

Leicester City Council

Local Plan

Habitats Regulations Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

September 2022

*The information in this document has been used to support the preparation of the Local Plan. If you need assistance reading this document, or require it in a different format, please contact us via [email planning.policy@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:planning.policy@leicester.gov.uk) or call on 0116 454 0085.*

# 1 Introduction

## Summary

- 1.1 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and the Conservation of Offshore Marine Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 requires that plans or projects that may affect the protected features of a habitats site, should be subject to several stages of Appropriate Assessment. The need for Appropriate Assessment to apply to Local Development Frameworks (LDFs) was confirmed in a letter from the ODPM to Chief Planning Officers in February 2006. To satisfy the requirements of Article 6 (3) of the directive the assessment should be undertaken before the adoption of a Local Plan by a Local Planning Authority.
- 1.2 The purpose of Habitats Regulations Assessment screening is to assess the impacts of plans & projects against the conservation objectives of the European network of sites known as the Natura 2000 network.
- 1.3 Initial pre-screening for Appropriate Assessment took place in January 2022, with a revision to this in September 2022 with updated guidance around nutrient neutrality.
- 1.4 Initial pre-screening looked at the likely impact the Draft Local Plan would have on European sites within Leicester and Leicestershire. However, the principal aim of this document is to extend this 'screening' to European sites within 25km of the city boundary. This will provide evidence to determine whether an 'Appropriate Assessment' is needed to examine further the effects of the plan on protected sites.
- 1.5 In conclusion, it is found that the Local Plan will not likely directly affect the content and qualitative state of the European sites. As a result of very limited and legitimate consequences of the policies, it is the opinion of the Local Authority that it is not necessary to undertake an Appropriate Assessment. This was agreed with Natural England (as the statutory Nature Conservation body) in February 2022 (Please see appendix 2), and again in September 2022 (appendix 3) which was in relation to amended policies and introduction of information around nutrient neutrality.

## Background to Appropriate Assessment

- 1.6 Legal protection for habitats and species of European importance is set out in EU Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna (the 'Habitats Directive'). Maintenance and restoration of these sites is implemented through protected areas known as European sites. There are two distinct types of European sites: Special Area of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

*SPAs refer to sites where the important features are populations of bird species, whilst SACs refer to sites where particular habitats are considered important. Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar convention. Each site will have a feature or features that are the reason for selection of the site, in addition to other features that are not a primary reason for selection of the site as a*

## *European designation.*

1.7 Appropriate Assessment is the process of evaluating the likely impacts of a plan on the conservation objectives of European sites. The assessment is used to determine whether the plan would have any negative impacts on such sites. Where potential negative impacts are identified, alternative options for the plan would need to be considered and if necessary, mitigation measures set out. The purpose is to ensure that the integrity of these sites is maintained.

## **Background to the plan**

1.8 Leicester's Local Plan provides the overall spatial strategy for strategic development in Leicester to 2036, the new local plan will replace the saved policies from the 2006 City of Leicester Local Plan and the Leicester City Core Strategy 2014 once adopted. The plan covers the entire of the City of Leicester administrative area, which is an area of about 7,500 ha.

1.9 The Local Plan has three parts:

Part 1: The spatial portrait of Leicester, represents what Leicester is like now in reference to factors such as transport, retail, health, climate and diversity.

Part 2: The vision & objectives of the plan, which are closely aligned with the aims and objectives in the Council's corporate priorities and strategies. This meets with the need for Local Plans to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework of a presumption in favour of sustainable development.

Part 3: City-wide policies, covering areas from the natural environment to urban design and strategic/non-strategic housing allocations relating to specific sites within Leicester, which are critical for delivery of the objectives and the vision of the plan.

1.10 The Local Plan provides the context for future documents which will form part of Leicester's Local Development Framework. Other future documents could include additional supplementary planning documents and masterplanning frameworks for sites, which will provide detailed site development guidance. Neighbourhood Plans are also likely to be produced in the future for the various parts of the city.

## 2. Process of Appropriate Assessment

- 2.1 Government guidance summarises Appropriate Assessment as being a three-stage process.
- (a) Screening for likely significant effects directly or indirectly, including checking for any combined effects.
  - (b) Appropriate assessment and ascertaining the effect on site integrity, considering the ways to minimize impacts and providing evidence to demonstrate that the plan does not present risk
  - (c) Derogation to qualify exemption for proposals that could have adverse effects on European sites. This is informed by tests to provide alternatives, demonstrate an overriding public interest and secure compensation measures.
- 2.2 This document encompasses part (a) of the process of Appropriate Assessment
- 2.3 Screening is the process of identifying whether a plan is likely to have significant effect on a European site and therefore whether subsequent steps of the Appropriate Assessment are required. This stage identifies not only whether the plan itself, but also in combination with other plans or projects, will have any negative impacts. Essentially, it is the first stage of the analysis to determine whether a plan can be clearly said not to require an Appropriate Assessment, with the assumption that if this is not the case than an Appropriate Assessment will be required.
- 2.4 Screening can be broken into 3 areas:
- (1) Determining whether the plan is directly connected, or necessary to the conservation management of a European site. If assessment satisfies that this does not have an adverse impact on the conservation management of a site, no further assessment is necessary.
  - (2) Assess the likely significant effects of the proposal on the objectives for European sites, both in an indirect or direct way. This should consider the phasing and design of the plan.
  - (3) Checking for combined effects with any other plans, which could be at any stage of the plan process. This should assess whether the combined impacts could disturb, reduce or limit the potential to restore existing habitats. No Appropriate Assessment would be required if there's no significant effects on the sites either alone or in combination with other plans.
- 2.5 Initial pre-screening was carried out at scoping stage of the sustainability Appraisal (Appendix 1) which outlined that a screening opinion will be carried out at a later date alongside submission of the local plan. This assessed the impacts to European Sites outside of the district boundary, as no sites are present within Leicester's administrative boundary. The aim of this section is to extend the scope of screening to look at sites within 25kms of Leicester and what their vulnerabilities are, including Rutland Water SPA (RAMSAR). Then therefore, the policies contained within the city of Leicester local plan and the

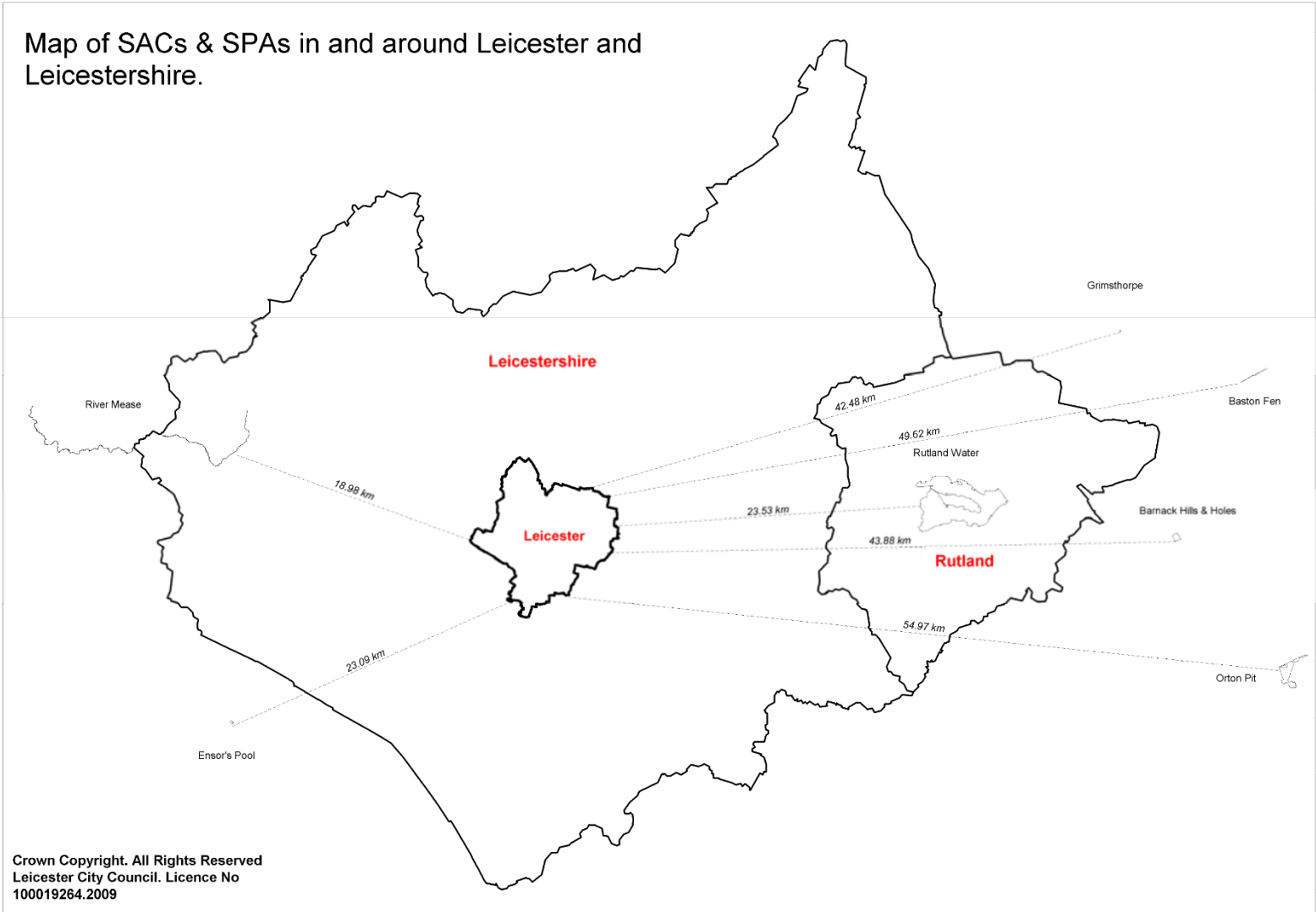
combined impacts with other relevant local plans can be assessed against this list of vulnerabilities, to see whether there is any impact as a result of the plan.

- 2.6 This screening report has been written by Planning Officers within Leicester City Council's planning policy section.

## **European sites in relation to Leicester.**

- 2.7 The basis for the original pre-screening statement (See Appendix 1) was that there were no European sites within the administrative area of the City of Leicester. The only site within the County of Leicestershire is the River Mease SAC, which is noted to be vulnerable to water quality and protected due to the presence of the features in Table 2 below. The water system for the River Mease is separate to the water course for the River Soar which is the main river in Leicester, and therefore it is highly unlikely that any polluted water from Leicester would impact the SAC.
- 2.8 The regulations relating to Appropriate Assessment sets no distance threshold for screening purposes and encourages local authorities to create a long list of all sites which the plan may or may not impact. Certain sites specifically coastal SPAs have potential to be impacted by distance activity, however due to the strategic nature of the document and the distance (at least 75km); the decision was taken to exclude coastal sites from the final assessment list.
- 2.9 There are three qualifying European sites within 25km of administrative boundary of Leicester. These are two SACs, the River Mease & Ensor's Pool and one SPA, which is also a site protected under the RAMSAR convention, which is Rutland Water. Map 1 shows the nearby European sites and the distance to the administrative boundary of Leicester.
- 2.10 The River Mease SAC is 23ha of river within the administrative boundaries of North West Leicestershire District Council, Lichfield District Council & South Derbyshire District Council. It is about 20kms North West of Leicester. Ashby-de-la-Zouch is close to the River Mease, which has been listed by Natural England as one of the areas for nutrient advice, due to lower quality of water.
- 2.11 Ensor's Pool SAC is landlocked freshwater pool within the district of Nuneaton and Bedworth. It covers an area of about 3.7ha and it is about 24kms south west of Leicester.
- 2.12 Rutland Water SPA (RAMSAR) is the largest reservoir by surface area in England. It covers an area of about 1555ha and is about 23km due east of Leicester.
- 2.13 Detailed assessments of these sites can be found in table 2 of section 3 of this report.

Map 1 – List of SACs and SPAs and distance to Leicester.



## **City of Leicester's Water Supply**

- 2.14 Whilst this report concludes that Leicester is unlikely to have any distance impact on coastal European sites, one area identified by this report that needs clarification is Leicester's relationship with the water network which supplies its drinking water.
- 2.15 The amount of water within certain protected European sites is an important consideration especially when the protected species are water birds or where the quality of water is seen to be protected site's most important asset.
- 2.16 The City of Leicester is wholly served by the Severn Trent Water company for its domestic and commercial drinking water & sewage processing. This is within the Strategic Grid zone of the Water Resource zone identified in Severn Trent's Water Resource Management Plan 2019. Historically it was the 3 Sub regional areas (Leicestershire, Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire) served by a series of reservoirs within the Upper Derwent Valley, namely Ladybower, Derwent & Howden reservoirs, which were originally conceived during the industrial revolution to serve the significant increase in populations within these expanding areas.
- 2.17 The Derwent and Howden reservoirs were built at the turn of 20<sup>th</sup> Century, whilst the Ladybower reservoir was built later between 1935 & 1943. Two additional reservoirs were built in the 1970s to store water from the River Dove in Derbyshire, Foremark and Staunton Harold reservoirs and this serves most of Leicester's water supply.
- 2.18 The rest of the water comes from a network of other reservoirs in Wales mainly from the Clywedog Reservoir near Llanidloes in Powys which is transported via the Elan Valley Aqueduct.
- 2.19 The Clywedog, Foremark and Staunton Harold Reservoirs are not European sites and are not located near European sites, so are not relevant to this Appropriate Assessment.
- 2.20 The habitats protected under the European sites are upland blanket bog, moorland, cliffs for woodland and valleys of the Peak District and Pennines which provide an important habitat for upland birds. Birds such as red grouse and golden plover found in these areas and not found in lowland urban areas such as Leicester. There are few species of waterfowl associated with the upland reservoirs and therefore the impact of increased demand from Leicester from water extraction is likely not to impact on the protected habitats and species of these European sites where an ombrogenous system (precipitation-fed system) dominates.

## **Nutrient neutrality**

- 2.21 The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities outlined the government response to issues surrounding nutrient pollution in a ministerial statement in July 2022. This statement consists of three elements; obligating the upgrade of wastewater treatment works in nutrient neutrality areas, a



strategic mitigation scheme and clarifying the application of Habitats Regulations Assessments for post-permission approvals. An amendment to the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (LURB) with planning guidance is being developed, which is anticipated later in 2022.

- 2.22 The Habitats Regulations Assessment provisions apply to any consent, permission, or other authorisation, and places significant additional requirements on developments and assessment by LPAs when plan making or taking decisions. Plans must not have significant adverse impacts on areas with high nutrient pollution levels.
- 2.23 Areas where there is a potential for harm to a failing habitats site due to additional nutrients can receive nutrient neutrality advice from Natural England, meaning that additional nutrient impact from development must be mitigated.
- 2.24 A Habitat Regulations Assessment will be used as an evidence base to show that the Natural England mitigation scheme (in relation to nutrient neutrality being in place until 2030) does not have any adverse impacts on deliverability of the plan, including appropriate phasing of development.
- 2.25 Leicester has not yet been identified as an area particularly vulnerable to nutrient pollution. However, it would be important to consider nutrient pollution impacts to Ashby-de-la-Zouch alongside Leicester which is the closest settlement within the catchment of the River Mease. Ashby-de-la-Zouch is one of the Local Planning Authorities that has previously received nutrient neutrality advice from Natural England, due to its notable water pollution issues.

### 3. Assessment of Scope for Impacts

3.1 To properly screen whether Leicester's Local plan will have any impacts upon the sites identified in section 2 i.e. River Mease, Ensor's Pool & Rutland Water, the key features of these sites needed to be identified. Table 2 contains a detailed assessment of each of the sites and what the key sensitivities are.

**Table 2 Detailed Assessments of each of the identified European sites**

<b>Name and location</b>	River Mease SAC (SK264119) 23.03 ha  Crossed by the A42 and aligned beside the A513 to the west. The closest significant settlement is Ashby-de-la-Zouch. The river feeds into the Tame and ultimately the Trent.
<b>Reasons for designation</b>	Annex I habitats: Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation.  Annex II species: Spined loach - <i>Cobitis taenia</i> Bullhead - <i>Cottus gobio</i> White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish - <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> Otter - <i>Lutra lutra</i>
<b>Conservation Objectives</b>	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; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>• The populations of qualifying species, and,</li> <li>• The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Key factors affecting site integrity</b></p>	<p>General requirements: maintenance of water quality and availability requires management to minimise pollution inputs and inappropriate water abstraction. The river's natural structure and form should be maintained to support a natural flow regime, including the avoidance of constriction of the river or blockage of its floodplain.</p> <p>Watercourse (<i>Ranunculus</i>) habitat: a natural flow regime is required for maintenance of natural erosion and sedimentation processes and hence the channel morphology. Riparian areas and the wider catchment need to be managed to avoid excessive run-off of soil particles and nutrients into the river. The structure and composition of bankside and aquatic vegetation should be maintained.</p> <p>All species: maintenance of suitable habitat and appropriate management helps to ensure the provision of habitat suitable for spawning and shelter, including gravel –dominated substrate with areas of sand and silt, patchy vegetation cover provided by submerged and marginal macrophyte assemblages, slack water resting pools for fish, a presence of submerged woody debris, and presence of artificial barriers. Any exploitation of fish population or other native animals or plants should be at a sustainable level, without manipulation of the river's natural capacity to support them or augmentation by excessive stocking. The absence of introduced/ alien species is important. Otter; maintenance of terrestrial habitat with cover and holt sites provided by dense scrub mature trees along river banks. Maintenance of suitably low levels of disturbance.</p>
<p><b>Vulnerability</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality and quantity are vital to the European interests, whilst competition for water resources is high.</li> <li>• Diffuse pollution (including nutrient pollution) and excessive sedimentation are catchment-wide issues which have the potential to affect the site.</li> <li>• Inappropriate weirs, dams and other structures being constructed</li> <li>• Invasive species being introduced into the Mease.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Name and location</b></p>	<p>Ensor's Pool SAC (SP348903) 3.8ha Lies on the outskirts of Nuneaton.</p>

<b>Reasons for designation</b>	Annex II species: Crayfish - <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>
<b>Conservation Objectives</b>	In relation to the conservation of Crayfish there is a need to '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; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li>• The populations of qualifying species, and,</li> <li>• The distribution of qualifying species within the site.'</li> </ul>
<b>Key factors affecting site integrity</b>	The crayfish population developed in a flooded brick-pit that has been abandoned for fifty years. The area was unmanaged and was used as <i>de facto</i> public open space. The crayfish would be vulnerable to pollution and introduction of non-native crayfish, through uncontrolled access. It is thought that the crayfish population is in decline, no crayfish were found from a survey in September 2015, thought to be as a result of Crayfish plague. To address this, since 1995 the area has been leased by Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and is managed as a Local Nature Reserve.
<b>Vulnerability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pollution</li> <li>• Introduction of non-native crayfish and changes in species distribution</li> <li>• Crayfish plague carried by fishing and other equipment</li> </ul>
<b>Name and location</b>	Rutland Water SPA/RAMSAR (SK906071) 1555.24Ha Lying between Oakham and Stamford (approximately 1.4km west and 5.8km east respectively).

<p><b>Reasons for designation</b></p>	<p>Wintering populations of the following species:</p> <p>Shoveler – <i>Anas clypeata</i>  Teal - <i>Anas crecca</i>  Wigeon – <i>Anas penelope</i>  Gadwall – <i>Anas strepera</i>  Tufted Duck - <i>Aythya fuligula</i> Goldeneye <i>Bucephala clangula</i> Mute Swan - <i>Cygnus olor</i>  Coot - <i>Fulica atra</i>  Goosander - <i>Mergus merganser</i>  Great Crested Grebe - <i>Podiceps cristatus</i></p> <p>A wintering bird assemblage regularly supporting 25,037 waterfowl, including Great Crested Grebe, Wigeon, Gadwell, Teal, Shoveler, Tufted Duck, Goldeneye, Goosander and Coot.</p>
<p><b>Conservation Objectives</b></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"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely</li> <li>• The population of each of the qualifying features, and,</li> <li>• The distribution of the qualifying features within the site'</li> </ul>
<p><b>Key factors affecting site integrity</b></p>	<p>Maintenance of the current extent, connectivity and quality of feeding habitats with areas of open water of varying sizes and depths, suitable levels of benthic, aquatic and surface invertebrates, a fish presence which does not impact on the dominant macrophyte assemblages, and open habitats incorporating suitable feeding pastures with 50m of the water.</p> <p>Maintenance of characteristic water and air quality and quantity is important with seasonal changes in levels occurring slowly.</p> <p>Maintain an extent of roosting habitat including mature trees and areas of scrub.</p> <p>Levels of disturbance should be maintained within necessary noise levels.</p>

<b>Existing trends and pressures</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inappropriate weed control</li> <li>• High water pollutant levels</li> <li>• Overgrazing</li> <li>• Low levels of water abstraction causing inappropriate water levels</li> <li>• Nearby development</li> <li>• Increasing number of visitors and disturbance</li> </ul>
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**Table 3 Air Quality at the protected sites**

*Rutland Water SPA (RAMSAR)\**

Pollutant	Amount	At a level critical to impact the site?
Nitrogen Oxide	9.82 µg µg NOx (as NO <sub>2</sub> ) m <sup>3</sup>	No
Ammonia	1.64 µg m <sup>3</sup>	Yes
Sulphur Dioxide	0.77 µg/m <sup>3</sup>	No
Acid Deposition	1.36 keq/ha/yr	There is no comparable acid critical load class for which the CL function is calculated. The soil base empirical CL (based on the dominant soil) for grid square is 4.00 (keq/ha/yr)

\* Data taken from centre point within the defined RAMSAR area.

*River Mease SAC*

Pollutant	Amount	At a level critical level to impact the site?
Nitrogen Oxide	10.94 $\mu\text{g NO}_x$ (as $\text{NO}_2$ ) $\text{m}^3$	No
Ammonia	2.58 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Yes
Sulphur Dioxide	1.06 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	No
Acid Deposition	1.54 keq/ha/yr	There is no comparable acid critical load class for which the CL function is calculated. The soil base empirical CL (based on the dominant soil) for grid square is 4.00 (keq/ha/yr)

*Ensor's Pool SAC*

Pollutant	Amount	At a level critical level to impact the site?
Nitrogen Oxide	16.82 $\mu\text{g NO}_x$ (as $\text{NO}_2$ ) $\text{m}^{-3}$	No
Ammonia	2.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	Yes
Sulphur Dioxide	1.57 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$	No
Acid Deposition	1.65 keq/ha/yr	There is no comparable acid critical load class for which the CL function is calculated. The soil base empirical CL (based on the dominant soil) for grid square is 4.00 (keq/ha/yr)

(Data is taken for APIS – The UK Air Pollution Information System).

3.2 The following key sensitivities of the identified European sites highlighted by table 2 in which a development plan could impact, are as follows: -

- New Residential development could have disturbance impact on the sites such as: -
  - Development close to SPAs/SACs could increase human activity
  - Regional housing sites could increase tourism especially to already popular tourist destinations such as Rutland Water
- Renewable energy development near SPAs (mainly Wind turbines) can disturb/potentially harm protected birds
- Impacts to Water quality from surface run off both urban and agricultural
- Water pollution from elsewhere within the water system
- Increased pressure for water extraction
- Increased problems of pollution to nutrients, particularly coming from wastewater.
- Increased Air Pollution
  - From increased vehicle movements near the site

- 3.3 From polluting development such as new employment uses. It is noted that 3.2 is not extensive list of impacts however those identified are the main ones which will be used for screening as they are the ones that could be relevant to Leicester's Local Plan.
- 3.4 Once the main impacts have been identified the next stage is to look at cumulative impacts of Leicester's Local Plan with other relevant plans. Table 4 contains this assessment.
- 3.5 Due to the strategic nature of this document, it was decided that this report should look specifically at other relevant regional and local planning documents when assessing cumulative impact.



**Table 4 Cumulative Assessment of other relevant Plans**

Plan & Status	Subject to AA?	Highlighted implications to European sites	Any combined impact with the Local plan?
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council Plan 2011-2031 (Adopted 2017)	No (Screening Assessment)	<i>River Mease SAC</i>	
		No likely significant impacts due to the physical separation between development proposed in the Borough Plan and the SAC, and the low potential for any effect pathways such as hydrological links.	<b>No</b> No direct hydrological link to the River Mease from Leicester, unlikely to have any significant impacts. Nutrient neutrality will be applied for new developments.
		<i>Ensor's Pool SAC</i>	
		Likely to be significant effects from policies NB2, NB16 and NB15 due to increase in new developments and use of open space. Hydrological linkages to Faultlands, Arbury, Gipsy Lane, North of Nuneaton and Woodlands sites. Policy NE3 from the Borough Council plan seeks to mitigate these effects and was deemed to be satisfactory.	<b>No</b> Ensor's Pool SAC is a self contained eco-system. Development within Leicester will have no adverse impact on this site as there is no localised impact from sewage from new development.
		<i>Rutland Water SPA (RAMSAR)</i>	
		No reference made	N/A
Rutland County Council – Core Strategy Development Plan Document – Adopted July 2011	Yes (screening)	<i>River Mease SAC</i>	
		No reference made	N/A
		<i>Ensor's Pool SAC</i>	

		No reference made	N/A
		<i>Rutland Water SPA (RAMSAR)</i>	
		Housing development especially in Oakham but potentially all over the County of Rutland has the potential to impact the water quality of Rutland if new waste & sewage measures are not put in place.	<b>No</b> Improvements to the existing water treatment works at Rutland Water (Wing Water Treatment Works (WTW)) will mean that Rutland Water will be able to absorb any impact from Sewage from new development in Leicester, however given the hydrological links this is likely to be minimal.
Blaby District Council New Local Plan Options - Options for Spatial Strategy, Sites and Strategic Policies (January 2021)	No (determined that formal AA screening was not needed)	<i>River Mease SAC</i>	
		The river network in Blaby District is not directly connected downstream to the River Mease SAC drainage basin and no other hydrological connectivity or recreational activities are likely to result in adverse impacts	<b>No</b> Similar to Blaby District Council, Leicester has no direct links to the River Mease drainage basin and so should not have any adverse impacts.
		<i>Ensor's Pool SAC</i>	
		Development not thought to be vulnerable to increase in recreational pressures. This is monitored by Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council	<b>No</b> Minimal impact from new development on recreational pressure, local provision.
		<i>Rutland Water SPA (RAMSAR)</i>	

		Impacts of visitors to Rutland Water are ameliorated by the distance of 30 miles to the site and by the ability for Blaby to fulfil needs for activities such as fishing, birdwatching and cycling adjacent to a watercourse at a local level	<b>No</b> Visitor numbers should be fairly modest from any new development due to the distance to the site.
North West Leicestershire Local Plan 2011-2031 (as amended by the Partial Review) was adopted at Council on 16 March 2021	Yes (Screening Assessment)	<i>River Mease SAC</i>	
		This site is most at risk from the local plan as it is within the administrative boundary. Discharge of wastewater associated with new development, disturbance to otter populations and air, water and soil emissions.	<b>No</b> Only sites with the River Mease catchment area will have direct impacts upon the site. Due to Leicester's location indirect impacts such as discharge of wastewater (which can cause nutrient damage) and emissions are unlikely too. Any development will be mitigated against through nutrient neutrality.
		<i>Ensor's Pool SAC</i>	
		No reference made	N/A
		<i>Rutland Water SPA (RAMSAR)</i>	
		No reference made	N/A
Charnwood Borough Council	No (Screening)	<i>River Mease SAC</i>	

Local Plan 2021-2037 (Submitted plan December 2021)	Assessment)	No hydrological connectivity between housing and employment in Charnwood Borough and River Mease SAC. No Waste Water Treatment Works (WwTW) serving settlements within the Borough that discharge into the River Mease or its tributaries. Alteration of water levels a threat to River Mease. No likely significant effects from the policies in the plan so has been screened out.	<b>No</b> Leicester is not within the River Mease catchment area and so is unlikely to have a significant effect on water levels or discharge.
		<i>Ensor's Pool SAC</i>	
		This has not been discussed further due to the distance between the site and the Borough, and the fact that it consists of an isolated marl pit.	<b>No</b> The distance to this site is far enough away that Leicester should not have any adverse impacts.
		<i>Rutland Water SPA (RAMSAR)</i>	
		Rutland Water faces a few different threats and pressures from water abstraction, water pollution, planning permission in the wider area of the SPA and disturbance from recreational activities. No Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW) serving settlements within the Borough that discharge into Rutland Water. No effects to the site as proposed development are far enough away to prevent this.	<b>No</b> No Wastewater Treatment Works within Leicester that feed into Rutland Water, due to the distance to Rutland Water the threats from water abstraction and pollution are unlikely.
Melton Local Plan 2011-2036	No (Screening	<i>River Mease SAC</i>	

(adopted October 2018)	Assessment)	No reference made	N/A
		<i>Ensor's Pool SAC</i>	
		No reference made	N/A
		<i>Rutland Water SPA (RAMSAR)</i>	
		<p>Non-physical disturbance needs to be considered in relation to Rutland Water including from air pollution from vehicle traffic and increased recreation pressures.</p> <p>Priory Water highlighted as a potential to be used for qualifying species of the RAMSAR/SPA site. Existing development is present in between any site allocations near to this site, so should not disturb or damage offsite habitats, produce non-physical disturbance such as noise, provide disturbance from recreation or produce additional air pollution.</p>	<p><b>No</b> Unlikely to cause any additional issues, however it should be noted that additional housing development could increase recreational pressure on the site. The effects of this and contributing air traffic pollution from Leicester are likely to be minimal.</p>
The Borough of Oadby and	Yes (May have an	<i>River Mease SAC</i>	

Wigston Local Plan 2011-2031 (Adopted April 2019)	impact with Rutland Local Plan – may need revision)	Vulnerable to changes in hydrology but not connected to the Borough via any waterways or water supply networks. No impacts pathways between development in the plan and the River Mease.	<b>No</b> Only sites with the River Mease catchment area will have direct impacts upon the site. Due to Leicester’s location indirect impact is unlikely too.
		<i>Ensor’s Pool SAC</i>	
		Not vulnerable to changes in hydrology or additional recreational pressures. No impacts pathways between development in the plan and Ensor’s Pool.	<b>No</b> Leicester’s location is far enough away that it should not have an adverse impact on the recreational visits or changes of hydrology to the site.
		<i>Rutland Water SPA (RAMSAR)</i>	
Harborough Local Plan 2011 to 2031 (Adopted April 2019)	No (Screening Assessment)	Recreational pressure needs to be considered further if increased by development. Likely to have limited additional visitors to the site as a result of the local plan but these should not have an adverse impact on the integrity of the site.	<b>No</b> Recreational pressure from development within Leicester likely to have a low impact on the number of visitors to the site due to its location.
		<i>River Mease SAC</i>	
		River does not contribute to the water supply within, or drainage of, the district. The distance to the Mease should have no effect on the site.	<b>No</b> Only sites with the River Mease catchment area will have direct impacts to the drainage and water supply within the site. Due to Leicester’s location indirect impact is unlikely too.
		<i>Ensor’s Pool SAC</i>	

		<p>Site is too far from Harborough district to be relevant to this HRA.</p>	<p><b>No</b> Leicester's location should not have an adverse impact on the site due to the long distance to this site.</p>
<p><i>Rutland Water SPA (RAMSAR)</i></p>			
<p>Hinckley &amp; Bosworth Local Plan 2020-2039 (Consultation Draft Plan Regulation 18, June 2021)</p>	<p>Yes (Screening Assessment - Appropriate Assessment may be required and further review needed based on the proposed growth within the draft local plan)</p>	<p>Main impacts from local plan development are from recreational pressure, drawdown for public water supply and (possibly) air quality impacts on terrestrial parts of the SPA. No allocations have been proposed within close proximity of the boundary with Rutland Water due to the rural nature of the area. AA is not required as no realistic impact pathways identified with Rutland Water SPA/RAMSAR site.</p>	<p><b>No</b> Site allocations are far away from the border to Rutland water and therefore should not have an adverse impact. Recreational pressure may increase with an increase in population, however, given the location of Leicester and provision of leisure facilities within the administrative boundary this is unlikely to contribute significantly. Water drawdown should also be insignificant due to the location of proposed sites.</p>
<p><i>River Mease SAC</i></p>			
		<p>Could be impacted by increased traffic emissions caused by major roads within 200 metres of River Mease. Increase in population will increase the amount of traffic along the A444.</p> <p>Increase in the chance of non-native species as the number of visitors increase. Market Bosworth is within 8km from River Mease SAC and the spatial spread and scale of future growth has</p>	<p><b>No</b> The location of Leicester means that this will have no direct impact on the sites. The A444 does not connect to Leicester directly and so is unlikely to result in increased use by Leicester residents.</p> <p>Development of Twycross zoo could increase the number of visits to the River Mease for recreation. However, the impacts of this is likely to be minimal.</p>

		<p>potential to be detrimental to the River Mease.</p> <p>Section of housing within the River Mease catchment so any development within this section will have hydrological connection.</p> <p>Development of Twycross zoo could have impacts on the site as it is located 4.5km south of the Mease.</p>	
		<i>Ensor's Pool SAC</i>	
		<p>No likely air pollution or recreational impacts to this site.</p> <p>Potential growth of Market Bosworth in particular could have a detrimental impact to Ensor's Pool SAC. In particular in regard to the introduction of invasive non-native species.</p> <p>Future growth in the borough could lead to additional visits and increase the likelihood of invasive species.</p>	<p><b>No</b></p> <p>The location of Leicester means that this is unlikely to contribute to the increase in non-native species being introduced to the site. Indirect impacts may arise from additional recreational visits, however it is unlikely that this will result in many visits from Leicester residents.</p>
		<i>Rutland Water SPA (RAMSAR)</i>	
		No reference made	N/A
South Derbyshire Local Plan	Yes (Further	<i>River Mease SAC</i>	



Part 2 (adopted November 2017)	consultation needed with Natural England, The Environment Agency and other stakeholders)	<p>None of the draft policies contained in the Local Plan Part 2 would have any significant effect on the River Mease. However, two proposed sites fall in the catchment. No significant potential for growth to increase diffuse water pollution.</p> <p>Where these generated foul flows to treatment works discharging to the River Mease a financial contribution has been made to offset any likely environmental effects associated with that development. In respect of surface water flows these developments have included appropriate sustainable drainage to ensure surface water is appropriately treated prior to discharge.</p>	<p><b>No</b> Only sites with the River Mease catchment area will have direct impacts of discharge upon the site. Due to Leicester's location indirect impact is unlikely too.</p> <p>The sustainable drainage systems that are in place should help South Derbyshire to maintain good water quality and contribute positively to any discharge from Leicester development. However, this is unlikely given the water discharge network in Leicester.</p>
		<i>Ensor's Pool SAC</i>	
		No reference made	N/A
		<i>Rutland Water SPA (RAMSAR)</i>	
		No reference made	N/A
South Staffordshire Borough	Yes (Scoping report	<i>River Mease SAC</i>	

Council Core Strategy Development Plan (January 2011)	confirmed that AA could be screened out at that stage)	No reference made	N/A
		<i>Ensor's Pool SAC</i>	
		No reference made	N/A
		<i>Rutland Water SPA (RAMSAR)</i>	
		No reference made	N/A
Leicestershire County Council Strategic Plan (Adopted July 2018)	No	<i>River Mease SAC</i>	
		No reference made	N/A
		<i>Ensor's Pool SAC</i>	
		No reference made	N/A

		<i>Rutland Water SPA (RAMSAR)</i>	
		No reference made	N/A

- 3.6 The assessment within table 4 concludes that there will be no additional impact to the identified European sites when Leicester's Local Plan is combined with other relevant plans.
- 3.7 The final stage of this screening report is to assess Leicester's Local Plan against the identified key site sensitivities, to ensure that no impact to the identified European sites. Table 5 assesses each policy from the Local Plan against these sensitivities.

**Table 5 Individual Policy Assessments.**

Policy Area	Impact of policy	Potential effects of policy objectives on European sites
<p><b>VL01 Presumption in favour of sustainable development</b></p> <p>a) When considering development proposals, presumption will be applied in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF);</p> <p>b) The city will work pro-actively with applicants to find solutions so that appropriate proposals can be approved wherever possible to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in Leicester;</p> <p>c) Planning applications that accord with policies in the local plan will be approved unless material considerations dictate otherwise;</p> <p>d) Where there are no policies relevant to the application, or relevant policies are out of date at the time of making the decision, then the council will grant permission unless material considerations indicate otherwise, taking into account whether: Any adverse impacts of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the NPPF taken as a whole; or Specific policies in the NPPF indicate that development should be restricted.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>Although this policy will promote growth in cities, the policy objectives should mean that conservation objectives are taken into account with the development. Development in Leicester should have minimal impact to the 2 SACs and one SPA within the study, but the council will actively work towards solutions with applicants for any damage to these habitats, to achieve sustainable development.</p> <p>Air pollution is the biggest factor that will affect Rutland Water, the River Mease and Ensor's Pool. Increased visits to Rutland Water may also have adverse impacts including the introduction of non-native species. The aim for sustainable development should help with mitigation of these impacts</p>

<p><b>SL01 Location of Development</b>  This policy establishes the scale and location of new development for the City of Leicester.</p> <p>HOUSING: 20,724 new homes to be built between 2020-2036 set out in the Government's standard methodology. Housing will be located:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 6,286 in the Central Development Area</li> <li>• 1,838 in the following 4 strategic sites: Western Park Golf Course, land east of Ashton Green, land north of the A46 Bypass and land west of Anstey Lane</li> <li>• 1,321 homes will be built on smaller non-strategic sites throughout the City</li> <li>• 18,700 new homes will be accommodated in neighbouring districts as part of their housing targets. The council will continue to work with these authorities to agree on spatial distribution.</li> </ul> <p>EMPLOYMENT: the 2021 Economic Development Needs Assessment (EDNA) identifies that the amount of new employment development in Leicester by 2036 will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 46,000sqm of offices</li> <li>• 67ha land for light/general industry and small scale storage and distribution use; and</li> <li>• The strategic distribution uses will not be provided within the city boundary. The remaining unmet employment need will be redistributed as agreed in the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing and Employment Need Statement of Common Ground (June 2022)</li> </ul> <p>Western Park Golf Course, land east of Ashton Green and Beaumont Park as well as other local sites will be allocated for new employment development.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>Overall number of houses planned for Leicester may have an impact on the Rutland Water SPA through increased visitor numbers and potential disturbance to nesting birds. However, the exact impact of extra visitors from Leicester's growing population is difficult to quantify. The distance to the SPA may reduce visits.</p> <p>The sustainable urban extensions that Charnwood Borough Council and Blaby District Council are seeking to provide in/or adjoining Leicester's Principal Urban Area may also contribute to additional visitor numbers at Rutland Water SPA. The council will continue to work with adjoining councils to ensure that development for unmet need is sustainable.</p> <p>An increase in employment development may lead to an increase in air pollution, however, this is unlikely to have an impact on Rutland Water SPA as this site is not in the line of the prevailing wind.</p> <p>Increased car movement will contribute to increased air pollution but the effects of this are quite localised.</p> <p>Water use will increase with an increase in population, this should not have an adverse impact on the sites as Leicester has no direct link to any of the SAC's or the SPA. This should prevent discharge of wastewater into these European sites.</p> <p>All of the sites allocated in the plan are located far enough away from the rest of the SACs and SPA that nutrient pollution should not be significant to any of these sites.</p>
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<p>Land will be allocated for new offices at: the train station car park and former Campbell Street sorting office providing 20,000sqm of offices; and land around Phoenix Square for mixed use development (20,000 sqm of office floorspace and 200 residential units).</p>		
<p><b>SL02 Strategic site 1: Western Park Golf Course (LCC owned)</b>  This site allocation seeks to provide a mixture of housing, employment land and open space working with different landowners, promoters and Blaby District Council for timely delivery and to secure infrastructure needed to establish development. The development will be composed of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 412 homes, 30% of these will be affordable homes</li> <li>• A range of tenures, types and sizes with high quality design</li> <li>• Incorporation of self build/custom build plots</li> <li>• 7 permanent gypsy and traveller pitches.</li> <li>• 11.24Ha of employment land for E(g)iii, B2 and B8 uses</li> <li>• Household Waste Recovery centre</li> <li>• About 3.48 Ha of open space</li> <li>• Measures to achieve Biodiversity Net Gain.</li> </ul>	Neutral	<p>This strategic site has the capacity to produce 412 new homes which has the potential increase the population of Leicester quite considerably. However, due to its central location and provision of public space on site, it is unlikely to contribute any significant extra visits to the 2 SACs and 1 SPA or have any impacts on water quality through development.</p>
<p><b>SL03 Strategic site 2: Land to the east of Ashton Green</b>  This strategic policy allocates land to the east of Ashon Green for housing, a school and open space which will require the delivery of a masterplan site. The site has been calculated to deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 670 new homes, 30% affordable with a</li> </ul>	Neutral	<p>The location of the strategic site should not have an adverse impact on SACs and SPAs.</p> <p>Phasing of the site through a masterplanning framework should help to mitigate impacts of air pollution, in particular from new employment uses. However, this should have minimal impact to the SACs and SPAs due to the prevailing wind direction.</p>

<p>range of types, tenures and sizes and high quality design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Self-build and custom build plots in accordance with policy Ho06</li> <li>• Provision of around 2.7 hectares of land for employment (for use classes E(g)iii, B2 and B8 uses).</li> <li>• A secondary school with capacity for around 1,200 students</li> <li>• 4.94 Ha of public open space.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>SL04 Strategic site 3: Land north of the A46 Bypass</b></p> <p>This site allocation will provide a mixture of new housing and open space. The site has been calculated to deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 420 new homes on this parcel of land, 30% affordable with a range of types, tenures and sizes and high-quality design</li> <li>• Self-build and custom build plots in accordance with policy Ho06</li> <li>• Retention of the on-site pond</li> <li>• Open space provision will be defined around the environmental and biodiversity enhancements through a masterplanning process.</li> <li>• The allocation will retain the on-site pond</li> </ul>	Neutral	The development should not have a direct impact on any of the SACs and SPAs within Leicester. The air pollution generated from additional traffic on the A46 Bypass shall be mitigated through the masterplanning process and appropriate phasing. This will include employing mechanisms for securing additional funding.
<p><b>SL05 Strategic site 4: Land west of Anstey Lane</b></p> <p>The policy on Anstey Lane sets out the broad principles for development of up to 336 homes of mix of types, sizes and tenures. The site should also deliver:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High quality design in accordance with DQP01</li> <li>• Self build and custom build plots in accordance with policy Ho06.</li> <li>• Defined in combination with environmental and biodiversity</li> </ul>	Neutral	The Anstey Lane development is close to the boundary to the north-west of the city. Some new open space will be provided to cater for the community's recreational needs locally and the location is far enough away that human development should have little impact on the European Sites. Given the close proximity to the City's boundary, this community may be more likely to travel into the countryside and possibly to Rutland Water SPA. This impact though is unlikely to be significant with the provision of additional greenspace, and the distance to Rutland Water is still substantial to mitigate against this.



<p>enhancements based on a masterplanning process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joint working with neighbouring Charnwood Borough Council and Blaby District Council for an integrated and comprehensive approach to development.</li> </ul>		
<p><b>Policy SL06 Strategic Site 5: Beaumont Park</b></p> <p>The Beaumont Park site sets out the broad principles for development of up to 7.53 hectares of employment space (25,000sqm) for classes E(g)iii, B2 and B8 uses. Proposed that around 40% of space used for employment use and part of the site for gypsy and traveller transit provision. Remainder to be retained and enhanced as green space.</p>	Neutral	This site may contribute some air pollution. However, given the proposed use as a mixture of office and industrial, provision of green space on 60% of the site and location in relation to the SAC's and SPA's, this is unlikely to affect the SACs and SPAs.
<p><b>Ho01: Housing allocations</b></p> <p>New housing will be delivered within the Local Plan on sites.</p> <p>Housing proposals will be supported where they:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide an appropriate mix of housing as identified in Policy Ho03;</li> <li>Provide affordable housing in accordance with Policy Ho04;</li> <li>Provide infrastructure required to support the proposed development in accordance with Policy DI01;</li> <li>Achieve high quality design as set out in Policy DQP01;</li> <li>Respect the character of the area, in compliance with the environmental policies in the Local Plan; and</li> <li>Address site specific issues as set out in the Site Allocations document.</li> </ol>	Neutral	This policy outlines the delivery of housing within the local plan on different sites. However, as all of these have been allocated within the city boundary the policy should have minimum impact on each of these European sites.

<p><b>Ho03 Housing mix</b></p> <p>The Local Plan will seek to achieve a mix of house types, tenures and sizes taking into account the market conditions, viability, site specific circumstances and the housing mix as identified in Table 2 or in any future update of the housing mix evidence.</p> <p>a) Proposals for residential developments of 10 dwellings or more should seek to provide an appropriate mix and size of dwellings to meet the needs of current and future households in the City including extra care and accessible housing, having regard to the latest evidence of housing need.</p> <p>b) Proposals for retirement homes, sheltered homes and care homes will be supported and encouraged to meet the technical standard for access of Building Regulations 2015 Part M4(2) or any subsequent revisions.</p> <p>c) Proposals for wheelchair accessible dwellings will be encouraged to meet the technical standard for access of Building Regulations 2015 Part M4(3), or any subsequent revisions</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>The provision of a mix of housing should allow for a mixture of different residents and help to cater for and contribute to housing needs. This policy should not have an adverse impact on any of the European sites.</p>
<p><b>Ho04 Affordable Housing</b></p> <p>Leicester City Council will seek to deliver affordable homes to achieve the affordable housing target with appropriate mix in accordance with Policy Ho03. The Council will seek to achieve the affordable housing targets through supporting the proposals on Greenfield sites with 30% target of affordable housing required on all major schemes. The Council will also achieve the affordable housing target through the delivery of schemes through Private Registered Providers and Council's own delivery programmes. 25% of the overall housing target should be from First Homes and 75% asocial or affordable rent.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>This policy is pertaining to the level of affordable housing provided within a development. It would not have any impact on the identified SACs or SPA.</p>

<p><b>Ho05 Housing densities</b>  The City Council will support proposals that reflect the existing character of the areas as well as meet the locally identified needs of the city. The following density targets will be expected to be met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central Development Area – 75 or more dwellings per hectare; and</li> <li>• Rest of the city – minimum of 35 dwellings per hectare.</li> </ul>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>The concentration of growth and housing density will primarily be within the city centre and ample open space is provided within the administrative boundary. This policy may create a rise in population but is unlikely to have a significant impact on the SACs and SPAs.</p>
<p><b>Ho12 Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople</b>  Proposals for new gypsy, traveller and travelling showpeople sites will be supported where they meet the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The site should provide a safe environment for intended occupants and adequate on-site facilities should be provided for parking and vehicle manoeuvring, storage, play and amenity space;</li> <li>b) Sites should be provided with an appropriate level of essential services including access to drinking water, refuse collection and sewage disposal;</li> <li>c) There should be safe and convenient pedestrian and vehicular access to the site;</li> <li>d) There should be convenient access to schools, shops and other local facilities, preferably by walking, cycling or by public transport;</li> <li>e) Appropriate landscaping should be used to maintain visual amenity and provide privacy for occupiers; and</li> <li>f) There should be no significant detrimental impact upon the amenity of nearby residents, businesses or the local environment.</li> </ol>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>The main impact of this policy will be on water supply. However, as the water supply in Leicester is reasonable this should not have an adverse impact on the European sites within this study.</p>

<p><b>CCFR01 Sustainable design &amp; construction</b></p> <p>This policy specifies that all development needs to outline how it will minimise operational energy use and carbon emissions based on design and construction.</p> <p>All new residential development should achieve a minimum 10% reduction in carbon emissions and all new non-residential should achieve 20% reduction.</p> <p>All new residential development will be required to meet with 'Part G' of the Building Regulations 2013. All new non-domestic development will meet the maximum credits available under BREEAM Wat 01 or an equivalent best practice standard</p> <p>Measures to address the energy strategy and carbon emissions reduction target should be incorporated at the earliest stages of development</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>Development in Leicester will be expected to maximise energy efficient design and construction methods. This policy seeks to provide minimum standards for carbon emissions so should have a positive effect on all three of the European sites. The policy seeks to achieve the highest reduction in carbon emissions in non-residential development which is likely to cause the largest amount of pollution. This policy is unlikely to cause impacts to the European sites and any impacts from reduction should be positive.</p> <p>Ensor's Pool is particularly sensitive to pollution, the local plan would unlikely impact on this site due to its location, so the impacts should be negligible.</p>
<p><b>CCFR05 Whole life-cycle carbon emissions</b></p> <p>Proposals for new renewable and low carbon energy projects will be supported subject to the following:</p> <p>a) Impacts on the historic environment, local character, appearance and landscape;</p> <p>b) Impacts on ecology and biodiversity including protected species, and designated and non-designated wildlife sites; and</p> <p>c) Impacts on residential amenity including air quality, noise, traffic, recreation and access</p> <p>d) For any proposals for wind turbine projects, consideration should be given regarding air traffic movement and safety, and impacts on electromagnetic transmissions, including radio,</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>This policy supports developments that address concern to both ecology and biodiversity and protected species. This would contribute positively when considering the nesting birds that could be impacted on by development, such as for renewable energy.</p> <p>This policy will help to reduce air pollution also. This would have a positive impact on the SAC's and SPA, although the impacts may be minimal due to the distance to the sites.</p>

<p>television, and phone signals.</p>		
<p><b>CCFR06 Managing Flood Risk and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)</b>  This policy aims to direct development away from areas with the highest flood risk and ensures safety for the lifetime of the design.</p> <p>SuDS are expected for surface water runoff and improve water quality which will be managed and maintained through the lifetime of the development.</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>This policy seeks to direct policy away from flood risk areas. This has potential for flood risk to be an indirect impact in other areas. However, due to the distance the SACs and SPAs from Leicester city boundary, this should not have any adverse impacts.</p> <p>The implementation of SuDS should present the opportunity to manage wastewater, therefore preventing the runoff into the SACs and SPAs. Whilst the water network is not directly connected from Leicester to any of the SACs or SPAs, this policy should mitigate for any negative impacts on water quality.</p>
<p><b>HW01 A healthy and active city</b>  This policy seeks to reduce health inequalities, increase life expectancy and improve quality of life whilst encouraging physical activity. Good design and promotion of healthy lifestyles will be key to this.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>This policy aims to encourage physical activity with good connectivity to spaces to open spaces. The policy is aimed towards assessing development on a localised level predominantly and to protect and enhance leisure facilities. The increase in nearby leisure facilities will have a positive impact on reducing the number of recreational trips to Rutland Water.</p> <p>The policy is also encouraging access to fresh food within new developments. This is with the aim to provide locally grown food and so should not have an impact of human activity relating to food extraction (eg. Water extraction for crop irrigation etc)</p>

<p><b>CDA01 Central Development and Management Strategy</b></p> <p>The Central Development Area (CDA) will be the focus for major housing development; employment and physical regeneration; to provide the impetus for economic, environmental and social investment; and provide benefits for existing and future residents. New development will need to be comprehensive and well-coordinated. Taking into account the local environment and planning documents, new development will be expected to complement and build on delivery programmes and any additional planning documents. New development will be expected to meet with a list of criteria to integrate into the area and provide for the community.</p>	Positive	<p>The main concentration for growth is within the city centre and sustainable locations across the city. This should encourage sustainable travel within the city centre due to the existing connections and not contribute additional air pollution to the European sites.</p> <p>The emphasis of this policy is to ensure that any development within the CDA is of high quality. The development aims to attract investment into Leicester city centre and provide retail and leisure opportunities within the city centre. This should decrease any additional trips to Rutland Water with an increase in leisure nearby.</p>
<p><b>CDA02 New development within the Character Areas</b></p> <p>Any new development will need to meet with the requirements within supplementary planning guidance for each area as well as a number of other requirements. This will include the preservation of existing buildings and views; improve the character and appearance of the area; complement the existing building line; improve connections to other areas; and provide new green infrastructure.</p>	Neutral	<p>This policy seeks that development within character areas follows supplementary planning guidance for the character area. This policy will ensure that development complements and contributes positively to the character area. Pedestrian friendly streets are of particular emphasis in the area which promotes an active lifestyle, and therefore aiming to reduce air pollution. This should help to enhance the appearance of these areas too, so should reduce the number of visits to Rutland Water.</p> <p>This policy should have minimal impact on the SACs and SPAs within this study.</p>

<p><b>CT01 Culture, Leisure and Tourism</b>  Planning permission will be granted for cultural, leisure and tourism facilities where they:  a) Satisfy the requirements of the sequential test;  b) Are accessible by sustainable modes of transport e.g. public transport, walking and cycling;  c) Do not generate significant volumes of additional traffic; and  d) Do not have an adverse effect upon residential amenity.  Some Leisure uses may need to be supported by an impact assessment in accordance with Policy TCR02</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>This policy emphasises that development of leisure and tourism facilities are as sustainable as possible. The application of a sequential test should prevent the overconcentration of uses in a certain area but should also promote uses within the city of Leicester. This should prevent additional recreational visits to Rutland Water in particular, helping to reduce the introduction of non-native species and associated impacts of increased visitor activity.</p> <p>The policy aims to limit significant volumes of additional traffic, therefore lowering additional air pollution that may affect the SACs and SPAs.</p>
<p><b>E01 Non-Strategic Economic Development Areas</b>  This policy identifies two sites for employment development (Land east of Thurstaston Road/Hadrian Road Open Space and Mountain Road) which is designated for Light Industry (E(g)(iii)), general industry (B2) and storage and distribution (B8) uses (with ancillary offices only).</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>This policy identifies sites for economic development within Leicester. As these sites are for industrial uses it is likely that pollution will be contributed. However, it is unlikely that this will affect any of the SACs or SPAs in part due to the distance to these but also due to the mitigation measures identified within the climate change policies.</p>
<p><b>E02 General economic development areas</b>  Land within this area will be retained for light industry (use class E(g)[iii], formerly B1c), general industry (B2) and storage and distribution (B8). Other uses will only be acceptable if this meets certain criteria including not having suitable land or property nearby and does not use portal framed constructions.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>This policy identifies land for development of industrial and employment uses in general economic development areas. These uses are concentrated in areas that are viability tested and ensure that these have little impact as possible to neighbouring environment, in particular for water and air pollution. As the sites are within the Leicester city boundary and due to the prevailing winds, this policy should not have any notable impact on the sites.</p>

<p><b>E03 High quality economic development areas</b> Land within High Quality Economic Development Areas (as identified on the Policies Map) will be retained for light industry (E(g)[iii] formerly B1c), general industry (B2) and storage and distribution (B8) uses with ancillary offices only.</p>	Neutral	This policy identifies land for development of industrial and employment uses in high quality economic development areas. These uses are concentrated in areas that are viability tested and ensure that these have little impact as possible to neighbouring environment, in particular for water and air pollution. As the sites are within the Leicester city boundary and due to the prevailing winds, this policy should not have any notable impact on the sites.
<p><b>TCR01 Hierarchy of Town Centres</b> This policy breaks down the hierarchy for main town centre uses. Retail uses will be prioritised in the city centre, then Beaumont Leys town centre, district centres and local centres. A sequential approach will be applied to retail developments outside of these centres, or on the edge of these centres. New development should also be consistent in size and character of the centre.</p>	Neutral	As Leicester develops as a “sub regional shopping centre” more people will travel into the Centre. This will draw additional visits from the European sites which will reduce the levels of air pollution and tourism. This policy would not have any significant impact on the SAC’s and SPA.
<p><b>TCR02 Supporting sustainable town centres – impact assessments</b> Proposals for retail and leisure uses outside the defined centres mentioned in TCR01 will require an impact assessment for retail and leisure uses where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•• The proposal provides a gross floorspace in excess of 500sqm</li> <li>• The proposal is located within 800 metres of either <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a district centre and is in excess of 300sqm gross floorspace</li> <li>• A local centre and is in excess of 200sqm gross floorspace.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>This policy also applies to mezzanine floorspace and variation of restrictive conditions.</p>	Neutral	This policy sets out the thresholds that will be used based on the area of the city it is in and the size of the development to assess the viability of a retail or leisure use there. This should help to prevent an over intensification of certain uses in an area and reduce the impact to vitality of the shopping centres, whilst encouraging tourists to utilise these leisure uses. This policy should not have any impact on the European sites as leisure and retail uses will be considered in the administrative boundary where possible.



<p><b>TCR03 The City Centre</b>  The policy promotes the growth of the City Centre as a sub-regional shopping, leisure and cultural destination, as the most accessible and sustainable location for main town centre uses. The policy looks to retain retail and leisure uses where possible and increase the attraction and use of the city centre</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>This policy encourages major attractions and directs activity towards Leicester City Centre. This would not have any impact on any of the identified SAC's or SPA's.</p>
<p><b>OSSR01 Green wedges</b>  This policy seeks to retain areas known as green wedge to prevent the merging of settlements, providing space for renewable energy development and guiding built form as well as acting like a recreational resource.</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>This policy provides residents with access to greenspace nearby as a recreational resource and allows or a green lung into the city, which will fulfill recreation needs locally and prevent the need to travel further afield. This would be particularly positive for Rutland Water as this should not have an impact on visitor numbers with an increasing population.</p> <p>The green space should contribute to the absorption of air pollution which would be positive to addressing climate change issues and pollution within Ensor's Pool. This should have an overall positive impact on the European site.</p>

<p><b>OSSR07 Waterways</b></p> <p>This policy raises a number of objectives that need to be taken into account when permitting development within the waterway corridors in Leicester. This is to ensure sustainable use of the waterways and protection of the water too.</p>	Positive	<p>This policy is focused on waterways within Leicester. As the River Mease catchment falls outside of the city boundaries additional development should have no direct impact on this site, including through additional recreational use promoted in the policy.</p> <p>One of the main objectives of this policy is to maintain and enhance the conservation value of the waterways, so this should have a positive contribution to any developments near the waterways in respect of quality and extraction.</p>
<p><b>NE01 Protecting designated sites, legally protected and priority species, and priority habitats</b></p> <p>This policy seeks to monitor proposals affecting nationally or locally designated sites, priority species and priority habitats. Significant harm to biodiversity must be avoided to permit the development. Minimisation of the affects could be through design, layout and detailing of the development in line with the environmental designation that it is contained within.</p>	Positive	<p>This policy outlines the measures taken to mitigate the effects to sites supporting priority habitats and priority species, as well as protecting designated sites. This should help to protect any impacts that development will have on SAC's and SPA's for habitats, but this policy is likely to have minimal impact due to the location to these.</p>
<p><b>NE02 Biodiversity Gain</b></p> <p>All developments will avoid biodiversity loss and enhance biodiversity where possible. Developments are required to provide a minimum of 10% biodiversity net gain. Developments will be permitted where:</p> <p>a) An overall net gain in biodiversity of at least 10%, as calculated by Natural England's most recent Biodiversity Metric or successor document, and commensurate with the size and scale of development, has been demonstrated</p> <p>b) The design of the new development, including landscape, enhances retained habitats and provides new areas and opportunities for wildlife onsite, wherever possible and/or</p> <p>c) The size, location, creation, establishment, and long-term aftercare of off-site biodiversity compensation and enhancement has been agreed with the council</p>	Positive	<p>This policy seeks to ensure that the design of the development provides of at least 10% Biodiversity Net Gain on sites, seeking to enhance retained habitats. The council will work with applicants to ensure that offsite biodiversity compensation is agreed, which should provide a long term enhancement to existing habitats both on site and off site. This should help contribute positively to the habitats within the European sites identified through the wider ecological network.</p>

<p><b>NE03 Green and Blue Infrastructure</b>  Development proposals should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Integrate green and blue infrastructure into the design of the scheme at the earliest stages of the development process, taking into consideration existing natural assets, and the most suitable locations and types of new provision;</li> <li>b) Maximise the multiple functions and associated benefits of green and blue infrastructure including improving air and water quality, storing carbon, managing flood risk, providing opportunities for biodiversity net gain, facilitating urban cooling, growing food, and providing spaces for people to enjoy for leisure and recreation purposes;</li> <li>c) Connect green and blue infrastructure across and around the site, and to the wider green infrastructure network; and</li> <li>d) Agree the long-term maintenance and management of green and blue infrastructure, with the council, at an early stage.</li> </ul>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>This policy prioritises green and blue infrastructure that looks to improve air and water quality locally and connecting to the wider green infrastructure network. As the SACs and SPAs are vulnerable to air pollution issues in particular, the integration of green infrastructure into development proposals has positive impacts on the SACs and SPA. The collaborative approach with the council will ensure that these infrastructural improvements have positive impacts in the long and short term.</p> <p>The policy also looks to encourage local green and blue spaces within Leicester. This should reduce the number of additional trips to Rutland water, as people are able to access recreational opportunities nearby.</p>
<p><b>T01 Sustainable Transport Network</b>  This policy supports development of a sustainable transport network that puts in place measures to address climate change, safety and encourage the use of transport technologies and sustainable methods of transport. Development should promote health and inclusive design.</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>This policy promotes sustainable modes of transport such as public transport, cycling and walking. This will help to reduce the dependence on the car and secure environmental benefits through improved air quality. This policy also seeks low emission transport solutions which would ensure that less emissions are produced. This should have positive impacts to the European Sites.</p> <p>The support for integrated infrastructure and networks could increase recreational visits to Rutland Water. However, given the distance to this European site, it is unlikely that this will have a significant adverse impact.</p>

<p><b>T02 Climate Change and Air Quality</b>  This policy seeks to ensure that implementation will deliver against the council's climate change targets. Policies will ensure that air quality targets and commitments are met based on supplementary planning guidance. Sustainable made of transport, clean air zones, increasing the uptake of low emission vehicles and air quality assessments will be required to help achieve these targets.</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>This policy aims to contribute towards the climate change targets by considering transport as a contributor to climate emissions. The policy aims to improve current NO2 and air quality targets through Clean Air Zones and Air Quality Management Areas. Air quality assessments outlined will help with the prevention of development contributing excessive additional air pollution and so should have positive impacts to European sites to help reduce pollution.</p>
<p><b>T03 Accessibility and Development</b>  New development will be permitted where it takes account of accessibility for all potential users and how it can support delivery of the council's sustainable transport objectives. This policy seeks to ensure that the connections between different forms of transport are well integrated; infrastructure is safe and accessible to all; and new development is close to bus and train hubs.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>This policy aims to make transport more accessible within new development and is aimed at connecting different groups easily around the transport network. The increase in mobility and accessibility could increase the number of visits to Rutland Water, however due to the location this is unlikely to contribute any significant numbers of additional visits. Therefore, this policy is unlikely to have any significant impact on the European sites.</p>
<p><b>T05 Freight</b>  This policy aims to ensure that adequate provision is provided for freight in Leicester and looks to maximise the use of existing waterways and railway for this purpose.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>This policy aims to reduce the number of commercial vehicles entering the city with freight, thus reducing the amount of air pollution. However, the policy looks to shift the transport of freight to/and via rail and waterways. The use of waterways for freight transport could contribute to water pollution within the River Soar. However, as this is not connected to the River Mease or the other water bodies this should not have adverse impact on the SAC's and SPA.</p>
<p><b>T06 Highways Infrastructure</b>  The policy requires for transport impacts to be mitigated through the provision of sustainable transport infrastructure; highways infrastructure improvements; appropriate parking provision; and travel plans including behaviour management provisions.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>Sustainable transport infrastructure around Leicester and the surrounding areas will increase mobility around the city. However, this policy seeks to encourage sustainable travel where possible, which will have a positive impact on reducing emissions and encouraging people to use local services within the city.</p>

<p><b>FMWN01 New Waste and Existing Waste Uses</b></p> <p>This policy ensures that applications for new, and extensions to existing facilities consider the proven local waste need; technologies to increase recycling and recovery; ease of access to the site; there is no combining harm from existing waste facilities; adequate mitigation for impacts to natural/historical environment and residential amenity; adequate screening and building heights for positive visual impact; sealed structures for significant odours and noise; on brownfield land where possible. Temporary uses for waste facilities should consider the ability for the site to be redeveloped or regenerated; or returned to a similar condition to what the site was like before the use commenced.</p>	<p>Positive</p>	<p>This policy would ensure that applications for new and existing facilities are justified, which would be tested against the number of similar sites nearby and the impacts to nearby residents. This should help to create a more attractive living environment to prevent development outside of Leicester to take place, therefore having a small indirect positive impact on the SACs and SPAs.</p> <p>Recycling and recovery are one of the criteria within the policy to help reduce the amount of waste and air pollution. This will contribute to a reduction in air pollution and sewage run off which will have a positive impact to the SAC's and SPA should this have any affect.</p> <p>The policy ensures that any impacts to the natural environment are appropriately mitigated in new development, this should have an overall positive impact on the European sites, if any impacts may occur.</p>
<p><b>DI01 Developer contributions and infrastructure</b></p> <p>This policy requires that development will contribute to the delivery of necessary infrastructure secured by planning conditions and/or obligations. This would help to deliver infrastructure necessary in the local plan in accordance with the current Section 106 and CIL Regulations. Phasing may be required to ensure the delivery of development and infrastructure. Fees will be sought for the monitoring of development contributions.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>This policy will use planning conditions and obligations to ensure that development provides necessary infrastructure alongside this. The provision of additional funding to roads will help to resolve some traffic issues and reduce the flow of traffic for example. This should not have any impact on the SACs and SPAs due to the location to these.</p> <p>Water supply in Leicester is supplied from Severn Trent and the majority of water supply comes from the river Derwent and Howden reservoirs. This supply is adequate for the city of Leicester and should not place any additional strain on the SACs and SPA.</p> <p>This policy helps to support infrastructure that will deliver the plan. Green infrastructure in policy NE03 will be supported by planning fees where water and air quality are enhanced. This should provide a positive contribution to the SACs and SPA.</p>

<p><b>DI02 Electronic Communications</b></p> <p>This policy sets the parameters for broadband and mobile communications infrastructure.</p> <p>All new developments for 10 dwellings or more, or non-residential development with additional floorspace of 1,000m<sup>2</sup> or more, or a site area of 1 hectare or more, will be expected to include the provision of full fibre gigabit capable network infrastructure Fibre to the Premises (FTTP). For less than these figures, FTTP should still be installed where costs are no more than copper line broadband infrastructure.</p> <p>Mobile telecommunications development will be granted planning permission where it can be demonstrated that this is proportionate to the development need, provides street safety, positive residential amenity, have no impacts on trees, does not impact on existing electrical infrastructure and that this does not exceed guidelines of cumulative exposure.</p>	<p>Neutral</p>	<p>This policy seeks to provide electronic communications within the city which are sustainable for the number of new residents. This policy aims to provide infrastructure that is not imposing on the current environment (eg. Height), including street safety. This would have an indirect positive impact to protect local migrating birds, so should be positive for the habitats within. The overall impact of this policy should have minimal impacts on the SACs and SPAs..</p>
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## 4. Conclusion

4.1 In conclusion, this report has found that strategic policies within Leicester's Local plan alone, or in combination with other plans, are unlikely to have a detrimental effect on the integrity of European sites. The key reasons for this are:

- There are no European sites within the City of Leicester administrative boundary.
- The only European site within Leicestershire is the River Mease SAC which is vulnerable to water quality issues is protected due to the presence of the features outlined in Table 2 above. The river network in Leicester is not connected directly with this site. Therefore, issues such as nutrient pollution should not be adversely affected.
- Drinking Water in Leicester does not come from any protected European sites.
- Due to the direction of the prevailing wind direction air pollution will have no direct impact on nearby European sites.
- Any Tourism increase at Rutland Water specifically related to new housing development in Leicester will negligible especially when compared to other more extensive housing developments closer elsewhere in the region such as Rutland itself and Melton.
- No other policies from the Local plan have any definable impact on European sites.

Therefore, it is the view of Leicester City Council that full Appropriate Assessment is not required.

4.2 This document was subject to formal consultation between 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022 and 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022 with the statutory Nature Conservation body (Natural England) and will be published as part of formal consultation on the Leicester Local Plan submission.

4.3 Natural England provided confirmation that a Full Appropriate Assessment is not required on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2022, in line with the view of the council (See appendix 2). Amendments were made to paragraphs 2.7 and 4.1 to reflect the advice given by Natural England.

4.4 Natural England were provided the opportunity to give further comment on the Assessment in September 2022, when the document was revised to take account of nutrient neutrality and the amended policies in the plan. It was agreed that the position from Natural England remained the same and that a full assessment is still not required (please see appendix 3).

# Appendix 1 – Pre-screening statement from Local plan SA Scoping Report.

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## Appendix 3. Other Plans and Strategies Related to this Appraisal

### Appropriate Assessment (Habitats Regulations Assessment)

1. The Habitats directive requires that all plans and programmes produced by local authorities consider the impact upon Natura 2000 sites. Natura 2000 sites are internationally important wildlife sites, which are afforded high level of protection through the Directive. Collectively known as Natura 2000 sites, the actual sites defined by the directive are:

- Special Area of Conservation (SACs)
- Special Protection Areas (SPAs)
- RAMSAR sites

There are none of these sites within the boundary of Leicester, however in line with the above mentioned regulations, Leicester City Council will produce a screening report looking at any potential impacts to other Natura 2000 sites close to the city, or where there is any potential link to a site by the city's activities. If it does identify any impact the alternative strategies should be pursued, or suitable mitigation measures identified to avoid impacts on these site.

A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening opinion will be undertaken alongside the submission copy of the local plan. This will be the earliest opportunity to review the policies that are proposed in the local plan.

### Equality Impact Assessment

2. Under the 2010 Equality Act, Local Authorities have an obligation to carry out an Equality Impact Assessment. The Equality and Human Rights Commission define an equality impact assessment (EIA) as a tool that makes sure that policies, and the ways they carry out their functions, do what they are intended to do, and for everybody. Carrying out an EIA involves systematically assessing the likely (or actual) effects of policies on people in respect of disability, gender, (including gender identity), racial equality and, where it is chosen, wider equality areas. This includes looking for opportunities to promote equality that may have previously been missed or could be better used, as well as negative or adverse impacts that can be removed or mitigated, where possible. If any negative or adverse impacts amount to unlawful discrimination, they must be removed. This scoping report will also form the scoping also for the EqlA however the council intends to produce a separate EqlA report at submission consultation stage.

### Health Impact Assessment

Health Impact Assessment (HIA) is defined as "a combination of procedures, methods, and tools by which a policy, program, or project may be judged as to its potential effects on the health of a population, and the distribution of those effects within the population. HIA seeks to maximise the positive health impacts and minimise the negative health impacts of proposed policies, programs or projects. This scoping report will also form the scoping for the HIA however the council intends to produce a separate HIA report at submission consultation stage.



# Appendix 2 – Email from Natural England in February 2022

Date: 08 February 2022  
Our ref: 381542  
Your ref: Habitat Regulation Assessment



Customer Services  
Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Leicester City Council  
Planning Policy  
Halford Wing  
City Hall  
115 Charles Street  
Leicester  
LE1 1FZ

**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Dear Planning Policy Team

## **Leicester City Local Plan 2020-2036 – HRA Consultation**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 21 January 2022 which was received by Natural England on the same date.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

**Natural England's advice on the HRA is set out below.**

We are satisfied that the Screening Report follows accepted methodology and is in line with appropriate legislation and guidance. We therefore consider that the policies of the Leicester City Local Plan have undergone a full Habitats Regulations Assessment screening. We can confirm that we agree with the Report's conclusions that the Local Plan would not be likely to have a significant effect on a European Site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and no further assessment work is required at this stage.

### **Other advice**

We note that the River Mease SAC is described as being protected due to its water quality. This is incorrect; the river is noted to be vulnerable to water quality but is protected due to the presence of the following features, which are noted within Table 2 of the HRA.

H3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with *R. fluitantis*  
S1092 Freshwater crayfish, *Austropotamobius pallipes*  
S1149 Spined loach, *Cobitis taenia*  
S1163 Bullhead, *Cottus gobio*  
S1355 Otter, *Lutra lutra*

We recommend alteration of the wording in paragraph 2.7 and 4.1 of the HRA Screening Report to reflect this.

If you have any queries relating to the advice in this letter please contact me on 02087204183

Yours faithfully

Robbie Clarey  
Lead Adviser – East Midlands Area Delivery

# Appendix 3 – Email from Natural England in September 2022

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: 381542 - Leicester City Local Plan 2020-2036 - HRA Consultation  
**Date:** 05 September 2022 13:55:17  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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Hi Joseph,

Thanks for sending this through.

It's clear you've taken our previous comments on board and we welcome the mention of nutrient neutrality within the HRA. It is correct that none of the area of Leicester City lies within the catchment of the River Mease SAC, and no other catchments within the area have been given Nutrient Neutrality advice. As a result, the issuing of the Nutrient Neutrality advice will not affect the conclusion of the HRA. We also consider that the other policy changes below will not cause an impact on any European Sites, and would like to welcome the alteration to require a 10% Biodiversity Net Gain, as well as other positive changes such as the acknowledgement of Green and Blue infrastructure, SuDS and Carbon Emissions.

We can confirm that our advice remains the same as previous, in that we agree that the plan will not have a likely significant effect on European sites. We will await the reg 19 consultation in the coming months.

Many thanks,

Robbie

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** 02 September 2022 16:03  
**To:** Clarey, Robbie [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** SM-NE-Enquiries (NE) [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: 381542 - Leicester City Local Plan 2020-2036 - HRA Consultation

You don't often get email from [REDACTED]. [Learn why this is important](#)

Good afternoon Robbie,

Hope you're well.

We previously contacted you in regard to the city of Leicester Local Plan, please see below. We did make amendments to the HRA in relation to your comments back in February.

We have since made some slight amendments to update around the guidance for nutrient neutrality released recently, and update about a few amended/new policies within the plan.

The bulk of the report has remained the same to the old version and the majority of the policies have remained the same (or have the same overriding meaning behind them with minor wording changes). Please see below some of the more notable policy changes to take note of:

- Policies SL01-SL06 – Minor amendments to the number of dwellings proposed
- CCFR01 – This policy has changed and focuses on reduction of carbon emissions
- CCFR06 – Replaces CCFR03 and focuses on flood risk and SuDS
- E01 – A new policy which outlines two sites for economic development in the city (note E01 has

become E02 etc)

- TCR02 – Changed policy thresholds for size of retail development in certain areas
- NE02 – Change to account for requirement for 10% Biodiversity Net Gain at least
- NE03 – refers to green and blue infrastructure, as opposed to just green
- T06 – has been added which refers to highway infrastructure
- DI02 – new policy added referring to electronic communications.

This amended version includes a section on 'Nutrient neutrality' in section 2 (2.21-2.25), to account for the updated advice from the government on nutrient neutrality.

We are looking to take this out to consultation along with the Local Plan for Regulation 19 within the next couple of months. Please could you review the attached document and provide any comments as soon as possible.

If there is anything that needs clarifying or any problems, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

**Joseph Todd**

Planner, Planning Policy Team

Planning, Development and Transportation Division

Leicester City Council, City Hall, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ

E: [REDACTED]

Tel – Ext: [REDACTED] Int: [REDACTED]

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**COVID 19 Planning Update:** The Planning service is continuing to work through a combination of remote working and limited operational capacity at City Hall. To minimise face to face contact, virtual meetings are being offered and all service functions are now fully operational.

Some delays in the validation and processing of applications may be experienced due to capacity constraints on home working, and your patience in these circumstances would be appreciated.

---

**From:** Clarey, Robbie <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** 08 February 2022 10:26

**To:** planning-policy <[REDACTED]>

**Subject:** 381542 - Leicester City Local Plan 2020-2036 - HRA Consultation

Good Morning,

Please find attached Natural England's response to the above consultation.

Many thanks,

Robbie

**Robert Clarey**  
Lead Adviser  
East Midlands Delivery Team  
Natural England, Apex Court, City Link, Nottingham, NG2 4LA



the current coronavirus situation, Natural England staff are primarily working remotely to provide our services and support our customers and stakeholders. Please continue to send any documents by email or contact us by phone to let us know how we can help you. See the latest news on the coronavirus at <http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> and Natural England's regularly updated operational update at <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/operational-update-covid-19>.

Hands, Face, Space, Fresh Air.

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