites at night to feed. Typically, utilising habitat types which provide an abundance of invertebrate food sources, such as wetlands, woodlands, tree lines, and grasslands with high species and structural diversity.

**5.11** A detailed desk-based assessment of each site has been undertaken to inform the Appropriate Assessment. **Table 5.1:** summarises each site allocation, including the size and suitability of the site to support significant numbers of nightjar and/or woodlark during offsite foraging. Amber shading shows those site allocations where it is not yet possible to conclude no AEol.

**Table 5.1: Desk study of site allocations**

Site allocation	Size (ha)	Suitability of habitat to support nightjar and/or woodlark during offsite foraging
ST3: Bassetlaw Garden Village  (750 new dwellings and 30ha of employment development)	320.65	This site supports no habitat types considered suitable for nesting ppSPA birds.  Arable habitat may contribute to providing a winter foraging resource for woodlark.  In line with a <u>highly precautionary</u> approach, it is recommended that as part of project level HRA, winter bird surveys are undertaken to determine the contribution that this site provides to supporting wintering woodlark.  If significant numbers of woodlark are identified, mitigation may be required through the provision of areas of optimal foraging habitat (e.g. seed-rich set aside land) either within the site, or offsite in the wider landscape.
9: Site SEM1 – Apleyhead Junction, Worksop	118.7	This site supports no habitat types considered suitable for nesting ppSPA birds.  Arable habitat may contribute to providing a winter foraging resource for woodlark, but given the abundance and distribution of such habitats in the wider landscape, the importance of this site in contributing to maintenance of the wintering population is likely to be low.  Woodland in the site may provide some contribution towards

Site allocation	Size (ha)	Suitability of habitat to support nightjar and/or woodlark during offsite foraging
		<p>maintaining the extent and connectivity of offsite foraging habitat for nightjar, but this contribution is likely to be insignificant at a landscape scale. Furthermore, the policy makes commitments that the new development will protect and enhance the woodland and provide mitigation for any loss through the creation of an access from the A57.</p> <p>In line with a highly precautionary approach, it is recommended that as part of project level HRA, winter surveys are undertaken to determine the contribution that this site provides to supporting wintering woodlark.</p> <p>In the highly unlikely event that significant numbers of woodlark are identified, mitigation may be required through the provision of areas of optimal foraging habitat (e.g. seed-rich set aside land) either within the site, or offsite in the wider landscape.</p>
ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop  (minimum of 750 new dwellings)	54	The site supports a mixture of arable fields with several areas of woodland. However, several factors limit its potential importance for foraging and breeding nightjar and woodlark, such as flight lines from the ppSPA being interrupted by significant urban development given the location of this site to the north of Worksop, and its distance from the ppSPA (3.7km away). Furthermore, there is sufficient suitable habitat in the more immediate landscape around the ppSPA and it is unlikely bird populations would rely on this site allocation to maintain their favourable status.
19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop  (15 new dwellings)	0.5	This site is a relatively small field of rough grassland habitat 1.3km from the ppSPA. Given the small size of the site and setting within a housing estate, it is highly unlikely that this site would be important in contributing to the availability of foraging habitat for ppSPA bird species.
20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop	1.9	This site comprises disturbed grassland, scrub and some areas of bare ground and hardstanding, lying 1.4km from the ppSPA. These habitats are of low suitability for ppSPA birds and are highly unlikely

Site allocation	Size (ha)	Suitability of habitat to support nightjar and/or woodlark during offsite foraging
(40 new dwellings)		to contribute to maintaining ppSPA populations.
22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford  (196 new dwellings plus 11.11ha of employment development under ST6)	10.7	22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford is located 5.8km from the ppSPA. The site is comprised predominantly of arable land with a small woodland copse along the southern boundary. Given the distance from the ppSPA, the presence of more suitable habitats within a closer proximity to the ppSPA and the habitat severance due to existing settlements and strategic roads, it is unlikely that this site would provide important habitat for the ppSPA bird species.
23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford  (75 new dwellings)	3	This site is an existing recreation ground with areas of scrub 4.9km from the ppSPA. Given its setting in an urban landscape and regular disturbance from recreation, it is likely to have limited potential to support the ppSPA bird populations.
24: Site NP04 - Ollerton Road, Tuxford  (90 new dwellings)	1.5	This site lies 6km from the ppSPA and comprises an arable field. Given the distance from the ppSPA, small size of the site and abundance of more suitable habitat in the wider landscape, it is unlikely bird population from the ppSPA would rely on this site for foraging habitat.
25: Site NP11/NP18 - Land at Ashvale Road, Tuxford  (60 new dwellings)	7.5	This site comprises a large arable field and a recreation ground adjacent to a housing estate. However given it lies 7.1km from the ppSPA and there is an abundance of this habitat in between the site and the ppSPA, it is highly unlikely bird populations from the ppSPA would rely upon this site for foraging habitat.

**5.12 Table 5.1:** shows that with the exception of ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village and 9: Site SEM1 – Apleyhead Junction all of the site allocations in the Local Plan are unlikely to be important in maintaining the integrity of the bird populations at Sherwood Forest ppSPA. However, a conclusion of no adverse effects on integrity (AEoI) cannot be reached for ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village and 9: Site SEM1 – Apleyhead Junction, Worksop site allocations, as summarised below:

- ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village and 9: Site SEM1 – Apleyhead Junction, Worksop sites both support suitable off-site winter foraging habitat for woodlark within arable fields. These sites on their own are unlikely to be



important in contributing to the maintenance of the populations of this species. However, in-combination and/or cumulatively, these sites could be of greater importance for supporting woodlark. Therefore, further site level assessment and / or targeted surveys are required to inform any avoidance and/or mitigation measures at the project level. This is considered highly precautionary because the loss of such land could be mitigated through the provision and/or enhancement of alternative land either within the site allocations or with off-site habitat creation and/or mitigation.

- ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village and 9: Site SEM1 – Apleyhead Junction, Worksop sites both support suitable off-site foraging habitat for nightjar along treelines and in areas of woodland. These sites on their own are unlikely to be important in contributing to the maintenance of the populations of this species. However, in-combination and/or cumulatively, these sites could be of greater importance for supporting nightjar. This is considered highly precautionary because the loss of such land could be mitigated through the provision and/or enhancement of alternative land either within the site allocations or off-site habitat creation and/or mitigation. Furthermore, sensitive scheme design at the project level would be expected to be capable to protecting any existing linear ecological corridors and significantly increasing the extent of optimal foraging habitat within the allocations.

**Subject to further survey work in respect of wintering woodlark and/or the agreement of mitigation measures with Natural England and a commitment to implement such mitigation as part of the Local Plan, including within the specific site allocation policy wording where appropriate or required, it can be concluded that the Local Plan would not lead to AEoI on Sherwood Forest ppSPA in relation to loss of off-site foraging habitat for woodlark and nightjar.**

### Non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light)

**5.13** The screening assessment identified likely significant effects were uncertain for non-physical disturbance upon Sherwood Forest ppSPA as a result of policies at the ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village and 9: Site SEM1 – Apleyhead Junction, Worksop site allocations, including provision for housing and employment development. The ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village site allocation lies 240m away from the ppSPA, however the A1 major road lies between the allocation and European site, and therefore it is considered that not only would this act as a barrier to the noise, vibration and light

arising from the allocation, the existing baseline of disturbance in that location would mean that noise, vibration and light effects arising from construction and occupation of the new Garden Village would be unlikely to be greater than the existing disturbance from the A1 for the ppSPA birds. Similarly, the 9: Site SEM1 – Apleyhead Junction, Worksop employment site allocation lies 250m away from the ppSPA and is the other side of the A57 major road. Therefore, the same conclusion in respect to air, noise and light effects can be reached.

**In light of the above, a conclusion of no AEoI can be reached in relation to the effect of noise, vibration and light disturbance on Sherwood Forest ppSPA either alone or in-combination.**

### Air Quality

**5.14** The screening assessment identified that policies which include housing and employment provisions, including allocation sites, have potential to result in air pollution effects upon the ppSPA, either alone or in-combination. The policies are:

- ST1: Bassetlaw Spatial Strategy;
- ST2: Rural Bassetlaw;
- ST3: Bassetlaw Garden Village;
- ST5: Cottam Priority Regeneration Area;
- ST6: Provision of Land for Employment Development;
- ST7: Site EM007 - High Marnham Energy Hub;
- ST8: Strategic Employment Sites;
- 9: Site SEM1 – Apleyhead Junction, Worksop;
- ST10: Existing Employment Sites;
- ST11: Rural Economic Growth;
- ST12: Visitor Economy;
- ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop;
- 16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop;
- 17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop;
- 18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop;
- 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop;
- 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop
- 21: Site HS7 – Leafields Allotment, Retford;
- 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford;

- 23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford;
- 24: Site NP04 - Ollerton Road, Tuxford; and
- 25: Site NP11/NP18 - Land at Ashvale Road, Tuxford

**5.15** Sherwood Forest ppSPA comprises habitats which thrive in nutrient poor conditions, therefore, the site is particularly sensitive to nutrient enrichment, which can lead to changes in habitat composition and ultimately affect the suitability and availability of habitat for the bird species the site will be designated for. Given primary roads within the district, including the A60, A1, A57 and A614 all pass through and/or within 200m of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA, an increase in population as a result of policies resulting in development in proximity of these roads has the potential to result in increased traffic and an in-combination air pollution effect upon the ppSPA. Air pollution is listed as a threat for Sherwood Forest ppSPA, however it is not listed within the IBA factsheet<sup>19</sup> as one of the highest priority threats for the site.

**5.16** Road traffic AADT calculations are required along the A60, A1, A57 and A614 in proximity to Sherwood Forest ppSPA to determine whether air pollutant thresholds will be exceeded in-combination with other plans and projects as a result of policies within the Local Plan. If AADT levels are forecast to change by more than 1,000 then air quality modelling will be required to determine whether air pollution levels exceed those which are considered acceptable for the Sherwood ppSPA habitats, in order to conclude whether the Plan will result in AEol and if avoidance and mitigation measures can be applied which would prevent AEol.

**In light of the above and in accordance with the precautionary principle, a conclusion of no AEol cannot be reached in relation to the effect of air pollution on Sherwood Forest ppSPA either alone or in-combination. Further traffic data is required to determine whether traffic flows along the major roads identified will increase by more than 1,000 as a result of the Local Plan alone or in-combination with other planned growth. If so, air quality modelling will be required to inform the Appropriate Assessment conclusion.**

## Recreational Pressure

**5.17** The screening assessment identified the sites in **Table 5.2:** below as having the potential to result in recreational disturbance effects upon Sherwood Forest ppSPA. The sites

below all lie within 5km of the ppSPA, or if they comprise 50 dwellings or more, within 7km.

**Table 5.2: Housing allocations within 5km, or within 7km (if more than 50 dwellings)**

Site allocation	Number of dwellings	Distance from Sherwood Forest ppSPA
ST3: ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village	750	240m
ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop	750	3.7km
16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop	23	6km
17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop	80	2km
18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop	100	550m
19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop	15	1.3km
20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop	40	1.4km
22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford	196	5.8km
23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford	75	4.9km
<b>Total number of dwellings within 7km</b>	<b>2,029</b>	

**5.18** In addition to the above housing allocations, the policies listed below were assessed as having an uncertain likely significant effect in relation to recreational disturbance upon Sherwood Forest ppSPA due to their general provision for an increase in housing and therefore population in the local areas, or due to their support for an increase in visitors to the District in general:

<sup>19</sup> BirdLife International (2018) Important Bird Areas factsheet: Sherwood Forest. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 05/10/2018

- ST1 - Bassetlaw Spatial Strategy (7,410 total dwellings within the District as a whole for the lifetime of the Local Plan); and
- ST12 - Visitor Economy.

**5.19** Recreational disturbance is listed as the highest level of threat in the IBA factsheet<sup>19</sup> and is therefore also assumed for the ppSPA. A total of **2,029** new dwellings are proposed within 5-7km of Sherwood Forest ppSPA as a result of the Local Plan, and a total of **7,410** within the District as a whole.

**5.20** Given the increase in population described above, these policies have the potential to increase recreational pressure on the ppSPA which can lead to bird disturbance, predation, and displacement, and this can reduce breeding success or the ability of birds to breed and survive. Therefore, the Local Plan could result in adverse effects on the integrity of the ppSPA nightjar and woodlark populations as a result of recreation. **Avoidance and mitigation measures will need to be incorporated into the Local Plan and agreed with Natural England.** Such avoidance and mitigation requirements would be expected to be similar to the measures employed as part of the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Framework, which includes:

- Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) for the ppSPA itself – with contributions to be made by the relevant development applicants in accordance with suitable requirements;
- Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) - provision of a proportionate area of high quality SANGs within the relevant policies in line with the requirements specified by NE. A SANG should be ready for use prior to occupation and will need to be managed, monitored and funded to meet the requirements specified in perpetuity; and
- Parking restrictions in and around the ppSPA during the critical months of April and May, which are the most sensitive part of the breeding season for woodlark and nightjar.

**5.21** The deliverability of the recreational mitigation measures will need to be agreed with Natural England and determined prior to the final outcome of the Appropriate Assessment being determined, therefore it cannot currently be concluded that the Local Plan would not lead to AEol of European sites in relation to increased recreation pressure either alone or in combination with other policies.

**5.22** However, to ensure that potential effects on European sites from increases in recreation are mitigated by policies within the Local Plan, **it is recommended that the policy wording in the following policies is amended and**

**strengthened to include a commitment for residential development within 7km of the ppSPA to provide a sufficient amount of natural and open greenspace that is specifically designed and managed to alleviate visitor pressure on the ppSPA:**

- ST3: Bassetlaw Garden Village,
- ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop,
- 16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop.
- 17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop,
- 18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop,
- 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop,
- 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop,
- 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford, and
- 23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford,

**Subject to the agreement of mitigation measures with Natural England and a commitment to implement such mitigation as part of the Local Plan, it can be concluded that the Local Plan would not lead to AEol on Sherwood Forest ppSPA in relation to increases in recreational pressure.**

## Cat Predation

**5.23** The screening assessment identified that the ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village site allocation has the potential for likely significant effects on the Sherwood Forest ppSPA as a result of increased residential dwellings and associated increases in cat predation.

**5.24** Cat predation is only considered to pose a risk to birds when they are nesting in the ground, therefore cat predation is only a threat where breeding habitat has been identified within the site. The small isolated areas of woodland in the site, and lack of cleared areas and/or scrub which is required for breeding, is considered unsuitable for the ppSPA species to breed. Therefore cat predation within the site allocation is not anticipated. Cats from within the housing allocation could also predate on breeding birds within the ppSPA itself. The A1 lies in-between the allocation site and the ppSPA, which as a large road would deter cats from crossing and entering the ppSPA. However, the possibility of cats crossing this road at night to hunt cannot be ruled out entirely. Given the information available, a conclusion of no AEol cannot currently be reached for ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village site allocation.

**5.25 Mitigation will be required to be able to conclude no AEol. The following should be included within Policy ST3: Bassetlaw Garden Village:**

- 400m exclusion zones around the ppSPA boundary so no residential development will lie within this distance of the ppSPA (as shown in Figure 3.1, the ppSPA boundary relates to the Important Bird Areas currently identified by Natural England);
- No creation of suitable breeding habitat (e.g. heathlands and clearfell habitats) within the site allocation within 400m of any areas of residential housing.

**5.26** The commitment of specific mitigation measures such as those above within Policy ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village will need to be confirmed prior to the final outcome of the Appropriate Assessment being determined, therefore it cannot currently be concluded that the Local Plan would not lead to AEol of Sherwood Forest ppSPA as a result of cat predation on the qualifying bird species.

**Subject to the agreement of mitigation measures with Natural England and a commitment to implement such mitigation as part of the Local Plan, it can be concluded that the Local Plan would not lead to AEol on Sherwood Forest ppSPA in relation to cat predation.**

## Identification of other plans and projects which may have 'in-combination' effects

### Sherwood Forest ppSPA

**5.27** The Bassetlaw Local Plan was identified as having potential in-combination effects on Sherwood Forest ppSPA as a result of:

- Physical damage and loss of off-site habitat;
- Air quality; and
- Recreational pressure.

### Physical damage and loss of off-site habitat

**5.28** The Appropriate Assessment concluded that subject to further survey work in respect of wintering woodlark and the agreement of mitigation measures with Natural England and a commitment to implement such mitigation as part of the Local Plan, including within the specific site allocation policy wording where appropriate or required, the Local Plan would not lead to AEol on Sherwood Forest ppSPA in relation to loss of off-site foraging habitat for woodlark and nightjar. The assessment of this impact type is 'in-combination' in its nature, and the avoidance and mitigation measures relied

upon will ensure that in-combination effects as a result of physical damage and loss of offsite habitat will be avoided.

### Air Quality

**5.29** The Appropriate Assessment was unable to determine if AEol were likely for Sherwood Forest ppSPA for air quality. Road traffic AADT forecasts are required along the A60, A1, A57 and A614 in proximity to Sherwood Forest ppSPA to determine whether air pollutant thresholds will be exceeded in-combination with other plans and projects as a result of policies within the Local Plan, as well as growth planned within neighbouring plans.

**5.30** If AADT levels are forecast to change by more than 1,000, air quality modelling will be required to determine whether air pollution levels exceed those which are considered acceptable for the Sherwood ppSPA habitats, and to conclude whether the Plan will result in AEol, or if avoidance and mitigation measures can be applied which would prevent such AEol.

**5.31** At this stage it is considered likely, based on initial discussions with BDC regarding indicative calculations, that AADT thresholds will be exceeded and detailed air quality modelling and consultation with Natural England, will be required.

**5.32** If detailed air quality modelling is required it would likely involve the identification of impacts at given distance thresholds along transects into the ppSPA and consideration of the habitat types present and their vulnerability to the air quality changes predicted at given locations.

**5.33** Nevertheless, it is recognised that a confirmed boundary has not been defined for the ppSPA and furthermore, the main component habitat type within the ppSPA is rotational coniferous plantation, which in light of the rotational harvesting cycle of this habitat crop, is far more resilient to the effects of nutrient enrichment from traffic related air pollution than equivalent habitats which support these birds, such as lowland heathland. As a result, if changes in air quality exceed the threshold levels it is considered likely at this stage that such effects could be mitigated to avoid AEol.

**5.34** At this stage, the potential for in-combination air quality impacts to adversely affect the integrity of the ppSPA cannot be ruled out and further work is required as detailed below.

### Recreational Pressure

**5.35** The Screening identified potential recreational disturbance effects as a result of the Bassetlaw Local Plan in-combination with other plans and policies upon all European sites and Sherwood Forest ppSPA. However, the Appropriate Assessment identified no AEol as a result of recreational disturbance arising from the Bassetlaw Local Plan upon

Sherwood Forest ppSPA alone, and recreational effects on the other European sites were screened out as there is no impact pathway from development in the Bassetlaw Local Plan. Although in-combination effects cannot be ruled out entirely if taking a precautionary approach, given the assessments of other Local Plans which do not predicted likely significant effects upon European sites or Sherwood Forest ppSPA from recreation, along with the above conclusions regarding Sherwood Forest ppSPA and the proposed measures to mitigate AEoI, will avoid in-combination impacts in relation to this and other Local Plans.

### Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site

**5.36** The screening assessment determined that it is uncertain if in-combination effects as a result of changes in water quality and quantity could occur in relation to Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar. The Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar lies north of Bassetlaw District and has hydrological connectivity via the River Trent which forms the eastern boundary of the District. However, the SAC and Ramsar are just over the 15km buffer in which significant effects are considered likely, and the SPA is over 25km north. In addition, the River Trent is a main river with several large settlements along it. Furthermore, policy ST48: Protecting Water Quality provides mitigation measures to protect water quality, specifically including the following:

- In line with the objectives of the Water Framework Directive, development must not result in any waterbody failing to meet the element and overall class status set out in the Humber River Basin Management Plan. Where possible, development should actively contribute to enhancing the status of the waterbody through positive actions or ongoing projects.
- Development will not be supported where the drainage of surface water would adversely affect areas important for biodiversity.

**5.37** Therefore, it is not considered the Local Plan could result in likely significant effects upon this European site either alone or in-combination.

**No AEoI have been identified in-combination with other plans and policies upon the Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar in relation to water quality, or upon Sherwood Forest and other European sites in relation to recreational disturbance.**

**Further surveys and data are required to determine if there will be an in-combination AEoI in relation to loss of off-site habitat and air quality for Sherwood Forest ppSPA.**

## Chapter 6

### Conclusion

**6.1** The HRA Screening of the Bassetlaw Local Plan concluded that policies and site allocations in the Bassetlaw Local Plan *alone*, will not result in likely significant effects on the integrity of the following European sites on account of distance (all of which lie outside of the Bassetlaw district boundary) and/or a lack of pathways by which impacts could travel between source and receptor:

- Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC;
- Hatfield Moor SAC;
- Thorne Moor SAC;
- Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA; and
- The Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar.

**6.2** The screening identified potential likely significant effects resulting from the Bassetlaw Local Plan *alone* upon the 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.

**6.3** The screening also identified potential likely significant effects in-combination with other plans and policies upon Sherwood Forest ppSPA as a result of the impacts listed above. Furthermore, in-combination effects as a result of changes in water quality and quantity upon the Humber Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar were also uncertain.

**6.4** The Appropriate Assessment concluded that adverse effects on the integrity of Sherwood ppSPA as a result of the Local Plan *alone or in-combination* cannot be ruled out in relation to:

- Air pollution;

**6.5** Therefore, further information relating to traffic data, as well as consultation with Natural England, will be required. Nevertheless, it is recognised that a confirmed boundary has not been defined for the ppSPA and furthermore, the main component habitat type within the ppSPA is rotational conifer plantation, which in light of the rotational harvesting cycle of this habitat crop, is far more resilient to the effects of nutrient enrichment from traffic related air pollution than equivalent

habitats which support these birds, such as lowland heathland. As a result, if changes in air quality exceed the threshold levels there are likely to be mitigatory and management options which would enable AEoI to be avoided. Nevertheless, in line with a precautionary approach, further information relating to traffic AADT figures and potentially air quality modelling, is required before the Local Plan is submitted for examination.

## Key recommendations and Next Steps

**6.6** Following the Appropriate Assessment the following key recommendations and next steps have been identified:

### Physical loss or damage to off-site habitat

**6.7** Field surveys of **ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village** housing and employment site allocation and **9: Site SEM1 – Apleyhead Junction, Worksop** employment allocation site will be required as part of project level scheme design and associated HRA to understand the importance of the sites in providing functionally linked off-site foraging habitat for wintering woodlark. This is considered highly precautionary because there is a high level of certainty that appropriate mitigatory habitat can be provided either within the site allocations or within the wider District. In light of this, no AEoI upon Sherwood Forest ppSPA are predicted either alone or in-combination.

### Air pollution

**6.8** Road traffic AADT forecasts are required along the A60, A1, A57 and A614 A419 in proximity to Sherwood Forest ppSPA to determine whether the change in AADT arising from the Local Plan, in-combination with planned growth, will be greater than 1,000. Air quality modelling will then be required to understand whether the Local Plan will result in AEoI and whether avoidance and mitigation measures (e.g. buffer screening and habitat management) can be applied which would prevent AEoI.

### Recreational pressure

**6.9** There is a predicted increase in population as a result of policies within 5-7km of Sherwood Forest ppSPA, namely:

- ST3: Bassetlaw Garden Village,
- ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop,
- 16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop.
- 17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop,
- 18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop,
- 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop,

- 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop,
- 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford, and
- 23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford,

**6.10** Therefore the policies listed above will require specific **avoidance and mitigation measures which will need to be incorporated into the Local Plan and agreed with Natural England to enable a conclusion of no AEoI**. Such avoidance and mitigation requirements would be expected to be similar to the measures employed as part of the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Framework, which includes:

- Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) for the ppSPA itself – with contributions to be made by the relevant development applicants in accordance with suitable requirements;
- Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) - provision of a proportionate area of high quality SANGs within the relevant policies in line with the requirements specified by NE. A SANG should be ready for use prior to occupation and will need to be managed, monitored and funded to meet the requirements specified in perpetuity; and
- Parking restrictions in and around the ppSPA during the critical months of April and May, which are the most sensitive part of the breeding season for woodlark and nightjar.

### Cat predation

**6.11** The commitment of specific mitigation measures within the **ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village** policy will need to be confirmed and agreed with Natural England prior to submission of the Local Plan, and specifically included within the policy wording.

**6.12** Mitigation will be required to be able to determine no AEoI, this should include:

- 400m exclusion zones around the ppSPA boundary so no residential development will lie within this distance of the ppSPA;
- No habitat creation of woodland (which could eventually provide suitable breeding habitat for woodlark and nightjar) within the site allocation will be created within 400m of any areas of residential housing.

# Appendix A

## European sites within 15km of Bassetlaw District

1. Birklands and Bilhaugh Special Area of Conservation	
<b>Site description</b>	
<p>Covering an approximate area of 271.84 hectares, Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC is a landscape-remnant of the historic Sherwood Forest, which is of World renowned cultural significance due to the high concentration of ancient oak trees and associated folklore. The trees and open woodland- pasture habitat have been utilised over the centuries as a medieval Royal hunting forest, as a source of timber for the construction of cathedrals and English naval fleets, and more recently for public amenity, recreation and tourism. There is high public usage across the SAC supported by a network of Public Rights of Way and permissive paths. Part of the SAC forms part of the Sherwood Forest National Nature Reserve.</p> <p>The site lies on freely-draining, acidic, sandy soils and is notable for its rich invertebrate fauna, particularly spiders, and for a diverse fungal assemblage, including <i>Grifoa sulphurea</i> and <i>Fistulina hepatica</i>. The oak population consists of approximately equal numbers of the pedunculate oak <i>Quercus robur</i> and the sessile oak <i>Q. petraea</i> covering a wide range of size and age, including an exceptional population of ancient standing oaks. Although birch (mainly <i>Betula verrucosa</i>) forms groves between the oaks the canopy is, over large areas, still rather open allowing a dense bracken field layer to develop. A wide variety of fungi are present. Within the woodland occur glades of acid grassland dominated by the tussock-forming wavy-hair grass <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> and which contain such characteristic herbs as heath bedstraw <i>Galium saxatile</i> and tormentil <i>Potentilla erecta</i>.</p>	
<b>Qualifying Features</b>	
H9190	Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains
Site status*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 96.87% in unfavourable (recovering) condition</li> <li>■ 3.13% in unfavourable (no change) condition</li> </ul>
<b>Non-Qualifying Features</b>	
<p>This habitat type relies on a range of supporting processes, structure and functions which influence the extend distribution of this feature.</p> <p>This habitat relies on old or over-mature elements of the woodland which are particularly characteristic and important features for the woodland, and their continuity should be a priority. This can be accomplished through active management, by managing selected trees to ensure that they reach veteran status (though tree ageing techniques where feasible), but also ensuring that sufficient regeneration occurs at a rate necessary to keep in line with veteran tree deaths. This is particularly important for hole-nesting birds.</p> <p>The habitat relies on continuity to maintain wood pasture conditions found. This can be achieved by ensuring the wide distribution of size and ages classes of the major site-native tree and shrub species are maintained, and that a variety of woodland habitats and niches are provided where required (through appropriate management techniques).</p> <p>The provision of some open, sunlit, tree-less areas to facilitate natural tree and shrub regeneration will provide habitat for woodland inverts, birds, vascular and lower plants. This can be achieved through natural or managed grazing, and will assist in restoring the habitat to a favourable condition.</p> <p>This habitat type needs to maintain its resilience to environmental changes, so it can retain the same structure and functioning and cope with environmental stress and changes on the ecosystem. This can be achieved by maintaining the diversity of site-native trees.</p>	



## 1. Birklands and Bilhaugh Special Area of Conservation

The habitat must maintain the canopy and understorey of site native trees which are known to generally support a greater species assemblage. This will ensure that the abundance of H9190 Annex 1 habitat species, such as the oak polymore, are maintained.

Additionally, any invasive/non-native should be managed so that they are either rare or absent, and if present, causing minimal damage to H9190 features within the woodland.

The habitat relies on soil structure with space for water and air to move through to allow root growth, therefore soil management within root zones needs to ensure the prevention of soil compaction around mature and ancient trees. This could occur as a result of construction/management works or trampling from grazing or recreational activities.

There is a requirement to maintain or restore as necessary the concentration of air pollutants to a, or below, the critical load or level given for H9190 features of the Site. This is because this habitat type is sensitive to changes in air quality, as this could affect the chemical status of the soil and result in an impact on plant growth, species present and vegetation structure.

This habitat type provides natural patterns of light and darkness which woodland species have adapted to and rely on. Therefore it is essential that any artificial lighting is maintained at a level which will not result in an impact on the natural phenological cycles and processes of the woodland, or the features or species which utilise this habitat.

### Special Area of 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.

### Site Improvement Plan<sup>20</sup>: pressures, threats and related development

The main pressures and threats to this site include public access and disturbance in that the current visitor's centre complex that is located within the SAC, is preventing the necessary restoration of the full extent of the oak woodland. The visitor centre complex needs to be physically removed and the area restored, but planning permission is proving problematic. Other issues include change in land management which has created a large age gap between the ancient trees, physical modification, impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition, disease and invasive species.

\*Site status is an assessment by Natural England of the status of the SSSIs within the SAC

## 2. Hatfield Moor Special Area of Conservation

### Site description

Hatfield Moors, which covers an area of 1363.55 hectares, is a remnant of an extensive lowland raised bog which once occupied the Humberhead levels. Hatfield is unique in having developed directly upon nutrient deficient gravels without an initial reed-swamp phase. Much of the bog has been cut for peat yet a restricted representative flora and fauna persists within a mosaic of mire and dry heath habitats beneath birch scrub. The mire communities are dominated by cottongrasses *Eriophorum vaginatum* and *E. angustifolium*, cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* and bogmosses *Sphagnum* spp., but include locally rare species such as cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccus*, bog myrtle *Myrica gale* and bog rosemary *Andromeda polifolia*.

### Qualifying Features

<sup>20</sup> Natural England - Site Improvement Plan: Birklands & Bilhaugh (SIP016)  
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6727956374224896?category=4526209115357184>

2. Hatfield Moor Special Area of Conservation	
H7120	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration
Site status*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 92.23% in unfavourable (recovering) condition</li> <li>• 6.50% in unfavourable (no change) condition</li> <li>• 1.27% in favourable condition</li> </ul>
<b>Non-Qualifying Features</b>	
<p>Little, if any, original bog surface has survived the massive extraction of peat over the last few decades. Peat-cutting has now ceased, and the bog is being restored over its remaining minimum average depth of 0.5 m of peat.</p> <p>The structure and function of the qualifying habitat, including its typical species, may rely upon the continued presence of areas which surround and are outside of the designated site boundary. Changes in surrounding land-use may adversely (directly/indirectly) affect the functioning of the feature and its component species.</p> <p>The protection and management of peripheral peat and the land immediately around the peat body will be of critical functional importance to the restoration of the H7120 feature to active bog and lag.</p> <p>Changes in source, depth, duration, frequency, magnitude and timing of water supply can have significant implications for the assemblage of characteristic plants and animals present. The surface of an active raised bog has low nutrient, waterlogged or high water table conditions. An abundance of the bog-mosses <i>Sphagnum papillosum</i>, <i>S. capillifolium</i>, <i>S. tenellum</i> and <i>S. magellanicum</i> will often indicate good surface conditions. Further detrimental changes to the hydrology of a degraded raised bog can lead to further desiccation, oxidation and a further loss of species and will undermine the aim to restore this feature to active raised bog.</p> <p>Changes to natural properties of the bog's peat body may affect the ecological structure, function and processes associated with this Annex I feature. Peat is naturally lacking in nutrients with typically low values of calcium, phosphate, nitrate and pH. This habitat type is considered sensitive to changes in air quality. Exceedance of these critical values for air pollutants may modify the chemical status of its substrate, accelerating or damaging plant growth, altering its vegetation structure and composition and causing the loss of sensitive typical species associated with it.</p> <p>This recognises the potential need at this site to maintain or restore the connectivity of the site to its wider landscape in order to meet the conservation objectives. These connections may take the form of landscape features, such as habitat patches, hedges, watercourses and verges, outside of the designated site boundary which are either important for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of those typical species closely associated with qualifying Annex I habitat features of the site.</p>	
<b>Special Area of Conservation objectives</b>	
<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <p>The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats</p> <p>The structure and function (including typical species) of the qualifying natural habitat, and,</p> <p>The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitat rely.</p>	

## 2. Hatfield Moor Special Area of Conservation

### Site Improvement Plan<sup>21</sup>: pressures, threats and related development

The main pressures and threats to this site include drainage, inappropriate scrub control, impacts of atmospheric nitrogen deposition, public access/disturbance, peat extraction and invasive species. Additionally, planning permission is a problem in that wind farms have been erected or are planned in the wider area surrounding the SAC, yet investigation is needed to better understand the cumulative impact of existing and planned wind farm and other local developments on the nightjar population.

\*Site status is an assessment by Natural England of the status of the SSSIs within the SAC

## 3. Thorne Moor Special Area of Conservation

### Site description

Covering an approximate area of 1909.38 hectares, Thorne Moor is England's largest area of raised bog, lying a few kilometres from the smaller Hatfield Moors, both within the former floodplain of the rivers feeding the Humber estuary (Humberhead Levels), and includes the sub-components Goole Moors and Crowle Moors. Although management has increased the proportion of active raised bog at Thorne Moors, the inclusion of Goole Moors, where peat-extraction has now ceased, means that the site is still predominantly degraded raised bog. The restored secondary surface is rich in species of bogmosses *Sphagnum* spp., common and hare's-tail cottongrasses *Eriophorum angustifolium* and *E. vaginatum*, heather *Calluna vulgaris*, cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*, round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*, cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccos* and bog-rosemary *Andromeda polifolia*.

### Qualifying Features

H7120	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration
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### Non-Qualifying Features

Recent management has increased the proportion of 7110 active raised bog at Thorne Moors, the inclusion of Goole Moors, where peat-extraction has now ceased, means that the site is still predominantly degraded raised bog.

The structure and function of the qualifying habitat, including its typical species, may rely upon the continued presence of areas which surround and are outside of the designated site boundary. Changes in surrounding land-use may adversely (directly/indirectly) affect the functioning of the feature and its component species.

The protection and management of peripheral peat and the land immediately around the peat body will be of critical functional importance to the restoration of the H7120 feature to active bog and lag.

Changes in source, depth, duration, frequency, magnitude and timing of water supply can have significant implications for the assemblage of characteristic plants and animals present. The surface of an active raised bog has low nutrient, waterlogged or high water table conditions. An abundance of the bog-mosses *Sphagnum papillosum*, *S. capillifolium*, *S. tenellum* and *S. magellanicum* will often indicate good surface conditions. Further detrimental changes to the hydrology of a degraded raised bog can lead to further desiccation, oxidation and a further loss of species and will undermine the aim to restore this feature to active raised bog.

Changes to natural properties of the bog's peat body may affect the ecological structure, function and processes associated with this Annex I feature. Peat is naturally lacking in nutrients with typically low values of calcium, phosphate, nitrate and pH. This habitat type is considered sensitive to changes in air quality. Exceedance of these

<sup>21</sup> Natural England - Site Improvement Plan: Thorne and Hatfield Moors (SIP246)  
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6489780632158208?category=5171232873906176>

### 3. Thorne Moor Special Area of Conservation

critical values for air pollutants may modify the chemical status of its substrate, accelerating or damaging plant growth, altering its vegetation structure and composition and causing the loss of sensitive typical species associated with it.

This recognises the potential need at this site to maintain or restore the connectivity of the site to its wider landscape in order to meet the conservation objectives. These connections may take the form of landscape features, such as habitat patches, hedges, watercourses and verges, outside of the designated site boundary which are either important for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of those typical species closely associated with qualifying Annex I habitat features of the site.

#### Special Area of 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.

#### Site Improvement Plan<sup>22</sup>: pressures, threats and related development

The main pressures and threats to this site include drainage, inappropriate scrub control, impacts of atmospheric nitrogen deposition, public access/disturbance, peat extraction and invasive species. Additionally, planning permission is a problem in that wind farms have been erected or are planned in the wider area surrounding the SAC, yet investigation is needed to better understand the cumulative impact of existing and planned wind farm and other local developments on the nightjar population.

### 4. Thorne and Hatfield Moors Special Protection Area

#### Site description

Covering an approximate area of 2449.2 hectares, Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA is an extensive lowland raised mire system adjacent to the Humber estuary on the north-east coast of England and is the largest remaining lowland peatland in England. Despite a long history of extensive peat extraction since the late nineteenth century, the site retains substantial areas of *Sphagnum* bog, which has been changed by succession to wet scrub woodland dominated by Birch *Betula* sp., sallows and Alder *Alnus glutinosa*. Where the peat surface has been removed, subsequent restoration of active bog has depended upon shallow flooding to allow *Sphagnum* and other bog plants to re-colonise. The mire communities are dominated by Hare's-tail *Eriophorum vaginatum* and Common Cottongrass *E. angustifolium*, Cross-leaved Heath *Erica tetralix*, Soft-rush *Juncus effuses* and *Sphagnum* mosses, and include a variety of scarcer bog plants such as Bog-rosemary *Andromeda polifolia* and Cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccos*. Drier heath is dominated by Heather *Calluna vulgaris*, Bracken *Pteridium aquilinum* and Purple Moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*. Birch *Betula* sp. scrub, some of it dense, occurs throughout both moors. The diverse mosaic of habitats contribute greatly to the ornithological interest, which comprises breeding species, notably *Caprimulgus europaeus*.

#### Qualifying Features

A224	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> ; European nightjar (Breeding)
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<sup>22</sup> Natural England - Site Improvement Plan: Thorne and Hatfield Moors (SIP246)  
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6489780632158208?category=5171232873906176>

4. Thorne and Hatfield Moors Special Protection Area	
Site status*	Hatfield Moor: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 92.23% in unfavourable (recovering) condition</li> <li>• 6.50% in unfavourable (no change) condition</li> <li>• 1.27% in favourable condition</li> </ul>
<b>Non-Qualifying Features</b>	
<p>The qualifying feature require low levels of disturbance, in particular as a result of human activities. Frequent, intense or lengthy disturbance can affect the qualifying feature's feeding or roosting behaviour, reduce the availability of suitable habitat for this species, and their nesting, breeding and rearing success rate.</p> <p>The qualifying feature relies on the presence of supporting habitats such as dry heathland and successional woodland habitats, and of ecological connectivity between these habitats. Therefore, it is essential that the management of the SPA ensures that there is sufficient suitable habitat present with functional connectivity between these habitats, for which the qualifying features rely on. This entails retaining the open, mosaic structure of the heathland (of which all life cycles of heather are present) and allowing areas of scrub and scattered trees to establish.</p> <p>The qualifying feature relies on habitat which may be sensitive to changes in air quality, as exceeding levels of air pollutants could impact the chemical status of its habitat structure, and in turn affect the quality of suitable available habitat for the qualifying species.</p> <p>The qualifying feature relies on the abundance of prey within the SPA, and therefore it is important to maintain the distribution, abundance of, and availability of key prey items such as moths, which are preferred by the qualifying species.</p> <p>The supporting habitat of which the qualifying features relies on, are maintained by surface water of a certain quantity and quality. Whereas the qualifying feature is not reliant on water quantity/quality, the SAC lowland raised bog requires water to maintain its structure and status, but this has to consider the risks of high water levels on the associated dry habitat of which the qualifying feature relies on for breeding, foraging and commuting. Therefore, on-going management of water levels and quality within the site is required.</p> <p>The qualifying features breeding success and survival rates are dependent on minimal disturbance caused by predation. Where required, predator management can be enforced through physical exclusion, scaring tactics, or by direct control. Predation has not been identified as a significant factor in the qualifying feature's populations.</p> <p>The supporting habitat of the qualifying feature is susceptible to environmental changes which could affect the extent and distribution of the habitat (such as through precipitation and temperature). The habitat within the site has been assessed by Natural England as moderate in its vulnerability to climate change, therefore appropriate monitoring will be required, and where necessary, appropriate mitigation measures can be taken to ensure this habitat adapts and/or is resilient to environmental changes. This could entail creating more habitat to buffer the site, expand the habitat into more varied landscapes, or reducing habitat fragmentation. This ensures that the supporting habitat will maintain its ability to provide suitable habitat for the qualifying feature.</p>	
<b>Special Protection Area objectives</b>	
<p>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:</p> <p>The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</p> <p>The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</p> <p>The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</p> <p>The population of each of the qualifying features, and,</p>	

4. Thorne and Hatfield Moors Special Protection Area
The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.
<b>Site Improvement Plan<sup>23</sup>: pressures, threats and related development</b>
The main pressures and threats to this site include drainage, inappropriate scrub control, impacts of atmospheric nitrogen deposition, public access/disturbance, peat extraction and invasive species. Additionally, planning permission is a problem in that wind farms have been erected or are planned in the wider area surrounding the SAC, yet investigation is needed to better understand the cumulative impact of existing and planned wind farm and other local developments on the nightjar population.
*Site status is an assessment by Natural England of the status of the SSSIs within the SAC

5. Sherwood Forest prospective potential Special Protection Area		
<b>Site description</b>		
As the Sherwood Forest prospective potential SPA (ppSPA) is not currently designated as a European Site, there is no Standard Data form or SIP for it. However, the Sherwood Forest Important Bird Area is being used as a proxy for the purposes of this assessment, and the indicative core areas for breeding for nightjar and woodlark as identified by Natural England, are likely to be the most sensitive areas.		
The Sherwood Forest IBA covers 7,320 ha and consists of several geographic sites stretching from south of Worksop to north of Nottingham. Once part of the 10,000 acre Royal Forest of Sherwood, the woodland is dominated by native oaks and other native trees such as silver birch, rowan, holly and hawthorn. It has been continuously forested since the end of the Ice Age. <sup>24</sup>		
Approximately 424.75ha of the Sherwood Forest ppSPA is also a designated National Nature Reserve (NNR). The reserve contains more than a thousand ancient oaks most of which are known to be more than 500 years old. Sherwood Forest has the highest concentration of ancient trees in Europe and provides habitat for very rare invertebrates, particularly beetles, flies and spiders, many of which rely on the decaying and ageing timber of the veteran trees. Budby South Sorest, in the northern half of the site, is dominated by ling heather and supports a diverse range of insects and ground nesting birds such as woodlark, nightjar and tree pipit.		
In 2004, it was estimated that there were approximately 63 male European Nightjar (females unknown) within in the IBA and approximately 25 breeding pairs of Woodlark.		
<b>Qualifying Features</b>		
The primary reasons for potential designation of this site are that the population of <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> ; European nightjar represents 1.88% of the total UK breeding population and the population of <i>Lullula arborea</i> ; Woodlark, is 2.51% of the total UK breeding population.		
<table border="1"> <tr> <td style="width: 15%;">Site status*</td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The condition of the site was not assessed in the most recent IBA monitoring assessment. However, the IBA factsheet<sup>25</sup> states that the mixed woodland habitat is in 'very unfavourable' condition, but the conditions of the nightjar and woodlark populations are 'favourable'.</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	Site status*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The condition of the site was not assessed in the most recent IBA monitoring assessment. However, the IBA factsheet<sup>25</sup> states that the mixed woodland habitat is in 'very unfavourable' condition, but the conditions of the nightjar and woodlark populations are 'favourable'.</li> </ul>
Site status*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The condition of the site was not assessed in the most recent IBA monitoring assessment. However, the IBA factsheet<sup>25</sup> states that the mixed woodland habitat is in 'very unfavourable' condition, but the conditions of the nightjar and woodlark populations are 'favourable'.</li> </ul>	

<sup>23</sup> Natural England - Site Improvement Plan: Aston Rowant (SIP007)  
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/496079458090880?category=6149691318206464>

<sup>24</sup> BirdLife International (2018) Important Bird Areas factsheet: Sherwood Forest. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 05/10/2018.

<sup>25</sup> BirdLife International (2018) Important Bird Areas factsheet: Sherwood Forest. Downloaded from <http://www.birdlife.org> on 05/10/2018.

## 5. Sherwood Forest prospective potential Special Protection Area

### Non-Qualifying Features

The qualifying features require low levels of disturbance, in particular as a result of human activities. Frequent, intense or lengthy disturbance can affect the qualifying features' feeding or roosting behaviour, reduce the availability of suitable habitat for this species, and their nesting, breeding and rearing success rate.

The qualifying features rely on the presence of supporting habitats such as dry heathland and successional woodland habitats, and of ecological connectivity between these habitats. Therefore, it is essential that the management of the SPA ensures that there is sufficient suitable habitat present with functional connectivity between these habitats, for which the qualifying features rely on. This entails retaining the open, mosaic structure of the heathland (of which all life cycles of heather are present) and allowing areas of scrub and scattered trees to establish.

The qualifying features rely on habitat which may be sensitive to changes in air quality, as exceeding levels of air pollutants could impact the chemical status of its habitat structure, and in turn affect the quality of suitable available habitat for the qualifying species.

The qualifying features rely on the abundance of prey within the SPA, and therefore it is important to maintain the distribution, abundance of, and availability of key prey items such as invertebrates, which are preferred by the qualifying species.

The supporting habitat of which the qualifying features rely on, are maintained by surface water of a certain quantity and quality. Whereas the qualifying feature is not reliant on water quantity/quality, the SAC lowland raised bog requires water to maintain its structure and status, but this has to consider the risks of high water levels on the associated dry habitat of which the qualifying features rely on for breeding, foraging and commuting. Therefore, on-going management of water levels and quality within the site is required.

The qualifying features' breeding success and survival rates are dependent on minimal disturbance caused by predation. Where required, predator management can be enforced through physical exclusion, scaring tactics, or by direct control. Predation has not been identified as a significant factor in the qualifying features' populations.

The supporting habitat of the qualifying features is susceptible to environmental changes which could affect the extent and distribution of the habitat (such as through precipitation and temperature). The habitat within the site has been assessed by Natural England as moderate in its vulnerability to climate change, therefore appropriate monitoring will be required, and where necessary, appropriate mitigation measures can be taken to ensure this habitat adapts and/or is resilient to environmental changes. This could entail creating more habitat to buffer the site, expand the habitat into more varied landscapes, or reducing habitat fragmentation. This ensures that the supporting habitat will maintain its ability to provide suitable habitat for the qualifying features.

### Prospective potential Special Protection Area objectives

As this area does not relate to an existing designated site, no conservation objectives have been established for it. However, it is anticipated that, were the site to be designated, any conservation objectives would reflect those for other SPAs, as follows:

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,
- The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.

## 5. Sherwood Forest prospective potential Special Protection Area

\*Site status is an assessment by Natural England of the status of the SSSIs within the SAC

### **IBA Factsheet19: pressures, threats and related development**

The main current threats to the site include logging and wood harvesting, climate change, changes in land use for energy production, housing and economic development, tourism and recreation and air pollution. War, civil unrest and military exercises are identified as a past threat, which is unlikely to return.

These threats have been rated low to very high, depending on the proportion of the area and/or population they are likely to affect and the severity of the threat. Recreational activities are identified as being the highest level of threat, followed by logging and wood harvesting and residential and commercial development. The IBA factsheet also identifies 'other threat' as being a high threat, but no details are given.



# Appendix B

## Screening Matrices

Appendix B  
Screening Matrices

Bassetlaw Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment  
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The screening matrix below shows which types of impacts on European sites could potentially result from each of the policies and sites allocated in the Local Plan. Where a site is not expected to have a particular type of impact, the relevant cell is shaded green. Where a site could potentially have a certain type of impact, this is shown in orange. The final column sets out the screening conclusions.

	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
Vision and Objectives	None – the overall vision and objectives of the Bassetlaw Plan describes the overarching strategy which sets the tone for policies It will not itself result in new development.	n/a	n/a	No
Bassetlaw's Spatial Strategy				
ST1 - Bassetlaw Spatial Strategy (7,410 dwellings and 454.9 hectares of economic development)	Residential development Economic development Increase in vehicle traffic Increase in recreation pressure	Air pollution Disturbance from recreation	Sherwood Forest ppSPA	Uncertain: air pollution and recreation  The screening of this policy considers the overall number of new homes and economic development in the District. The effect of those homes and economic development in specific locations is assessed in relation to specific policies below, namely: ST2 - Rural Bassetlaw ST2 - Rural Bassetlaw, ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop, 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford, ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village, 21: Site HS7 - Leaffields Allotment, Retford, 23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford, 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop, 18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop, 17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop, 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop, 16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop, 24: Site NP04 - Ollerton Road, Tuxford, 25: Site NP11/NP18 - Land at Ashvale Road, ST6 - Provision of Land for Employment Development, ST10 - Existing Employment Sites and Buildings, ST11 - Rural Economic

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Screening Matrices

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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
				<p>Growth, Apleyhead, ST5 - Cottam Priority Regeneration Area and ST7: Site EM007 - High Marnham Energy Hub. This policy will result in 7,410 new homes and 454.9 hectares of economic development in the District overall.</p> <p>The provision of new homes and economic development in the District is likely to relate to an increase in population and therefore result in an increase in traffic flows on roads throughout the district. This policy could have an air pollution effect, therefore this should be considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.</p> <p>Development within c.7km of Sherwood Forest ppSPA has the potential to increase visitor numbers at the site and cause disturbance from recreation. Appropriate Assessment is required to consider the impacts further.</p>
ST2 - Rural Bassetlaw (c. 1393 homes across 68 rural settlements)	<p>Residential development</p> <p>Economic development</p> <p>Increase in vehicle traffic</p>	Air pollution	Sherwood Forest ppSPA	<p>Uncertain: air pollution</p> <p>Given the small number of houses dispersed amongst various rural settlements it is considered unlikely this policy would impact upon Sherwood Forest ppSPA as a result of increased population and recreation.</p> <p>This policy alone would not be expected to cause a significant increase in traffic in the District and therefore air pollution. However the overall provision of new homes and associated economic development in the District is likely to relate to an increase in population and therefore result in an increase in traffic flows on roads throughout the District.</p>

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Screening Matrices

Bassetlaw Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment  
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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
				<p>This policy could have an air pollution effect in-combination with other policies including ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop, 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford , ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village, 21: Site HS7 - Leaffields Allotment, Retford, 23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford, 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop, 18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop , 17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop, 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop, 16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop, 24: Site NP04 - Ollerton Road, Tuxford, 25: Site NP11/NP18 - Land at Ashvale Road, Tuxford, ST6 - Provision of Land for Employment Development, ST10 - Existing Employment Sites and Buildings, ST11 - Rural Economic Growth, ST5 - Cottam Priority Regeneration Area and ST7: Site EM007 - High Marnham Energy Hub. Therefore, this should be considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.</p>
<p>ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village (750 new dwellings and 30ha employment and commercial land)</p>	<p>Residential development Economic development Infrastructure development (new public transport facility) Increase in vehicle traffic Increase in recreation pressure</p>	<p>Air pollution Physical loss and damage of off-site habitat (foraging only) Disturbance from recreation Non-physical disturbance Cat predation</p>	<p>Sherwood Forest ppSPA</p>	<p>Uncertain: recreation, air pollution, physical loss and damage, non-physical disturbance and cat predation</p> <p>This policy makes provision for c.750 new dwellings and 20 hectares of employment land. Provision of employment land for this policy has been assessed within the policy ST6 - Provision of Land for Employment Development. The site lies 240m from Sherwood Forest ppSPA.</p>

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Screening Matrices

Bassetlaw Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment  
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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
				<p>The ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village allocation site supports suitable winter foraging habitat for both qualifying species in large arable fields and pasture. Additionally, some small areas of established woodland and some small areas of scrub are dispersed amongst the allocation site, and this provides suitable breeding habitat for both of these species.</p> <p>In addition, provision of a Garden Village in this location could result in an increase of cat ownership in the area. Where suitable off-site habitat is retained within the site, effects arising from cat predation upon nightjar and woodlark could result upon the ppSPA and its qualifying features. There may be the need to consider alternative sites and/or mitigation, which would need to be informed by surveys.</p> <p>The increase in population at this location as a result of this policy could potentially contribute to an increase in visitors to the ppSPA. Therefore this policy could result in effects arising from increased recreation on the European site.</p> <p>The provision of new homes is likely to relate to an increase in population and therefore result in an increase in traffic flows on roads throughout the District. This policy could have an air pollution effect in-combination with other policies Bassetlaw Spatial Strategy, ST2 - Rural Bassetlaw, ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop, 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford , 21: Site HS7 - Leafields Allotment, Retford, 23: Site HS9 -</p>

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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
				Sandhills, Retford, 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop, 18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop, 17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop, 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop, 16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop, 24: Site NP04 - Ollerton Road, Tuxford, 25: Site NP11/NP18 - Land at Ashvale Road, Tuxford, ST6 - Provision of Land for Employment Development, ST10 - Existing Employment Sites and Buildings, ST11 - Rural Economic Growth, ST5 - Cottam Priority Regeneration Area, and ST7: Site EM007 - High Marnham Energy Hub or plans. Therefore this should be considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.
ST4 - Worksop Central Area	None - this policy sets the tone for and supports certain types of development within the existing town centre, it does not directly lead to development itself.	n/a	n/a	No
ST5 - Cottam Priority Regeneration Area	Residential development Economic development Increase in vehicle traffic	Air pollution	Sherwood Forest ppSPA	Uncertain: air pollution  The screening of this policy considers the provision for 348 hectares of regeneration development including 12 hectares of employment land and 2000 new dwellings. The site is located approximately 15km away from the ppSPA, and comprises a former power station including buildings, hardstanding and amenity grassland.  The provision of new homes and economic development is likely to relate to an increase in population and therefore result in an increase in traffic

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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
				<p>flows on roads throughout the District. The nearest direct strategic road is approximately 2.5km away, however given the sites close proximity to Retford and Worksop, it is likely that residents and commuters will travel to and from these destinations. This in-combination with other policies, namely ST1 -Bassetlaw's Spatial Strategy, ST2 - Rural Bassetlaw, ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop, 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford, ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village, 21: Site HS7 - Leafields Allotment, Retford, 23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford, 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop, 18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop, 17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop, 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop, 16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop, 24: Site NP04 - Ollerton Road, Tuxford, 25: Site NP11/NP18 - Land at Ashvale Road, Tuxford, ST6 - Provision of Land for Employment Development, ST10 - Existing Employment Sites and Buildings, ST11 - Rural Economic Growth and ST7: Site EM007 - High Marnham Energy Hub could result in increased vehicle traffic and increased air pollution on strategic roads within 200m of the ppSPA. Therefore this should be considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.</p>
Delivering Economic Prosperity				
ST6 - Provision of Land for Employment Development	Economic development Increase in vehicle traffic	Air pollution	Sherwood Forest ppSPA	Uncertain: air pollution, non-physical disturbance and loss / damage to off-site habitat

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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
<p>Trinity Farm, Retford (8.1ha) Bassetlaw Garden Village (30ha) Cottam Garden Village (14.4ha)</p>		<p>Physical loss and damage of off-site habitat</p>		<p>The screening of this policy considers the provision of employment development land at three locations, these have all been assessed separately in their own policies: 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford, ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village and ST5 - Cottam Garden Village.</p> <p>This policy is likely to lead to an overall increase in vehicular traffic as a result of commuters travelling to these sites. Therefore, this policy could have an air pollution effect in-combination with other policies namely ST1 – Bassetlaw's Spatial Strategy, ST2 - Rural Bassetlaw, ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop, 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford, ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village, 21: Site HS8 - Leaffields Allotment, Retford, 23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford, 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop, 18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop, 17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop, 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop, 16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop, 24: Site NP04 - Ollerton Road, Tuxford, 25: Site NP11/NP18 - Land at Ashvale Road, Tuxford, ST6 - Provision of Land for Employment Development, ST10 - Existing Employment Sites and Buildings, ST11 - Rural Economic Growth, ST5 - Cottam Priority Regeneration Area and ST7: Site EM007 - High Marnham Energy Hub, and needs to be considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.</p>



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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
<p>ST7: Site EM007 - High Marnham Energy Hub (153.7ha for energy generation and low carbon employment)</p>	<p>Economic development Increase in vehicle traffic</p>	<p>Air pollution</p>	<p>Sherwood Forest ppSPA</p>	<p>Uncertain: air pollution</p> <p>The screening of this policy considers the provision for 153.7 hectares for energy generation and low carbon employment. The site is located approximately 15km away from the ppSPA, and comprises a former power station including buildings, hardstanding and amenity grassland.</p> <p>The provision of energy generation and low carbon employment development is likely to result in an increase in traffic flows on roads throughout the District. The nearest direct strategic road is approximately 2.5km away, however given the site's close proximity to Retford and Worksop, it is likely that residents and commuters will travel to and from these destinations. This in-combination with other policies, namely ST1 – Bassetlaw's Spatial Strategy, ST2 - Rural Bassetlaw, ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop, 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford, ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village, 21: Site HS7 - Leafields Allotment, Retford, 23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford, 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop, 18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop, 17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop, 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop, 16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop, 24: Site NP04 - Ollerton Road, Tuxford, 25: Site NP11/NP18 - Land at Ashvale Road, Tuxford, ST6 - Provision of Land for Employment Development, ST10 - Existing Employment Sites and Buildings, ST11 - Rural Economic</p>

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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
				Growth and ST7: Site EM007 - High Marnham Energy Hub could result in increased vehicle traffic and increased air pollution on strategic roads within 200m of the ppSPA. Therefore, this should be considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.
<p>ST8 - Strategic Employment Sites</p> <p>Apleyhead Junction, Worksop , Worksop (118.7ha)</p> <p>High Marnham Energy Hub (153.7ha)</p> <p>Snape Lane, Harworth (80.9ha)</p>	<p>Increase vehicular traffic</p>	<p>Air pollution</p>	<p>Sherwood Forest ppSPA</p>	<p>Uncertain: air pollution</p> <p>The screening of this policy considers the provision for strategic employment site allocations.</p> <p>Apleyhead has been assessed in detail separately within policy 9: Site SEM1 – Apleyhead Junction, Worksop .</p> <p>Development at High Marnham Energy Hub has been assessed in detail separately within policy ST7: Site EM007 - High Marnham Energy Hub.</p> <p>Snape Lane, Harworth is already under development, therefore does not require assessment within this Local Plan HRA.</p> <p>This policy is likely to lead to an overall increase in vehicular traffic as a result of commuters travelling to these sites. Therefore, this policy could have an air pollution effect in-combination with other policies namely ST1 – Bassetlaw's Spatial Strategy, ST2 - Rural Bassetlaw, ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop, 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford , ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village, 21: Site HS7 - Leafields Allotment, Retford, 23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford, 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop, 18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop, 17:</p>

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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
				Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop, 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop, 16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop, 24: Site NP04 - Ollerton Road, Tuxford, 25: Site NP11/NP18 - Land at Ashvale Road, Tuxford, ST6 - Provision of Land for Employment Development, ST10 - Existing Employment Sites and Buildings, ST11 - Rural Economic Growth, ST5 - Cottam Priority Regeneration Area and ST7: Site EM007 - High Marnham Energy Hub, and needs to be considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.
9: Site SEM1 – Apleyhead Junction, Worksop , (118.7ha of employment land)	Economic development Increase in vehicle traffic	Air pollution Physical loss and damage of off-site habitat Non-physical disturbance	Sherwood Forest ppSPA	Uncertain: air pollution, physical loss or damage to off-site habitat, non-physical disturbance  9: Site SEM1 – Apleyhead Junction, Worksop employment site is situated approximately 250m from the ppSPA, the opposite side of the A57. The site comprises established woodland in the south and arable fields north of the woodland. These habitats provide optimal foraging and breeding habitat for nightjar and woodlark, and therefore likely significant effects upon ppSPA bird populations as a result of loss of off-site habitat needs to be considered at Appropriate Assessment.  The site is adjacent to the A57 and close to the A1 which connect the site directly to Worksop, Retford and the wider District. Given the close proximity of the site to the ppSPA and the size of the proposed development, there is potential for likely significant effects in

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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
				<p>relation to air pollution, particularly in combination with ST1 – Bassetlaw’s Spatial Strategy, ST2 - Rural Bassetlaw, ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop, 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford, ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village, 21: Site HS7 - Leafields Allotment, Retford, 23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford, 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop, 18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop , 17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop, 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop, 16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop, 24: Site NP04 - Ollerton Road, Tuxford, 25: Site NP11/NP18 - Land at Ashvale Road, Tuxford, ST6 - Provision of Land for Employment Development, ST10 - Existing Employment Sites and Buildings, ST11 - Rural Economic Growth, ST5 - Cottam Priority Regeneration Area and ST7: Site EM007 - High Marnham Energy Hub and non-physical disturbance (noise, vibration and light). Therefore, these factors as well as loss of off-site habitat will need to be considered further within the Appropriate Assessment stage.</p>
<p>ST10 - Existing Employment Sites and Buildings (28 existing sites)</p>	<p>Economic development Increase in vehicle traffic</p>	<p>Air pollution</p>	<p>Sherwood Forest ppSPA</p>	<p>Uncertain: air pollution</p> <p>The screening of this policy considers the proposals of the re-development of 28 sites that comprise redundant buildings or previously developed land. It is likely that the re-use of these sites will result in an increase in vehicular traffic, and therefore result in increased air pollution. As this will be undertaken across the District, there is a likelihood</p>

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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
				<p>that this will result in increases of traffic across the District, and therefore needs to be taken to Appropriate Assessment to consider the in-combination effects with ST1 – Bassetlaw's Spatial Strategy, ST2 - Rural Bassetlaw, ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop, 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford, ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village, 21: Site HS7 - Leafields Allotment, Retford, 23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford, 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop, 18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop, 17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop, 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop, 16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop, 24: Site NP04 - Ollerton Road, Tuxford, 25: Site NP11/NP18 - Land at Ashvale Road, Tuxford, ST6 - Provision of Land for Employment Development, ST11 - Rural Economic Growth, ST5 - Cottam Priority Regeneration Area and ST7: Site EM007 - High Marnham Energy Hub.</p>
ST11 - Rural Economic Growth	<p>Economic development Increase in vehicle traffic</p>	Air pollution	Sherwood Forest ppSPA	<p>Uncertain: air pollution</p> <p>The screening of this policy considers the general support for proportionate rural economic development in existing locations. An increase of employment in some areas could lead to an increase in people travelling to those areas, and in traffic flows on roads in rural locations. This policy could have an air pollution effect in-combination with ST1 – Bassetlaw's Spatial Strategy, ST2 - Rural Bassetlaw, ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop, 22: Site HS8</p>

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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
				<p>- Trinity Farm, Retford, ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village, 21: Site HS7 - Leaffields Allotment, Retford, 23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford, 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop, 18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop, 17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop, 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop, 16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop, 24: Site NP04 - Ollerton Road, Tuxford, 25: Site NP11/NP18 - Land at Ashvale Road, Tuxford, ST6 - Provision of Land for Employment Development, ST10 - Existing Employment Sites and Buildings, ST5 - Cottam Priority Regeneration Area and ST7: Site EM007 - High Marnham Energy Hub, therefore this should be considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.</p>
ST12 - Visitor Economy	<p>Increase in vehicle traffic Increase in recreation pressure</p>	<p>Air pollution Disturbance from recreation</p>	Sherwood Forest ppSPA	<p>Uncertain: air pollution and recreation</p> <p>The screening of this policy considers the overall increase in visitors within the District as result of promoting visitors to the District.</p> <p>The increase in visitor numbers is likely to lead to an increase in traffic, and therefore an increase in air pollution.</p> <p>The increase in visitor numbers is likely to result in an increase of recreational pressure within the District in general.</p> <p>This policy could have an air pollution effect and result in disturbance from recreational pressure, therefore this</p>

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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
				should be considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.
ST13 – Town Centres and Local Centres	None – this policy sets out the hierarchy of where economic growth is supported. It will not directly result in development and the economic growth has been assessed in ST6 - Provision of Land for Employment Development, ST8 - Strategic Employment Sites, ST10 - Existing Employment Sites and Buildings, ST11 - Rural Economic Growth, ST12 - Visitor Economy, 9: Site SEM1 – Apleyhead Junction, Worksop, ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village, 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford, ST5 - Cottam Priority Regeneration Area and ST7: Site EM007 - High Marnham Energy Hub.	n/a	n/a	No
Living Communities				
ST14 - Housing Distributions	None – this policy refers to specific site allocations for housing, it will not itself lead to development. The allocations referenced in this policy have been subject to HRA screening separately below ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop, 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford , ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village, 21: Site HS7 - Leafields Allotment, Retford, 23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford, 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop, 18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop, 17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop, 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop, 16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop, 24: Site NP04 - Ollerton Road, Tuxford,	n/a	n/a	No

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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
	25: Site NP11/NP18 - Land at Ashvale Road, Tuxford.			
ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop, Worksop (750 new dwellings, 54ha)	Residential development Infrastructure development (new road) Increase in vehicle traffic Increase in recreation pressure	Disturbance from recreation Air pollution Physical loss and damage of off-site habitat	Sherwood Forest ppSPA	<p>Uncertain: recreation, air pollution and physical loss and damage</p> <p>This policy makes provision for c.750 homes. The site lies 3.7km from Sherwood Forest ppSPA.</p> <p>ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop supports suitable winter foraging habitat for both qualifying species in large arable fields and pasture. Additionally, several areas of established woodland are dispersed amongst the allocation site, and this provides suitable breeding habitat for both of these species. Whilst it is considered unlikely that these species would depend upon this habitat given ample suitable habitat in the surrounding landscape, and due to the sites location on the opposite side of Worksop town to the ppSPA, development at ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop as a result of this policy may result in physical loss or damage of off-site habitat.</p> <p>The increase in population at this location as a result of this policy could potentially contribute to an increase in visitors to the ppSPA. Therefore this policy could result in effects arising from increased recreation on the European site.</p> <p>The provision of new homes is likely to relate to an increase in population and therefore result in an increase in traffic flows on roads throughout the District.</p>



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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
				<p>This policy could have an air pollution effect in-combination with other policies, namely ST1 – Bassetlaw's Spatial Strategy, ST2 - Rural Bassetlaw, 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford, ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village, 21: Site HS7- Leafields Allotment, Retford, 23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford, 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop, 18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop, 17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop, 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop, 16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop, 24: Site NP04 - Ollerton Road, Tuxford, 25: Site NP11/NP18 - Land at Ashvale Road, Tuxford, ST6 - Provision of Land for Employment Development, ST10 - Existing Employment Sites and Buildings, ST11 - Rural Economic Growth, ST5 - Cottam Priority Regeneration Area and ST7: Site EM007 - High Marnham Energy Hub. Therefore this should be considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.</p>
<p>16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop (23 new dwellings, 0.85ha)</p>	<p>Residential development Increase in vehicle traffic Increase in recreation pressure</p>	<p>Disturbance from recreation Air pollution</p>	<p>Sherwood Forest ppSPA</p>	<p>Uncertain: recreation and air pollution  This policy makes provision for c.23 new dwellings and lies 1km from Sherwood Forest ppSPA. It comprises amenity grassland and built habitats.  The increase in population at this location as a result of this policy could potentially contribute to an increase in visitors to the ppSPA. Therefore this policy could result in effects arising from</p>

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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
				<p>increased recreation on the European site.</p> <p>The provision of new homes is likely to relate to an increase in population and therefore result in an increase in traffic flows on roads throughout the District. This policy could have an air pollution effect in-combination with other policies, namely ST1 – Bassetlaw's Spatial Strategy, ST2 - Rural Bassetlaw, ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop, 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford, ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village, 21: Site HS7 - Leafields Allotment, Retford, 23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford, 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop, 18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop, 17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop, 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop, 24: Site NP04 - Ollerton Road, Tuxford, 25: Site NP11/NP18 - Land at Ashvale Road, Tuxford, ST6 - Provision of Land for Employment Development, ST10 - Existing Employment Sites and Buildings, ST11 - Rural Economic Growth, ST5 - Cottam Priority Regeneration Area and ST7: Site EM007 - High Marnham Energy Hub. Therefore this should be considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.</p>
<p>17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop (80 new dwellings, 1.7ha)</p>	<p>Residential development Increase in vehicle traffic Increase in recreation pressure</p>	<p>Disturbance from recreation Air pollution</p>	<p>Sherwood Forest ppSPA</p>	<p>Uncertain: recreation and air pollution</p> <p>This policy makes provision for c.80 new dwellings and lies 2km from Sherwood Forest ppSPA. It comprises an old disused building.</p>

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				<p>The increase in population at this location as a result of this policy could potentially contribute to an increase in visitors to the ppSPA. Therefore this policy could result in effects arising from increased recreation on the European site.</p> <p>The provision of new homes is likely to relate to an increase in population and therefore result in an increase in traffic flows on roads throughout the District. This policy could have an air pollution effect in-combination with other policies, ST1 – Bassetlaw’s Spatial Strategy, ST2 - Rural Bassetlaw, ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop, 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford, ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village, 21: Site HS7 - Leaffields Allotment, Retford, 23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford, 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop, 18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop, 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop, 16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop, 24: Site NP04 - Ollerton Road, Tuxford, 25: Site NP11/NP18 - Land at Ashvale Road, Tuxford, ST6 - Provision of Land for Employment Development, ST10 - Existing Employment Sites and Buildings, ST11 - Rural Economic Growth, ST5 - Cottam Priority Regeneration Area and ST7: Site EM007 - High Marnham Energy Hub. Therefore this should be considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.</p>

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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
<p>18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop (100 new dwellings, 3.7ha)</p>	<p>Residential development Increase in vehicle traffic Increase in recreation pressure</p>	<p>Disturbance from recreation Air pollution</p>	<p>Sherwood Forest ppSPA</p>	<p>Uncertain: recreation and air pollution</p> <p>This policy makes provision for c.100 new dwellings and lies 550m from Sherwood Forest ppSPA. The allocation site comprises amenity grassland and built habitats.</p> <p>The increase in population at this location as a result of this policy could potentially contribute to an increase in visitors to the ppSPA. Therefore this policy could result in effects arising from increased recreation on the European site.</p> <p>The provision of new homes is likely to relate to an increase in population and therefore result in an increase in traffic flows on roads throughout the District. This policy could have an air pollution effect in-combination with other policies, namely ST1 – Bassetlaw's Spatial Strategy, ST2 - Rural Bassetlaw, ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop, 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford, ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village, 21: Site HS7 - Leafields Allotment, Retford, 23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford, 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop, 17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop, 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop, 16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop, 24: Site NP04 - Ollerton Road, Tuxford, 25: Site NP11/NP18 - Land at Ashvale Road, Tuxford, ST6 - Provision of Land for Employment Development, ST10 - Existing Employment Sites and Buildings, ST11 - Rural Economic Growth, ST5 - Cottam Priority</p>

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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
				Regeneration Area and ST7: Site EM007 - High Marnham Energy Hub. Therefore this should be considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.
19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop (15 new dwellings, 0.5ha)	Residential development Increase in vehicle traffic Increase in recreation pressure	Air pollution Physical loss and damage of off-site habitat Disturbance from recreation	Sherwood Forest ppSPA	<p>Uncertain: recreation, air pollution and physical loss and damage</p> <p>This policy makes provision for c.15 new dwellings and lies 1.3km from Sherwood Forest ppSPA.</p> <p>The allocation site supports suitable winter foraging opportunities for both qualifying species in a field of rough grassland habitat with hedgerows. Whilst it is considered unlikely that these species would depend upon this habitat given ample suitable foraging habitat in the surrounding landscape, the small size and urban setting within a housing estate in Worksop, it is uncertain if development at this site as a result of this policy may result in physical loss or damage of off-site habitat.</p> <p>The increase in population at this location as a result of this policy could potentially contribute to an increase in visitors to the ppSPA. Therefore this policy could result in effects arising from increased recreation on the European site.</p> <p>The provision of new homes is likely to relate to an increase in population and therefore result in an increase in traffic flows on roads throughout the District. This policy could have an air pollution effect in-combination with other policies,</p>

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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
				<p>namely ST1 – Bassetlaw's Spatial Strategy, ST2 - Rural Bassetlaw, ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop, 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford, ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village, 21: Site HS7 - Leafields Allotment, Retford, 23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford, 18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop, 17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop, 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop, 16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop, 24: Site NP04 - Ollerton Road, Tuxford, 25: Site NP11/NP18 - Land at Ashvale Road, Tuxford, ST6 - Provision of Land for Employment Development, ST10 - Existing Employment Sites and Buildings, ST11 - Rural Economic Growth, ST5 - Cottam Priority Regeneration Area and ST7: Site EM007 - High Marnham Energy Hub. Therefore this should be considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.</p>
<p>20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop (40 new dwellings, 1.9ha)</p>	<p>Residential development Increase in vehicle traffic Increase in recreation pressure</p>	<p>Disturbance from recreation Air pollution Physical loss and damage of off-site habitat</p>	<p>Sherwood Forest ppSPA</p>	<p>Uncertain: recreation, air pollution and physical loss and damage  This policy makes provision for c.40 new dwellings and lies 1.4km from Sherwood Forest ppSPA.  The allocation site supports suitable winter foraging opportunities for both qualifying species in disturbed grassland, scrub and bare ground. Whilst it is considered unlikely that these species would depend upon this habitat given ample suitable foraging habitat in the surrounding landscape,</p>

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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
				<p>and due to the sites location within the centre of Worksop town, it is uncertain if development at this site as a result of this policy may result in physical loss or damage of off-site habitat.</p> <p>The increase in population at this location as a result of this policy could potentially contribute to an increase in visitors to the ppSPA. Therefore this policy could result in effects arising from increased recreation on the European site.</p> <p>The provision of new homes is likely to relate to an increase in population and therefore result in an increase in traffic flows on roads throughout the District. This policy could have an air pollution effect in-combination with other policies, namely ST1 – Bassetlaw’s Spatial Strategy, ST2 - Rural Bassetlaw, ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop, 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford, ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village, 21: Site HS7 - Leafields Allotment, Retford, 23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford, 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop, 18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop, 17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop, 16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop, 24: Site NP04 - Ollerton Road, Tuxford, 25: Site NP11/NP18 - Land at Ashvale Road, Tuxford, ST6 - Provision of Land for Employment Development, ST10 - Existing Employment Sites and Buildings, ST11 - Rural Economic Growth, ST5 - Cottam Priority Regeneration Area and ST7: Site EM007 - High Marnham Energy Hub.</p>

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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
				Therefore this should be considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.
<p>21: Site HS7 – Leafields Allotment, Retford (30 new dwellings, 1.2ha)</p>	<p>Residential development Increase in vehicle traffic Increase in recreation pressure</p>	<p>Air pollution</p>	<p>Sherwood Forest ppSPA</p>	<p>Uncertain: air pollution This policy makes provision for c.30 new dwellings. The site lies 6.1km from Sherwood Forest ppSPA. The provision of new homes is likely to relate to an increase in population and therefore result in an increase in traffic flows on roads throughout the District. This policy could have an air pollution effect in-combination with other policies, namely ST1 – Bassetlaw’s Spatial Strategy, ST2 - Rural Bassetlaw, ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop, 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford, ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village , 23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford, 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop, 18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop, 17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop, 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop, 16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop, Site NP04 - Ollerton Road, Tuxford, 25: Site NP11/NP18 - Land at Ashvale Road, ST6 - Provision of Land for Employment Development, ST10 - Existing Employment Sites and Buildings, ST11 - Rural Economic Growth, ST5 - Cottam Priority Regeneration Area and ST7: Site EM007 - High Marnham Energy Hub. Therefore this should be considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.</p>



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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
<p>22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford (196 new dwellings, 10.7ha and 11ha of employment development)</p>	<p>Residential development Economic development Increase in vehicle traffic Increase in recreation pressure</p>	<p>Disturbance from recreation Air pollution Physical loss and damage of off-site habitat (foraging only)</p>	<p>Sherwood Forest ppSPA</p>	<p>Uncertain: recreation, air pollution and physical loss and damage</p> <p>This policy makes provision for c.196 homes and 18.1ha of employment land. The site lies 5.8km from Sherwood Forest ppSPA.</p> <p>22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford supports suitable winter foraging habitat for both qualifying species in arable fields adjacent to established woodland. Whilst it is considered unlikely that these species would depend upon this habitat given ample suitable habitat in the surrounding landscape, and given the distance from the ppSPA, development at 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford as a result of this policy may result in physical loss or damage of off-site habitat.</p> <p>The increase in population at this location as a result of the housing development could potentially contribute to an increase in visitors to the ppSPA. Therefore this policy could result in effects arising from increased recreation on the European site.</p> <p>The provision of new homes and employment facilities is likely to relate to an increase in population and therefore result in an increase in traffic flows on roads throughout the District. This policy could have an air pollution effect in combination with other policies, namely ST1 – Bassetlaw’s Spatial Strategy, ST2 - Rural Bassetlaw, ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop, ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village, 21: Site HS7 - Leafields Allotment, Retford, 23: Site</p>

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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
				HS9 - Sandhills, Retford, 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop, 18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop, 17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop, 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop, 16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop, 24: Site NP04 - Ollerton Road, Tuxford, 25: Site NP11/NP18 - Land at Ashvale Road, Tuxford, ST6 - Provision of Land for Employment Development, ST10 - Existing Employment Sites and Buildings, ST11 - Rural Economic Growth, ST5 - Cottam Priority Regeneration Area and ST7: Site EM007 - High Marnham Energy Hub. Therefore this should be considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.
23: Site HS9 - 23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford (75 new dwellings, 3ha)	Residential development Increase in vehicle traffic Increase in recreation pressure	Air pollution Physical loss and damage of off-site habitat Disturbance from recreation	Sherwood Forest ppSPA	Uncertain: recreation, air pollution and physical loss and damage  This policy makes provision for c.75 new dwellings and lies 4.9km from Sherwood Forest ppSPA.  The allocation site supports suitable winter foraging opportunities for both qualifying species in large pasture habitat which is a recreation ground. Whilst it is considered unlikely that these species would depend upon this habitat given ample suitable foraging habitat in the surrounding landscape, and due to the sites location within a housings estate in Worksop town, it is uncertain if development at this site as a result of this policy may result in

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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
				<p>physical loss or damage of off-site habitat.</p> <p>The increase in population at this location as a result of this policy could potentially contribute to an increase in visitors to the ppSPA. Therefore this policy could result in effects arising from increased recreation on the European site.</p> <p>The provision of new homes is likely to relate to an increase in population and therefore result in an increase in traffic flows on roads throughout the District. This policy could have an air pollution effect in-combination with other policies, namely ST1 – Bassetlaw's Spatial Strategy, ST2 - Rural Bassetlaw, ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop, 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford, ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village, 21: Site HS7 - Leafields Allotment, Retford, 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop, 18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop, 17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop, 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop, 16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop, 24: Site NP04 - Ollerton Road, Tuxford, 25: Site NP11/NP18 - Land at Ashvale Road, Tuxford, ST6 - Provision of Land for Employment Development, ST10 - Existing Employment Sites and Buildings, ST11 - Rural Economic Growth, ST5 - Cottam Priority Regeneration Area and ST7: Site EM007 - High Marnham Energy Hub. Therefore this should be considered</p>

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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
				further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.
24: Site NP04 - Ollerton Road, Tuxford (40 new dwellings, 1.5ha)	Residential development Increase in vehicle traffic Increase in recreation pressure	Air pollution Physical loss and damage of off-site habitat	Sherwood Forest ppSPA	<p>Uncertain: air pollution and physical loss and damage</p> <p>This policy makes provision for c.40 new dwellings and lies 6km from Sherwood Forest ppSPA.</p> <p>The allocation site supports suitable winter foraging opportunities for both qualifying species in arable habitat. Whilst it is considered unlikely that these species would depend upon this habitat given ample suitable foraging habitat in the surrounding landscape, and distance from the European site, it is uncertain if development at this site as a result of this policy may result in physical loss or damage of off-site habitat.</p> <p>The increase in population at this location as a result of this policy could potentially contribute to an increase in visitors to the ppSPA. Therefore this policy could result in effects arising from increased recreation on the European site.</p> <p>The provision of new homes is likely to relate to an increase in population and therefore result in an increase in traffic flows on roads throughout the District. This policy could have an air pollution effect in-combination with other policies, namely ST1 – Bassetlaw's Spatial Strategy, ST2 - Rural Bassetlaw, ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop, 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford, ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village, 21:</p>

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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
				<p>Site HS7 - Leaffields Allotment, Retford, 23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford, 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop, 18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop, 17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop, 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop, 16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop, 25: Site NP11/NP18 - Land at Ashvale Road, Tuxford, ST6 - Provision of Land for Employment Development, ST10 - Existing Employment Sites and Buildings, ST11 - Rural Economic Growth, ST5 - Cottam Priority Regeneration Area and ST7: Site EM007 - High Marnham Energy Hub. Therefore this should be considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.</p>
<p>25: Site NP11/NP18 - Land at Ashvale Road, Tuxford (170 new dwellings, 7.1ha)</p>	<p>Residential development Increase in vehicle traffic Increase in recreation pressure</p>	<p>Air pollution Physical loss and damage of off-site habitat</p>	<p>Sherwood Forest ppSPA</p>	<p>Uncertain: air pollution and physical loss and damage  This policy makes provision for c.170 new dwellings and lies 7.1km from Sherwood Forest ppSPA.  The allocation site supports suitable winter foraging opportunities for both qualifying species in arable and grassland habitat. Whilst it is considered unlikely that these species would depend upon this habitat given ample suitable foraging habitat in the surrounding landscape, and given the distance from the European site, it is uncertain if development at this site as a result of this policy may result in physical loss or damage of off-site habitat.</p>

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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
				<p>The increase in population at this location as a result of this policy could potentially contribute to an increase in visitors to the ppSPA. Therefore this policy could result in effects arising from increased recreation on the European site.</p> <p>The provision of new homes is likely to relate to an increase in population and therefore result in an increase in traffic flows on roads throughout the District. This policy could have an air pollution effect in-combination with other policies, namely ST1 - Bassetlaw's Spatial Strategy, ST2 - Rural Bassetlaw, ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop, 22: Site HS8 - Trinity Farm, Retford, ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village, 21: HS7 - Leafields Allotment, Retford, 23: Site HS9 - Sandhills, Retford, 19: Site HS5 - Talbot Road, Worksop, 18: Site HS4 - Former Manton Primary School, Worksop, 17: Site HS3 - Canal Road, Worksop, 20: Site HS6 - Former Knitwear Factory, Retford Road, Worksop, 16: Site HS2 - Former Pupil Referral Centre, Worksop, 24: Site NP04 - Ollerton Road, Tuxford, ST6 - Provision of Land for Employment Development, ST10 - Existing Employment Sites and Buildings, ST11 - Rural Economic Growth, ST5 - Cottam Priority Regeneration Area and ST7: Site EM007 - High Marnham Energy Hub. Therefore this should be considered further at the Appropriate Assessment stage.</p>
ST26 - Affordable Housing	None – this policy sets out the definition of and the need to provide affordable	n/a	n/a	No

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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
	homes within the life of the plan. It will not itself result in new development.			
ST27 - Housing Mix, Type and Density	None – this policy sets out the requirement to consider an appropriate mix of housing for local people’s needs. It will not itself result in new development.	n/a	n/a	No
ST28 - Specialist Housing	None – this policy sets out the requirement to allow for specialist housing within the district. It will not itself result in new development.	n/a	n/a	No
ST29 - Sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Show people	None – this policy supports allowance of sites for gypsies and travellers within the district. It will not itself result in new development.	n/a	n/a	No
30 - Houses in Multiple Occupation	None – this policy sets out allowances for houses in multiple occupation in the district. It will not itself result in new development.	n/a	n/a	No
31 - Agricultural and Forestry Workers Dwellings	None – this policy supports the need for agricultural and forestry workers dwellings within the district. It will not itself result in new development.	n/a	n/a	No
<b>Local Character and Distinctiveness</b>				
ST32 - Promoting High Quality Design	None – this policy sets principles for the design of new development, it will not result in new development.	n/a	n/a	No
33 - Shopfronts, Signage and Shop Security Measures	None – this policy sets principles for the design of shop fronts and signage, it will not result in new development.	n/a	n/a	No

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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
ST34 - Landscape Character	None – this policy sets out principles to protect the landscape and countryside from inappropriate development, it will not result in new development.	n/a	n/a	No
ST35 – Green and Blue Infrastructure	None – this policy requires new development contributes to green and blue infrastructure; it will not itself result in development or an increase traffic or visitor numbers.	n/a	n/a	No
ST36 - Biodiversity and Geodiversity	None – this policy requires new development to protect biodiversity and geodiversity, it will not itself result in development or an increase traffic or visitor numbers.	n/a	n/a	No
ST37 - Conservation and Enhancement of the Historic Environment	None – this policy protects the Historic Environment, it will not result in new development.	n/a	n/a	No
38 – Heritage Assets	None – this policy supports development where it will enhance the Historic Environment, it will not result in new development.	n/a	n/a	No
Healthy Communities				
ST39 - Promoting Healthy and Active Lifestyles	None – this policy sets out how the council will enable an environment which supports healthy, active, inclusive and safe communities, it will not result in development.	n/a	n/a	No
ST40 - Protection and Enhancement of Community Facilities	None – this policy relates to the protection of Community Services and Facilities, it will not result in new development.	n/a	n/a	No



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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
ST41 – Delivering Quality, Accessible Open Space	None – this policy requires new development to protect and make provision for open space, it will not itself result in development or an increase traffic or visitor numbers.	n/a	n/a	No
ST42 – Promoting Sport and Physical Activity	None – this policy sets out the provision for new sports and leisure facilities across the District, it will not result in development.	n/a	n/a	No
43 – Protecting Amenity	None – this policy sets out protection measures and the need to consider private amenity for development proposals, it will not result in development.	n/a	n/a	No
44 - Contaminated and Unstable Land	None – this policy sets out the need to consider contaminated land within development site applications, it will not result in development.	n/a	n/a	No
Greening Bassetlaw				
ST45 - Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation	None – this policy relates to encouraging the design of development to account and mitigate for climate change in regard to water and energy efficiency, it will not result in new development.	n/a	n/a	No
ST46 - Renewable Energy Generation	None – this policy supports schemes and development for renewable and low carbon energy, it will not result in new development.	n/a	n/a	No
ST47 - Flood Risk	None - this policy requires development to consider flood risk and principles for the sustainable design of new	n/a	n/a	No

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	development to minimise flood risk, but will not result in new development.			
ST48 - Protecting Water Quality	None – this policy relates to encouraging the design of development to account and mitigate for climate change in regard to water efficiency, it will not result in new development.	n/a	n/a	No
Transport and Infrastructure				
ST49 - Providing the Necessary Transport Infrastructure to Support Future Growth  (new road at ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop / A60, Provision of new public transport at Morton Garden Village and Cottam Power Station, general improvements)	None – this policy supports the need and provision for transport infrastructure to support future housing and economic growth. The policy primarily supports general improvements to road networks in certain locations and supports sustainable transport measures. A new road at ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop and new public transport facilities at ST3 - ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village and ST5 - Cottam Priority Regeneration Area is identified in the policy, however this has been subject to HRA screening within the following policies: ST15: Site HS1 - Peaks Hill Farm, Worksop, ST3 - ST3 - Bassetlaw Garden Village and Former Cottam Power Station.	n/a	n/a	No
ST51 - Safeguarded Land	None – this policy safeguards land to allow for infrastructure to support other developments which will be implemented through other policies and have been subject to HRA screening separate below.	n/a	n/a	No

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	Likely activities (operation) to result as a consequence of the policy	Likely effects if proposal implemented	European site(s) potentially affected	Could the proposal have likely significant effects on European sites?
ST50 – Promoting Sustainable Transport	None – this policy sets out support and preference for sustainable transport, it will not result in development.	n/a	n/a	No
ST52 - Provision and Delivery of Infrastructure	None – this policy sets out how the how the provision and delivery of infrastructure will be managed within the District, it will not result in development.	n/a	n/a	No

## Appendix C

### Plans with the Potential for In-Combination Effects with Bassetlaw District

#### Local Plans and Strategies

North Lincolnshire Saved Policies Direction and List of Saved Policies (September 2007)

North Lincolnshire Core Strategy (Adopted June 2011)

North Lincolnshire Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD (Adopted March 2016)

North Lincolnshire New Local Plan: Issues & Options (2018)

North Lincolnshire lies to the north of Bassetlaw District.

North Lincolnshire Council is in the early stages of preparing a new Local Plan. However, this is at a relatively early stage in development, with the spatial vision and spatial objectives recently being consulted on.

#### Housing Provision:

Core Strategy policy CS7: Overall Housing Provision states that between 2010 and 2026, North Lincolnshire's housing requirement is for 12,063 new dwellings to be provided (754 new dwellings per year). Of these new dwellings around 3,482 will be provided from sites that already have planning permission or are under construction. Dependent upon the location of a development site at least the following net density ranges should be achieved within a residential development site, or the residential element of a mixed use site:

- Scunthorpe town centre: 45-70 dwellings per hectare
- Within Scunthorpe and Market Towns development limits: 40-45 dwellings per hectare
- Within rural settlements and the countryside: 30-35 dwellings per hectare.

According to Core Strategy policy CS8: Spatial Distribution of Housing Sites:

- 82% of all new dwellings will be located in and adjacent to the urban area, equating 9,892 new dwellings. A total of 6,000 new dwellings will be provided within the Lincolnshire Lakes area during the plan period, with 1,250 being provided elsewhere within the urban area. Of these new dwellings 2,642 will be provided from sites that already have planning permission or are under construction.
- 18% of all new dwellings will be located within the Market Towns of Barton upon Humber, Brigg, Crowle, Kirton in Lindsey and Winterton, equating to 2,171 new dwellings.

#### Employment Land Provision:

Core Strategy policy CS11: Provision and Distribution of Employment Land states that an additional 40 hectares of employment land will be identified and allocated in the Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD between 2006 and 2021. Strategic employment sites will be identified in the following broad locations:

- Scunthorpe – 71 hectares
- Market Towns – 10 hectares
- Humberside Airport – 20 hectares
- Sandtoft Business Park – 58.5 hectares

#### New Local Plan Issues & Options (2018):

The new Local Plan is at a very early stage in its development, therefore the contents of the plan are currently unknown. As such, it has not been considered here in terms of in-combination effects. However, the progress of the new Local Plan will be monitored and consideration of in-combination effects updated as necessary in future iterations of the HRA.

#### **HRA Findings:**

The HRA Report that accompanies the Core Strategy is the 2010 Habitats Regulations Appropriate Assessment (Stage 2) report. It concludes that, taking account of the effects of the implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, the Core Strategy either alone or in combination with other plans, is unlikely to lead to adverse effects on the integrity of the Humber Estuary SAC, SPA or Ramsar site or the Thorne Moor SAC, the Hatfield Moor SAC or the Thorne and Hatfield Moors SPA.

The HRA Report that accompanies the Housing and Employment Land Allocations DPD is the December 2014 Habitats Regulations Assessment. This document identified potential for likely significant effects, therefore Appropriate Assessment was undertaken (presented in the same document). The HRA concluded that, when taking mitigation measures into account, the DPD would not have an adverse effect on any European site either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

#### **Central Lincolnshire Local Plan (Adopted April 2017)**

##### **Central Lincolnshire Local Plan: Issues and Options (2019)**

The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan covers the combined areas of the City of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey. West Lindsey is located to the north east of Bassetlaw District.

The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan replaces the West Lindsey Local Plan (First Review).

#### **Housing and Employment Land Provision:**

Policy LP3: Level and Distribution of Growth states that the Local Plan's strategic aim is to facilitate the delivery of 36,960 new dwellings and the creation of 11,894 FTE net new jobs over the plan period 2012-2036, distributed as follows:

- Lincoln Strategy Area – around 64% (23,654) of the total homes and employment land needed.
- Gainsborough – around 12% (4,435) of the total homes and employment land needed.
- Sleaford – around 12% (4,435) of the total homes and employment land needed.
- Elsewhere – around 12% (4,435) of the total homes and employment land needed.

#### **Central Lincolnshire Local Plan: Issues & Options (2019):**

The new Local Plan is at a very early stage in its development, therefore the contents of the plan are currently unknown. As such, it has not been considered here in terms of in-combination effects. However, the progress of the new Local Plan will be monitored and consideration of in-combination effects updated as necessary in future iterations of the HRA.

#### **HRA Findings:**

The HRA Report accompanying the Proposed Submission Local Plan is the 2016 Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment Methodology and Screening Report. It concludes that the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan policies, in combination with other Local Plan policies and other relevant plans, policies and projects, would not have likely significant effects on European sites either alone or in combination with other plans.

#### **Newark & Sherwood Allocations & Development Management DPD (Adopted July 2013)**

##### **Newark & Sherwood Plan Review – Amended Core Strategy (Adopted March 2019)**

Newark & Sherwood is located to the south of Bassetlaw District.

In adopting the Allocations & Development Management DPD the Council has committed to an early review of the already adopted DPDs.

#### **Housing Provision:**

Amended Core Strategy Spatial Policy 2: Spatial Distribution of Growth states that the housing requirements for Newark & Sherwood District between 2013 and 2033 are 9,080 dwellings. When discounting dwelling completions and commitments in settlements which are not central to the delivery of the Spatial Strategy, the total number of dwellings to be allocated by the District Council between 2013 and 2033 in the Sub-Regional Centre, Service Centres and Principal Villages is in the region of 8,806 dwellings. In allocating sites for housing development, the following percentages will be met:

- Sub-Regional Centre – 60% of overall growth
- Service Centres – 30% of overall growth
- Principal Villages – 10% of overall growth

#### **Employment Land Provision:**

According to Spatial Policy 2, the employment land requirement for Newark & Sherwood District between 2013 and 2033 is a minimum of 83.1 hectares. This figure is distributed amongst the five Areas of the District (Newark Area, Southwell Area, Nottingham Fringe Area, Sherwood Area and Mansfield Fringe Area).

#### **HRA Findings:**

The HRA Report of the Plan Amended Core Strategy (PACS) concludes that the likelihood of in-combination effects with the PACS is negligible, therefore no in-combination effects have been identified. The HRA Report recommends working closely with neighbouring authorities surrounding Sherwood Forest to improve the understanding of potential visitor pressures at Sherwood Forest ppSPA and Birklands & Bilhaugh SAC.

### **Mansfield District Local Plan – Publication Draft (September 2018)**

#### **Schedule of Main Modifications (October 2019)**

Mansfield is located to the south of Bassetlaw District.

The Council recently published the Mansfield District Local Plan – Publication Draft for six weeks public consultation ahead of its submission to the Secretary of State for an Examination in Public.

#### **Housing Provision:**

Policy S2: The spatial strategy states that at least 6,500 new homes will be provided between 2013 and 2033. This will be distributed as follows:

- Mansfield urban area – 90% or at least 5,850 new homes; and
- Warsop Parish – 10% or at least 650 new homes.

#### **Employment Land Provision:**

Policy S2: The spatial strategy states that existing employment areas will be safeguarded, and 41ha of employment land for development will be identified between 2013 and 2033.

#### **HRA Findings:**

The HRA Report accompanying the Local Plan Publication Draft concludes that no likely significant effects on the SAC will arise from the Mansfield Local Plan either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. Furthermore, no adverse effects will arise from the Mansfield Local Plan in relation to Sherwood ppSPA, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Additionally, the HRA of the submitted Local Plan Main Modifications determined that no likely significant effects will arise alone nor in combination with other projects.

### **Local Plan for Bolsover District (submitted to the Secretary of State on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018)**

#### **Proposed Main Modifications to the Local Plan for Bolsover District (Publication Local Plan June 2019)**

Bolsover is located south west of Bassetlaw District.

Following on from the Publication Local Plan consultation, the Council formally submitted the Local Plan for Bolsover District to the Secretary of State on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2018 and this has started the Examination process.

#### **Housing Provision:**

Policy SS2: Scale of Development states that the Local Plan will accommodate new growth and investment in Bolsover District by making provision for:

- Sufficient land to accommodate the delivery (proposed modification: 'a minimum') of 5,168 dwellings (272 new homes per year) to meet the Council's Housing Objectively Assessed Need across the period 2014 to 2033.

- An additional housing land supply buffer of 10% for site flexibility applied across the period 2014 to 2033 (up to a planned scale of housing provision of 5,700 dwellings).

#### **Employment Land Provision:**

Core Strategy Policy SS2: Scale of Development states that the Local Plan will accommodate growth and investment in Bolsover District by making provision for:

- Sufficient land to accommodate 92 hectares of employment land across the period 2015 to 2033.

#### **HRA Findings:**

The Publication Draft HRA concludes that most aspects of the plan will have no significant effects on any European sites, alone or in combination. Where residual effect pathways remain, appropriate policy-based mitigation measures have been incorporated into the plan policies to ensure that proposals coming forward under the Local Plan either avoid affecting European sites entirely (no significant effect) or will have no adverse effects on site integrity.

#### **Rotherham Core Strategy (Adopted September 2014)**

##### **Rotherham Sites and Policies (Adopted June 2018)**

Rotherham is located north east of Bassetlaw District.

The Sites and Policies document identifies development sites to meet targets set out in the adopted Core Strategy 2013-2028.

#### **Housing Provision:**

Land is allocated in the Sites and Policies document to meet Rotherham's housing requirement of 850 net additional dwellings per annum or 12,750 for the period 2013 to 2028, plus any shortfall in the delivery against that annual target from April 2008 to March 2013 (estimated to be 1,621 dwellings). According to Policy CS 1: Delivering Rotherham's Spatial Strategy, most new development will take place within Rotherham's urban area and at Principal Settlements for Growth. At Principal Settlements and Local Service Centres development will be appropriate to the size of the settlement, meet the identified needs of the settlement and its immediate area and help create a balanced sustainable community.

#### **Employment Land Provision:**

Some 230 hectares of land is allocated in the Sites and Policies document for business and industrial development, whilst 5 hectares of land is allocated in the Sites and Policies document for office floorspace over the plan period.

#### **HRA Findings:**

The HRA Screening, included in a letter to Natural England dated September 2015, concluded that the Pre-Submission Draft Rotherham Local Plan Sites and Policies Document is not likely to have any significant effects on Natura 2000 sites. Therefore an Appropriate Assessment was not required.

#### **Doncaster Core Strategy (Adopted May 2012)**

##### **Doncaster Local Plan 2015 – 2035 Publication Version (Published June 2019)**

Doncaster is located to the north of the District of Bassetlaw.

Doncaster Council is preparing a new Local Plan that will have a big influence on the amount and location of new development across the Borough in the period from 2015 to 2035. The document includes planning policies ensuring the necessary new homes, jobs, shops, leisure and other developments. Policies also address new infrastructure, minerals, energy, health and other community infrastructure, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and conservation and enhancement of the natural and built environment.

#### **Housing Provision:**

Policy 3 (Level and Distribution of Growth) of the emerging Local Plan states that the Council aims to facilitate the delivery of at least 882 (net) new homes each year over the plan period 2018-2033 (18,400 homes in total) with sufficient land

allocated to deliver at least 15 years' supply (13,230). New allocations will be distributed according to Policy 6 (Housing Allocations [Strategic Policy]).

Policy 6 (Housing allocations (Strategic Policy)) of the adopted statutory Local Plan states that sufficient land will be provided to deliver 15,668 new dwellings in the first 15 year period of the plan (2018-2035). Within each town, allocation priority will be afforded to well-located brownfield urban sites followed by other well located urban sites followed by sustainable urban extension sites.

**Employment Land Provision:**

Policy 3 (Level and Distribution of Growth) of the emerging local plan states that the Council aims to facilitate the delivery of at least 481 hectares of employment land over the plan period (2015-2035) to help grow and diversify the Sheffield City Region economy. This includes accommodation of businesses, light industry and manufacturing and distribution and warehouse uses to meet future employment needs.

Policy 4 (Employment Allocations (Strategic Policy)) states that the Council will continue allocating employment sites to help stimulating employment opportunities, to develop a diverse economy, and assist tackling deprivation through job creating and training. It allocates six employment sites, with the majority of employment provision in the plan period to be provided at Junction 6 M18, Thorne North (51.54 ha) and RHADS Site 1, Phase 4 Business Park (68.54 ha).

**HRA Findings:**

The HRA of the Local Plan Publication Draft identified the potential for significant effects to arise as a result of 11 policies at the screening stage. These policies were considered in detail in the Appropriate Assessment and for the majority the potential impacts were ruled out. A small number of amendments to policies were suggested in order to avoid adverse effects on the integrity of European sites. These have now been implemented in the Local Plan and therefore the HRA concludes that the policies in the local plan are not likely to result in adverse effects on integrity of any European site.