



Recreational Impact Briefing Paper

November 2022

Bassetlaw Local Plan 2020-2038: Examination Library Reference: [BDC-04]

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This briefing paper [BDC-04] explores the implementation of Policy ST40 (Biodiversity and Geodiversity) in the emerging Bassetlaw Local Plan 2020-2038: Publication Version Composite [SUB-010], and how it specifically relates to and addresses recreational impact on the Clumber Park Site of Specific Scientific Interest (SSSI).
- 1.2 This briefing paper provides evidence to justify the inclusion of criteria relating to National Designations as suggested in the Schedule of Suggested Changes to the Local Plan Publication Version [SUB-009a]. The exercise undertaken focuses solely on Clumber Park SSSI as the Birkland and Bilhaugh SAC was screened out of the HRA [PUB-026] concluding¹ that the Local Plan will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of the Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC as a result of recreational pressures.
- 1.3 The briefing paper supersedes the Recreational Impact Technical Note - July 2022 [CD-024], which was submitted as part of the Local Plan evidence base in July 2022. The Bassetlaw Local Plan [SUB-010] is currently at examination, with hearing sessions scheduled to start on 29th November 2022.

2. Context

- 2.1 At a Garden Village Stakeholder meeting (on 7th February 2020) and during consultation on the Draft Bassetlaw Local Plan (January 2020) [BG-006], Natural England identified that the Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre and surrounding forest

¹ Paragraph 6.3 of the HRA [PUB-026] conclusion states “The screening assessment also identified potential effects as a result of increased recreational pressure at Birklands and Bilhaugh SAC, particularly in proximity to the Sherwood Forest Visitor Centre. The Appropriate Assessment concluded that, given the protections provided by Policy ST40 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity and individual site allocations, adverse effects on integrity of the SAC can be ruled out, both as a result of the plan alone and in-combination with other plans and programmes”.

as part of the Schedule of Proposed Changes to the Published Plan, July 2022 [SUB-009]. In turn this also addresses concerns raised by National Trust's representations received through the Bassetlaw Local Plan 2020 – 2038: Publication Version Second Addendum, May 2022 [PUB—023] consultation set out in the 'Copies of representations made under Regulation 20, May 2022 – Number Order, July 2022' [SUB-005] (see National Trust representations referenced SA-REF012).

- 2.12 As such, BDC propose that ST40 will now have an additional criteria (1d), which specifically states that... *“proposals of 50 dwellings or more (which includes piecemeal planning applications for less than 50 dwellings for a wider site) that fall within an ‘Impact Risk Zone’ of a SSSI will be required to give appropriate consideration to the impact from the development upon the integrity of the SSSI, including recreational impact. Where impacts are identified, appropriate mitigation measures will be sought, and/or financial contribution to help mitigate identified impacts at the affected SSSI².*
- 2.13 In the interest of working together to resolve outstanding issues ahead of Examination, BDC's Planning Policy team met with Natural England and National Trust on 24th August 2022 to discuss Recreational Impact and the application of Policy ST40 as proposed in the proposed modifications to the submission Local Plan [SUB-010]. It was agreed at that meeting that a briefing paper would be produced that explores which Local Plan site allocations (of 50 or more units), fall within the IRZ of Clumber Park (noting also that the policy would apply to Neighbourhood Plan allocations that do not yet have planning permission, and also windfall sites).
- 2.14 This briefing paper will also set out how sites of more than 50 units that don't fall within the IRZ could potentially address recreational impact. It was suggested at the meeting on 24th August 2022 that this briefing paper could front-load the forthcoming “Greening Bassetlaw” SPD which is planned for production post adoption of the Local Plan.

3. Exercise:

- 3.1 Policy ST40's proposed new criteria (1d) would apply to all site allocations of 50 or more residential units within the Local Plan [SUB-010], as well as any relevant site allocations in adopted Neighbourhood Plans, and also windfall sites. The policy does not apply to sites that already have planning permission. As such, the following list of site allocations have been considered as part of this exercise:

Local Plan Allocations (SUB-010):

- HS1 – Peaks Hill Farm 1120 houses
- HS3 – Retford Street, Worksop – 120 houses
- HS4 – Former Manton Primary School, Worksop – 100 houses
- HS7 – Trinity Farm, Retford – 305 houses

² The wording for this proposed modification may be subject to further revisions prior to or during the examination hearing sessions of the Bassetlaw Local Plan.

Map 1: Housing Allocations³ in relation to the Clumber Park SSSI Impact Risk Zone



