STRATFORD-ON-AVON DISTRICT COUNCIL SITE ALLOCATIONS PLAN

FINAL SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL SCOPING REPORT

December 2014

enfusion

Stratford-on-Avon District Council Site Allocations Plan

Sustainability Appraisal Final Scoping Report

December 2014

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environmental planning and management for sustainability

Stratford-on-Avon District Council Site Allocations Plan

**Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Assessment
Scoping Report**

CONTENTS

1.0   INTRODUCTION

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) & Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

1.1   A sustainability appraisal is a systematic process that must be carried out during the preparation of a Local Plan. The purpose of Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is to promote sustainable development through assessing the extent to which an emerging plan, when judged against reasonable alternatives, will help to achieve relevant environmental, economic and social objectives[1].

1.2   The requirement for SA is set out in Section 19 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and in Paragraph 165 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Extant guidance[2] recommends that SA incorporates the requirements for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) set out in the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, which implements the requirements of the EU SEA Directive[3]. The Council have commissioned independent specialist consultants Enfusion Ltd to undertake the SA process for the Site Allocations Plan (SAP).

1.3   National Planning Practice Guidance sets out the key stages and tasks for the SA process and their relationship with the Local Plan process, which are illustrated in Figure 1.1. It is important to note that SA is an iterative and on-going process. Stages and tasks in the SA process may be revisited and updated or revised as a plan develops, to take account of updated or new evidence as well as consultation responses.

1.4   The scoping stage is the first stage of the SA process, which must identify the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the Sustainability Appraisal report. It sets out the context, objectives and approach of the assessment; and identifies relevant environmental, economic and social issues and objectives.

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[1] Department for Communities and Local Government (2014) National Planning Practice Guidance - Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal. Online at
http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/
[2] Ibid.
[3] EU Directive 2001/42/EC

Figure 1.1: SA and Plan-making Stages and Tasks

Sustainability appraisal process | Local Plan preparation

Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope
1. Identify other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives
2. Collect baseline information
3. Identify sustainability issues and problems
4. Develop the sustainability appraisal framework
5. Consult the consultation bodies on the scope of the sustainability appraisal report

Evidence gathering and engagement

Stage B: Developing and refining alternatives and assessing effects
1. Test the Local Plan objectives against the sustainability appraisal framework
2. Develop the Local Plan options including reasonable alternatives
3. Evaluate the likely effects of the Local Plan and alternatives
4. Consider ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects
5. Propose measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the Local Plan

Consult on Local Plan in preparation (regulation 18 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012).
Consultation may be undertaken more than once if the Local Planning Authority considers necessary.

Stage C: Prepare the sustainability appraisal report

Stage C: Prepare the publication version of the Local Plan

Stage D: Seek representations on the sustainability appraisal report from consultation bodies and the public

Seek representations on the publication Local Plan (regulation 19) from consultation bodies and the public

Submit draft Local Plan and supporting documents for independent examination

Outcome of examination
Consider implications for SA/SEA compliance

Local Plan Adopted

Stage E: Post adoption reporting and monitoring
1. Prepare and publish post-adoption statement
2. Monitor significant effects of implementing the Local Plan
3. Respond to adverse effects

Monitoring
Monitor and report on the implementation of the Local Plan

Source: National Planning Practice Guidance (2014)

Stratford-on-Avon District Development Plan

1.5   Stratford-on-Avon District Council is required to meet the housing, economic and community needs of the District. The Local Plan should include the planning policies and site allocations for new development that the District Council, as the local planning authority, will use to determine planning applications.

1.6   Rather than prepare a single plan, the District Council has chosen to prepare separate plans that should be read together, namely; the Core Strategy, Gypsy and Traveller Plan, and the Site Allocations Plan. Along with Neighbourhood Plans prepared by town or parish councils, and the Minerals and Waste Local Plans prepared by Warwickshire County Council, these plans will form the statutory Development Plan for Stratford-on-Avon District (see Figure 1.2).

Figure 1.2: Stratford-on-Avon District Development Plan

Source: Site Allocations Plan - Intention to Prepare a Local Plan Regulation 18 Consultation (August 2014)

1.7   The Core Strategy identifies the overall amount, distribution and strategic locations for development, setting the policy context for the Site Allocations Plan and Neighbourhood Plans. Including detailed site allocations in the Core Strategy would cause further delay so the District Council is preparing a separate Site Allocations Plan that will identify specific non-strategic sites for development. The proposed submission version of the Core Strategy was agreed by Council on 12 May 2014 and consultation on its 'soundness' ended on 17 July 2014. The Core Strategy was submitted to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for Examination by an independent Inspector on 30 September 2014. The Inspector will consider if it is fit for purpose and has been prepared properly. Final adoption is anticipated in April 2015. A similar process will apply to the Site Allocations Plan.

1.8   The Stratford-on-Avon District Council Site Allocations Plan builds on the existing Core Strategy which sets the vision for the future development of the District, by proposing sites that would be suitable to meet the identified needs.

Purpose and Structure of this SA Scoping Report

1.9   This document reports the scoping stage of the SA process for the Stratford-on-Avon District Council Site Allocations Plan (SAP). It builds upon existing SA work, including scoping work, undertaken for the Core Strategy and the Gypsy & Traveller Plan. Following this introductory Section 1, this report is structured into five further sections:

■   Section 2 provides a brief summary of the key plans and programmes of relevance to the SA of the SAP. The detailed plans, policies and programmes review is provided separately in Appendix I;

■   Section 3 describes the characteristics of the SAP area, setting out the collated baseline information, together with an indication of how the baseline might evolve without the SAP.

■   Section 4 sets out the key sustainability issues and SA Framework of Objectives;

■   Section 5 sets out proposed approach and method for the SA; and

■   Section 6 provides the consultation details for this Draft SA Scoping Report and next steps for the SA process.

2.0   PLANS, POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES REVIEW

2.1   In order to establish a clear scope for the SA of the Publication Draft Local Plan, it is necessary (and a requirement of SEA) to review and develop an understanding of the wider range of policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives that are relevant to the Local Plan. This includes International, European, National, Regional and local level policies, plans and strategies. Summarising the aspirations of other relevant policies, plans, programmes and sustainability objectives (hereafter referred to as 'relevant plans') promotes systematic identification of the ways in which the Local could help fulfil them.

2.2   A detailed review of plans, policies and programmes was undertaken as part of the SA Scoping Stage for the Stratford-on-Avon Gypsy and Traveller Plan in February 2014. The SA Scoping for the SAP has built on this review work and updated it where necessary. A summary of the key plans, policies and programmes is provided below with the detailed review presented in Appendix I of this Report.

2.3   The NPPF is the overarching policy framework for the delivery of sustainable development across England, it sets the broad objectives for development across a range of topics. It sets out 12 core land-use planning principles that should underpin both plan-making and decision-taking. The Core Strategy has been developed in accordance with the overarching NPPF and sets out the vision for future development of the District and identifies the overall amount, distribution and strategic locations for development, setting the policy context for the Site Allocations Plan. The strategy seeks to deliver 10,800 new homes over the plan period 2011-2031, and directs development towards;

- The main town of Stratford-upon-Avon - 2,590 new homes during the life of the plan)
- The main rural centres of Alcester, Bidford-on-Avon, Henley-in-Arden, Kineton, Shipston-on-Stour, Southam, Studley and Wellesbourne - (2,830 new homes during the life of the plan)
- A new settlement in the vicinity of Gaydon and Lighthorne Heath to the west of the M40 - (3,000 new homes, 2,500 of which will be built within the plan period)
- Local Service Villages (explained below) - (1,950 new homes during the life of the plan)
- Large rural brownfield sites – (500 new homes during the life of the plan)
- Other rural locations – (590 new homes during the life of the plan)

2.4   Local Service Villages are identified in the Core Strategy as settlements of at least 100 dwellings, which are further categorised according to an assessment of the presence and comparative quality of three key services; general store, primary school and public transport. There are four categories of local village centres; these are presented in the table below.

Table 2.1: Local Service Villages

Category	Village
Category 1 (identified in the Core Strategy for 76 to 100 new homes in each)	Bishop's Itchington, Harbury, Long Itchington, Quinton, Tiddington
Category 2 (identified in the Core Strategy for 51 to 75 new homes in each)	Brailes, Fenny Compton, Lighthorne Heath, Napton-on-the-Hill, Salford Priors, Tysoe, Welford-on-Avon, Wilmcote and Wootton Wawen
Category 3 (Identified in the Core Strategy for 26 to 50 new homes in each)	Claverdon, Earlswood, Ettington, Great Alne, Ilmington, Long Compton, Newbold-on-Stour, Snitterfield, Stockton, Temple Herdewwycke and Tredington
Category 4 (identified in the Core Strategy for 10 to 25 new homes in each)	Alderminster, Alveston , Aston Cantlow, Bearley, Clifford Chambers, Gaydon, Hampton Lucy, Ladbroke, Lighthorne, Long Marston, Loxley, Mappleborough Green Moreton Morrell, Northend, Oxhill, Pillerton, Priors, Priors Marston, Tanworth-in-Arden and Wood End

2.5   The Core Strategy also seeks to deliver an additional 35 hectares of employment land over the plan period, with a focus on B1a or B1b Use Classes (offices, and research and development). A further 19 hectares of employment land are allocated to meet the specific needs of Redditch, and another 100 hectares of land are identified at the Gaydon / Lighthorne Heath to enable the expansion of Jaguar Land Rover's activities.

3.0 Baseline Information

Introduction

3.1 The SEA Directive requires the collation of baseline information to provide a background to, and evidence base for, identifying sustainability problems and opportunities in the District and providing the basis for predicting and monitoring effects of the Local Plan. To make judgements about how the emerging content of the plan will progress or hinder sustainable development, it is essential to understand the economic, environmental and social circumstances in the District today and their likely evolution in the future. The aim is to collect only relevant and sufficient data on the present and future state of the District to allow the potential effects of the SAP to be adequately predicted.

3.2 The SA/ SEA Guidance provided by Government[4] proposes a practical approach to data collection, recognising that information may not yet be available and that information gaps for future improvements should be reported as well as the need to consider uncertainties in data. Collection of baseline information should be continuous as the SA process guides plan making and as new information becomes available.

3.3 Baseline information was collated and reviewed as part of the SA process for the Core Strategy and Gypsy and Traveller Plan. The baseline information presented in this section builds upon this work, in particular the Draft SA Scoping Report for the Gypsy and Traveller Plan (February 2014).

3.4 The information in the baseline encompasses the environmental and socio-economic characteristics of Stratford-on-Avon District, providing a general context for the SA of the SAP. Other documents that have been considered and should be referred to for further detailed information include:

- Stratford-on-Avon District Council Core Strategy Proposed Submission Version (June 2014). Available at: https://www.stratford.gov.uk/files/seealsodocs/149168/CORE%20STRATEGY%20Proposed%20Submission%20Version%20-%20June%202014.pdf

3.5 As part of the iterative and on-going SA process, the baseline information will be updated as and when necessary, to take account of new evidence that may arise to inform the plan-making process.

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[4] Department for Communities and Local Government (2014) National Planning Practice Guidance - Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal. Online at http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/

Social Characteristics

Population

3.6   The population of Stratford-on-Avon was 120,500 people in 2011, having grown from 111,600 in 2001[5]. The District as a whole has a low population density (1.2 people per hectare[6]), with the largest settlement in the District being the town of Stratford-upon-Avon with a population of 23,000[7]. The majority of the population live in the surrounding rural area (around 78%[8]) in the smaller villages and hamlets, with nearly 30% of residents living in wards of less than 3,000 people[9]. There are 113 parishes in the District[10]; of which Stratford-upon-Avon acts as the District's principal administrative and retail centre, supported by rural centres, including the small market towns of Alcester, Henley-in-Arden, Shipston-on-Stour, and Southam[11].

3.7   The population profile for Stratford-on-Avon shows an above England average for all age groups over 45, and a low young working age population. Population trends indicate that the number of over 60s are projected to increase from 28% of the population to 38.4% by 2033, and over 85s are expected to increase by almost 232% compared to a Warwickshire average of 194%. By 2033 there is expected to be an additional 7,200 over 85s in the Stratford-on-Avon District[12].

Ethnicity & Deprivation

3.8   The majority of residents are classed as 'White British', with a small number of 'Asian / Asian British' and 'Mixed' ethnicities[13]. Overall the District has low levels of multiple deprivation, ranking 278th most deprived local authority District out of 326[14]. Although it is noted that three Super Output Areas (SOAs) in Stratford-on-Avon feature within the top 30% most health deprived SOAs nationally in 2010, compared to none in 2007. Of the 71 SOAs in the District, 94% have seen a relative deterioration in their ranking since the IMD 2007[15].

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[5] ONS (2011) Census Data [online] http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/mro/news-release/census-shows-increase-in-population-of-the-west-midlands/censuswestmidlandnr0712.html [accessed September 2014]

[6] ONS (2011) Neighbourhood Statistics Population Density [online] http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=7&b=6275264&c=Stratford-on-Avon&d=13&e=61&g=6472202&i=1001x1003x1032x1004&m=0&r=1&s=1410720365150&enc=1&dsFamilyId=2491 [accessed September 2014]

[7] Stratford-on-Avon District Council (2014) https://www.stratford.gov.uk/community/about-the-District.cfm [accessed September 2014]

[8] Stratford-on-Avon District Council (2011) Annual Monitoring Report 2011 [online] https://www.stratford.gov.uk/files/seealsodocs/12988/Annual%20Monitoring%20Report%202011.pdf [accessed September 2014]

[9] Ibid.

[10] Ibid.

[11] Ibid.

[12] Ibid.

[13] Ibid.

[14] Warwickshire Observatory (2010) The English Indices of Deprivation 2010 [online] http://apps.warwickshire.gov.uk/api/documents/WCCC-1014-99 [accessed September 2014]

[15] Warwickshire County Council (2012) Stratford-on-Avon 'Mini' JSNA Profile [online] http://apps.warwickshire.gov.uk/api/documents/WCCC-630-13 [accessed September 2014]

Figure 3.1: Index of Multiple Deprivation for Stratford-on-Avon (where a darker colour represents a more deprived area)
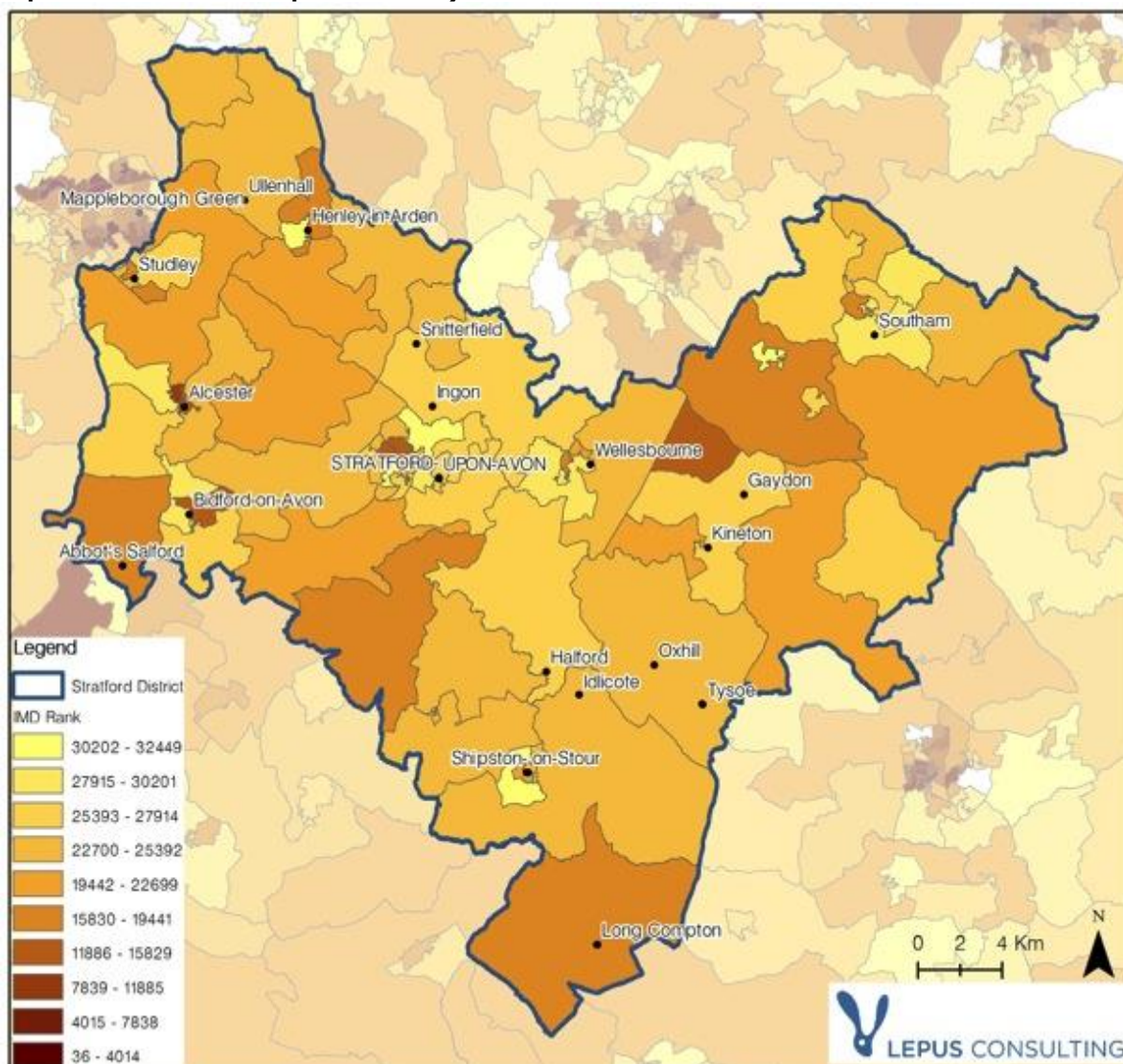
Source: Gypsy and Traveller Draft SA Scoping Report (Feb 2014) produced by Lepus Consulting on behalf of Stratford -on-Avon District Council.

Health

3.9   It is estimated that 23.3% of adults in Stratford-on-Avon are obese, although this is lower than the Warwickshire average of 25%, it still equates to nearly 22,800 residents[16]. Childhood obesity is largely concentrated in the northern areas of the Borough, and is below the County average, although there is some variation across the wards in the District[17]. The District has lower than average early death rates compared to the nation as whole[18]. Life expectancy for both men and women is higher than the England average, with life expectancy at birth estimated at 79.5 years for men and 83 years for

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[16] Ibid.
[17] Ibid.
[18] Public Health England (2014) Stratford-on-Avon Health Profile 2014 [online]
http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=142237 [accessed September 2014]

women[19]; however, life expectancy is 3.7 years lower for men and 5.9 years lower for women in the most deprived areas than in the least deprived areas, showing a disparity in average life expectancy across the District[20]. The health priorities in Stratford-on-Avon include; addressing alcohol misuse, smoking in pregnancy, and tackling obesity[21]. Obesity levels and an ageing population have implications for services in the District, particularly on the provisions of health and social care services with an ageing population is likely to increase the dependency ratio. There are multiple health facilities across Stratford-on-Avon, with doctors surgeries located in the majority of main rural settlements including: Stratford-upon-Avon; Southam; Kineton; Wellesbourne; Shipston-on-Stour; Bidford-on-Avon; Alcester; Studley; and Henley-in-Arden. There are also hospitals in Stratford-upon-Avon, Alcester and Shipston-on-Stour, as well as a hospital just outside the District boundary in Redditch.

3.10   Within the District it is estimated that 12.4% (6,314) of households are fuel poor, which means that they have to spend more than 10 per cent of their income on fuel to maintain an adequate standard of warmth. Compared to the other LAs in the region the District is fourth highest in terms of fuel poverty[22]. Water poverty is also an issue for low-income households due to new methods being introduced to increase the efficient use and distribution of water. A household is considered to be in water poor when 3% or more of its income is spent on water bills. An estimated 4 million households in the UK are already water poor - according to a report by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation - and the situation is likely to worsen with water bills predicted to rise by 5% a year for some customers[23].

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[19] ONS (2011) Stratford-on-Avon (Local Authority) Life Expectancy at Birth [online] http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadTableView.do?a=7&b=6275264&c=CV 37+6HX&d=13&e=6&g=6472317&i=1x1003x1004&m=0&r=0&s=1410866274032&enc=1&dsFamilyId=937 [accessed September 2014]
[20] Public Health England (2014) Stratford-on-Avon Health Profile 2014 [online] http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/view.aspx?RID=142237 [accessed September 2014]
[21] Ibid.
[22] DECC (2012) sub-regional fuel poverty data: low income high costs indicator. Available online: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fuel-poverty-sub-regional-statistics [accessed October 2014]
[23] Joseph Rowntree Foundation (2011) Vulnerability to Heatwaves and Drought: Adaptation to Climate Change.

Figure 3.2: Heath assets located within Stratford-on-Avon
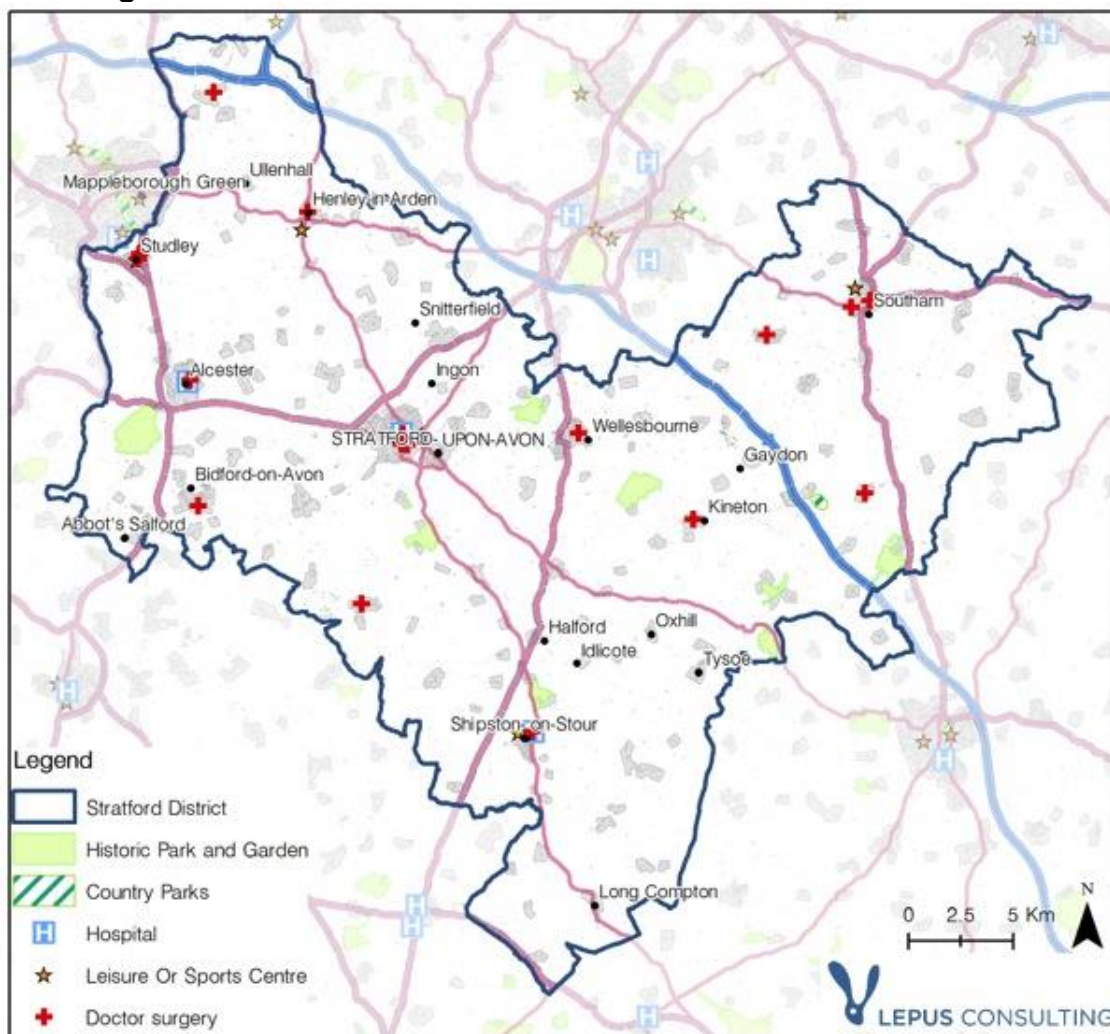
Source: Gypsy and Traveller Draft SA Scoping Report (Feb 2014) produced by Lepus Consulting on behalf of Stratford -on-Avon District Council.

Levels of Crime

3.11 Stratford-on-Avon generally has low levels of crime. However some residents, particularly older people, report a significant fear of crime. The highest levels of both crime and anti-social behaviour are in the vicinity of Stratford-upon-Avon town centre; in the wards of Guild and Hathaway and Avenue and New Town. The District also suffers from issues relating to cross border offending when criminals living in other areas outside Warwickshire offend within the District (Warwickshire Observatory 2009).

Housing

3.12 In March 2011 there were 54,011 dwellings in Stratford-on-Avon. Of these, 87% were private housing; this is proportionally more than the percentage of private housing in England at 82.1%. The housing market in Stratford-on-Avon remains buoyant, even though the average local house price fell, and there

was a drop in the number of sales in the period to mid-2009[24]. The average house price in Stratford-on-Avon in 2009 was £211,000, which was higher than the average house prices in the West Midlands and England (£142,000 and £170,000 respectively). In the same year (from January until December 2009) there were 1,481 dwellings sold in Stratford-on-Avon.

3.13   'Market' housing in the District is the least affordable to buy in Warwickshire. This particularly affects first time buyers, and obliges more people to seek private rented or affordable housing[25]. Privately rented accommodation is generally of good quality; however, it can be expensive. This restricts who can afford to rent a home of the appropriate size.

3.14   There is a shortage of affordable housing (i.e. regulated housing available to those who cannot afford full market prices). The latest assessment of District-wide housing needs points to an annual shortfall of 532 affordable homes. This contributes to out-migration; one of the main reasons for young people leaving the District is the lack of affordable accommodation[26].

Accessibility, Transportation and Communication

3.15   Within Stratford-on-Avon the strategic road network is made up of the M40, M42 and A46(T). The location of the M40 and M42 in the north of the District provides Stratford-on-Avon with good regional and national transport links via the motorway network. The M40 enters the District to the South-East near Burton Dassett, travelling up through Gaydon, Lighthorne and Ashorne, before leaving the District and re-entering to join the M42 near Wood End. The M40 can be accessed from Junction 12 near Gaydon, Junction 16 near Henley-in-Arden, and at the M42 Junction 3a. Junctions 13-15 of the M40 are located just outside the District, south of Leamington Spa and Warwick. The A46(T), which links Evesham with Warwick, crosses the District, forms the bypass for Stratford-upon-Avon, and runs close to Alcester and Fulbrook. Another notable route in the District is the A429, which follows part of the Fosse Way and links the centre of the District with Moreton-in-Marsh and Cirencester to the south.

3.16   The Strategic Transport Assessment[27] indicates that growth of the District is likely to have impacts on the following routes:
▪ A3400 Shipston Road / A390 Seven Meadows Road corridor
▪ A3400 Birmingham Road corridor
▪ A422 Banbury Road corridor
▪ M40 Junction 12 on the B4451 north of Gaydon

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[24] Stratford-on-Avon District Council (2012) Stratford-on-Avon District Housing Strategy 2009-2014 Review 2012 incorporating the Homelessness Strategy and Private Sector Housing Strategy [online] https://www.stratford.gov.uk/files/seealsodocs/147628/HOUSING%20STRATEGY%202009-14%20-%20Review%202012.pdf [accessed September 2014]
[25] Ibid.
[26] Ibid.
[27] Stratford-on-Avon District Council & Highways Agency (2012) Strategic Transport Assessment October 2012 [online] https://www.stratford.gov.uk/files/seealsodocs/147682/Strategic%20Transport%20Assessment%20-%20October%202012.pdf [accessed September 2014]

- A425 corridor between Southam and Leamington Spa
- C211 Warwick Road in Southam
- A439 Warwick Road Corridor
- A452 Banbury Road / Europa Way corridor
- B4100 between Gaydon roundabout and Chesterton Road north of Lighthorne
- B4451 between Gaydon and Bishop's Itchington
- Evesham Place roundabout

3.17 Most of these routes already experience significant capacity problems in peak periods, and it is likely that these would be exacerbated by further growth.

3.18 The main railway line in Stratford-on-Avon is the Shakespeare Line which links Stratford-upon-Avon, Wilmcote, Wootton Wawen, Henley-in–Arden, Danzey and Wood End with Birmingham, Smethwick, and Stourbridge. This line provides an important rail service for shoppers, tourists and students in the District. This line includes the new Stratford Parkway station, which is located next to the A46(T) at Bishopton. A further rail service links Stratford-upon-Avon to London Marylebone via Leamington Spa, with six direct trains daily. Journey times on this service are in the region of 1hour 58mins to 2hrs 18mins from Stratford-upon-Avon to London Marylebone.

3.19 The north of the District is relatively accessible to the Chiltern rail line which runs between Birmingham to London Marylebone, via Leamington Spa, Warwick Parkway and Banbury. Likewise the Cotswolds Line to Oxford and London Paddington runs close to the southern edge of the District, with a station at Moreton-in-Marsh.

3.20 Bus routes cross the District, with the majority located in the central area and around Stratford-upon-Avon. This is replicated by the bus stops, with Stratford-upon-Avon and the main rural settlements being well serviced, with reduced services and less bus stops in the more rural areas.

3.21 As a large rural District, Stratford-on-Avon has an extensive Public Rights of Way network, including footpaths, bridleways and byways. The network includes 3,002 footpaths, with a total length of 1,342km, and 642 bridleways, with a total length of 329 km. Long distance paths which run through Stratford-on-Avon include the Heart of England way, which links Cannock Chase in Staffordshire with the Cotswolds, and runs through the District from a north south direction via Henley-in-Arden, Alcester and Bidford-on-Avon. Another long distance path is the Monarch's Way, which passes through the District via Stratford-on-Avon, Wootton Wawen and Alcester on its 615 miles from the South Coast to Shropshire and Worcester. Other key routes in the District include the Arden Way, the Harry Green Way and the Centenary Way.

3.22 The District also has a high quality and extensive cycle network, which utilises off road routes along canals, former railways and other features. Notable routes in the District include the traffic free Stratford Greenway between Long Marston and Stratford-upon-Avon, the Stratford-upon-Avon to Redditch cycle

route, and the Stratford-upon-Avon to Ilmington route. Two completed National Cycle Routes run through the District, including National Route 5, which links Oxford and Birmingham via Stratford-upon-Avon, and National Route 41 the 'Lias Line', which links Stratford-upon-Avon with Warwick, Leamington Spa and Rugby. In total the District's cycle network extends for 332km[28].

3.23   As highlighted in the Warwickshire Local Transport Plan 2011-26[29], the rural nature of much of the District has an important influence on accessibility in Stratford-on-Avon. The availability and access to services varies significantly between urban and rural areas, with most key services available in urban areas and fewer facilities available in villages and hamlets. In this context the disparate nature of rural settlements and the difficulty of providing frequent and economical public transport networks presents challenges for accessibility in the District.

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[28] Sustrans (2014) National Cycle Network Map [online] http://www.sustrans.org.uk/ncn/map [accessed September 2014]

[29] Warwickshire County Council (20110 Warwickshire Local Transport Plan 2011-2026 [online] http://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/Web/corporate/wccweb.nsf/Links/5D561F3BBE31F6A580257850005275DD/$file/Warwickshire_LTP3.pdf [accessed September 2014]

Figure 3.3: Transport network and nodes within Stratford-on-Avon
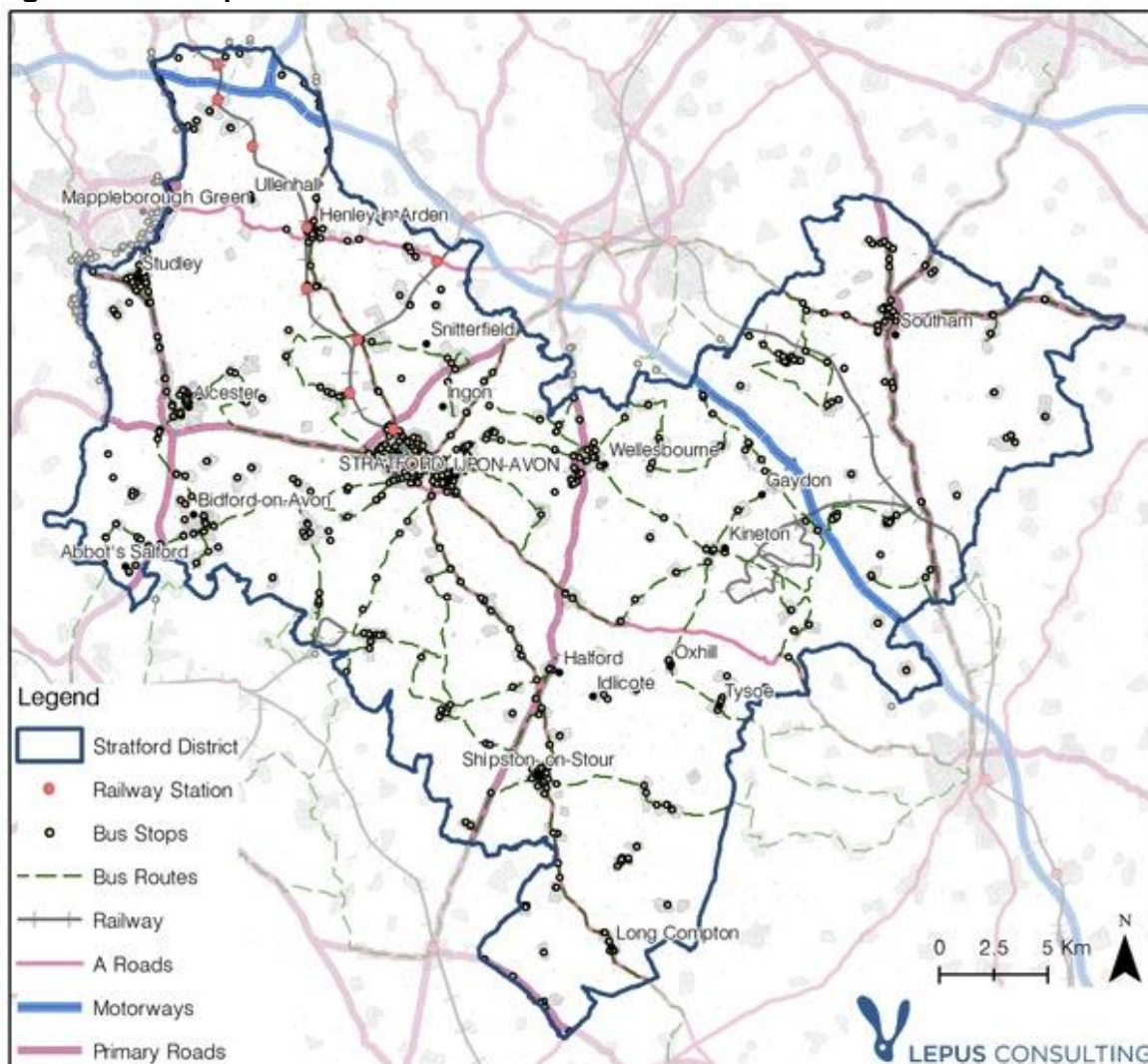
Source: Gypsy and Traveller Draft SA Scoping Report (Feb 2014) produced by Lepus Consulting on behalf of Stratford -on-Avon District Council.

Evolution of the Baseline without the Plan

3.24   Without the Site Allocations Plan in place to guide the future growth of the District, current trends are likely to continue, and development is likely to be located according to developer preferences rather than local need. This could make provisions for an ageing population more difficult to provide and enhance, as well as increase pressure on the existing road network with potentially little or no mitigation. The SAP promotes development that will support the rural centres, and without the plan development could result in increased pressure on rural services and facilities, or fringe development could detract from the health and vitality of town / village centres. The Site Allocation Plan further supports the delivery of affordable housing, which may not be so easily achieved without the SAP.

Table 3.1: Key Social Issues for Stratford-on-Avon District

Key Social Issues for Stratford-on-Avon District
▪ **Congestion:** The district's road network is becoming increasingly congested, particularly along radial and sub-radial routes. This has the potential for adverse effects on human health, safety and the economy. It can make commuter journeys more stressful and delay buses which are then unable to offer a viable alternative to the car for some journeys. Congestion can make deliveries less reliable and deter investment in the area.
▪ **Travel Methods:** Ensuring the viability and vitality of alternative modes of transport within rural areas.
▪ **Health:** Whilst health levels are generally high, inequalities exist between the most and least deprived areas. Planning should aim to contribute to the health priorities for the area, in particular tackling obesity.
▪ **Population:** Stratford-on-Avon is experiencing an ageing population, which will have implications for health service provisions and accessibility to services, facilities and amenities. The District is likely to experience an increasing proportion of the population with dementia, and an increasing dependency ratio.
▪ **Housing:** Market housing in the District is the least affordable in Warwickshire. There is also an annual shortfall of 532 affordable homes.
▪ **Quality of Life:** The development of a high quality and multifunctional green infrastructure network in the District will be a key contributor to quality of life for residents and encouraging active lifestyle.
▪ **Fuel and Water Poverty:** The District has the fourth highest level of fuel poor households in the region. The number of water poor households are likely to increase as water bills rise.

Economic Characteristics

Industry & Employment

3.25   Stratford-on-Avon has low unemployment rates compared to regional and national averages, with 3.7% of residents being classed as unemployed, compared to 8.8% in the West Midlands and 7.8% in England[30]. In Stratford-on-Avon 62,300 of residents are economically active – this transposes to 79.8% of the population. Of these 15,000 (or 18.4%) are self-employed[31].

3.26   The District has a high proportion of the workforce working in managerial, senior and professional occupations (33,500 or 55.4%)[32]. This reflects the highly skilled nature of the workforce, and the trend of out-commuting for higher paid jobs from the District to surrounding urban areas such as Birmingham,

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[30] ONS (2011) Neighbourhood Statistics [online]
http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/NeighbourhoodProfile.do?a=7&b=6275264&c=CV37+6QW&g=6472290&i=1001x1012&j=6312989&m=1&p=1&q=1&r=0&s=1410939884571&enc=1&tab=4&inWales=false [accessed September 2014]
[31] NOMIS (2014) Labour Market Profile Stratford-on-Avon [online]
http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157184/report.aspx [accessed September 2014]
[32] Ibid.

Oxford, Coventry and other employment centres. The majority of people in Stratford work in the service industry (85.8%), with 25.9% of people working in financial, and other business services, and 19% working in public admin, education and health services[33].

3.27 Tourism plays an essential role in Stratford-on-Avon, especially with its Shakespeare legacy. It currently attracts around 4.9 million visitors a year, who spend around £336 million in the area. Tourism is also one of the main sources of employment in the District with over 8,000 jobs supporting the industry[34].

3.28 The core strategy identifies the need to improve telecommunications infrastructure and in particular deliver high speed broadband in order to support home working and rural businesses.

Education

3.29 Skills levels are high in Stratford-on-Avon; a significantly higher proportion of the District's working age population has high level qualifications compared to West Midlands and Great Britain averages[35]. Educational performance also continues to exceed Regional and National levels in the District. In the period 2012 to 2013, a higher proportion of students achieved 5+ GCSEs at grade A*-C (71%) in Stratford-on-Avon than the national average of 61%[36].

Evolution of the Baseline Without the Plan

3.30 Without the Site Allocations Plan in place to guide the future growth of the District, current trends are likely to continue, and development is likely to be located according to developer preferences rather than local need. This may lead to increased levels of in and out commuting. Without focussed efforts to address the shortage in affordable housing, and the mismatch between average earning and house prices, existing problems could be exacerbated.

Table 3.2: Key Economic Issues for Stratford-on-Avon District

Key Economic Issues for Stratford-on-Avon District
▪ **Out-commuting:** Whilst the District has low unemployment and a higher proportion of the workforce working in higher paid professions, many of these jobs are located outside of the District, contributing to a high degree of out-commuting.

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[33] Ibid.
[34] Stratford-on-Avon District Council (2014) Core Strategy Proposed Submission Version June 2014 [online] https://www.stratford.gov.uk/files/seealsodocs/149168/CORE%20STRATEGY%20Proposed%20Submission%20Version%20-%20June%202014.pdf [accessed September 2014]
[35] NOMIS (2014) Labour Market Profile Stratford-on-Avon [online] http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/reports/lmp/la/1946157184/report.aspx [accessed September 2014]
[36] ONS (2011) Neighbourhood Statistics [online] http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/NeighbourhoodProfile.do?a=7&b=6275264&c=CV37+6QW&g=6472290&i=1001x1012&j=6312989&m=1&p=1&q=1&r=0&s=1410939884571&enc=1&tab=4&inWales=false [accessed September 2014]

- **In-commuting:** A high degree of in-commuting is experienced in the District of people in lower paid jobs who are unable to afford local housing.
- **Access to Work:** There is a considerable mismatch between the average earnings of local residents and house prices.
- **Communications Infrastructure:** The quality of broadband provision in rural areas of the District varies. There is significant scope to improve coverage and connection speeds, which could promote more home working and reduce commuting.
- **The Tourism Economy:** A key sector within the District that is important for the local economy.

Environmental Characteristics

Biodiversity

3.31   Although Stratford-on-Avon contains no internationally designated nature conservation sites the District does contain a diverse mosaic of habitats. According to the Natural Features Issues and Options paper[37], produced as part of the background documentation for the Draft Core Strategy, the majority (85%) of land outside of the settlements is arable land or improved grassland, with woodland only accounting for 5% of the land. Stratford-on-Avon contains all of Warwickshire's calcareous grassland (68 ha), and also accounts for 20% of the county's neutral grassland and 72% of the county's traditional orchards.

3.32   There are a number of nationally designated nature conservation sites in Stratford-on-Avon, including 37 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs)[38]. According to the Stratford-on-Avon Annual Monitoring Report 2010[39], 84.6% of the area covered by SSSIs in the District is in favourable condition; 15.4% is in unfavourable condition but in the process of recovery, and no SSSIs fall into the 'unfavourable and unchanging' category. The latest (2011) Monitoring Report does not mention SSSIs. This compares well with the national level (43%), the regional level (34%) and the county level (79%). The proportion of SSSIs in favourable condition has however declined slightly since 2009 (86.6% in 2009), whilst the percentage in the 'unfavourable but recovering' category has increased (12.8% in 2009).

3.33   There are currently four Local Nature Reserves located in the District managed by SDC or Warwickshire County Council. These are:

- River Arrow;

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[37] Stratford-on-Avon District Council (2008) Issue: Natural Features – securing conservation and enhancement [online] https://www.stratford.gov.uk/files/seealsodocs/9227/Assessment%20of%20Issues%20Options%20-%20Natural%20Features.pdf [accessed September 2014]
[38] Ibid.
[39] Stratford-on-Avon District Council (2010) Annual Monitoring Report 2010 [online] https://www.stratford.gov.uk/files/seealsodocs/11659/AMR%202010%20-%20FINAL%20REPORT%20-%20Jan%202011.pdf [accessed September 2014]

- Stockton Railway Cutting;
- Ufton Fields; and
- Welcome Hills and Clopton Park

3.34   Another important biodiversity asset is ancient woodlands. In Stratford-on-Avon these are largely concentrated in the north and centre of the District, reflecting the historic extent of the Forest of Arden.

3.35   Stratford-on-Avon has a rich species diversity, with the District containing a range of Priority Species including the Dormouse, Otter, White-Clawed Crayfish, Song Thrush, Great Crested Newt and Water Vole.

Figure 3.4: Main biodiversity features in Stratford-on-Avon
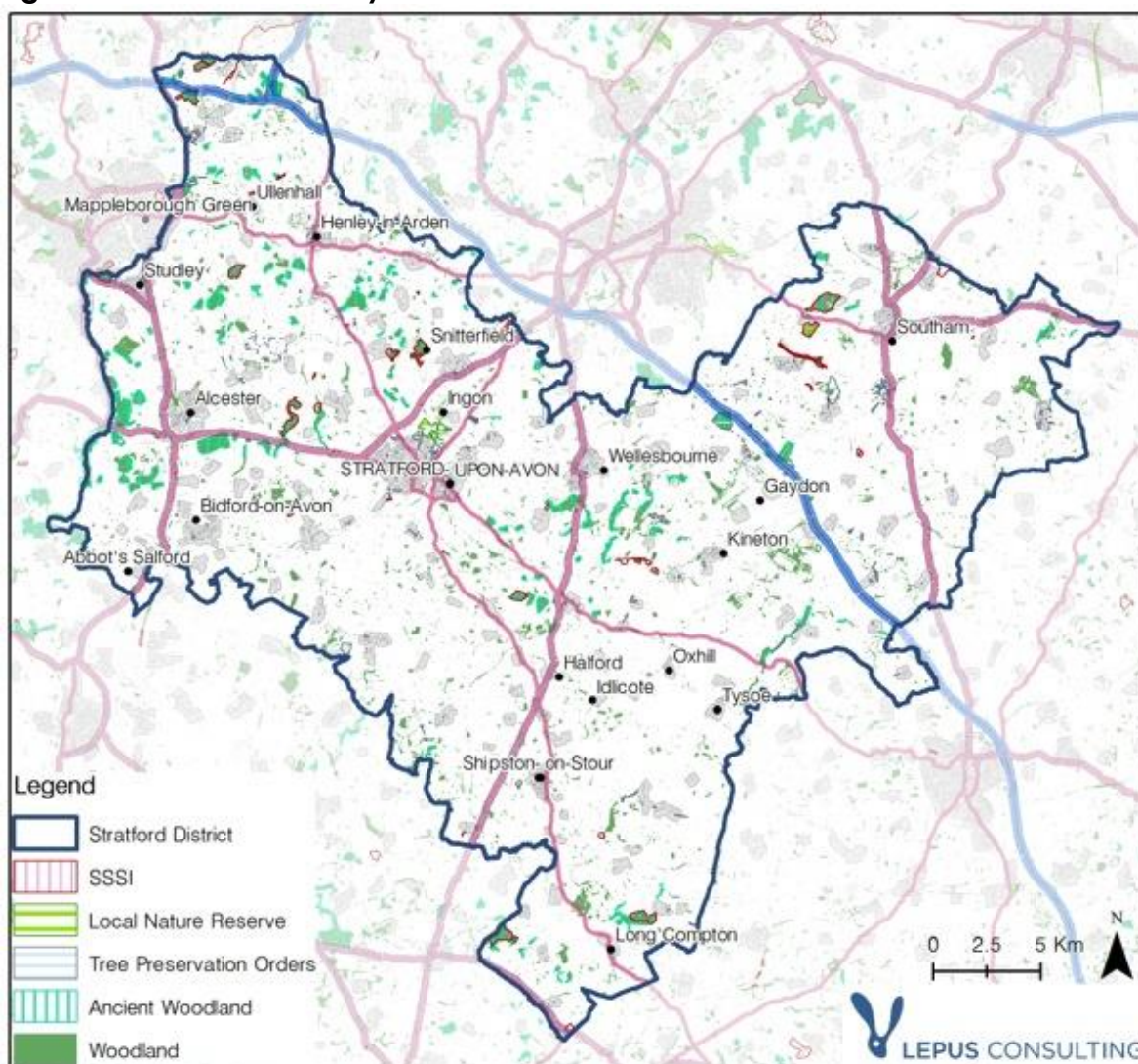
Source: Gypsy and Traveller Draft SA Scoping Report (Feb 2014) produced by Lepus Consulting on behalf of Stratford -on-Avon District Council.

Geodiversity

3.36   The underlying bedrock geology of Stratford-on-Avon is diverse, covering four geological eras. The geology of the District comprises five main groups:

Mercia Mudstone, Penarth, Lias, Middle Jurassic and Quartenery. However, exposures of the underlying geology are rare due to the topography of the District and are mostly restricted to quarries. The varied geodiversity of the District is highlighted by the presence of a number of sites designated for their geodiversity value. These include Geological SSSIs and Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS).

3.37   Geological SSSIs represent the best geology and geomorphology reflecting the UK's geodiversity. Sites are chosen for their past, current and future contributions to the science of geology and include coastal and upland areas, quarries, pits, mines, cuttings, and active landforms. Reflecting the rich geodiversity of the District, a significant number of the District's SSSIs have been designated as Geological SSSIs. These include the following:

- Ailstone Old Gravel Pit;
- Sharps Hill Quarry;
- Broom Railway Cutting;
- Stretton-on-Fosse Pit;
- Napton Hill Quarry;
- Copmill Hill;
- Cross Hands Quarry;
- Harbury Quarries;
- Harbury Railway Cutting;
- High Close Farm, Snitterfield; and
- River Blythe

3.38   Currently 27 Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS) exist in the District; these are currently being updated.

3.39   Stratford-on-Avon has historically produced a range of minerals including ironstone, gravel and sand, and crushed rock. The main use of these materials is now for aggregate in construction, and the demand is primarily from development areas and infrastructure projects. The Jurassic Lias limestones, clays and shales near Southam are also valuable for producing cement. Quarries producing local building stone in the District have largely closed, creating issues relating to repairing local buildings and retaining local distinctiveness.

Water and Flood Risk

3.40   The River Avon is the predominate river in Stratford-on-Avon; it enters the District near Hampton Lucy and flows through Stratford-upon-Avon, Welford-on-Avon, Bidford-on-Avon before entering Worcestershire north east of Evesham. The River Avon subsequently joins the River Severn at Tewkesbury.

3.41   Other notable rivers in the District include the River Itchen which rises near Wormleighton, flows past Bishops Itchington and progresses northwards to the west of Southam. The River Dene rises in the east of the District, and flows westwards through Kineton, before joining the River Avon at Charlecote Park, east of Stratford-upon-Avon. The River Arrow enters the District east of

Redditch, flowing through Studley and Coughton before being joined by the River Alne at Alcester. The River Alne is located in the north of the District, it flows through Wooten Wawen and Henley-in-Arden before joining the River Arrow at Alcester. The River Stour flows westwards through Stourton, before turning northwards and joining the River Avon between Clifford Chambers and Stratford-on-Avon[40].

3.42   Most of the District's water is supplied by Severn Trent Water's Severn Resource Zone, with a small amount supplied by Severn Trent Water's Birmingham Resource Zone and South Staffordshire Water Plc. According to the Environment Agency, water resources are under 'moderate stress' in the area, with some areas under 'serious' stress. In this context there are current and predicted supply-demand deficits within the District[41].

3.43   Whilst the River Severn (including the River Avon) is the major source of water in the area, a number of major aquifers exist locally, including the Triassic Sherwood Sandstone Group. These sandstones are capable of supporting large abstractions and form important aquifers for water supply in these areas. Another major aquifer is in the Jurassic Great & Inferior Oolitic Limestone, which is based along the Cotswold scarp covering part of the south of the District. This limestone aquifer provides an important water resource for the area and supports a number of abstractions, mainly from spring sources[42].

3.44   The chemical water quality of watercourses in Stratford-on-Avon has seen overall improvements since 1990[43]. In 2006, 63% of rivers were classed as of 'good' chemical quality, 36% were deemed to be of 'fair' quality and 1% were deemed to be of 'poor' or 'bad' quality. Whilst chemical water quality in the District has fluctuated since 2000, the quality is generally favourable compared to West Midlands and England averages. Since 2002 the biological water quality of Stratford-on-Avon has decreased. In 2006, 53% of rivers were classed as 'good' quality. This is below regional and England averages, where rivers determined to be of good biological quality represent 59% and 65% of the total respectively. Improvements to water quality in the District are required to meet the target of all watercourses to reach 'good' biological and chemical water quality status by 2015, as required by the Water Framework Directive[44].

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[40] DEFRA (2014) Magic Map [online] http://www.magic.gov.uk/ [accessed September 2014]
[41] Halcrow Group Ltd (2010) Warwickshire sub-regional Water Cycle Study Stratford-on-Avon District Council Final Report [online] https://www.stratford.gov.uk/files/seealsodocs/10702/Warwickshire%20sub-regional%20Water%20Cycle%20Study,%20SDC%20final%20report%20-%20March%202010.pdf [accessed September 2014]
[42] Environment Agency (2013) Warwickshire Avon abstraction licensing strategy [online] https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/291400/LIT_2604_7a244e.pdf [accessed September 2014]
[43] DEFRA (2010) River water quality indicator: biological and chemical river quality [online] https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/141707/rwisd2009annresults.xls [accessed September 2014]
[44] Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy [online] http://eur-lex.europa.eu/resource.html?uri=cellar:5c835afb-2ec6-4577-bdf8-756d3d694eeb.0004.02/DOC_1&format=PDF [accessed September 2014].

3.45   The majority of the Avon's catchment lies on impermeable rock (including triassic mudstones in the north and, within the District, Lower Lias clay). Fluvial flooding has been a historic risk in Stratford-on-Avon and continues to be a significant issue for many areas of the District due to the impermeability of the underlying geology, the size and shallow topography of much of the catchment area.

3.46   Surface water flooding takes place when the ground, rivers and drainage systems cannot absorb heavy rainfall. It is often a significant issue in areas where natural drainage has been heavily modified. The more built up areas of the District are deemed to be at risk from surface water flooding.

Figure 3.5: Water bodies in Stratford-on-Avon
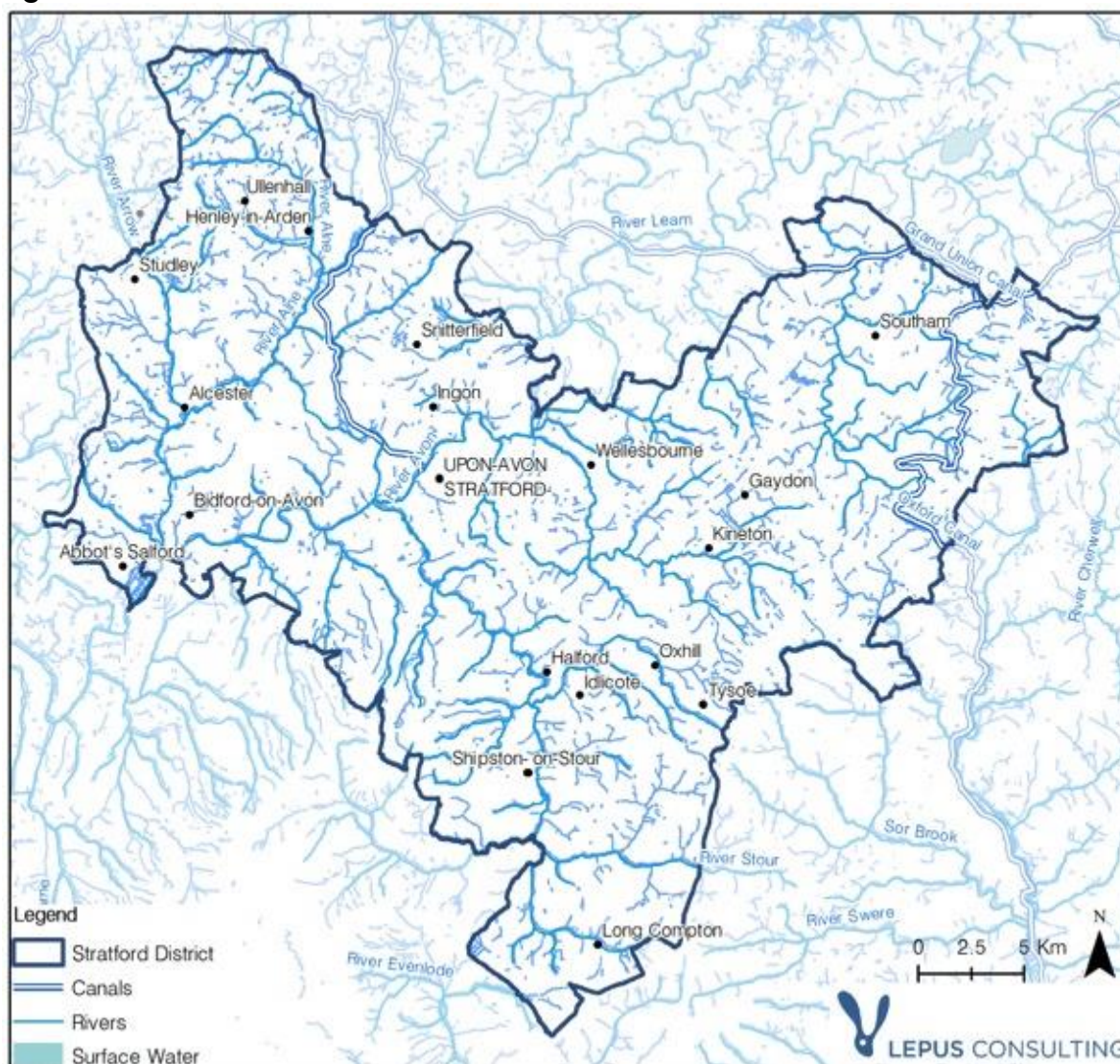
Source: Gypsy and Traveller Draft SA Scoping Report (Feb 2014) produced by Lepus Consulting on behalf of Stratford -on-Avon District Council.

Soil

3.47   Stratford-on-Avon has a diverse soil resource which has developed since the last ice age 10,000 years ago. These encompass a range of soils types which

reflect complex interactions between underlying geology, landform, past and existing land use and climate.

3.48   Soil quality has a strong influence on the quality of agricultural land. The Agricultural Land Classification system provides a method for assessing the quality of farmland to enable informed choices to be made about its future use within the planning system. The Agricultural Land Classification system classifies land into five grades, with Grade 3 subdivided into Subgrades 3a and 3b. The best and most versatile land is defined in the NPPF as Grades 1, 2 and 3a, which is deemed to be the land which is most flexible, productive and efficient in response to inputs and which can best deliver future crops for food and non-food uses such as biomass, fibres and pharmaceuticals.

3.49   The areas of best and most versatile agricultural land in the District, which has been classified as Grade 2 land, is located south and east of Stratford-upon-Avon and surrounding Bidford-on-Avon. These areas represent the fertile alluvial soils of the Avon river valley. There are also further areas of Grade 2 agricultural land in the far south east of the District on the border with Oxfordshire around the band of limestone near Edge Hill, and in the far north of the District around Long Itchington[45].

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[45] DEFRA (2014) Magic Map [online] http://www.magic.gov.uk/ [accessed September 2014]

Figure 3.6: Agricultural land classifications in Stratford-on-Avon
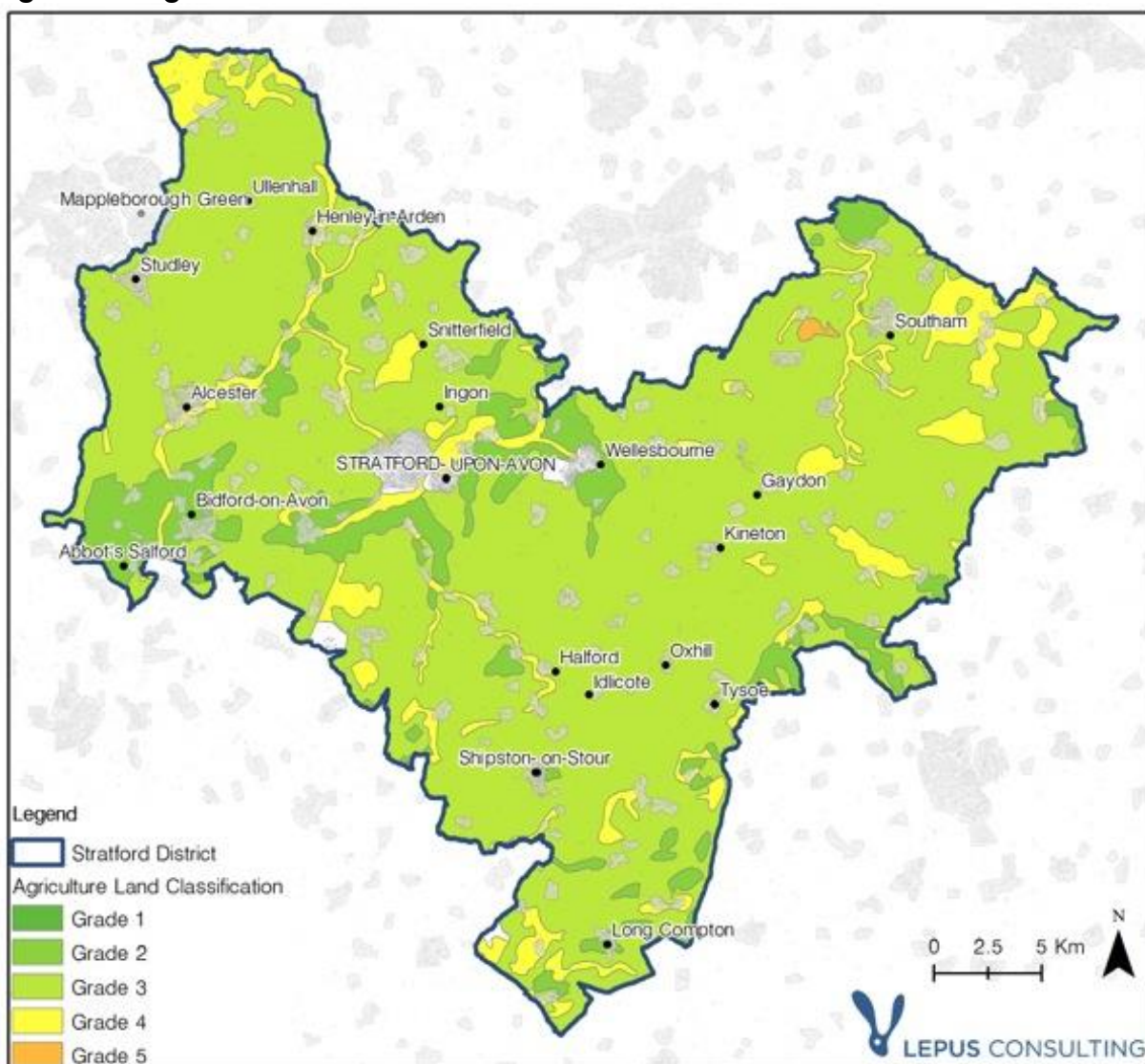
Source: Gypsy and Traveller Draft SA Scoping Report (Feb 2014) produced by Lepus Consulting on behalf of Stratford -on-Avon District Council.

Air Quality

3.50   As a rural District the majority of Stratford-on-Avon has very good air quality; however, there are a number of air quality hotspots in the urban areas; including in Studley, Stratford-upon-Avon and Henley-in-Arden. These areas are linked to emissions from road traffic and congestion.

3.51   The AQMA for Studley was declared in February 2006 due to exceedances of the annual mean Nitrogen Oxide (NO_2) objective[46]. In 2008 a detailed

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[46] Stratford-on-Avon District Council (2014) The Local Perspective – Air Quality Management [online] https://www.stratford.gov.uk/community/the-local-perspective-air-quality-management.cfm [accessed September 2014]

assessment for Stratford-upon-Avon was carried out due to monitored exceedances of NO_2 objectives[47]. The study confirmed that a number of locations in Henley-in-Arden as well as Wood Street, Greenhill Street, Grove Road and Tiddington Road in Stratford-upon-Avon were unlikely to meet the annual mean air quality objective for NO_2. It was recommended that Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) should be declared for exceedances of the NO_2 annual mean objective at these locations.

3.52   The geographical extent of the AQMAs were the subject of detailed public consultations in 2009. Following this consultation it was decided to declare the whole of Stratford-upon-Avon as an AQMA. The Stratford town AQMA came into effect on 22nd January 2010[48]. After further consideration the AQMA in Henley-in-Arden was not taken forward.

3.53   Climatic and anthropogenic-induced climate change is an increasing concern for Stratford-on-Avon. Locally defined levels of emissions are seen as contributing to national and international changes in climate with implications for a range of environmental and socio-economic receptors.

3.54   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) team[49], the study has suggested that a variety of risks exist for the West Midlands. The risks relevant to Stratford-on-Avon resulting from climate change include:

- Increased incidence of heat related illnesses and deaths during the summer;
- Increase incidence of illnesses and deaths related to exposure to sunlight (e.g. skin cancer, cataracts);
- Increased incidence of pathogen related diseases (e.g. legionella and salmonella);
- Increase in health problems related to rise in local ozone levels during summer;
- Increased risk of injuries and deaths due to increased number of storm events;
- Effects on water resources from climate change;
- Reduction in availability of surface water in reservoirs and rivers for abstraction in summer;
- Adverse effect on water quality from watercourse levels and turbulent flow after heavy rain and a reduction of water flow;
- Increased risk of flooding, including increased vulnerability to 1:100 year floods;

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[47] Stratford-on-Avon District Council (2008) Stratford-on-Avon District Council detailed assessment (Air Quality) [online]
https://www.stratford.gov.uk/files/seealsodocs/9114/Stratford%20DC%20Detailed%20Assessment%202008.pdf [accessed September 2014]
[48] Stratford-on-Avon District Council (2014) The Local Perspective – Air Quality Management [online]
https://www.stratford.gov.uk/community/the-local-perspective-air-quality-management.cfm [accessed September 2014]
[49] Met Office (2009) UK Climate Projections West Midlands Key Findings [online]
http://ukclimateprojections.metoffice.gov.uk/21774 [accessed September 2014]

- Changes in insurance provisions for flood damage;
- A need to increase the capacity of wastewater treatment plants and sewers;
- A need to upgrade flood defences;
- Increased likelihood of summer droughts and soil and water deficits, leading to demand for increased irrigation;
- Soil erosion due to flash flooding;
- Loss of species that are at the edge of their southerly distribution;
- Spread of species at the northern edge of their distribution;
- Deterioration in working conditions due to increased temperatures;
- Changes to global supply chain;
- Increased difficulty of food preparation, handling and storage more difficult due to higher temperatures;
- An increased move by the insurance industry towards a more risk-based approach to insurance underwriting, leading to higher cost premiums for local business;
- Increased demand for air-conditioning;
- Increased drought and flood related problems such as soil shrinkages and subsidence;
- Risk of rail tracks buckling due to increased temperature and road surfaces melting more frequently; and
- Flooding of roads and railways.

3.55 In relation to greenhouse gas emissions, Stratford-on-Avon has a higher per capita emissions rate than regional (West Midlands) and national averages, however emissions are lower than the Warwickshire average. Between 2005 and 2012 per capita CO_2 emissions in the District fell from 11.1 to 9.9 tonnes[50].

3.56 In relation to CO_2 emissions by end user in Stratford-on-Avon, between 2005 and 2012 the highest proportion of emissions were from the industry and commercial sector, followed closely by the transport sector[51].

Landscape

3.57 Stratford-upon-Avon falls within 3 National Character Areas (NCAs); The Arden (97), Severn and Avon Vales (106) and Dunsmore and Feldon (96). The Table below summarises the Statements of Environmental Opportunity for each of these areas:

Table 3.3: National Character Areas Environmental Opportunities

NCA	Statement of Environmental Opportunity (SEO)
96: Dunsmore and Feldon	SEO1: Protect and appropriately manage the historic character, settlement pattern and features of Dunsmore and Feldon, in particular its areas of archaeological and heritage interest, including the deserted settlements and ridge-and-furrow sites, ancient woodlands, veteran trees,

[50] DECC (2014) Local authority carbon dioxide emissions [online] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-emissions-estimates [accessed September 2014]
[51] Ibid.

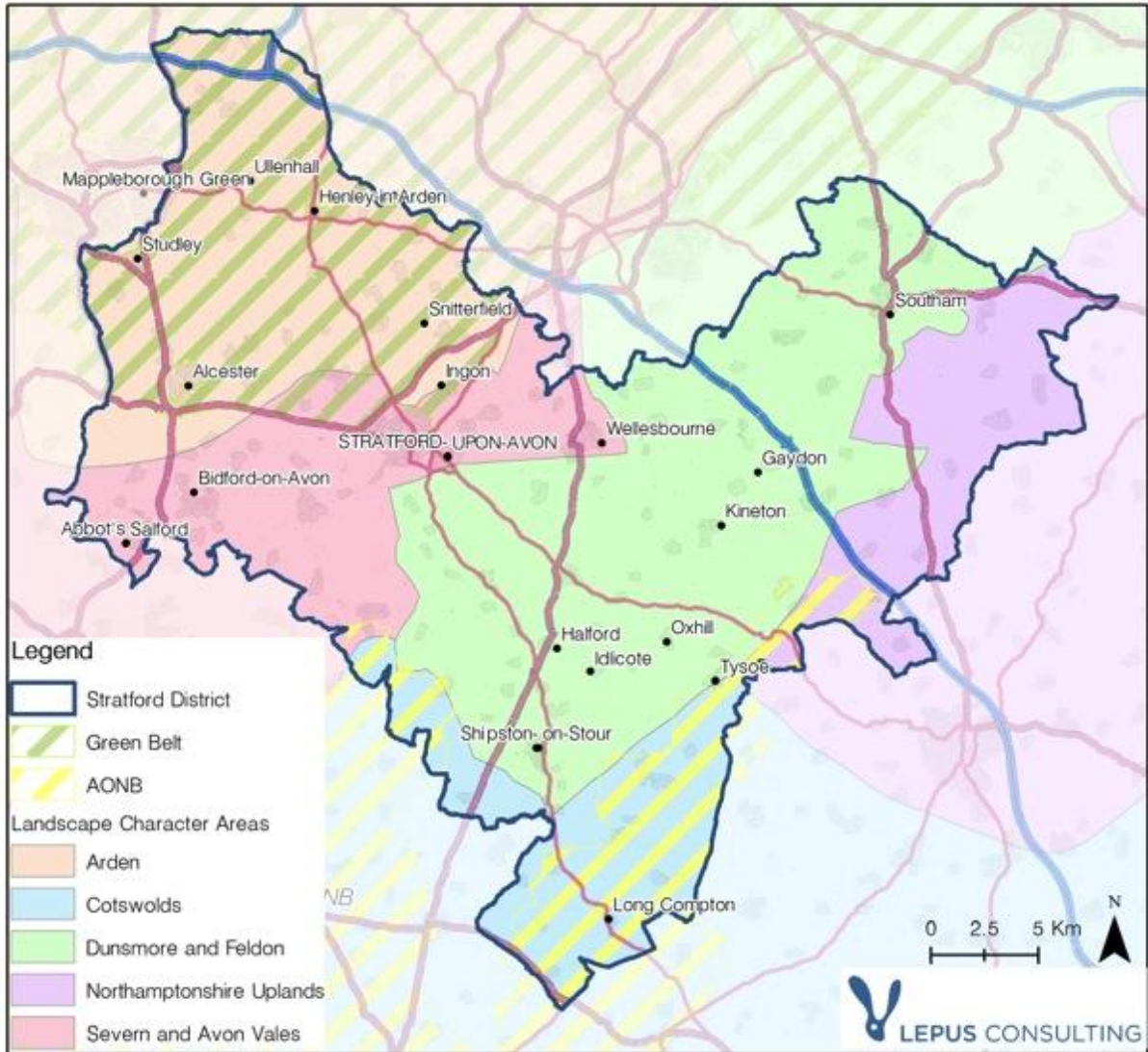|	
	farmsteads, country houses and landscaped parklands, and enhance the educational, access and recreational experience for urban and rural communities.
	SEO2: Protect and appropriately manage Draycote Reservoir and the important network of natural and manmade rivers, streams, ponds, canals and other wetland habitats for their important role in water provision and water quality, for the species they support and for their contribution to recreation, sense of place and geodiversity.
	SEO3: Protect and manage the mosaic of habitats including woodlands, hedgerows and heathlands, particularly ancient and semi-natural woodlands, together with sustainable management of agricultural land, and new planting of woodland and heathland, where appropriate, to ensure continued provision of food, to extend the timber and biomass resource and to contribute to pollination, biodiversity and carbon storage, and for the benefits to soil and water management.
	SEO4: Protect and manage the landscape character, high tranquillity levels and the historic settlement character to enhance sense of place and of history and to promote recreational opportunities; and ensure that new development is sensitively located and designed, integrate green infrastructure links into development, encourage new woodland planting to soften urban fringe developments and promote recreational assets such as the National Cycle Routes.
97: Arden	SEO1: Manage and enhance the valuable woodlands, hedgerows, heaths, distinctive field boundaries and enclosure patterns throughout the NCA, retaining the historic contrast between different areas while balancing the needs for timber, biomass production, climate regulation, biodiversity and recreation.
	SEO2: Create new networks of woodlands, heaths and green infrastructure, linking urban areas like Birmingham and Coventry with the wider countryside to increase biodiversity, recreation and the potential for biomass and the regulation of climate.
	SEO3: Conserve and enhance Arden's strong geological, industrial, and cultural resource, to increase public access, enjoyment, recreation and to retain a sense of place and history.
	SEO4: Enhance the value of Arden's aquatic features such as the characteristic river valleys, meadows and standing water areas like Bittell Reservoirs, to increase resource protection such as regulating soil erosion, soil quality and water quality.
106: Severn and Avon Vales	SEO1: Protect and manage the landscape, heritage and biodiversity associated with the Severn Estuary, the river valleys and other hydrological features, planning for a landscape scale expansion of wetlands, inter-tidal habitats and unimproved grasslands along river floodplains through, restoration, expansion, and re-linkage of existing remnant areas of semi-natural habitat.

	SEO2: Seek to safeguard and enhance this area's distinctive patterns of field boundaries, ancient hedgerows, settlements, orchards, parkland, small woodlands, chases, commons and floodplain management with their strong links to past land use and settlement history, and for the benefits this will bring to soil erosion, soil quality and biodiversity.
	SEO3: Reinforce the existing landscape structure as part of any identified growth of urban areas, hard infrastructure and other settlements ensuring quality green infrastructure is incorporated enhancing health, access, recreation, landscape, biodiversity and geodiversity.
	SEO4: Protect geological exposures and maintain, restore and expand semi natural habitats throughout the agricultural landscape, linking them together to create a coherent and resilient habitat network enabling ecosystems to adapt to climate change.

3.58   In broad terms, the District can be divided into a number of landscape character areas. Historically the Forest of Arden covered the area north of the River Avon; it was heavily wooded and the north of Stratford-on-Avon still retains a high level of tree cover compared to other areas of the District. The valleys of the Rivers Avon and Stour provide an attractive vale landscape comprising open fields and floodplains. Between the River Avon and the Cotswolds escarpment is the Dunsmore and Feldon landscape character area, a lowland and more open agricultural landscape with less tree cover and larger enclosures. The east of the District is classed as the Ironstone Uplands which extend into Northamptonshire. These landscape character areas are shown in Figure 7.4.

3.59   The south of the District is part of the distinctive Cotswolds scarp. This area has been designated for its high quality landscape as part of the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Stratford-on-Avon contains 104 square kilometres of the AONB, equating to 5% of the District[52]. The West Midlands Green Belt extends into the north of the District. Whilst the Green Belt is not a landscape designation, it is a significant element of landscape protection in the area.

Figure 3.7: Landscape Character Areas, Green Belt and AONB designations in Stratford-on-Avon

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[52] Cotswolds Conservation Board (2009) Fact Sheet 1: The Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty [online]
http://www.cotswoldsaonb.org.uk/userfiles/file/Publications/FACTSHEET%201%202009proof4.pdf
[accessed September 2014]

Source: Gypsy and Traveller Draft SA Scoping Report (Feb 2014) produced by Lepus Consulting on behalf of Stratford -on-Avon District Council.

Cultural Heritage

3.60   Listed buildings are those which have been placed on the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. There are a total of 3,430 nationally listed buildings in Stratford-on-Avon District. These include 65 Grade I listed buildings, 166 Grade II* listed, and 3,199 Grade II listed. There are also eleven Registered Parks or Gardens on the District[53].

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[53] English Heritage (2014) The National Heritage List for England [online] http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england/ [accessed September 2014]

3.61   Conservation areas are areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. There are 75 conservation areas in Stratford-on-Avon[54].

3.62   There are over 5,000 archaeological records for Stratford-on-Avon listed on the Warwickshire Sites and Monument Record[55]. These include 84 scheduled monuments, which are sites of national importance and protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. Scheduled monuments in the District include a variety of features, from remains of abbeys, manors, castles, hill forts and Roman roads and villas, to fish ponds, earthworks, windmills and watermills. These may or may not be visible above ground.

3.63   It should be noted that not all of the District's historic environment resource is subject to statutory designations, and 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 neighbourhood features are of historic interest. These are often considered to be important by local communities. For example, there are a number of parks and gardens and transport-related historic environment features of this nature in the District. Likewise, not all nationally important archaeological remains are scheduled.

Figure 3.8: Cultural heritage features in Stratford-on-Avon

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[54] Stratford-on-Avon District Council (2014) Conservation Areas [online]
https://www.stratford.gov.uk/planning/conservation-areas.cfm [accessed September 2014]
[55] Warwickshire County Council (2014) Timetrail Historic Environment Record [online]
http://timetrail.warwickshire.gov.uk/ [accessed September 2014]
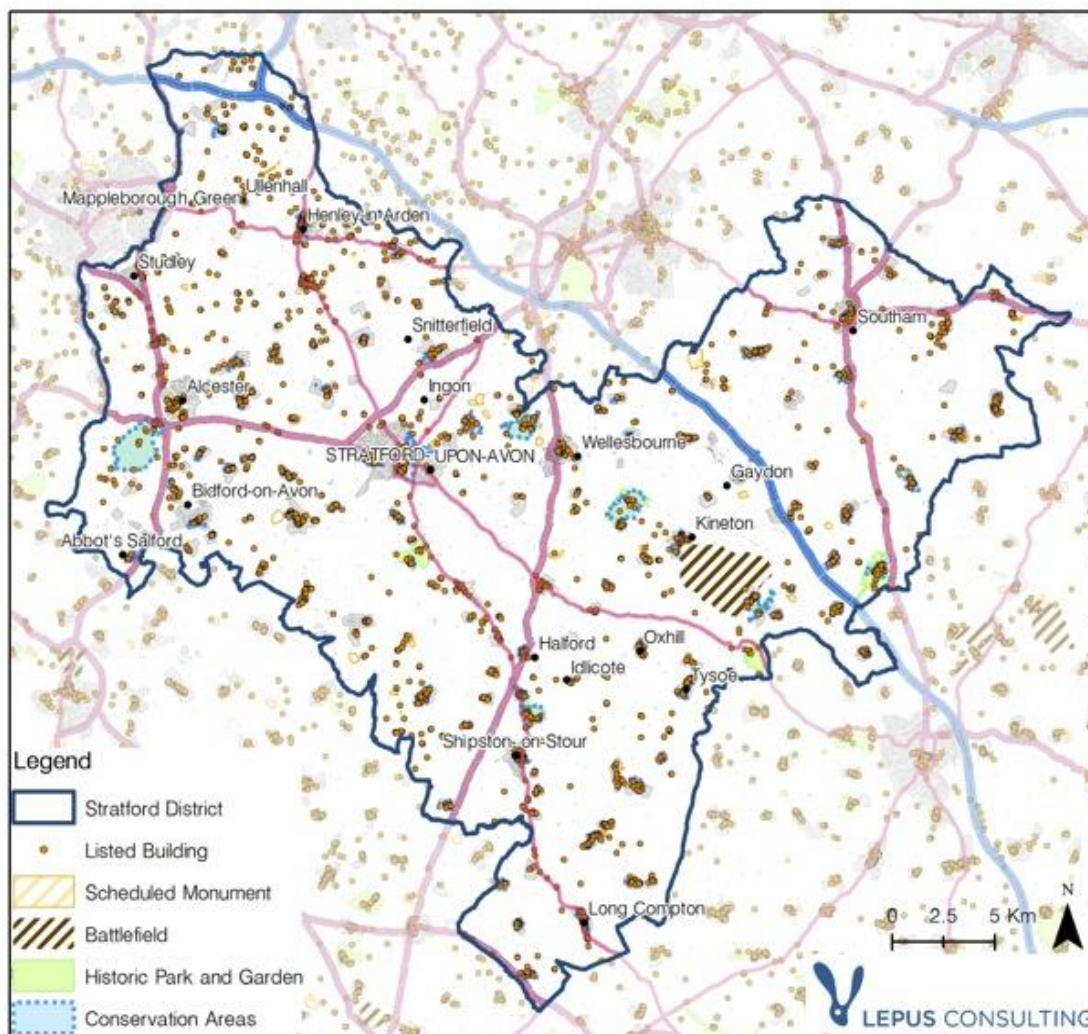
*Source: Gypsy and Traveller Draft SA Scoping Report (Feb 2014) produced by Lepus
Consulting on behalf of Stratford -on-Avon District Council.*

Green Spaces

3.64 A review of open spaces within the District which was undertaken by
Stratford-on-Avon District Council in 2005[56] identified a deficiency of open
space in Stratford town and most of the Main Rural Centres.

3.65 The PPG17 Audit and Playing Pitch Strategy[57] undertaken by SDC showed that
on the whole all Category One, Two and Three Settlements[58] within the District
have good access to an open space. At the District wide level, over 81% of

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[56] Stratford-on-Avon District Council (2005) Supplementary Planning Guidance – Provision of Open
Space [online]
https://www.stratford.gov.uk/files/seealsodocs/2874/Provision%20of%20Open%20Space.pdf [accessed
September 2014]
[57] ARUP (2012) Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment Update June 2012 [online]
https://www.stratford.gov.uk/files/seealsodocs/125370/Open%20Space%2C%20Sport%20and%20Recre
ation%20Assessment%20Update%20-%20June%202012.pdf [accessed September 2014]
[58]Where Category One refers to 'Stratford upon Avon town', Category Two: 'Main Rural Centres' and
Category Three: 'Local Service Villages'. Category Four refers to 'other villages, hamlets and rural
areas'

the area of category 1, 2, and 3 settlements is within a 10 minute walk of an open space.

3.66   Shipston has the smallest area of green space (at 60.74 hectares), it also has the lowest per capita open space provision of all the sub areas in Stratford-on-Avon. Studley & Henley has the largest amount of greenspace (265.16 hectares) which relates to a 13.86 per capita provision of greenspace, which is the highest provision of greenspace in Stratford-on-Avon[59]. Overall, settlements with the lowest levels of accessibility include:

- Earlswood
- Fenny Compton
- Welford on Avon

3.67   One of the most striking issues in the District is the lack of outdoor sports facilities that are publicly accessible to local communities (i.e. they have to be a club member or pay annual subscriptions). This has particular implications for encouraging healthy lifestyles, improving participation in sport and providing sufficient activities for young people.

Material Assets and Waste

3.68   Local renewable energy production currently provides a very low proportion of Stratford-on-Avon's energy needs, comprising only 0.4% of the District's total energy consumption (excluding transport)[60].

3.69   The Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Resource Assessment and Feasibility Study[61] presents a study of the potential viability and the deliverability of various renewable and low carbon options. The study suggests that large parts of Stratford-on-Avon are suitable for wind energy. The results of the analysis suggests that 115 to 224 wind turbines could be developed in Stratford-on-Avon by 2026, producing between 97% and 181% of the District's electricity demand. The same study suggests that biomass could deliver an equivalent of 22% of the District's energy needs and micro-generation could meet 1.3% to 5% of electricity in the District.

3.70   In comparison with national and regional averages, recycling rates on Stratford-on-Avon are very favourable. The figures show that regionally and nationally approximately 40% of municipal waste was recycled or composted in 2008/9. Stratford-on-Avon performed better and recycled or composted 59% of waste during the same period. This recycling rate has been

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[59] ARUP (2011) Stratford-on-Avon District Council PPG17 Audit and Playing Pitch Strategy – PPG17 Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment [online] https://www.stratford.gov.uk/files/seealsodocs/12067/PPG17%20Open%20Space%2C%20Sport%20and%20Recreation%20Assessment.pdf [accessed September 2014]
[60] CAMCO (2010) Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Resource Assessment and Feasibility Study [online] https://www.stratford.gov.uk/files/seealsodocs/11321/Renewable%20Energy%20Assessment%20-%20April%202010.pdf [accessed September 2014]
[61] Ibid.

maintained with just over 60% of local authority waste being sent for recycling/composting in 2012/13[62].

3.71   There are four Household Waste and Recycling Centres managed by Warwickshire County Council in the District. These are located at: Brailes Road, Shipton-on-Stour;Burton Farm, Bishopton; Rugby Road, Stockton and Loxley Road, Wellesbourne[63]. SDC also manages seven smaller recycling centres in the District.

Evolution of the Baseline without the Plan

3.72   Without the Site Allocations Plan in place to guide the future growth of the District, current trends are likely to continue, and development is likely to be located according to developer preferences rather than local need. This could potentially affect designated nature conservation sites through inappropriate development within or near to sites. The SAP applies a sequential approach to development, directly development away from the most sensitive sites, without this approach there is the potential for development within the flood plain and on some of the District's most sensitive or valued sites, potentially with little or no mitigation. Without the SAP development is likely to occur in the most popular / busy areas of the District which could exacerbate air quality and traffic management problem areas. Further to this, without the SAP development has the potential for significant effects on heritage assets and heritage settings.

Table 3.4: Key Environmental Issues for Stratford-on-Avon District

Key Environmental Issues for Stratford-on-Avon District
▪ **Nationally Designated Nature Conservation Sites:** This includes 37 SSSIs
▪ **Potential Biodiversity Loss:** There is the potential for biodiversity loss and habitat fragmentation as a result of growth pressures and development (e.g. increased recreational uses)
▪ **Open Space and Green Infrastructure:** Increased support and understanding of the role of GI in development
▪ **Protecting Watercourses:** Especially the River Avon and the associated flood risk. Fluvial flood risk is a significant issue for the District, and the risk has the potential to increase as a result of climate change
▪ **Protecting Ground Water:** This includes mitigating surface water flood risk, and avoiding ground water pollution, especially in the identified Source Protection Zones
▪ **Improving Watercourses:** To meet the Water Framework Directive target of all watercourses reaching 'good' quality status by 2015
▪ **Applying a Sequential Approach to Development:** Aiming to protect and conserve the best and most versatile agricultural land

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[62] DEFRA (2014) Statistical Data Set: ENV18 – Local Authority collected waste statistics – Local Authority data England 2012/13 [online] https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/env18-local-authority-collected-waste-annual-results-tables [accessed September 2014]
[63] Stratford-on-Avon District Council (2014) Household Waste and Recycling Centres Provided by Warwickshire County Council [online] https://www.stratford.gov.uk/community/waste-and-recycling-centres.cfm [accessed September 2014]

> - **Improving Air Quality Management Areas:** Across the whole town of Stratford-upon-Avon and in Studley
> - **Congestion and Transport Emissions:** Transport is the highest emitting sector in Stratford-on-Avon and growth needs to support reduction in emissions targets, for example in promoting alternatives to the private car, and mixed use development
> - **Quality Design & Retaining Distinctiveness:** Development requires design that is sensitive to the receiving environment and protects the integrity of areas, especially in designated areas like the Cotswolds AONB. There is a potential for development to detract from the style and distinctiveness of some rural areas with the closure of local quarries, and the lack of availability of the existing local stone.
> - **Conservation & Enhancement of Cultural Heritage Assets:** This includes the appropriate sites assessments where necessary e.g. an archaeological assessment in areas where the local archaeology is unknown, and extends to non-designated assets
> - **Increases Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Production and Use:** Significant opportunities exist in the District for increasing the capacity and type of renewable energy sources.

Settlement Characteristics

3.73 The baseline information set out above provides an overview of the characteristics and key sustainability issues for the District as a whole. Given the nature and scope of the SA for the SAP, it is important to also have an understanding of the characteristics for some of the key settlements that have been targeted for growth in the Core Strategy. This will particularly help in the consideration of the potential cumulative effects of site options.

3.74 There are around 250 communities of varying sizes spread across the rural area covering 979km². Stratford-on-Avon is the largest District in Warwickshire, and one of the largest Districts in lowland England, with a low population density making delivery of, and access to services a major issue for residents[64].

3.75 Most of the District to the north of Stratford-upon-Avon lies within the West Midlands Green Belt. Further to this the Cotswolds AONB extends into the southern fringes of the District[65].

Stratford-upon-Avon – The Main Town

3.76 Stratford-upon-Avon is a largely intact medieval planned town with a historic connection to the wool trade. The population of the town in 2011 was approximately 26,000. Since 1981 the population has increased by 31%; however, the town has seen a 58% increase in dwellings to a total of around

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[64] Stratford-on-Avon District Council (2011) Annual Monitoring Report 2011 [online] https://www.stratford.gov.uk/files/seealsodocs/12988/Annual%20Monitoring%20Report%202011.pdf [accessed September 2014]
[65] Ibid.

11,500 dwellings, reflecting the trend towards smaller average household sizes.

3.77   The town is the focus of international cultural attractions in the form of the Shakespeare properties and the Royal Shakespeare Theatre, as well as being attractive for its riverside and historic centre. It is estimated that the town attracts around 3.5 million visitors a year, which places pressure on the fabric and infrastructure of the town. This pressure manifests itself in the central area in particular where there is conflict between pedestrians and vehicles, affecting the visitor experience, and placing strain on the road network. Due to this high visitor rate however, the town supports a much wider range of shops and services than would be expected for its size.

3.78   The water network has space capacity, however the education provision has little additional capacity. Out of town retail development has managed to support the residents without undermining the health of the town centre. Opportunities for regeneration are highlighted for the Birmingham Road Area, Timothy's Bridge Road / Masons Road Area, and the Canal Corridor.

3.79   The main issue for the area lies in its dichotomy of roles, between a small market town and a major tourist destination. Growth is restricted to some degree by the Green Belt designation in the northern edge of the town, and the flood zone surrounding the River Avon valley through the heart of the town. The north-east edge is highlighted for a landscape highly sensitive to housing development, and the sensitivity to commercial development extends into the western flank of the town. The whole of the town is also a designated Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) since 2010.

3.80   The Core Strategy identifies the following development proposal areas in the settlement:

- Canal Quarter Regeneration Zone
- South of Alcester Road
- East of Birmingham Road

Alcester – A Main Rural Centre

3.81   Alcester is a historic market town overlying the site of a significant Roman settlement on Icknield Street. The town sits on the confluence of the Rivers Arrow and Alne, about 6 miles west of Stratford-on-Avon and 6 miles south of Redditch, and is the largest of the main rural centres. In 2011 the town had a population of 7,100. Little development has occurred until very recently. In 2011 the town comprised of about 3,000 dwellings.

3.82   The town has good bus connections to Stratford-upon-Avon, Redditch and Evesham, as well as a wide range of services itself, including; primary and secondary schools, doctors, dentists, library, leisure centre and fire station. The former hospital has been replaced with a primary care centre incorporating GP surgeries.

3.83   The town has capacity to support wider residents, for example the village of Bidford-on-Avon, however it has also experienced serious flooding from surface water and the watercourses; River Arrow, River Alne and Spittle Brook. Recent efforts have seen advances in flood mitigation measures in the area as a result. Further controls of flows from watercourses in the area through storage or changes to land use could reduce flood risk further.

3.84   The town has a diverse economy with a wide range of jobs. Most industry is based on the well-established estate at Arden Forest, in neighbouring Kings Coughton and the high-technology innovation / incubation units at Minerva Hill. The Town Plan however highlighted a lack of available development sites for expansion or relocation. As well as employment within the town, there exists a strong relationship with Stratford-upon-Avon for employment and food shopping.

3.85   The need for affordable housing and new housing is identified the northern estates of Conway and Ten Acres. There is also an identified need for further youth and sports facilities, allotments and cemetery space. There is an identified shortage of car parking facilities in times of high demand, for example the Food Festival.

3.86   Growth is somewhat restricted as the Green Belt surrounds the town, although there are areas on the edge of the urban fringe that provide scope for future development. There are identified development proposal areas in the Core Strategy of:

- North of Allimore Lane (southern part)
- North of Allimore Lane (northern part)
- North of Arden Road

Bidford-on-Avon – A Main Rural Centre

3.87   Bidford-on-Avon dates back to Saxon times, although the Roman Rykneld Street originally crossed the River Avon at this point. The large village lies six miles west of Stratford-upon-Avon and six miles north-east of Evesham. In 2011 the population was 5,350, and is thought to comprise about 2,200 dwellings.

3.88   The relief road built in 1978 tends to sever recent residential development areas from the village centre, although it does contain two pedestrian / cycle crossings. The village centre contains the popular attraction of the riverside recreation ground known as Big Meadow, and a reasonable range of shops and services, although this provision has declined in recent years, as reflected in the number of previously commercial premises that have been converted into dwellings.

3.89   The village also contains a primary school and medical centre, and the medical centre has plans to relocate and expand services to cater for a growing catchment population. It has frequent bus connections with Stratford-upon-Avon and Evesham, and a daily service between Ridditch and Evesham passes through the village. This supports a small catchment area due to the close proximity of both Stratford-upon-Avon and Evesham. There is

a strong link with Stratford-upon-Avon for both employment and food shopping.

3.90   Growth restraints exist from a lack of investment in infrastructure to meet the growth experienced, limiting the accommodation for future development. This concern includes the limited local drainage system capacity and limited primary school capacity. Further to this the southern edge along the Avon valley is affected by flood risk, and the village centre and river environs to the south lie within a Conservation Area.

3.91   Regeneration is encouraged in the Core Strategy for certain parts of the Waterloo Park Industrial Estate, but across the village future growth is intended to be limited.

Henley-in-Arden – A Main Rural Centre

3.92   Henley-in-Arden is an attractive market town with a renowned one mile long main street. It lies 8 miles to the north of Stratford-upon-Avon, six miles east of Redditch and eight miles west of Warwick.

3.93   The population in 2011 was 3,000 including the Beaudesert parish, with around 1,200 dwellings. The towns position on the road network and its proximity to the M40 attracts certain businesses and commuting patterns. It also benefits from being on the Shakespeare railway line with regular services between Birmingham and Stratford-upon-Avon.

3.94   The town is seeking to retain existing employment sites and provide small units for local industrial, craft and high-tech businesses. It also contains a secondary school, an annex to a further education college, and a wide range of community and leisure facilities. Its role as a service centre is localised due to the proximity of larger towns.

3.95   The community seeks to retain the Green Belt surroundings wherever possible, and improve recreation spaces and allotments. Although commuting is relatively high, there is no dominant destination in commuting patterns which are spread over Birmingham / Solihull, Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwick / Leamington and Redditch. There is a relatively strong relationship with Redditch however for food shopping trips.

3.96   There are significant restraints on development from a distinctive edge created by the railway line embankments in the west and north, flood risk in the east, and extensive playing fields associated with the secondary school and further education college in the south. Upstream storage of fluvial flood water could reduce flood risk in Henley-in-Arden, but consideration should also be given towards other sources of flooding such as surface water runoff from surrounding fields.

Kineton – A Main Rural Centre

3.97   Kineton has an administrative centre legacy that can be traced back to 1160 and a well documented relationship with the English Civil War Battle of

Edgehill. The village is located approximately 5 miles south east of Wellesbourne and 10 miles north east of Shipston-on-Stour. In 2011 the population was about 2,300 with about 900 dwellings.

3.98   Kineton has a small area of influence due to the relatively limited range of shops and services it provides, but does contain a secondary school which draws in pupils from a wide area.

3.99   Development is restrained by the water environment. There is significant flood risk in the valley of the River Dene which runs along the southern edge of the village, though this is generally downstream from Kineton. However the ecological quality of the River Dene has been categorised as poor, meaning significant development at Kineton would require a new discharge consent.

3.100 The Core Strategy indicates that the scale of development is intended to be limited in the settlement, and infill should be sensitive to the character of the area. Though there is no identified need for further retail floorspace, the retention and provision of small scale shopping and commercial uses will be encouraged. The southern edge is bordered by the steep Avon Valley and the historic battlefield.

Shipston-on-Stour – A Main Rural Centre

3.101 The town is of Anglo-Saxon origin, located on the River Stour at the heart of one of the most rural parts of the District, lying about 10 miles south of Stratford-upon-Avon and 14 miles to the west of Banbury, close to the northern edge of the Cotswolds. In 2011 the population was just over 5,000 with about 2,400 dwellings.

3.102 Due to its distance from the larger towns Shipston has a relatively large catchment area, with many rural communities having dependency on the town for shops and services. Though this dependency has reduced in recent years, the town is a valuable service centre.

3.103 The town is seeking to meet the needs of new and expanding businesses, although road and public transport capacity is a key concern. There is also an identified need for sport and recreation and educational facilities, and encouragement for the provision of small-scale shopping and other commercial uses.

3.104 The centre of Shipston-on-Stour was badly affected in the 2007 floods, and waste water infrastructure would be required to accommodate future growth. It also forms a Conservation Area. The floodplain of the River Stour on the eastside is an overriding constraint to development.

Southam – A Main Rural Centre

3.105 Southam is a market town in the north east corner of the District, about six miles east of Leamington Spa. It has seen significant development in recent years, and a population of just over 6,500 was recorded in 2011 in around 2,800 dwellings. The A423 bypass diverts traffic away from the town centre

and residential neighbourhoods, however it is also a significant constraint to integrating communities east of the road with the rest of the town.

3.106   The town has a range of shops, facilities and services, as well as primary and secondary schools, a leisure centre, library, medical centres, police station and post office. There are good public transport connections with the towns of Leamington Spa and Rugby and nearby villages. There is also a well established employment area on Kineton Road providing a range of jobs.

3.107   The town acts as a service centre for much of the eastern part of the District, with many rural communities dependent upon its facilities. The town has strong connections with Leamington Spa and Warwick for employment and food shopping.

3.108   The Core Strategy identifies the settlement as being able to accommodate new housing and business development; however, it acknowledges that the character of the market town will need to be retained, and the existing issues of severance not exacerbated. The west side of the town has a sensitive landscape setting, although small parcels may be suitable for development. A large part of the central area is designated as a Conservation Area, and there are mineral safeguarded areas and RIGS in the north east of the town. There is further flood risk along the River Stowe valley through to its confluence with River Itchen. The proposed High Speed Two railway line runs close to the southern edge of the town. The Core Strategy identifies the following development proposal areas in the settlement:

- West of Banbury Road
- West of Coventry Road

Studley – A Main Rural Centre

3.109   Studley is one of the largest villages in Warwickshire and lies in the Green Belt just to the south of Redditch, about three miles north of Alcester. In 2011 it had a recorded population of nearly 5,900 with around 2,500 dwellings. The north is an area of recreational uses and attractive farmland, and although the village is surrounded by Green Belt this area is particularly significant in preserving the separate identity of Studley from Redditch.

3.110   There are significant traffic problems associated with the A435 which passes through the heart of the village, and the area has been designated as an Air Quality Management Area since 2006.

3.111   The town supports a reasonable range of services for its size, although there is concern that the centre of the village is deteriorating. The village has a primary and secondary school and several active sports clubs. There is relatively frequent bus services to Redditch, Stratford-upon-Avon, and Evesham. There are also a number of industrial areas on the outskirts of Studley, providing a mix of employment opportunities. Smaller communities nearby rely on its shops and services, although its catchment is limited by the close proximity of Redditch with which there is a strong relationship for employment and shopping.

3.112   The Core Strategy expects development to be limited, reflecting the village character and identity, and preserving its separation from Redditch. An attractive landscape surrounds the town, which limits development to specific small parcels of land. Rough Hill and Wirehill Woods in the north west of the village are designated as a SSSI, and areas east of Birmingham Road and Castle Road are affected by flood risk. Development that could increase traffic along the A435 through Studley poses a significant constraint, which will need to be resolved to accommodate larger scale growth.

Wellesbourne – A Main Rural Centre

3.113   Wellesbourne is a large village that sits on the A429, around six miles south of Warwick and five miles east of Stratford-upon-Avon. The M40 Junction 15 is only four miles north of the village. The village once comprised two separate villages and as such does not have a concentrated village centre. It also lacks a modern community and leisure centre to meet the needs of a population of 5,850 in 2011 and around 2,500 dwellings.

3.114   Despite its size and good range of shops and services, Wellesbourne has a limited catchment, particularly due to its proximity to larger towns. The village is lacking in educational facilities and as such has a reduced association with young people and home communities. There is a medical centre, and strong relationships with Warwick / Leamington and Stratford-upon-Avon for employment and shopping.

3.115   Infrastructure has limited capacity for future development, and the River Dene is a significant biodiversity corridor and floodplain. Large parts of the village are located in historic flood risk areas, and a SSSI is located close by. Development is also restricted by the airfield to the west. Areas of land on the southern and eastern side of the village have been identified in the Core Strategy as most appropriate for development.

Gaydon / Lighthorne Heath – The New Settlement

3.116   The site is located adjacent to the village of Lighthorne Heath and near to the villages of Gaydon and Lighthorne. A new settlement of approximately 3,000 dwellings covering 290 hectares is being proposed through the Core Strategy. Development will include associated services, facilities and necessary off-site infrastructure is proposed, together with provision for Jaguar Land Rover to expand its operations.

Local Service Villages

3.117   Stratford-on-Avon is predominantly a rural District with over 200 individual villages and hamlets of which over half of the residents live. Rural services have declined significantly in recent years, and the District has the lowest proportion of parishes with key services of any part of Warwickshire. Public transport is poor or non-existent in a number of rural settlements, and in many places there is a significant need for affordable housing. However, the attractive environment, combined with relatively low crime and

unemployment rates, make these rural areas attractive places to live, work and visit, and as such there is pressure for development in the countryside.

3.118   Local Service Villages are identified in the Core Strategy as settlements of at least 100 dwellings, which are further categorised according to an assessment of the presence and comparative quality of three key services; general store, primary school and public transport. There are four categories of local village centres; these are presented in the table below.

Table 3.5: Local Service Villages

Category	Village
Category 1 (identified in the Core Strategy for 76 to 100 new homes in each)	Bishop's Itchington, Harbury, Long Itchington, Quinton, Tiddington
Category 2 (identified in the Core Strategy for 51 to 75 new homes in each)	Brailes, Fenny Compton, Lighthorne Heath, Napton-on-the-Hill, Salford Priors, Tysoe, Welford-on-Avon, Wilmcote and Wootton Wawen
Category 3 (Identified in the Core Strategy for 26 to 50 new homes in each)	Claverdon, Earlswood, Ettington, Great Alne, Ilmington, Long Compton, Newbold-on-Stour, Snitterfield, Stockton, Temple Herdewwycke and Tredington
Category 4 (identified in the Core Strategy for 10 to 25 new homes in each)	Alderminster, Alveston , Aston Cantlow, Bearley, Clifford Chambers, Gaydon, Hampton Lucy, Ladbroke, Lighthorne, Long Marston, Loxley, Mappleborough Green Moreton Morrell, Northend, Oxhill, Pillerton, Priors, Priors Marston, Tanworth-in-Arden and Wood End

3.119   The Core Strategy indicates that development across these areas are expected to ensure an appropriate scale, nature and location that minimises negative impacts, avoids harmful increases to road traffic, and prioritises the use of previously developed land. In principle development across these areas is expected to be small-scale to meet local needs.

Large Rural Brownfield Sites

3.120   The following large rural brownfield sites are identified for development through the Core Strategy:

▪ Gaydon Site
▪ Former Engineering Resources Depotm Long Marston
▪ Former Southam Cement Works, Long Itchington
▪ Former Harbury Cement Works, Bishop's Itchington

Redditch

3.121   The Core Strategy states that there is an expectation under the duty to co-operate process that Bromsgrove District and Stratford-upon-Avon District would have to play a role in meeting the future housing and employment needs of Redditch due to capacity constraints within the town itself.

Bromsgrove District have identified land on the northern edge of Redditch to accommodate 3,400 new dwellings. Adjacent land in Stratford-on-Avon District to the west of the A435 could have some very limited capacity but is constrained by landscape issues and the importance of retaining the identity and character of Mappleborough Green. Employment land is identified within the Redditch Eastern Gateway in the Core Strategy. 29 hectares of this land fall within Stratford-on-Avon District at the following locations:

- Land at Winyates Green, south of the A4023 Coventry Highway and to the west of the A435. The area lies outside of the Green Belt.
- Land at Gorcott Hill, north of the A4023 Coventry Highway. The area is partly within Stratford-on-Avon District and partly within Bromsgrove District Council. The area within Stratford-on-Avon District lies within the Green Belt.

4.0   Key Sustainability Issues and SA Framework

Key Sustainability Issues

4.1   It is important to distil the key sustainability issues and opportunities for the District from the collated baseline information and the review of plans, policy and programmes. The key sustainability issues for the wider District have previously been considered and identified in the SA Scoping Report (May 2011) for the Core Strategy as well as the SA Scoping Report (February 2014) for the Gypsy and Traveller Plan.

4.2   These key sustainability issues are still considered relevant based on the plans, policies and programmes review (Section 2 & Appendix I) and baseline information (Section 3) collated as part of this Draft SA Scoping Report for the SAP. The key sustainability issues are set out in the table below.

Table 4.1: Key Sustainability Issues

Key Sustainability Issues for the Stratford-on-Avon District
▪ **Congestion:** The city's road network is becoming increasingly congested, particularly along radial and sub-radial routes. This has the potential for adverse effects on human health, safety and the economy. It can make commuter journeys more stressful and delay buses which are then unable to offer a viable alternative to the car for some journeys. Congestion can make deliveries less reliable and deter investment in the area.
▪ **Travel Methods:** Ensuring the viability and vitality of alternative modes of transport within rural areas.
▪ **Health:** Whilst health levels are generally high, inequalities exist between the most and least deprived areas. Planning should aim to contribute to the health priorities for the area, in particular tackling obesity.
▪ **Population:** Stratford-on-Avon is experiencing an ageing population, which will have implications for health service provisions and accessibility to services, facilities and amenities. The District is likely to experience an increasing proportion of the population with dementia, and an increasing dependency ratio.
▪ **Housing:** Market housing in the District is the least affordable in Warwickshire. There is also an annual shortfall of 532 affordable homes.
▪ **Quality of Life:** The development of a high quality and multifunctional green infrastructure network in the District will be a key contributor to quality of life for residents.
▪ **Out-commuting:** Whilst the District has low unemployment and a higher proportion of the workforce working in higher paid professions, many of these jobs are located outside of the District, contributing to a high degree of out-commuting.
▪ **In-commuting:** A high degree of in-commuting is experienced in the District of people in lower paid jobs who are unable to afford local housing.
▪ **Access to Work:** There is a considerable mismatch between the average earnings of local residents and house prices.

- **Communications Infrastructure:** The quality of broadband provision in rural areas of the District varies. There is significant scope to improve coverage and connection speeds.
- **The Tourism Economy:** A key sector within the District that is important for the local economy.
- **Nationally Designated Nature Conservation Sites:** This includes 37 SSSIs
- **Potential Biodiversity Loss:** There is the potential for biodiversity loss and habitat fragmentation as a result of growth pressures and development (e.g. increased recreational uses)
- **Open Space and Green Infrastructure:** Increased support and understanding of the role of GI in development
- **Protecting Watercourses:** Especially the River Avon and the associated flood risk. Fluvial flood risk is a significant issue for the District, and the risk has the potential to increase as a result of climate change
- **Protecting Ground Water:** This includes mitigating surface water flood risk, and avoiding ground water pollution, especially in the identified Source Protection Zones
- **Improving Watercourses:** To meet the Water Framework Directive target of all watercourses reaching 'good' quality status by 2015
- **Applying a Sequential Approach to Development:** Aiming to protect and conserve the best and most versatile agricultural land
- **Improving Air Quality Management Areas:** Across the whole town of Stratford-upon-Avon and in Studley
- **Congestion and Transport Emissions:** Transport is the highest emitting sector in Stratford-on-Avon and growth needs to support reduction in emissions targets, for example in promoting alternatives to the private car, and mixed use development
- **Quality Design & Retaining Distinctiveness:** Development requires design that is sensitive to the receiving environment and protects the integrity of areas, especially in designated areas like the Cotswolds AONB. There is a potential for development to detract from the style and distinctiveness of some rural areas with the closure of local quarries, and the lack of availability of the existing local stone.
- **Conservation & Enhancement of Cultural Heritage Assets:** This includes the appropriate sites assessments where necessary e.g. an archaeological assessment in areas where the local archaeology is unknown, and extends to non-designated assets
- **Increases Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Production and Use:** Significant opportunities exist in the District for increasing the capacity and type of renewable energy sources.
- **Fuel and Water Poverty:** The District has the fourth highest level of fuel poor households in the region. The number of water poor households are likely to increase as water bills rise.

SA Framework

4.3   The SA Framework provides the basis by which the sustainability effects of emerging plans will be described, analysed and compared. It includes a

number of sustainability objectives, elaborated by 'decision making criteria.
These have been distilled through the SA Scoping Stage for the Core Strategy
from the information collated during the scoping process of relevant Plans,
Policies and Programmes, Baseline Information, the key sustainability issues
and responses from the scoping consultation.

4.4   The SA Framework developed for the Core Strategy is considered to still be
        relevant and applicable for the SA of the SAP, as there has been no
        significant changes to the key sustainability issues and opportunities for the
        District. While the overall SA Objectives are still considered relevant, it is
        important to ensure that the decision making criteria are appropriate for the
        appraisal of site options. The SA Framework presented in Table 4.2 has been
        developed and refined to highlight the key issues or criteria of importance for
        each SA Objective. Any assumptions and uncertainties are noted along with
        a clear indication of the standards and thresholds that will be used to
        determine the nature and significance of the effect for site options. Table 4.2
        shows a clear progression of how the SA Objectives that have been
        developed to address the sustainability issues of the District as whole will be
        used to appraise the sustainability of potential site options.

Table 4.2: SA Framework

	SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal…	SA of Site Allocations decision making criteria, including any Assumptions or Uncertainties	Significance Criteria - Standards & Thresholds for SA of Site Options	
1	To conserve designated and non-designated heritage assets and their settings in a manner appropriate to their significance	Q1a Will it preserve buildings of architectural or historic interest and, where necessary, encourage their conservation and renewal? Q1b Will it preserve or enhance archaeological sites/remains? Q1c Will it improve and broaden access to, understanding, and enjoyment of the historic environment? Q1d Will it preserve or enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets?	Core Strategy Policy CS.8 of the Core Strategy seeks to protect and enhance the historic environment. The nature and significance of the effects against this SA Objective will primarily relate to designated heritage assets and their setting. Any important non-designated heritage assets will be noted within the appraisal commentary. Are there any designated heritage assets or their setting, which could be effected within or adjacent to the site? Are there any opportunities to enhance culture or heritage assets, such as; securing appropriate new uses for unused Listed Buildings; the removal of an eyesore could have a positive effect on the setting of designated assets; improved access and signage? Need to consider the nature and significance of the effects identified against SA Objective 2 (Landscape & Townscape), in terms of the setting of designated heritage assets. It is considered that there is an element of uncertainty for all sites until more detailed	++	Development is likely to have a substantial positive effect on the significance of the heritage asset / historic environment setting.
				+	Development has the potential for minor positive effects as it may secure appropriate new uses for unused Listed Buildings; enhance the setting of or access / signage to designated assets.
				0	Development will have no significant effect. This may be because there are no heritage assets within the influence of proposed development or that mitigation measures are considered sufficient to address potential negative effects with the potential for a residual neutral effect.
				?	Element of uncertainty for all sites until more detailed lower level surveys and assessments have been carried out.
				-	Development has the potential for a minor negative effect on a Conservation Area, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building and Registered Historic Parks and Gardens and/or their setting. Even once avoidance and mitigation measures have been considered there is still the potential for a residual minor negative effect.
				--	Development has the potential for a major residual negative effect on a Conservation Area, Scheduled Monument, Listed Building and Registered Historic Parks and Gardens

	SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal…	SA of Site Allocations decision making criteria, including any Assumptions or Uncertainties		Significance Criteria - Standards & Thresholds for SA of Site Options
			lower level surveys and assessments have been carried out.		and/or their setting. Mitigation difficult and / or expensive.
2	Protect, enhance and manage the character and appearance of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening distinctiveness and its special qualities.	Q2a Will it safeguard and enhance the character of the landscape and local distinctiveness and identity? Q2b Will it safeguard and enhance the character of the townscape and local distinctiveness and identity? Q2c Will it preserve or enhance the setting of cultural heritage assets? Q2d Will it help limit noise pollution? Q2e Will it help limit light pollution? Q2f Will it encourage well-designed, high quality developments that enhance the built and natural environment?	Core Strategy Policy CS.5 seeks to minimise and mitigate impacts on the landscape and, where possible, incorporate measures to enhance the landscape. Policy CS.9 on Design and Distinctiveness seeks to ensure that development respects local distinctiveness. The policy sets out the factors that contribute to high quality design. The nature and significance of the effects will primarily be dependent on the landscape sensitivity of the site option. The appraisal commentary will note if the site forms an important contribution to the character of the settlement. If the landscape sensitivity is not known then it is assumed that development on a greenfield site has the potential for a minor negative effect as there would be development in a previously undeveloped area. If the landscape sensitivity is not known then it is assumed that development on a brownfield site has the potential for a	++	Development has the potential for major landscape enhancement, for example through the removal of an eyesore, and/or would regenerate previously developed land and buildings (PDL) that is currently having a major negative effect on the landscape/ townscape.
				+	Development has the potential for minor landscape enhancement, and/or would regenerate PDL that is currently having a minor negative effect on the landscape/ townscape.
				0	A neutral effect is not considered possible.
				?	Element of uncertainty for all site options until more detailed lower level assessments have been carried out.
				-	The site option has medium sensitivity in landscape terms. Potential for a minor residual negative effect.
				--	The site option has medium to high or high sensitivity in landscape terms and / or is within the AONB or its setting. Mitigation is likely to be difficult/ expensive. Potential for major residual negative effect.

	SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal…	SA of Site Allocations decision making criteria, including any Assumptions or Uncertainties	Significance Criteria - Standards & Thresholds for SA of Site Options	
			minor positive effect as it would result in the regeneration of the site. It is considered that there is an element of uncertainty for all sites until more detailed lower level surveys and assessments have been carried out. It is assumed that any Tree Preservation Orders within a site option will be retained in line with Core Strategy Policy CS.5 (Landscape).		
3	Protect, enhance and manage biodiversity and geodiversity.	Q3a Will it lead to a loss of or damage to biodiversity interest? Q3b Will it lead to habitat creation, matching BAP priorities? Q3c Will it maintain and enhance sites nationally designated for their biodiversity interest and increase their area? Q3d Will it increase the area of sites designated for their geodiversity interest?	Core Strategy Policy CS.6 seeks to secure a net gain in biodiversity from proposals. Where biodiversity losses cannot be avoided or mitigated the NPPF requires, as a last resort, compensation for this loss to be made (paragraph 118). The nature and significance of effects against this SA Objective will primarily relate to potential effects on designated biodiversity. Is the site within, adjacent to, or in close proximity (200m) to any international or nationally designated biodiversity or geodiversity (SSSIs, SACs, SPAs or NNRs)? It should be noted that there are no European sites within the District and that they are already subject to a high degree of protection.	++	Development has the potential for major biodiversity enhancement / gains and improves connectivity of GI.
				+	Development will not lead to the loss of an important habitat, species, trees and hedgerows or lead to fragmentation of green and blue corridors or impede the migration of of biodiversity, and there are potential opportunities to enhance biodiversity or geodiversity.
				0	Development at the site is not likely to have negative effects on any internationally / nationally or regionally/ locally designated biodiversity or geodiveristy. Potential for a residual neutral effect. or Development at the site has the potential for negative effects on sites designated as being of local importance. Mitigation possible, potential for a residual neutral effect.

	SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal…	SA of Site Allocations decision making criteria, including any Assumptions or Uncertainties		Significance Criteria - Standards & Thresholds for SA of Site Options
		Q3e Will it maintain and enhance sites designated for their geodiversity interest?	Is there evidence of European Protected Species or Habitats on the site?	?	Element of uncertainty for all sites until more detailed lower level surveys and assessments have been carried out.
		Q3f Will it link up areas of fragmented habitat?

Q3g Will it increase awareness of biodiversity and geodiversity assets? | Is the site within, adjacent to, or in close proximity (200m) to any biodiversity or geodiversity sites designated as being of regional (RIGS) or local importance (Local Wildlife Site, Local Nature Reserve)?

It is recognised that when considering the potential for effects on designated biodiversity, distance in itself is not a definitive guide to the likelihood or severity of an impact. The appraisal commentary will try to note any key environmental pathways that could result in development potentially having a negative effect on designated biodiversity that may be some distance away. | - | Development at the site has the potential for negative effects on sites designated as being of regional or local importance. Mitigation difficult and / or expensive, potential for a minor residual negative effect.
or
Development at the site has the potential for negative effects on an International (SAC, SPA and Ramsar) or National (SSSI, NNR) designated sites and / or European protected species or habitats. Mitigation possible, potential for a minor residual negative effect. |
| | | | Are there opportunities to enhance biodiversity? Possibly improve connectivity, green/blue infrastructure or enhance an important habitat?

Are there any opportunities to enhance geodiversity? | -- | Development at the site has the potential for negative effects on an International (SAC, SPA and Ramsar) or National (SSSI, NNR) designated sites and / or European protected species or habitats. Mitigation difficult and / or expensive, potential for a major residual negative effect. |
| 4 | Reduce the risk of flooding. | Q4a Will it help prevent flood risk present in the district from fluvial flooding? | Core Strategy Policy CS.4 seeks to locate development in Flood Zone 1. The policy seeks to avoid flooding from all sources on | ++ | Development at the site could offer an opportunity to potentially significantly reduce flood risk. |

	SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal…	SA of Site Allocations decision making criteria, including any Assumptions or Uncertainties	Significance Criteria - Standards & Thresholds for SA of Site Options	
		Q4b Will it help prevent flood risk present in the district from surface water flooding? Q4c Will it help limit potential increases in flood risk likely to take place in the district as a result of climate change?	properties up to the 100 year flood event, including an allowance for climate change. Using the sequential text the SHLAA process should have excluded sites wholly or mainly within flood zone 3. It is assumed that development at any of the site options has the potential to incorporate Sustainable Drainage in some form. The nature and significance of effects against this SA Objective will primarily relate to if a site option is within an area of flood risk or has the potential to reduce flood risk.	+	Development at the site could offer an opportunity to potentially reduce existing surface water run-off.
				0	The site is not within a flood risk area, and it has been shown that it will have a limited impact on flood risk in the wider catchment
				?	There are uncertainties about flood risk.
				-	The site is partially within an area of high flood risk, or at risk of surface water flooding in parts of the site.
				--	The site is wholly within an area of high flood risk or at risk of surface water flooding across the entire site.
5	Minimise the district's contribution to climate change.	Q5a Will it help reduce Stratford-on-Avon's carbon footprint? Q5b Will it help raise awareness of climate change mitigation?	Core Strategy Policy CS.2 relates to climate change adaptation and mitigation. It is assumed that development at any of the sites could potentially incorporate energy efficiency and on-site renewable and low carbon technologies. Smaller scale development could potentially offer less choice of on-site renewable and low carbon technologies than for larger site options. However, this does not mean that smaller developments could not abate carbon emissions off-site.	++	Development has the potential to significantly reduce levels of traffic in an area that is experiencing congestion issues.
				+	Development has the potential to reduce levels of traffic. Potential for a minor positive effect.
				0	There is satisfactory access to the road network and the site is well located in respect of the road network and vehicle movements. Whilst development at the site has the potential to increase traffic, there is suitable mitigation available to reduce negative effects with the potential for a residual neutral effect.

	SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal…	SA of Site Allocations decision making criteria, including any Assumptions or Uncertainties		Significance Criteria - Standards & Thresholds for SA of Site Options
			Any development is likely to have negative effects against this SA Objective through the embodied energy inherent in the construction and maintenance of development. Processing methods and technologies are likely to reduce the amount of embodied energy used in the future; however this is uncertain at this stage.

As a result of the points above, it is therefore considered that the nature and significance of the effects against this SA Objective should primarily focus on traffic impacts of development at the site options.

There is an element of uncertainty for all sites until more detailed lower level surveys and assessments have been carried out. | ? | Element of uncertainty for all sites until more detailed lower level surveys and assessments have been carried out. |
| | | | | - | Development has the potential to increase traffic in the surrounding road network and there is no satisfactory access to the site from the road network or the site is not well located in respect of the road network and vehicle movements. |
| | | | | -- | Development is likely to increase the levels of traffic in an area that is already experiencing congestion issues, there is no satisfactory access to the site from the road network, and the site is not well located in respect of the road network and vehicle movements. Mitigation difficult and/or expensive. |
| 6 | Plan for the anticipated levels of climate change. | Q6a Will it help limit potential increases in flood risk likely to take place in the district as a result of climate change?

Q6b Will it encourage the development of buildings prepared for the impacts of climate change? | Flooding is addressed against SA Objective 4.

It is assumed that any proposal for development can incorporate climate change adaptation measures.

It is therefore considered that the nature and significance of the effect against this SA Objective should primarily relate to the loss of public open space and green | ++ | Development at the site option will not lead to the loss of public open space or green infrastructure and has the potential to significantly improve access to them. |
| | | | | + | Development at the site option will not result in the loss of public open space or green infrastructure. |
| | | | | 0 | A neutral effect is not considered possible. |

	SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal…	SA of Site Allocations decision making criteria, including any Assumptions or Uncertainties	Significance Criteria - Standards & Thresholds for SA of Site Options	
		Q6c Will it retain existing green infrastructure and promote the expansion of green infrastructure to help facilitate climate change adaptation?	infrastructure. Loss can relate to both a loss of quality and / or extent of formal and informal natural green space..	**?**	There is some uncertainty with regard to the land type.
				-	Development at the site has the potential to lead to the loss of less than 1 hectare of public open space and green infrastructure.
				--	Development at the site option has the potential to result in the loss of greater than 1 hectare of public open space and green infrastructure.
7	Protect and conserve natural resources.	Q7a Will it include measures to limit water consumption? Q7b Will it safeguard the district's minerals resources for future use? Q7c Will it utilise derelict, degraded and under-used land? Q7d Will it lead to the more efficient use of land? Q7e Will it lead to reduced consumption of materials and resources?	The efficient use of land and utilisation of derelict, degraded and under-used land is now considered against SA Objective 6. It is assumed that development at any of the site options could potentially incorporate water efficiency measures. It is therefore considered that the nature and significance of the effects against this SA Objective should primarily relate to areas allocated or safeguarded for minerals and the loss of agricultural land. This SA objective will therefore address two separate issues. If there is uncertainty with regard to the agricultural land classification for a site option then a precautionary approach will be taken, i.e. If the evidence indicates	**++**	**Minerals** A major positive effect is not considered possible. **Agricultural Land** The site option is entirely brownfield land and does not contain any best and most versatile agricultural land.
				+	**Minerals** A minor positive effect is not considered possible. **Agricultural Land** The site option is partially PDL and does not contain any best and most versatile agricultural land.
				0	**Minerals** The site option is not within or adjacent to an area allocated or safeguarded for minerals. **Agricultural Land** A neutral effect is not considered possible.
				?	**Minerals**

	SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal…	SA of Site Allocations decision making criteria, including any Assumptions or Uncertainties		Significance Criteria - Standards & Thresholds for SA of Site Options
		Q7f Will it lead to the loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land?	that a site option is Grade 3 agricultural land but no distinction is made between 3a or 3b, it will be assumed that development at the site will lead to the loss of Grade 3a agricultural land.		It is uncertain if a site option is within or adjacent to an area allocated or safeguarded for minerals. **Agricultural Land** There is uncertainty with regard to the agricultural land classification.
				-	**Minerals** A proportion of the site option is within or adjacent to an area allocated or safeguarded for minerals and development would sterilise the resource. **Agricultural Land** A proportion of the site option is best and most versatile agricultural land (Grades 1, 2 & 3a).
				--	**Minerals** The entire site is within an area allocated or safeguarded for minerals and development would sterilise the resource. **Agricultural Land** The entire site option is best and most versatile agricultural land (Grades 1, 2 & 3a).
8	Reduce air, soil and water pollution.	Q8a Will it lead to improved water quality of both surface water groundwater features? Q8b Will it lead to improved air quality? Q8c Will it maintain and enhance soil quality?	Issues relating to soil quality have been addressed against other SA Objectives. Agricultural land quality against SA Objective 7 and contaminated land against SA Objective 14. It is therefore considered that the nature and significance of the effects against this SA Objective should primarily focus on water and air quality.	**++**	**Air Quality** Development has the potential to significantly reduce levels of traffic within an AQMA. Potential for a major positive effect. **Water Quality** Development has the potential to significantly enhance water quality.
				+	**Air Quality** Development has the potential to reduce levels of traffic in an AQMA. Potential for a minor positive effect.

SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal…	SA of Site Allocations decision making criteria, including any Assumptions or Uncertainties	Significance Criteria - Standards & Thresholds for SA of Site Options	
	Q8d Will it reduce the overall amount of diffuse pollution to air, water and soil?	The nature and significance of effects on water quality is dependent on if the site option lies within a Surface Water Safeguarded Zone, Groundwater Source Protection Zone, Surface Water Drinking Water Protection Area 'at risk' or Groundwater Drinking Water Protected Area 'at risk' or probably 'at risk'.. It is assumed that development at any of the site options has the potential to incorporate Sustainable Drainage. It should be noted that effects on air quality against this SA Objective are closely linked to the potential effects identified against SA Objective 5, the potential traffic impacts of development. There is an element of uncertainty for all sites until more detailed lower level surveys and assessments have been carried out.		**Water Quality** Development has the potential to enhance water quality.
			0	**Air Quality** Development at the site has the potential to increase traffic and therefore atmospheric pollution; however, there is suitable mitigation to ensure that negative effects are addressed. Potential for a residual neutral effect. **Water Quality** The site is not within any Safeguarded Zones, Source Protection Zones or Protected Areas 'at risk'.
			?	**Air Quality** There is an element of uncertainty for all sites until more detailed lower level surveys and assessments have been carried out. **Water Quality** There is an element of uncertainty for all sites until more detailed lower level surveys and assessments have been carried out.
			-	**Air Quality** Development has the potential to increase traffic within an AQMA. **Water Quality** Site option lies within either a Surface Water Safeguarded Zone, Groundwater Source Protection Zone, Surface Water Drinking Water Protection Area 'at risk' or Groundwater Drinking Water Protected Area 'at risk' or probably 'at risk', and would contribute towards a failure to meet 'good'

	SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal…	SA of Site Allocations decision making criteria, including any Assumptions or Uncertainties		Significance Criteria - Standards & Thresholds for SA of Site Options
					chemical quality in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.
				--	**Air Quality** Development has the potential to significantly increase traffic within an AQMA. **Water Quality** It is considered unlikely that development at any of the site options will have a major negative effect on water quality.
9	Reduce waste generation and disposal, and promote the waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse, recycle/compost, energy recovery and disposal.	Q9a Will it provide facilities for the separation and recycling of waste? Q9b Will it encourage the use of recycled materials in construction?	It is assumed that any proposal for development can provide facilities for the separation and recycling of waste as well as encourage the use of recycled materials in construction. Development at any of the site options is likely to increase waste in the short (construction) and long-term (operation and decommissioning). It is considered that there will be sufficient mitigation provided through Core Strategy as well as development management policies and available at the project level to ensure any significant negative effects are addressed with a neutral residual effect against this SA Objective. It is therefore considered that all site options have the potential for a neutral effect against this SA Objective.	++	N/A
				+	N/A
				0	All site options have the potential for a neutral effect.
				?	N/A
				-	N/A
				--	N/A
10	Improve the efficiency of transport	Q10a Will it reduce the need to travel?	The potential traffic impacts of development at the site options has been considered against SA Objective 5.	++	The site has good access to all sustainable transport modes (within 400m to a bus stop and 800m to a train station) and is within

	SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal…	SA of Site Allocations decision making criteria, including any Assumptions or Uncertainties	Significance Criteria - Standards & Thresholds for SA of Site Options	
	networks by increasing the proportion of travel by sustainable modes and by promoting policies which reduce the need to travel.	Q10b Will it encourage walking and cycling? Q10c Will it reduce car use? Q10d Will it encourage use of public transport? Q10e Will it provide adequate means of access by a range of sustainable transport modes? Q10f Will it help limit HGV traffic flows?	The nature and significance of the effect against this SA Objective will focus on access to existing sustainable transport modes and services and facilities. It is assumed that development at any of the site options could potentially provide or contribute to improved sustainable modes of transport. It is also assumed that any proposal for development can make appropriate and timely provision for necessary supporting infrastructure, including health, green infrastructure and other community facilities and services. Where necessary the appraisal will note the realities of the situation with regard to existing access to public transport and facilities/services, i.e. A site option may be within 800m of a railway station but there are no suitable footpaths or cycle ways to access it. The topography of the site option or area may also be a barrier to movement.		400m to existing facilities / services. Development has the potential to reduce the need to travel. There are no potential barriers to movement.
				+	The site has access to either bus or rail facilities (within 400m to a bus stop or 800m to a railway station), and is within 400m to existing facilities / services. Development is likely to reduce the need to travel. There are no potential barriers to movement.
				0	A neutral effect is not considered possible.
				?	There is an element of uncertainty for all site options.
				-	The site has access to either bus or rail facilities (within 400m to a bus stop or 800m to a railway station) and is within 800m to existing facilities/ services. Development is less likely to reduce the need to travel.
				--	The site has no access to sustainable transport modes (within 400m to a bus stop or 800m to a railway station) and is beyond 800m to existing facilities/ services. Development is likely to continue reliance on the private vehicle.
11	Reduce barriers for those living in rural areas	Q11a Will it increase provision of local services and facilities and reduce centralisation?	It is assumed that any proposal for development can make appropriate and timely provision for necessary supporting infrastructure, including health, green	++	N/A
				+	N/A

	SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal…	SA of Site Allocations decision making criteria, including any Assumptions or Uncertainties	Significance Criteria - Standards & Thresholds for SA of Site Options	
		Q11a Will it improve accessibility by a range of transport modes to services and facilities from rural areas?

Q11a Will it support the provision of affordable housing in rural areas? | infrastructure and other community facilities and services.

Access to existing modes of sustainable transport has been addressed against SA Objective 10.

It is assumed that development at any of the site options should meet the affordable housing requirement set in Core Strategy Policy CS.17.

The criteria relating to this SA Objective have already been considered against other SA Objectives. To avoid double counting, it is therefore considered that this SA Objective is not applicable to the SA of reasonable site options. | | |
				0	N/A
				?	N/A
				-	N/A
				- -	N/A
12	Protect the integrity of the district's countryside.	Q12a Will it prevent the degradation of land on the urban fringe?

Q12b Will it lead to a loss of agricultural land?

Q12c Will it safeguard local distinctiveness and identity? | The loss of agricultural land is addressed against SA Objective 7.

This SA Objective and the remaining decision-aiding criteria relate to the degradation of land on the urban fringe as well as the safeguarding of local distinctiveness and identity. It is therefore considered that the nature and significance of the effects on this SA Objective primarily relate to the contribution of the site options to the character of the settlement and their importance in defining and maintaining the settlements separate identity. | **++** | Development would significantly enhance the character of the settlement and has a minor/no contribution to defining and maintaining the separate identity of the settlement. |
				+	Development would enhance the character of the settlement and has a minor/ no contribution to defining and maintaining the separate identity of the settlement.
				0	It is not considered possible to have a neutral effect.
				?	The site has a minor contribution to the character of the settlement or minor contribution to defining and maintaining its separate identity.

	SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal…	SA of Site Allocations decision making criteria, including any Assumptions or Uncertainties	Significance Criteria - Standards & Thresholds for SA of Site Options	
			The Green Belt should also be a consideration under this SA Objective as it aims to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open and therefore relates to the remaining decision-aiding criteria. If a site option is within the Green Belt then the appraisal commentary will try and note, where possible, the importance of that sites contribution to the purposes of the Green Belt, i.e. the site is brownfield land and does not contribute to the purposes of the Green Belt.	-	The site forms a significant contribution to the character of the settlement and/ or has some contribution to defining and maintaining the separate identity of the settlement and/or is within the Green Belt (low/ medium importance/ contribution).
				--	The site forms a significant contribution to the character of the settlement as well as significantly contributes to defining and maintaining the separate identity of the settlement and/or is within the Green Belt (high importance/ contribution).
13	Provide affordable, environmentally sound and good quality housing for all.	Q13a Will it ensure all groups have access to decent, appropriate and affordable housing? Q13b Will it identify an appropriate supply of land for new housing? Q13c Will it ensure that all new development contributes to local distinctiveness and improve the local environment? Q13d Will it meet the building specification guidance in the Code for Sustainable Homes? (DCLG)	It is assumed that development at any of the site options has the potential to meet the design standards set out within Core Strategy Policy CS.9 (Design and Distinctiveness) and the NPPF. It is assumed that development at any of the site options should meet the affordable housing requirements set in the Core Strategy. Given the points set out above, it is considered that this SA Objective will not be a key differentiator between site options as it relates to the provision of housing. The nature and significance of the effect will be determined by whether residential development can be accommodated at the site.	++	Potential for the site option to accommodate more than 50 dwellings.
				+	Potential for the site option to accommodate residential development.
				0	If no housing is being proposed as part of development, as it is an employment site, then it is considered to have a neutral effect against this SA Objective.
				?	Capacity of the site to accommodate residential development is unknown.
				-	Development at the site may restrict other residential development.
				--	Development at the site may prevent other residential development.

	SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal…	SA of Site Allocations decision making criteria, including any Assumptions or Uncertainties	Significance Criteria - Standards & Thresholds for SA of Site Options	
		Q13e Will it reduce the number of households on the Housing Register?	Local distinctiveness is addressed against SA Objective 12.		
14	Safeguard and improve community health, safety and wellbeing.	Q14a Will it improve access for all to health, leisure and recreational facilities? Q14b Will it improve and enhance the district's green infrastructure network?	Core Strategy Policy CS.24 seeks to ensure that, with the release of land for development, arrangements are put in place to improve infrastructure, services and community facilities to mitigate development and integrate it with the existing community.	++	It is considered unlikely that development at any of the site options will have major positive effects on health.
		Q14c Will it improve long term health? Q14d Will it ensure that risks to human health and the environment from contamination are identified and removed?	It is assumed that development at any of the site options has the potential for short-term minor negative effects arising during construction phases, and that suitable mitigation exists to ensure that these do not result in long-term negative effects on	+	It is assumed that there is the potential for development at all the site options to have indirect long-term positive effects on health through the provision of housing or employment by helping to meet the needs of the Plan area.
		Q14c Will it improve long term health? Q14e Will it encourage healthy and active lifestyles? Q14f Will it reduce obesity?	health and well-being. It is assumed that any proposal for development can make appropriate and timely provision for necessary supporting	0	The site is not likely to be affected by neighbouring land uses or major infrastructure.
		Q14g Does it consider the needs of the district's growing elderly population? Q14h Will it enable communities to influence the decisions that affect their neighbourhoods and quality of life? Q14i Will it improve the satisfaction of people with	infrastructure, including health, green infrastructure and other community facilities and services, or contributions towards them. It is also assumed that there is the potential for development at all the site options to have indirect long-term positive effects on health through the provision of housing or	?	There is an element of uncertainty for all site options until more detailed site level assessments have been undertaken.
				-	The site is affected by neighbouring land uses and / or major infrastructure.

	SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal…	SA of Site Allocations decision making criteria, including any Assumptions or Uncertainties		Significance Criteria - Standards & Thresholds for SA of Site Options
		their neighbourhoods as a place to live? Q14j Will it reduce crime and the fear of crime? Q14k Will it reduce deprivation in the district? Q14l Will it improve road safety?	employment by helping to meet the needs of the Plan area. It is therefore considered that the nature and significance of the effects against this SA Objective primarily relates to conflicting neighbouring land uses and major infrastructure. The appraisal commentary will note if a site option is known to be, or has the potential to be contaminated. It is considered that there will be sufficient mitigation provided through Core Strategy as well as development management policies and available at the project level to ensure that there will be no significant issues with regard to contaminated land. It is therefore not considered likely to be a key differentiator between the sites so will not influence the nature or significance of effects against this SA Objective. There is an element of uncertainty for all site options until more detailed site level assessments have been undertaken.	--	The site is significantly affected by neighbouring land uses and / or major infrastructure.
15	Develop a dynamic, diverse and knowledge-based economy that excels in	Q15a Will it ensure that new employment, office, retail and leisure developments are in locations that are accessible to those who will	Core Strategy Policy CS.21 seeks to facilitate appropriate employment uses in the countryside, including farm based activities. It also seeks to protect existing employment sites unless they are no longer	++	Potential for the site option to accommodate employment development, with good access to existing employment opportunities.

SA Objective	Decision making criteria: Will the option/proposal…	SA of Site Allocations decision making criteria, including any Assumptions or Uncertainties	Significance Criteria - Standards & Thresholds for SA of Site Options	
innovation with higher value, lower impact activities.	use them by a choice of transport modes?

Q15b Will it help ensure an adequate supply of employment land?

Q15c Will it support or encourage new business sectors?

Q15d Will it support the visitor economy? | viable or appropriate for a business purpose.

Access to existing transport modes has been addressed against SA Objective 10.

The nature and significance of the effects on this SA Objective will primarily relate to the capacity of the site to accommodate employment land, access to existing employment, and the potential loss of existing employment. | **+** | Potential for the site option to accommodate employment development. |
			0	If no employment land is being proposed as part of development, as it is a housing site, then it is considered to have a neutral effect against this SA Objective.
			?	Capacity of the site to accommodate employment development is unknown.
			-	Development at the site may restrict other employment development and/ or has poor access to existing employment opportunities.
			--	Development at the site may prevent other employment development and/ or lead to the loss of existing employment.

5.0   Proposed Methods

Introduction

5.1   This Section explains the proposed approach and methods for the SA of the SAP. The Council is in the process of reviewing the SHLAA which will help to identify reasonable alternatives for sites that could be allocated for development through the SAP. For the purposes of the SAP and this SA, a reasonable alternative is considered to be one that is realistic and deliverable during the timescales of the Plan. It also needs to be within the geographical scope of the Plan.

SA of Site Options

5.2   The SA Framework presented in Table 4.2 will form the basis for appraising reasonable options for site allocations. It sets out the standards and thresholds that will be used to determine the nature and significance of effects against SA Objectives, including any assumptions or uncertainties that will be made. This ensures a consistent approach is taken for the appraisal of all reasonable site options. It is important to read the SA of Site Allocations (decision making criteria, including any Assumptions or Uncertainties) column and Significance Criteria column in conjunction with each other as the former sets the context and justification for the latter. This includes a clear explanation of where particular issues are considered within the SA Framework. For example, Green Belt land is being considered against SA Objective 12 (Protect the district's countryside) as it is relevant to the decision-aiding criteria that seek to avoid degradation of land on the urban fringe as well as safeguard local distinctiveness and identity.

5.3   The SA for the Core Strategy used a system of symbols to represent the findings of the SA for different elements of the emerging plan as follows:

Table 5.1: SA Key for the SA of the Core Strategy

Likely strong positive effect	**++**
Likely positive effect	**+**
Neutral/no effect	**0**
Likely adverse effect	**-**
Likely strong adverse effect	**--**
Uncertain effects	**+/-**

5.4   Amendments to the significance key have been made in order to make the identified sustainability effects of site options clearer. The categories of significance that will be used in the SA of site options are presented in the table below.

Table 5.2: SA Key for the SA of the Site Allocations Plan

Sustainability Threshold Assessment: Categories of Significance		
Symbol	Meaning	Sustainability Effect
- -	Major Negative	Problematical and improbable because of known sustainability issues; mitigation likely to be difficult and/or expensive
-	Minor negative	Potential sustainability issues: mitigation and/or negotiation possible
+	Minor positive	No sustainability constraints and development acceptable
++	Major Positive	Development encouraged as would resolve existing sustainability problem
?	Uncertain	Uncertain or Unknown Effects
0	Neutral	Neutral effect

5.5   Each reasonable site option will be considered against the full SA Framework of Objectives set out in Table 4.2. The site options will be grouped together by settlement or geographical clusters to ensure that a comparative appraisal of alternatives is carried out. This will also help to ensure that appropriate consideration is given to the potential cumulative effects of site options on settlements. An example of a detailed appraisal matrix for a settlement or cluster of sites is provided in Table 6.3 below.
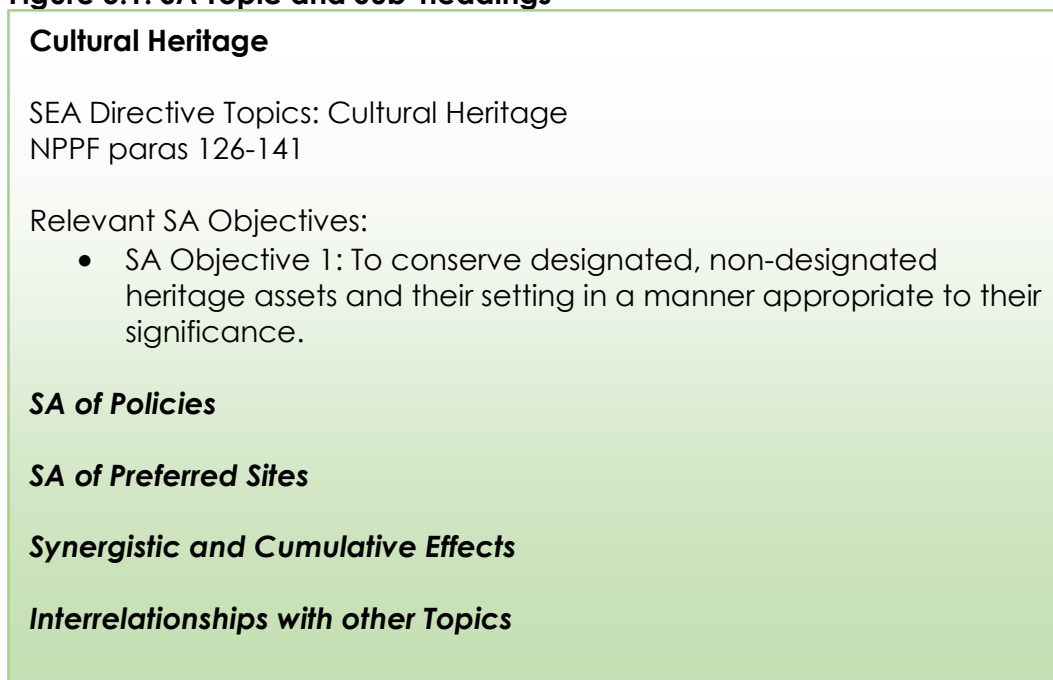
Table 5.3: Appraisal Matrix for Site Options

Settlement or Cluster of Sites															
Reasonable site options	**SA Objectives**														
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15**
Site Option 1															
Site Option 2															
Site Option 3															
Site Option 4															
Site Option 5															
Site Option 6															
Appraisal Summary: *Narrative reporting significant effects for individual sites, issues for cumulative effects, any uncertainties, mitigation, and any recommendations from the SA.*															

5.6   The appraisal will be undertaken using professional judgment, supported by the baseline information and wider Local Plan evidence base. A summary appraisal commentary will be provided to set out any significant effects identified for individual site options, along with suggestions for mitigation or enhancement to be made where relevant. The nature of the likely sustainability effects (including positive/negative, duration, permanent/ temporary, secondary, cumulative and synergistic) will be described, along with any assumptions or uncertainties noted. Where necessary, the appraisal commentary will also identify any potential cumulative effects for that settlement or geographical cluster of sites.

SA of the Draft SAP (Policies and Preferred Sites)

5.7   The SA of Draft Local Plan, including policies, will be structured under topic headings, which have been linked to Objectives in the SA Framework as well as topics in the SEA Directive. This will provide a framework and structure to evaluate the likely significant effects of the SAP against these key topics. The appraisal of each topic will be divided into a number of sub-headings to ensure that each aspect of the emerging Plan (Policies and Preferred Sites) is considered as well as the interrelationships between topics and cumulative effects of the Plan as a whole. This method allows the SA to focus on the policies and preferred sites that are likely to have significant effects and provide further detail. It also allows for the consideration of mitigation that may be provided through policies in the Plan. An example of a topic and sub-headings is provided below in Figure 5.1 below.

Figure 5.1: SA Topic and Sub-headings

> **Cultural Heritage**
>
> SEA Directive Topics: Cultural Heritage
> NPPF paras 126-141
>
> Relevant SA Objectives:
> * SA Objective 1: To conserve designated, non-designated heritage assets and their setting in a manner appropriate to their significance.
>
> ***SA of Policies***
>
> ***SA of Preferred Sites***
>
> ***Synergistic and Cumulative Effects***
>
> ***Interrelationships with other Topics***

5.8   As for the SA of site options, the appraisal will be undertaken using professional judgment, supported by the baseline information and evidence for the SAP, as well as any other relevant information sources available.   The nature of the likely sustainability effects (including positive/negative, duration, permanent/ temporary, secondary, cumulative and synergistic) are described, together with any uncertainty noted. Evidence is cited where applicable and a commentary provided and suggestions for mitigation or enhancement made where relevant. Sustainability Appraisal is informed by the best available information and data; however, data gaps and uncertainties exist and it is not always possible to accurately predict effects at a strategic level of assessment.

How Will the SA Inform the Decision-Making Process?

5.9   SA is an assessment tool that helps to inform decision-making, it is not the sole basis for a decision. The Council will consider the findings of the SA alongside the wider evidence base, including the SHLAA process, to determine which of the reasonable site options should be progressed through the SAP. The SA Report will clearly set out the reasons for the selection or rejection of site options in plan-making.

6.0   Consultation and Next Steps

6.1   The Draft SA Scoping Report was sent to Statutory Consultees (Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency) and made available for wider stakeholders including the general public for comment on the Council's website. Comments received have been considered in the finalisation of this Report and are presented in Appendix II.

Appendix I: Plans, Policies and Programmes Review

Title of PPP	Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP
International	
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 reviewed 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.
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.
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.
EC Sixth Environmental Action Programme 2002-2012 (2002)	Nature and biodiversity (including soil communities) has been identified as one of four priority areas for Europe. The EAP requires specific action to counteract pressures arising notably from pollution, the introduction of non-native species, and potential risks from releasing genetically modified organisms.
Our life insurance, our natural capital: an EU biodiversity strategy to 2020 (2011)	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: ▪ 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
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.

Title of PPP	Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP
Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)	The Convention seeks to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats, and to monitor and control endangered and vulnerable species.
EU European Employment Strategy (1997, revised 2005)	The EES is designed as the main tool to give direction to and ensure co-ordination of the employment policy priorities to which Member States should subscribe at EU level.
EC Together for Health: A Strategic Approach for the EU 2008-2013 (2007)	Building on current work, this Strategy aims to provide an overarching strategic framework spanning core issues in health as well as health in all policies and global health issues.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
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.
Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats	Promotes the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring Member States to take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and wild species listed in the Annexes to the Directive to a favourable

Title of PPP	Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP
and of Wild Fauna and Flora (1992)	conservation status, introducing robust protection for those habitats of European importance.
The SEA Directive: Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (2001)	An SEA is mandatory for plans/programmes which are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste/water management, telecommunications, tourism, town & country planning or land use, and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in the EIA Directive.
National	
National Planning Policy Framework (DCLG 2012)	The NPPF is the overarching policy framework for the delivery of sustainable development across England, it sets the broad objectives for development across the topics of: ▪ Building a strong, competitive economy ▪ Ensuring the vitality of town centres ▪ Supporting a prosperous rural economy ▪ Promoting sustainable transport ▪ Supporting high quality communications infrastructure ▪ Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes ▪ Requiring good design ▪ Promoting healthy communities ▪ Protecting Green Belt land ▪ Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change ▪ Conserving and enhancing the natural environment ▪ Conserving and enhancing the historic environment ▪ Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals ▪ Plan-making ▪ Decision-taking
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.
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 Natural Choice: Securing the Value of Nature. The Natural Environment White Paper. (HM Government 2011)	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: ▪ Protecting and improving our natural environment ▪ Growing a green economy ▪ Reconnecting people and nature ▪ International and EU leadership
DfES 14-19 Education and Skills White Paper (2005)	Sets out proposals, which build on the strengths of the existing education system, designed to ensure that every young person masters functional English and maths before they leave education.
DoH: Healthy Lives, Healthy People: Our strategy for public	Sets out the Governments approach to tackling threats to public health and dealing with health inequalities. It sets out an approach that will:

Title of PPP	Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP
health in England White Paper (2010)	▪ 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.
Department for Transport: Towards a Sustainable Transport System: Supporting Economic Growth in a Low Carbon World (November 2008)	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: ▪ To reduce transport's emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, with the desired outcome of tackling climate change. ▪ To support economic competitiveness and growth, by delivering reliable and efficient transport networks. ▪ To promote greater equality of opportunity for all citizens, with the desired outcome of achieving a fairer society. ▪ 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. ▪ To improve quality of life for transport users and non-transport users, and to promote a healthy natural environment.
Department for Transport / Department of Health Active Travel Strategy (2010)	The strategy seeks to increase the cycling and walking rates in England. The three main aims for the strategy are: ▪ To promote better public health and well-being by increasing levels of physical activity, particularly among the most inactive people in our society ▪ To increase accessibility and reduce congestion ▪ To improve air quality and reduce carbon emissions
Department for Transport Manual for Streets (2007) & Manual for Streets 2 (2010)	Manual for Streets is designed to support the design, construction, adoption and maintenance of new residential streets, and existing streets that are subject to re-design. The document aims to place a higher priority on pedestrian, cycle and public transport provisions, and assist in the creation of streets that: ▪ Help to build and strengthen the communities they serve ▪ Meet the needs of all users, by embodying the principles of inclusive design

Title of PPP	Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP
	▪ Form part of a well-connected network ▪ Are attractive and have their own distinctive identity ▪ Are cost effective to construct and maintain ▪ Are safe
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.
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.
DEFRA Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981, as amended)	The principle mechanism for the legislative protection of wildlife in Great Britain.
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 Strategies 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".
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.
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.
NE:176 Natural England's Green Infrastructure Guidance	The guidance provides a comprehensive overview of the concept of green infrastructure and maps out the wider policy priorities and drivers for green infrastructure.
Natural England: Securing Biodiversity: A New Framework for Delivering Priority Species and Habitats in England	The guide sets out a framework which has been developed to enhance the recovery of priority habitats and species in England (published under section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006). The Strategy seeks to: ▪ encourage the adoption of an ecosystem approach and better embed climate change adaptation principles in conservation action; ▪ achieve biodiversity enhancements across whole landscapes and seascapes; ▪ achieve our priority habitat targets through greater collective emphasis on habitat restoration and expansion;

Title of PPP	Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP
	▪ enhance the recovery of priority species by better integrating their needs into habitat-based work where possible, and through targeted species recovery work where necessary; ▪ support the restoration of designated sites, including by enhancing the wider countryside in which they sit; ▪ support the conservation of marine biodiversity, inside and outside of designated sites; ▪ establish and implement a delivery programme, with agreed accountabilities, for priority species and habitats in England; ▪ improve the integration of national, regional and local levels of delivery; ▪ improve the links between relevant policy-makers and biodiversity practitioners; strengthen biodiversity partnerships by clarifying roles at England, regional and local levels.
Making Space for Nature: a review of England's wildlife sites and ecological network (2010)	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 connected.
DEFRA England's Trees, Woods and Forests Strategy (2007)	The England's Trees, Woods, and Forest Strategy (2007) aims to: ▪ 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 ▪ 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.
UK National Ecosystem Assessment (2011)	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.
DEFRA Guidance for Local Authorities on Implementing	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

Title of PPP	Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP
Biodiversity Duty (2007)	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.
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.
UK Climate Change Act 2008 (2008)	The 2008 Climate Change Act seeks to manage and respond to climate change in the UK, by: ▪ 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. 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.
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.
UK Renewable Energy Strategy Roadmap (2011)	The document plans the path to achieve the UK's renewable energy target over the next decade, showing where we are now, analysis of how deployment may evolve by 2020, and the actions required to achieve the anticipated deployment levels. The document targets the 8 technologies of; onshore wind, offshore wind, marine energy, biomass electricity, biomass heat, ground source heat pumps, air source heat pumps, and renewable transport.
UK Solar PV Strategy Part 1 (2013) & Part 2 (2014)	Part 1: the Roadmap sets out four guiding principles; ▪ Ensuring that solar PV has a role alongside other energy generation technologies in delivering carbon reductions, energy security and affordability for consumers ▪ To deliver genuine carbon reductions that help meet the UK's target of 15% renewable energy from final consumption by 2020 and in supporting the decarbonisation of our economy in the longer term ▪ To ensure that proposals are appropriately sites and give proper weight to environmental considerations ▪ Development assesses and responds to the impacts of deployment on: grid systems balancing; grid connectivity; and financial incentives. Part 2 focuses on the ambition for the key market segments and how this ambition will be realised through innovation and partnership, as

Title of PPP	Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP
	well as the benefits that can be expected for jobs, investment and emissions reductions
The UK Low Carbon Transition Plan (2009)	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: ▪ 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.
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.
Energy Saving Trust: Renewable Energy Sources for Homes in Urban Environments (2005)	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.
HM Treasury: Science & innovation investment framework 2004-2014 (2004)	Describes how the UK should attract the highest-skilled people and companies which have the potential to innovate and turn innovation into a commercial opportunity.
DEFRA Securing the Future - UK Government sustainable development strategy (2005)	Sets a broad-ranging policy agenda for achieving sustainable development in the UK. This includes topics related to helping people make better choices; sustainable consumption and production; climate change and energy; protecting natural resources and enhancing the environment; and creating sustainable communities.
DfES Five Year Strategy for Children and Learners (2005)	Sets out the DfES skills and education strategy, seeking to address historic weaknesses and put a clear focus on children, learners, parents and employers, promoting personalisation and choice.
DfES Further Education: Raising Skills, Improving Life Chances (2005)	Sets out a commitment to develop a new approach to funding for 14-19 year-olds and to move to a position where more funding is driven directly by employer and learner choice.
DTI Technology Strategy - Developing UK Capability (2006)	Key goals are to: help leading sectors and businesses maintain their position in the face of global competition; stimulate those sectors and businesses with the capacity to be among the best in the world to fulfil their potential; ensure that the emerging technologies of today become the growth sectors of tomorrow; and combine all these elements in such a way that the UK becomes a centre for investment by world-leading companies.
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.

Title of PPP	Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP
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)	This sets out the Governments response to a review into the health of Britain's working age population conducted by Dame Carol Black. 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". To achieve the vision three key aspirations have been identified: ▪ creating new perspectives on health and work; ▪ improving work and workplaces; and ▪ supporting people to work. Through these three aspirations Britain's working population will fulfil their full potential, create stronger communities and help relieve the financial burden of health problems on the economy.
DoH: Our health, our care, our say: a new direction for community services (2005)	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.
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.
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.
English Nature: Accessible Natural Green Space Standards in Towns and Cities: A Review and Toolkit for their 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 report aims to show how size and distance criteria can be used to identify the natural spaces which contribute most to local sustainability.
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.
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.
English Heritage: Conservation Principles for the Sustainable	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': ▪ The historic environment is a shared resource

Title of PPP	Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP
Management of the Historic Environment	▪ Everyone should be able to participate in sustaining the historic environment ▪ Understanding the significance of places is vital ▪ Significant places should be managed to sustain their values ▪ Decisions about change must be reasonable, transparent and consistent ▪ Documenting and learning from decisions is essential.
English Heritage and CABE: 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.
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
Enabling Development and the Conservation of Significant Places (2008) (Revision expected soon)	The guidance is intended to ensure consistency in advice given, encourage a rigorous approach to the assessment of development in significant places, and provide clarity in the approach and tests that may be applied when considering proposals.
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).
Code for Sustainable Homes (2006)	The code for sustainable homes is the national standard for the sustainable design and construction of new homes. It aims to reduce carbon emissions and promote higher standards of sustainable design, above the current minimum standards set out by the building regulations. The code provides nine measures of sustainable design: ▪ Energy / CO2 ▪ Water ▪ Materials ▪ Surface water runoff (flooding and flood prevention) ▪ Waste ▪ Pollution ▪ Health and well-being ▪ Management ▪ Ecology
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 Taylor Review of Rural Economy and	The overriding objective of the report is to help ensure that the planning system brings a positive, lasting legacy of places in which

Title of PPP	Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP
Affordable Housing: Living Working Countryside (2008)	people actually want to live. It suggests changes to the planning system necessary to deliver vibrant communities with a distinct identity, in keeping with the character of their surroundings, and which enhance the local landscape and biodiversity.
BREEAM Communities Technical Manual (2013)	BREEAM was the world's first environmental assessment method for new building designs, the document provides detailed support for the design and construction of buildings. BREEAM enables developments to be recognised according to their sustainability benefits and stimulates demand for sustainable development.
HM Government: Laying the Foundations: A housing strategy for England (2011)	The housing strategy sets out a package of reforms to: ▪ Get the housing market moving again ▪ Lay the foundations for a more responsive, effective and stable housing market in the future ▪ Support choice and quality for tenants ▪ Improve environmental standards and design quality
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.
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.
DECC Energy White Paper: Meeting the Energy Challenge (2007)	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: ▪ aiming to cut CO_2 emissions by some 60% by about 2050, with real progress by 2020; ▪ maintaining the reliability of energy supplies; ▪ promoting competitive markets in the UK and beyond; and ▪ ensuring every home is heated adequately and affordably.
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.
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.
DCLG National Planning Policy for Waste (2014)	The Waste Management Plan for England sets out the Government's ambition to work towards a more sustainable and efficient approach to resource use and management.
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".
ODPM Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future (2003)	Sets out a long-term programme of action for delivering sustainable communities in both urban and rural areas. It aims to tackle housing supply issues in the South East, low demand in other parts of the country, and the quality of our public spaces.

Title of PPP	Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP
ODPM: Diversity & Equity in Planning: A good practice guide (2005)	The document seeks early and effective engagement between local planning authorities and the communities that they serve so that the best and most sustainable planning outcomes may be achieved. The guide assets that equality and diversity are not 'minority' or 'fringe' issues, but are tied up in the mainstream of planning practice.
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.
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.
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.
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.
DEFRA: Safeguarding our Soils: A Strategy for England (2009)	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: • Better protection for agricultural soils; • Protecting and enhancing stores of soil carbon; • 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
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)	This document sets out the Soils Lead Coordination Network's vision for soil conservation. The "desired outcomes" of the vision are as follows: • 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.

Title of PPP	Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP
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.
DEFRA The Water Environment (Water Framework Directive) (England and Wales) Regulations (2003)	Requires all inland and coastal waters to reach "good status" by 2015. It mandates that: ▪ 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 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.
Environment Agency: Water for people and the environment: A Strategy for England and Wales (2009)	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.
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.
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Regulations 2010 as amended	The levy which came into force in April 2010 allows local authorities to raise funds from developers undertaking new building projects in their area. The money can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure that is needed as a result of development including road schemes, flood defences, schools, hospitals and green spaces.
CIL Guidance (2014)	The guidance explains the legislation, the procedure for setting the CIL charge and the relationship between the CIL and planning obligations.
The Plan for Growth (2011)	The plan sets out a path to sustainable long-term economic growth. The economic policy objective is to achieve strong, sustainable and balanced growth that is more evenly shared across the country and between industries. The Plan for Growth contains four overarching ambitions: ▪ to create the most competitive tax system in the G20 ▪ to make the UK one of the best places in Europe to start, finance and grow a business ▪ to encourage investment and exports as a route to a more balanced economy, and ▪ to create a more educated workforce that is the most flexible in Europe
Regional	
Forestry Commission & West Midlands Conservancy: West Midlands Regional Forestry Framework	Aims to inspire and guide those involved in the management of trees, woodlands and forests in the region to secure the sustainable development of this resource.

Title of PPP	Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP
(2004) and Delivery Plan (2005/06)	
West Midlands Biodiversity Partnership: Restoring the Region's Wildlife - Regional Biodiversity Strategy for the West Midlands (2005)	Key challenges include: maintaining and improving the condition of habitats, species and ecosystems; developing an area based approach to restoring wildlife; monitoring the condition of habitats, species and ecosystems; re-connecting and integrating action for biodiversity with other environmental, social and economic activity; and coping with the impacts of climate change.
West Midlands Regional Sustainability Forum: Enriching Our Region - An Environmental Manifesto for the West Midlands (2005)	Proposals for environmental improvements which will benefit the people of the West Midlands and help the region to play its part in revitalising urban areas, protecting natural environment and heritage.
Sustainability West Midlands: The Potential Impacts of Climate Change in the West Midlands (2004)	The aim of the study was to set out the overall picture of issues, challenges and priorities regarding the likely impact of climate change in the West Midlands for the first time, with the intention of feeding into key regional strategies.
Warwickshire County Council: Warwickshire Local Transport Plan 2011-26 (2011)	Warwickshire County Council's third Local Transport Plan (LTP3) came into effect on 1st April 2011. The Plan covers the period 2011-2026 and replaces the second Local Transport Plan (2006-11). The LTP3 comprises two parts: ▪ The Local Transport Strategy - covering the 15-year period 2011 - 2026 ▪ The Implementation Plan - which details how the first three years of the Strategy will be delivered (2011-2014) The overall objectives of the LTP3 are as follows: ▪ To promote greater equality of opportunity for all citizens in order to promote a fairer, more inclusive society; ▪ To seek reliable and efficient transport networks which will help promote full employment and a strong, sustainable local and sub-regional economy; ▪ To reduce the impact of transport on people and the [built and natural] environment and improve the journey experience of transport users; ▪ To improve the safety, security and health of people by reducing the risk of death, injury or illness arising from transport, and by promoting travel modes that are beneficial to health; ▪ To encourage integration of transport, both in terms of policy planning and the physical interchange of modes; ▪ To reduce transport's emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, with the desired outcome of tackling climate change.
Warwickshire County Council: Draft Air Quality Strategy (2010)	The objectives of the Air Quality Strategy (which reflect the wider objectives of the LTP) have been prepared to support local, regional and national policy on air quality and transport. The objectives of the Strategy are: ▪ To address air quality issues that have, or will arise, due to transport-related issues;

Title of PPP	Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP
	▪ To inform and complement the County Council's wider policies on transport contained in the LTP; ▪ To take a proactive, rather than a reactive approach, to dealing with future air quality issues and taking measures to minimise them before they occur; ▪ To create a realistic, deliverable Action Plan with schemes and initiatives for improving air quality related to transport issues within the County; and ▪ To integrate the Strategy fully within the Local Transport Plan, complementing the schemes and objectives contained in other parts of the document. The Air Quality Strategy includes 6 policies relating to improving air quality through partnership working and education.
Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull BAP Group: Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Biodiversity Action Plan (2006)	The Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Biodiversity Action Plan outlines how landowners, land-managers and policy makers should protect the characteristic wildlife and landscapes in the sub-region. The LBAP provides a local response to the UK Government's National Action Plans for threatened habitats and species. The plan contains 26 Species Action Plans and 24 Habitat Action Plans.
Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy (2013)	The strategy provides evidence for the preparation of plans, policies and strategies relating to GI at a sub-regional and local level, covering the disciplines of landscape, biodiversity and accessibility. Desired outcomes include: ▪ A framework for the sustainable land management of the area ▪ A tool for predicting the implications of change on the natural environment ▪ Informing the sustainable management of the historic environment and the conservation and enhancement of heritage assets ▪ An accurate picture of the GI in the area ▪ A tool for delivering the natural environmental contribution to identified priorities in the fields of health, economy and quality of life ▪ A structured plan for delivering environmental change ▪ Attracting funding by demonstrating researched needs and outcomes ▪ Attracting inward investment ▪ Assisting priority setting for neighbouring authorities in areas of common interest
Warwickshire County Council: Warwickshire Climate Change Strategy (June 2006)	The document sets out the Climate Change Strategy for the county of Warwickshire. The overarching aim of this strategy is: "To reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Warwickshire to at least the level set out by Government policy, 15%-18% reduction by 2010 and a 60% reduction by 2050 (against 1990 levels). We will achieve this whilst maintaining and improving the quality of life of Warwickshire residents through the implementation of a policy of sustainable development". The objectives of the Strategy are as follows:

Title of PPP	Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP
	▪ To reduce greenhouse gas emissions through improving energy efficiency, minimising waste and increasing the use of renewable sources of energy. ▪ To reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from transport (particularly road transport) both through effective consideration and promotion of the public transport, car sharing, home working and other interventions, as well as encouraging walking and cycling. ▪ To reduce greenhouse gas emissions through better waste management, including waste minimisation and increased recycling, more efficient use of resources and more environmentally aware procurement (including infrastructure). For organisations to educate their employees and as a result, the wider communities of Warwickshire, on their responsibilities and actions required to limit the effects of climate change in our county.
Warwick District Council (2013) Warwick District Employment Land Review Update	The Warwick District Employment Land Review deals principally with local employment land issues, rather than regional or sub-regional employment land provision. The Update to the Employment Land Review has been prepared to: ▪ Take account of the revised economic outlook/ forecasts and current market conditions; ▪ Consider the alignment between housing and employment land provision; ▪ Consider and advise on the strategy for employment land provision. The update concludes that the overall strategy for employment land provision within the Local Plan needs to respond to national policy which emphasises providing a supply of good quality employment sites to meet the needs of the business community and supporting existing and growing sectors within the local economy. The focus of demand for additional floorspace is expected to be towards B1 activities, however a continuing supply of land suitable for B2 manufacturing uses will be equally important in retaining and supporting investment by higher value-added manufacturing employers. The employment land review supports a strategy for employment land provision which: ▪ Seeks to improve the quality of the overall employment land portfolio ▪ Recognises and seeks to continue to support economic growth at Stoneleigh Park and Abbey Park in agricultural and related activities and research and development; ▪ Ensure a balanced provision of employment land across the District, with appropriate additional provision linked to supporting the economic health of all of the District's key settlements; ▪ Seeking to maintain, through a plan, monitor and manage approach, a supply of land and floorspace which is capable of meeting the requirements of a range of businesses of different sizes and in different sectors. There is no evidence of significant gaps in the land or property portfolio at the time of this assessment, but this should be kept under review;

Title of PPP	Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP
	▪ Includes policies which provide the flexibility to respond to significant opportunities for economic and business growth and investment when these arise.
Warwickshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2012-2015	The overall vision of the strategy is to ensure that "In Warwickshire people will live longer, in better health and be supported to be independent for as long as possible. We will see the people of Warwickshire free from poverty, have a decent standard of living and no child will start their lives at a disadvantage or be left behind." The outlined principles to achieve this vision are: ▪ Helping to keep people well and independent for as long as possible ▪ Ensuring that the people of Warwickshire have a greater say in how services are provided ▪ Recognising that many public services have direct impacts on people's health and wellbeing and working with these services to maximise this positive impact ▪ Helping people be cared for in their own home wherever possible ▪ Identifying social problems or illness as early as possible to prevent situations getting worse ▪ Looking for new ways to help people help themselves by using available technologies ▪ Integrating health and social care services and other public sector services wherever possible to improve the quality of care people receive
Warwickshire's Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2006 (Updated 2013)	The main objective of the Strategy is to provide a sustainable framework for managing waste, working the way up the waste hierarchy while reducing the reliance on landfill as the primary means of waste disposal. The strategy has identified key strategic objectives which have provided the direction for the development of the Waste Strategy. These are summarised below: ▪ To manage our waste in order to move up the waste hierarchy and work towards resource management rather than waste management. ▪ To minimise the amount of waste generated in Warwickshire. ▪ To maximise the amount of material recycled and composted in Warwickshire and to meet and exceed our statutory recycling targets. ▪ To limit the amount of waste disposed of to landfill and to ensure that we meet our landfill diversion targets. ▪ To make use of existing waste treatment infrastructure in Warwickshire. ▪ To contribute to the generation of energy from a non-fossil source.
Severn Trent Water: Water Resources Management Plan (2014)	The Water Industry Act 1991, as amended by the Water Act 2003, places a requirement on all water companies to prepare a Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP). The Water Resources Management Plan sets out how Severn Trent Water proposes to meet demand over the next 25 years in as efficient and sustainable a way as possible, whilst complying with environmental legislation and regulatory requirements. The

Title of PPP	Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP
	company's strategic objectives for water supply demand planning are as follows: ▪ Reduce waste by driving leakage down ▪ Reduce the demand for water, by working in partnership with our customers to help them become more water efficient ▪ Improve our ability to deploy existing resources flexibly and efficiently ▪ Use water trading to make more efficient use of our resources and improve resilience ▪ Develop new sources of water when required, with a focus on expanding our existing sources first ▪ Use proactive catchment management measures to protect our sustainable sources of drinking water supply from pollution risks
Environment Agency: Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies (CAMS). The District is covered by the following CAMS: ▪ The Warwickshire Avon CAMS; and ▪ The Tame, Anker and Mease CAMS.	Catchment Area Management Strategies (CAMS) are six year strategies developed by the Environment Agency for managing water resources at the local level. These documents guide water supply and use in the city and the wider area. The CAMS documents contains maps and descriptions of the local Water Management Units (WMUs), groundwater and surface water, and an assessment of water availability at times of low flow – normally mid to late summer. CAMS also classify each WMU into one of four categories: 'over-abstracted'; 'over-licensed'; 'no water available'; or 'water available'.
Warwickshire County Council Surface Water Management Plan	The Plan seeks to develop understanding of surface water flood risk across Warwickshire and recommendations for surface water management, and develop a robust Action Plan to deliver change.
Warwickshire County Council Local Flood Risk Management Strategy	Provides an overview and assessment of local flood risk in Warwickshire and sets objectives and measures for how Warwickshire County Council will manage and reduce local flood risk.
Stratford-on-Avon DC, Warwickshire CC, North Warwickshire BC & Rugby DC Level 1 SFRA Report (URS, 2013)	The primary objective of the study was to enable the LPAs to undertake sequential testing in line with the Government's principles of flood risk and planning set out in the NPPF. The SFRA forms an essential reference tool providing the building blocks for future strategic planning. The core output of the study is a series of maps which detail the flood risk from rivers, surface water, groundwater and artificial sources in the study area.
Local	
Stratford-on-Avon Local Development Framework Car and Cycling Parking Standards; Supplementary Planning Document (2007)	The Supplementary Planning Document recognises that the management of the demand and supply of parking spaces can be used as an effective tool in influencing a shift in the mode of travel, from car-based journeys to more sustainable modes such as public transport. The document sets out what the criteria for the car parking standards should be. The objectives of the parking standards are: ▪ To reduce traffic congestion in urban areas; ▪ To provide effective access to town centres;

Title of PPP	Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP
	▪ To sustain and improve upon the economic viability of the District; ▪ To assist in achieving an effective balance between car based travel and environmentally friendly alternatives such as walking, cycling and public transport; ▪ To ensure safety in the use of transport; ▪ To assist in improving upon the aesthetic quality of towns and villages; and ▪ To strike a balance between the provision of adequate car parking to serve the development and the need to avoid highway danger.
Stratford-on-Avon District Council (July 2013) Intended Proposed Submission Core Strategy	The Core Strategy seeks to address local growth requirements for employment, housing and other land uses, and provides the strategic context for development decisions up to the year 2028. The plan covers the policy areas of: ▪ District Resources: Climate change and sustainable energy, the water environment and flood risk, minerals, and waste ▪ District Assets: Landscape, natural environment, green infrastructure, historic environment, design and distinctiveness ▪ District Designations: Green Belt, Cotswolds AONB, Special Landscape Areas, Areas of Restraint, and Vale of Evesham Control Zone ▪ Development Strategy: Distribution of development, housing development, affordable housing, specialised accommodation, Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople, housing mix and type, existing housing stock and buildings, economic development, retail development and main centres, tourism and leisure development ▪ Area Strategies: Stratford-upon-Avon, Alcester, Bidford-on-Avon, Henley-in-Arden, Kineton, Shipston-on-Stour, Southam, Studley, Wellesbourne, Gaydon/Lighthorne Heath new settlement, countryside and villages, large rural brownfield sites, and Redditch ▪ Infrastructure: Healthy communities, transport and communications, and developer contributions
Stratford-on-Avon District Council: 2009 Air Quality Updating and Screening Assessment (2009)	The report presents the findings of Stratford-on-Avon District Council's third Updating and Screening Assessment of air quality within the District. It evaluates new and changed sources to identify those that may give rise to a risk of the air quality objective being exceeded.
GL Hearn (2011) Stratford-on-Avon District Employment Land Study	The Employment Land Study assesses the amount and type of employment land that is required in the District to assist in maintaining the economic health of the area and in supporting a supply of job opportunities for its residents. An appropriate strategy for economic development should look to create the conditions to allow businesses to prosper and grow. This will require a combination of measures addressing skills and labour supply; the commercial property offer; wider infrastructure; business support measures; ICT infrastructure and cluster and supply-chain development. The study advised that innovation will be critical to maintaining and improving performance of both the manufacturing and service sectors. Research and innovation, business-to-business collaboration and knowledge sharing are critical to this.

Title of PPP	Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP
	It is likely that the District's geography and quality of life will support further growth of small and home-based businesses, including within rural areas. There is potential for both home and remote working to increase and for growth of home-based businesses over the plan period. It is important that the local authority works to provide support to the small business base in these areas. Many embryonic businesses will be run from home and may require little in the way of physical infrastructure or premises. However access to tailored support, business-to-business networking and key facilities will be important if these businesses are to thrive and grow. It will also be important that good quality telecommunications infrastructure is provided, particularly high-speed broadband. The employment land study also discusses the needs of Stratford-upon-Avon. It suggests that the focus should be firmly on attracting higher value-added employment. They recommend that an additional 5-10 ha of land is allocated at Stratford-upon-Avon for B1 uses for development within the 2008-28 plan period. National planning policy supports focusing high trip-generating uses, including office development, within town centres. However, the study advises in the case of Stratford-upon-Avon, physical and heritage constraints mean that there is very little scope for providing large-scale office developments in the town centre itself. They consider that there is potential for selective release of existing poorer quality employment land in Stratford-upon-Avon.
Stratford-on-Avon Destination Tourism Strategy 2011 – 2015 Revised Draft	The Strategy sets out the strategic direction for tourism in the District from 2011 to 2015. The set priorities reflect the most urgent needs as seen by stakeholders to address in order to deliver tourism effectively. There are six key priority areas: - To form a representative Tourism Steering Group to lead for the destination: The move towards partnership working through a Destination Steering Group. - To promote and raise awareness of the world class nature of the destination at all levels. - To improve digital communication. - Improve Provision of Visitor Information: Developing clear, consistent and relevant information on all aspects of the destination and ensuring it is easily accessible at all stages of the visitor journey. - Improve visitor facilities and experience: Having a clear understanding of visitor needs and supporting improvement of the key facilities and activities to meet those needs. - Improve visitor welcome: Developing understanding of the visitor experience, and identifying objectives to improve all aspects, from customer service, to visual impact.
Stratford-On-Avon District Council Stratford-On-Avon District Retail Study June 2008	The principal focus of the study was to provide the Council with robust evidence and advice on the need for additional convenience goods floorspace given current national and regional policy and in the light of demographic and economic trends. Regional retail policy states that Stratford-upon-Avon is the 'preferred location' for major retail development within Stratford-on-Avon District, whilst the network of smaller town, District and local centres should provide for day-to-day needs. Regional policy further states local authorities should be pro-active in encouraging

Title of PPP	Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP
	appropriate retail development in these smaller centres in order to maintain and enhance their function. The main focus should be on meeting local needs, in particular the provision of convenience goods shopping. In summary, the study's recommended retail strategy for the Council is to actively plan for additional food store provision within Stratford-on-Avon District, but in a way that not only meets the sustainability objectives of reducing expenditure leakage (and trips) to centres outside of the District, but also reduces the need to travel longer distances by car for main food shopping within the District. The document is currently being updated to reflect revised population growth and economic trends.
Stratford-on-Avon Draft Business and Enterprise Strategy 2012 - 2015	The vision of the strategy is that with the support of partners the Council enables Stratford-on-Avon District to become a place where business and enterprise can flourish. The strategy includes three objectives which were developed to address issues and concerns arising from the national, regional and local context. These objectives are to: ▪ Create an environment for businesses to start, locate and thrive; ▪ Facilitate growth of the local economy through targeted support; and ▪ Create new jobs and improve skills.
Stratford-on-Avon District Council Active Communities Strategy 2013 - 2018	The Active Communities Strategy seeks to ensure the effective planning and coordination of an integrated range of opportunities for participation in Sport and Active Recreation to meet the needs and aspirations of the District's residents, and in support of the Council's Corporate Objectives. The Active Communities Strategy includes three strategic themes, these are: ▪ Encouraging Active Communities ▪ Enhancing and Sustaining Facility Provision ▪ Engaging to Raise the Profile of Sport and Physical Activity
Stratford-On-Avon District Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (2011)	The landscape sensitivity study found that there is some capacity for development adjacent to the study settlements when assessed from the perspective of landscape sensitivity, although most zones in the vicinity are considered areas of constraint with high or high/medium sensitivity. These areas have tended to be those of intrinsically higher value, and should be considered and protected, they include: ▪ those in open countryside not closely associated with a settlement; ▪ those acting as settings to Conservation Areas or listed buildings; ▪ those located in valley corridors, in floodplains or on steep or prominent slopes; or ▪ those forming gaps within or between settlements. There is also a need to protect the valley bottoms and maintain green fingers of open space penetrating into settlements.
Stratford-on-Avon District Housing Strategy 2009 – 2014 Review 2012	The strategy sets out a clear agenda and actions to tackle the important housing issues facing the District. The Homelessness Strategy will also be incorporated into the next review of this Strategy. Until then, this Housing Strategy sets out the principal issues and areas of action for preventing and responding to

Title of PPP	Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP
	homelessness. The vision of the housing strategy is "A District of sustainable communities offering more people the opportunity to live in good quality housing of their choice, with the support they need". This is broken down into four aims: ▪ To increase the supply and choice of good quality affordable housing for local people ▪ To improve existing housing and help people live as independently as possible ▪ To prevent homelessness and the harm caused by it ▪ To strengthen the support to local communities
From Empty Properties to New Homes 2012 - 2015	The vision of the empty properties strategy is to "reduce the number of empty properties across the District, utilising funding effectively to bring empty properties back into use and provide affordable housing for those in housing need". The aim is to bring empty properties back into use and create affordable housing solutions. The strategy incorporates a corporate strategy target of bringing 75 empty properties back into use by 2015. To do this the strategy identifies three objectives, these are: ▪ Identify empty homes across Stratford-on-Avon District ▪ Develop effective pathways to bring empty properties back into use ▪ Create good quality, affordable housing for local people in housing need
Stratford-on-Avon District Council Tenancy Strategy October 2012	Stratford-on-Avon District Council's Tenancy Strategy sets out who should get what social housing tenancy and for how long, and what happens when a tenancy is due to end. The Strategy also deals with related matters such as Affordable Rents and the disposal of existing stock. The purpose of this Strategy is to make the best use of affordable housing stock in Stratford-on-Avon District and help create stable and cohesive communities. The Council expects that Registered Providers (mainly housing associations) will have regard to this Tenancy Strategy, when formulating their policies relating to the: ▪ Type and length of tenancies that they grant. ▪ Circumstances in which they will grant a tenancy of a particular type. ▪ Circumstances in which they will grant a further tenancy at the end of an existing tenancy. The overarching strategic objectives are: ▪ To help local households to meet their current and future housing needs. ▪ To encourage Registered Providers to invest in the District and provide affordable housing, as well as the associated economic benefits. ▪ To create sustainable communities and support vulnerable households. ▪ To provide clarity of the approach we are taking for Registered Providers and customers.
Stratford-On-Avon District Council Corporate Strategy 2011-2015	The corporate strategy advises that the quality of life enjoyed in Stratford-on-Avon District makes it one of the top places to live in the country. This is not to say that residents enjoy a consistently high standard of living. A significant number of people are vulnerable for a variety of reasons. The Council believes that communities are at

Title of PPP	Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP
	their strongest when they work together, providing mutual support and identifying their own solutions to local issues. The council therefore intends to work with the community to ensure that local challenges are addressed and risks faced by vulnerable people are reduced. The strategy includes four aims: ▪ To address local housing need ▪ To be a District where business and enterprise can flourish ▪ To improve access to services ▪ To minimise the impacts of climate change
Stratford-On-Avon District Council Well-Being Strategy 2007	The major strategic purpose within the well-being strategy is twofold: ▪ To improve the economic, environmental and social well-being of the District where evidence demands action. ▪ To maintain the economic, environmental and social well-being of the District where evidence demonstrates high quality. These include three aims, relating to the economic, environmental and social well-being: ▪ To maintain and improve the high quality of life and economic well-being in the District. ▪ To maintain and improve the high quality of life and environmental well-being in the District. ▪ To maintain and improve the District's social well-being/ quality of life.
Stratford-on-Avon Contaminated Land Strategy 2007	The Environmental Protection Act, 1990, Part 11A, requires that all local authorities inspect their areas for the purpose of identifying contaminated land. Stratford-on-Avon District Council adopted a strategy in 2001 setting out how it would undertake this task and in what timescale. Some typical uses of land in our area with potential for causing contamination are: ▪ Landfills ▪ Gasworks ▪ Filling Stations ▪ Scrap yards ▪ Agriculture - storage and use of chemicals ▪ Industry In 2007 the Rogers Review was a carried out to set the national enforcement priorities for local authorities. Amongst its many recommendations was that investigating potentially contaminated land was not a national consideration. Therefore the Council will continue to: ▪ recommend full site investigation as appropriate at planning application stage for new development, ▪ provide advice on request ▪ respond to specific enquiries about sites following receipt of the appropriate fee. However, the Council will not, in the foreseeable future carry out any proactive site investigations.
Halcrow 2008 Stratford-on-Avon District Council Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for Local	The purpose of this SFRA is to assess and map all forms of flood risk from groundwater, surface water, sewer and river sources, taking into account future climate change predictions, and use this as an evidence base to locate future development primarily in low flood risk areas. The outputs from the SFRA will help the Councils to prepare sustainable policies for the long-term management of

Title of PPP	Main objectives and environmental / socio-economic requirements of PPP
Development Framework	flood risk and improve existing emergency planning procedures.
URS Stratford-on-Avon Water Cycle Study Update Final Report September 2012	The objective of the WCS update is to identify any constraints on housing growth planned in the Local Service Villages and other villages in the Stratford-on-Avon District up to 2028 that may be imposed by the water cycle and how these can be resolved i.e. by ensuring that appropriate Water Services Infrastructure (WSI) can be provided to support the proposed development. Furthermore, it should provide a strategic approach to the management and use of water which ensures that the sustainability of the water environment in the District is not compromised. The strategy is to: ▪ maximise the sustainable use of existing resources, by increasing strategic distribution links; ▪ use aquifer storage and recovery to utilise spare resource and treatment capacity during periods of low demand; ▪ provide some new groundwater source development; ▪ continue to reduce leakage; and, ▪ carry out measures to help customers become more water efficient and reduce their demand

Appendix II – Summary of Responses to Consultation

Rep ID	Doc Ref	Consultee Comment Summary	Response	Changes
English Heritage (Rohan Torkildsen) 14/11/14				
1.1	Table 4.2: SA Objective 1	Amend wording to '*To conserve designated, non-designated heritage assets and their setting in a manner appropriate to their significance.*	The amended SA Objective more clearly identifies the features of the historic environment for consideration. Comment is agreed with thanks	SA Objective 1 and decision aiding criteria amended to reflect suggested wording.
1.2	Table 4.2: SA Objective 1	Reduce decision making criteria from 4 sub-questions to the following two sub-questions: Q1a – Will the proposal protect, and where appropriate, enhance heritage assets and their setting? Q1b – Will the proposal improve, and broaden access to, understanding and enjoyment of the historic environment?	Noted. The existing questions cover all aspects of the two proposed questions, as well as including a direct question relating to archaeology.	No change
1.3	Table 4.2	Amendment to assumptions and uncertainties column to reflect the need to consider historic settings	Agreed with thanks	Wording amended to include 'setting'
1.4	Table 4.2	Amendment to significance criteria, to allow for a ++ score that reflects a substantial positive effect.	Agreed that although it is considered unlikely that any sites will achieve a ++ score, the significance criteria should still set a standard for the achievement of this score.	Significance criteria amended to reflect comments and criteria for a ++ score.
Environment Agency (Becky Clarke) 27/11/14				

Rep ID	Doc Ref	Consultee Comment Summary	Response	Changes
2.1	Page 20-21 Water and Flood Risk	Text and descriptions are supported	Noted with thanks	No change
2.2	Page 32-38 Settlement Characteristics	Added comments to sections 3.82 and 3.95: 3.82: *Further control of flows from watercourses in the area through storage or changes to land use could reduce flood risk further* 3.95: *Upstream storage of fluvial flood water could reduce flood risk in Henley-in-Arden, but consideration should also be given towards other sources of flooding such as surface water runoff from surrounding fields*	Noted with thanks	Comments added
2.3	Table 4.2	Section 4: Assuming that development will incorporate sustainable drainage would require a policy intervention, as it is not mandatory	Noted, the wording identifies that every site option has the *potential* to incorporate sustainable drainage, rather than 'will incorporate'. It is therefore considered that this will not be a significant differentiator between site options.	No change
2.4	Table 4.2	Section 4 Significance Criteria: include within 0 score that development will not impact on flood risk in the wider catchment	Noted and agreed	Significance criteria wording amended
2.5	Table 4.2	Section 5: Significance Criteria: include within 0 score that development would not 'contribute towards a severance of green and blue infrastructure or impede the migration of biodiversity	Noted and agreed; SA Objective 3 on biodiversity and geodiversity expanded to incorporate blue corridors and the migration of biodiversity	Significance criteria wording amended
2.6	Table 4.2	Section 7: In relation to the remediation of contaminated land there is move towards assessing the sustainability of remedial options	Noted with thanks	No change

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		which is likely to become more significant over the life time of this plan. Consequently your Authority might want to consider including reference to this in the document.		
2.7	Table 4.2	Section 8 Significance Criteria: include within – score 'and would contribute towards a failure to meet 'good' chemical quality in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive'	Noted and agreed	Significance criteria wording amended
2.8	Appraisal matrix for site options	We agree that the documents contained within the supporting documents for Local Plan including the Water Cycle Study should form the evidence base for assessing the potential benefits / impacts of individual site allocations.

There should also be detailed consideration of how the proposed policies within the Local Plan will contribute to delivering sustainable development, as the proposed policy measures may ensure that individual sites deliver a net gain to the environment | Noted and agreed. The policy appraisal section of the main SA Report (post Scoping) will assess how the Local Plan is contributing to delivering sustainable development against the set SA Objectives. The Sites SA will also consider potential mitigation provided through the Local Plan. | No change |
| 2.9 | Appendix 1: Plans, Policies and Programmes Review | The Environment Agency is consulting on the updated River Basin Management Plans that include measures that will ensure compliance with WFD by 2027 where all watercourses will be required to meet 'good ecological status' [link provided to further details on the draft plan] The information made available in this consultation constitutes the best available information that the Environment Agency holds in relation to watercourses, groundwater and surface water quality. We are keen to seek your Authorities | Noted with thanks | No change |

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		views and opinions of this revised plan, and your comments are invited for this consultation		
2.10	Appendix 1: Plans, Policies and Programmes Review	It is recommended that the following policy is included in the national policy list: National Planning Policy for Waste (October 2014) [link provided]	Noted and agreed	Policy added to Appendix 1
2.11	Appendix 1: Plans, Policies and Programmes Review	We recommend that the following policy is included within the local policy list: Environment Agency Waterbody Improvement Plan [link provided]	Noted with thanks however this document cannot be found through the link provided or through a general search on line.	No change
2.12	Appendix 1: Plans, Policies and Programmes Review	We also recommend that the emerging Warwickshire Surface Water Management Plan and Flood Risk Strategy is included	Noted and agreed	Plan added to Appendix 1
Natural England (Jamie Melvin) 28/11/14				
3.1	Appendix 1: Plans, Policies and Programmes Review	There appears to be no reference to the emerging Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Sub-Regional Green Infrastructure Strategy. If you are aware of any relevant documents produced by the Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull Local Nature Partnership these may warrant inclusion	Noted and agreed. No relevant documents from the Local Nature Partnership have been found.	GI strategy added to Appendix 1
3.2	Baseline Information	National Character Areas (NCAs) have been referenced in the scoping document, but it is worth noting that they have recently been revised and now contain additional information about changes in the landscape and	Noted with thanks.	Baseline information updated with NCA profiles.

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		statements of environmental opportunity, which indicate how the landscape character and biodiversity of the area might be enhanced.		
3.3	Section 3.32	The condition data for Sites of Special Scientific Interest has been taken from a 2010 Annual Monitoring report [link provided] may provide more up to date information	Noted with thanks. As the data (through the link provided) is specific to individual sites it is considered that the information used is appropriate and proportionate at this strategic level of plan making to provide an overview.	No change.
3.4	Sustainability Issues	Natural England considers the sustainability issues identified to be reasonably comprehensive regarding the natural environment	Noted with thanks	No change
3.5	SA Framework: SA Objective 2	We advise that in order to achieve the ++ standard a site allocation should look to deliver landscape enhancement and that this should be specifically referenced in the criteria. The removal of eyesores is not the only or even main way a landscape can be enhanced. This should be made more general to encompass other ways of strengthening landscape character	Noted and agreed	++ significance criteria in SA Objective 2 amended to become more generalised
3.6	SA Framework: SA Objective 3	Appears to set no criteria for the ++ standard of protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geodiversity as it 'is considered unlikely that development at any of the sites will have a major positive effect on biodiversity.' Natural England considers development to be an opportunity to deliver biodiversity gains and believes that this can be delivered through enhancement to existing sites, improving green links and networks and through the provision of green infrastructure. Irrespective it seems logical	Noted and agreed.	++ significance criteria in SA Objective 3 amended accordingly

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		to set criteria even if none of the sites identified ultimately achieve the highest possible rating		
3.7	SA Framework: SA Objective 6	We welcome the recognition that Green Infrastructure can play a key role in climate change adaption and the focus on the loss of public open space and green infrastructure. It may be helpful to make clear that the loss of both formal and informal natural green space and recreational routes (including loss of quality as well as extent) should be picked up here.	Noted with thanks	Amended to reflect that loss can relate to both quality and extent
3.8	Scoping Report	Throughout the document there is a reliance on policies set out in the Core Strategy. It is important to bear in mind that the Core Strategy is not yet adopted. Our comments are made on the assumption that the Site Allocations document will be examined following the adoption of the Core Strategy, but if alterations are made to policies in the Core Strategy then the Sustainability Appraisal for the Site Allocated may have to be revisited.	Noted with thanks	No change