

Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead

**Borough Local Plan
Regulation 18 Consultation**

Regulation 18 Habitat Regulations Screening Report

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Planning and Regeneration
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Introduction

1.1 This screening report has been prepared to support the development of the Borough Local Plan for the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. The Borough Local Plan will be the principle development plan document for the borough and once adopted will guide development for the period 2013 to 2032.

1.2 This screening opinion has been prepared in accordance with Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. This stage of the Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) considers the effects that the Borough Local Plan (BLP) is likely to have on sites that have been recognised as internationally important for nature. The aim of the screening process is to highlight any likely significant effects on designated sites that may require further investigation through an Appropriate Assessment.

1.3 The Habitats Regulation Assessment process together with the Sustainability Appraisal and Strategic Environmental Assessment will help to guide the BLP to ensure that the development aims of the plan can be achieved without incurring significant damage to the environment. The final Habitats Regulation Assessment report will be submitted alongside the BLP and will form part of the plan making evidence base.

1.4 The application of the Habitats Regulations adopts a precautionary approach. Plans and projects can only be permitted where it has been determined that there are unlikely to be adverse effects on the integrity of the designated sites. However, plans and projects may be permitted if there are no alternatives and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest as to why they should go ahead. In these cases, compensatory measures will be necessary to ensure the overall integrity of the network of designated sites.

1.5 Natural England recommends that the HRA process begins at an early stage of plan preparation and if necessary continues through all the stages of plan production. This screening report builds on both the site screening exercise undertaken in September 2013 during the early stages of the development of the BLP and also the screening exercise undertaken to support the pre-submission version of the plan. This screening report has been prepared to reflect the proposals on which the BLP will consult upon under Regulation 18 during December 2016 to January 2017. Feedback from previous consultation with Natural England has been taken into account in this HRA where appropriate and any additional comments from Natural England regarding effects on designated sites will be considered during the development of the pre-submission version of the BLP.

Legal Basis for Habitats Regulations Assessment

2.1 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) are commonly referred to as the “Habitats Regulations”. The Habitat Regulations translate European requirements for the protection of habitats and species of international interest into English law; as such the regulations are unaffected by the country’s membership of the European Union. The Habitats Regulations (Regulation 8) define “European sites” as candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), and Sites of Community Importance (SCIs)

2.2 The Habitats Regulations do not provide statutory protection for potential Special Protection Areas (pSPA), possible/proposed Special Areas of Conservation (pSACs) or listed or proposed Ramsar sites (Ramsar sites are an international designation under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance 1971). For the purposes of considering development proposals and their likely impacts on such sites, government policy in England is that the aforementioned sites ‘should be given the same protection’ as statutory European sites.

2.3 For simplicity, the term “designated site” has been used in this report to mean all current and potential European sites and Ramsar sites, plus any compensatory sites.

2.4 Requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations

Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) states that:

‘A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which:

(a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects); and

(b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of that site;

must make an appropriate assessment of the implications for that site in view of that site’s conservation objectives’.

2.5 Regulation 102 further states that ‘In the light of the conclusions of the assessment, and subject to considerations of overriding public interest, the competent authority may agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site or the European offshore marine site (as the case may be)’.

2.6 By virtue of Regulation 5(1), statutory consultation is required in respect of the appropriate assessment by virtue of Regulation 102 (2) which states: “The plan-making authority must for the purposes of the assessment consult the appropriate nature conservation body and have regard to any representations made by that body within such reasonable time as the authority may specify.” The first consultation with Natural England on this HRA report will take place as part of the public consultation on this version of the Local Plan.

Methodology

3.1 There is no prescribed methodology to undertaking Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) however, Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations describe a procedure that provides a systematic set of stages for the transparent consideration of the likely effects a plan or project could have on a European site. The procedure is summarised in Figure 1. Each stage determines whether a further stage in the process is required. This means that if the conclusions at the end of Stage One are that there are no likely significant effects on the European sites, then there is no requirement to proceed to Stage Two.

3.2 This screening opinion constitutes Stage One of the process and makes use of the methodology established through earlier work undertaken to support the development of the Borough Local Plan (BLP) which adheres to the procedure set out in the Habitat Regulations.

Figure 1: Summary of HRA Procedure set out in the Habitat Regulations

| | |
|--|---|
| Stage One: Screening | The process which identifies whether the plan is required for the management of European site(s) and if not whether there are likely to be any effects upon a European site as a result of the plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these effects are likely to be significant. |
| Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment | The consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European site of the plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where adverse effects on site integrity exist, an assessment of the effectiveness of potential mitigation of those impacts will be made. |
| Stage Three: Assessment of alternative solutions | The process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the plan that avoid significant effects on the integrity of the European site(s) identified at Stage Two. |
| Stage Four: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain. | An assessment of compensatory measures where, in the light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), it is deemed that the plan should proceed |

3.3 Detailed Methodology : Screening

The screening methodology uses sources, pathways and receptors. Each of these elements is considered, and used to screen out/in sources/pathways and receptors. When screening in / out sites and interest features it needs to be established whether there is a potential pathway between possible causes of effects and the features of the designated site. Where there are no sources or pathways to affect a designated site from the approach set out in the Borough Local Plan, then there is unlikely to be a significant effect and the site is not considered further.

1. Identification of any designated sites that could potentially be affected by policies and directions in the plan.
2. Identification of the nature conservation importance of the designated sites.
3. Assesses plan proposals that could potentially have a significant effect on the favourable conservation status of the sites in terms of:
 - a. Identifying the possible sources of effects on the integrity of designated site;
 - b. Identifying possible pathways of effects to the designated sites;
 - c. Considers the effects on possible receptors in the designated site.
4. Considers whether any plan proposals have the potential to result in a likely significant effect alone.
5. Considers whether any plan proposals have the potential to result in a likely significant effect in combination with any other project or plan.
6. Identifies any avoidance measures that could be included or introduced that could act to avoid or mitigate these effects.
7. Identifies alterations to the BLP that would be necessary to avoid these impact

Screening Stage 1: Identification of Relevant Designated Sites

4.1 To consider what distance impacts of a plan might have and thereby which designated sites should be considered as part of an assessment, regard has been had to past decisions and standard approaches to HRA in other boroughs. Sites within a 5km radius of the plan area are commonly screened for likely significant effects.

4.2 The screening assessment for the adopted Maidenhead Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP) reviewed sites within a 10 km radius of Maidenhead town centre. This distance was chosen to take account of possible downstream effects arising from enhancement of the waterways in Maidenhead town centre. A further HRA screening was undertaken to support the preparation of the Ascot, Sunninghill and Sunningdale Neighbourhood Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan has been 'made' and is part of the development plan for the borough. The HRA screening considered a review of sites within a 5 km linear distance of the plan area to be sufficiently precautionary.

4.3 Regard has also been had to the development control procedure agreed in partnership with Natural England which has established that the public body is routinely consulted on all planning applications within 5km of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA.

4.4 The Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Framework sets out a mechanism by which significant effects on the SPA can be avoided or mitigated. This takes the form of a 5 km zone of influence around the SPA boundary, where measures must be taken to ensure that the integrity of the SPA is protected. Within 400 m of the SPA boundary, an exclusion zone applies, where no net increase in the number of dwellings is permitted. This ensures that development within this zone avoids significant effects on the SPA. There are no equivalent exclusion zones around any other designated sites.

4.5 The policy position on waterway enhancements was established in the Maidenhead Town Centre AAP and the Borough Local Plan does not propose any amendments. It is therefore not considered necessary to apply a 10 km distance in this instance. It is considered that a review of designated sites within the borough and within 5 km of the borough boundary provides an appropriate precautionary stance.

4.6 Seven sites have been identified as having potential to be significantly affected by the Borough Local Plan. Five designated sites lie wholly or partly within the borough:

Chiltern Beechwoods SAC
South West London Water Bodies SPA and Ramsar
Thames Basin Heaths SPA
Thursby, Ash, Pirbright & Chobham SAC (part of Thames Basin Heaths SPA)
Windsor Forest and Great Park SAC

4.7 Relevant designated sites outside the borough are:
Broadmoor to Bagshot Heaths SSSI (part of Thames Basin Heaths SPA)
Burnham Beeches SAC

4.8 The site assessments consider The Thursby, Ash, Pirbright & Chobham SAC as part of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA since likely impacts on these individual areas are identical. A map showing the location of the designated sites in relation to the Borough is shown in Appendix 1.

Screening Stage 2: Identification of the nature conservation importance and sensitivities of the relevant designated sites

4.9 The designated site data is summarised in Figure 2. Data was collated from a number of sources. This included information contained within Natura 2000 data forms held by the Joint Nature Conservation Council (JNCC) website (www.jncc.gov.uk) and also Natural England's European Site Conservation Objective statements.

Stage 3: Assessment of sources that could potentially have a significant effect on the favourable conservation status of the identified designated sites.

4.10 In carrying out the screening process the following three stages have been carried out:

- a. Identifying the possible sources of effects on the integrity of designated site;
- b. Identifying possible pathways of effects to the designated sites;
- c. Considers the effects on possible receptors in the designated site

Only where there is an identifiable source, a pathway and a receptor is there likely to be a significant effect.

Stage 3.a: Identifying the possible sources of effects on the integrity of designated site;

4.11 Five main potential effects on the integrity of designated sites have been identified these are:

- Air Quality;
- Species Disturbance;
- Recreational Pressure
- Direct Land take;
- Water Quality; and
- Water Quantity;

Figure 2: Site Characteristics and Threats to Integrity

| Designated Site Name | Main Characteristics | Qualifying Features | Favourable Conservation Status | Threats to site integrity |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| <p>South West London Water Bodies SPA and Ramsar</p> | <p>The South-West London Water Bodies SPA comprises a series of embanked water supply reservoirs and former gravel pits that support a range of man-made and semi-natural open water habitats. The SPA covers an area of approximately 828 Ha.</p> <p>The reservoirs and gravel pits function as important feeding and roosting sites for wintering wildfowl, in particular Gadwall (<i>Anas strepera</i>) and Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>), both of which occur in numbers of European importance.</p> | <p>The site qualifies under article 4.2 of the Directive (79/409/EEC) as it is used regularly by 1% or more of the biogeographical populations of the following regularly occurring migratory species (other than those listed on Annex 1), in any season:</p> <p>Migratory species Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i> 710 individuals - wintering 2.4 % NW Europe</p> <p>Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> 853 individuals - wintering 2.1 % NW/Central Europe</p> | <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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water quality ▪ Air quality ▪ Eutrophication and siltation of water bodies. ▪ Changes in biotic conditions ▪ Outdoor sports and leisure activities including watersports and angling leading to disturbance to bird feeding and roosting habitat. ▪ Introduction of invasive non-native species |
| <p>Thames Basin Heaths SPA</p> | <p>The Thames Basin Heaths SPA is a composite site that is located across the counties of Surrey, Hampshire and Berkshire in southern England covering approximately 8274 Ha. The open heathland habitats overlie sand and gravel sediments which give rise to sandy or peaty acidic soils, supporting dry heath vegetation on well-drained slopes, wet heath on low-lying shallow slopes and bogs in valleys. The site consists of tracts of heathland, scrub and woodland, once almost continuous, but now fragmented into separate blocks by roads, urban development and farmland. Less open habitats of scrub, acidic woodland and conifer plantations dominate, within which are scattered areas of open heath and mire.</p> <p>The site supports important breeding populations of a number of birds of lowland heathland, especially Nightjar (<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>) and Woodlark (<i>Lullula arborea</i>), both of which nest on the ground, often at the woodland/heathland edge, and Dartford Warbler (<i>Sylvia undata</i>), which often nests in gorse (<i>Ulex</i>). Scattered trees and scrub are used for roosting. Together with the nearby Wealden Heaths SPA and Ashdown Forest SPA, the Thames Basin Heaths form part of a complex of heathlands in southern England that support important breeding bird populations.</p> | <p><i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>; European nightjar (Breeding)</p> <p><i>Lullula arborea</i>; Woodlark (Breeding)</p> <p><i>Sylvia undata</i>; Dartford warbler (Breeding) N</p> | <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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. | <p>Lack of grazing or other management allowing the encroachment of scrub.</p> <p>Formal and informal recreation activities that are a potential threat to the breeding success of the Annex 1 birds</p> <p>Uncontrolled fires.</p> <p>Predation of Annex 1 birds by household pets.</p> <p>Light and noise pollution through new housing developments adjacent to this ES. Provision of new roads as part of housing developments leading to potential light impacts from car headlights.</p> <p>Increased disturbance by use by MoD.</p> |

| Designated Site Name | Main Characteristics | Qualifying Features | Favourable Conservation Status | Threats to site integrity |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham SAC | | <p>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></p> <p>European dry heaths</p> <p>Depressions on peat substrates of the Rynchosporion</p> | | <p>Scrub encroachment</p> <p>Spread of non-native/invasive species</p> <p>Maintenance of water table</p> <p>Water quality</p> <p>Changes in management practices</p> <p>Recreational activities.</p> |
| Burnham Beeches SAC | <p>Burnham Beeches occupies an extensive area (approximately 382Ha) of the Burnham Plateau where Thames gravels and underlying Reading Beds give rise to acid soils, supporting mature and developing woodland, old coppice, scrub and heath. The site contains an extensive area of former beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> wood-pasture with many old pollards and associated beech and oak <i>Quercus</i> spp. high forest. It is one of the richest sites for dead-wood (saproxylic) invertebrates in the UK and it also retains important epiphytic communities, including the moss <i>Zygodon forsteri</i>.</p> <p>Holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> and honeysuckle <i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> are the main components of the shrub layer of the woodlands, and bracken</p> <p><i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> and brambles <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. frequently dominate the ground flora, but in places these are lacking and the woodland floor may bear no more than scattered patches of wavy hair-grass <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> and cushions of the distinctive moss <i>Leucobryum glaucum</i>.</p> <p>The site also supports an extensive area of acid mire with several locally uncommon plants including bog pimpernel <i>Anagallis tenella</i>, marsh St. John's wort <i>Hypericum elodes</i> and royal fern <i>Osmunda regalis</i>.</p> | <p>Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with <i>Ilex</i> and sometimes also <i>Taxus</i> in the shrublayer (<i>Quercion robori-petraeae</i> or <i>Illici-Fagenion</i>) for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.</p> | <p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats ▪ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and ▪ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities ▪ Air pollution, air-borne pollutants ▪ problematic native species ▪ Other ecosystem modifications ▪ Changes in biotic conditions ▪ modification of cultivation practices ▪ grazing ▪ Forest and Plantation management & use |

| Designated Site Name | Main Characteristics | Qualifying Features | Favourable Conservation Status | Threats to site integrity |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| <p>Chiltern Beechwoods SAC</p> | <p>The Chilterns Beechwoods represent a very extensive tract of ancient semi-natural beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> forests in the centre of the habitat's UK range. The woodland is an important part of a mosaic with species-rich chalk grassland and scrub. A distinctive feature in the woodland flora is the occurrence of the rare coralroot <i>Cardamine bulbifera</i>. Standing and fallen dead timber provide habitat for dead-wood (saproxylic) invertebrates, including stag beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i>.</p> <p>The individual woods include Bradenham Woods, Park Wood and the Coppice, Ellesborough and Kimble Warrens, Hollowhill and Pullingshill Woods, Naphill Common, Windsor Hill, Aston Rowant, Bisham Woods and Ashridge Woods and Commons and cover approximately 1,276 ha.</p> <p>Broad-leaved deciduous woodland – 88% Dry grassland, Steppes – 8% Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana – 4%</p> <p>The soil and geology is a mix of basic, clay, and limestone, nutrient-poor, sand and sedimentary</p> | <p>Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone</p> <p><i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests; Beech forests on neutral to rich soils</p> <p><i>Lucanus cervus</i>; Stag beetle beetle)</p> | <p>Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.</p> <p>Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ▪ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ▪ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely; ▪ The populations of qualifying species; ▪ The distribution of qualifying species within the site. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forest and Plantation management & use ▪ invasive non-native species ▪ problematic native species ▪ Interspecific floral relations ▪ modification of cultivation practices |

| Designated Site Name | Main Characteristics | Qualifying Features | Favourable Conservation Status | Threats to site integrity |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| <p>Windsor Great Park SAC</p> | <p>Windsor Forest contains dry oak-dominated woodland. Relicts of the primary forest still survive as ancient oak pollards scattered throughout the Park and Forest. Veteran trees occur with a mosaic of unimproved and semi-improved grassland and grass-heath. It has the largest number of ancient oaks <i>Quercus</i> spp. in Britain (and probably in Europe), a consequence of its management as wood-pasture. Many of these trees are over 500 years old and some reputed to be up to 800 years. Of equal importance, although not reaching such a great age, are numerous over-mature beech trees <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>.</p> <p>Being partially hollow and decayed, the oaks and beech afford habitats for a number of extremely rare and specialised insects. The site is of importance for its range and diversity of saproxylic (dead wood) invertebrates, including many rare species (e.g. the violet click beetle <i>Limoniscus violaceus</i>), and has recently been recognised as having rich fungal assemblages.</p> <p>The area of continuous woodland and parkland covers approximately 1,687 ha. The predominant habitat is mixed woodland (95%), with also areas of dry grasslands and inland water bodies. The soil and geology is a mix of acidic, clay, neutral and sand.</p> | <p>Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with <i>Ilex</i> and sometimes also <i>Taxus</i> in the shrublayer (<i>Quercion robori-petraeae</i> or <i>Ilici-Fagenion</i>) for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.</p> <p>Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains for which this is one of only four known outstanding localities in the United Kingdom.</p> <p><i>Limoniscus violaceus</i> for which this is one of only three known outstanding localities in the United Kingdom. which is known from 15 or fewer 10 x 10 km squares in the United Kingdom.</p> | <p>Avoid the deterioration of the qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species, and the significant disturbance of those qualifying species, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving Favourable Conservation Status of each of the qualifying features.</p> <p>Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ▪ The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species; ▪ The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely; ▪ The populations of qualifying species; ▪ The distribution of qualifying species within the site. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Forest and Plantation management & use modification of cultivation practices ▪ Air pollution, air-borne pollutants ▪ invasive non-native species ▪ Interspecific floral relations ▪ Scrub encroachment ▪ High and stable water table ▪ recreational disturbance leading to damage ▪ burning (through arson) |

Stage 3.b: Identifying possible pathways of effects to the designated sites;

Air Quality

4.12 Atmospheric emissions from increases in motor vehicles use and industrial processes are of particular concern for air quality. These emissions contribute to air pollution at both the local and regional scales and deterioration in air quality may result. Diffuse air pollution in particular can act at regional scales and while individual plans are unlikely to contribute high levels the cumulative levels of pollution have the potential for significant effects. Air pollutants may also become deposited soils; this can affect soil fertility which can have serious effects on the quality of habitats.

4.13 Air pollution arising from nitrogen deposition is of key concern for designated sites. The main effects of nitrogen deposition on the designated sites identified are shown in Figure 7.

Species Disturbance/ Recreational Pressure

4.14 Species are likely to be disturbed as a result of the recreational pressures placed on designated sites by visitors. The effects of visitors on the designated sites include deliberate species disturbance, destruction by trampling, damage or removal plants, dog fouling and littering. These effects are likely to increase as the number of visitors to designated sites increases. While visitors to designated sites may be drawn from a wide area, a visitor survey conducted by English Nature to support the Thames Basin Heaths SPA delivery plan concluded that the zones relating to recreational pressure was 5km. An axiomatic assumption from this finding was that increasing the resident population within 5km of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA is likely to increase the number of visitors to it. It is reasonable to assume that increasing the resident population local to a designated site is likely to increase the recreational pressures experienced.

4.15 Increasing the levels of residential development in close proximity to designated sites may also have other negative effects. The harm that can be caused by disturbance to the ground nesting birds in particular arises from a growth in the number of cats and dogs frequenting the designated sites. While other negative effects such as fly tipping, and malicious fire settings are not linked to recreational pressures they can be products of increasing the residential population close to designated sites. The principle adverse ecological effect of fly tipping is the introduction of invasive alien species with garden waste. Garden waste can result in the introduction of invasive alien species precisely because it is the most troublesome garden plants that are typically thrown out. Alien species may also be introduced deliberately or may be bird-sown from local gardens.

Direct Land Take

4.16 The designated sites are particularly vulnerable to land take from agriculture and development. The loss of the land within designated sites is often permanent and irreversible. Any development that would reduce the quantity or increase fragmentation of a designated site would be considered to result in a likely significant effect. The scale and extent of any adverse effects would depend on the location, maintenance, and use of the new development and the nature conservation characteristics and value of the area affected.

4.17 Temporary operations may also damage the special interest of the designated sites and include the extraction of materials from the site (for example through mineral working), the dumping or storage of materials and the erection of structures on the site.

Figure 7: Nitrogen Deposition Effects on Designated Sites

The critical levels identified and the potential effects on designated sites have been sourced from the Air Pollution Information System (APIS) website which may be accessed using the following url: <http://www.apis.ac.uk/>

| Designated Site Name | Qualifying Features | Relevant Critical Load (Kg/N/Ha/Y) | Sensitivity and Potential Effects of Increased Deposition/Exceeded Thresholds |
|---|---|--|---|
| South West London Water Bodies SPA and Ramsar | Gadwall <i>Anas strepera</i> 710 individuals - wintering 2.4 % NW Europe and Shoveler <i>Anas clypeata</i> 853 individuals - wintering 2.1 % NW/Central Europe | No specific sensitivities for the species is given by APIS. Therefore habitat sensitivities are used as a proxy and are considered broadly similar to those set out for the primary habitats within the designated site. | High levels of eutrophication could result in increase in replacement of macrophyte-dominated community with algae-dominated community (algal bloom) thus reducing food availability. |
| Thames Basin Heaths SPA including Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham SAC | A224 <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> ; European nightjar (Breeding) | 5 to 15 (coniferous woodland equivalent broad habitat) | While the habitat is considered sensitive to nitrogen, APIS indicates that there is no expected negative impact on the species due to impacts on the species' habitat. |
| | A246 <i>Lullula arborea</i> ; Woodlark (Breeding) | 5 to 15 (coniferous woodland equivalent broad habitat) | Species considered sensitive to changes to the broad habitat as a result of changes in nitrogen. Species may breed during certain plantation stages. As it is a temporary habitat, long term loss of heath could result in a species decline. |
| | A302 <i>Sylvia undata</i> ; Dartford warbler (Breeding) | 10 to 20 (dry heaths – equivalent broad habitat) | Species requires large, unbroken dwarf-shrub layer, mainly heather and gorse. Breeding territories strongly associated with health, so loss of this habitat could have a negative impact. |
| | Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> | 10 to 20 | Transition heather to grass. Ericaceous species susceptible to frost and drought. |
| | European dry heaths | 10 to 20 | Transition from heather to grass dominance; decline in lichens, changes in plant biochemistry, increased sensitivity to abiotic stress. |
| | Depressions on peat substrates of the Rynchosporion | 10 to 15 | Transition from heather to grass dominance; decline in lichens, changes in plant biochemistry, increased sensitivity to abiotic stress. |
| Burnham Beeches SAC | Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with <i>Ilex</i> and sometimes also <i>Taxus</i> in the shrublayer (<i>Quercion roburi-petraeae</i> or <i>Ilici-Fagenion</i>) | 10 to 20 (Fagus Woodland) | Changes in ground vegetation and mycorrhiza, nutrient imbalance, changes in soil fauna |
| Chiltern Beechwoods SAC | <i>Asperulo-Fagetum</i> beech forests; Beech forests on neutral to rich soils | 10 to 20 (most comparable CL Fagus Woodland) | Changes in ground vegetation and mycorrhiza, nutrient imbalance, changes in soil fauna. |
| | Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>); Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone. | 15 to 25 (most comparable CL: Sub atlantic semi-dry calcareous grassland) | Increase in tall grasses, decline in diversity, increased mineralization, Nitrogen leaching, surface acidification. |
| | <i>Lucanus cervus</i> ; Stag beetle beetle) | No specific sensitivities for the species is given by APIS. Therefore habitat sensitivities are used as a proxy and are considered broadly similar to those set out for the primary habitats within the designated site. | |
| Windsor Great Park SAC | Old acidophilous oak woods with <i>Quercus robur</i> on sandy plains. | 10 to 15 | Decrease in mycorrhiza, loss of epiphytic lichens and bryophytes, changes in soil fauna. |
| | Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with <i>Ilex</i> and sometimes also <i>Taxus</i> in the shrublayer. | 10 to 20 | Changes in ground vegetation and mycorrhiza, nutrient imbalance, changes in soil fauna. |
| | <i>Limonicus violaceus</i> (Violet Click Beetle) | No specific sensitivities for the species is given by APIS. Therefore habitat sensitivities are used as a proxy and are considered broadly similar to those set out for the primary habitats within the designated site. | |

Water Quality

4.18 Rivers, streams and other aquatic environments that support designated sites can be affected by development. Obvious polluters such as sewage effluent, fertilisers, pesticides and industrial chemicals entering water bodies can have direct effects on water quality. In addition, diffuse pollution from urban hardstanding run-off can also contribute to unfavourable conditions over time.

4.19 Poor water quality can have a range of environmental impacts. At high levels, toxic chemicals and metals can result in the immediate death of aquatic life. At lower levels, detrimental effects can also be experienced. Some pesticides, industrial chemicals, and components of sewage effluent may have negative effects on the reproduction and development of aquatic life, and subsequently bird life that feed on them.

4.20 Oxygen depletion within aquatic environments is particularly harmful and can have a variety of causes. For example, the enrichment of nutrients within the water, known as eutrophication, often results from an increase in run-off of phosphorus fertilisers. Eutrophication due to phosphorus increases plant growth within the aquatic environment and reduces the oxygen levels. Decomposition of organic material further acts to deoxygenate water. Algal blooms often result from eutrophication and the bloom acts to decrease light penetration.

Water Quantity

4.21 The south east of England is a densely populated area with high demands for treated water. Population increases are expected over the next twenty to thirty years and associated development pressures are likely to increase the demand for the quantity of treated water needed by homes and businesses. The south east is also experiencing lower levels of annual rainfall as a result of climate change. Designated sites with features that are dependent on a specific water resource level could experience significant effects under higher abstraction levels.

Stages 4 and 5: Consideration of whether any plan proposals have the potential to result in a likely significant effect alone or in combination.

4.22 The policy proposals set out in the BLP have been analysed to assess whether they would be likely to result in likely significant effects on designated sites. The policy screening was carried out in a five step process. The first step considered the likely impacts on designated sites of each policy in isolation. Where potential for significant effects as a result of the operation of the individual policy were identified, the policies were taken forward to a more detailed screening analysis. The second step of the policy screening considered whether any of the effects identified in Stage 3 were likely to have a significant effect on the designated sites identified in Stage 2. Where effects were identified, the third step of the analysis went on to examine whether other policies within the plan offer appropriate mitigation for the potential significant effects arising when considered in combination. The fourth step considered further any policies which required more detailed analysis in order to ascertain whether potential significant effects would be likely to occur. A fifth step takes into account the in combination effects of all the policies in the plan.

4.23 The screening undertaken for the first three steps of the policy analysis are presented in Figures 8, 9 and 10. As a result of the first step of the policy screening, it was possible to identify that 31 policies would have no likely significant effects (LSE). The remaining 26 policies were subject to further analysis in steps two and three. As a result it was possible to identify that 23 of the policies were subject to appropriate mitigation measures through the operation of the other policies proposed within the plan. Three policies were taken forward to step four: HO1 Housing Development Sites, ED2 Defined Employment Sites and IF2 New Sports and Leisure Development at Braywick Park.

Figure 8: Step 1 Screening of Policies Alone for Potential Significant Effects (PSE)

Key to Initial Screening Assessment Step 1

| Code | Initial Screening Assessment |
|------|---|
| 1 | The policy is intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity. |
| 2 | The policy will not lead to development in itself. |
| 3 | The policy makes provision for a quantum or type of development at a specific location that does not include a designated site or where development is unlikely to indirectly affect a designated site |
| 4 | The policy makes provision for a quantum/type of development within a defined area but the specific location will be determined through lower tier plans. |
| 5 | The policy makes provision for a quantum/type of development but the specific location will be determined through the submission of development proposals. |
| 6 | The proposal steers a quantum or type of development towards, or encourages development in, an area that includes a designated site or an area where development may indirectly affect a designated site. |
| 7 | The proposal makes provision for a quantum, or type of development that would be likely to have a significant effect on a designated site. |

| Policy | Policy Description Relevant to HRA | Initial Screening Assessment | | | | | | PSE |
|--|--|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|------------|
| SP1 Spatial Strategy | Sets out the quantum and spatial distribution of development over the plan period. 14,211 new dwellings, up to 43,320 square metres of employment floor space and up to 9,550 square metres of additional retail floor space in the plan period up to 2032. Development will be concentrated on the existing settlements of Maidenhead, Ascot and Sunningdale and Windsor. The significance of Windsor Great Park is recognised together with the need to protect areas designated as Green Belt from inappropriate development. | | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | Yes |
| SP2 Community Led Development | Supports neighbourhood plans and community led development in general conformity with the plan and sets out the circumstances in which affordable housing may be acceptable in the Green Belt when proposed by communities. | | | | 4 | 5 | | Yes |
| SP3 Design | General design policy specifying approach to design concerns. Includes support for sustainable design, construction and operation. | 1 | | | | | | No |
| SP4 Townscape and Landscape | General design policy specifying approach to townscape and landscape. Includes support for development appropriate to the identified landscape character in rural areas. | | 2 | | | | | No |
| SP5 River Thames Corridor | Specific policy setting out approach to development adjacent to the Thames. Includes specific support for maintaining tree cover and riverbank vegetation and conserving and enhancing the ecological value of the river as a wildlife network. | 1 | | | | | | No |
| SP6 Development in the Green Belt | Sets out the circumstance under which development in the Green Belt will be considered appropriate. | 1 | | | | 5 | | Yes |
| SP7 Countryside Character | Policy for the protection of countryside character supporting limited countryside development. Preservation of BMV and woodland and restricting levels of activity incompatible with rural character. | 1 | 2 | | | | | No |

| Policy | Policy Description Relevant to HRA | Initial Screening Assessment | | | | | | PSE | |
|--|---|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|-----|------------|
| HO1 Housing Development Sites | Policy allocating sites to accommodate a total of 8,489 dwellings. The majority of the dwellings will be located within or adjacent to Maidenhead which will accommodate over 67% of the allocation. Approximately 10% of the dwellings allocated will be within or adjacent to Windsor with a further 10% distributed across Ascot, Sunninghill and Sunningdale. | | | 3 | | | 6 | 7 | Yes |
| HO2 Meeting Housing Need | Housing policy setting out the housing mix within development. | | 2 | | | | | | No |
| HO3 Affordable Housing | Housing policy setting out the quantum of affordable housing expected as a proportion of market development and the circumstances under which a rural exception site will be permitted. | | | | 4 | 5 | | | Yes |
| HO4 Gypsies and Travellers | Criteria based policy for determining planning applications for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. | | | | | 5 | | | No |
| HO5 Housing Layout and Design | Residential development layout and design criteria. | | 2 | | | | | | No |
| HO6 Density and Amenity | Location criteria for high density residential development. | | | | | 5 | | | No |
| HO7 Subdivision of Dwellings | Policy supporting sub-division of existing dwellings subject to specific criteria. | | 2 | | | | | | Yes |
| HO8 Development Involving Residential Gardens | Policy supporting the creation of new dwellings in residential gardens outside of the Green Belt subject to specific criteria. Criteria to ensure that the biodiversity contribution to green corridors and networks is considered in the decision process. | 1 | | | | 5 | | | Yes |
| HO9 Extensions and Outbuildings in Residential Curtilages | Criteria based policy for determining the acceptable circumstances for extensions and outbuildings within residential curtilage. The criteria include a number of design considerations but does not prescribe a limit to the amount of residential curtilage that may be developed as long as it is compatible with the character of the surrounding area. | | 2 | | | 5 | | | Yes |
| ED1 Economic Development | Policy supporting the intensification and redevelopment of existing employment sites and the encouragement of local employment. | | | | | 5 | | | No |
| ED2 Defined Employment Sites | Policy allocating eight sites as strategic locations for mixed use. These are concentrated in Maidenhead but supplemented by Ascot Centre. The policy also identifies a number of existing employment sites. Within business areas and mixed use areas, intensification of employment activity is supported. | | | 3 | | | 6 | | Yes |
| ED3 Other Sites and Loss of Employment Floorspace | Protection policy to ensure that employment sites are maintained unless marketing evidence can demonstrate that there is no demand for the site. | | 2 | | | 5 | | | Yes |
| TR1 Hierarchy of Centres | Establishes a hierarchy of retail centres. | | 2 | | 4 | 5 | | | Yes |
| TR2 Windsor Town Centre | Establishes the type of development that will be accepted in Windsor Town Centre | | 2 | | 4 | 5 | | | Yes |
| TR3 Maidenhead Town Centre | Establishes the type of development that will be accepted in Maidenhead Town Centre | | 2 | | 4 | 5 | | | Yes |

| Policy | Policy Description Relevant to HRA | Initial Screening Assessment | | | | | | PSE |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|---|------------|
| TR4 District Centres | Establishes the type of development that will be accepted in Ascot and Sunningdale Town Centres | | 2 | | 4 | 5 | | Yes |
| TR5 Local Centres | Establishes the type of development that will be accepted in the defined local centres of Cookham; Cookham Rise; Datchet; Dedworth Road West, Windsor; Eton; Eton Wick; Old Windsor; Shifford Crescent, Maidenhead; Sunninghill; Vale Road, Windsor; Wessex Way, Cox Green; Wooton Way, Maidenhead; Wraysbury. | | 2 | | 4 | 5 | | Yes |
| TR6 Strengthening the Roles of Centres | Supports town centres as the main focus for retail development and sets out the criteria for the impact tests required when development cannot be located within or adjacent to a defined centre. | | 2 | | 4 | 5 | | Yes |
| TR7 Shops and Parades outside Defined Centres | Policy to protect local shops and parades from conversion to functions that do not benefit the community without evidence of marketing for retail use. | | 2 | | 4 | 5 | | Yes |
| TR8 Markets | Policy support for markets and criteria regarding protection of residential amenity of nearby properties. | | 2 | | 4 | 5 | | Yes |
| VT1 Visitor Development | Criteria based policy setting out the circumstances in which visitor development will be accepted. | | 2 | | | 5 | | Yes |
| VT2 Visitor Accommodation | Policy support for provision of visitor accommodation including information required to support applications. | | 2 | | | 5 | | Yes |
| HE1 Historic Environment | Design policy aimed at conservation of the heritage assets which are defined by the policy. | | 2 | | | | | No |
| HE2 Listed Buildings | Design criteria to apply to Listed Buildings. | | 2 | | | | | No |
| HE3 Ancient Monuments | Design criteria to apply to Ancient Monuments | | 2 | | | | | No |
| HE4 Archaeology | Criteria for consideration of archaeological remains within development sites. | | 2 | | | | | No |
| HE5 Registered Parks and Gardens | Criteria for development within or within the setting of registered parks and gardens. | | 2 | | | 5 | | Yes |
| HE6 Conservation Areas | Policy setting out appropriate development in conservation areas. | | 2 | | | 5 | | Yes |
| HE7 Windsor Castle | Design criteria for development that affects Windsor Castle which aims to ensure that it is safeguarded for its architectural and historical significance within the Great Park setting and support for meeting the needs of visitors. | 1 | 2 | | | 5 | 7 | Yes |
| HE8 Local Heritage Assets | Protection policy for Local Heritage Assets on the Local List. | | 2 | | | | | No |
| NR1 Sustainable Design and Construction | Sustainable design policy. The policy does not include measures for the construction phase of development. | 1 | | | | | | No |
| NR2 Renewable Energy | Sets out criteria for installation of renewable energy generation equipment. Restricts the erection of wind turbines to areas identified on the Wind Mapping Exercise Maps. | 1 | | | | 5 | | Yes |
| NR3 Managing Flood Risk and Waterways | Establishes a sequential approach to sites at risk of flooding and flood considerations for development. In addition the policy requires that development should maintain waterway viability as an ecological network or habit. | 1 | | | | | | No |

| Policy | Policy Description Relevant to HRA | Initial Screening Assessment | | | | | | PSE |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|------------|
| EP1 Environmental Protection | Criteria based policy for the consideration of the impacts of development on the amenity of the local environment both individually and cumulatively. | 1 | | | | | | No |
| EP2 Air Pollution | Approach to air pollution arising from new developments specifically aimed at existing and future residents and referencing the UK Air Quality Strategy. | 1 | | | | | | No |
| EP3 Artificial Light Pollution | Policy for the control of artificial light pollution. Mitigating measures are required for outdoor lighting schemes which may impact on areas of biodiversity. Motion sensitive lighting and outdoor lighting are restricted where there would be an impact on biodiversity or the amenity of the area. | 1 | | | | | | No |
| EP4 Noise | The policy sets out average and maximum acceptable noise levels. Development proposals that generate unacceptable levels of noise are restricted. Effective mitigation measures are required for development proposals that generate significant levels of noise affecting residential amenity, rural areas or biodiversity. | 1 | | | | | | No |
| EP5 Contaminated Land and Water | Policy for the protection of ground and surface water and setting out the role of the Environment Agency and water companies. Development proposals for contaminated land will need to demonstrate that the development will not harm the environment or local residents. | 1 | | | | | | No |
| NE1 Nature Conservation | Policy setting out the protection and enhancement of sites of international, national and local importance to the conservation of nature. The policy requires that protected species will be safeguarded from harm or loss. Where a proposal would cause unavoidable adverse impacts then mitigation measures will be required although compensatory measures will be acceptable where mitigation cannot be achieved. Fragmentation of existing habitats is resisted and the protection of green corridors and networks is supported. The policy requires that "appropriate" access to areas of wildlife importance is achieved. The policy sets out a number of criteria aimed at protecting the biodiversity of application sites and specifies that where the impacts of development are "significant" then an ecological report should accompany the application. | 1 | | | | | | No |
| NE2 Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area | NE2 translates the requirements of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA Avoidance Strategy into policy. This includes the adoption of appropriate exclusion zones under which development will be controlled. Where development is expected within the buffer zone of 5km of the SPA boundary then contributions towards the provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace(SANG) and Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) will be required. Development proposals of >49 residential units between 5km to 7km of the SPA boundary will be required to undertake Appropriate Assessment to ensure that appropriate mitigation measure are identified. It is expected that a minimum of eight hectares of SANG land will be provided per 1,000 new occupants. Three areas of SANG are proposed for allocation. | 1 | | | | | | No |

| Policy | Policy Description Relevant to HRA | Initial Screening Assessment | | | | | | PSE |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|---|------------|
| NE3 Trees, Hedgerows and Woodlands | Policy for the creation, restoration and enhancement of natural habitats including trees, woodlands and hedgerows which references the Tree and Woodland Strategy for the Borough. Where trees, hedgerows and woodlands are within or close to a site or where the presence of protected species is suspected then proposals will need to undertake appropriate surveys to ensure that the proposal is able to demonstrate provision for the needs of protected species. | 1 | | | | | | No |
| NE4 Open Space | Policy regarding the provision, maintenance and enhancement of open space. Development proposals to increase access to natural open space are expected to evaluate the impact of visitor numbers. Protection for allotments, community gardens and orchards is included in the policy. | 1 | | | | | | No |
| NE5 Local Green Space | Policy protecting designated Local Green Space. | 1 | | | | | | No |
| NE6 Rights of Way and Access to the Countryside | Policy protecting the existing rights of way network. Enhancement of the Green Way and the Thames National Trail are supported together with the provision of the new route linking Reading, Wokingham, Bracknell, Ascot and Windsor. | 1 | | | | | | No |
| IF1 Community facilities | Policy aimed at the retention, improvement and enhancement of community facilities. | | | | 4 | 5 | | Yes |
| IF2 New Sports and Leisure Development at Braywick Park | Allocation of a new sports and leisure development on the site of the former golf driving range at Braywick Park as a replacement for the facilities at the Magnet Leisure Centre. | | | | | | 6 | Yes |
| IF3 Sustainable Transport | IF3 supports the policies and objectives of the Local Transport Plan and sets out criteria to be met by development proposals. The criteria includes a requirement to optimise traffic flows and circulation to minimise the effects of congestion, air pollution and noise. Travel plans and transport assessments will be required to support proposals and provision for public transport services and infrastructure will also be required. | 1 | 2 | | | | | No |
| IF4 Infrastructure and Developer Contributions | Policy to ensure that development proposals deliver infrastructure to support the overall spatial strategy. The policy includes a commitment by the Council to ensure that new development contributes towards the provision of SANG in accordance with the Thames Basin Heaths SPA Avoidance Strategy. | | 2 | | | | | No |
| IF5 Telecommunications | Sets out the circumstances under which new telecommunications masts will be acceptable. Development proposals will be supported, provided environmental impacts are minimised and unacceptable harm to area of ecological interest is avoided. | 1 | 2 | | | 5 | | Yes |

| Policy | Policy Description Relevant to HRA | Initial Screening Assessment | | | | | | PSE | |
|---|--|------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|-----|-----------|
| IF6 Water Supply and Sewerage Infrastructure | Policy requiring that development proposals demonstrate that the water supply and sewage infrastructure have sufficient capacity to serve the development without overloading of existing infrastructure. Where improvement to the infrastructure is necessary then funding will need to be provided to the water or sewage company before the commencement of the development. There is a requirement for proposals to include water efficiency measures. New water resource schemes, improvements to the water supply network, demand management measures needed to meet current and future water supply needs and those needed to meet the challenges of climate change and environmental protection are supported. | 1 | 2 | | | | | | No |

Figure 9: Step 2, Screening of BLP Policies with potential for significant effects for likely significant effects (LSE) alone

| Policy Name | Policy Description Relevant to HRA | Air Quality | Species Disturbance | Recreational Pressure | Direct Land Take | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Policy LSE alone |
|----------------------|--|--|---|---|---|--|---|------------------|
| SP1 Spatial Strategy | Sets out the quantum and spatial distribution of development over the plan period. 14,211 new dwellings, up to 43,320 square metres of employment floor space and up to 9,550 square metres of additional retail floor space in the plan period up to 2032. Development will be concentrated on the existing settlements of Maidenhead, Ascot and Sunningdale and Windsor. The significance of Windsor Great Park is recognised together with the need to protect areas designated as Green Belt from inappropriate development. | Greater levels of development in the area could lead to increased ownership and use of cars, leading to possible impact on air pollution. Air quality during the construction phase of development may also be locally poor. | Greater levels of development in the area could lead to increased pressures on designated sites and impacts arising from greater pet ownership (disturbance and predation). | Greater levels of development in the area could lead to increased recreational pressures on designated sites. These pressures include destruction of fauna by trampling, damage or removal plants, dog fouling and littering. These effects are likely to increase as the number of visitors to designated sites increases. While other negative effects such as fly tipping, and malicious fire settings are not linked to recreational pressures they can be products of increasing the residential population close to designated sites. | No development within designated sites is proposed. | Increased levels of diffuse pollution from an increase in urban hardstanding run-off has the potential to contribute to unfavourable conditions. | The plan does not propose additional water extraction to serve new development. | Yes |

| Policy Name | Policy Description Relevant to HRA | Air Quality | Species Disturbance | Recreational Pressure | Direct Land Take | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Policy LSE alone |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|-------------------------|
| SP2 Community Led Development | Supports neighbourhood plans and community led development in general conformity with the plan and sets out the circumstances in which affordable housing may be acceptable in the Green Belt when proposed by communities. | Greater levels of development in the area could lead to increased ownership and use of cars, leading to possible impact on air pollution. | Greater levels of development in the area could lead to increased pressures on designated sites and impacts arising from greater pet ownership (disturbance and predation). | Greater levels of development in the area could lead to increased recreational pressures on designated sites. These pressures include destruction of fauna by trampling, damage or removal plants, dog fouling and littering. These effects are likely to increase as the number of visitors to designated sites increases. While other negative effects such as fly tipping, and malicious fire settings are not linked to recreational pressures they can be products of increasing the residential population close to designated sites. | No development within designated sites is proposed. | Increased levels of diffuse pollution from an increase in urban hardstanding run-off has the potential to contribute to unfavourable conditions. | The plan does not propose additional water extraction to serve new development. | Yes |
| SP6 Development in the Green Belt | Sets out the circumstance under which development in the Green Belt will be considered appropriate. | | | | No development within designated sites is proposed. | | | No |

| Policy Name | Policy Description Relevant to HRA | Air Quality | Species Disturbance | Recreational Pressure | Direct Land Take | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Policy LSE alone |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------------------------|
| HO1 Housing Development Sites | Policy allocating sites to accommodate a total of 8,489 dwellings. The majority of the dwellings will be located within or adjacent to Maidenhead which will accommodate over 67% of the allocation. Approximately 10% of the dwellings allocated will be within or adjacent to Windsor with a further 10% distributed across Ascot, Sunninghill and Sunningdale. | Site specific assessment on likely significant effects on designated sites. | Site specific assessment on likely significant effects on designated sites. | Site specific assessment on likely significant effects on designated sites. | No development within designated sites is proposed. | Site specific assessment on likely significant effects on designated sites. | Site specific assessment on likely significant effects on designated sites. | Unknown |
| HO3 Affordable Housing | Housing policy setting out the quantum of affordable housing expected as a proportion of market development and the circumstances under which a rural exception site will be permitted. | | | | No development within designated sites is proposed. | | | No |
| HO8 Development Involving Residential Gardens | Policy supporting the creation of new dwellings in residential gardens outside of the Green Belt subject to specific criteria. Criteria to ensure that the biodiversity contribution to green corridors and networks is considered in the decision process. | | | | No development within designated sites is proposed. | | | No |

| Policy Name | Policy Description Relevant to HRA | Air Quality | Species Disturbance | Recreational Pressure | Direct Land Take | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Policy LSE alone |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------------------------|
| HO9 Extensions and Outbuildings in Residential Curtilages | Criteria based policy for determining the acceptable circumstances for extensions and outbuildings within residential curtilage. The criteria include a number of design considerations but does not prescribe a limit to the amount of residential curtilage that may be developed as long as it is compatible with the character of the surrounding area. | | | | No development within designated sites is proposed. | | | No |
| ED2 Defined Employment Sites | Policy allocating eight sites as strategic locations for mixed use. These are concentrated in Maidenhead but supplemented by Ascot Centre. The policy also identifies a number of existing employment sites. Within business areas and mixed use areas, intensification of employment activity is supported. | Site specific assessment on likely significant effects on designated sites. | Site specific assessment on likely significant effects on designated sites. | Site specific assessment on likely significant effects on designated sites. | No development within designated sites is proposed. | Site specific assessment on likely significant effects on designated sites. | Site specific assessment on likely significant effects on designated sites. | Unkn own |

| Policy Name | Policy Description Relevant to HRA | Air Quality | Species Disturbance | Recreational Pressure | Direct Land Take | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Policy LSE alone |
|---|--|--|----------------------------|------------------------------|---|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| ED3 Other Sites and Loss of Employment Floorspace | Protection policy to ensure that employment sites are maintained unless marketing evidence can demonstrate that there is no demand for the site. | Some of the existing employment sites to be retained lie within 5km of a designated site. Industry operating on sites may contribute to air borne pollutants and conversion of sites to alternative land uses may have a positive effect on air pollution. | | | No development within designated sites is proposed. | | | Yes |
| TR1 Hierarchy of Centres | Establishes a hierarchy of retail centres. | Enhanced centres could lead to an increase in the number of trips by private car, leading to possible impact on air pollution. | | | | | | Yes |
| TR2 Windsor Town Centre | Establishes the type of development that will be accepted in Windsor Town Centre | Enhanced retail centres could lead to an increase in the number of trips by private car, leading to possible impact on air pollution. | | | | | | No |

| Policy Name | Policy Description Relevant to HRA | Air Quality | Species Disturbance | Recreational Pressure | Direct Land Take | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Policy LSE alone |
|----------------------------|---|---|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| TR3 Maidenhead Town Centre | Establishes the type of development that will be accepted in Maidenhead Town Centre | Enhanced retail centres could lead to an increase in the number of trips by private car, leading to possible impact on air pollution. | | | | | | No |
| TR4 District Centres | Establishes the type of development that will be accepted in Ascot and Sunningdale Town Centres | Enhanced district centres are likely to reduce the distance required to travel to access convenience goods and services and may have a positive effect on air quality. Ascot and Sunningdale Town Centres lie within 5km of the Thames Basin Heath SPA and further development at this location may have an unfavourable impact on the SPA. | | | | | | Yes |

| Policy Name | Policy Description Relevant to HRA | Air Quality | Species Disturbance | Recreational Pressure | Direct Land Take | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Policy LSE alone |
|--|--|--|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| TR5 Local Centres | Establishes the type of development that will be accepted in the defined local centres of Cookham; Cookham Rise; Datchet; Dedworth Road West, Windsor; Eton; Eton Wick; Old Windsor; Shifford Crescent, Maidenhead; Sunninghill; Vale Road, Windsor; Wessex Way, Cox Green; Wooton Way, Maidenhead; Wraysbury. | Retention of local shops is likely to reduce the distance required to travel to access convenience goods and services and may have a positive effect on air quality. | | | | | | No |
| TR6 Strengthening the Roles of Centres | Supports town centres as the main focus for retail development and sets out the criteria for the impact tests required when development cannot be located within or adjacent to a defined centre. | Location of shops and services within existing centres increases the likelihood of linked trips and may have a positive effect on air quality. | | | | Location of retail development outside of defined centres could lead to increased levels of diffuse pollution from an increase in urban hardstanding run-off has the potential to contribute to unfavourable conditions. | | No |

| Policy Name | Policy Description Relevant to HRA | Air Quality | Species Disturbance | Recreational Pressure | Direct Land Take | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Policy LSE alone |
|---|--|--|----------------------------|------------------------------|---|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| TR7 Shops and Parades outside Defined Centres | Policy to protect local shops and parades from conversion to functions that do not benefit the community without evidence of marketing for retail use. | Retention of local shops is likely to reduce the distance required to travel to access convenience goods and services and may have a positive effect on air quality. | | | | | | No |
| TR8 Markets | Policy support for markets and criteria regarding protection of residential amenity of nearby properties. | | | | No development within designated sites is proposed. | | | No |

| Policy Name | Policy Description Relevant to HRA | Air Quality | Species Disturbance | Recreational Pressure | Direct Land Take | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Policy LSE alone |
|-------------------------|--|--|---|---|---|--|---|-------------------------|
| VT1 Visitor Development | Criteria based policy setting out the circumstances in which visitor development will be accepted. | Greater levels of visitor development in the area could lead to increased numbers of car based trips, leading to possible impact on air pollution. | Increasing the number of visitors to the area could lead to increased pressures on designated sites and impacts arising from greater pet ownership (disturbance and predation). | Increasing the number of visitors to the area could lead to increased recreational pressures on designated sites. These pressures include destruction of fauna by trampling, damage or removal plants, dog fouling and littering. These effects are likely to increase as the number of visitors to designated sites increases. While other negative effects such as fly tipping, and malicious fire settings are not linked to recreational pressures they can be products of increasing the residential population close to designated sites. | No development within designated sites is proposed. | Increased levels of diffuse pollution from an increase in urban hardstanding run-off has the potential to contribute to unfavourable conditions. | The plan does not propose additional water extraction to serve new development. | Yes |

| Policy Name | Policy Description Relevant to HRA | Air Quality | Species Disturbance | Recreational Pressure | Direct Land Take | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Policy LSE alone |
|----------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|-------------------------|
| VT2 Visitor Accommodation | Policy support for provision of visitor accommodation including information required to support applications. | Increasing the number of visitors to the area could lead to increased pressures on designated sites and impacts arising from greater pet ownership (disturbance and predation). | Increasing the number of visitors to the area could lead to increased pressures on designated sites and impacts arising from greater pet ownership (disturbance and predation). | Increasing the number of visitors to the area could lead to increased recreational pressures on designated sites. These pressures include destruction of fauna by trampling, damage or removal plants, dog fouling and littering. These effects are likely to increase as the number of visitors to designated sites increases. While other negative effects such as fly tipping, and malicious fire settings are not linked to recreational pressures they can be products of increasing the residential population close to designated sites. | No development within designated sites is proposed. | Increased levels of diffuse pollution from an increase in urban hardstanding run-off has the potential to contribute to unfavourable conditions. | The plan does not propose additional water extraction to serve new development. | Yes |
| HE5 Registered Parks and Gardens | Design criteria for development within or within the setting of registered parks and gardens. | | | | No development within designated sites is proposed. | | | No |

| Policy Name | Policy Description Relevant to HRA | Air Quality | Species Disturbance | Recreational Pressure | Direct Land Take | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Policy LSE alone |
|------------------------|--|---|--|---|---|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| HE6 Conservation Areas | Policy setting out appropriate development in conservation areas. | | | | No development within designated sites is proposed. | | | No |
| HE7 Windsor Castle | Design criteria for development that affects Windsor Castle which aims to ensure that it is safeguarded for its architectural and historical significance within the Great Park setting and support for meeting the needs of visitors. | Greater levels of visitors to Windsor Castle could lead to increased numbers of car based trips, leading to possible increases to air pollution affecting Windsor Great Park SAC. | Increasing the number of visitors to Windsor Castle could lead to increased pressures on the Windsor Great Park SAC sites including disturbance. | Increasing the number of visitors to Windsor Castle could lead to increased recreational pressures on the Windsor Great Park SAC. These pressures include destruction of fauna by trampling, damage or removal plants, dog fouling and littering. These effects are likely to increase as the number of visitors to increases. While other negative effects such as malicious fire settings are not linked to recreational pressures they can be products of increasing the number of visitors. | No development within designated sites is proposed. | | | Yes |

| Policy Name | Policy Description Relevant to HRA | Air Quality | Species Disturbance | Recreational Pressure | Direct Land Take | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Policy LSE alone |
|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------------------------|
| NR2 Renewable Energy | Sets out criteria for installation of renewable energy generation equipment. Restricts the erection of wind turbines to areas identified on the Wind Mapping Exercise Maps. | | | | No development within designated sites is proposed. | | | No |
| IF1 Community facilities | Policy aimed at the retention, improvement and enhancement of community facilities. | | | | No development within designated sites is proposed. | | | No |
| IF2 New Sports and Leisure Development at Braywick Park | Allocation of a new sports and leisure development on the site of the former golf driving range at Braywick Park as a replacement for the facilities at the Magnet Leisure Centre. | Site specific assessment on likely significant effects on designated sites. | Site specific assessment on likely significant effects on designated sites. | Site specific assessment on likely significant effects on designated sites. | No development within designated sites is proposed. | Site specific assessment on likely significant effects on designated sites. | Site specific assessment on likely significant effects on designated sites. | Unkn own |
| IF5 Telecommunications | Sets out the circumstances under which new telecommunications masts will be acceptable. Development proposals will be supported, provided environmental impacts are minimised and unacceptable harm to area of ecological interest is avoided. | | | | No development within designated sites is proposed. | | | No |

| Policy Name | Policy LSE alone | Mitigating Policy 1 | Mitigating Policy 2 | Mitigating Policy 3 | Mitigating Policy 4 | Mitigating Policy 5 | Mitigating Policy 6 | Mitigating Policy 7 | Mitigating Policy 8 | Policy LSE in combination with other BLP Policies |
|---|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|---|---------------------|---|--|---|
| HO8 Development Involving Residential Gardens | No | | | | | | | | | No |
| HO9 Extensions and Outbuildings in Residential Curtilages | No | | | | | | | | | No |
| ED2 Defined Employment Sites | Unknown | IF3 Sustainable Transport | NE1 Nature Conservation | EP5 Contaminated Land and Water | EP2 Air Pollution | NR1 Sustainable Design and Construction | | NE2 Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area | IF4 Infrastructure and Developer Contributions | Unknown |
| ED3 Other Sites and Loss of Employment Floorspace | Yes | | | | EP2 Air Pollution | | | NE2 Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area | | No |

| Policy Name | Policy LSE alone | Mitigating Policy 1 | Mitigating Policy 2 | Mitigating Policy 3 | Mitigating Policy 4 | Mitigating Policy 5 | Mitigating Policy 6 | Mitigating Policy 7 | Mitigating Policy 8 | Policy LSE in combination with other BLP Policies |
|---|------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| TR7 Shops and Parades outside Defined Centres | No | | | | | | | | | No |
| TR8 Markets | No | | | | | | | | | No |
| VT1 Visitor Development | Yes | IF3 Sustainable Transport | NE1 Nature Conservation | | EP2 Air Pollution | | | NE2 Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area | | No |
| VT2 Visitor Accommodation | Yes | IF3 Sustainable Transport | NE1 Nature Conservation | | EP2 Air Pollution | | | NE2 Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area | | No |
| HE5 Registered Parks and Gardens | No | | | | | | | | | No |
| HE6 Conservation Areas | No | | | | | | | | | No |
| HE7 Windsor Castle | Yes | IF3 Sustainable Transport | NE1 Nature Conservation | | | | | | | No |

Stages 4 and 5: Consideration of whether any plan proposals have the potential to result in a likely significant effect alone or in combination.

4.24 The fourth step of the BLP policy assessment under stages 4 and 5 was undertaken for three policies: HO1 Housing Development Sites, ED2 Defined Employment Sites and IF2 New Sports and Leisure Development at Braywick Park. All three of these policies direct a specific quantum and type of development to a specific location in the form of proposed site allocations.

4.25 Significant screening of BLP site allocations has taken place at various stages of the development of the plan. It is considered appropriate to draw on this information and present any relevant findings within this report, however supplementary assessment has been undertaken due to the changes made to site boundaries and the proposals for each site.

4.26 The screening of site allocations for step 4 was split into three parts. Part 1 removes from further consideration all sites that by virtue of their distance from any designated site, location with an existing urban area or the nature of the existing land use on site may be considered unlikely to give rise to significant effects alone. The Part 1 screening established that of the 66 individual allocations made in the plan, 33 were considered unlikely to give rise to significant effects alone. The screening assessment is shown in Figure 11.

4.27 Part 2 of the allocation screening further considers the remaining 28 proposed allocations that have the potential to give rise to significant effects alone. These sites were considered in terms of the potential significant effects arising on the designated sites within proximity of the individual allocations and the mitigating effects of the proposed BLP policies. One site, HA45 Land adjacent to Coppermill Road, Horton was considered to give rise to likely significant effects that were unlikely to be mitigated by the proposed BLP policies. The assessment is shown in Figure 12.

4.28 The fifth step considers the in combination effects of the proposed BLP policies, including site specific allocations, on each of the designated sites identified in Stage 2. Where allocations propose a continuation of an existing land use that would continue regardless of the BLP, the sites have been screened out as no in combination effects arising from the new allocation are considered to occur in accordance with the findings of the site screening report undertaken in 2013. In addition allocations that are further than 5km away from the boundary of any designated site (7km in the case of Thames Basins Heath SPA) have been screened out of the assessment of in combination effects as they are considered to be outside of the zone of influence of the designated sites. The sites screened out due to lack of likely contribution to the in combination effects are shown in Figures 13 and 14.

4.29 In combination effects are most likely to be experienced by the Windsor Forest Great Park SAC and the Chiltern Beeches SAC where a total of 5399 and 4730 dwellings plus a replacement leisure facility are allocated within 5km of the boundary of the designated site respectively. Figure 15 sets out the total amount of development allocated within 5km of the designated site boundaries and within 7km of the boundary of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. Figure 16 shows the likely significant in combination effects arising from the BLP for each of the designated sites.

Figure 11: Step 4, Part 1 Screening of allocations for LSE alone

| Ref. | BLP Policy | Site | Current Land Use | Proposed Use | Proposed Increase Units/ Floor space | Further assessment required based on current/ surrounding land uses? | Within 7km of TBH SPA | Within 5km of SWLW B SPA | Within 5km of WFGP SAC | Within 5km of Chiltern Beechwoods SAC | Within 5km of Burnham Beeches SAC | Further assessment required based on distance to nearest designated site? | Further assessment req. due to current/ surrounding land uses or distance to designated site? |
|------|------------|---|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| HA1 | HOU1 | Railway Station, Maidenhead | Car park | Residential | 150 | No | No | No | No | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| HA10 | SP1 | Ascot Town Centre | Mixed Use | Mixed Use | 300 | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| HA11 | HOU1 | Land west of Windsor, north and south of A308 | Agricultural and garden centre | Residential | 650 | Yes | No | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| HA12 | HOU1 | Boyn Valley Industrial Estate Maidenhead | Industrial Estate | Residential | 300 | No | No | No | No | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| HA13 | HOU1 | Exclusive House, Oldfield Road, Maidenhead | Distribution centre | Residential | 30 | No | No | No | No | Yes | No | Yes | No |

| Ref. | BLP Policy | Site | Current Land Use | Proposed Use | Proposed Increase Units/ Floor space | Further assessment required based on current/ surrounding land uses? | Within 7km of TBH SPA | Within 5km of SWLW B SPA | Within 5km of WFGP SAC | Within 5km of Chiltern Beechwoods SAC | Within 5km of Burnham Beeches SAC | Further assessment required based on distance to nearest designated site? | Further assessment req. due to current/ surrounding land uses or distance to designated site? |
|------|------------|--|------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| HA14 | HOU1 | Land south of Ray Mill Road East, Maidenhead | Agricultural | Residential | 60 | Yes | No | No | No | No | No | No | No |
| HA15 | HOU1 | Middlehurst, 90-103 Boyn Valley Road, Maidenhead | Industrial unit | Residential | 45 | No | No | No | No | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| HA16 | HOU1 | Osbornes Garage, 55 St Marks Road Maidenhead | Garage | Residential | 20 | No | No | No | No | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| HA17 | HOU1 | Tectonic Place, Holyport Road, Maidenhead | Employment | Residential | 25 | No | No | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | No |
| HA18 | HOU1 | Land between Windsor Road and Bray Lake, south of Maidenhead | Agricultural | Residential | 140 | Yes | No | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| HA19 | HOU1 | Land east of Whitebrook Park, Lower Cookham Road, Maidenhead | Playing field | Residential | 75 | Yes | No | No | No | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| HA2 | HOU1 | Reform Road | B2 and B8 | Residential | 150 | No | No | No | No | Yes | No | Yes | No |

| Ref. | BLP Policy | Site | Current Land Use | Proposed Use | Proposed Increase Units/ Floor space | Further assessment required based on current/ surrounding land uses? | Within 7km of TBH SPA | Within 5km of SWLW B SPA | Within 5km of WFGP SAC | Within 5km of Chiltern Beechwoods SAC | Within 5km of Burnham Beeches SAC | Further assessment required based on distance to nearest designated site? | Further assessment req. due to current/ surrounding land uses or distance to designated site? |
|------|------------|--|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| HA20 | HOU1 | North of Woodlands Business Park, Maidenhead | Agricultural | Residential | 300 | Yes | No | No | No | No | No | No | Yes |
| HA21 | HOU1 | Land known as Spencer's Farm, north of Lutman Lane, Maidenhead | Agricultural | Residential | 300 | Yes | No | No | No | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| HA22 | HOU1 | Land north of Breadcroft Lane and south of the railway line, Maidenhead | Agricultural | Residential | 100 | Yes | No | No | No | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| HA23 | HOU1 | Land west of Monkey Island Lane, including water treatment works, Maidenhead | To be confirmed. | Residential | 100 | Yes | No | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| HA24 | HOU1 | Summerleaze, Summerleaze Road, Maidenhead | To be confirmed. | Residential | 80 | Yes | No | No | No | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| HA29 | HOU1 | Windsor Police Station, Alma Road, Windsor | Vacant police station | Residential | 60 | No | No | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | No |

| Ref. | BLP Policy | Site | Current Land Use | Proposed Use | Proposed Increase Units/ Floor space | Further assessment required based on current/ surrounding land uses? | Within 7km of TBH SPA | Within 5km of SWLW B SPA | Within 5km of WFGP SAC | Within 5km of Chiltern Beechwoods SAC | Within 5km of Burnham Beeches SAC | Further assessment required based on distance to nearest designated site? | Further assessment req. due to current/ surrounding land uses or distance to designated site? |
|------|------------|--|-------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| HA26 | HOU1 | Shirley Avenue (Vale Rd Industrial Estate), Windsor | Industrial Estate | Residential | 80 | No | No | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | No |
| HA27 | HOU1 | Territorial Army Centre, Bolton Road, Windsor | Territorial army centre | Residential | 25 | No | No | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | No |
| HA28 | HOU1 | Windsor and Eton Riverside Station Car Park, Windsor | Car park | Residential | 30 | No | No | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | No |
| HA25 | HOU1 | Minton Place, Victoria Street, Windsor | Offices | Residential | 75 | No | No | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | No |
| HA3 | HOU1 | Saint-Cloud Way | Magnet Leisure Centre | Residential | 640 | No | No | No | No | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| HA30 | HOU1 | Ascot Station Car Park, Ascot | Car Park | Residential | 35 | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | No |
| HA31 | HOU1 | Englemere Lodge London Road Ascot | Residential | Residential | 10 | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | No |

| Ref. | BLP Policy | Site | Current Land Use | Proposed Use | Proposed Increase Units/ Floor space | Further assessment required based on current/ surrounding land uses? | Within 7km of TBH SPA | Within 5km of SWLW B SPA | Within 5km of WFGP SAC | Within 5km of Chiltern Beechwoods SAC | Within 5km of Burnham Beeches SAC | Further assessment required based on distance to nearest designated site? | Further assessment req. due to current/ surrounding land uses or distance to designated site? |
|------|------------|---|---|--------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| HA32 | HOU1 | Heatherwood Hospital, Ascot | Hospital, residential and woodland | Residential | 250 | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| HA33 | HOU1 | Silwood Park, Sunningdale | Residential | Residential | 75 | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| HA34 | HOU1 | Sunningdale Park, Sunningdale | Residential, open space and conference centre | Residential | 230 | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| HA35 | HOU1 | Gas holder site, Bridge Road, Sunninghill | Former gas holder site | Residential | 53 | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| HA36 | HOU1 | Broomhall Car Park, Sunningdale | Car Park | Residential | 28 | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| HA37 | HOU1 | White House, London Road, Sunningdale | Single dwelling | Residential | 10 | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes |

| Ref. | BLP Policy | Site | Current Land Use | Proposed Use | Proposed Increase Units/ Floor space | Further assessment required based on current/ surrounding land uses? | Within 7km of TBH SPA | Within 5km of SWLW B SPA | Within 5km of WFGP SAC | Within 5km of Chiltern Beechwoods SAC | Within 5km of Burnham Beeches SAC | Further assessment required based on distance to nearest designated site? | Further assessment req. due to current/ surrounding land uses or distance to designated site? |
|------|------------|--|--|--------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| HA38 | HOU1 | Cookham Gas holder, Whyteladyes Lane, Cookham | Former gas holder site | Residential | 60 | Yes | No | No | No | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| HA39 | HOU1 | Land east of Strande Park, Cookham | Agricultural | Residential | 20 | Yes | No | No | No | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| HA4 | HOU1 | West Street, Maidenhead | Mixed including residential, community, employment and infrastructure development. | Residential | 240 | No | No | No | No | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| HA40 | HOU1 | Land north of Lower Mount Farm, Long Lane, Cookham | Agricultural | Residential | 200 | Yes | No | No | No | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| HA41 | HOU1 | Land at Riding Court Road and London Road Datchet | Agricultural | Residential | 175 | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| HA42 | HOU1 | Land at Slough Road/Riding Court Road, Datchet | Agricultural | Residential | 150 | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes |

| Ref. | BLP Policy | Site | Current Land Use | Proposed Use | Proposed Increase Units/ Floor space | Further assessment required based on current/ surrounding land uses? | Within 7km of TBH SPA | Within 5km of SWLW B SPA | Within 5km of WFGP SAC | Within 5km of Chiltern Beechwoods SAC | Within 5km of Burnham Beeches SAC | Further assessment required based on distance to nearest designated site? | Further assessment req. due to current/ surrounding land uses or distance to designated site? |
|------|------------|---|--|--------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| HA43 | HOU1 | Land north of Eton Road adj to St Augustine's Church, Datchet | Agricultural | Residential | 35 | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| HA44 | HOU1 | Land east of Queen Mother Reservoir, Horton | To be confirmed. | Residential | 130 | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| HA45 | HOU1 | Land adjacent to Coppermill Road, Horton | Thames water | Residential | 27 | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| HA46 | HOU1 | Straight Works, Old Windsor | Light industrial | Residential | 20 | No | No | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | No |
| HA47 | HOU1 | 95 Straight Road, Old Windsor | Car sales and showroom | Residential | 11 | No | No | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | No |
| HA48 | HOU1 | Tithe Farm, Tithe Lane, Wraysbury | Agricultural | Residential | 20 | Yes | No | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | No |
| HA5 | HOU1 | York Road, Maidenhead | Cleared road and carpark | Residential | 320 | No | No | No | No | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| HA6 | HOU1 | Maidenhead Golf Course | Golf Course | Residential | 2000 | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| HA7 | HOU1 | Land south of Harvest Hill Road, Maidenhead | Grassland and driving course for golf club | Residential | 350 | Yes | No | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes |

| Ref. | BLP Policy | Site | Current Land Use | Proposed Use | Proposed Increase Units/ Floor space | Further assessment required based on current/ surrounding land uses? | Within 7km of TBH SPA | Within 5km of SWLW B SPA | Within 5km of WFGP SAC | Within 5km of Chiltern Beechwoods SAC | Within 5km of Burnham Beeches SAC | Further assessment required based on distance to nearest designated site? | Further assessment req. due to current/ surrounding land uses or distance to designated site? |
|------|------------|--|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| HA8 | HOU1 | Land south of Manor Lane, Maidenhead | Vacant land | Residential | 180 | Yes | No | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| HA9 | SP1 | Land south of the A308(M), west of Ascot Road and North of the M4 (Known as the Triangle Site) | Agricultural | Mixed Use | 150 | Yes | No | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes |
| na | EMP2 | Alma Road, Windsor | Business Park | Business Park | EMP | No | No | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | No |
| na | EMP2 | Ascot Business Park, Ascot | Business Park | Business Park | EMP | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | No |
| na | EMP2 | Centrica, Millstream Windsor | Business Park | Business Park | EMP | No | No | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | No |
| na | EMP2 | Cordwallis Industrial Area, Maidenhead | Industrial Estate | Industrial Estate | EMP | No | No | No | No | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| na | EMP2 | Fairacres Industrial Area, Windsor | Industrial Estate | Industrial Estate | EMP | No | No | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | No |
| na | EMP2 | Foundation Business Park, Cox Green | Business Park | Business Park | EMP | No | No | No | No | Yes | No | Yes | No |

| Ref. | BLP Policy | Site | Current Land Use | Proposed Use | Proposed Increase Units/ Floor space | Further assessment required based on current/ surrounding land uses? | Within 7km of TBH SPA | Within 5km of SWLW B SPA | Within 5km of WFGP SAC | Within 5km of Chiltern Beechwoods SAC | Within 5km of Burnham Beeches SAC | Further assessment required based on distance to nearest designated site? | Further assessment req. due to current/ surrounding land uses or distance to designated site? |
|------|------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| na | EMP2 | Furze Platt Industrial Area, Maidenhead | Industrial Estate | Industrial Estate | EMP | No | No | No | No | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| na | IF2 | Golf Range, Braywick Park | Golf Course | Leisure Centre | Leisure | Yes | No | No | Yes | Yes | No | Yes | Yes |
| na | EMP2 | Howarth Road, Stafferton Way, Maidenhead | Industrial Estate | Industrial Estate | EMP | No | No | No | No | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| na | EMP2 | Manor House Lane Employment Estate, Datchet | Business Park | Business Park | EMP | No | No | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | No |
| na | EMP2 | Norreys Drive, Maidenhead | Business Park | Business Park | EMP | No | No | No | No | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| na | EMP2 | Prior's Way Industrial Estate, Maidenhead | Industrial Estate | Industrial Estate | EMP | No | No | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | No |
| na | EMP2 | Queens Road Industrial Estate, Sunninghill | Industrial Estate | Industrial Estate | EMP | No | Yes | No | Yes | No | No | Yes | No |
| na | EMP2 | Vansittart Road Industrial Area, Windsor | Industrial Estate | Industrial Estate | EMP | No | No | Yes | Yes | No | No | Yes | No |

Figure 12 – Step 4, Part 2 Screening of allocations for Likely Significant Effects alone

| Ref. | BLP Policy | Site | Site Summary | Potential Significant Effects Alone | Mitigating Measures | Likely Significant Effects not mitigated by BLP. |
|------|------------|---|--|---|--|--|
| HA6 | HOU1 | Maidenhead Golf Course | Former golf course to the south of Maidenhead proposed to be redeveloped with a total of 2000 dwellings. The site lies within 4.61km of the Windsor Forest Great Park SAC and within 4.72km of the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC. | This allocation represents a significant concentration of development. However, the allocation is sufficiently distant from designated sites to minimise the risk of causing significant effects alone although some increases in recreational pressures are likely. In combination effects should be carefully considered. | BLP NE4 Open Space will help to minimise the impact of increased recreational pressures on the designated sites arising from the allocation. | No |
| HA7 | HOU1 | Land south of Harvest Hill Road, Maidenhead | Former driving course for golf club to the south of Maidenhead proposed to be redeveloped with a total of 350 dwellings. The site lies within 4.39km of the Windsor Forest Great Park SAC and 5.65km of the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC. | There may be some limited increases in recreational pressures associated with the allocation. The allocation is sufficiently distant from designated sites to minimise the risk of causing significant effects alone. In combination effects should be carefully considered. | NE4 Open Space to minimise recreational pressures. | No |
| HA8 | HOU1 | Land south of Manor Lane, Maidenhead | Vacant Land to the south of Maidenhead to be developed with 180 dwellings. The site lies within 4.98km of the Windsor Forest Great Park SAC and 5.29km of the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC. | There may be some limited increases in recreational pressures associated with the allocation. The allocation is sufficiently distant from designated sites to minimise the risk of causing significant effects alone. In combination effects should be carefully considered. | NE4 Open Space to minimise recreational pressures. | No |

| Ref. | BLP Policy | Site | Site Summary | Potential Significant Effects Alone | Mitigating Measures | Likely Significant Effects not mitigated by BLP. |
|------|------------|--|--|--|---|--|
| HA9 | SP1 | Land south of the A308(M), west of Ascot Road and North of the M4 (Known as the Triangle Site) | Site bounded by the A308 and M4 to the south of Maidenhead proposed for mixed use development including 150 dwellings and employment land. The site lies within 3.9km of the Windsor Forest Great Park SAC. | There may be some limited increases in recreational pressures associated with the allocation. The allocation is sufficiently distant from designated sites to minimise the risk of causing significant effects alone. In combination effects should be carefully considered. | NE4 Open Space to minimise recreational pressures. | No |
| HA10 | SP1 | Ascot Town Centre | The redevelopment of a number of linked sites within Ascot Town Centre is proposed by the BLP. The boundaries of the allocation are within 3.52km of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA and 2.63km of the Windsor Forest Great Park SAC. The allocation comprises both previously developed land and undeveloped land. A total of 300 residential units is expected together with other land uses consistent with the identification of Ascot as a district centre. | Modest increases in recreational pressures on the Thames Basins Heaths SPA and Windsor Forest Great Park SAC. Potential for negative impacts on air pollution due to increased number of residents/car ownership in the vicinity but this may be balanced by a reduction in the need to travel to access convenience goods due to the concentration of development within a district centre. | Provision of appropriate level of SANG land and SAMM contributions as specified by BLP Policy NE2. Policies EP2 Air Pollution and IF3 Sustainable Transport provide appropriate mitigation measures for the effects on designated sites likely to arise from this allocation. | No |

| Ref. | BLP Policy | Site | Site Summary | Potential Significant Effects Alone | Mitigating Measures | Likely Significant Effects not mitigated by BLP. |
|------|------------|--|--|--|---|--|
| HA11 | HOU1 | Land west of Windsor, north and south of A308 | Land to the west of Windsor is proposed as an extension to the town of 650 dwellings. The boundary of the allocation is within 1.23km of the Windsor Forest Great Park SAC. | The scale of the proposed development within 1.5km of Windsor Forest Great Park SAC is likely to give rise to diffuse air pollution due to increase car use and increases in recreational pressures. | BLP Policies NE4 Open Space together with NE1 Nature Conservation should be sufficient to ensure that recreational pressures arising from the proposed allocation are mitigated at the application stage. Policy EP2 Air Pollution will also help to mitigate negative impacts. | No |
| HA12 | HOU1 | Boyn Valley Industrial Estate Maidenhead | Industrial estate proposed for redevelopment with 300 dwellings. The site is within 4.32km from the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC | There may be some limited increases in recreational pressures associated with the allocation. The allocation is sufficiently distant from designated sites to minimise the risk of causing significant effects alone. In combination effects should be carefully considered. | NE4 Open Space to minimise recreational pressures. | No |
| HA18 | HOU1 | Land between Windsor Road and Bray Lake, south of Maidenhead | Development of agricultural land in the Green Belt to the south of Maidenhead for 140 dwellings. The boundary of the allocation is within 2.92km of the Windsor Forest Great Park SAC. | The scale of the proposed development within 3km of Windsor Forest Great Park SAC is likely to give rise to diffuse air pollution due to increase car use and increases in recreational pressures. | BLP Policies NE4 Open Space together with NE1 Nature Conservation should be sufficient to ensure that recreational pressures arising from the proposed allocation are mitigated at the application stage. Policy EP2 Air Pollution will also help to mitigate negative impacts. | No |

| Ref. | BLP Policy | Site | Site Summary | Potential Significant Effects Alone | Mitigating Measures | Likely Significant Effects not mitigated by BLP. |
|------|------------|---|---|--|---|--|
| HA19 | HOU1 | Land east of Whitebrook Park, Lower Cookham Road, Maidenhead | A playing field to the north of Maidenhead is proposed to be developed with 75 dwellings. The boundary of the allocation is 4.19km from the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC and 3.89 km from the Burnham Beeches SAC. | This modest allocation some distance from both the Chiltern Beechwoods and Burnham Beeches SAC is unlikely to give rise to significant increases in recreational pressures or diffuse air pollution. | BLP Policies NE4 Open Space and EP2 Air Pollution are considered to offer sufficient mitigating measures for the modest scale of this allocation. | No |
| HA21 | HOU1 | Land known as Spencer's Farm, north of Lutman Lane, Maidenhead | Agricultural land in the Green Belt to the north of Maidenhead is proposed to be developed with 300 residential units. The site is within 2.9km of the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC and 5.75km from the Burnham Beeches SAC. | The quantum of development proposed within 3km of the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC is likely to give rise to some modest increases in recreational pressures. The need to secure accessible open space should be secured by the allocation to ensure that recreational impacts on the beechwoods is minimised. Potential for diffuse air pollution. | BLP Policies NE4 Open Space together with NE1 Nature Conservation should be sufficient to ensure that recreational pressures arising from the proposed allocation are mitigated at the application stage. Policy EP2 Air Pollution will also help to mitigate negative impacts. | No |
| HA22 | HOU1 | Land north of Breadcroft Lane and south of the railway line, Maidenhead | Agricultural land to the west of Maidenhead in the Green Belt is proposed to be developed with 100 residential units. The site is within 4.67km of the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC. | There may be some limited increases in recreational pressures associated with the allocation. The allocation is sufficiently distant from designated sites to minimise the risk of causing significant effects alone. In combination effects should be carefully considered. | NE4 Open Space to minimise recreational pressures. | No |

| Ref. | BLP Policy | Site | Site Summary | Potential Significant Effects Alone | Mitigating Measures | Likely Significant Effects not mitigated by BLP. |
|------|------------|--|---|---|---|--|
| HA23 | HOU1 | Land west of Monkey Island Lane, including water treatment works, Maidenhead | Redevelopment of land including water treatment works to the south east of Maidenhead with 100 dwellings. The site is within 2.67km of the Windsor Forest Great Park SAC. | There may be some limited increases in recreational pressures associated with the allocation. The allocation is sufficiently distant from designated sites to minimise the risk of causing significant effects alone. In combination effects should be carefully considered. | NE4 Open Space to minimise recreational pressures. | No |
| HA24 | HOU1 | Summerleaze, Summerleaze Road, Maidenhead | Redevelopment of land within the Green Belt with 80 dwellings. The site is within 3.87km of the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC and 5.39km of the Burnham Beeches SAC. | This modest allocation some distance from both the Chiltern Beechwoods and Burnham Beeches SAC is unlikely to give rise to significant increases in recreational pressures or diffuse air pollution. | BLP Policies NE4 Open Space and EP2 Air Pollution are considered to offer sufficient mitigating measures for the modest scale of this allocation. | No |
| HA32 | HOU1 | Heatherwood Hospital, Ascot | Site of a former hospital to the west of Ascot including areas of woodland and residential development. The site is within 3.65km of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA and 3.50km of the Windsor Great Forest SAC and it is proposed that it is redeveloped to provide 250 residential units. | Modest increases in recreational pressures on the Thames Basins Heaths SPA and Windsor Forest Great Park SAC. Potential for negative impacts on air pollution due to increased number of residents/car ownership in the vicinity but this may be balanced by a reduction in the need to travel to access convenience goods due to the concentration of development adjacent to a district centre. | Provision of appropriate level of SANG land and SAMP contributions as specified by BLP Policy NE2. Policies EP2 Air Pollution and IF3 Sustainable Transport provide appropriate mitigation measures for the effects on designated sites likely to arise from this allocation. | No |

| Ref. | BLP Policy | Site | Site Summary | Potential Significant Effects Alone | Mitigating Measures | Likely Significant Effects not mitigated by BLP. |
|-------------|-------------------|---|--|---|---|---|
| HA33 | HOU1 | Silwood Park, Sunningdale | Former residential college campus proposed for redevelopment with 75 residential units. The site is within 2.18km of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA and 0.63km of the Windsor Forest Great Park SAC. | The modest size of the development and it's current residential use mean that increases to recreational pressures are likely to be correspondingly modest. | Provision of appropriate level of SANG land and SAMM contributions as specified by BLP Policy NE2. | No |
| HA34 | HOU1 | Sunningdale Park, Sunningdale | Redevelopment of the Sunningdale Park conference facility which includes open space and residential development with 230 residential dwellings. The site is within 1.59km of the Thames Basins Heath SPA and 1.2km of the Windsor Forest Great Park SAC. | The size of the development coupled with its relatively close proximity to both the Thames Basin Heaths SPA and Windsor Forest Great Park SAC could give rise to some increases in recreational pressures and may also increase diffuse air pollution due to increases private car use. | Provision of appropriate level of SANG land and SAMM contributions as specified by BLP Policy NE2. Policies EP2 Air Pollution and IF3 Sustainable Transport provide appropriate mitigation measures for the effects on designated sites likely to arise from this allocation. | No |
| HA35 | HOU1 | Gas holder site, Bridge Road, Sunninghill | Redevelopment of a former gas holder site with 53 dwellings. The site is within 2.18km of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA and 2.29km of the Windsor Forest Great Park SAC. | Modest increases in recreational pressures on the Thames Basins Heaths SPA and Windsor Forest Great Park SAC. Potential for negative impacts on air pollution due to increased number of residents/car ownership in the vicinity. | Provision of appropriate level of SANG land and SAMM contributions as specified by BLP Policy NE2. Policies EP2 Air Pollution and IF3 Sustainable Transport provide appropriate mitigation measures for the effects on designated sites likely to arise from this allocation. | No |

| Ref. | BLP Policy | Site | Site Summary | Potential Significant Effects Alone | Mitigating Measures | Likely Significant Effects not mitigated by BLP. |
|------|------------|---|--|--|---|--|
| HA36 | HOU1 | Broomhall Car Park, Sunningdale | Redevelopment of a former car park with 28 residential units. The site is within 0.43km of the Thames Basins Heaths SPA and 1.74km of the Windsor Forest Great Park SAC. | Development of this previously developed site for the modest number of dwellings indicated is unlikely to cause significant effects beyond minimal increases in recreational pressure. | Provision of appropriate level of SANG land and SAMM contributions as specified by BLP Policy NE2. | No |
| HA37 | HOU1 | White House, London Road, Sunningdale | Intensification of the existing urban environment from 1 to 10 residential units. The site is within 0.56km of the Thames Basins Heaths SPA and 2.28km of the Windsor Forest Great Park SAC. | Development of this previously developed site for the modest number of dwellings indicated is unlikely to cause significant effects beyond minimal increases in recreational pressure. | Provision of appropriate level of SANG land and SAMM contributions as specified by BLP Policy NE2. | No |
| HA38 | HOU1 | Cookham Gas holder, Whyteladyes Lane, Cookham | Redevelopment of a former gas holder site with 60 residential units. The site is within 1.75km of Chiltern Beechwoods SAC and 5.78km of the Burnham Beeches SAC. | This modest allocation may give rise to modest increases in recreational pressures and levels of diffuse air pollution due to it's proximity to Chiltern Beechwoods SAC. | BLP Policies NE4 Open Space and EP2 Air Pollution are considered to offer sufficient mitigating measures for the modest scale of this allocation. | No |
| HA39 | HOU1 | Land east of Strande Park, Cookham | Agricultural land within the Green Belt to the north of Maidenhead. Development of the land with 20 residential units is proposed. The site is within 2.32km of the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC and 5.39km of the Burnham Beeches SAC. | This modest allocation some distance from both the Chiltern Beechwoods and Burnham Beeches SAC is unlikely to give rise to significant increases in recreational pressures or diffuse air pollution. | BLP Policies NE4 Open Space and EP2 Air Pollution are considered to offer sufficient mitigating measures for the modest scale of this allocation. | No |

| Ref. | BLP Policy | Site | Site Summary | Potential Significant Effects Alone | Mitigating Measures | Likely Significant Effects not mitigated by BLP. |
|------|------------|--|---|---|---|--|
| HA40 | HOU1 | Land north of Lower Mount Farm, Long Lane, Cookham | Agricultural land within the Green Belt proposed for development of 200 dwellings. The site is within 1.62km of the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC and 5.7km of the Burnham Beeches SAC. | The quantum of development proposed within 2km of the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC is likely to give rise to some increases in recreational pressures. The need to secure accessible open space should be secured by the allocation to ensure that recreational impacts on the beechwoods is minimised. Potential for diffuse air pollution. | BLP Policies NE4 Open Space together with NE1 Nature Conservation should be sufficient to ensure that recreational pressures arising from the proposed allocation are mitigated at the application stage. Policy EP2 Air Pollution will also help to mitigate negative impacts. | No |
| HA41 | HOU1 | Land at Riding Court Road and London Road Datchet | Agricultural land within the Green Belt is proposed to accommodate 175 dwellings. The site is within 2.25km of the South West London Waterbodies SPA and 3.11km of the Windsor Forest Great Park SAC. | Modest increases in recreational pressures are expected to be associated with this development. Minor increase to diffuse air pollution. | BLP Policies NE4 Open Space and EP2 Air Pollution are considered sufficient to mitigate the impacts of this allocation on designated sites. | No |
| HA42 | HOU1 | Land at Slough Road/Riding Court Road, Datchet | Agricultural land proposed for the development of 150 dwellings. The site is within 2.08km of the South West London Waterbodies SPA and 3.27km of the Windsor Forest Great Park SAC. | Modest increases in recreational pressures are expected to be associated with this development. Minor increase to diffuse air pollution. | BLP Policies NE4 Open Space and EP2 Air Pollution are considered sufficient to mitigate the impacts of this allocation on designated sites. | No |

| Ref. | BLP Policy | Site | Site Summary | Potential Significant Effects Alone | Mitigating Measures | Likely Significant Effects not mitigated by BLP. |
|------|------------|---|--|---|---|--|
| HA43 | HOU1 | Land north of Eton Road adj to St Augustine's Church, Datchet | Agricultural land proposed for the development of 35 residential units. The site is within 3.23km of the South West London Waterbodies SPA and 3.28km fo the Windsor Forest Great Park SAC. | The size of the development coupled with its distance from designated sites mean that no significant effects are likely. | BLP Policies NE4 Open Space and EP2 Air Pollution are considered sufficient to mitigate the impacts of this allocation on designated sites. | No |
| HA44 | HOU1 | Land east of Queen Mother Reservoir, Horton | Undeveloped land proposed for 130 dwellings. The site is within 1.51km of the South West London Waterbodies SPA and 5.19km of the Windsor Forest Great Park SAC. | Modest increases in recreational pressures are expected to be associated with this development. Minor increase to diffuse air pollution. | BLP Policies NE4 Open Space and EP2 Air Pollution are considered sufficient to mitigate the impacts of this allocation. | No |
| HA45 | HOU1 | Land adjacent to Coppermill Road, Horton | Undeveloped land bounding the South West London Waterbodies SPA proposed for the development of 27 dwellings. The site is 0.55km from the South West London Waterbodies SPA and 4.41km from the Windsor Forest Great Park SAC. | Negligible increases in recreational pressures are expected to be associated with this small development. Sensitivities associated with increased population include fly-tipping and species disturbance could be expected but it has been established that there is no access to the SPA from the proposed allocation due to the existence of a fence surrounding Wraysbury Reservoir. Fly-tipping has the potential to introduce invasive non-native species to the SPA. High rise development could increase the incidence of bird strike and could effect flight paths. | Site allocation pro-forma should include a height restriction clause to minimise disruption to flight paths. | Yes |

| Ref. | BLP Policy | Site | Site Summary | Potential Significant Effects Alone | Mitigating Measures | Likely Significant Effects not mitigated by BLP. |
|------|------------|---------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| na | IF2 | Golf Range, Braywick Park | Former golf driving range to the south of Maidenhead proposed to be developed with a leisure Centre to replace the facility within Maidenhead town centre. The site is within 4.83km of Windsor Forest Great Park SAC and 5.09km of Chiltern Beechwoods SAC. | There may be some limited increases in recreational pressures associated with the allocation. The allocation is sufficiently distant from designated sites to minimise the risk of causing significant effects alone. In combination effects should be carefully considered. | NE4 Open Space to minimise recreational pressures. | No |

Part 3 – In combination effects of development allocations.

Figure 13: Sites removed from the in combination effects due to the distance from designated sites.

| Ref. | BLP Policy | Site | Within 7km of TBH SPA | Within 5km of SWLWB SPA | Within 5km of WFGP SAC | Within 5km of Chiltern Beechwoods SAC | Within 5km of Burnham Beeches SAC |
|------|------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| HA14 | HOU1 | Land south of Ray Mill Road East, Maidenhead | No | No | No | No | No |
| HA20 | HOU1 | North of Woodlands Business Park, Maidenhead | No | No | No | No | No |

Figure 14: Site removed from the in combination effects consideration due to no change of use.

| BLP Policy | Site | Current Land Use | Proposed Use |
|------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| EMP2 | Alma Road, Windsor | Business Park | Business Park |
| EMP2 | Ascot Business Park, Ascot | Business Park | Business Park |
| EMP2 | Centrica, Millstream Windsor | Business Park | Business Park |
| EMP2 | Cordwallis Industrial Area, Maidenhead | Industrial Estate | Industrial Estate |
| EMP2 | Fairacres Industrial Area, Windsor | Industrial Estate | Industrial Estate |
| EMP2 | Foundation Business Park, Cox Green | Business Park | Business Park |
| EMP2 | Furze Platt Industrial Area, Maidenhead | Industrial Estate | Industrial Estate |
| EMP2 | Howarth Road, Stafferton Way, Maidenhead | Industrial Estate | Industrial Estate |
| EMP2 | Manor House Lane Employment Estate, Datchet | Business Park | Business Park |
| EMP2 | Norreys Drive, Maidenhead | Business Park | Business Park |
| EMP2 | Prior's Way Industrial Estate, Maidenhead | Industrial Estate | Industrial Estate |
| EMP2 | Queens Road Industrial Estate, Sunninghill | Industrial Estate | Industrial Estate |
| EMP2 | Vansittart Road Industrial Area, Windsor | Industrial Estate | Industrial Estate |
| EMP2 | Vanwall Business Park, Maidenhead | Business Park | Business Park |
| EMP2 | Whitebrook Park, Maidenhead | Business Park | Business Park |
| EMP2 | Windsor Dials, Windsor | Business Park | Business Park |
| EMP2 | Woodlands Business Park | Business Park | Business Park |

Figure 15: Step 5 - Likely significant in combination effects for each of the designated sites.

| Burnham Beeches SAC – 75 dwellings allocated within 5km of the SAC Boundary | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---|---|
| Sources, Pathways or Operation | Potential BLP Impacts | Mitigating factors and comments | Likelihood of significant effect |
| Air Quality | Low | Greater levels of development in the area could lead to increased ownership and use of cars, leading to possible impact on air pollution. The Highways Agency Design Manual for Roads and Bridges(www.dft.gov.uk/ha/standards/dmr/index) states that an increase in traffic will only affect areas of land up to 200m from a road where there will be a significant increase in traffic. Further, a BLP policy acts to support and encourage sustainable modes of transport. Industrial development of certain sites could also lead to air pollution, but the effects of this are avoided by a combination of BLP policies that protect the environment, minimise air pollution and protect designated sites. For these reasons the BLP will not have an adverse impact on air quality in the area. | None |
| Habitat / species disturbance | Low | A BLP policy requires the conservation of protected species, avoiding damage to designated sites and ensuring that those sites will be maintained, protected and enhanced. Greater levels of development in the area could lead to increased pressures on designated sites and impacts arising from greater pet ownership (disturbance and predation). Any development in the area will be subject to mitigation measures as set out in this report and secured by a BLP policy. Hence the BLP will have no specific impact on habitat or species disturbance in the area. | None |
| Recreational pressure | Low | Greater levels of development in the area could lead to increased recreational pressures on designated sites. Any development in the area will be subject to mitigation measures as set out in this report and secured by a BLP policy. In particular, the educational aspects of the SAMM and SANG projects will help to limit any removal of plants from all designated areas, not just the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. The SAC is also comprised largely of woodland, which is resilient to recreational disturbance. Hence the BLP is unlikely to give rise to specific impacts arising from recreational pressure. | None |
| Direct land take | None | The BLP does not propose any development within designated sites so there will be no land take. | None |
| Water Quality | None | The BLP contains no proposals that would have an adverse effect on water pollution or hydrology, and a BLP policy requires development not to have a detrimental effect on water quality or adversely affect pollution of watercourses. No area within the borough feeds water into the SAC, so the BLP can have no impact on water supply. | None |
| Water Quantity | None | The BLP contains no proposals for water abstraction. Although the SAC has a zone of influence for water quantity, no area within the borough feeds water into the SAC. The BLP contains no proposals that would have an adverse effect on drainage arrangements or watercourses. There are unlikely to be impacts on water supply. | None |

| Chiltern Beechwoods SAC – 4730 dwellings allocated within 5km of the SAC boundary plus replacement leisure centre | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---|---|
| Sources, Pathways or Operation | Potential BLP Impacts | Mitigating factors and comments | Likelihood of significant effect |
| Air Quality | Low | Greater levels of development in the area could lead to increased ownership and use of cars, leading to possible impact on air pollution. The Highways Agency Design Manual for Roads and Bridges(www.dft.gov.uk/ha/standards/dmrb/index) states that an increase in traffic will only affect areas of land up to 200m from a road where there will be a significant increase in traffic. Further, a BLP policy acts to support and encourage sustainable modes of transport. Industrial development of certain sites could also lead to air pollution, but the effects of this are avoided by a combination of BLP policies that protect the environment, minimise air pollution and protect designated sites. For these reasons the BLP will not have an adverse impact on air quality in the area. | None |
| Habitat / species disturbance | Low | A BLP policy requires the conservation of protected species, avoiding damage to designated sites and ensuring that those sites will be maintained, protected and enhanced. Greater levels of development in the area could lead to increased pressures on designated sites and impacts arising from greater pet ownership (disturbance and predation). Any development in the area will be subject to mitigation measures as set out in this report and secured by a BLP policy. Hence the BLP is unlikely to have specific impacts on habitat or species disturbance in the area. | None |
| Recreational pressure | Low | Greater levels of development in the area could lead to increased recreational pressures on designated sites. Any development in the area will be subject to mitigation measures as set out in this report and secured by a BLP policy. In particular, the educational aspects of the SAMM and SANG projects will help to limit any removal of plants from all designated areas, not just the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. The SAC is largely comprised of woodland, which is resilient to recreational disturbance. Hence the BLP is unlikely to give rise to specific impacts arising from recreational pressure. | None |
| Direct land take | None | The BLP does not propose any development within designated sites so there will be no land take. | None |
| Water Quality | None | The BLP contains no proposals that would have an adverse effect on water pollution or hydrology, and a BLP policy requires development not to have a detrimental effect on water quality or adversely affect pollution of watercourses. | None |
| Water Quantity | None | The BLP contains no proposals for water abstraction. The BLP contains no proposals that would have an adverse effect on drainage arrangements or watercourses. There are unlikely to be impacts on water supply. | None |

| South West London Water Bodies SPA and Ramsar – 733 dwellings allocated within 5km of the SPA boundary | | | |
|---|------------------------------|---|---|
| Sources, Pathways or Operation | Potential BLP Impacts | Mitigating factors and comments | Likelihood of significant effect |
| Air Quality | Low | Greater levels of development in the area could lead to increased ownership and use of cars, leading to possible impact on air pollution. The Highways Agency Design Manual for Roads and Bridges(www.dft.gov.uk/ha/standards/dmr/index) states that an increase in traffic will only affect areas of land up to 200m from a road where there will be a significant increase in traffic. Further, a BLP policy acts to support and encourage sustainable modes of transport. Industrial development of certain sites could also lead to air pollution, but the effects of this are avoided by a combination of BLP policies that protect the environment, minimise air pollution and protect designated sites. For these reasons the BLP will not have an adverse impact on air quality in the area. | None |
| Habitat / species disturbance | Low | A BLP policy requires the conservation of protected species, avoiding damage to designated sites and ensuring that those sites will be maintained, protected and enhanced. Greater levels of development in the area could lead to increased pressures on designated sites and impacts arising from greater pet ownership (disturbance and predation). Any development in the area will be subject to mitigation measures as set out in this report and secured by a BLP policy. Hence the BLP is unlikely to have specific impacts on habitat or species disturbance in the area. | None |
| Recreational pressure | Low | Greater levels of development in the area could lead to increased recreational pressures on designated sites. Any development in the area will be subject to mitigation measures as set out in this report and secured by a BLP policy. In particular, the educational aspects of the SAMM and SANG projects will help to limit any removal of plants from all designated areas, not just the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. Hence the BLP is unlikely to give rise to specific impacts arising from recreational pressure. | None |
| Direct land take | None | The BLP does not propose any development within designated sites so there will be no land take. | None |
| Water Quality | None | The BLP contains no proposals that would have an adverse effect on water pollution or hydrology, and a BLP policy requires development not to have a detrimental effect on water quality or adversely affect pollution of watercourses. | None |
| Water Quantity | None | The BLP contains no proposals for water abstraction. The site largely consists of reservoirs and the continued presence of water on the site is secured by the plan. The BLP contains no proposals that would have an adverse effect on drainage arrangements or watercourses. There are unlikely to be impacts on water supply. | None |

| Thames Basin Heaths SPA (including Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham SAC) 991 dwellings allocated within 5km of the SPA boundary, 991 dwellings allocated within 7km of the SPA boundary. | | | |
|---|------------------------------|---|---|
| Sources, Pathways or Operation | Potential BLP Impacts | Mitigating factors and comments | Likelihood of significant effect |
| Air Quality | Low | Greater levels of development in the area could lead to increased ownership and use of cars, leading to possible impact on air pollution. The Highways Agency Design Manual for Roads and Bridges(www.dft.gov.uk/ha/standards/dmrb/index) states that an increase in traffic will only affect areas of land up to 200m from a road where there will be a significant increase in traffic. Further, a BLP policy acts to support and encourage sustainable modes of transport. Industrial development of certain sites could also lead to air pollution, but the effects of this are avoided by a combination of BLP policies that protect the environment, minimise air pollution and protect designated sites. For these reasons the BLP will not have an adverse impact on air quality in the area. | None |
| Habitat / species disturbance | Low | A BLP policy requires the conservation of protected species, avoiding damage to designated sites and ensuring that those sites will be maintained, protected and enhanced. Greater levels of development in the area could lead to increased pressures on designated sites and impacts arising from greater pet ownership (disturbance and predation). Any development in the area will be subject to mitigation measures as set out in this report and secured by a BLP policy, following the approach set out in South East Plan Policy NRM6 and the Thames Basin Heaths SPA SPD. Hence the BLP is unlikely to have specific impacts on habitat or species disturbance in the area. | None |
| Recreational pressure | Low | Greater levels of development in the area could lead to increased recreational pressures on designated sites. Any development in the area will be subject to mitigation measures as set out in this report and secured by a BLP policy. In particular, the educational aspects of the SAMM and SANG projects will help to limit any removal of plants from all designated areas, not just the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. Hence the BLP is unlikely to give rise to specific impacts arising from recreational pressure. | None |
| Direct land take | None | The BLP does not propose any development within designated sites so there will be no land take. | None |
| Water Quality | None | The BLP contains no proposals that would have an adverse effect on water pollution or hydrology, and a BLP policy requires development not to have a detrimental effect on water quality or adversely affect pollution of watercourses. | None |
| Water Quantity | None | The BLP contains no proposals for water abstraction. The site largely consists of reservoirs and the continued presence of water on the site is secured by the plan. The BLP contains no proposals that would have an adverse effect on drainage arrangements or watercourses. There are unlikely to be impacts on water supply. | None |

| Windsor Forest Great Park SAC – 5399 dwellings allocated within 5km of the SAC boundary plus replacement leisure centre | | | |
|--|------------------------------|---|---|
| Sources, Pathways or Operation | Potential BLP Impacts | Mitigating factors and comments | Likelihood of significant effect |
| Air Quality | Low | Greater levels of development in the area could lead to increased ownership and use of cars, leading to possible impact on air pollution. The Highways Agency Design Manual for Roads and Bridges(www.dft.gov.uk/ha/standards/dmrb/index) states that an increase in traffic will only affect areas of land up to 200m from a road where there will be a significant increase in traffic. Further, a BLP policy acts to support and encourage sustainable modes of transport. Industrial development of certain sites could also lead to air pollution, but the effects of this are avoided by a combination of BLP policies that protect the environment, minimise air pollution and protect designated sites. For these reasons the BLP will not have an adverse impact on air quality in the area. | None |
| Habitat / species disturbance | Low | A BLP policy requires the conservation of protected species, avoiding damage to designated sites and ensuring that those sites will be maintained, protected and enhanced. Greater levels of development in the area could lead to increased pressures on designated sites and impacts arising from greater pet ownership (disturbance and predation). Any development in the area will be subject to mitigation measures as set out in this report and secured by a BLP policy. Hence the BLP is unlikely to have specific impacts on habitat or species disturbance in the area. | None |
| Recreational pressure | Low | Greater levels of development in the area could lead to increased recreational pressures on designated sites. Any development in the area will be subject to mitigation measures as set out in this report and secured by a BLP policy. In particular, the educational aspects of the SAMM and SANG projects will help to limit any removal of plants from all designated areas, not just the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. The SAC is largely comprised of woodland, which is resilient to recreational disturbance. Hence the BLP is unlikely to give rise to specific impacts arising from recreational pressure. | None |
| Direct land take | None | The BLP does not propose any development within designated sites so there will be no land take. The BLP does not propose development in the vicinity of designated sites and hence there is no scope for the erection of structures, storage of materials on the sites. Any proposals for erection of structures or storage of materials on the site would require planning permission. These matters would in any case be under the control of the Crown as landowner. | None |
| Water Quality | None | The BLP contains no proposals that would have an adverse effect on water pollution or hydrology, and a BLP policy requires development not to have a detrimental effect on water quality or adversely affect pollution of watercourses. | None |
| Water Quantity | None | The BLP contains no proposals for water abstraction. The BLP contains no proposals that would have an adverse effect on drainage arrangements or watercourses. There are unlikely to be impacts on water supply. | None |

Effects Arising in Combination with other Plans and Programmes

5.1 The Habitat Regulations requires the consideration of significant effects of a plan or programme arising from in combination effects with other plans or programmes. It can be considered that this will fall into two categories: those effects associated with regional strategic plans and proposals and those relating to more localised effects.

5.2 The South East Plan considered the in-combination effects of the region's projects and plans at a strategic level. Although the plan itself has now been revoked, apart from the policy relating to the Thames Basin Heaths SPA and one other section of no consequence to this exercise, the assessment remains relevant and it is not considered necessary to further assess any regionally strategic plans.

5.3 It is clearly neither practical nor necessary to assess the in combination effects of the BLP within the context of all other plans and projects within the South East. In practice, therefore, in-combination assessment is of greatest relevance when the plan would otherwise be screened out because its individual contribution is inconsequential.

5.4 For the purposes of this assessment, it has been determined that, due to the nature of the identified impacts, the key other plans and projects relate to the additional housing, transport and employment allocations proposed for other neighbouring authorities over the lifetime of the BLP. These have all been individually assessed under the Habitat Regulations, including any mitigation measures they themselves include, and this process will have included an assessment of in-combination effects arising at the time of assessment.

5.5 In recognition to the diffuse effects of air pollution arising from the plan it is reasonable to presume that the plan may contribute cumulatively to an overall change in background air quality across an entire region (although individual plans and developments are – with the exception of large point sources such as power stations – likely to make only very small individual contributions). In July 2006, when the issue of potential contribution to diffuse atmospheric pollution was raised by the Runnymede District Council, Natural England advised that: 'Pollutants can act locally or be transported far from the source ...The (plan) can only be concerned with locally emitted and short range locally acting pollutants.' Going on to advise the Council that, "...effects from vehicular atmospheric emissions should only be considered if the roads on which the vehicles travel are closer than 200m from the Natural 2000 site."

5.6 It is generally accepted that this guidance was not initially intended to set a precedent. However, given the fact that it was issued by the Government's statutory nature conservation adviser in response to a specific diffuse air pollution query, it has inevitably done so. It receives considerable weight, as it is the only formal guidance that has been issued to a Local Authority from any Natural England office on this issue. It is therefore considered reasonable to conclude that it is the responsibility of national government to set a policy framework for addressing the cumulative cross boundary air quality impacts at the regional level and above.

5.7 As detailed in Figure 15 no likelihood has been found of significant effects on designated sites arising from the BLP. Given this conclusion, and the analysis above of the likely effects of site allocations, policies and the interaction between the two, it is not considered that any in-combination effects could arise from the BLP as a whole.

Screening Assessment Conclusions

6.1 The BLP has been analysed to assess whether it would be likely to result in locally significant effects on designated sites.

6.2 All development plans must be read and implemented in their entirety. This means that some elements of the BLP may have a likely effect on designated sites on their own, but when considered holistically other elements of the plan avoid or mitigate those effects. The screening of the BLP policies and proposed allocations has found one proposed allocation which has the potential for significant effects alone on the South West London Waterbodies SPA. All other proposed allocations and policies acting alone or in combination are not considered to give rise to likely significant effects on the identified designated sites.

6.3 The proximity of the proposed allocation of 27 dwellings at site HA45 Land adjacent to Coppermill Road, Horton has the potential to increase recreational pressures due to direct access to the Wraysbury Reservoir from the rear of the proposed properties. In consultation with Natural England it has been established that the reservoir is fenced and there is no access for recreational purposes due to health and safety considerations. There remain two issues regarding potential significant effects arising from the proposed site; fly tipping and effects on flight paths.

6.4 The impact of fly-tipping, particularly of garden waste from the development, has the potential to introduce invasive non-native species to the SPA. RBWM operate a comprehensive household waste collection service which includes the collection of green garden waste free up to four times per year. The council also operates a subscription service for the routine collection of garden waste on a bi-weekly basis. There is a nominal cost associated with the bi-weekly collection. It is recommended that the need for contributions to garden waste collection via S106 contribution is included in the development requirements for the allocation to ensure that all householders occupying the proposed development have access to doorstep alternatives to garden waste fly-tipping.

6.5 High rise buildings could result in an increased likelihood of bird strike occurring. To reduce the likelihood of bird strike and the alteration of flight paths as a consequence of the development it is recommended that a height restriction is placed on the proposed allocation. If this is not practicable it is considered that, Policy SP3: Design and Policy NE1: Nature Conservation provide a sufficient framework for the height of the proposed development to be restricted to ensure that protected species will be safeguarded from harm or loss.

6.6 The conclusions of the earlier screening report undertaken to support the plan (the Jacobs report), identified a number of issues were raised required further work in order to come to a view as to whether appropriate assessment was required for certain sites. These matters were considered and the policy response for the BLP is shown in Figure 18.

6.7 Development of a number of urban sites will inherently produce diffuse effects, and it is difficult in general to attribute a specific effect to any specific development proposal. However, in the case of development in proximity to the Thames Basin Heaths SPA, where specific research has been undertaken into the behavioural patterns of residents the likely effects of development in any given location can be predicted.

6.8 A specific policy, NE2: Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area, has been put in place to mitigate the effects of development, and this has been considered as a mitigation measure within this report for all development within the zone of influence of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA in accordance with saved Policy NRM6 of the South East Plan which requires any new residential development which is likely to have a significant effect on the ecological integrity of the Thames Basin Heaths SPA to demonstrate that adequate measures are put in place to avoid or mitigate any potential adverse effects. Such measures must be agreed with Natural England. Priority should be given to directing development to those areas where potential adverse effects can be avoided without the need for mitigation measures.

Figure 16: Policy response to issues raised within the HRA site screening ‘Jacobs Report’

| Issue | Policy Response |
|---|---|
| The Thames Basin Heaths SPA framework guidance will need to be applied for all sites within the 5km mitigation zone. | This is secured by Policy NE2: Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area in the plan. |
| Allocated sites in the Windsor area should be considered in-combination with other developments and plans in the area. | In-combination assessment has been undertaken and no significant effects are considered likely to arise in reality. |
| In-combination assessment should not be ruled out for allocated sites in the Maidenhead area, given the scale of development proposed, particularly for sites close to the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC. | In-combination assessment has been undertaken and no significant effects are considered likely to arise in reality. Only a limited scale of development is proposed in particularly close proximity to the Chiltern Beechwoods SAC (260 dwellings within 2km of the SAC boundary). The location of other proposed development will ensure that its effects are felt in a diffuse manner that will not impact on designated sites. |
| The potential for airborne pollution from industrial sites should be considered. | The suite of environmental protection policies and in particular policies EP1: Environmental Protection and EP2: Air Pollution will provide a sufficient policy framework to reduce the risk of air pollution from industry to such a level that effects on designated sites are considered unlikely. |

6.9 Where mitigation measures are required, local planning authorities should deliver a consistent approach to mitigation. The mechanism for implementing this policy is set out in the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Framework as adopted by the TBH Joint Strategic Partnership and partners and stakeholders. The principles of this are incorporated into planning policy at a borough level, through the Thames Basin Heaths SPA SPD and a policy in the BLP.

6.10 The policy and SPD set out a mechanism by which significant effects on the SPA can be avoided or mitigated. This takes the form of a 5 km zone of influence around the SPA boundary, where measures must be taken to ensure that the integrity of the SPA is protected. Within 400 m of the SPA boundary, an exclusion zone applies, where no net increase in the number of dwellings is permitted. This ensures that development within this zone avoids significant effects on the SPA.

6.11 Where residential development is proposed outside the exclusion zone but within the zone of influence of the SPA, mitigation measures will need to be delivered prior to occupation and secured in perpetuity. Measures will be based on a combination of Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) and the provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG). The SAMM project will monitor access to the SPA through surveys and other means, and deliver management on a strategic basis to ensure that access issues are addressed in a comprehensive way. SANG provides an alternative recreation destination to attract people to visit rather than visiting the SPA itself, and standards for SANG provision to serve the borough and mechanisms to ensure its delivery and availability in perpetuity are set out within policy and SPD.

6.12 The council will collect contributions from developers towards mitigation measures, including the provision of SANG and joint contributions to the funding of SAMM, to provide access management and monitoring the effects of mitigation measures across the SPA. This approach has been adopted by the council and agreed by Natural England as providing appropriate avoidance and mitigation of locally significant effects on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA. In practical terms this also affords equal protection to the Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham SAC and Broadmoor to Bagshot Heaths SSSI, which are wholly contained within the SPA.

6.13 The effective operation of Policy NE2: Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area and the identification of appropriate SANG is essential to ensuring that the impacts of the plan are mitigated with regard to the SPA. The Council is committed to working with the Natural England to ensure that an appropriate level of SANG is identified and proposals for three areas of SANG are included in the BLP.

Screening Opinion

7.1 Under Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 the council must consult with Natural England before determining whether or not a plan or programme is likely to have significant effects. A copy of this report will be sent to Natural England requesting their opinion, alongside consultation on the BLP itself.

7.2 It is the council's opinion that the BLP is unlikely to have significant effects on the integrity of designated sites, and that therefore a full Appropriate Assessment of the plan is not required.

7.3 The council will review this opinion and, as the competent authority, will make a formal determination following consultation with Natural England. Natural England's opinion will be reflected in a revised screening opinion which will be published to accompany the pre-submission consultation of the BLP.