

Sustainability Appraisal of the South Staffordshire Local Plan Review

Scoping Report

November 2017



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Staffordshire Local Plan Review and meets the requirements of the SEA Directive. It is not intended to be a substitute for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or Appropriate Assessment (AA).

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Appendix A: Full SA Framework

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Acronyms

AQMA	Air Quality Management Area
BAP	Biodiversity Action Plan
CAMS	Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy
DCLG	Department of Communities and Local Government
DECC	Department of Energy and Climate Change
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
EU	European Union
GI	Green Infrastructure
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
GWh	GigaWatt-hours
IMD	Index of Multiple Deprivation
LA	Local Authority
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
LoGS	Local Geological Site
LPR	Local Plan Review
LSOA	Lower Layer Super Output Area
LTP	Local Transport Plan
LWS	Local Wildlife Site
MWh	Megawatt-hours
NCA	National Character Area
NO₂	Nitrogen Dioxide
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PM₁₀	Particulate Matter (10 micrometres)
PPP	Policies, Plans and Programmes
PRoW	Public Rights of Way
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
SPA	Special Protection Area
SPZ	Source Protection Zone
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest
UKCP09	United Kingdom Climate Projections 2009

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1 Introduction

1.1 This report

- 1.1.1 South Staffordshire District Council is in the process of preparing a Local Plan Review (LPR). As part of the process, a Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is being undertaken. This Scoping Report has been prepared as the first stage of the SA process in order to inform the environmental assessment of the LPR. This report will be published for consultation with the statutory consultation bodies as required by Regulation 12 (5) of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004¹ (SEA Regulations). **Figure 1.1** shows the administrative boundaries of South Staffordshire, the area to which the LPR will apply.

1.2 South Staffordshire

- 1.2.1 In 1974, Cannock Rural District and Seisdon Rural District merged to form South Staffordshire, a district in the county of Staffordshire, located just north west of the West Midlands county. Approximately 106,000 residents are spread over the 40,400ha rural district, of which 80% (32,310ha) lies within the West Midlands Green Belt.
- 1.2.2 South Staffordshire is a popular and attractive destination for migrants, particularly those from urban areas in the West Midlands. The district has no dominant settlement or urban area. Instead, it can be considered to be a 'community of communities' with 27 parishes and a diverse pattern of hamlets and villages with distinct characters distributed amongst idyllic countryside. Approximately 82% of land in the district is used for agriculture, 12% is built on and urban whilst 6% of the district is considered to be natural².

¹ SEA Regulations (2004) Available online at:
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2004/1633/contents/made> . Accessed 07.11.17

² Col, B. Kin, S. Ogutu, B. Palmer, D. Smith, G. Belzter, H. (2015) Corine Land Cover 2012 for the UK, Jersey and Guernsey. NERC Environmental Information Data Centre <https://doi.org/10.5285/32533dd6-7c1b-43e1-b892-e80d61a5ea1d>

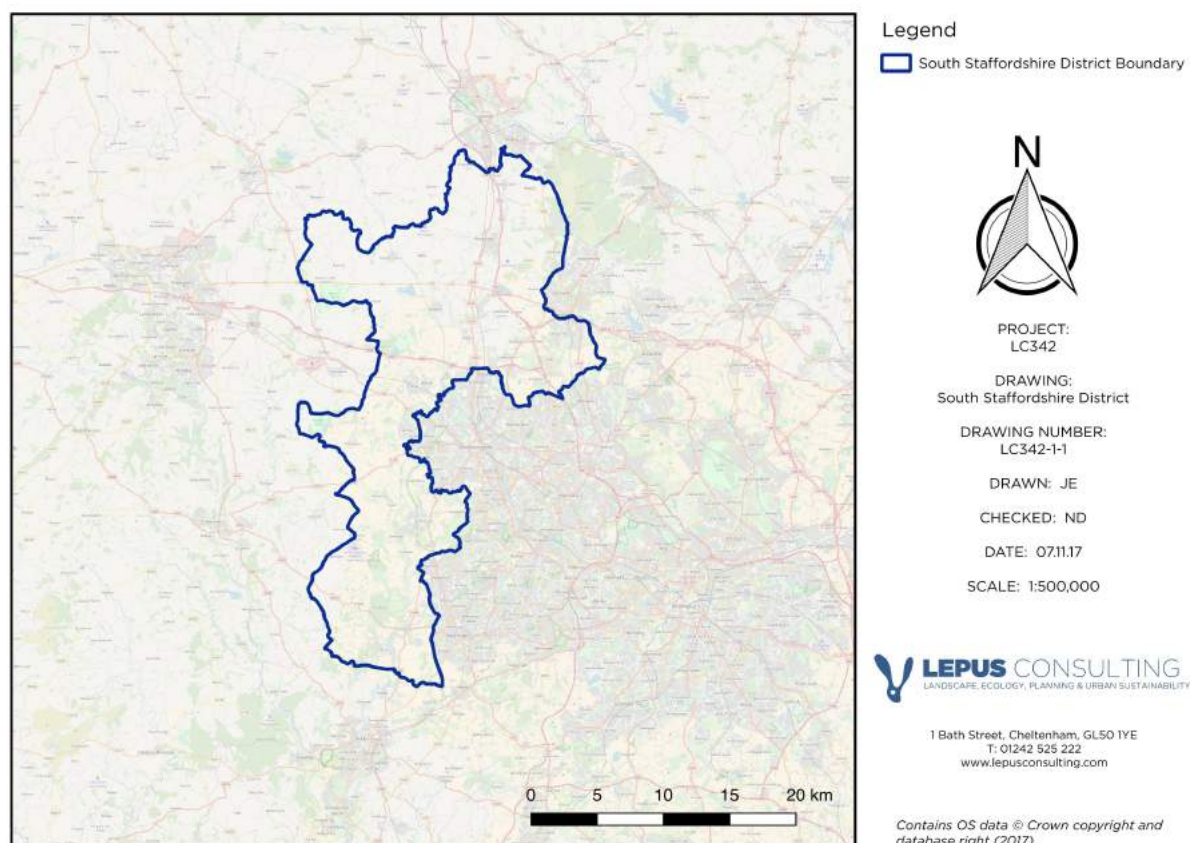


Figure 1.1: The district boundary of South Staffordshire

1.3 Sustainability Appraisal

- 1.3.1 This document constitutes the sustainability appraisal (SA) Scoping Report for the LPR. This represents Stage A of SA, according to the Planning Practice Guidance (2016) Guidance on Sustainability Appraisal³.
- 1.3.2 SA is the process of informing local development plans to maximise their sustainability value. SA is a statutory requirement for development plan documents. The SA process informs soundness tests for development plan documents, the key objective of which is to promote sustainable development.

1.4 Integrated approach to SA and SEA

- 1.4.1 The requirements to carry out SA and SEA are distinct, although it is possible to satisfy both obligations using a single appraisal process.

³ DCLG (2016) Planning practice guidance. Available at: <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/>

- 1.4.2 The European Union Directive 2001/42/EC⁴ (SEA Directive) applies to a wide range of public plans and programmes on land use, energy, waste, agriculture, transport etc. (see Article 3(2) of the Directive for other plan or programme types). The Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) procedure can be summarised as follows: an environmental report is prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment and the reasonable alternatives of the proposed plan or programme are identified. The public and the relevant environmental authorities are informed and consulted on the draft plan or programme and the environmental report prepared.
- 1.4.3 The Directive has been transposed into English law by the SEA Regulations (SI no. 1633). Under the requirements of the SEA Directive and SEA Regulations, specific types of plans that set the framework for the future development consent of projects must be subject to an environmental assessment. Therefore it is a legal requirement for the LPR to be subject to SEA throughout its preparation.
- 1.4.4 SA is a UK-specific procedure used to appraise the impacts and effects of development plans in the UK. It is required by S19(5) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004⁵ and should be an appraisal of the economic, social and environmental sustainability of development plans. The present statutory requirement for SA resides in The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012⁶. SA is a systematic process for evaluating the environmental consequences of proposed plans or programmes to ensure environmental issues are fully integrated and addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision-making.

⁴ Available online at: ec.europa.eu/environment/eia/sea-legalcontext.htm . Accessed 07.11.17

⁵ Available online at: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/5/contents> . Access 07.11.17

⁶ Available online at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/767/contents/made> . Accessed 07.11.17

1.5 Best Practice Guidance

1.5.1 Government policy recommends that both SA and SEA are undertaken under a single sustainability appraisal process, which incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive. This is to be achieved through integrating the requirements of SEA into the SA process. The approach for carrying out an integrated SA and SEA is based on best practice guidance:

- Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (September 2005): A Practical Guide to the SEA Directive⁷; and
- Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) updated 2015 Planning Practice Guidance - Strategic environmental assessment and sustainability appraisal; web based guidance to accompany the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) including guidance on the SEA/SA process⁸.

1.6 The South Staffordshire LPR

1.6.1 The South Staffordshire LPR will include the overall strategy for development in the district, including a vision for the future, relevant objectives, site allocations, site based policies and development management policies. Key facts relating to the LPR are presented in **Table 1.1**.

⁷ Available online at:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7657/practicalguides/ea.pdf Accessed 07.11.17

⁸ DCLG (2016) Planning practice guidance. Available at:
<http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/>

Table 1.1: Key facts relating to the LPR

Responsible authority	South Staffordshire District Council
Title of plan	South Staffordshire Local Plan Review
What prompted the plan (e.g. legislative, regulatory or administrative provision)	The LPR is being developed in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and the The Town and Country Planning (Local Development) (England) Regulations 2012.
Area covered by the plan	South Staffordshire administrative boundary (see Figure 1.1).
Purpose and/ or objectives of the plan	<p>The LPR will set out the spatial planning strategy for the district, having due regard to other strategies and programmes that form the development framework.</p> <p>The LPR will include an overall strategy for how and where development should take place, locations of new homes, services and employment sites and how communities can meet their needs for housing and development. The LPR will form the main guide towards future development in the district.</p>
Contact point	<p>South Staffordshire District Council</p> <p>Council Offices</p> <p>Wolverhampton Road</p> <p>Codsall</p> <p>WV8 1PX</p> <p>Telephone: 01902 696000</p> <p>Email: planning@sstaffs.gov.uk</p>

2 Presenting the Sustainability Information

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This scoping report represented Stage A of the SA process (see **Figure 2.1**), and presents information in relation to:

- Identifying other relevant plans, programmes and environmental protection objectives;
- Collecting baseline information;
- Identifying sustainability problems and key issues;
- Preparing the SA Framework; and
- Consultation arrangements on the scope of SA with the consultation bodies.

2.1.2 Annex 1(f) of the SEA Directive states the various topics that should be considered in the SEA appraisal process, including:

- Biodiversity, flora and fauna;
- Population;
- Human health;
- Soil;
- Water;
- Air;
- Climatic factors;
- Material assets;
- Cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage);
- Landscape; and
- The inter-relationship between these factors.

2.1.3 The policy, plan and programme (PPP) review, the baseline data and the other relevant sustainability issues are structured by the topics of Annex 1(f) of the SEA Directive, for which details are presented in **Table 2.1**.

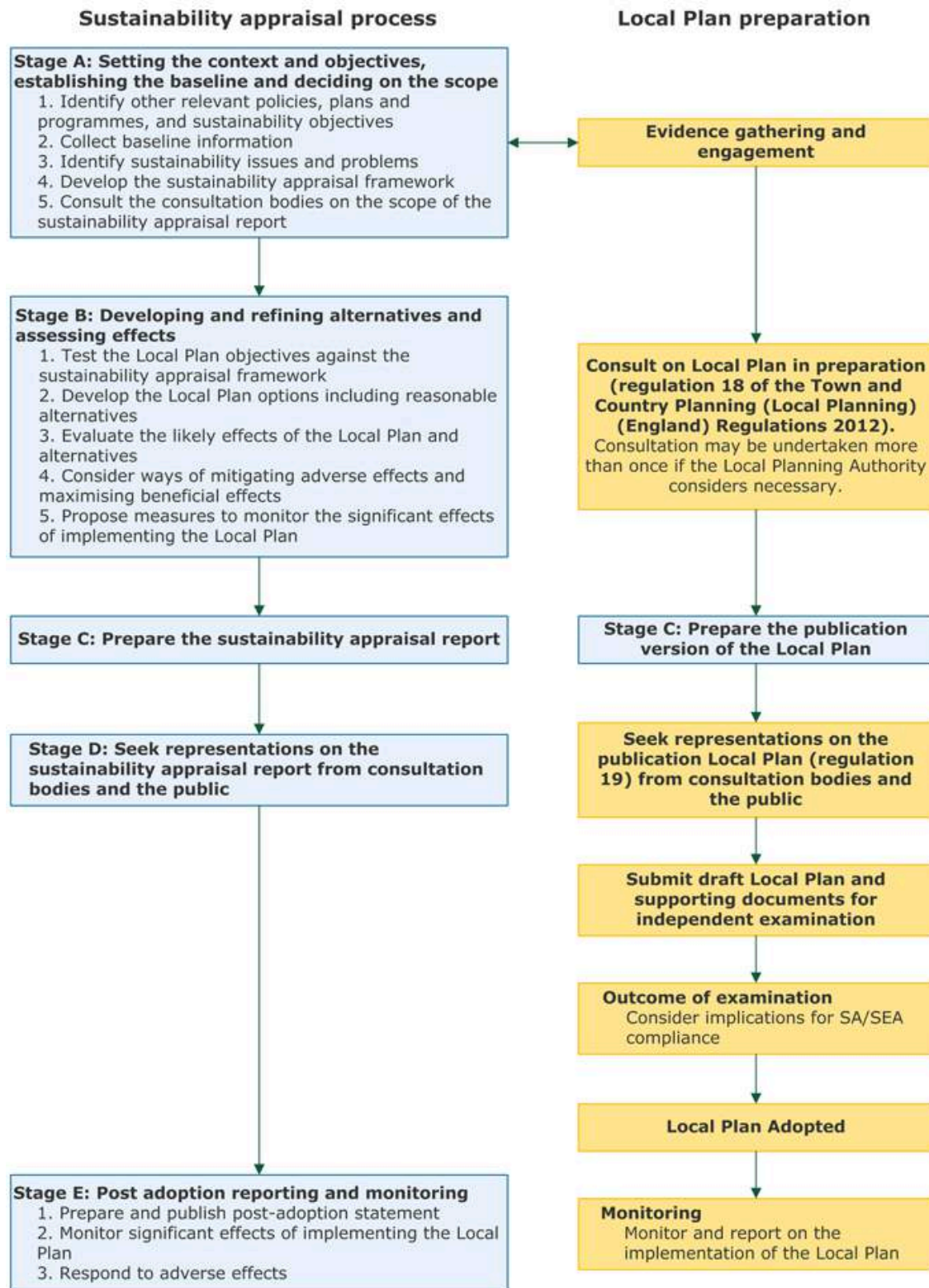


Figure 2.1: Stages in the SA process⁹

⁹ Department for Communities and Local Government (2014) Strategic environment assessment and sustainability appraisal. Accessed on 13/10/16. Available at: <http://planningguidance.communities.gov.uk/blog/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal/sustainability-appraisal-requirements-for-local-plans/>

Table 2.1: Sustainability themes

Theme	SEA Directive Annex 1(f) topics	Factors to consider include, but are not limited to...
Accessibility & transportation	Material assets and population	Transportation infrastructure; Traffic flows; Walking and cycling; Accessibility.
Air quality	Air	Air pollution sources; Air quality hotspots; Air quality management.
Biodiversity & geodiversity	Biodiversity, flora and fauna	Habitats; Species; Nature conservation designations; Landscape features; Geological features.
Climate change	Climatic factors	Greenhouse gas emissions by source; Greenhouse gas emissions trends; Effects of climate change; Climate change adaptation; Flooding.
Economic factors	Material assets	Economic performance; Business start-ups; Employment and earnings; Skills, education and unemployment; Sites and premises.
Health	Human health	Health indicators; Healthcare inequalities; Access to essential services and facilities; Sport, fitness and activity levels.
Historic environment	Cultural heritage	Historic development of the town; Designated and non-designated sites and areas; Setting of cultural heritage assets; Historic landscape character assessment; Archaeological assets.
Housing	Population & material assets	House prices and affordability; Housing quality and vacancy rates; Varied housing mix; Homelessness.
Landscape & townscape	Landscape	Landscape designations; Visual amenity; Landscape/townscape character; Tranquility.
Material assets	Material assets	Renewable energy; Waste arisings and recycling rates; Minerals; Previously developed land.

Theme	SEA Directive Annex 1(f) topics	Factors to consider include, but are not limited to...
Population & quality of life	Population	Population size and migration; Population density; Age structure; Indices of Multiple Deprivation; Unemployment; Crime; Recreation and amenity (including open space and green infrastructure).
Water & Soil	Soil and water	Soils; Watercourses; Water resources; Water quality; Contaminated land.

2.2 Policy, plan and programme review

2.2.1 The LPR may be influenced in various ways by other policies, plans or programmes (PPPs), or by external sustainability objectives such as those put forward in higher strategies or by legislation. The SA/SEA process will take advantage of potential synergies between these PPPs and address any inconsistencies and constraints.

2.2.2 A summary of the PPP review is presented in **Chapter 3 - Chapter 14** under each sustainability theme. The PPP summaries in each chapter should be read alongside the more detailed information included in **Appendix B**. The review of PPPs is presented according to the SEA topics discussed in **Section 2.1**.

2.3 Baseline data collection

2.3.1 **Chapter 3 - Chapter 14** also review the current environmental, social and economic conditions relevant to the LPR. The purpose of the baseline review is to help define the key sustainability issues for the LPR. The baseline data should be informative of local circumstances, be up to date and be fit for purpose.

2.3.2 One of the purposes of consultation on the scoping report is to seek views on whether the selected data is appropriate. The baseline has been constructed utilising a wide range of data sources, with GIS (Geographic Information Systems) data utilised where available. The data has been presented through tables, text and GIS mapping, and all data sources have been referenced as appropriate.

2.3.3 Where data is available at a local scale it has been used to inform the scoping process, if local data is not available, regional information has been used. Where this is the case, it is clearly stated.

2.4 Key sustainability issues

2.4.1 Drawing on the PPP review and the baseline data, **Chapters 3 to 14** set out a series of key sustainability issues relevant for the LPR. The identification of these will help the SEA process focus on the key sustainability problems and opportunities, which may be addressed through the LPR.

3 Accessibility and Transport

3.1 Summary of policy, plan and programme review

- 3.1.1 European and UK transport PPPs place an emphasis on modernising transport infrastructure and making transport more sustainable. This includes methods to reduce pollution and congestion, such as by improving access to affordable and frequent sustainable transport modes and improving the local footpath and cycle path network. The PPPs regularly promote the need for a transport network which is sustainable but also supports economic growth.
- 3.1.2 The transport theme is relevant to a variety of other sustainability themes. For example, improving sustainable transport access would be likely to lead to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, which is useful for climate change mitigation efforts. If residents are encouraged to cycle or walk, they will be likely to realise health benefits. A reduction in congestion would also be likely to provide an economic boost to the local area, whilst improved air quality is anticipated to benefit any impacted habitats or wildlife sites which are sensitive to air pollutants such as atmospheric nitrogen.
- 3.1.3 In 2006 the Department for Transport produced the 'Transport's Role in Sustaining the UK's Productivity and Competitiveness' report. This document encouraged local transport authorities to develop a robust evidence base when planning transport.
- 3.1.4 Regional and local plans focus on appropriate design, location and layout of development, increasing investment in infrastructure, improving the quality, equality and accessibility of public transport, supporting walking and cycling, enhancing road safety and reducing the amount of emissions produced by transportation.

3.1.5 The Local Transport Plan (LTP) 2011 – 2026 Issues and Implications¹⁰ identifies key challenges for the county of Staffordshire. It highlights the important multiple relationships transport plays in regard to deprivation, the economy, health and well-being as well as natural and built environments. The South Staffordshire Integrated Transport Strategy 2013 – 2028¹¹ hopes to help ensure that:

- Key facilities and activities are easily accessible;
- The economy grows and prospers whilst job opportunities, skills and aspirations support it; and
- Local communities proactively tackle climate change whilst benefitting financially.

3.2 Baseline data

Road Network

3.2.1 The road network of the district is predominantly comprised of minor and primary roads (see **Figure 3.1**). A roads are relatively scarce, particularly in the south of the district. The M6 and M6 Toll are in the north east of the district, and provide access to areas north and south east of the district, including Stafford, Cannock, Birmingham and other motorways. The M54 is in the north of South Staffordshire and provides access to areas east and west of the district, including Telford, Walsall and other motorways.

3.2.2 The A449 provides a north – south corridor through the district and into Stafford, Wolverhampton and Kidderminster. The A5, A41, A454 and A458 provide east – west links into the West Midlands urban area. Congestion in the county of Staffordshire is considered to only be an issue in the main urban areas. Within South Staffordshire traffic delays are concentrated in the north of the District on motorways, the A5, A460 and A449. Local peak hour delays are also evident at junctions within larger settlements in the district.

¹⁰ Staffordshire County Council (2010) Local Transport Plan 2011 – 2026 Issues and Implications, March 2010

¹¹ Staffordshire County Council (2013) South Staffordshire Integrated Transport Strategy 2013 – 2028, November 2013

- 3.2.3 The LTP sets out clear objectives for improving accessibility and reducing private car use. It is not a stand-alone strategy but instead draws on a number of national, regional, local and transportation policy documents to ensure that the strategy guides the delivery of wider objectives.

Rail network

- 3.2.4 South Staffordshire has four railway stations (see **Figure 3.2**), which provide public transport access to the destinations across the country. Access to railway stations is more limited in the south of the district, where residents are considered likely to rely on stations outside of the district within Stourbridge and Wolverhampton.

- 3.2.5 Penkridge railway station provides access to frequent services running between Liverpool, Crewe and Birmingham. The railway stations at Codsall and Bilbrook are along the Shrewsbury to Birmingham Line. Frequent London Midland services at Landywood railway station also provide frequent services to Birmingham and Rugeley Trent Valley.

Airports

- 3.2.6 There are no commercial airports within South Staffordshire. However, Birmingham International Airport is just 35km and a 44 minute journey via public transport south east of Codsall. Wolverhampton Halfpenny Green airport is a small site from which general and business aviation services run, located near Bobbinton.

Public rights of way and cycling

- 3.2.7 South Staffordshire has a large network of public rights of way (PRoW) (see **Figure 3.3**). Notable routes in the district include portions of longer distance footpaths including Staffordshire Way and the Monarchs Way. Walking and cycling rates in South Staffordshire are lower than the national and county averages. The district of south Staffordshire is predominantly rural with a network of minor roads. Cycling contributes a small proportion of journeys however there are aspirations to continue to promote increased cycle use, as demonstrated by the South Staffordshire Cycling Strategy.

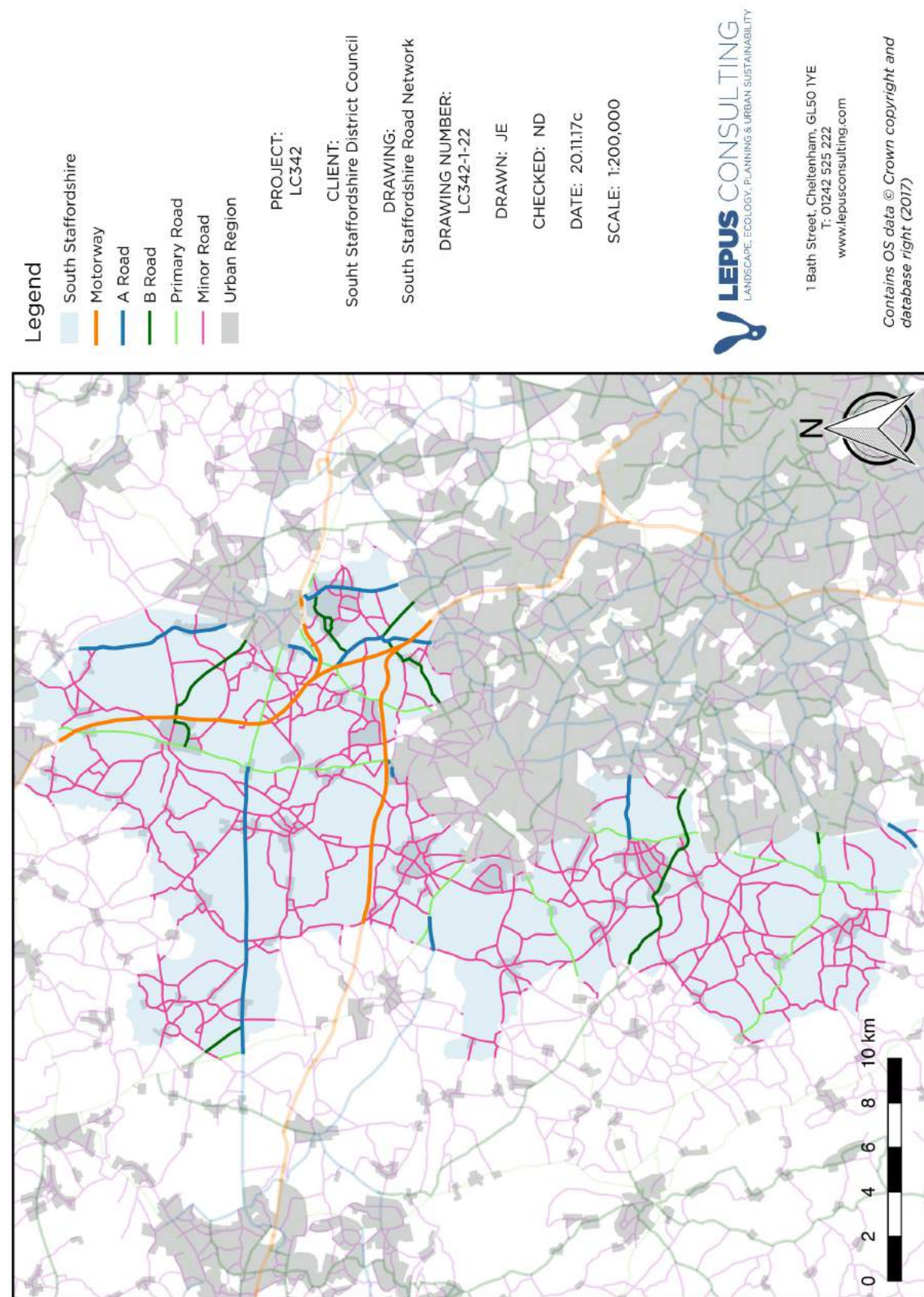


Figure 3.1: Road network in South Staffordshire

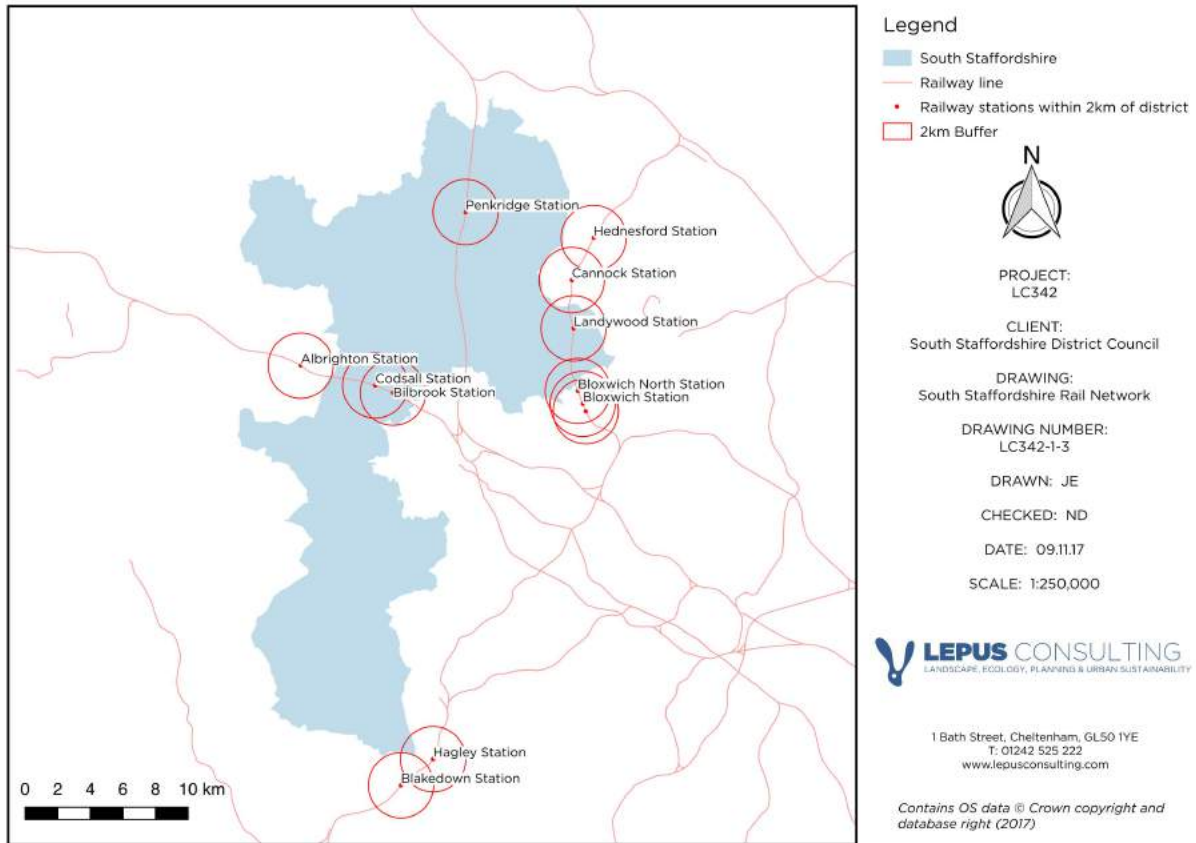


Figure 3.2: Railway stations and lines in South Staffordshire

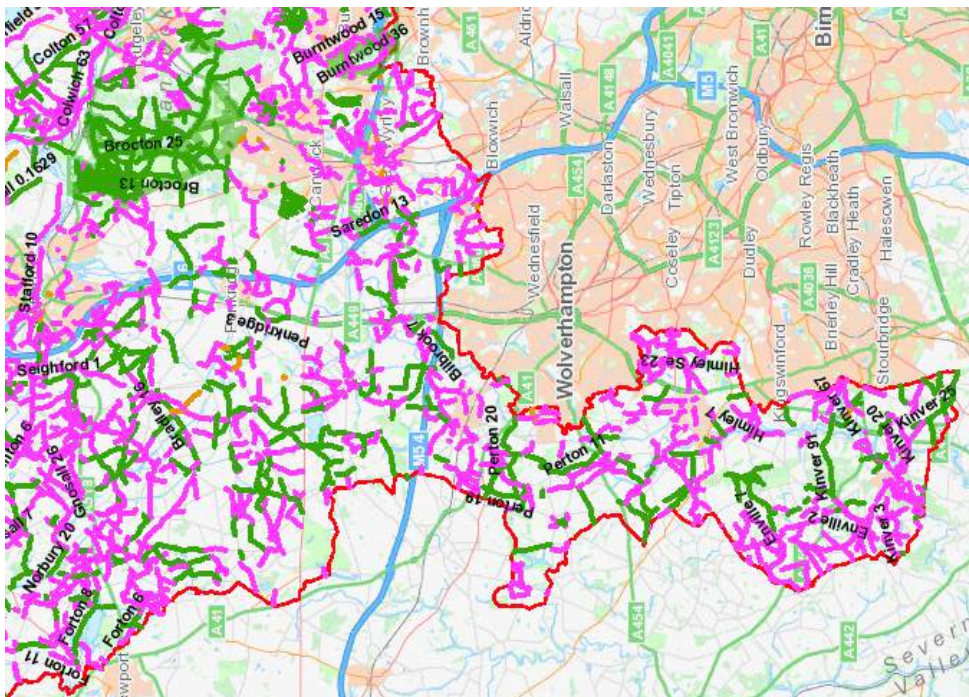


Figure 3.3: ProW network in South Staffordshire¹²

¹² Staffordshire County Council (2017) Countryside and Rights of Way, interactive map available online at: <https://apps2.staffordshire.gov.uk/WEB/OnTheMap/RuralAccess> Accessed 07.11.17

Accessibility and buses

3.2.8 The north of the district is served by a core bus network of local and inter-urban routes to Stafford and the West Midlands. The south of the district has access to a more limited frequency of services, and commercial services are supported by community transport services such as South Staffordshire Connect.

3.2.9 Bus routes in the district are considered to be affordable and accessible for disabled and elderly residents. A travel scheme adopted in 2011 has allowed free 24/7 bus transport for people of pensionable age or with a disability, along with their carer. Under 20-year olds can also travel anywhere within Staffordshire for £1 per journey.

Travel to work

3.2.10 **Table 3.1** shows that the most common method of travelling to work in the district is by driving a car or van, which accounts for 49.86% of employed residents. This is higher than the rate of car or van use in England, whilst rates of bus and train usage in the district for commuting to work purposes are lower than average rates for England.

Table 3.1 Method of travel to work for employed residents in South Staffordshire¹³

Mode of transport	South Staffordshire (%)	England (%)
Work Mainly at or From Home	3.59	3.47
Underground, Metro, Light Rail, Tram	0.14	2.64
Train	1.6	3.46
Bus, Minibus or Coach	2.13	4.85
Taxi	0.13	0.34
Motorcycle, Scooter or Moped	0.42	0.53
Driving a Car or Van	49.86	36.90
Passenger in a Car or Van	3.36	3.25
Bicycle	0.57	1.91
On Foot	0.71	6.5
Other Method of Travel to Work	0.33	0.42
Not in Employment	33.93	35.28

¹³ 2011 Census data, viewed online through: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011> Accessed 7.11.17

Box 3.1: Key Accessibility and Transport Issues for South Staffordshire

- Access to public transport links is more limited in the south of the district than in the north.
- Reliance on personal car use is higher in rural areas. Nearly half of workers in the district rely on car or van to reach work.
- New development proposed for the district could potentially impact on the local transport infrastructure.
- Cycling and walking rates are low throughout the district.

Box 3.2: Future evolution of the baseline without the Plan

- The current condition and safety of the highway network would be anticipated to be maintained.
- Access to public transport links will be likely to improve in some areas of the district, with better public transport connectivity to the West Midlands conurbation.
- Cycling and walking rates would be unlikely to significantly increase without investment in infrastructure.
- New linkages including the M54/M6/M6 (Toll) link will continue to enhance the highway network

4 Air Quality

4.1 Summary of policy, plan and programme review

- 4.1.1 A number of objectives have been established in relation to air quality at both the European and the UK level (emanating from the 1996 EC Directive). This includes the setting of targets for reducing emissions of specific pollutants to minimise negative impacts on health and the environment.
- 4.1.2 The Environment Act (1995) requires all local authorities to review and assess the air quality in their area. In areas where the air quality objectives are not anticipated to be met, councils are required to establish Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs).
- 4.1.3 In July 2017 the UK government published a new plan to tackle the issue of air pollution throughout the country. This plan focusses on meeting the legal requirements for reducing nitrogen dioxide set out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2010.

4.2 Baseline data

- 4.2.1 There are currently three AQMAs in South Staffordshire, predominantly associated with busy roads including the M6 and A5. Actions in the Council's 2008 Air Quality Action Plan¹⁴ for improving air quality in each AQMA are generally centred around reducing congestion. Air quality in the district is improving, and the Council hope to revoke two AQMAs this year. This would leave the district with one AQMA, located on the A5 at Hatherton. The Council is continuously monitoring air quality in the district, and has found that air quality is relatively good on the whole for the pollutants which are monitored. The fraction of mortality thought to be attributable to particulate air pollution is slightly less in the county of Staffordshire than it is for England on the whole (see **Table 4.1**).

¹⁴ South Staffordshire Council (2008) Air Quality Action Plan, Draft for consultation, April 2008.
Available at: <https://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/doc/171950/name/Air%20Quality%20Action%20Plan%202008.pdf/>

Table 4.1: Fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution¹⁵

Region	Fraction of mortality attributable to particulate air pollution
Staffordshire	4.7%
West Midlands	4.8%
England	4.5%

4.2.2 Air quality impacts from vehicles are most likely to occur within 200m of the road¹⁶. It is therefore considered to be likely that, where residents are living within 200m of a relatively busy road, they will be exposed to poor air quality which is known to have long term health consequences. South Staffordshire is largely rural, and it is therefore considered to be likely that residents can be located in areas where road transport associated air pollution is not a significant concern.

Box 4.1: Key Air Quality Issues for South Staffordshire

- 4.5% of mortality in the district is attributable to particulate matter air pollution.
- New housing, employment development areas, commercial and domestic sources, transport, and increasing visitor numbers in the area have the potential to lead to impacts on air quality.

Box 4.2: Future evolution of the baseline without the Plan

- Current trends suggest that NO₂ concentrations will decline in two of the three AQMAs in the district, and these can be removed in the near future.
- Traffic and congestion is likely to increase with population growth, with implications for air quality, residents and wildlife within 200m of busy roads.

¹⁵ Public Health Outcomes Framework (2017) Available at: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile/public-health-outcomes-framework/data#page/0/gid/1000043/pat/6/par/E12000005/ati/102/are/E10000028> . Accessed 07.11.17

¹⁶ The Highways Agency, Transport Scotland, Welsh Assembly Government, The Department for Regional Development Northern Ireland (2007) Design Manual for Roads and Bridges, Volume 11, Section 3, Part 1: Air Quality

5 Biodiversity and Geodiversity

5.1 Summary of policy, plan and programme review

- 5.1.1 The overall objective of the various PPPs is the conservation of biological diversity (including a reversal of the current trend of biodiversity loss) and the protection and monitoring of endangered and vulnerable species and habitats. Policies identify a hierarchy of designations which aim to promote the protection and enhancement of the natural environment. The highest priority is afforded to internationally designated habitats and species (Natura 2000) which are the subject of a specific Habitat Regulations Assessment regime to examine the potential impacts on site or species integrity arising from policies or programmes. Other notable designations include national sites such as SSSIs and National Nature Reserves, Sites of Biological Importance (SBI's) and Local Nature Reserves (LNR's) are identified locally. The integration of biodiversity considerations into all environmental and socio-economic planning is strongly advocated.
- 5.1.2 The Natural Environment White Paper (HM Government, 2011) focuses on promoting high quality natural environments, expanding multifunctional green infrastructure (GI) networks and initiating landscape scale action to support ecological networks. The White Paper specifically seeks to: protect core areas of high nature conservation value; promote corridors and 'stepping stones' to enable species to move between key areas; and initiate Nature Improvement Areas, where ecological functions and wildlife can be restored.
- 5.1.3 The White Paper is supported by the Biodiversity Strategy for England (DEFRA, 2011). This seeks to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy, well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people. The Biodiversity Strategy for England also proposes introducing a new designation for Local Green Areas to enable communities to protect places that are important to them.

- 5.1.4 The NPPF includes guidance on promoting the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment. It requires the planning system to contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.

5.2 Baseline data

Natura 2000

- 5.2.1 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) are sites of the Natura 2000 network protected under EU Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora¹⁷ (the Habitats Directive). Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are also sites of the Natura 2000 network, protected under Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Conservation of Wild Birds¹⁸ (the Birds Directive). Sites classified as a SPA or designated as a SAC are protected for the habitats and species they support.
- 5.2.2 The only Natura 2000 site in the district is Mottey Meadows SAC, designated for its lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*) (see **Figure 5.1**). Threats and pressures which the lowland hay meadows of the SAC are vulnerable to, and which the LPR should therefore seek to avoid, include water pollution, hydrological changes, water abstraction and changes in land management¹⁹.

¹⁷ European Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora . Available online at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:31992L0043&from=EN> Accessed 08.11.17

¹⁸ European Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds . Available online at: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32009L0147&from=EN> . Accessed 08.11.17

¹⁹ Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 Sites (IPENS) Site Improvement Plan, Mottey Meadows. Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6519033218203648> . Accessed 08.11.17

5.2.3 Cannock Chase SAC is an area of heathland designated for its northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* and its European dry heaths. The SAC sits just outside the district, adjacent to its north eastern perimeter (see **Figure 5.1**). This internationally important area of heathland is vulnerable to a range of threats and pressures including increased recreational pressures. Mitigation measures have been agreed to seek to address potential increases in visitor use on the SAC resulting from additional housing allocations. These mitigation measures apply to additional developments arising within the north-east of the district. Other identified issues at the SAC include:

- Undergrazing;
- Drainage;
- Hydrological changes;
- Disease;
- Air pollution: impact of nitrogen deposition;
- Wildfire/arson; and
- Invasive species.

National designations

5.2.4 Natural England designates Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) in England under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). There are eleven SSSIs in the district (see **Figure 5.2**), some of which coincide with the internationally important sites discussed above, including:

- Kinver Edge;
- The Wilderness and Vermin Valley;
- Wollaston Ridge Quarry;
- Checkhill Bogs;
- Highgate Common;
- Gospel End Road Cutting;
- Big Hyde Rough;
- Four Ashes Pit;
- Belvide Reservoir;
- Motte Meadows; and
- Stowe Pool and Walk Mill Clay Pit.

5.2.5 Natural England has developed Impact Risk Zones (IRZs) for each SSSI unit in the country. IRZs are a tool for rapid initial assessment of the potential risks to SSSIs posed by development proposals²⁰. As can be seen in **Figure 5.2**, the majority of the district falls within IRZs for one or more SSSI units.

5.2.6 National Nature Reserves (NNRs) were established to protect some of the most important habitats, species and geology in the country and to provide 'outdoor laboratories' for research. Two thirds of the country's NNRs are managed by Natural England, the remainder being managed by organisations approved by Natural England, such as the RSPB, the Forestry Commission, Wildlife Trusts and local authorities. Of the 224 NNRs in England, Motte Meadows NNR is the only one in South Staffordshire (see **Figure 5.2**).

Ancient Woodland

5.2.7 Ancient Woodland is an area that has been wooded continuously since at least 1600AD, and includes 'ancient semi-natural woodland' and 'plantations on ancient woodland sites', both of which have equal protection under the NPPF.

5.2.8 There are multiple areas of Ancient Woodland in South Staffordshire, mostly in the north of the district but fairly evenly distributed (see **Figure 5.4**).

²⁰ Natural England (2017) Natural England's Impact Risk Zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest, 04 September 2017. Available online at:
http://magic.defra.gov.uk/Metadata_for_magic/SSSI%20IRZ%20User%20Guidance%20MAGIC.pdf

Local Nature Reserves

5.2.9 Natural England encourages local authorities to formally designate appropriate sites as 'Local Nature Reserves' under Section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949. A Local Nature Reserve (LNR) designation demonstrates a commitment by the local authority to manage land for biodiversity, protect it from inappropriate development and provide opportunities for local people to study and enjoy wildlife. Six LNRs lie within South Staffordshire (see **Figure 5.3**), five of which are managed by the Council, including:

- Wyrley & Essington Canal LNR (managed by the Council);
- Shoal Hill Common LNR (managed by the Council);
- South Staffordshire Railway Walk LNR (managed by the Council);
- Wom Brook Walk LNR (managed by the Council);
- Highgate LNR; and
- Baggeridge Country Park LNR (managed by the Council).

Local Wildlife Sites

5.2.10 Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs) are non-statutory designated sites, identified by local authorities in partnership with nature conservation charities, statutory agencies and ecologists, although they are privately owned. In South Staffordshire, LWSs are comprised of Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs) and Natural Heritage Sites. Grade 1 SBIs are of a greater ecological value than Grade 2 SBIs. There are a total of 69 LWSs spread throughout South Staffordshire.

Habitats and Species

5.2.11 The current legislation identified for UK Priority Habitats includes that provided by the NPPF paragraph 117:

'Planning policies should promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and the recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and local targets, and identify suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the plan.'

5.2.12 There are a wide range of habitats within South Staffordshire, although it is considered to be dominated by lowland heathland and southern parklands. These are priority habitats of the UK Biodiversity Action Plan, and in south Staffordshire contain:

- Wood pasture & parkland (priority habitat);
- Lowland heathland (priority habitat);
- Arable field margins (open habitat);
- Hedgerows (open habitat);
- Lowland dry acid grassland (open habitat);
- Lowland heathland (open habitat);
- Lowland meadows (open habitat);
- Native woodland (woodland habitat);
- Coastal & floodplain grazing marsh (wetland habitat);
- Ponds (wetland habitat);
- Rivers (wetland habitat);
- Eutrophic standing water (wetland habitat);
- Purple moor grass & rush pasture (wetland habitat); and
- Reed beds (wetland habitat).

Geodiversity

5.2.13 Geodiversity is the collective term describing the geological variety of the Earth's rocks, fossils, minerals, soils and landscapes together with the natural process that form and shape them. Geodiversity underpins biodiversity by providing diversity of habitat and the ecosystem, with the soil being the link between them. It also embraces the built environment by providing the basis for neighbourhood character and local distinctiveness through building stone and material.

5.2.14 Geology in the district is dominated by Warwickshire Group of the Carboniferous age, Bridgnorth Sandstone Formation of the Permian age and Sherwood Sandstone Group of the Triassic age²¹.

²¹ Geodiversity Staffordshire, Staffordshire Geodiversity Action Plan, 2010. Available online at: <http://srigs.staffs-ecology.org.uk/SGAP/SGAP02011.pdf> . Accessed 08.11.17

5.2.15 Sites of important geodiversity in the district have either been designated as a SSSI or as a Local Geological/Geomorphological Site (LoGS). This includes:

- Dark Slade Wood, Teddesley Hay LoGS;
- Lydiates Hill, Baggeridge Country Park, Himley LoGS;
- Orton Hill Quarry, Wombourne LoGS;
- Four Ashes Pit SSSI;
- Gospel End Road Cutting SSSI;
- Kinver Edge SSSI; and
- Wollaston Ridge Quarry SSSI.

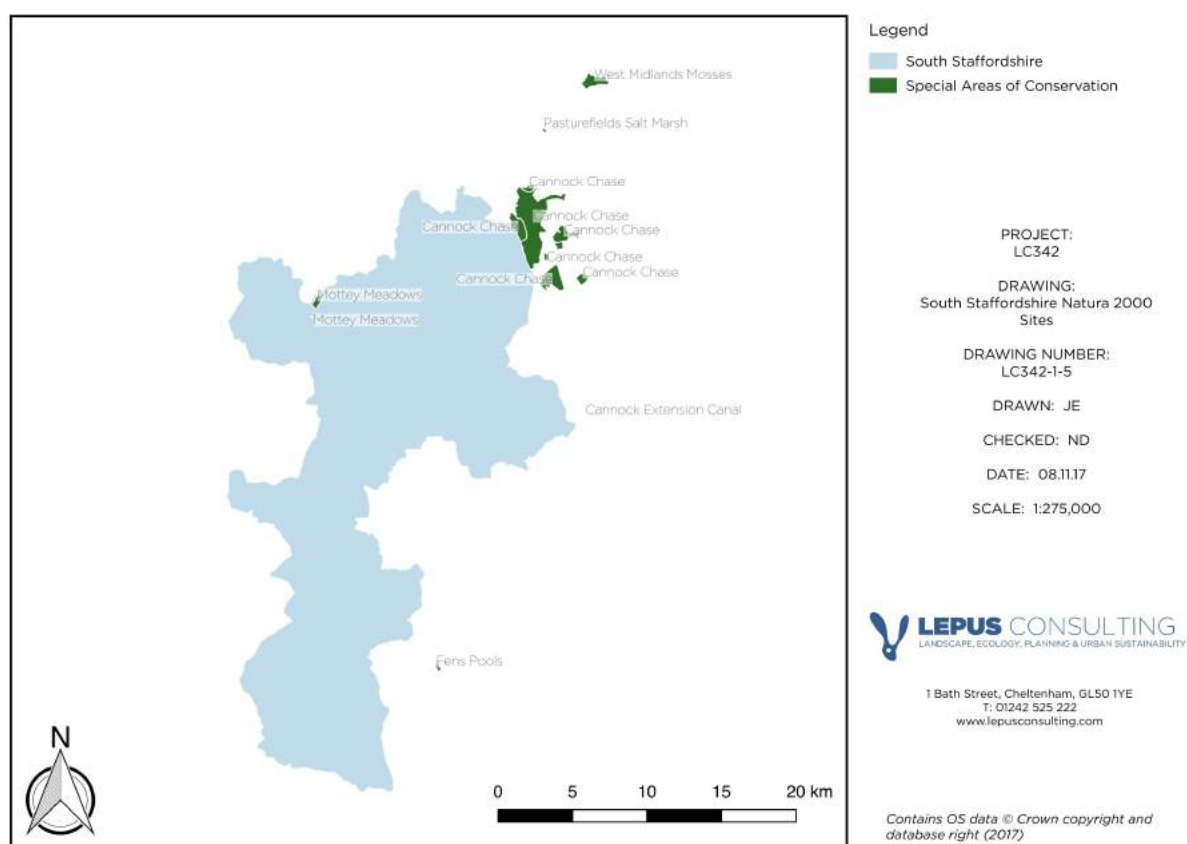


Figure 5.1: Special Areas of Conservation in and around South Staffordshire

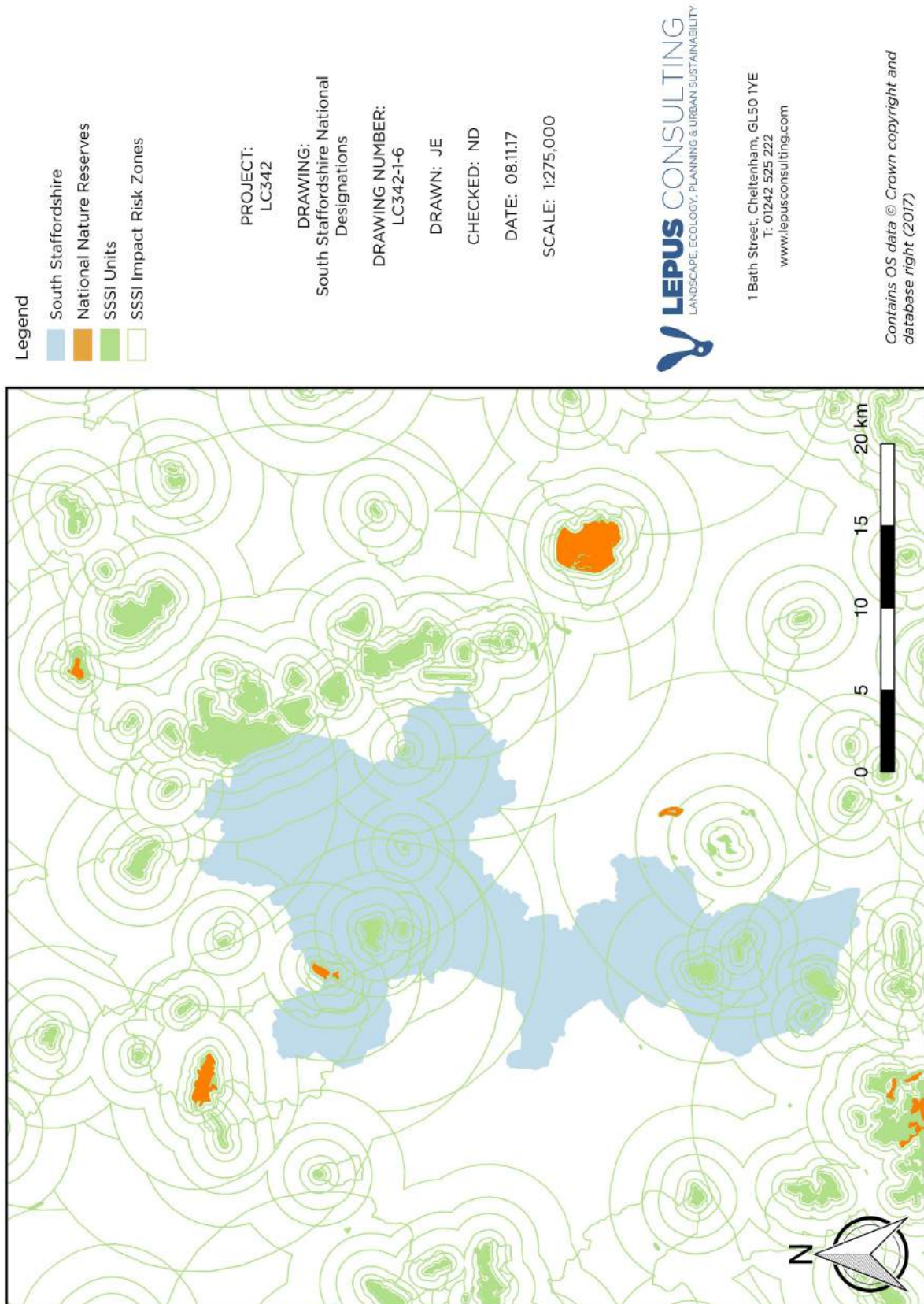


Figure 5.2: National biodiversity designations in South Staffordshire

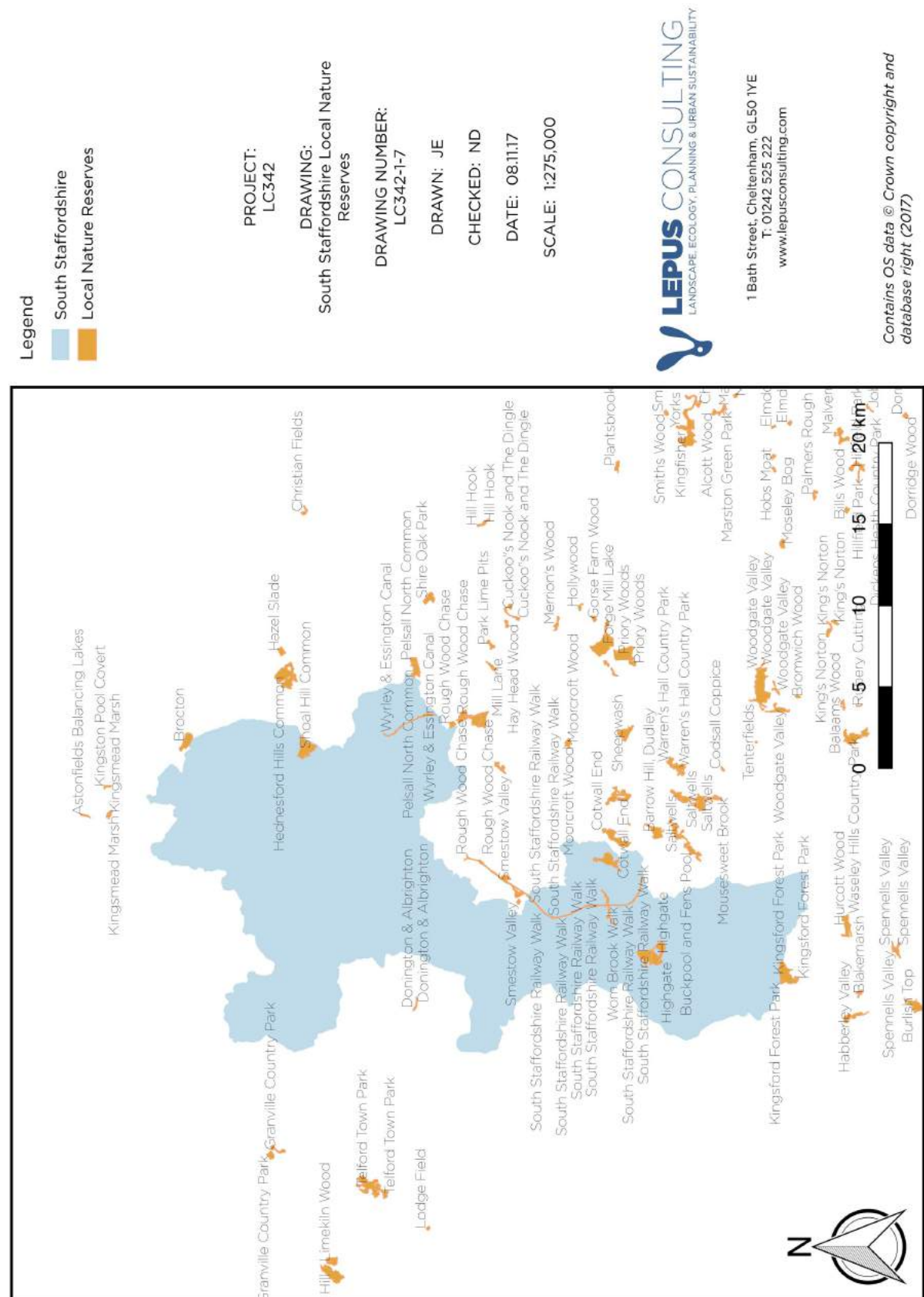


Figure 5.3: Local Nature Reserves in South Staffordshire

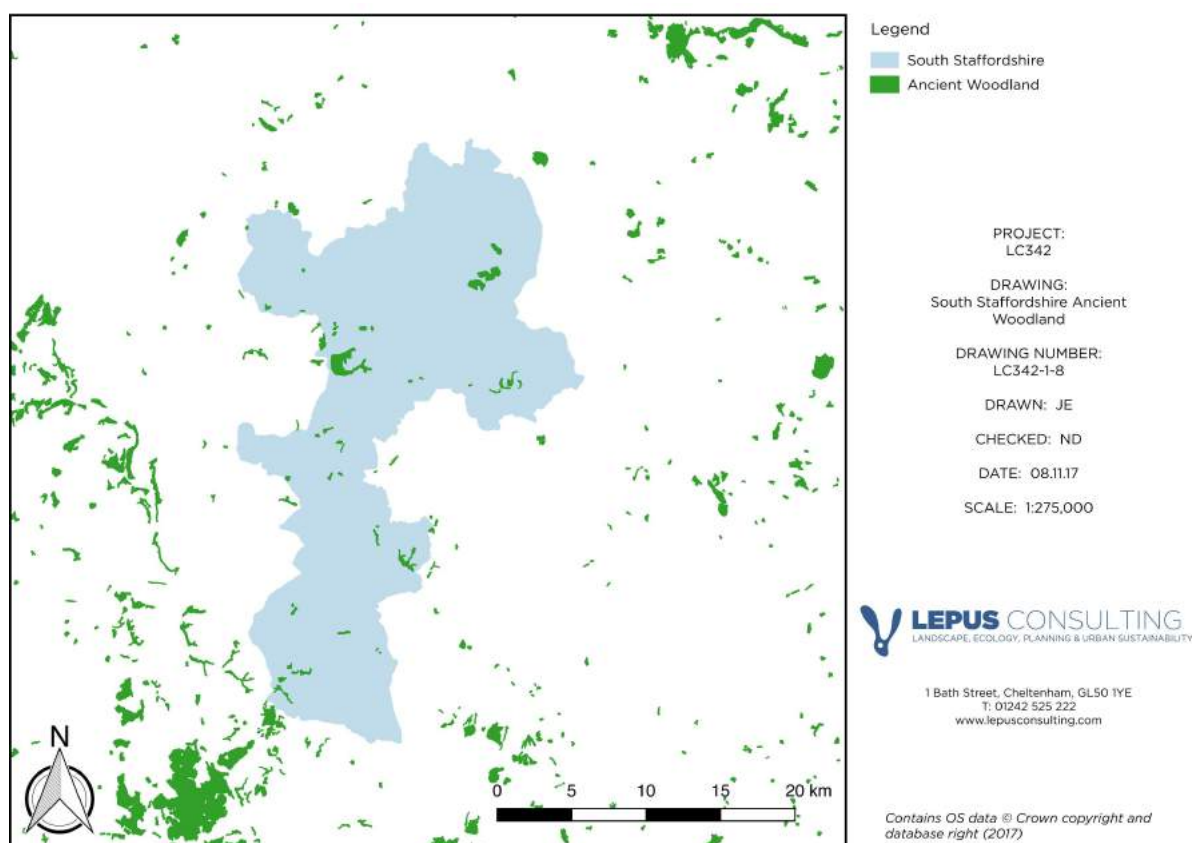


Figure 5.4: Ancient Woodland in South Staffordshire

Box 5.1: Key Biodiversity and Geodiversity Issues for South Staffordshire

- There are a number of internationally, nationally and locally designated sites of biological and geological importance in the district.
- Important sites and habitats may be affected by development through a number of pathways, including fragmentation, recreational pressure and/or pollution.
- Most of the district falls within IRZs of one or more SSSIs.
- It is essential that there is a coherent ecological network of habitats that enable the free movement of species and gene exchange.
- It will be necessary to ensure that there will be no likely significant effects of the LPR on Motte Meadows SAC or Cannock Chase SAC via a Habitat Regulations Assessment.

Box 5.2: Future evolution of the baseline without the LPR

- Sites designated for their national and international biodiversity and/or geodiversity value will continue to benefit from legislative protection.
- Biodiversity and wildlife sites would be likely to continue to benefit from the Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan by increasing in extent, resilience and quality.
- Potential negative impacts on locally designated sites which benefit from local planning policy framework.

6 Climate Change

6.1 Summary of policy, plan and programme review

- 6.1.1 Climate-related PPPs focus on both mitigating the causes of climate change and adapting to the effects of climate change. Commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions have been introduced from the international level to the sub-regional level. The PPPs address policy development across all sectors and at all levels, combining both demand management (reduced energy consumption and increased efficiency of use) and supply-side measures (low carbon options including fuel mix and renewables). A number of the PPPs state specific targets to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. This is led at the national level by the Climate Change Act (2008), which sets a legally binding target of at least a 34% cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 and at least an 80% cut by 2050 against a 1990 baseline.
- 6.1.2 Climate change and energy efficiency policies, plans and programmes to encourage sustainable development are set out by central government. The national Building Regulations, as updated March 2015, require certain levels of sustainable construction to be met and provide guidance on additional, optional regulations for water and access. The UK Government has outlined, through the Localism Act, the importance of sustainable development and its commitments to reducing carbon emissions and greenhouse gases. The Climate Change Act 2008 should also be considered which sets the national carbon reduction targets along with the UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009).
- 6.1.3 Adaptation measures proposed by the PPPs include a presumption against development in flood risk areas, appropriate design of new development, the promotion of new infrastructure such as sustainable urban drainage systems and improved maintenance to help address the changes that are likely to occur as a result of climate change. Through this approach the Government is seeking to ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages of the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to direct development away from areas of highest risk.

6.2 Baseline data

Potential effects of climate change

- 6.2.1 Anthropogenic climate change is predominantly the result of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. GHGs are emitted from a wide variety of sources, including transport, construction, agriculture and waste. Typically, development leads to an increase in GHG emissions in the local area unless specific efforts are made to help reduce GHG emissions and increase the use of sustainably sourced materials and energy.
- 6.2.2 Emissions could potentially continue to rise should development proposed in the LPR not be as low carbon as possible. It will therefore be an important role of the LPR to promote sustainable development and construction methods, and support low carbon energy sources.
- 6.2.3 In June 2009 the outcome of research on the probable effects of climate change in the UK was released by the UK Climate Projections (UKCP09) team²². UKCP09 gives climate information for the UK up to the end of this century and projections of future changes to the climate are provided, based on simulations from climate models. Projections of a probabilistic form illustrate the potential range of changes in temperature and precipitation in the region containing South Staffordshire by the year 2050 under a medium emissions scenario²³ (see **Table 6.1**).
- 6.2.4 **Figure 6.1 – Figure 6.3** are a series of graphs which illustrate UKCP09 information for the West Midlands region of England over a wider timescale to the end of the century. This is presented in five (10%, 33%, 50%, 67% and 90%) probability levels for each 30-year time period.

²² UK Climate Projections. Accessed on 22/07/16. Available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.defra.gov.uk/>

²³ UK Climate Projections (2014) 2050s medium emissions scenario. Accessed on 10/10/16. Available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/23907?emission=medium>

Table 6.1: Potential range of changes in temperature and precipitation in the region containing South Staffordshire by the year 2050 under a medium emissions scenario²⁴

	Very unlikely to be less than an increase of	Central estimate increase of	Very unlikely to be more than an increase of
Winter Mean Temperature	1.2 °C	2.1 °C	3.2 °C
Summer Mean Temperature	1.2 °C	2.6 °C	4.4 °C
Summer Mean Daily Maximum Temperature	1.3 °C	3.6 °C	6.5 °C
Summer Mean Daily Minimum Temperature	1.1 °C	2.7 °C	4.8 °C
Annual Mean Precipitation	-5%	0%	6%
Winter Mean Precipitation	2%	13%	27%
Summer Mean Precipitation	-37%	-17%	6%

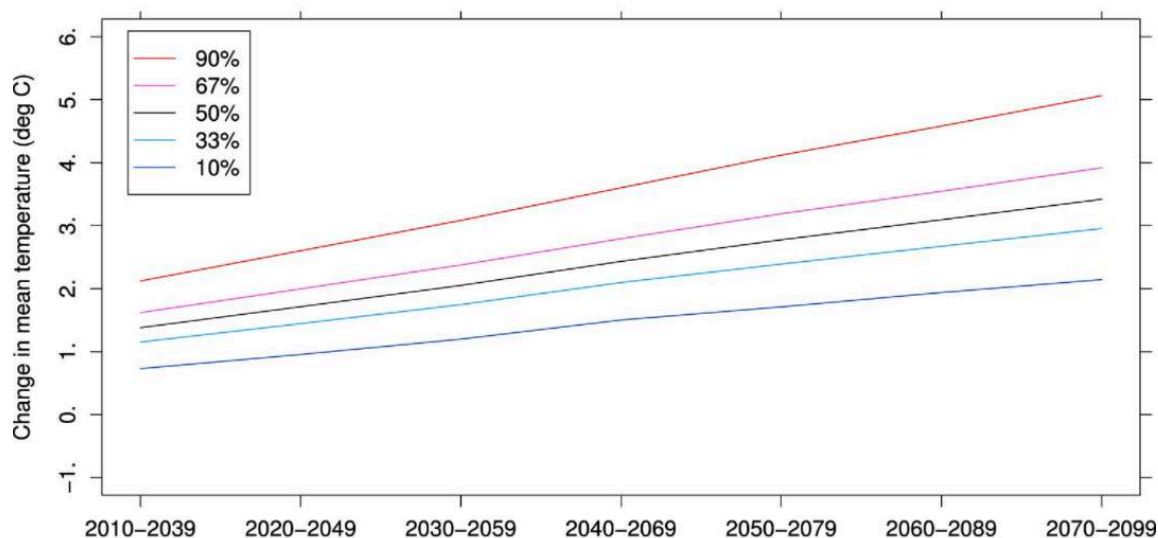


Figure 6.1: Changes in annual mean temperature in the West Midlands region of England to 2099 as a result of a medium emissions scenario²⁵

²⁴ UK Climate Projections (2014) 2050s medium emissions scenario. Accessed on 10/10/16. Available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/23907?emission=medium>

²⁵ UK Climate Projections (2014) West Midlands England. Accessed on 08/11/16. Available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/21708>

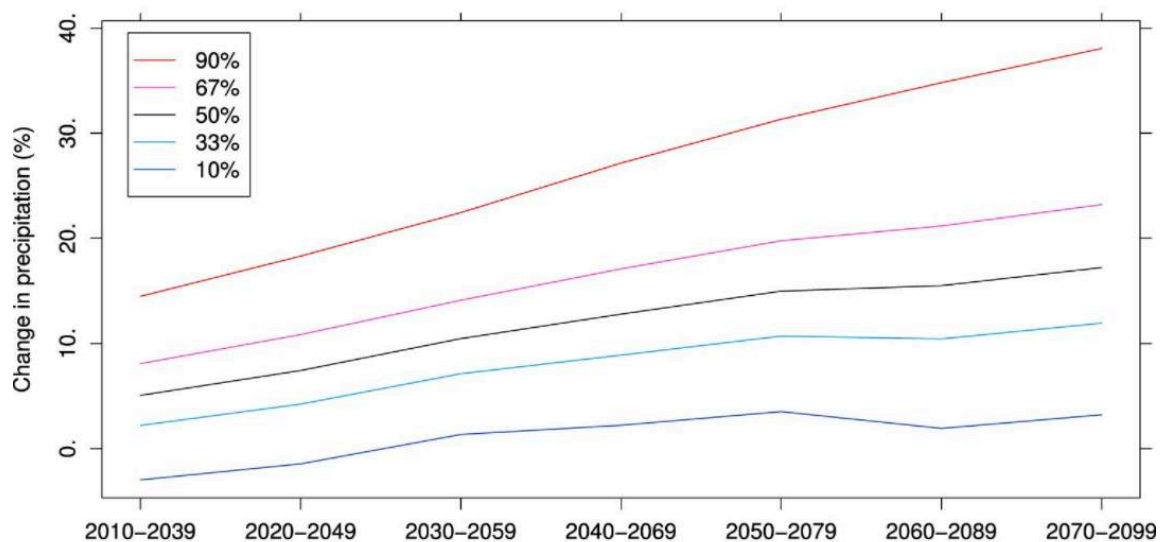


Figure 6.2: Changes in winter mean precipitation in the West Midlands region of England to 2099 as a result of a medium emissions scenario²⁶

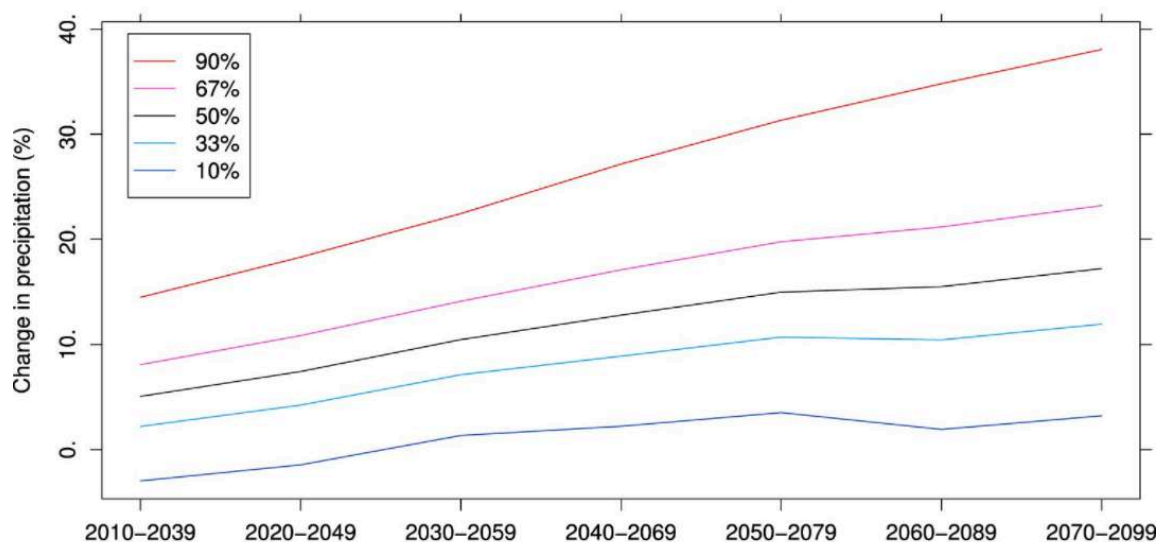


Figure 6.3: Changes in summer mean precipitation in the West Midlands region of England to 2099 as a result of a medium emissions scenario²⁷

²⁶ UK Climate Projections (2014) West Midlands. Accessed on 08/11/16. Available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/21708>

²⁷ UK Climate Projections (2014) West Midlands. Accessed on 08/11/16. Available at: <http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/21708>

Carbon emissions

- 6.2.5 Energy consumption per capita in South Staffordshire is greater than in any other district in Staffordshire, apart from Staffordshire Moorlands, primarily because of the energy used for transport purposes²⁸ (see **Table 6.2**). Annual emissions (ktCO₂/year) in South Staffordshire are the third largest in the county.
- 6.2.6 The requirement to improve the energy efficiency of homes stems from the legal requirements to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions set out in the Climate Change Act 2008 and the government's Carbon Plan, published in 2011. The Carbon Plan sets to reduce greenhouse gas CO₂ emissions by 29% by 2017, 35% by 2022, and 50% by 2027 – for buildings this means a reduction of between 24% and 39% compared to 2009 levels by 2027.
- 6.2.7 The significant majority of carbon emissions in South Staffordshire are from the transport sector (see **Table 6.3**). Total carbon emissions in the district have been decreasing slowly between 2011 and 2014. In that time, there has been a slight decrease in industry and commerce carbons emissions, a significant decrease in domestic sourced carbon emissions and a minor increase in transport associated emissions.

Table 6.2: Total and per capita emissions in the South Staffordshire and other authorities of the West Midlands²⁹

Area	Total emissions (ktCO ₂)	Population estimate	Per capita emissions (tCO ₂)
Staffordshire	6,345	860,200	7.4
South Staffordshire	931.1	110,700	8.4
Cannock Chase	430.8	98,500	4.4
East Staffordshire	826.8	115,700	7.1
Lichfield	688.7	102,100	6.7
Newcastle-under-Lyme	810	126,100	6.4
Stafford	1,061.2	132,200	8.0
Staffordshire Moorlands	1,265.7	97,800	12.9
Tamworth	331.5	77,100	4.3

²⁸ CAMCO (2010) Staffordshire County-wide Renewable / Low Carbon Energy Study

²⁹ ONS (2016) UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions and national statistics 2005 – 2014 . Available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2014> . Accessed 08.11.17

Table 6.3: Emissions by sector for each year from 2011 - 2014³⁰

Sector	Industry & commerce	Domestic	Transport	Total
2011	220.0	226.4	512.7	964.8
2012	225.8	242.2	516.1	989.0
2013	232.1	236.8	511.3	984.5
2014	213.5	199.8	514.9	931.1

Flooding

- 6.2.8 Climate change is anticipated to increase the risk of extreme weather events. Of particular concern in the UK is the rising risk of fluvial, pluvial (surface water) and coastal flooding. In 2009 the EA estimated 2.4 million properties in England were susceptible to fluvial and/or coastal flooding, whilst 3.8 million properties in England were susceptible to pluvial flooding. A complex network of waterways course through the district (see **Figure 6.4**). Associated with these waterways are differing extents of fluvial flood risk (see **Figure 6.5**). The significant majority of the district is within Flood Zone 1, where the risk of fluvial flooding each year is 0.1 – 0.01%.
- 6.2.9 Staffordshire County Council is the Lead Local Flood Authority for the district, and ever since the Pitt Review of 2008 has new powers and statutory duties to manage and co-ordinate flood risk.
- 6.2.10 More local potential sources of flooding include groundwater flooding, which is the surcharging of the underground sewer system, the blockage of culverts and gullies (which results in overland flow), and surface water flooding.

³⁰ ONS (2016) UK local authority and regional carbon dioxide emissions and national statistics 2005 – 2014 . Available online at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-local-authority-and-regional-carbon-dioxide-emissions-national-statistics-2005-2014> . Accessed 08.11.17

Green Infrastructure

- 6.2.11 Green infrastructure (GI) is a network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities³¹. GI has many benefits including human health, climate change adaptation and wildlife value³². GI can play an important role in helping urban areas adapt to climate change, by reducing airborne pollutants, providing shade and local cooling and reducing surface water runoff³³.
- 6.2.12 South Staffordshire has an extensive GI network, including LNRs, LWS, SSSIs, SPAs, SACs (see **Chapter 5**), allotments, playing fields and parks. GI in the Plan area should be protected and increased where possible.

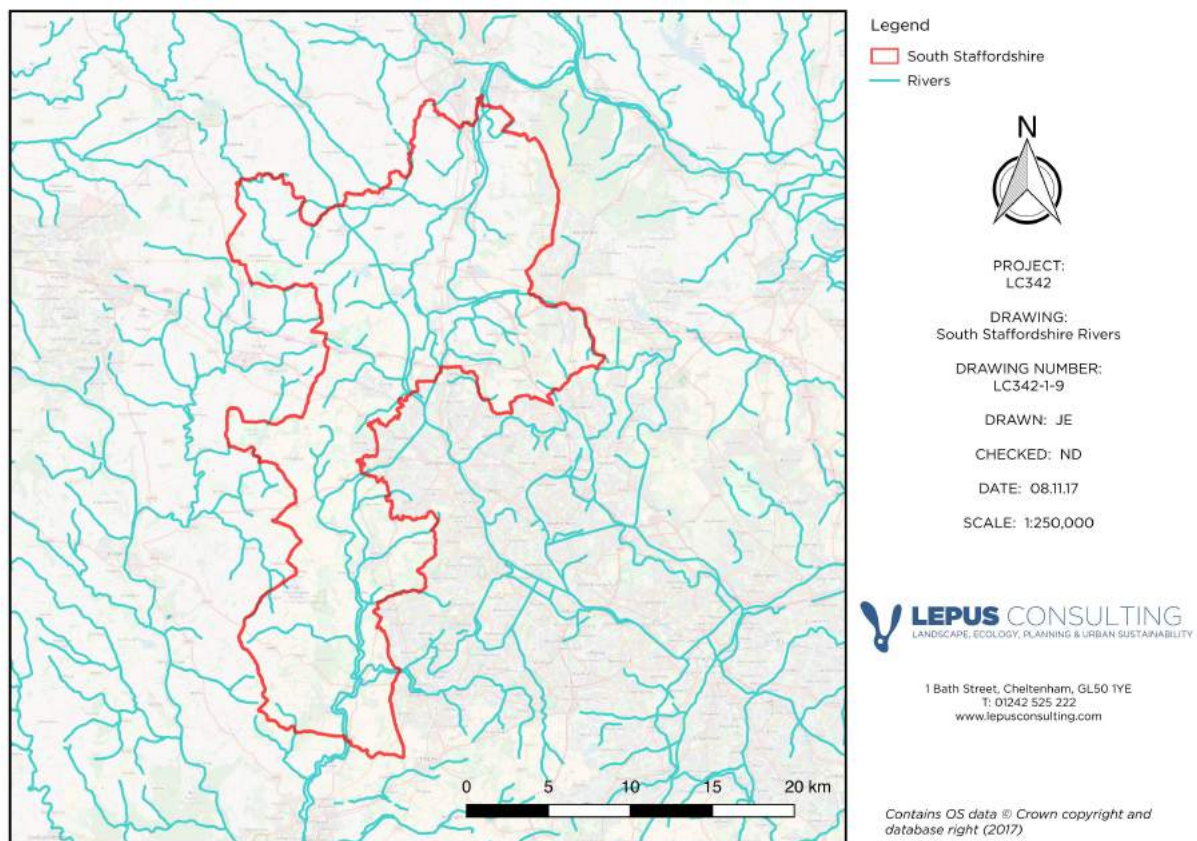


Figure 6.4: Main waterways of South Staffordshire. Waterways in the district include the River Stour, Shropshire Union Canal Main Line, River Penk and Saredon Brook.

³¹ DCLG (2012) National Planning Policy Framework. Accessed on 10/10/16. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf

³² Forest Research (2010). Benefits of green infrastructure.

³³ Landscape Institute (2013) Green Infrastructure: An integrated approach to land use.

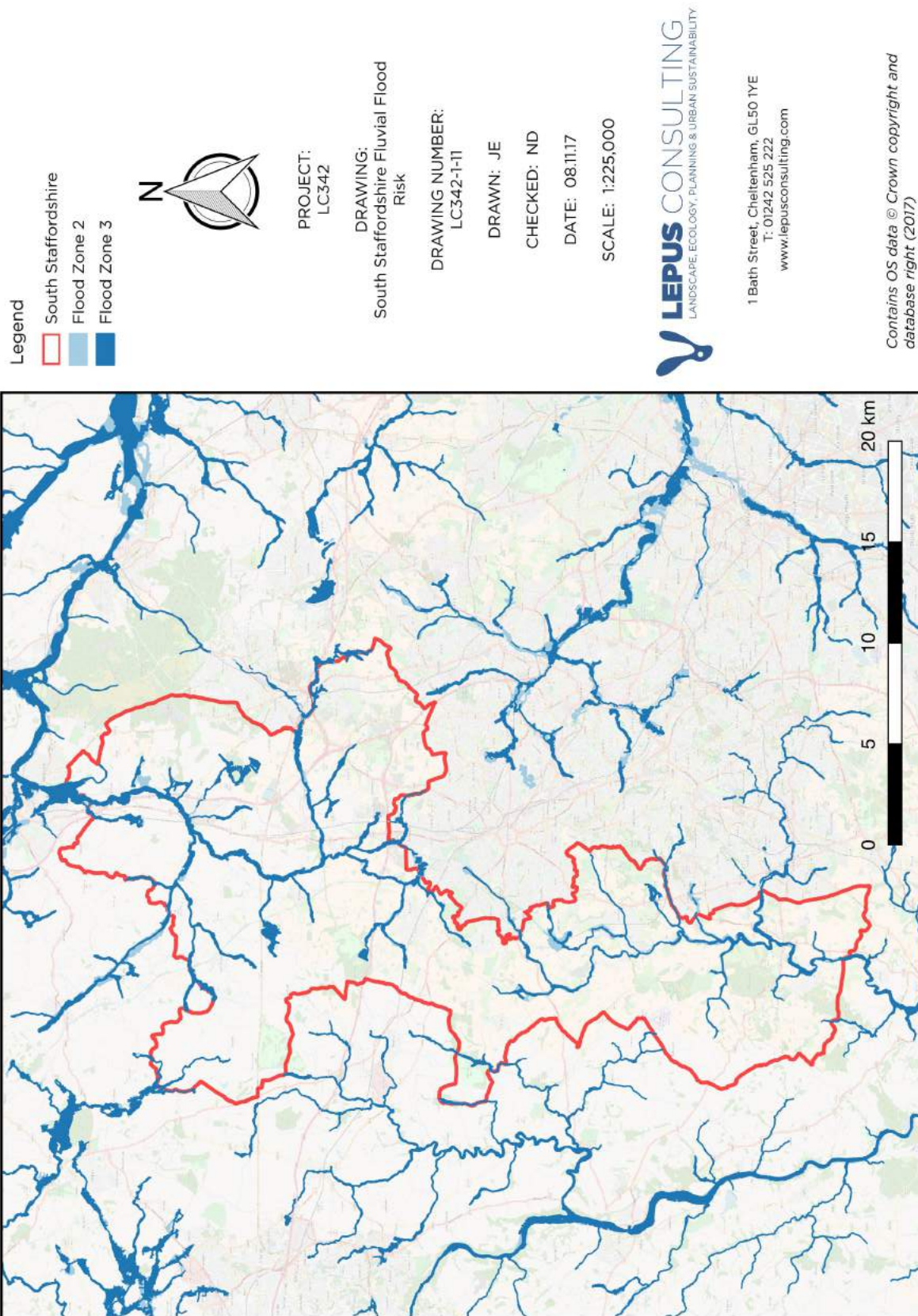


Figure 6.5: Fluvial flood risk in South Staffordshire. Flood Zone 3 could potentially be 3a, where flood risk is 1/30 years – 1/100 years, or 3b, where flood risk is greater than 1/30 years

Box 6.1: Key Climate Change Issues for South Staffordshire

- Climate change has the potential to increase the risk of fluvial and surface water flooding.
- A range of further risks linked to climate change may affect South Staffordshire. These include: an increased incidence of heat related illnesses and deaths during the summer; increased risk of injuries and deaths due to storm events and flooding; adverse effect on water quality due to raised water levels and turbulent flow after heavy rain and reduced flow and increased sedimentation following drought; over-capacity sewers; biodiversity loss; an increased move by the insurance industry towards a more risk-based approach to insurance underwriting, leading to higher cost premiums for local business; and loss of soil fertility combined with an increase in soil erosion.
- Carbon emissions from transport in South Staffordshire have increased between 2011 and 2014.
- Whilst per capita carbon emissions may be in decline, if more concerted efforts for sustainably sourced energy and materials are not made then total carbon emissions would be likely to increase further following the development proposed in the LPR.
- GI should be enhanced and expanded.
- New development needs to incorporate energy efficiency measures and climate change adaptive features in order to respond to predicted levels of climate change.

Box 6.2: Future evolution of the baseline without the LPR

- It is anticipated that the risk of fluvial flooding is likely to increase as a result of climate change.
- The risk of surface water flooding will depend on the size, nature and extent of non-porous built surface cover in the Plan area in the future.
- Per capita emissions would be likely to decrease over time as renewable energy increases its market share.

7 Economic Factors

7.1 Summary of policy, plan and programme review

- 7.1.1 The improvement and maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment are key aims of the strategies at UK and European levels. Other objectives include improvements to the education system to increase the skill levels of both children and adults, as well as improved productivity and innovation, particularly with regards to technology.
- 7.1.2 At a regional and local level, emphasis is placed on community cohesion and regeneration; building business and enterprise, developing skills and employment, supporting strategic infrastructure requirements and promoting investment.

7.2 Baseline data

- 7.2.1 A greater proportion of the population of South Staffordshire are of working age (16 – 64) than in Great Britain as a whole (see **Table 7.1**). Additionally, the percentage of those of working age in South Staffordshire that are either employees or self-employed is greater than the percentage seen in Great Britain on the whole. The proportion of those aged 16-64 that are economically inactive is therefore significantly less in South Staffordshire than it is in Great Britain on the whole.

Table 7.1: Percentage of the population which is of working age (16 – 64) and the percentage of the working age population which is either employed or a self-employee³⁴

Area	Working population	Employees and self-employed	Economically inactive of 16-64
South Staffordshire	59.4%	74.1%	20.7%
Black Country	51.9%	65.1%	26.1%
Great Britain	57.7%	69.8%	23.5%

³⁴ Office for National Statistics (2011) 2011 Census data

7.2.2 **Table 7.1** suggests that employment prospects in South Staffordshire are generally very good. Furthermore, the proportion of those in South Staffordshire employed as managers, directors and senior officials is greater than the proportion seen in Great Britain on the whole (see **Table 7.2**).

Table 7.2: Job profiles according to 2011 census data

Area	South Staffordshire (%)	Black Country (%)	Great Britain (%)
Managers, directors and senior officials	16.3	8.5	10.0
Professional occupations	16.4	14.1	19.2
Associate profession and tech occupations	14.9	11.4	14.0
Administrative and secretarial occupations	12.5	12.6	11.1
Skilled trades occupations	8.0	11.9	10.8
Caring, leisure and other service	10.1	9.4	9.1
Sales and customer service occupations	5.3	10.1	8.1
Process, plant and machine operatives	8.0	9.0	6.4
Elementary occupations	7.6	12.3	10.9

7.2.3 Manufacturing, education and health are the largest proportion of jobs in the district, with each employing over 3,000 people. The proportion of employment in the district which is in manufacturing and construction is significantly higher than the British average, whilst financial and business services are under-represented in the district.

7.2.4 In 2012, a total of 3,700 businesses operated in the district. Average internet speeds in the district is 6.7mbps, with 18% of the population operating on 2mbps or less.

7.2.5 **Table 7.3** shows that the percentage of residents with NVQ qualifications in the district are higher than the regional and national percentages. The percentage of South Staffordshire residents with no qualifications is lower than the regional and national percentage.

Table 7.3: Highest level of qualification in South Staffordshire³⁵

Qualification	South Staffordshire (%)	W. Midlands region (%)	Great Britain (%)
NVQ4 and above	35.2	31.5	38.2
NVQ3 and above	50.4	49.7	56.9
NVQ2 and above	75.8	68.2	74.3
NVQ1 and above	88.3	79.9	85.3
No Qualifications	7.7	11.8	8.0

Employment Land

7.2.6 South Staffordshire is considered to have approximately 380ha of employment stock/land known to the Council, of which 215ha is spread across four strategic sites³⁶. Of this, the Council is estimated to have approximately 46ha of employment land available for development, including some 35ha at the strategic sites. In addition, the Council is proposing to allocate an additional 62ha of employment land at i54 and ROF Featherstone through the Site Allocations Document. This reflects the cross boundary significance of these employment sites, with i54 in particular being a focus for advanced manufacturing. This has seen a number of number of large international companies move onto i54, including the JLR engine plant and aerospace company Moog.

³⁵ NOMIS (2016) Labour Market Profile – South Staffordshire Accessed on 11/10/16. Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157289/report.aspx>

³⁶ Warwick Economics and Development (2012) Employment Land Study, South Staffordshire 2012, Final Report

Box 7.1: Key Economic factors Issues for South Staffordshire

- Employment prospects for existing and new residents are very good and better than for Great Britain overall, with a high salary also achievable and relatively common in South Staffordshire.
- NVQ qualifications in the district are generally higher than regional and national percentages.
- The proportion of 16-24 year olds that are economically inactive is less than the proportion for Great Britain overall.
- Customer service and sales occupations are somewhat underrepresented in the district.
- The proportion of those who are employed in the district who have managerial roles is greater than the proportion for Great Britain overall.

Box 7.2: Future evolution of the baseline without the LPR

- The number of jobs in the district is expected to increase based on current trend data.
- The number of businesses is expected to increase.
- Increasing lack of available supply of employment land to meet local and wider market demand.

8 Health

8.1 Summary of policy, plan and programme review

8.1.1 Health related PPPs focus on improving rates of infant mortality and life expectancy; reducing work related illness and accidents; significantly improving levels of sport and physical activity, particularly among disadvantaged groups; promoting healthier modes of travel; supporting the public to make healthier and more informed choices in regards to their health; improving accessibility to healthcare and leisure/recreational facilities; and reducing health inequalities, particularly for children and older people.

8.2 Baseline data

8.2.1 The health and wellbeing of residents in South Staffordshire is generally very good, with the district performing better than the England average for several key health indicators (see **Table 8.1**).

8.2.2 Given the age profile in the district (see **Chapter 13**) South Staffordshire may be expected to have a relatively high rate of chronic or life limiting illnesses. Approximately 18.7% of the South Staffordshire population is considered to have a limiting long term illness, which equates to 20,210 residents and which is slightly greater than the 17.6% national average. Approximately 0.9% of South Staffordshire's population, or 850 people, have dementia, which is a slightly larger proportion than the 0.7% national average³⁷.

³⁷ South Staffordshire Council – South Staffordshire Locality Profile 2017

Table 8.1: Health statistics for South Staffordshire in comparison with the England average³⁸

	Deprivation score (IMD) (2015)	Male life expectancy (yrs)	Female life expectancy (yrs)	Suicide rate (per 100,000)	Physically active adults (%)	Adults of excess weight (%)
South Staffordshire	12.5	80.3	84	9	60.1	68.1
England	21.8	79.5	83.1	10.1	57	64.8

8.2.3 Obesity is something of an issue in the district, with 20.9% of children in Year 6 classed as obese and 69.1% of adults considered to be of excess weight. In 2016, life expectancy for women in the most deprived areas of the district was 6.2 years lower than for women in the least deprived areas³⁹.

GP surgeries and NHS hospital

8.2.4 It is important that residents have access to GP surgeries and hospitals. Ideally, residents should be able to walk to their nearest GP surgery within approximately ten minutes, whilst a hospital within 8km would be considered to be relatively accessible. Where distances to important health services are long, sustainable transport modes such as frequent and affordable bus routes should be available to residents.

8.2.5 There are no hospitals located within the District and residents therefore rely on services in neighbouring areas, including:

- Corbett NHS hospital, Stourbridge;
- Kidderminster NHS Hospital, Kidderminster;
- West Midlands Hospital, private, Halesowen;
- Russells Hall NHS Hospital, Dudley;
- Nuffield Health Wolverhampton Hospital, private, Tettenhall;
- West Park NHS Hospital, Wolverhampton;
- New Cross NHS Hospital, Wolverhampton;
- County Hospital, Stafford; and
- Cannock NHS Hospital, Cannock.

³⁸ Public Health England (2017) South Staffordshire District Health Profile 2017, 4 July 2017. Available online at: <http://fingertipsreports.phe.org.uk/health-profiles/2016/e07000196.pdf>. Accessed 09.11.17

³⁹ Public Health England (2016) South Staffordshire District Health Profile 2016, 6 September 2016. Available online at: <http://fingertipsreports.phe.org.uk/health-profiles/2016/e07000196.pdf>. Accessed 09.11.17

- 8.2.6 There are GP surgeries and medical practices throughout the district, including those in Wombourne, Kinver, Penkridge, Codsall, Bilbrook, Brewood and elsewhere. Generally, it is considered that being within 800m or a ten minute walk of a GP surgery would constitute having good access to your GP⁴⁰. Whilst there are a large number of GP surgeries throughout the district, given the rural nature of the local area and the dispersed pattern of settlements, new residents could potentially have relatively limited access to GP facilities.

Greenspaces and natural habitats

- 8.2.7 Exposure to a diverse range of natural habitats is significantly beneficial for physical and mental health and well-being. Good access to green/recreational areas can reduce stress, fatigue, anxiety and depression⁴¹. Good access to greenspaces is associated with healthy fetal growth in pregnant women, higher birth weights, healthy microbiomes in babies and reduced rates of obesity and Type 2 diabetes. Impacts of access to the natural environment are particularly significant for lower socio-economic groups. Providing residents with sustainable access to a diverse range of natural habitats is a potentially effective means of reducing health inequalities in the district. The local PROW network in the district offers residents with access into the countryside, which provides an open and rural landscape of natural habitats. In addition to this, there are a wide variety of public greenspaces in the district (see **Figure 8.1**), including parks, golf courses, allotments and playgrounds.

Leisure Centres

- 8.2.8 It is generally considered that being within 2km of a leisure centre is adequate to allow frequent use of the leisure facilities. Leisure centres in the district include Cheslyn Hay Leisure Centre, Codsall Leisure Centre, Penkridge Leisure Centre and Wombourne Leisure Centre. The Council offers discounted memberships for people in receipt of specific benefits. They also run a twelve week programme called Forward to Health for residents with medical conditions.

⁴⁰ Barton, H., Grant, M. & Guise, R. (2010) Shaping Neighbourhoods: For local health and global sustainability, January 2010

⁴¹ Houlden, V., Weich, S. and Jarvis, S. (2017) A cross-sectional analysis of green space prevalence and mental wellbeing in England

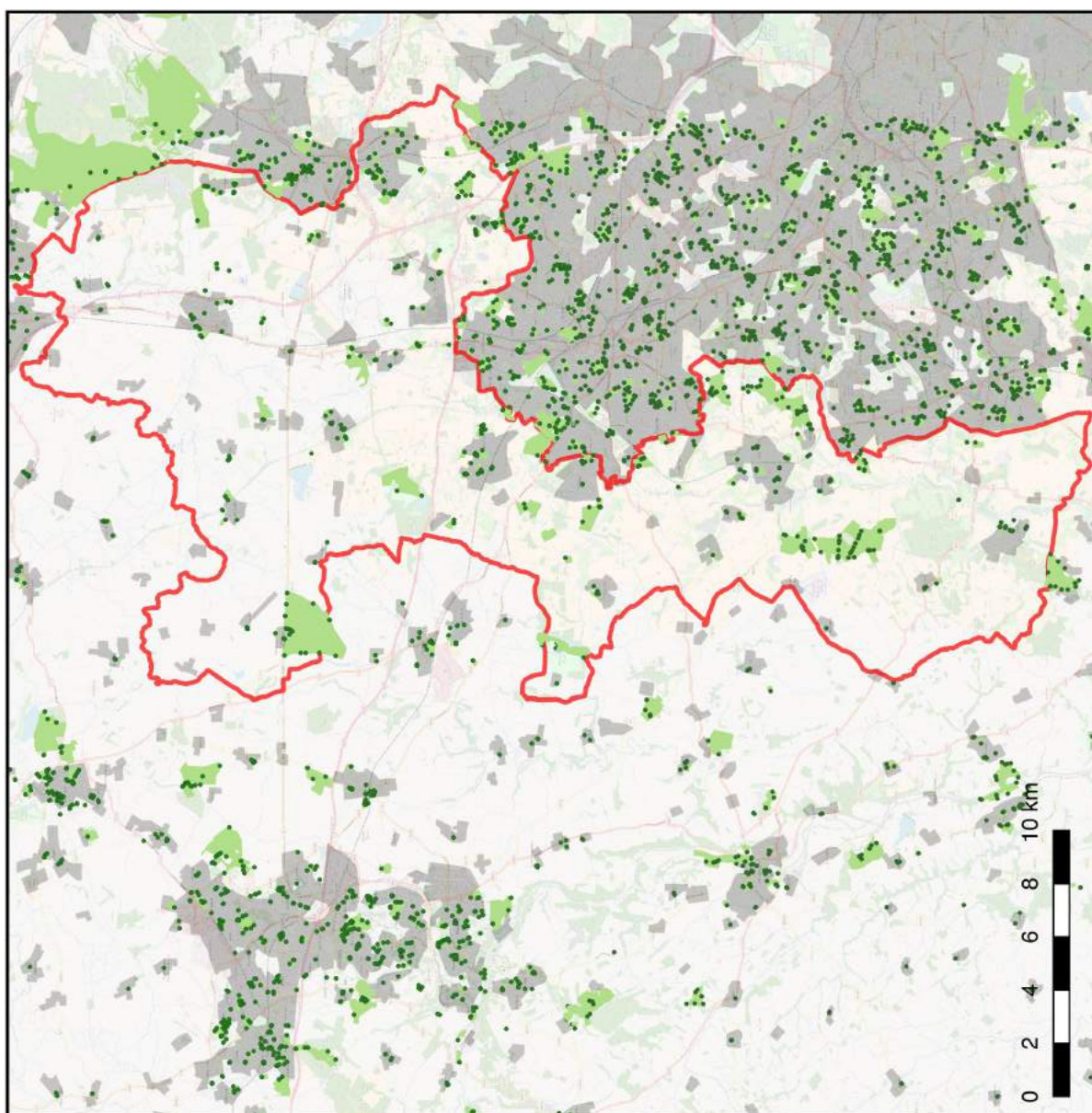
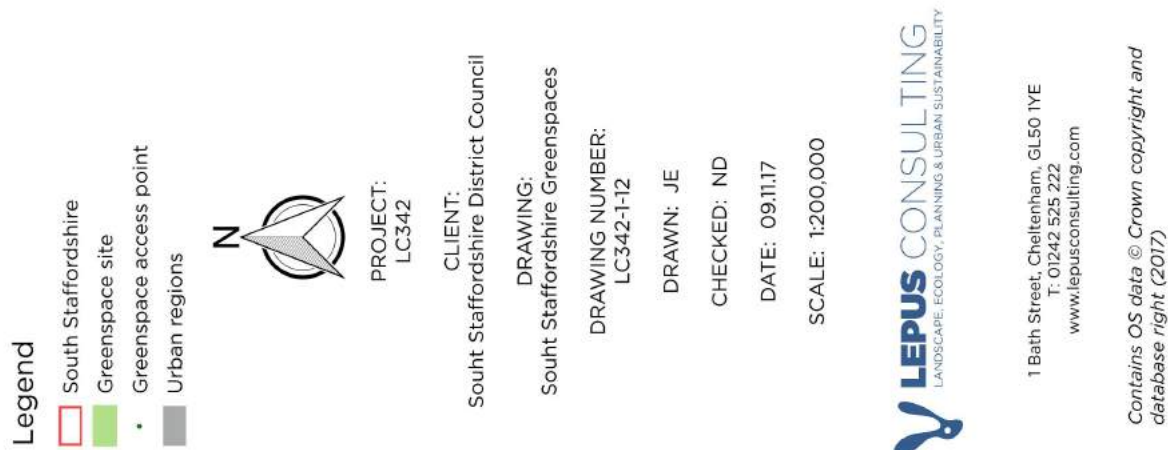


Figure 8.1: Greenspaces in South Staffordshire, including play grounds, sports facilities, allotments, parks and golf courses.

Box 8.1: Key Health Issues for South Staffordshire

- The health of residents is generally very good.
- Residents have excellent access to a range of green and natural habitats.
- Childhood obesity is greater than the national average.
- Access to some health facilities for some residents is potentially relatively limited due to their distance from the facilities and the scarcity of public transport options.

Box 8.2: Future evolution of the baseline without the LPR

- The life expectancy of men and women is anticipated to rise over time.
- Rates of deprivation would be likely to continue to decline.
- Some residents will continue to need to travel relatively far, likely by driving, to reach important health facilities and services.

9 Historic Environment

9.1 Summary of policy, plan and programme review

9.1.1 Historic environment priorities from the international to the local level seek to address a range of issues. These include protecting designated resources and their settings (such as listed buildings, conservation areas, scheduled monuments, and registered parks and gardens); recognising the cultural aspects of landscape and establishing mechanisms for their protection against inappropriate development; recognising the potential value of unknown and undesignated resources; and conserving/enhancing sites and landscapes of archaeological and heritage interest so that they may be enjoyed by both present and future generations.

9.1.2 Regional guidance provides information on the way in which streets and public open spaces are managed in order to reinforce local character, creating a set of general principles for the continuing maintenance and enhancement of space. The local PPPs are in line with the regional, national and international PPPs, providing more specific guidance and information.

9.2 Summary of baseline data

Designated features

9.2.1 The district has a wide range of designated statutory and non-statutory heritage features in the district, including Listed Buildings, Registered Parks and Gardens, Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs), conservation areas and archaeological sites (see **Figure 9.1**). These important heritage assets are protected through the planning system via conditions imposed on developers and other mechanisms. Historic England is the statutory consultee for certain categories of listed building consent and all applications for scheduled monument consent.

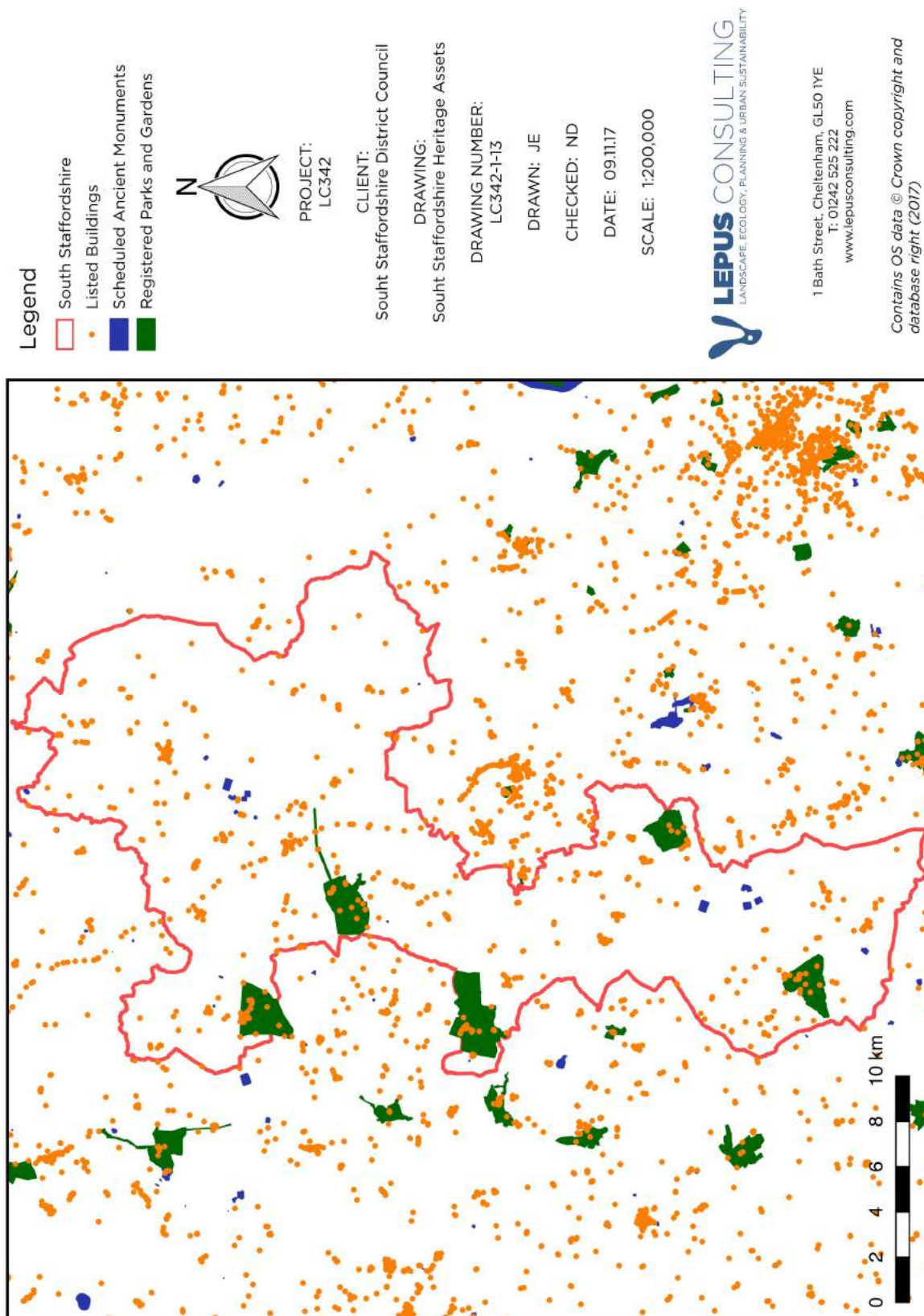


Figure 9.1: Statutory heritage assets in South Staffordshire

- 9.2.2 Listed buildings are those that have been placed on the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. There are 659 listings covering 862 individual buildings in South Staffordshire. In addition to this, the Council manage locally listed buildings. These buildings are not protected under law, but are recognised by the council as having cultural significant for reasons such as age, rarity, historic significant and architectural and are taken into account as a material consideration when determining planning applications
- 9.2.3 The Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest was first published by English Heritage in 1988. Although inclusion on the Register brings no additional statutory controls, registration is a material consideration in planning terms. Parks and gardens are registered as: Grade I, which are parks and gardens deemed to be of international importance; Grade II*, which are parks and gardens deemed to be of exceptional significance; and Grade II, which are deemed to be of sufficiently high level of interest to merit a national designation.
- 9.2.4 Conservation areas are areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. Local authorities have the power to designate conservation areas in any area of 'special architectural or historic interest' whose character or appearance is worth protecting or enhancing. This is judged against local and regional criteria, rather than national importance as is the case with listing. Conservation Area designations increase the planning authority's control over demolition of buildings and over certain alterations to residential properties that would normally be classed as 'permitted development' and not require planning permission. The 19 conservation areas located in South Staffordshire include⁴²:
- Blymhill;
 - Brewood;
 - Chamberlain's Lane, Penn Common;
 - Chillington Estate;
 - Codsall and Oaken;
 - Enville Village and Estate;
 - Himley Village and Parkland;
 - Kinver;

⁴² South Staffordshire District Council (2017) List of conservation areas. Available at: <https://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/planning/conservation-areas.cfm>

- Lapley;
- Lower Penn;
- Pattingham;
- Penkridge;
- Shropshire Union Canal;
- Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal;
- Stourbridge Canal;
- Trysull and Seisdon;
- Weston-under-Lizard Village and Estate;
- Wheaton Aston; and
- Wombourne.

9.2.5 Since 2008, English Heritage has released an annual Heritage at Risk Register. The Heritage at Risk Register highlights the Grade I and Grade II* listed buildings, and SAMs, conservation areas, wreck sites and registered parks and gardens in England deemed to be 'at risk'. In South Staffordshire, this is considered to include⁴³:

- Roman fort west of Eaton House, Brewood and Coven – a Scheduled Monument on private land vulnerable to arable ploughing;
- Roman camp, Kinvaston, Penkridge / Lapley, Stretton and Wheaton Aston – a Scheduled Monument on private land vulnerable to stock erosion; and
- Stable Court at Four Ashes Hall, Four Ashes, Enville – a Grade II* Listed Building owned by a commercial company, in a very bad condition and at immediate risk of further rapid deterioration or loss of fabric with no solution agreed.

Non-designated features

9.2.6 It should be noted that not all of the district's historic environment resource and heritage assets are subject to statutory designations; non-designated features comprise a significant aspect of heritage, which is often experienced on a daily basis by many people – whether at home, work or leisure. Whilst not listed, many buildings and other features are of historic interest. Likewise, not all nationally important archaeological remains are scheduled. There may be unrecorded archaeological artefacts in the area, which have not yet been discovered.

⁴³ Historic England (2017) Heritage at Risk Register, available online at: <https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/heritage-at-risk/search-register/> Accessed 21.11.17

- 9.2.7 The Archaeology Data Service shows 2,452 records of physical archaeological evidence in the county of Staffordshire⁴⁴. This includes records of known features as well as digs and excavations, some of which resulted in archaeological finds.

Box 9.1: Key Historic Environment Issues for South Staffordshire

- Development in the district may have the potential to lead to effects on historic landscapes and cause direct damage to archaeological sites, monuments and buildings and / or their settings.
- Archaeological remains, both seen and unseen could potentially be affected by new development areas.

Box 9.2: Future evolution of the baseline without the LPR

- Nationally designated heritage assets will continue to benefit from legislative protection.
- Locally identified assets would potentially be afforded less protection.

⁴⁴ Archaeology Data Service (2016) ARCHSEARCH. Available at: <http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/>

10 Housing

10.1 Summary of policy, plan and programme review

10.1.1 National and sub-regional objectives for housing include improvements in housing affordability; high quality housing; a more stable housing market; improved choice; location of housing supply which supports accessibility and patterns of economic development; and an adequate supply of affordable housing.

10.1.2 Plans and strategies focus on the affordability of housing, the location and types of housing required, the quality of housing, access to services, and meeting the specific housing needs of all residents, including those of vulnerable people. The housing needs of older people, disabled people and Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling showpeople in particular are considered by relevant policies.

10.2 Baseline data

Housing stock

10.2.1 The total housing stock in the district in 2014 was 46,175 dwellings⁴⁵, up from the 41,974 dwellings recorded in the 2001 census⁴⁶. A total of 2,450 dwellings were built in the district between 2006 and 2016, and the Council is currently on course to deliver 3,850 dwellings between 2006 and 2028, as set out in the Core Strategy.

⁴⁵ Peter Brett Associates (2017) Strategic Housing Market Assessment, Part 2 – Objectively Assessed Need for Affordable Housing, June 2017

⁴⁶ ONS (2011) Neighbourhood Statistics. Accessed on 12/10/16. Available at: <http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/>

- 10.2.2 Approximately 39% of dwellings in the district are detached, 39.6% are semi-detached, 10.7% are terraced whilst 7.5% are purpose built blocks of flats⁴⁷. The proportion of these homes which have one bedroom is relatively limited in the district, whilst the proportion of homes with four, five or more bedrooms is relatively large (see **Table 10.1**).

Table 10.1: Size of dwelling stock in the district, HMA, West Midlands and England⁴⁸.

Property Size	Housing Market Area	South Staffordshire	West Midlands	England
No bedrooms	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
1 Bedroom	9.6%	5.8%	9.6%	11.8%
2 Bedrooms	24.6%	24.1%	25.3%	27.9%
3 Bedrooms	52.3%	44.5%	47.0%	41.2%
4 Bedrooms	10.7%	20.4%	13.9%	14.4%
5+ Bedrooms	2.5%	4.9%	4.0%	4.6%

House prices

- 10.2.3 The average price of a house in the district in August 2016 was greater than that for neighbouring local authorities, particularly for four bedroom houses (see **Table 10.2**). The average price for any home in the district is £245,545, compared to a UK average of £226,367⁴⁹. The August 2017 affordability ratio for the district of 8.55 indicates that the lower quartile price of a house in South Staffordshire is eight and a half times the annual income. This is greater than the affordability ratio for England, where working people can expect to pay 7.6 times their annual earnings⁵⁰.

⁴⁷ South Staffordshire District Council (2017) South Staffordshire's Locality Profile, 2017. Available at: <https://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/doc/174593/name/Locality%20Data%20Profile%202017%202MB%20V.pdf/>

⁴⁸ Peter Brett Associates (2017) Strategic Housing Market Assessment, Part 2 – Objectively Assessed Need for Affordable Housing, June 2017

⁴⁹ Office for National Statistics (2017) House Price Index, UK: September 2017. Available online at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/bulletins/housepriceindex/september2017>

⁵⁰ Office for National Statistics (2017) Housing affordability in England and Wales: 1997 to 2016, available online at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/bulletins/housingaffordabilityinenglandandwales/1997to2016>

Table 10.2: Average property prices by property size in South Staffordshire and neighbouring local authorities

Property Size	Dudley	Wolverhampton	Sandwell	South Staffordshire
1 bedrooms	£77,950	£68,250	£63,375	£87,250
2 bedrooms	£126,750	£116,950	£107,250	£170,900
3 bedrooms	£156,000	£146,200	£141,375	£209,625
4 bedrooms	£268,125	£258,375	£224,250	£365,625

Affordable housing

10.2.4 Approximately 40.1% of dwellings in the district are owned outright, 35.7% are owned with a mortgage or loan, 0.6% are shared ownership, 1.3% are living rent free whilst the remaining 22.3% are private or social rented properties. The relatively small affordable housing and private rental sectors in the district is a key issue. The SHMA for the HMA⁵¹ recommends that 28.5% of new housing should be affordable to help meet the unmet need for 730 affordable houses.

10.2.5 South Staffordshire Housing Association is the largest provider of affordable housing in the district with a total stock of 5,459 properties. There are currently approximately 227 empty residential properties (over six months empty) in the district. Overcrowding of homes is less of an issue in South Staffordshire than it is in other areas of England whilst under-occupancy is more of an issue (see **Table 10.3**).

Table 10.3: Overcrowding and under-occupation of homes. Concealed households refers to the proportion of households supporting a concealed family i.e. a family which is not the primary family in that household.

	Wolverhampton	South Staffordshire	West Midlands	England
Over-occupied	5.9%	2.2%	4.5%	4.6%
Under-occupied	65%	80%	70%	70%
Concealed households	3.2%	1.4%	2.2%	1.8%

⁵¹ Peter Brett Associates (2017) Strategic Housing Market Assessment, Part 2 – Objectively Assessed Need for Affordable Housing, June 2017

Box 10.1: Key Housing Issues for South Staffordshire

- The house prices in the district are likely to be inhibitive to first time buyers, and small private rental and affordable housing sectors means finding a suitable home within the district can be difficult for many.
- The high proportion of larger properties means under-occupation of existing stock is common, and there is a distinct lack of smaller options available for those looking to downsize or join the housing ladder.
- The rapidly ageing population has created a substantial need for specialist and supported housing both now, and in the future
- There will be some pressure from neighbouring districts to contribute towards meeting their overspill housing needs.

Box 10.2: Future evolution of the baseline without the LPR

- House prices are expected to increase.
- Less control over location of future housing including increased pressure on the areas of open countryside.
- Provision of affordable and specialist housing likely to be negatively impacted, as well as an inability to better balance the housing market through provision of more smaller homes.
- Less opportunity to enhance community benefits associated with plan-led housing proposals.
- Less ability to refine the housing stock to meet the changing demands of existing residents such as provision of elderly specific housing accommodation.

11 Landscape and Townscape

11.1 Summary of policy, plan and programme review

11.1.1 At the European, national, regional and local levels emphasis is placed on the protection of landscape as an essential component of people's surroundings and sense of place. The PPPs seek to increase recognition of the linkages and interplay between the different aspects and roles of landscape, including: local distinctiveness; the historic environment; natural resources; farming, forestry and food; educational, leisure and recreation opportunities; transport and infrastructure; settlements and nature conservation.

11.1.2 The link between landscapes and a range of other aspects is provided with a close focus by the PPPs' focus on GI provision. In this respect policies advocate the provision of open space, green networks and woodland as opportunities for sport and recreation, creating healthier communities, supporting and enhancing biodiversity, reducing temperatures in built up areas in summer, reducing the impact of noise and air pollution, and limiting the risk of flooding.

11.2 Baseline data

Landscape character

11.2.1 The district is dominated by five landscape character types (see **Table 11.1**).

Table 11.1: Landscape character types of South Staffordshire⁵²

Landscape Character Type	Key features
Settled Plateau Farmland Slopes LCT	Intensive arable and pasture farming, large scale field pattern with well-trimmed hedgerows, rolling landform, well treed stream corridors, red brick farms, narrow winding lanes and small woodlands.
Ancient Redlands LCT	Hedgerow field pattern with mature hedgerow oaks and some ash, broadleaved woodland, rolling landform, narrow and sunken lanes, steep and sandy slopes, well treed stream corridors and field ponds, parkland and pasture farming, red brick farm houses and straight lanes.
Ancient Clay Farmlands LCT	Mature hedgerow oaks and strong hedgerow patterns; narrow winding lanes, often sunken; small broadleaved and conifer woodlands; well treed stream and canal corridors; hedgerow damsons; occasional native black poplars; numerous farmsteads, cottages, villages and hamlets of traditional red brick; a gently rolling landform with stronger slopes in places; dispersed settlement pattern.
Settled Heathlands LCT	Interlocking woodlands and woodland edges; flat landform; straight roads; canal; relic heathland; well-defined hedgerows and numerous hedgerow trees; Staffordshire red brick rural villages.
Sandstone Estatelands LCT	Silver birch woodlands; well treed stream corridors; straight roads; intensive arable agriculture in an open remnant field pattern.

National Character Areas

11.2.2 Natural England has divided England into 159 distinct natural areas called National Character Areas (NCAs). Each is defined by a unique combination of landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, history and cultural and economic activity. Their boundaries follow natural lines in the landscape. South Staffordshire falls within three NCAs, including the Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plain NCA, the Mid Severn Sandstone Plateau NCA and the Cannock Chase and Cank Wood NCA (see **Figure 11.1**).

11.2.3 Some of the key characteristics of the Mid Severn Sandstone Plateau NCA include⁵³:

- Extensive sandstone plateau underpinning an undulating landscape with tree-lined ridges;

⁵² Staffordshire County Council (2000) Planning for Landscape Change, Supplementary planning guidance to the Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent Structure Plan, 1996 – 2001. Volume 3: Landscape Descriptions

⁵³ Natural England (2013) NCA Profile: 66 Mid Severn Sandstone Plateau (NE472) Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5001578805198848?category=587130>

- Permian and Triassic sandstones forming an important aquifer;
- Slightly acid, mineral, free draining soils which historically support extensive heathland and grassland;
- The main river is the fast flowing Severn, flowing north to south in the west of the NCA through steep, wooded gorges;
- Interlocking blocks of mixed woodland and old orchards;
- Large, open arable fields with a weak hedgerow pattern on the plateau contrasting with mixed and arable pasture on smaller, irregular shaped fields;
- Lowland heathland associated with acid grassland and woodland; and
- Coalfield remnant landscape.

11.2.4 Some of the key characteristics of the Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plain NCA include⁵⁴:

- Extensive, undulating plain dominated by thick glacial till from the Pleistocene period, producing productive, clay soils;
- Prominent discontinuous sandstone ridges of Triassic age, characterised by steep sides and freely draining, generally infertile soil that supports broadleaved and mixed woodland;
- Few woodlands, confined to the area about Northwich and to estates, cloughs and deciduous and mixed woods on the steeper slopes of the wind-swept sandstone ridges;
- Strong field patterns with generally well-maintained boundaries - predominantly hedgerows with dense, mature hedgerow trees;
- Dairy farming with patches of mixed farming and arable in the north and south east; and
- Diversity of wetland habitats includes internationally important meres and mosses.

⁵⁴ Natural England (2013) NCA Profile: 61 Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plain (NE556) Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6076647514046464?category=587130>

11.2.5 Some of the key characteristics of the Cannock Chase and Cank Wood NCA include⁵⁵:

- A varied landscape ranging from the open heathlands and plantations of Cannock Chase, through towns, reclaimed mining sites and new developments to urban areas;
- Dominant rounded central plateau form of Coal Measure of the South Staffordshire Coalfield, with other prominent hills including Wren's Nest, Castle Hill, Rowley Hills and Barr Beacon;
- Extensive coniferous plantations, woodlands and historic parklands;
- Away from the unenclosed landscape of Cannock Chase, fields generally has a regular pattern and are frequently enclosed by mature hedgerow with some trees;
- Significant tracts of heathland and associated acid grassland;
- Major rivers of Trent and Tame;
- Extensive canal and railway network;
- Industrial archaeology from the industrial revolution; and
- Complex and contrasting settlement pattern, with some dense areas and some sparse.

Green Belt

11.2.6 Approximately 80% of the district is located in the West Midlands Green Belt (see **Figure 9.2**). Whilst the Green Belt is not a statutory landscape designation, it is a significant element of landscape protection in the area. The Green Belt is intended to⁵⁶:

- Check the unrestricted sprawl of larger built-up areas;
- Prevent neighbouring towns from merging into one another;
- Assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
- Preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and
- Assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

Tranquillity

11.2.7 New employment, residential and retail growth can have significant effects on landscape quality, including through impacts of noise pollution, light pollution and broader effects on people's perceptions of tranquillity.

⁵⁵ Natural England (2013) NCA Profile: 67 Cannock Chase and Cank Wood (NE347) Available at: <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6076647514046464?category=587130>

⁵⁶ NPPF (2012) Chapter 9: Protecting Green Belt land. Accessed on 11/10/16. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

- 11.2.8 The district is partially located within the Cannock Chase Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) (see **Figure 11.3**). AONBs are legal designations confirmed under the Countryside and Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000. The CROW Act places a responsibility upon public bodies to:

“Have regard to the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the area of outstanding natural beauty.”

- 11.2.9 Cannock Chase AONB is one of 46 AONBs in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The Cannock Chase AONB Partnership is responsible for fulfilling the statutory duties under the CROW Act. Their most recent management plan for Cannock Chase AONB was published in 2014⁵⁷.

- 11.2.10 Cannock Chase AONB was designated in 1958 for its high landscape quality, scientific interest and recreational value as one of 47 areas listed in the Report of the National Parks committee in 1947. It is predominantly comprised of heathland, coniferous plantation on elevated plateaus of Triassic sandstones and is surrounded by large villages, collieries and historic parkland. It is spread between thirteen parish and town councils, four district and one county local authority and includes three Local Nature Reserves and two working quarries. Approximately 1,237ha of the AONB is designated as a SAC and is protected under the Habitats Directive.

⁵⁷ Cannock Chase AONB Partnership, Defra (2014) Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan 2014 – 2029, Available at: <http://www.cannock-chase.co.uk/assets/downloads/74646AONBmanagementplan2014-19.pdf>

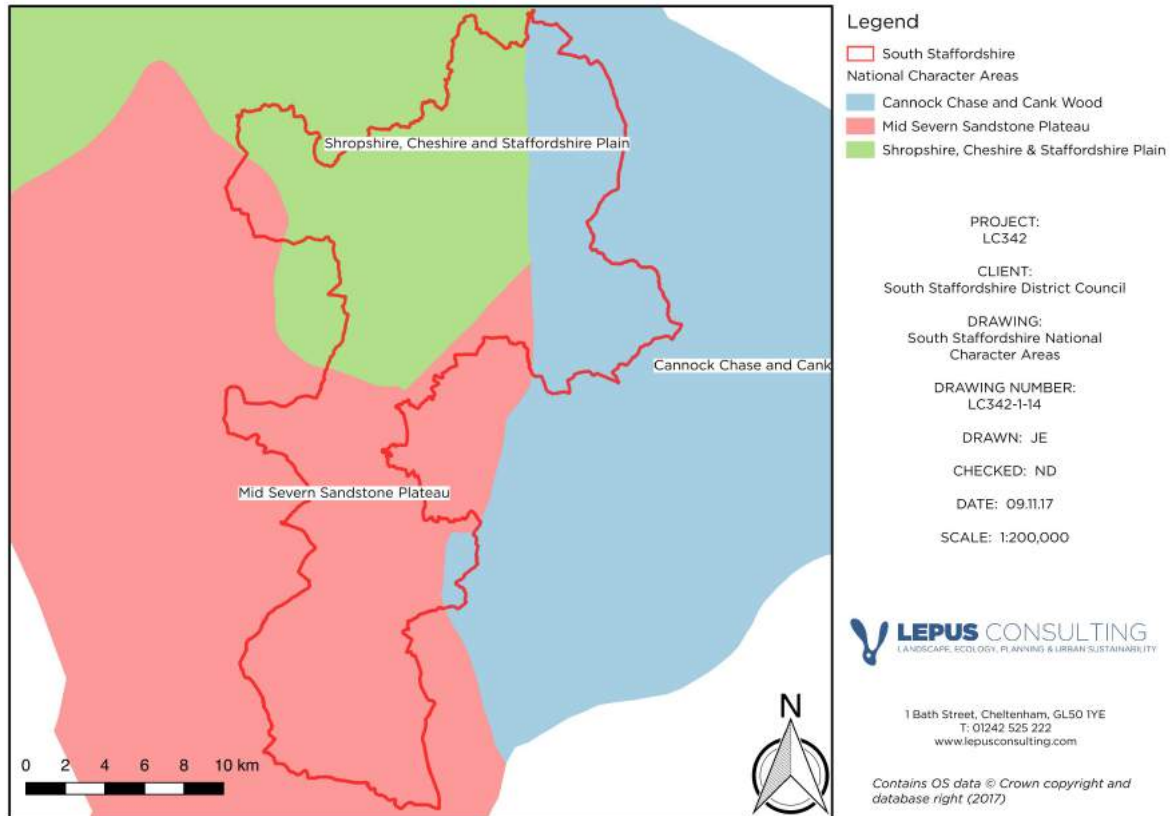


Figure 11.1: South Staffordshire falls into three National Character Areas

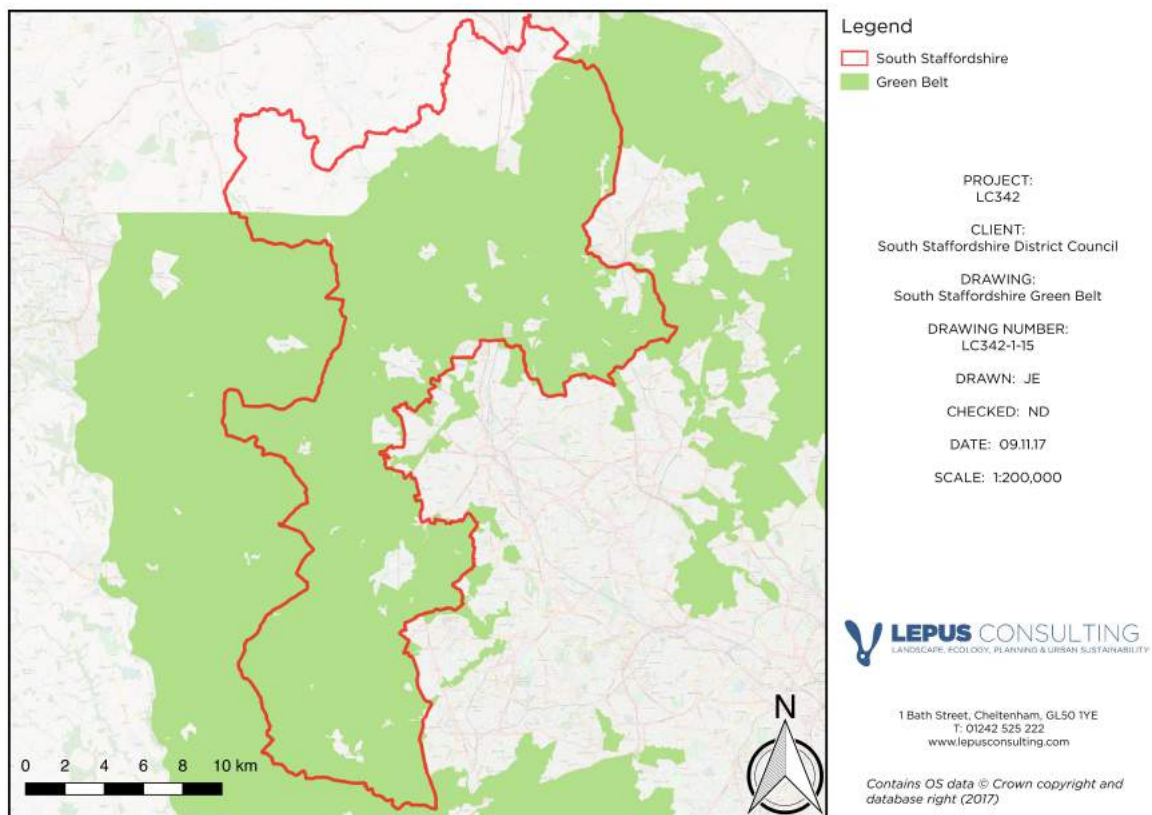


Figure 11.2: Green Belt in South Staffordshire

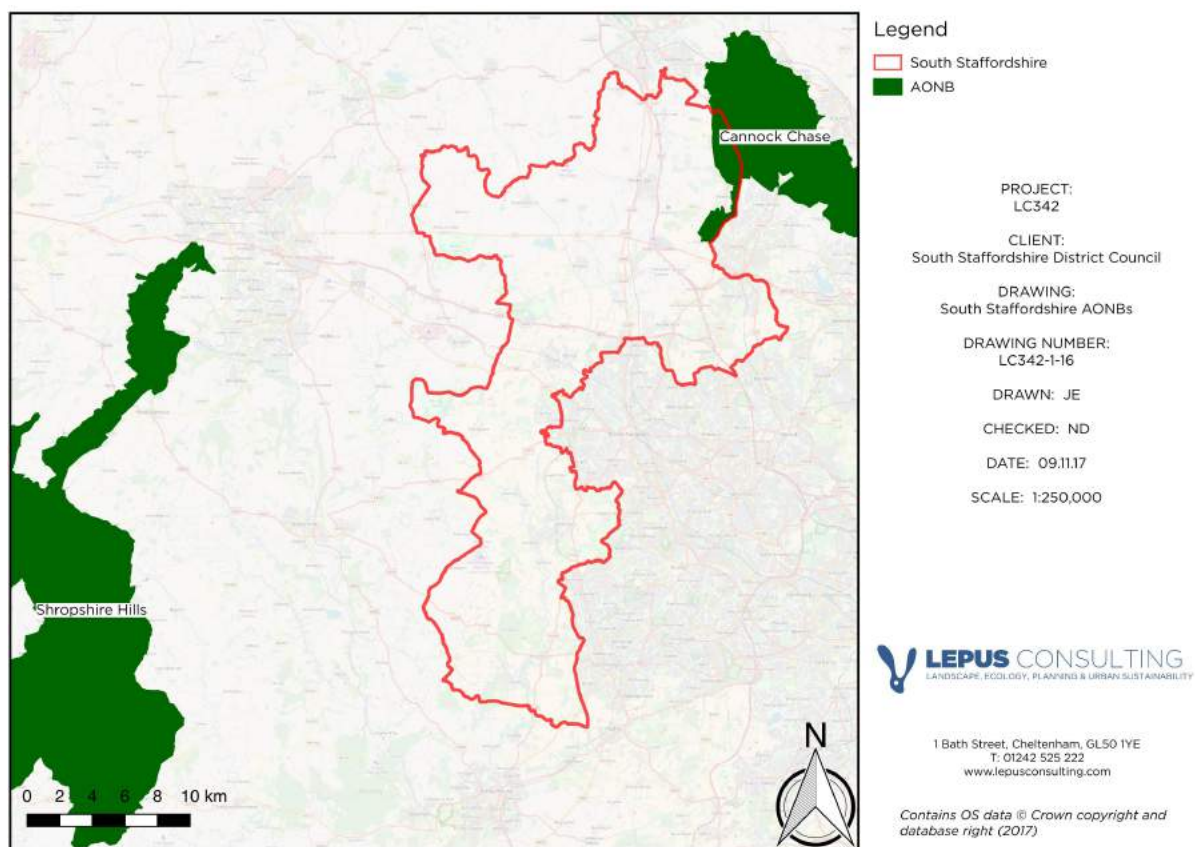


Figure 11.3: South Staffordshire and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Box 11.1: Key Landscape Issues for South Staffordshire

- The majority of the district falls within the Green Belt.
- Key character features of the Cannock Chase and Cank Wood NCA, Shropshire, Cheshire and Staffordshire Plain NCA and Mid Severn Sandstone Plateau NCA should be protected and enhanced where possible.
- The district partially falls within the Cannock Chase AONB. Development should seek to be in accordance with the Cannock Chase Management Plan.
- The district is predominantly rural and agricultural. New developments at smaller villages or settlements could potentially increase the risk of encroachment on the countryside or altering the rural urban fringe.

Box 11.2: Future evolution of the baseline without the LPR

- The Green Belt will continue to benefit from legislative protection.
- The district will remain a predominantly rural and agricultural landscape.
- Increased development pressure on the open countryside areas outside the Green Belt

12 Material Assets

12.1 Summary of policy, plan and programme review

12.1.1 The material assets sustainability theme covers a range of policy areas, including waste management, minerals, energy production and previously developed land.

12.1.2 National level PPPs seek to protect minerals resources and promote appropriate after uses for minerals workings. PPPs at all levels seek to promote the 'waste hierarchy'. The waste hierarchy seeks to prioritise waste management in the following order: reduction; reuse; recycling and composting; energy recovery; and disposal. National and regional PPPs also support the use of previously developed land.

12.1.3 An expansion of renewable energy production is strongly promoted by European and national PPPs. Under EU Directive 2001/77/EC, member states were jointly required to achieve 22% of electricity production from renewable energies by 2010; with a UK-specific target of 10%. This has been reinforced by the UK's recent Renewable Energy Strategy, which seeks to produce 15% of electricity from renewable sources by 2020.

12.2 Baseline data

Energy consumption

12.2.1 Total energy consumption in the district of South Staffordshire is on a trend of slowly decreasing (see **Table 12.1**). This is primarily because of decreases in domestic and commercial energy consumption being somewhat countered by increases in transport energy consumption. The district consumes less energy than most local authorities in the West Midlands and consistently less than the average energy consumption for this region (the difference is less great if you discount the Birmingham authority, which increase the West Midlands average). Despite this, GHG emissions in the district are greater than most authorities in the region (see **Chapter 6**), predominantly because of emissions from road transport.

Fuel Poverty

- 12.2.2 Fuel poverty is defined by the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act as being someone living on a lower income in a home which cannot be kept warm at a reasonable cost. The proportion of households in the district which are considered to be fuel poor in 2015 is 10.7%, which is lower than the proportion for the West Midlands overall (see **Table 12.2**).

Renewable Energy

- 12.2.3 Renewable energy generated 25.43GWh of electricity in South Staffordshire in 2016, which is significantly less than the 126GWh generated in 2015 (see **Table 12.3**). The primary reason for this drop is that in 2015, 105,254GWh was generated from municipal solid waste, whilst none was generated from this source in 2016. The significant majority of renewable energy in the district stems from photovoltaics.

Minerals and Waste

- 12.2.4 Staffordshire County Council have adopted the Minerals Local Plan for Staffordshire (2015 – 2030). The plan highlights that within the South Staffordshire are seven permitted mineral sites just to the south of Cannock, and a further two permitted mineral sites on the district's eastern perimeter with Dudley. In the vicinity of the mineral works south of Cannock is a brick and tile works as well as a Mineral Safeguard Area for Etruria Marl, which is a local red clay⁵⁸.

- 12.2.5 Key objectives of the minerals plan for the county include:
- The provision of minerals to support sustainable economic development;
 - Acceptable locations for mineral sites;
 - Operating to high environmental standards; and
 - Restoration that enhances local amenity and the environment.

⁵⁸ Staffordshire County Council (2015) Minerals Local Plan for Staffordshire 2015 – 2030, available online at:
<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/planning/policy/thedevelopmentplan/mineralslocalplan/mineralsLocalPlan.aspx>

12.2.6 Staffordshire County Council also published a joint waste plan with Stoke-on-Trent⁵⁹. This plan relates to how waste is managed and ensuring that there is capacity for reducing, re-using and recycling waste. The plan highlights the in-vessel composting facility in South Staffordshire, which helps deal with biodegradable waste, as well as the Four Ashes Energy Recovery Facility which sorts dry recyclables and generates energy from combustion of municipal waste.

Table 12.1: Energy consumption (GigaWatt hours) in South Staffordshire in commercial, domestic and transport sectors between 2011 and 2015, alongside total energy consumption for each year. Last column presents the average total annual energy consumption for districts in the West Midlands region over the same time period⁶⁰.

Year	South Staffordshire Sector (GWh)			South Staffordshire Total (GWh)	Mean total for West Midlands districts (GWh)
	Commercial	Domestic	Transport		
2015	663.43	813.0	1,744.1	3,259.8	4,124.6
2014	691.4	833.7	1,732.4	3,288.0	4,129.8
2013	695.0	849.5	1,721.5	3,294.2	4,118.3
2012	655.6	866.9	1,729.4	3,275.4	4,126.9
2011	689.0	874.6	1,727.3	3,309.3	4,170.2

Table 12.2: Fuel poverty in the district in comparison to the West Midlands⁶¹

Area	Number of households	Number of fuel poor households	Proportion of households fuel poor (%)
West Midlands	2,336,127	315,987	13.5
South Staffordshire	45,367	4,859	10.7

⁵⁹ Staffordshire County Council, City of Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Joint Waste Local Plan 2010 – 2026. Available online at: <https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/environment/planning/policy/thedevelopmentplan/wastelocalplan/Staffordshire-and-Stoke-on-Trent-Joint-Waste-Local-Plan-2010-to-2026-adopted-March-2013.pdf>

⁶⁰ Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (2016) Sub-national total final energy consumption in the United Kingdom (2011-2015). Accessed on 11/10/16. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/total-final-energy-consumption-at-regional-and-local-authority-level-2005-to-2010>

⁶¹ DECC (2016) Annual Fuel Poverty Statistics Report, 2016. Accessed on 12/10/16. Available at: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/540034/Annual_Fuel_Poverty_Statistics_Report_2016_-_revised.pdf

Table 12.3: Renewable energy generation in South Staffordshire and the West Midlands between 2014 and 2016⁶²

Year	South Staffordshire (GWh)	West Midlands (GWh)
2016	25.432	1,688.8
2015	126.034	3,543
2014	16.041	2,908.2

Box 12.1: Key Material Assets Issues for South Staffordshire

- The proportion of households which are fuel poor in the district is lower than the proportion for West Midlands overall.
- Renewable energy generation is significantly lower than energy consumption in the district, and lower than most districts in the West Midlands region.
- Minor decreases in commercial and domestic energy consumption are being countered by increases in transport energy consumption.

Box 12.2: Future evolution of the baseline without the LPR

- Energy consumption in the transport sector is anticipated to keep rising.
- Electricity generated from renewable sources is expected to increase slightly.

⁶² Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (2016) Renewable electricity by local authority. Accessed on 12/10/16. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/regional-renewable-statistics>

13 Population and Quality of Life

13.1 Summary of policy, plan and programme review

13.1.1 PPPs on population cover a range of different objectives, including tackling social exclusion; improving human rights and public participation; improving health; and ensuring every child has the chance to fulfil their potential by reducing levels of education failure, ill health, substance misuse, crime and anti-social behaviour. At the regional and local levels, support for cultural diversity and young people are key aims.

13.1.2 A wide range of objectives exist within policies and plans from an European to a local level with regards to quality of life. In particular these focus on improving social progress and social inclusion; reducing poverty; improving housing quality; preventing crime, anti-social behaviour and truancy; improving skill levels and employability; and regenerating communities.

13.1.3 The Equality Act 2006 sets out that people should not be disadvantaged on the basis of age; disability; gender; proposed, commenced or completed gender reassignment; race; religion or belief and sexual orientation.

13.2 Baseline data

Population size and migration

13.2.1 The district has a population of 110,700. The population is anticipated to increase by 3,300 by 2025, predominantly due to a 1,800 increase in those aged 85 and over and a 5,200 increase in those aged 65 – 84, countered by a 2,700 reduction in those aged 16 – 64.

- 13.2.2 The population of the district is getting older whilst the proportion of residents of working age is getting smaller, which could have significant impacts on economic output in the district in the future (see **Table 13.2**). Those aged 16 – 64 years old currently represent 61.1% of South Staffordshire’s population⁶³. In 2015, approximately one in four residents were older people which is a significant rise since 1985 when one in seven residents were of this age bracket.

Age Structure

- 13.2.3 Population projections for the district suggest that the proportion of older people in the district is likely to increase, whilst the proportion of the population under the age of 50 is likely to decrease over time (see **Table 13.3**).

Poverty, homelessness and deprivation

- 13.2.4 The proportion of residents which are living in poverty, deprived areas or are considered to be homeless is less than the proportion seen for the West Midlands and England overall (see **Table 13.1**). No Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) of the district are in the most deprived top ten percent nationally.

Table 13.1: Poverty, deprivation and homelessness

	South Staffordshire	England
Childhood poverty rate (2017)	12%	30%
Index of multiple deprivation (2013)	10625.04	-
People accepted as homeless per 1,000 households (2017)	0.8	2.5

⁶³ NOMIS (2015) Labour Market Profile – South Staffordshire. Accessed on 10.11.17. Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/>

Crime

13.2.5 Crime is becoming increasingly frequent in South Staffordshire. In the twelve months leading up to 30th June 2017, the police recorded a total of 5,216 crimes in the district (see **Table 13.4**). There have been notable increases in thefts, burglaries and violence without injury crimes since 2014.

Table 13.2: South Staffordshire labour market statistics between 2011 and 2016⁶⁴

Year	All	Female	Male	Aged 16 - 64	Job density*	Gross weekly pay
2016	111,200	55,800	55,400	67,500 (60.7%)	-	£568.40
2015	110,700	55,600	55,200	67,600 (61.1%)	0.59	£545.60
2014	110,700	55,400	55,300	68,100 (61.5%)	0.51	£508.00
2013	110,300	55,300	54,900	68,400 (62%)	0.57	£539.10
2012	108,400	55,100	53,400	67,200 (62%)	0.52	£532.40

* Job density: the number of jobs per residents aged 16 – 64

Table 13.3: South Staffordshire population projections⁶⁵

Year	0-14	15-29	30-49	50-69	70-89	90+
2014	16,000	19,000	27,000	32,000	16,000	1,000
2015	16,000	18,000	27,000	32,000	17,000	1,000
2016	16,000	18,000	26,000	32,000	17,000	1,000
2020	17,000	17,000	25,000	32,000	20,000	1,000
2022	17,000	17,000	25,000	33,000	21,000	2,000
2025	17,000	16,000	25,000	32,000	22,000	2,000
2030	17,000	16,000	26,000	31,000	23,000	2,000

⁶⁴ NOMIS (2015) Labour Market Profile – South Staffordshire. Accessed on 10.11.17. Available at: <https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/>

⁶⁵ ONS (2016) Subnational population projections, available online at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationprojections/datasets/localauthoritiesinenglandtable2> Accessed 10.11.17

Table 13.4: Notable offences recorded by the police (total counts over twelve months)⁶⁶

Crime	Twelve months ending...		
	31/12/2015	31/12/2016	30/06/2017
All other theft offences	515	557	639
Bicycle theft	45	32	38
Criminal damage and arson	634	544	607
Domestic burglary	240	201	284
Drug offences	219	193	201
Fraud offences	0	0	0
Homicide	0	0	0
Miscellaneous crimes against society	185	221	266
Non-domestic burglary	385	422	374
Possession of weapons offences	27	40	31
Public order offences	93	155	140
Robbery	32	36	40
Sexual offences	124	139	155
Shoplifting	169	237	234
Theft from the person	36	27	33
Vehicle offences	413	452	480
Violence with injury	558	707	659
Violence without injury	601	902	1,035
Total	4,276	4,865	5,216

Box 13.1: Key Population and Quality of Life Issues for South Staffordshire

- Overall the population of the district is slowly increasing. This is predominantly due to increases in those aged over 64. The proportion of the population which is of typical working age (16-64) is decreasing. The biggest increase in population is anticipated in the age bracket of 70-89.
- The most common crimes in the district are associated with violence, theft and burglary whilst there has been an overall increase in crime over the last few years.

⁶⁶ ONS (2017) Notifiable Offences Recorded by the Police. Accessed on 10.11.17. Available at: <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/crimeandjustice/datasets/recordedcrimedataatcommunitysafetypartnershiplocalauthoritylevel>

Box 13.2: Future evolution of the baseline without the LPR

- The population of the district is expected to continue to increase. This will place greater pressure on the capacity of key services and amenities, including health and leisure facilities and housing.
- In the absence of development proposed in the LPR, there could potentially be a rise in the number of homelessness due to an unmet housing need.

14 Water and Soil

14.1 Summary of policy, plan and programme review

- 14.1.1 National water policies are primarily driven by the aims of the EU Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC, as translated into national law by the Water Framework Regulations 2003. Key objectives include improving the quality of rivers and other water bodies to 'good ecological status' by 2015; considering flood risk at all stages of the plan and development process in order to reduce future damage to property and loss of life; and incorporating water efficiency measures into new developments. The Water Framework Directive also requires groundwater to reach 'good status' in terms of quality and quantity by 2015.
- 14.1.2 National and regional strategies also have a focus on maintaining and protecting the availability of water. Water supply and use is guided by Environment Agency's Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS). Setting out how water quality can be improved, the Severn River Basin District River Basin Management Plan (2015)⁶⁷ has also been prepared by the Environment Agency under the Water Framework Directive.
- 14.1.3 The NPPF seeks to ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to direct development away from areas of highest risk.
- 14.1.4 National and regional policies and strategies on soil seek to: prevent soil pollution; reduce soil erosion from wind and water; maintain soil diversity; improve the quality of soil, including through the remediation of contaminated land and through promoting an increase in organic matter in soil; protect and enhance stores of soil carbon and water; recognise soils' role for natural systems; and increase the resilience of soils to a changing climate.

⁶⁷ Environment Agency (2015) Part 1: Severn River Basin District: River Basin Management Plan. Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/severn-river-basin-district-river-basin-management-plan>

- 14.1.5 The PPPs also have a focus on protecting the quality and availability of agricultural land, through reducing soil degradation, maintaining soil productivity, limiting compaction and range of other approaches.

14.2 Baseline data

Soil

- 14.2.1 Soil is an essential and non-renewable resource that provides a wide range of ecosystem services. It filters air, stores and cycles water and nutrients, decomposes and cycles organic matter, supports plant growth and provides medicines. It is also one of the most important natural carbon sinks available and is vital in efforts to mitigate climate change.

- 14.2.2 It is therefore important for decision makers to make best efforts to preserve soil resources. Development such as that proposed in the Local Plan can potentially adversely impact on soil stocks, such as by direct loss of soil (e.g. excavating), contamination, increased erosion, breakdown of structure and loss of nutrients. In late modernity soils in the UK have rapidly degraded, predominantly due to intensive agricultural production and industrial pollution. The UK's soil continues to face three main threats⁶⁸:

- Soil erosion by wind and rain (it is estimated that the UK loses 2.2 million tonnes of topsoil every year due to wind and water erosion⁶⁹);
- Compaction; and
- Organic matter decline.

- 14.2.3 Construction on land has the potential to exacerbate compaction of soils and the decline in organic matter, whilst all three are expected to be exacerbated by climate change.

- 14.2.4 Soils in the district are varied (see **Table 14.1**). Some areas of the district have soils more suited for supporting woodland whilst others are more suited to grassland. The carbon storage of most soils in the district is low, whilst the permeability (which impacts surface water run-off) also varies.

⁶⁸ Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (2009) Safeguarding our soils – A strategy for England. Defra, September 2009

Table 14.1: Most prominent/common soils in the district⁷⁰

Soil	Texture	Permeability	Fertility	Carbon storage	Ground cover
Freely draining slightly acid sandy soils	Sandy	Freely draining	Low	Low	Neutral and acid pastures, woodland, bracken and gorse
Freely draining slightly acid loamy soils	Loamy	Freely draining	Low	Low	Acid dry pastures, arable, deciduous and coniferous woodland
Slightly acid but base-rich loamy clayey soils	Loamy and clayey	Slowly permeable	Moderate	Low	Seasonally wet pastures, woodland, grassland, arable
Slightly acid loamy and clayey soils	Loamy and clayey	Impeded drainage	Moderate to high	Low	Arable and grassland

14.2.5 82% of land in the district is used for agriculture. Some soils have greater agricultural value due to a range of factors including their structure and fertility. Natural England have classified land in terms of its agricultural value, with Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) Grade 1 being the most versatile and productive soils and Grade 5 the least valuable. South Staffordshire is predominantly ALC Grade 3 (see **Figure 14.1**), which could potentially be Grade 3a, which is versatile and productive soils, or Grade 3b, which is less versatile and productive. The most valuable soils for agriculture can be found in the south west of the district.

14.2.6 Post 1988 ALC takes into account detailed site survey data completed between 1989 and 1999 by the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food. The Post 1988 ALC also subdivided Grade 3 ALC into 3a or 3b. Post 1988 ALC does not cover the whole district as the whole district has not undergone detailed site surveys (see **Figure 13.2**).

Water resources

14.2.7 Catchment Area Management Strategies (CAMS) are six-year strategies developed by the Environment Agency for managing water resources at the local level. CAMS are to be produced for every river catchment area in England and Wales. All new licences within a CAMS area have a common end date (CED) so they can be reviewed simultaneously.

⁷⁰ Cranfield University (2017) Soilscales, available at: <http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscales/>

14.2.8 The Staffordshire Trent Valley abstraction licensing strategy is designed to ensure water resources are managed sustainably. The largest abstractions of water from surface water and groundwater in the region are by water companies with significant volumes used for power, industry and agriculture. There remains water extraction licenses available during high (Q30) and medium (Q50) flows. Abstraction licenses are restricted during low flows (Q75 and Q90)⁷¹.

14.2.9 The main water service provider for the district is South Staffs Water. They forecast an increase in household water demand in the future due to increases in population, increases in the number of households and decreasing household occupancy levels⁷².

Water quality

14.2.10 The vulnerability of groundwater to pollution is determined by the physical, chemical and biological properties of the soil and rocks, which control the ease with which an unprotected hazard can affect groundwater. Groundwater Source Protection Zones (SPZs) indicate the risk to groundwater supplies from potentially polluting activities and accidental releases of pollutants.

14.2.11 There are three SPZs⁷³:

- SPZ1 – Inner Protection Zone: the 50 day travel time from any point below the water table to the source;
- SPZ2 – Outer Protection Zone: the 400 day travel time from a point below the water table, with a minimum radius of 250-500m; and
- SPZ3 – Source Catchment Protection Zone: area around source within which all groundwater recharge is discharged at the source.

⁷¹ Environment Agency (2013) Staffordshire Trent Valley abstraction licensing strategy, February 2013

⁷² South Staffs Trent Water (2014) Water Resources Management Plan 2014, Main Report

⁷³ Environment Agency (2009) Groundwater Source Protection Zones – Review of Methods, August 2009

- 14.2.12 Designed to protect individual groundwater sources, these zones show the risk of contamination from any activities that might cause pollution in the area. In this context they are used to inform pollution prevention measures in areas which are at a higher risk, and to monitor the activities of potential polluting activities nearby. SPZs are present in some areas of South (see **Figure 14.3**).

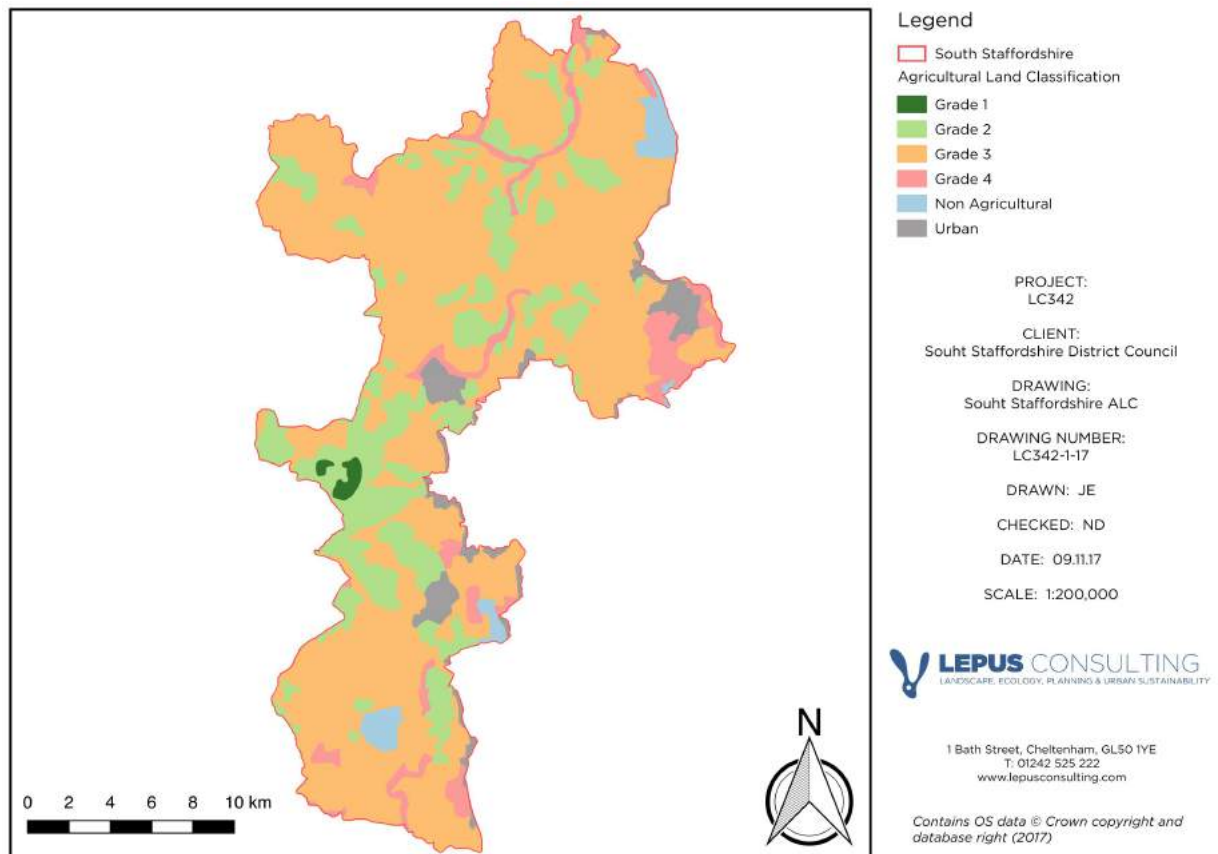


Figure 14.1: Agricultural Land Classification in South Staffordshire⁷⁴

⁷⁴ Map created by Lepus using data from Natural England (2016) Dataset Listings and Download Options. Available at: http://magic.defra.gov.uk/Dataset_Download_Summary.htm

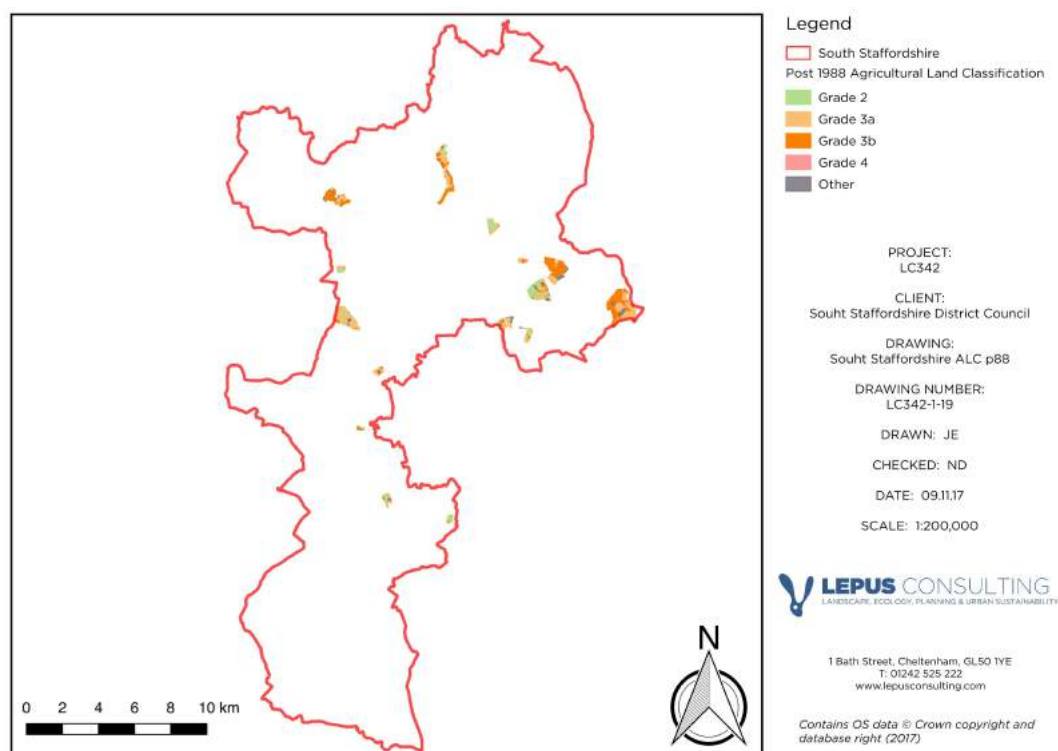


Figure 14.2: Post 1988 Agricultural Land Classification in South Staffordshire

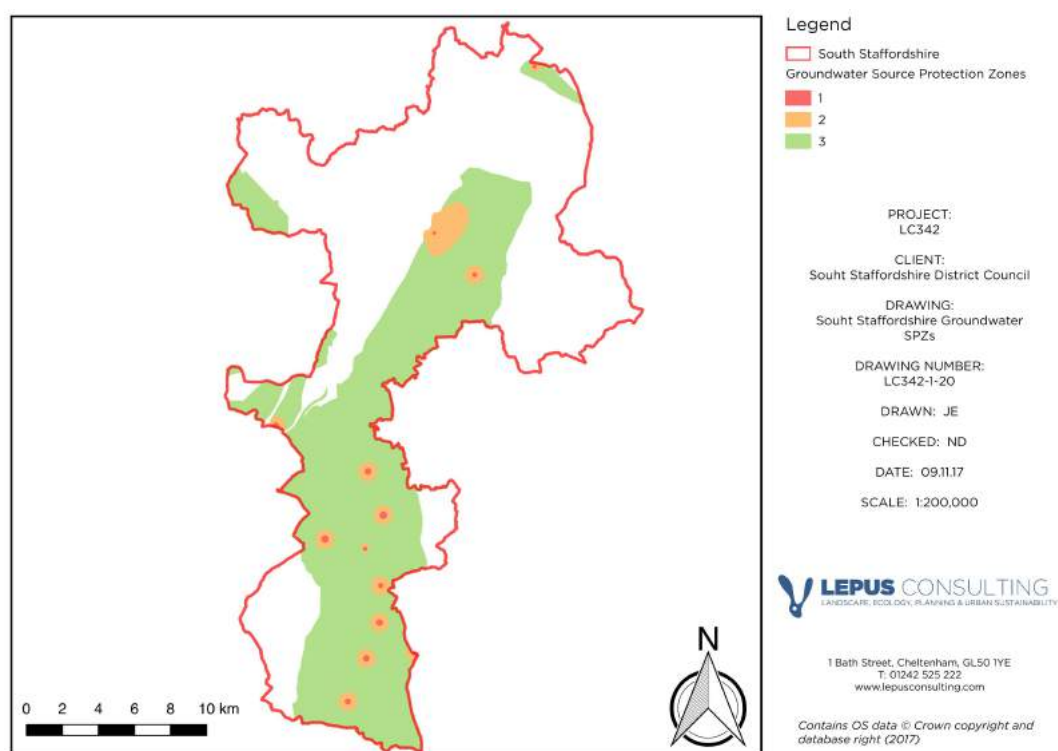


Figure 14.3: Source Protection Zones in South Staffordshire⁷⁵

⁷⁵ Map created by Lepus Consulting using data from Natural England (2016) Dataset Listings and Download Options. Accessed on 12/10/16.

Box 14.1: Key Water and Soil Issues for South Staffordshire

- Soils in the district are well equipped to support woodland, grassland and agriculture.
- Soils in the district often have impeded drainage, which could potentially increase the risk of surface water flooding.
- There is capacity for greater water demands in the area.
- There are areas of groundwater source protection zones in the district.

Box 14.2: Future evolution of the baseline without the LPR

- Soil is a non-renewable resource that would continue to be lost.
- Water demand may increase over time.

15 SA Framework

15.1 The purpose of the SA Framework

15.1.1 The LPR will be assessed through an SA Framework of objectives, decision-making criteria and indicators. The full SA Framework for the LPR is presented in **Appendix A**.

15.1.2 The SA Framework provides a way in which sustainability effects can be described, analysed and compared. The SA Framework consists of SA Objectives, the achievement of which (where practicable), is measurable using indicators. SA Objectives and indicators can be revised as further baseline information is collected and sustainability issues and challenges are identified, and are used in monitoring the implementation of the LPR.

15.1.3 To expand on the central focus of each SA Objective (as they are high-level and potentially open-ended) the SA Framework includes a series of questions or 'decision making criteria' for use when applying the SA Framework to the assessment of proposed policies.

15.2 Sustainability Appraisal objectives

15.2.1 The purpose of the SA Objectives is to provide a way of ensuring the proposed policies consider the needs of South Staffordshire in terms of the environmental, social and economic effects. The SA topics identified in Annex I (f) of the SEA Directive are one of the key determinants when considering which SA Objectives should be used for the environmental criteria. Consequently, the SA Objectives seek to reflect all subject areas to ensure the assessment process is transparent, robust and thorough.

15.2.2 The SA Objectives have drawn on the baseline information, the key issues and other plans and programmes of particular interest discussed earlier in this Scoping Report (see **Chapter 3** to **Chapter 14**). It should be noted that the ordering of the SA Objectives do not infer any prioritisation.

15.2.3 A summary of the SA Objectives for the LPR is presented in **Table 15.1**.

Table 15.1: SA Objectives for the LPR

SA Objectives		SEA Directive topics (Annex 1f)
1	Climate change mitigation: Minimise the district's contribution to climate change	Climate change.
2	Climate change adaptation: plan for the anticipated impacts of climate change	Climate change, soil, water.
3	Biodiversity and geodiversity: Protect, enhance and manage the biodiversity and geodiversity asses of the district, including flora and fauna.	Biodiversity, flora, fauna and geodiversity.
4	Landscape: Conserve, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening its distinctiveness.	Landscape and historic environment.
5	Pollution and waste: Ensure sustainable management of waste whilst minimizing the extent and impacts of water, air and noise pollution.	Air, water, soil and human health.
6	Natural resources: Protect, enhance and ensure the efficient use of the district's land, soils and water.	Soil and water.
7	Housing: Provide a range of housing to meet the needs of the community.	Housing, population and quality of life.
8	Health: Safeguard and improve physical and mental health of residents.	Population, quality of life and health.
9	Cultural heritage: Conserve, enhance and manage sites, features and areas of historic and cultural importance..	Historic environment.
10	Transport and accessibility: Improve choice and efficiency of sustainable transport in the district and reduce the need to travel.	Accessibility, climate change and material assets.
11	Education: Improve education, skills and qualifications in the district.	Population and economic factors.
12	Economy and employment: Support a strong, diverse, vibrant and sustainable local economy to foster balanced economic growth.	Material assets, air, soil, water.

16 Subsequent stages to be carried out

16.1 Background

- 16.1.1 This chapter summarises the stages of, and approach to, the processes that will be carried out for the LPR following consultation at the scoping stage. Where appropriate, the assessment methods to be used have been included.

16.2 Refining options and assessing effects

- 16.2.1 The assessment of options (or alternatives) is an important requirement of the SEA Directive, which requires that the Environmental Report includes the following information about reasonable alternatives:

“an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered in compiling the required information”

- 16.2.2 Reasonable alternatives will be assessed through the SA process, and the assessment of alternatives will take place following consultation on the Scoping Report. This will enable options for the LPR to be explored. Whilst this report would not be a requisite of the SEA Directive, a report of this nature can help demonstrate iteration between the plan making process and the SA, and provide a coherent story of the LPR’s evolution and choice of options.

16.3 Sustainability Appraisal and Publication/Submission

- 16.3.1 The next stage of the SA will involve assessing successive drafts of the LPR. In terms of the assessment methodology an assessment of all policies and proposals presented in the LPR will be undertaken. Findings from the assessment will be presented in a single-line matrix format. The high-level matrix is not a conclusive tool or model. Its main function is to identify at a strategic level whether or not the assessment requires a more detailed examination or whether satisfactory conclusions may be drawn from the high-level assessment without the need for further (time consuming) detailed analysis of a particular policy.
- 16.3.2 The assessment of policies and options will include:
- A description of the predicted effect;
 - The duration of the effect: whether the effect is long, medium or short term;
 - The frequency of the effect;
 - Whether the effect is temporary or permanent;
 - The geographic significance: whether the effect is of localised, regional, national or international significance;
 - The magnitude of effect;
 - The severity of significance; and
 - Whether mitigation is required/possible to reduce the effect.
- 16.3.3 As required by the SEA Directive, cumulative, indirect and synergistic effects will also be identified and evaluated during the assessment. An explanation of these is as follows:
- Cumulative effects arise where several developments each have insignificant effects but together have a significant effect, or where several individual effects of the LPR have a combined effect.
 - Indirect effects are effects that are not a direct result of the LPR, but occur away from the original effect or as a result of a complex pathway.
 - Synergistic effects interact to produce a total effect greater than the sum of the individual effects.
- 16.3.4 The assessment of these effects will be presented in tabular format and show where the different effects arise when two or more draft policies operate together.

-
- 16.3.5 Wherever possible, throughout the appraisal process, GIS (Geographic Information Systems) will be used as an analytical tool to examine the spatial distribution of identified effects.
- 16.3.6 Following consultation on the SA Report, any amendments that are made to the LPR will be appraised before preparing the final version of the SA Report to accompany the Submission version of the LPR.

17 Consultation on the Scoping Report

17.1 Purpose of Consultation

17.1.1 The SEA Regulations state that a Scoping Report shall be prepared which will be the subject of consultation with statutory consultation bodies for a minimum period of five weeks.

17.1.2 Public involvement through consultation is a key element of the SA process. The SEA Regulations require consultation with statutory consultation bodies but not full consultation with the public at the scoping stage. Regulation 12 (5) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (SI 1633) states that:

“When deciding on the scope and level of detail of the information that must be included in the report the responsible authority shall consult the consultation bodies.”

17.1.3 The statutory consultation bodies are Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England.

17.2 Consultation Details

17.2.1 This Scoping Report will be published by the Council for consultation

17.2.2 All responses on this consultation exercise should be sent to localplans@sstaffs.gov.uk.

17.2.3 All comments received on the Scoping Report will be reviewed and will influence the SA/SEA process for the LPR.

Appendix A: SA Framework for the South Staffordshire LPR

#	SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal...	Indicators include (but are not limited to)
1	Climate change Mitigation: Minimise the district's contribution to climate change.	Increase energy consumption or GHG emissions? Generate or support renewable energy?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy consumption; • GHG emissions; • Access to sustainable transport; • Green infrastructure (carbon sink).
2	Climate Change Adaptation: Plan for the anticipated impacts of climate change.	Increase the number of residents at risk of flooding? Increase the risk of flooding?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EA fluvial flood risk zones; • Surface water flood risk; • Presence or loss of green infrastructure.
3	Biodiversity & Geodiversity: Protect, enhance and manage the flora, fauna, biodiversity and geodiversity assets of the district.	Result in a net loss of vegetation? Protect or enhance wildlife sites or biodiversity hotspots? Protect or enhance geodiversity hotspots?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of habitat; • Loss of supporting habitat • Impacts on wildlife and habitats (e.g. public access associated disturbances & air pollution); • Impacts on ecosystem services; • Fragmentation of habitats; • Impacts on geodiversity sites.
4	Landscape & Townscape: Conserve, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening their distinctiveness.	Protect or enhance the local landscape? Protect or enhance the local townscape?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of locally sourced materials; • Is development in-keeping with surroundings?; • Impacts on existing setting; • Alter the urban / rural fringe; • Increase the risk of coalescence; • Impacts on landscape designations, including AONB.
5	Pollution and Waste: Reduce waste generation, increase the reuse of, and recycling of, materials whilst minimizing the extent and impacts of water, air and noise pollution.	Increase waste production? Increase the risk of air, noise or water pollution? Increase the number of residents exposed to the risk of air, noise or water pollution?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of residents in areas of poor air quality; • Proximity to pollutants (e.g. busy roads, airports); • Quality of waterways in or adjacent to sites; • Local increases in road traffic or congestion; • Proximity to AQMAs and current AQMA status.

6	Natural Resources: Protect, enhance and ensure the efficient use of the district's land, soils and water.	Impact on demand capacity of local water sources?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of previously developed land; • Use of existing buildings; • Likely impacts on soil fertility, structure and erosion; • Agricultural Land Classification; • Mineral Safeguarding Sites; • Re-use of contaminated land.
		Use previously developed land or existing buildings?	
		Result in the loss of local soils?	
7	Housing: Provide a range of housing to meet the needs of the community.	Ensure that residents will have the opportunity to meet in a home which meets their needs?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of affordable housing; • Impacts on existing houses and estates; • Number of care homes; • Total number of homes planned for site.
		Result in the loss of, or otherwise impact on, any existing housing?	
8	Health & Wellbeing: Safeguard and improve the physical and mental health of residents.	Provide residents with adequate access to necessary health facilities and services?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to health facilities; • Access to diverse range of natural habitats & greenspaces; • Local air quality; • Opportunities for exercise, including cycling.
		Encourage healthy lifestyles?	
9	Cultural Heritage: Conserve, enhance and manage sites, features and areas of historic and cultural importance.	Conserve heritage assets, including archaeological and architectural?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on the setting of cultural heritage assets; • Impacts on access to cultural heritage assets; • Condition of local heritage assets; • Management plans or advice for conservation areas.
		Enhance heritage assets, including archaeological and architectural?	
10	Transport & Accessibility: Improve the choice and efficiency of sustainable transport in the district and reduce the need to travel.	Improve travel choice, reduce journey need and shorten the length and duration of journeys?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distance and accessibility to public transport options; • Distance and accessibility to key services and amenities, as well as employment opportunities; • Suitability of existing routes of access into sites, considering anticipated increases in usage.
		Improve accessibility to key services and amenities for existing and new residents?	
11	Education: Improve education, skills and qualifications in the district.	Raise educational attainment levels for residents in the district?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distance and accessibility to educational facilities, including primary and secondary schools; • Local education attainment levels.
		Offer residents with frequent, affordable and sustainable access to educational facilities?	
12	Economy and employment: To support a strong, diverse, vibrant and sustainable local economy to foster balanced economic growth.	Encourage sustainable economic growth?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access and distance to local employment opportunities; • Local employment rates; • Increases or decreases in quantity of employment land in the district; • Support for sustainable businesses.
		Ensure high and stable levels of employment?	

Appendix B: Plan, Policy and Programme Review

Title of PPP	Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP	Implications for the LPR and SA
Biodiversity, flora and fauna		
EC Seventh Environmental Action Programme 2013-2020 (2013)	The main concern of the EEB was the need to describe in an un-ambivalent manner the environmental challenges the EU is faced with, including accelerating climate change, deterioration of our eco-systems and increasing overuse of natural resources.	The LPR and SA should consider how environmental challenges can be addressed.
Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 (2011)	<p>The EU biodiversity strategy follows on from the EU Biodiversity Action Plan (2006). It aims to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services across the EU by 2020. The strategy contains six targets and 20 actions. The six targets cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity; • Better protection for ecosystems, and more use of green infrastructure; • More sustainable agriculture and forestry; • Better management of fish stocks; • Tighter controls on invasive alien species; and • A bigger EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss. 	The LPR and SA should consider how biodiversity can be enhanced and protected.
The Pan-European Biological and Landscape Diversity Strategy (1995)	The strategy aims to stop and reverse the degradation of biological and landscape diversity values in Europe.	The LPR and SA should consider how biological and landscape diversity values can be protected and enhanced.
UN Convention on Biological Diversity (1992)	The aims of the Convention include the conservation of biological diversity (including a commitment to significantly reduce the current rate of biodiversity loss), the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.	The LPR and SA should consider how biological diversity can be enhanced and protected.
Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats	The Convention seeks to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats, and to monitor and control endangered and vulnerable species.	The LPR and SA should consider how European wildlife and natural habitats can be conserved.

(1979)		
Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora 1992 (the Habitats Directive)	<p>The main aim of the Habitats Directive is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring Member States to take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species listed on the Annexes to the Directive at a favourable conservation status, introducing robust protection for those habitats and species of European importance. In applying these measures Member States are required to take account of economic, social and cultural requirements, as well as regional and local characteristics.</p> <p>The provisions of the Directive require Member States to introduce a range of measures, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain or restore European protected habitats and species listed in the Annexes at a favourable conservation status as defined in Articles 1 and 2; • Contribute to a coherent European ecological network of protected sites by designating Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for habitats listed on Annex I and for species listed on Annex II. These measures are also to be applied to Special Protection Areas (SPAs) classified under Article 4 of the Birds Directive. Together SACs and SPAs make up the Natura 2000 network (Article 3); • Ensure conservation measures are in place to appropriately manage SACs and ensure appropriate assessment of plans and projects likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of an SAC. Projects may still be permitted if there are no alternatives, and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In such cases compensatory measures are necessary to ensure the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network (Article 6); • Member States shall also endeavour to encourage the management of features of the landscape that support the Natura 2000 network (Articles 3 and 10); • Undertake surveillance of habitats and species (Article 11); • Ensure strict protection of species listed on Annex IV (Article 12 for animals and Article 13 for plants). • Report on the implementation of the Directive every six years (Article 17), including assessment of the conservation status of species and habitats listed on the Annexes to the Directive. 	The LPR and SA will need to have due regard to the SACs in the area.
The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (Habitats regulations)	This transposes into national law the Habitats Directive and also consolidates all amendments that have been made to the previous 1994 Regulations. This means that competent authorities have a general duty in the exercise of any of their functions to have regard to the Directive.	The LPR and SA will need to have due regard to the SACs in the area.

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000	The Act provides for public access on foot to certain types of land, amends the law relating to public rights of way, increases measures for the management and protection for Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and strengthens wildlife enforcement legislation, and provides for better management of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)	The LPR and SA should consider how the countryside and rights of way can be enhanced and protected.
The Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006	The Act makes provision in respect of biodiversity, pesticides harmful to wildlife and the protection of birds, and in respect of invasive non-native species. It alters enforcement powers in connection with wildlife protection, and extends time limits for prosecuting certain wildlife offences. It addresses a small number of gaps and uncertainties which have been identified in relation to the law on sites of special scientific interest. And it amends the functions and constitution of National Park authorities, the functions of the Broads Authority and the law on rights of way.	The LPR and SA should consider the recommended actions in this document to conserve biodiversity, including restoring or enhancing species populations or habitats.
DEFRA Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981, as amended)	The principle mechanism for the legislative protection of wildlife in Great Britain.	The LPR and SA should consider legislative protection of wildlife.
DEFRA. Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services (2011)	The England biodiversity strategy 2020 ties in with the EU biodiversity strategy in addition to drawing links to the concept of ecosystem services. The strategy's vision for England is; "By 2050 our land and seas will be rich in wildlife, our biodiversity will be valued, conserved, restored, managed sustainably and be more resilient and able to adapt to change, providing essential services and delivering benefits for everyone". The Strategy's overall mission is: "to halt overall biodiversity loss, support healthy well-functioning ecosystems and establish coherent ecological networks, with more and better places for nature for the benefit of wildlife and people".	The LPR and SA should consider how biodiversity can be enhanced and protected.
DoE Biodiversity: The UK Action Plan (1994)	Government's strategy for protection and enhancement of biodiversity, from 1992 convention on Biodiversity commitments. Advises on opportunities and threats for biodiversity.	The LPR and SA should consider how biodiversity can be enhanced and protected.
TCPA: Biodiversity by Design: A Guide for Sustainable Communities (2004)	The development process should consider ecological potential of all areas including both greenfield and brownfield sites. Local authorities and developers have a responsibility to mitigate impacts of development on designated sites and priority habitats and species and avoid damage to ecosystems.	The LPR and SA should consider how biodiversity can be enhanced and protected.
National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012)	The recently released NPPF seeks to streamline the planning system and sets out the Governments planning policies and how these should be applied. At the heart of the NPPF is presumption in favour of sustainable development. The NPPF includes guidance on promoting the conservation and enhancement of the natural	The LPR and SA should adhere to the principles of the Planning Policy Framework.

	<p>environment. It requires the planning system to contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting and enhancing valued landscapes, geological conservation interests and soils; • recognising the wider benefits of ecosystem services; • minimising impacts on biodiversity and providing net gains in biodiversity where possible, contributing to the Government's commitment to halt the overall decline in biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures; • preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability; and • remediating and mitigating despoiled, degraded, derelict, contaminated and unstable land, where appropriate. 	
<p>Making Space for Nature: a review of England's wildlife sites and ecological network (2010)</p>	<p>The Making Space for Nature report, which investigated the resilience of England's ecological network to multiple pressures, concluded that England's wildlife sites do not comprise of a coherent and resilient ecological network. The report advocates the need for a step change in conservation of England's wildlife sites to ensure they are able to adapt and become part of a strong and resilient network. The report summarises what needs to be done to improve England's wildlife sites to enhance the resilience and coherence of England's ecological network in four words; more, bigger, better, and joined. There are five key approaches which encompass these, which also take into account of the land around the ecological network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the quality of current sites by better habitat management. • Increase the size of current wildlife sites. • Enhance connections between, or join up, sites, either through physical corridors, or through 'stepping stones'. • Create new sites. • Reduce the pressures on wildlife by improving the wider environment, including through buffering wildlife sites. <p>To establish a coherent ecological network 24 wide ranging recommendations have been made which are united under five key themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need to continue the recent progress in improving the management and condition of wildlife sites, particularly our SSSIs. We also make recommendations for how these should be designated and managed in ways that enhance their resilience to climate change. • There is a need to properly plan ecological networks, including restoration areas. Restoration needs to take place throughout England. However, in some areas, both the scale of what can be delivered to enhance the network, and the ensuing benefits for 	<p>The LPR and SA should consider how England's wildlife sites and ecological network can be enhanced and protected.</p>

	<p>wildlife and people, will be very high. These large areas should be formally recognised as Ecological Restoration Zones.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a large number of surviving patches of important wildlife habitat scattered across England outside of SSSIs, for example in Local Wildlife Sites. We need to take steps to improve the protection and management of these remaining wildlife habitats. 'Protection' will usually be best achieved through incentive-based mechanisms, but at times may require designation. • There is a need to become better at deriving multiple benefits from the ways we use and interact with our environment. There are many things that society has to do that may seem to have rather little to do with nature conservation, but could have, or even should have if we embrace more radical thinking; e.g. flood management by creating wetlands. • It will not be possible to achieve a step-change in nature conservation in England without society accepting it to be necessary, desirable, and achievable. This will require strong leadership from government and significant improvements in collaboration between local authorities, local communities, statutory agencies, the voluntary and private sectors, farmers, landowners and other land-managers and individual citizens 	
DEFRA England's Trees, Woods and Forests Strategy (2007)	<p>The England's Trees, Woods, and Forest Strategy (2007) aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide, in England, a resource of trees, woods and forests in places where they can contribute most in terms of environmental, economic and social benefits now and for future generations • ensure that existing and newly planted trees, woods and forests are resilient to the impacts of climate change and also contribute to the way in which biodiversity and natural resources adjust to a changing climate • protect and enhance the environmental resources of water, soil, air, biodiversity and landscapes (both woodland and non-woodland), and the cultural and amenity values of trees and woodland • increase the contribution that trees, woods and forests make to the quality of life for those living in, working in or visiting England; and • improve the competitiveness of woodland businesses and promote the development of new or improved markets for sustainable woodland products and ecosystem services where this will deliver identify able public benefits, nationally or locally, including the reduction of carbon emissions. 	The LPR and SA should consider how trees, woods and forests can be enhanced and protected.

<p>The Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature. The Natural Environment White Paper. (HM Government 2011)</p>	<p>Published in June 2011, the Natural Environment White paper sets out the Government's plans to ensure the natural environment is protected and fully integrated into society and economic growth. The White Paper sets out four key aims:</p> <p>(i) <u>Protecting and improving our natural environment</u></p> <p>There is a need to improve the quality of our natural environment across England, moving to a net gain in the value of nature. It aims to arrest the decline in habitats and species and the degradation of landscapes. It will protect priority habitats and safeguard vulnerable non-renewable resources for future generations. It will support natural systems to function more effectively in town, in the country and at sea. It will achieve this through joined-up action at local and national levels to create an ecological network which is resilient to changing pressures.</p> <p>(ii) <u>Growing a green economy</u></p> <p>The ambition is for a green and growing economy which not only uses natural capital in a responsible and fair way but also contributes to improving it. It will properly value the stocks and flows of natural capital. Growth will be green because it is intrinsically linked to the health of the country's natural resources. The economy will capture the value of nature. It will encourage businesses to use natural capital sustainably, protecting and improving it through their day-to-day operations and the management of their supply chains.</p> <p>(iii) <u>Reconnecting people and nature</u></p> <p>The ambition is to strengthen the connections between people and nature. It wants more people to enjoy the benefits of nature by giving them freedom to connect with it. Everyone should have fair access to a good-quality natural environment. It wants to see every child in England given the opportunity to experience and learn about the natural environment. It wants to help people take more responsibility for their environment, putting local communities in control and making it easier for people to take positive action.</p> <p>(iv) <u>International and EU leadership</u></p> <p>The global ambitions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> internationally, to achieve environmentally and socially sustainable economic growth, together with food, water, climate and energy security; and to put the EU on a path towards environmentally sustainable, low-carbon and resource-efficient growth, which is resilient to climate change, provides jobs and supports the wellbeing of citizens. 	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment.</p>
<p>UK National Ecosystem Assessment (2011)</p>	<p>The UK National Ecosystem Assessment is the first analysis of the UK's natural environment and the benefits it provides to society and economic prosperity. The assessment leads on from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005) and analyses services provided by ecosystem set against eight broad habitat types. The ecosystem services provided by these habitat types have been assessed to find their overall condition. The assessment sought to answer ten key</p>	<p>The SA Framework should include objectives relating to the protection and enhancement of the natural</p>

	<p>questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) What are the status and trends of the UK's ecosystems and the services they provide to society? 2) What are the drivers causing changes in the UK's ecosystems and their services? 3) How do ecosystem services affect human well-being, who and where are the beneficiaries, and how does this affect how they are valued and managed? 4) Which vital UK provisioning services are not provided by UK ecosystems? 5) What is the current public understanding of ecosystem services and the benefits they provide? 6) Why should we incorporate the economic values of ecosystem services into decision-making? 7) How might ecosystems and their services change in the UK under plausible future scenarios? 8) What are the economic implications of different plausible futures? 9) How can we secure and improve the continued delivery of ecosystem services? 10) How have we advanced our understanding of the influence of ecosystem services on human well-being and what are the knowledge constraints on more informed decision making? 	environment.
DEFRA Guidance for Local Authorities on Implementing Biodiversity Duty (2007)	The Duty is set out in Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006, and states that: "Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity". Particular areas of focus include: Policy, Strategy and Procurement; Management of Public Land and Buildings; Planning, Infrastructure and Development; and Education, Advice and Awareness.	The LPR and SA should consider how biodiversity can be enhanced and protected.
CABE Making Contracts Work for Wildlife: How to Encourage Biodiversity in Urban Parks (2006)	Advises on how to make the most of the potential for biodiversity in urban parks and it shows how the commitment of individuals and employers can make the difference between failure and inspiring success.	The LPR and SA should consider how biodiversity can be enhanced and protected.
Site Improvement Plan, Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation, Natural England (2015)	The Site Improvement Plan for Cannock Chase SAC sets out the qualifying features of Cannock Chase for which it was designated as a SAC. It informs of the threats and pressures to which the SAC is vulnerable and lays out plans for management of the SAC to avoid and mitigate adverse impacts of development.	The LPR and SA should aim to be in accordance to the LGAP and raise awareness of geological heritage in the area.

Population and human health

National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG, 2012)	<p>The recently released NPPF seeks to streamline the planning system and sets out the Government's planning policies and how these should be applied. At the heart of the NPPF is presumption in favour of sustainable development.</p> <p>The NPPF includes guidance on promoting healthy communities.</p> <p>The NPPF requires planning authorities to aim to achieve places which promote:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • opportunities for meetings between members of the community who might not otherwise come into contact with each other, including through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres and active street frontages which bring together those who work, live and play in the vicinity; • safe and accessible environments where crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine quality of life or community cohesion; and • safe and accessible developments, containing clear and legible pedestrian routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas. <p>In order to deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments; • guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs; • ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise in a way that is sustainable, and retained for the benefit of the community; and • ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services. 	The LPR and SA should adhere to the principles of the Planning Policy Framework.
DCMS: Playing to win: a new era for sport. (2008)	The Government's vision for sport and physical activity for 2012 and beyond is to increase significantly levels of sport and physical activity for people of all ages and to achieve sustained levels of success in international competition. The ambition is for England to become – a truly world leading sporting nation. The vision is to give more people of all ages the opportunity to participate in high quality competitive sport.	The LPR and SA should consider how to support access to sports facilities and increase participation in sport for the district's residents.

DoH: Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public health in England White Paper (2010)	<p>Sets out the Government's approach to tackling threats to public health and dealing with health inequalities. It sets out an approach that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect the population from health threats – led by central government, with a strong system to the frontline; • empower local leadership and encourage wide responsibility across society to improve everyone's health and wellbeing, and tackle the wider factors that influence it; • focus on key outcomes, doing what works to deliver them, with transparency of outcomes to enable accountability through a proposed new public health outcomes framework; • reflect the Government's core values of freedom, fairness and responsibility by strengthening self-esteem, confidence and personal responsibility; positively promoting healthy behaviours and lifestyles; and adapting the environment to make healthy choices easier; and • balance the freedoms of individuals and organisations with the need to avoid harm to others, use a 'ladder' of interventions to determine the least intrusive approach necessary to achieve the desired effect and aim to make voluntary approaches work before resorting to regulation. 	The LPR and SA should consider how to support healthy lives of residents.
DoH & Department for Work and Pensions. Improving health and work: changing lives: The Government's Response to Dame Carol Black's Review of the health of Britain's working-age population (2008)	<p>This sets out the Governments response to a review into the health of Britain's working age population conducted by Dame Carol Black.</p> <p>The vision is to: "create a society where the positive links between work and health are recognised by all, where everyone aspires to a healthy and fulfilling working life and where health conditions and disabilities are not a bar to enjoying the benefits of work".</p> <p>To achieve the vision three key aspirations have been identified:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. creating new perspectives on health and work; 2. improving work and workplaces; and 3. supporting people to work. <p>Through these three aspirations Britain's working population will fulfil their full potential, create stronger communities and help relive the financial burden of health problems on the economy.</p>	The LPR and SA should consider how to support healthy lives of residents.
DoH: Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services (2005)	<p>Puts emphasis on moving healthcare into the community and will therefore have an impact on sustainable development considerations, including supporting local economies and how people travel to healthcare facilities.</p>	The LPR and SA should consider how to support the provision of healthcare facilities in the district.

Health and Social Care Act 2012	An Act to establish and make provision about a National Health Service Commissioning Board and clinical commissioning groups and to make other provision about the National Health Service in England; to make provision about public health in the United Kingdom; to make provision about regulating health and adult social care services; to make provision about public involvement in health and social care matters, scrutiny of health matters by local authorities and co-operation between local authorities and commissioners of health care services; to make provision about regulating health and social care workers; to establish and make provision about a National Institute for Health and Care Excellence; to establish and make provision about a Health and Social Care Information Centre and to make other provision about information relating to health or social care matters; to abolish certain public bodies involved in health or social care; to make other provision about health care; and for connected purposes.	The LPR and SA should consider how to support the provision of healthcare facilities.
Forestry Commission: Trees and Woodlands - Nature's Health Service (2005)	Provides detailed examples of how the Woodland Sector (trees, woodlands and green spaces) can significantly contribute to people's health, well-being (physical, psychological and social) and quality of life. Increasing levels of physical activity is a particular priority.	The LPR and SA should consider how green infrastructure can contribute to the health and well-being of residents.
Countryside Agency: The Countryside in and Around Towns – A vision for connecting town and country in the pursuit of sustainable development (2005)	A vision for the landscape of urban/rural fringe environments and how to better manage these areas and make improvements. Key functions for the environment include: a bridge to the country; a gateway to the town; a health centre; a classroom; a recycling and renewable energy centre; a productive landscape; a cultural legacy; a place for sustainable living; an engine for regeneration; and a nature reserve.	The LPR and SA should consider how to best manage the landscape of urban/rural fringe environments.
Accessible Natural Green Space Standards Towns and Cities: Review & Toolkit for Implementation (2003)	Aims to help Local Authorities develop policies which acknowledge, protect and enhance the contribution natural spaces make to local sustainability. Three aspects of natural space in cities and towns are discussed: their biodiversity; their ability to cope with urban pollution; ensuring natural spaces are accessible to everyone.	The LPR and SA should consider how natural spaces can be enhanced and protected for the purpose of local sustainability in the district.
EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2006)	This Strategy identifies key priorities for an enlarged Europe. This includes health, social inclusion and fighting global poverty. It aims to achieve better policy integration in addressing these challenges, and to ensure that Europe looks beyond its boundaries in making informed decisions about sustainability. The Sustainable Development Strategy was review in 2009 and “underlined that in recent years the EU has mainstreamed sustainable development into a broad range of its policies. In particular, the EU has taken the lead in the fight against climate change	The LPR and SA should consider ways to promote sustainable development in the district.

	and the promotion of a low-carbon economy. At the same time, unsustainable trends persist in many areas and the efforts need to be intensified". Sustainable development is a key focus of the EU and the strategy continues to be monitored and reviewed.	
UN The Aarhus Convention (1998)	Links environmental rights and human rights. It establishes that sustainable development can be achieved only through the involvement of all stakeholders and links government accountability and environmental protection.	Sustainable development should be a key focus of the LPR and SA.
Social Exclusion Unit: Preventing Social Exclusion (2001)	The primary aims are to prevent social exclusion, and reintegrate people who have become excluded. Improvement is required in the areas of truancy, rough sleeping, teenage pregnancy, youth at risk and deprived neighbourhoods.	The LPR and SA should consider how to prevent social exclusion and reintegrate people who have become excluded.
DCLG Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable (2007)	The Housing Green Paper outlines plans for delivering homes; new ways of identifying and using land for development; more social housing- ensuring that a decent home at an affordable price is for the many; building homes more quickly; more affordable homes; and greener homes - with high environmental standards and flagship developments leading the way.	The LPR and SA should consider how to deliver more affordable and environmentally sustainable homes.
ODPM & Home Office: Safer Places: The Planning System and Crime Prevention (2004)	Practical guide to designs and layouts that may help with crime prevention and community safety, including well-defined routes, places structured so that different uses do not cause conflict, places designed to include natural surveillance and places designed with management and maintenance in mind.	The LPR and SA should consider how to prevent crime in new developments.
Cabinet Office: Reaching Out: An Action Plan on Social Exclusion (2006)	Sets out an action plan to improve the life chances of those who suffer, or may suffer in the future, from disadvantage. Guiding principles for action include: better identification and earlier intervention; systematically identifying 'what works'; promoting multi-agency working; personalisation, rights and responsibilities; and supporting achievement and managing underperformance.	The LPR and SA should consider how to reduce suffering and improve the life chances of disadvantaged people.
Staffordshire County Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan for Staffordshire	This plan lays out the demand for access and needs of users in terms of the Public Rights of Way network in the county of Staffordshire. It assesses the existing provision and condition of the network, and identifies areas for improvement. Measures to take action and achieve this improvement are identified with practical steps to be taken. Plans to monitor the effectiveness of improvement efforts are also made clear. A new version of the improvement plan is currently being consulted on.	The LPR and SA should consider how to improve and encourage access to the PRoW network.

LSP Health and Wellbeing Action Plan (2008 – 2011)	South Staffordshire District Council identify three priorities for improving the health and wellbeing of residents. These include working together to support older people to stay health and independent, working together to promote healthy lifestyles of adults and young people and working together to reduce health inequalities.	The LPR and SA should consider how to support the health and wellbeing of South Staffordshire's residents.
South Staffordshire District, Ageing Well Framework 2011	The ageing population of South Staffordshire is growing fast. This framework recognises that issue and lays out the facts, priorities and a plan for action for helping to ensure that older people in the district are health, independent, live in appropriate housing, are out and about and valued and involved, live in a safe environment and are financially secure.	The LPR and SA should consider the needs of the ageing population and ensure neighbourhoods are welcoming and accessible for residents of all ages.
South Staffordshire Council Open Space Strategy	The Open Space Strategy sets out the existing open space provision in the district, including the availability of natural and semi-natural space. It also sets out the way forward for enhancing the safety, vibrancy and quality of open space and, in so doing, improving its suitability for children and young people whilst supporting good health and wellbeing of residents.	The LPR and SA should maintain existing open space provision and promote the provision of new and high quality open space.
Soil, water and air		
EC Air Quality Directive (1996)	Aims to improve air quality throughout Europe by controlling the level of certain pollutants and monitoring their concentrations. In particular, the Directive aims to establish levels for different air pollutants; draw up common methods for assessing air quality; methods to improve air quality; and make sure that information on air quality is easily accessible to Member States and the public.	The LPR and SA should consider the recommended actions in this document to improve air quality.
DEFRA: The Air Quality Strategy for England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland (2007).	The Strategy provides specific UK targets for reducing air pollution and sets out local authority responsibilities for achieving most of these. It states that land use planning has a key role to play in contributing to these targets.	The LPR and SA should consider the recommended actions in this document to improve air quality.
DEFRA: Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England (2009)	<p>The Soil Strategy for England outlines the Government's approach to safeguarding our soils for the long term. It provides a vision to guide future policy development across a range of areas and sets out the practical steps that are needed to take to prevent further degradation of our soils, enhance, restore and ensure their resilience, and improve understanding of the threats to soil and best practice in responding to them. Key objectives of the strategy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better protection for agricultural soils; • Protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon; 	The LPR and SA should consider the recommended actions in this document to safeguard soils for the long term in the district.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building the resilience of soils to a changing climate; • Preventing soil pollution; • Effective soil protection during construction and development; and • Dealing with our legacy of contaminated land. 	
DEFRA (2012) Environmental Protection Act 1990: Part 2A. Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance	<p>This document establishes a legal framework for dealing with contaminated land in England. This document provides guidelines for how local authorities should implement the regime, including how they should go about deciding whether land is contaminated land in the legal sense of the term. Key aims are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify and remove unacceptable risks to human health and the environment. • To seek to ensure that contaminated land is made suitable for its current use. • To ensure that the burdens faced by individuals, companies and society as a whole are proportionate, manageable and compatible with the principles of sustainable development. 	The LPR and SA should consider how contaminated land can be dealt with, and include policies that promote the correct management of contaminated land.
Soils Lead Coordination Network: Soils and the Natural Heritage: a Vision by the Soils LCN for the Protection of the UK Soil Resource and Sustainable Use of Soils (2007)	<p>This document sets out the Soils Lead Coordination Network's vision for soil conservation. The "desired outcomes" of the vision are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining the diversity and biodiversity of UK soils; • Controlling and when appropriate reversing loss of soil carbon and water-holding capacity; • Reducing accelerated soil erosion and sediment transport into watercourses; and • Ensuring appropriate status of soils in mitigation and remediation scenarios to control the impact of climate change. 	The LPR and SA should consider how soils can be protected and enhanced, and include policies that promote the conservation of soils.
Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC	This provides an overarching strategy, including a requirement for EU Member States to ensure that they achieve 'good ecological status' by 2015. River Basin Management Plans were defined as the key means of achieving this. They contain the main issues for the water environment and the actions we all need to take to deal with them.	The SA Framework should include objectives that consider effects upon water quality and resource.
HM Government Strategy for Sustainable Construction (2008)	Encourages the construction industry to adopt a more sustainable approach towards development; identifies eleven Themes for targeting Action, which includes conserving water resources.	The LPR and SA should consider how the water environment can be protected and enhanced, and include policies that promote the sustainable use of water resources.

DEFRA The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations (2003)	<p>Requires all inland and coastal waters to reach “good status” by 2015. It mandates that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> development must not cause a deterioration in status of a waterbody; and development must not prevent future attainment of ‘good status’, hence it is not acceptable to allow an impact to occur just because other impacts are causing the status of a water body to already be less than good. <p>This is being done by establishing a river basin district structure within which demanding environmental objectives are being set, including ecological targets for surface waters.</p>	The SA Framework should include objectives that consider effects upon water quality and resource.
Environment Agency: Building a Better Environment: A Guide for Developers (2006)	Guidance on addressing key environmental issues through the development process (focusing mainly on the issues dealt with by the Agency), including managing flood risk, surface water management, use of water resources, preventing pollution.	The LPR and SA should consider how the water environment can be protected and enhanced, and include policies that promote the sustainable use of water resources.
National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG, 2012)	<p>The NPPF states that plans should prevent development from contributing to, or being put at risk of, air or water pollution. Plans should consider the presence of Air Quality Management Areas and cumulative impacts on air quality from individual sites in local areas.</p> <p>The NPPF states that planning should protect and enhance soils, particularly those recognized as best and most versatile agricultural land (Grades 1, 2 and 3a).</p>	The LPR and SA should adhere to the principles of the Planning Policy Framework.
Severn River basin district, river basing management plan (2015)	The management plan lays out the objectives for the Severn River basin, which include avoiding deterioration of surface and groundwater, achieving good status for all water bodies, reversing significant and sustained pollution and progressively reducing pollution of groundwater. The plan also sets out measures by which objectives can be achieved.	The LPR and SA should seek to avoid over abstraction and pollution of the Severn River will be avoided.
River Basin Management Plan, Humber River Basin District	The management plan lays out the objectives for the Humber River basin, which include actions to protect the quality of drinking water, keep costs at a minimum and to take action on climate change.	The LPR should seek to keep proposals in accordance with proposals of the basin management plan.
South Staffs Water, Water Resource Management Plan 2014	South Staffs Water provides water supply across part of the LPR area and sewerage services across the entire LPR area. The Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) sets out how South Staffs Water plans to maintain the balance between supply and demand for water. This includes forecasting future supply and demand and proposing measures to align these two. Priorities of the plan include leakage reduction, improved efficiency, a higher proportion of metered customers, improved levels of service and better protection for the environment.	The LPR and SA should consider how the water environment can be protected and enhanced, and include policies that promote the sustainable use of water resources.

Severn Trent Water, Water Resource Management Plan 2019	Severn Trent Water plan to adopt their new Water Resource Management Plan in 2019. They are currently in consultation on the plan. The 2015 – 2020 plan sets out how Severn Trent Water maintains the balance between supply and demand for water. Their priorities for the future include keeping bills for customers at a minimum, taking affair and balanced approach for all stakeholders and delivering long term environmental benefits.	Development proposed in the LPR should seek to be in accordance with the future plans of the Severn Trent WRMP.
Southern Staffordshire Water Cycle Study, 2010 - 2026	The WCS considers the issues of flood risk, water resources, water supply, wastewater collection, wastewater treatment, water quality, environmental issues and demand management. It offers a relatively detailed look on the potential development in the area and the implications this may have for each of these issues.	Development proposes in the LPR should seek to take on board the advice and constraints noted in the WCS.
2008 Air Quality Action Plan South Staffordshire Council	This document summarises the status of all AQMAs in the district. It sets out a series of actions to address poor air quality in these areas and records the progress to date against each of these actions.	The LPR and SA should consider the impacts of, and on, air quality.
Climatic factors		
UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992)	Sets an overall framework for intergovernmental efforts to tackle the challenge posed by climate change.	The LPR and SA should consider ways to reduce the impact of climate change in the district.
IPCC Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1997)	Commits member nations to reduce their emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, or engage in emissions trading if they maintain or increase emissions of these gases.	The LPR and SA should consider ways to reduce the impact of climate change in the district.
EC Sixth Environmental Action Programme 2002-2012 (2002)	Climate change has been identified as one of four priority areas for Europe. The EAP's main objective is a reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases without a reduction in levels of growth and prosperity, as well as adaptation and preparation for the effects of climate change.	The LPR and SA should consider ways to reduce the impact of climate change in the district.
EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2006)	This Strategy identifies key priorities for an enlarged Europe. This includes health, social inclusion and fighting global poverty. It aims to achieve better policy integration in addressing these challenges, and to ensure that Europe looks beyond its boundaries in making informed decisions about sustainability. The Sustainable Development Strategy was review in 2009 and “underlined that in recent years the EU has mainstreamed sustainable development into a broad range of its policies. In particular, the EU has taken the lead in the fight against climate change and the promotion of a low-carbon economy. At the same time, unsustainable trends persist in many areas and the efforts need to be intensified”. Sustainable development is a key focus of	The LPR and SA should consider ways to promote sustainable development in the district.

	the EU and the strategy continues to be monitored and reviewed.	
UK Climate Change Act 2008 (2008)	<p>The 2008 Climate Change Act seeks to manage and respond to climate change in the UK, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting ambitious, legally binding targets; • Taking powers to help meet those targets; • Strengthening the institutional framework; • Enhancing the UK's ability to adapt to the impact of climate change; and • Establishing clear and regular accountability to the UK Parliament and to the devolved legislatures. <p>Significantly, the Act sets a legally binding target of at least an 80 per cent cut in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and at least a 34 per cent cut by 2020. These targets are against a 1990 baseline.</p>	The LPR and SA should consider ways to reduce the impact of climate change in the district.
UK Renewable Energy Strategy (2009)	The UK has committed to sourcing 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020 – an increase in the share of renewables from about 2.25% in 2008. The Renewable Energy Strategy sets out how the Government will achieve this target through utilising a variety of mechanisms to encourage Renewable Energy provision in the UK. This includes streamlining the planning system, increasing investment in technologies as well as improving funding for advice and awareness raising.	The LPR and SA should consider ways to promote renewable energy generation in the district.
UK Renewable Energy Roadmap Update (2013)	This is the second Update to the 2011 Renewable Energy Roadmap. It sets out the progress that has been made and the changes that have occurred in the sector over the past year. It also describes the continuing high ambitions and actions along with the challenges going forward.	The LPR and SA should consider ways to promote renewable energy generation in the district.
The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan (2009)	<p>The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan sets out how the UK will meet the Climate Change Act's legally binding target of 34 per cent cut in emissions on 1990 levels by 2020. It also seeks to deliver emissions cuts of 18% on 2008 levels. The main aims of the Transition Plan include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Producing 30% of energy from renewables by 2020; • Improving the energy efficiency of existing housing; • Increasing the number of people in 'green jobs'; and • Supporting the use and development of clean technologies. 	The LPR and SA should consider ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the district.
National Planning Policy Framework	<p>At the heart of the NPPF is presumption in favour of sustainable development.</p> <p>The NPPF includes guidance on climate change, flooding, and coastal change. Plans should take</p>	The LPR and SA should adhere to the principles of the

(DCLG, 2012)	<p>account of climate change over the longer term, including factors such as flood risk, coastal change, water supply and changes to biodiversity and landscape. New development should be planned to avoid increased vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change. When new development is brought forward in areas which are vulnerable, care should be taken to ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures, including through the planning of green infrastructure.</p> <p>To support the move to a low carbon future, planning authorities should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plan for new development in locations and ways which reduce greenhouse gas emissions; • actively support energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings; and • when setting any local requirement for a building's sustainability, do so in a way consistent with the Government's zero carbon buildings policy and adopt nationally described standards. <p>Local plans should apply a sequential, risk-based approach to the location of development to avoid where possible flood risk to people and property and manage any residual risk, taking account of the impacts of climate change, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • applying the Sequential Test; • if necessary, applying the Exception Test; • safeguarding land from development that is required for current and future flood management; • using opportunities offered by new development to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding. 	Planning Policy Framework.
DfT An Evidence Base Review of Public Attitudes to Climate Change and Transport Behaviour (2006)	Summary report of the findings of an evidence base review investigating the research base on public attitudes towards climate change and transport behaviour.	The LPR and SA should consider how to increase public awareness towards climate change in the district.
Carbon Trust: The Climate Change Challenge: Scientific Evidence and Implications (2005)	This report summarises the nature of the climate change issue. It explains the fundamental science and the accumulating evidence that climate change is real and needs to be addressed. It also explains the future potential impacts, including the outstanding uncertainties.	The LPR and SA should consider ways to reduce the impact of climate change in the district.
Energy Saving Trust: Renewable Energy Sources for Homes in Urban Environments	Provides information about the integration of renewable energy sources into new and existing dwellings in urban environments. It covers the basic principles, benefits, limitations, costs and suitability of various technologies.	The LPR and SA should consider ways to integrate renewable energy technology into new and existing

(2005)		dwellings.
Environment Agency, Adapting to Climate Change: A Checklist for Development (2005)	The document contains a checklist and guidance for new developments to adapt to climate change. The main actions are summarised in a checklist.	The LPR and SA should consider ways to reduce the impact of climate change in the district.
Floods & Water Management Act (2010)	<p>Seeks to “localise” responsibility for flood risk, particularly from ordinary watercourses. Key policies within the act include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • providing the Environment Agency with an overview of all flood and coastal erosion risk management and unitary and county councils to lead in managing the risk of all local floods; • encouraging the uptake of sustainable drainage systems and providing for unitary and county councils to adopt SUDS for new developments and redevelopments; • introduce an improved risk based approach to reservoir safety; • widen the list of uses of water that water companies can control during periods of water shortage; • enabling water and sewerage companies to operate concessionary schemes for community groups on surface water drainage charges; • amending the Water Industry Act 1991 to provide a named customer and clarify who is responsible for paying the water bill; and • make it easier for water and sewerage companies to develop and implement social tariffs where companies consider there is a good cause to do so. 	The LPR and SA should consider how the water environment can be protected and enhanced, and include policies that promote the sustainable use of water resources.
Climate Change Strategy, South Staffordshire Council 2008	This strategy sets out the steps the Council, its partners and local residents can take to help reduce the district’s contribution to climate change. This includes a range of actions that may be undertaken within the Council and also those that are district wide. They focus on promoting sustainability, energy efficiency, education and identifying local solutions to the causes and impacts of climate change.	The LPR and SA should seek to be in accordance with, and potentially enhance, measures of the climate change strategy.
Material Assets		
EC Sixth Environmental Action Programme 2002-2012 (2002)	Natural resources and waste (in particular recycling) has been identified as one of four priority areas for Europe. The EAP requires member states to achieve 22% of electricity production from renewable energies by 2010; to significantly reduce the volumes of waste generated and the quantity going to disposal; and to give preference to waste recovery and especially to recycling.	The LPR and SA should consider ways to increase renewable energy generation and significantly reduce the

		amount of waste going to disposal.
EC Waste Framework Directive (1975, updated 2006)	Objective is the protection of human health and the environment against harmful effects caused by the collection, transport, treatment, storage and tipping of waste. Particular focus is placed on the re-use of recovered materials as raw materials; restricting the production of waste; promoting clean technologies; and the drawing up of waste management plans.	The LPR and SA should consider the recommended actions in this document to correctly manage waste disposal.
EC Landfill Directive (1999)	Aims to prevent or reduce as far as possible negative effects on the environment, in particular the pollution of surface water, groundwater, soil and air, and on the global environment, including the greenhouse effect, as well as any resulting risk to human health, from the landfilling of waste, during the whole lifecycle of the landfill.	The LPR and SA should consider the recommended actions in this document to correctly manage waste disposal.
Cabinet Office: Waste Not, Want Not, A Strategy for tackling the waste problem (2002)	A study into how England's current waste management practices could be improved to reduce the current, and growing, waste problem.	The LPR and SA should consider the recommended actions in this document to correctly manage waste disposal.
DEFRA Waste and Emissions Trading Act (2003)	Sets out legislative provisions for waste (including waste sent to landfill, waste management in England and Wales, and recycling plans), and about penalties for non-compliance with schemes for the trading of emissions quotas.	The LPR and SA should adhere to the principles of the Waste and Emissions Trading Act.
DEFRA Waste Strategy for England (2007)	Aims are to reduce waste by making products with fewer natural resources; break the link between economic growth and waste growth; re-use products or recycle their materials; and recover energy from other wastes where possible. Notes that for a small amount of residual material, landfill will be necessary.	The LPR and SA should consider the recommended actions in this document to correctly manage waste disposal.
DECC Energy White Paper: Meeting the Energy Challenge (2007)	<p>Sets out Government's long term energy policy, including requirements for cleaner, smarter energy; improved energy efficiency; reduced carbon emissions; and reliable, competitive and affordable supplies. The White Paper sets out the UK's international and domestic energy strategy, in the shape of four policy goals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) aiming to cut CO₂ emissions by some 60% by about 2050, with real progress by 2020; 2) maintaining the reliability of energy supplies; 3) promoting competitive markets in the UK and beyond; and 4) ensuring every home is heated adequately and affordably. 	The LPR and SA should consider ways to reduce the impact of climate change in the district.

DECC Sustainable Energy Act (2010)	Aims include increasing the use of renewable energy; cutting the UK's carbon emissions; maintaining the reliability of the UK's energy supplies; promoting competitive energy markets in the UK; and reducing the number of people living in fuel poverty.	The LPR and SA should consider the recommended actions in this document to support sustainable energy in the district.
DTI Micro Generation Strategy (2006)	Acknowledges that local authorities can be pro-active in promoting small-scale, local renewable energy generation schemes through "sensible use of planning policies".	The LPR and SA should consider promoting small scale renewable energy generation schemes.
EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2006)	This Strategy identifies key priorities for an enlarged Europe. This includes health, social inclusion and fighting global poverty. It aims to achieve better policy integration in addressing these challenges, and to ensure that Europe looks beyond its boundaries in making informed decisions about sustainability. The sustainable Development Strategy was review in 2009 and "underlined that in recent years the EU has mainstreamed sustainable development into a broad range of its policies. In particular, the EU has taken the lead in the fight against climate change and the promotion of a low-carbon economy. At the same time, unsustainable trends persist in many areas and the efforts need to be intensified". Sustainable development is a key focus of the EU and the strategy continues to be monitored and reviewed.	The LPR and SA should consider ways to promote sustainable development in the district.
EU Transport White Paper. Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area – Towards a competitive and resource efficient transport system (2011)	The white paper sets out a European vision for a competitive and sustainable transport system for the EU. The white paper sets out an aim to achieve a 60% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from the European transport system whilst growing transport systems and supporting mobility. The White paper sets out ten strategic goals.	The LPR and SA should consider ways to support sustainable transport systems in the district.
National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG, 2012)	<p>The recently released NPPF seeks to streamline the planning system and sets out the Governments planning policies and how these should be applied. At the heart of the NPPF is presumption in favour of sustainable development.</p> <p>The NPPF includes guidance on promoting sustainable transport. The NPPF requires development plans to seek to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and congestion, reduce the and to travel, and exploit opportunities for the sustainable movement of people and good. Developments should be located and designed where practical to:</p>	The LPR and SA should adhere to the principles of the Planning Policy Framework.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accommodate the efficient delivery of goods and supplies; • give priority to pedestrian and cycle movements, and have access to high quality public transport facilities; • create safe and secure layouts which minimise conflicts between traffic and cyclists or pedestrians, avoiding street clutter and where appropriate establishing home zones; and • incorporate facilities for charging plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles; and consider the needs of people with disabilities by all modes of transport. 	
Department for Transport: Transport White Paper: The Future of Transport – A Network for 2030 (2004)	Sets out factors that will shape transport in the UK over the next thirty years. Also sets out how the Government will respond to the increasing demand for travel, while minimising the negative impact on people and the environment.	The LPR and SA should consider ways to reduce the impact of transport on the environment.
Department for Transport: Towards a Sustainable Transport System: Supporting Economic Growth in a Low Carbon World (November 2008)	<p>Outlines five national goals for transport, focusing on the challenge of delivering strong economic growth while at the same time reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It outlines the key components of national infrastructure, discusses the difficulties of planning over the long term in the context of uncertain future demand and describes the substantial investments we are making to tackle congestion and crowding on transport networks. The National Goals for Transport are as follows:</p> <p>Goal 1: To reduce transport's emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, with the desired outcome of tackling climate change.</p> <p>Goal 2: To support economic competitiveness and growth, by delivering reliable and efficient transport networks.</p> <p>Goal 3: To promote greater equality of opportunity for all citizens, with the desired outcome of achieving a fairer society.</p> <p>Goal 4: To contribute to better safety, security and health and longer life expectancy by reducing the risk of death, injury or illness arising from transport, and by promoting travel modes that are beneficial to health.</p> <p>Goal 5: To improve quality of life for transport users and non-transport users, and to promote a healthy natural environment.</p>	The LPR and SA should consider ways to reduce the impact of transport on the environment.
Department for Transport: The Future of Rail White Paper (2004)	Sets out a blueprint for a new streamlined structure for Britain's Railway. The proposals aim to provide a single point of accountability for the network's performance, allow closer working between track and train and provide for greater devolution of decision-making.	The LPR and SA should consider ways to support the future of Britain's railway system.

Department for Transport: An Evidence Base Review of Public Attitudes to Climate Change and Transport Behaviour (2006)	Summary report of the findings of an evidence base review investigating the research base on public attitudes towards climate change and transport behaviour.	The LPR and SA should consider ways to encourage support for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
Department for Transport: National Cycling Strategy and Review (1996, reviewed 2005)	The National Cycling Strategy aims to increase cycle use for all types of journey. The Review focuses on the mechanisms established for the delivery of cycling and the effect these have had on increasing cycling rates.	The LPR and SA should consider ways to support cycling as a sustainable mode of transport in the district.
Secretary of State for Transport (2013) Aviation Policy Framework	<p>This document will fully replace the 2003 Air Transport White Paper as Government's policy on aviation, alongside any decisions Government makes following the recommendations of the independent Airports Commission. Key aims of this document includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that the UK's air links continue to make it one of the best connected countries in the world. This includes increasing our links to emerging markets so that the UK can compete successfully for economic growth opportunities. • To ensure that the aviation sector makes a significant and cost-effective contribution towards reducing global emissions. • To limit and where possible reduce the number of people in the UK significantly affected by aircraft noise. • To encourage the aviation industry and local stakeholders to strengthen and streamline the way in which they work together. 	The LPR and SA should consider ways to encourage the aviation industry in the district.
DEFRA (2010) Noise Policy Statement for England (NPSE)	<p>This document seeks to clarify the underlying principles and aims in existing policy documents, legislation and guidance that relate to noise. The key aims of this document are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life; • Mitigate and minimise adverse impacts on health and quality of life; and • Where possible, contribute to the improvement of health and quality of life. 	The LPR and SA should consider the recommended actions in this document to reduce the impact of noise on health and quality of life.
Environment Agency: Water for people and the environment: A Strategy for England	Looks at the steps needed, in the face of climate change, to manage water resources to the 2040s and beyond, with the overall aim of improving the environment while allowing enough water for human uses.	The LPR and SA should consider how the water environment can be protected and enhanced, and include

and Wales (2009)		policies that promote the sustainable use of water resources.
EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2006)	This Strategy identifies key priorities for an enlarged Europe. This includes health, social inclusion and fighting global poverty. It aims to achieve better policy integration in addressing these challenges, and to ensure that Europe looks beyond its boundaries in making informed decisions about sustainability. The sustainable Development Strategy was review in 2009 and “underlined that in recent years the EU has mainstreamed sustainable development into a broad range of its policies. In particular, the EU has taken the lead in the fight against climate change and the promotion of a low-carbon economy. At the same time, unsustainable trends persist in many areas and the efforts need to be intensified”. Sustainable development is a key focus of the EU and the strategy continues to be monitored and reviewed.	The LPR and SA should consider how the water environment can be protected and enhanced, and include policies that promote the sustainable use of water resources.
DTI Draft Strategy for Sustainable Construction (2006)	“Themes for Action” include: re-use existing built assets; design for minimum waste; aim for lean construction; minimise energy in construction; minimise energy in building use; avoid polluting the environment; preserve and enhance bio-diversity; conserve water resources; respect people and their local environment; and set targets (benchmarks & performance indicators).	The LPR and SA should consider ways to support sustainable construction in the district.
HM Treasury: Barker Review of Housing Supply, Delivering Stability: Securing our Future Housing Needs (2004)	Government objectives include: to achieve improvements in housing affordability in the market sector; a more stable housing market; location of housing supply which supports patterns of economic development; and an adequate supply of publicly-funded housing for those who need it.	The LPR and SA should consider ways to support improvements of affordable housing in the district.
Planning for Town Centres: Practice guidance on need, impact and the sequential approach (December 2009)	This practice guidance was intended to support the implementation of town centre policies set out in <i>Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth</i> (PPS4) (now replaced by PPG). It is aimed at helping those involved in preparing or reviewing need, impact and sequential site assessments.	The LPR and SA should consider the recommended actions in this document to plan for sustainable economic growth.
Staffordshire Local Transport Plan 2011, Staffordshire County Council	The transport plan for the county has a range of objectives, including to support economic growth which avoids congestion, to improve employment and education opportunities for residents, to improve road safety to respond to current and future climate change and to encourage and provide for active travel.	The LPR and SA should adhere to the principles of the Transport Plan.

Infrastructure Delivery Plan, South Staffordshire Council, March 2011	Sustainable development will not be achieved through the delivery of housing and employment development alone. The Infrastructure Delivery Plan sets out the Council's plans for supporting the delivery of infrastructure in the district, including social and community facilities, transport and utility services. This requires joint working between key partners and delivery agencies.	The LPR and SA should seek to match development with infrastructure delivery.
Staffordshire County Council Cycling Strategy	There are 163.5 miles of cycle routes in the county of Staffordshire. The Cycling Strategy provides an overview of these routes. It also sets out that the emphasis for cycling development in the county will be to extend the National Cycle Network Routes 5 and 55 and to progress the Chase Heritage Trail between Rugeley and Cannock.	The LPR should seek to be in accordance with the Cycling Strategy.
Historic Environment		
Council of Europe: Convention on the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (1985)	Aims for signatories to protect their architectural heritage by means of identifying monuments, buildings and sites to be protected; preventing the disfigurement, dilapidation or demolition of protected properties; providing financial support by the public authorities for maintaining and restoring the architectural heritage on its territory; and supporting scientific research for identifying and analysing the harmful effects of pollution and for defining ways and means to reduce or eradicate these effects.	The LPR and SA should consider the recommended actions in this document to protect architectural heritage in the district.
Council of Europe: The Convention on the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (Revised) (Valetta Convention) (1992)	The convention defines archaeological heritage and identifies measures for its protection. Aims include integrated conservation of the archaeological heritage and financing of archaeological research and conservation.	The LPR and SA should consider the recommended actions in this document to protect archaeological heritage in the district
DCMS Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act (1979)	An act to consolidate and amend the law relating to ancient monuments, to make provision of matters of archaeological or historic interest, and to provide grants by secretary of state to the Architectural Heritage fund.	The LPR and SA should consider the recommended actions in this document to protect ancient monuments and archaeological heritage in the district.
National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG, 2012)	The recently released NPPF seeks to streamline the planning system and sets out the Government's planning policies and how these should be applied. At the heart of the NPPF is presumption in favour of sustainable development. The NPPF includes guidance on conserving and enhancing the historic environment. It seeks to ensure local authorities plan recognise heritage assets as an irreplaceable resource and conserve	The LPR and SA should adhere to the principles of the Planning Policy Framework.

	<p>them in a manner that reflects their significance.</p> <p>Planning authorities should take into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation; the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring; and the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place. 	
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act (1990)	An act to consolidate certain enactments relating to special controls in respect of buildings and areas of special architectural or historic interest with amendments to give effect to recommendations to give effect to recommendations of the Law Commissions.	The LPR and SA should consider how to protect listed buildings and conservation areas.
English Heritage and CABE: Buildings in Context: New Development in Historic Areas (2002)	Aims to stimulate a high standard of design when development takes place in historically sensitive contexts by showing 15 case studies in which achievement is far above the ordinary and trying to draw some lessons both about design and about the development and planning process, particularly regarding building in sensitive locations.	The LPR and SA should consider the recommended actions in this document regarding building new homes in historically sensitive locations.
Office of the Deputy Prime minister (ODPM) Secure and Sustainable Buildings Act (2004)	Amends the Building act, and others, with regard to sustainable construction practices and conservation of historic buildings. Also states the general nature of security provisions which should be in place at the construction stage and beyond.	The LPR and SA should consider ways to implement sustainable construction practices into the development of new homes.
English Heritage: Conservation Principles for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment (2008)	<p>This English Heritage document sets out the framework for the sustainable management of the historic environment. This is presented under the following six headline 'principles':</p> <p>Principle 1: The historic environment is a shared resource</p> <p>Principle 2: Everyone should be able to participate in sustaining the historic environment</p> <p>Principle 3: Understanding the significance of places is vital</p> <p>Principle 4: Significant places should be managed to sustain their values</p> <p>Principle 5: Decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent and consistent</p> <p>Principle 6: Documenting and learning from decisions is essential.</p>	The LPR and SA should consider the recommended actions in this document to protect the historic environment in the district.

English Heritage Guidance on Setting of Heritage Assets (2011)	This document sets out English Heritage guidance on managing change within the settings of heritage assets, including archaeological remains and historic buildings, sites, areas, and landscapes. It provides detailed advice intended to assist implementation of Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment and its supporting Historic Environment Planning Practice Guide, together with the historic environment provisions of the National Policy Statements for nationally significant infrastructure projects.	The LPR and SA should consider the recommended actions in this document to protect heritage assets in the district.
Historic England: Tall Buildings: Historic England Advice Note 4	This Historic England Advice Note updates previous guidance by English Heritage and CABI, produced in 2007. It seeks to guide people involved in planning for and designing tall buildings so that they may be delivered in a sustainable and successful way through the development plan and development management process. The advice is for all relevant developers, designers, local authorities and other interested parties.	The LPR and SA should consider the recommended actions in this document to protect heritage assets in the district.
Historic Environment Character Assessment: South Staffordshire, January 2011	This assessment identifies heritage assets in the district, including national and local designations. It offers an overview of their current condition and makes recommendations for their conservation and enhancement. Assets include historic landscapes, historic buildings and conservations areas.	The LPR and SA should take opportunities to protect and enhance heritage assets and have regard to the assessment's recommendations.
Landscape		
Council of Europe: European Landscape Convention (2006)	Aims to promote the protection, management and planning (including active design and creation of Europe's landscapes, both rural and urban, and to foster European co-operation on landscape issues.	The LPR and SA should consider the recommended actions in this document to correctly manage the rural and urban landscape in the district
English Heritage and CABI: Guidance on Tall Buildings (2007)	Provides advice and guidance on good practice in relation to tall buildings in the planning process and to highlight other related issues, which need to be taken into account, i.e. where tall buildings would and would not be appropriate.	The LPR and SA should consider the recommended actions in this document to correctly manage the planning of tall buildings in the district

National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG, 2012)	The NPPF states that development could seek to promote or reinforce local distinctiveness; both aesthetic considerations and connections between people and places should be considered. The NPPF also promotes the protection and enhancements of valued landscapes, giving greatest weight to National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.	The LPR and SA should adhere to the principles of the Planning Policy Framework.
Cannock Chase AONB Management Plan 2014 - 2019	The management plan sets out the key issues for the AONB, which include landscape, people, economy, recreation and support. For each of these issues, the management plan sets out policies and plan delivery actions as well as monitoring programme. The management plan demonstrates how the AONB partnership will continue to protect the Cannock Chase environment from growing pressures such as climate change and population growth. It seeks to protect the AONB's tranquillity, biodiversity value, perception amongst the public and to help establish somewhere prosperous, clean, sustainable and enjoyable.	The LPR should seek to be in accordance with the management plan and to avoid adverse impacts on the AONB. The SA should help to ensure the LPR does so.

Habitat Regulations Assessments
Sustainability Appraisals
Strategic Environmental Assessments
Landscape Character Assessments
Landscape and Visual Impact Assessments
Green Belt Reviews
Expert Witness
Ecological Impact Assessments
Habitat and Ecology Surveys



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