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Leicestershire County
Council



Habitats Regulations Assessment

of the Pre-Submission Draft Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan

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1. INTRODUCTION

Summary

- 1.1 This report sets out details of the initial Screening stage for a Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Pre-Submission Draft Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan.
- 1.2 The report outlines the scope of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (Chapter 1). Chapter 2 provides a description of the River Mease Special Area of Conservation site. Chapter 3 provides details of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan. Chapter 4 sets out the Screening Assessment methodology. Chapter 5 sets out the findings of the Screening process. Chapter 6 sets out the report conclusions and the Assessment Statement.

Scope of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

- 1.3 Legal protection for habitats and species of European importance is provided by Directive 92/43/EEC - the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna, otherwise known as the 'Habitats Directive' - and the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c) Regulations 1994. The Habitats Directive established a network of sites of nature conservation importance known as Natura 2000.
- 1.4 There are four key stages to the HRA process. The first of these is screening, which determines whether or not a full Appropriate Assessment is required, with subsequent stages covering the assessment itself, alternative solutions and compensation in the light of imperative reasons of overriding public interest. This approach follows a hierarchy of avoidance, mitigation and compensation that is promoted by the Habitats Directive.
- 1.5 The aim of HRA is to appraise the potential effects of a proposed plan on European sites. The only designated site of European interest in Leicestershire is the River Mease SAC (Special Area of Conservation). Other European sites near to Leicestershire but outside of its administrative border are Ensor's Pool SAC in Warwickshire and Rutland Water SPA (Special Protection Area) and Ramsar site in Rutland. The location of these sites together with the characteristics of the sites, the reasons for designation and the distance from Leicestershire have been examined to determine whether the Local Plan could have a significant effect on these sites.
- 1.6 Ensor's Pool is a flooded marl pit which holds a very large population of white clawed crayfish. This water body is isolated from river systems and is located approximately 5km from the boundary of Leicestershire. It is not therefore considered that the Local Plan is likely to result in a significant impact on this European Site.

- 1.7 Rutland Water is fed by the Rivers Nene and Welland. The River Welland rises in Market Harborough in Leicestershire. Based on the location of Rutland Water, the reason for its designation and that the Local Plan does not allocate any sites on the eastern side of the county, it is considered highly unlikely that the Local Plan will have any impact on the Rutland Water SPA and Ramsar site.
- 1.8 It has been concluded that only the River Mease needs to be considered in the screening exercise to determine if an Appropriate Assessment is necessary. The HRA therefore relates solely to the interaction of the Local Plan with the integrity of this site.
- 1.9 In preparing the screening assessment, regard has been taken of the work undertaken on the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of the Local Plan.

2. RIVER MEASE SPECIAL AREA OF CONSERVATION

Site Integrity

- 2.1 The River Mease was designated as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in May 2004. The River Mease SAC site is also designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). However, the Screening Assessment relates specifically to the European designation and does not relate to the broader interests or requirements of the national level designation.
- 2.2 The significance of a plan's effects on a European site depends on whether the site's integrity is affected. The integrity of the site relates to the reasons for the site's designation, and as such the identification of key features in respect of the qualifying interest, the site's conservation objectives and its condition are important to the Screening process.

Qualifying Interest

- 2.3 The River Mease is approximately 33 km in length, flowing westwards through a largely rural and agricultural landscape to its confluence with the River Trent at Croxall. As a relatively un-modified lowland river, the Mease contains a diverse range of physical features including vegetated channel margins, bankside tree cover, riffles, pools and slacks. River gradients also vary along its length, with consequent effects on flow, vegetation and riverbed characteristics, providing ideal habitats for fish feeding and spawning grounds.
- 2.4 This area was recommended as a SAC because it contains habitat types and/or species which are rare or threatened within a European context. The interests for which the site was selected as a SSSI may differ therefore from the interests selected in a European context. Key European interests are as follows:

Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature but not a primary reason for selection.

- Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation. This habitat type is characterised by the abundance of water-crowfoots, where floating mats of these white-flowered species are characteristic of river channels in early to mid-summer. They may modify water flow, promote fine sediment deposition, and provide shelter and food for fish and invertebrate animals.

Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site.

- Spined Loach (*Cobitis taenia*) - The River Mease is a good example of a riverine population of spined loach. It is a small tributary of the River Trent and has retained a reasonable degree of channel diversity compared to other similar rivers containing

spined loach populations. It has extensive beds of submerged plants along much of its length which, together with its relatively sandy sediments (as opposed to cohesive mud) provides good habitat opportunities for the species.

- Bullhead (*Cottus gobio*) - The Mease is an example of bullhead populations in the rivers of central England. Bed sediments are generally not as coarse as other sites selected for the species, reflecting the nature of many rivers in this geographical area, but are suitable in patches due to the river's retained sinuosity. The patchy cover from submerged macrophytes is also important for the species.

Annex II species present as a qualifying feature but not a primary reason for selection.

- White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) - The white-clawed crayfish lives in a diverse variety of clean aquatic habitats but especially favours hard-water streams and rivers. A major threat to the native white-clawed crayfish is posed by the introduction of non-native species of crayfish, which have been farmed in Britain since the late 1970s, and the emergence of crayfish plague which followed.
- The otter (*Lutra lutra*) is a semi-aquatic mammal, which occurs in a wide range of ecological conditions, including inland freshwater and coastal areas. Inland populations utilise a range of running and standing freshwaters. These must have an abundant supply of food (normally associated with high water quality), together with suitable habitat, such as vegetated river banks, islands, reedbeds and woodland, which are used for foraging, breeding and resting. Populations declined sharply during the 1960s and 1970s due to pollution, exacerbated by hunting and habitat loss.

Conservation Objectives

2.5 The conservation objectives seek to maintain (maintenance implies restoration, if the feature is not currently in a favourable condition) in a favourable condition, the river as a habitat for:

- Floating formations of water crowfoot;
- Populations of bullhead;
- Populations of spined loach;
- Populations of white-clawed crayfish,

and the river corridor and adjoining areas as habitat for:

- Populations of otter.

Site Conditions

- 2.6 The UK SAC data form produced by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), Version 2.1, 17/05/06 covers vulnerability of the site at point 4.3, and states that:
“The River Mease is an unusually semi-natural system in a largely rural landscape, dominated by intensive agriculture. Water quality and quantity are vital to the European interests, whilst competition for water resources is high. Diffuse pollution and excessive sedimentation are catchment-wide issues which have the potential to affect the site”.
- 2.7 Examination of the SSSI Favourable Condition Tables on Natural England’s website indicates that the River Mease site Assessment Description was “Unfavourable - no change”, as assessed on 14/01/2010. The reasoning for the “adverse condition” of the SSSI units (1027107/08) was linked to invasive freshwater species, physical modifications of the river, over abstraction, density of the designated fish species, and water pollution from agriculture/run off and discharge.
- 2.8 The integrity of the site depends on the maintenance of conditions that will sustain its qualifying interest. The quantity/quality of water reaching the site is seen as essential in order to maintain the integrity of the site for the qualifying interest and conservation objectives listed above.
- 2.9 The JNCC site details and ecological data for the River Mease SAC are included in Appendix 1, together with the Condition of SSSI table and condition summary from Natural England.

3. MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN

Background and General Information

- 3.1 All local planning authorities are required to produce Local Plans. The Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan will eventually replace the Leicestershire Minerals Core Strategy and Development Control Policies Development Plan Document (DPD), the Leicestershire and Leicester Waste Core Strategy and Development Control Policies DPD (both of which were adopted in October 2009), together with remaining saved policies in the Leicestershire Minerals Local Plan (1995) and the Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland Waste Local Plan (2005).
- 3.2 As the first stage in reviewing the adopted Minerals and Waste Core Strategies, an Issues document was produced in November 2013 which set out a range of key issues that were considered likely to influence the future strategy for minerals and waste planning in Leicestershire.
- 3.3 Following an assessment of the responses received on the Issues document, a Consultation Draft document was produced in July 2015. Having considered representations received on this document, the County Council has prepared a Pre-Submission Draft Plan.

Scope of the Local Plan

- 3.4 The Pre-Submission Draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan includes a spatial vision, strategic objectives, and core policies which set out the key principles to guide the future winning and working of minerals and the form of waste management development in the County over the period to the end of 2031. The Development Management Policies set out the criteria against which planning applications for minerals and waste development will be considered. A monitoring framework is included to examine the efficacy and effects of the policies.
- 3.5 The Local Plan addresses the need to provide protection to the environment and the amenity of local residents, whilst ensuring a steady supply of minerals and the provision of waste management facilities in accordance with Government policy and society's needs. It aims to maximise the use of alternative materials in order to reduce the reliance on primary-won minerals, and to significantly increase levels of reuse and recovery of waste and move away from landfill as a means of disposal, having regard to sustainability objectives. It also provides controls relating to the beneficial reinstatement of land following mineral working and landfill operations.
- 3.6 In providing for minerals, the Pre-Submission Draft Plan includes proposals for a rationalisation of clay stocking and blending activities and the establishment of a stocking and blending facility at Donington Island. The section on development management includes a policy related to sites of biodiversity/geodiversity interest.

SA/SEA Analysis of Policies and Proposals

- 3.7 The policies and proposals of the Pre-submission Draft Document have been fully assessed through the SA/SEA process against an agreed set of SA objectives. The SA Report for the Local Plan is available as a separate document. The SA indicates that the Local Plan policies provide safeguards in accordance with national advice for the protection of sites of international and national importance and for protection of the water environment in general.

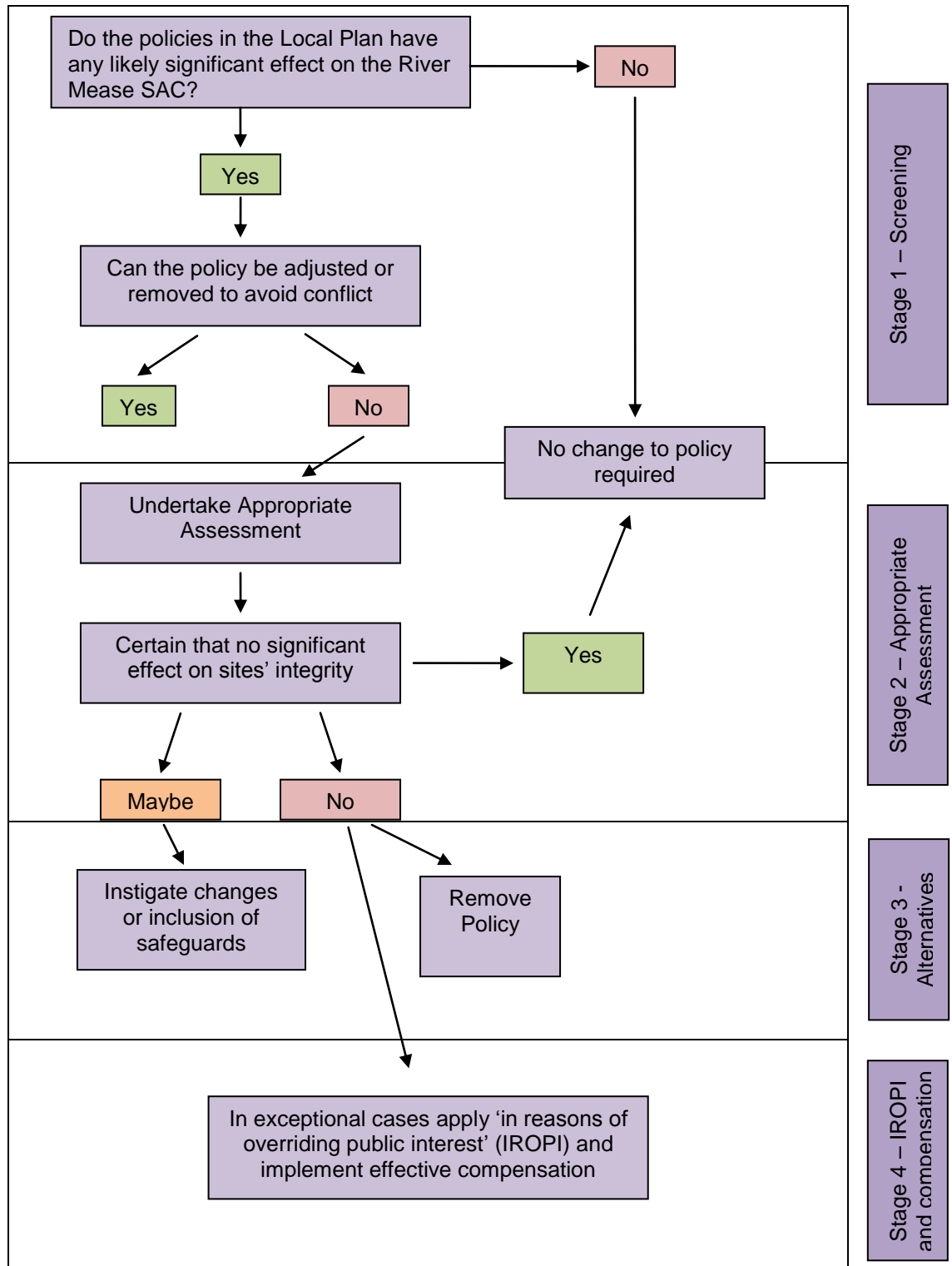
Other Plans and Projects

- 3.8 It is a requirement of the Habitats Directive that an analysis be undertaken of whether there is scope for an interaction with other relevant projects and plans that may result in a likely significant effect 'in combination'.
- 3.9 The situation regarding information on other appropriate plans and projects is difficult to factor into the evidence base, given that the River Mease flows through several areas covered by other planning authorities at both district and county levels. However, all these authorities will be similarly producing their Local Plans within agreed time-scales, and undertaking consultation with adjoining authorities and Natural England.
- 3.10 As part of the consultation process, any potential cumulative effects on the integrity of the interest will be able to be monitored by the relevant bodies. The performance monitoring of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan and other individual Local Plans can then make any necessary adjustments in consultation with Natural England. Notwithstanding this, it is considered that the likelihood of policies and proposals in the Local Plans affecting the integrity of the interest will be remote. In overall terms, new local plan documents should aim to provide an improved protection policy framework for safeguarding the SAC.
- 3.11 Conservation management principles set out in Natural England's statement concerning the management of the River Mease seek to address the local impacts/concerns likely to impact upon the SAC interest. Implementation of the management principles within the environs immediately surrounding the River Mease would assist in achieving maintenance/improvements to the interest's condition.
- 3.12 It is concluded that there would be no 'in combination' effect with the Pre-Submission Draft Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan due partly to the general absence of mechanisms for any interaction but particularly to the presence of Policy DM7 which protects internationally important wildlife sites, compliance with which would ensure that minerals and waste development did not contribute to any combined effect.

4. SCREENING METHODOLOGY

Overview of the HRA Process

4.1 The methodology has regard to the HRA process as a whole, which is detailed in the figure below, but is primarily concerned with the Screening Stage.



Screening Stage

- 4.2 The Screening Stage was aimed at identifying whether any policy or allocated site in the Pre-Submission Draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan is likely to have potential to significantly affect the integrity of the River Mease SAC. In undertaking screening, the analysis has had regard to the following groupings of policies and sites:
- Those where there is no potential to affect site integrity; or where a positive effect is possible;
 - Those where there is a possible effect but where modification or removal would address the effect;
 - Those where an effect on the SAC is probable and where Appropriate Assessment is required.
- 4.3 The screening analysis has involved the assembly of information in relation to the River Mease SAC (as set out in section 2 of this report), the draft policies and allocated sites in the Pre-Submission Draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan, and reference to other plans and projects where appropriate. The information has been used to identify any relationships between potential policy impacts of the Local Plan and the effect on the River Mease SAC. The impacts were based on the above groupings and refined to indicate definite impacts, potential impacts requiring more information, and no impact or potential improvement. A scoring system has been used to indicate these levels of relative impacts based on a traffic light system, i.e. red, amber and green, where red means that the policy/allocation has been identified as having a significant effect, amber means that the policy/allocation may have potential effects, and green means that there is no likely significant effect. The screening matrix is shown in Appendix 2.
- 4.4 Whilst the screening matrix identifies potential impacts related to an individual policy/site, it is recognised that the Screening Assessment should consider the Local Plan in its entirety. It is therefore appropriate to set policies within the context of those elements of the documents intended to protect the SAC and wider environment. Consequently where an individual policy/site may have the potential to adversely affect the SAC but another policy in the document guards against the same effect, it is reasonable to conclude that such effects will not occur.

Post-screening Modifications

- 4.5 Where areas of uncertainty or likely significant effects have been identified, these are carried forward to the final stage of the screening process. Any issues are then considered to assess whether they can be addressed straightforwardly by simple modifications to the draft policies.

- 4.6 Simple modifications may include: clarification of, or amendments to, plan policies to remove areas of uncertainty or inconsistency; or, the inclusion of qualifying text relating to the implementation of policies. Where further changes are necessary modification of policies can include alternative solutions/content or where no alternative exists, policies/sites can be omitted.

5. SCREENING FINDINGS AND MODIFICATIONS

Local Plan Policies

- 5.1 A main priority for the Minerals and Waste Local Plan is to manage mineral extraction and the provision of waste facilities in a way that meets the requirements of statutory guidelines relating to supply, but also provides protection for the environment and local amenity. It provides protection for the environment and local amenity, including specific protection for the River Mease SAC and other statutorily designated sites.
- 5.2 The Pre-Submission Draft Plan includes the following main areas of policy protection for the River Mease SAC:
- Policy DM1 which reaffirms the Government's objectives for sustainable development.
 - Policy DM2 which restricts development that would have a detrimental impact on water quality and flow.
 - Policy DM3 which aims to protect and enhance Strategic River Corridors together with their tributaries. The policy will contribute to the protection of the SAC which is a tributary of the River Trent (a Strategic River Corridor).
 - Policy DM7 which provides a protection policy for biodiversity including internationally important sites.
 - Policy DM11 which provides safeguards against cumulative impacts of minerals and waste development on amenity and the environment.

Screening Assessment Findings

- 5.3 Almost all of the policies were considered to have neutral or positive effects on the River Mease SAC. All of the site specific proposals with one exception lie outside the catchment area of the River Mease and it is consequently considered that the development of these sites would not affect the integrity of the River Mease SAC.
- 5.4 Policy M6 (Fireclay) is the only one that has been identified as having potential to impact on the SAC (denoted as amber in the policy matrices set out in Appendix 2). Donington Island is an existing fireclay stocking and blending facility. It has the benefit of a temporary planning permission which expires at the end of 2017. In Policy M6, it is proposed that a temporary stocking and blending facility be established within the Donington Island Site.
- 5.5 A stocking and blending facility at Donington Island may result in an impact on the SAC as water discharged from the site flows to the Hooborough Brook, a tributary of the River Mease. An application to extend the life of the existing claystocking facility until the end of 2017

was granted planning permission in 2010. Information submitted in respect of this application indicated that:

- Surface water from the Donington Island site drains via a culvert system which connects the settling pond adjacent to the northern perimeter boundary to Hooborough Brook. Drainage ditches collect surface water from the Donington stocking yard and divert it to the settlement pond system adjacent to south of the site. Once surface water has been subjected to treatment in the settlement ponds it migrates via a culvert system eventually to Hooborough Brook.
- Sewage or Foul drainage associated with the Donington Island development is limited to two toilets and a wash basin, provided in the office block situated near the car park and site entrance just off Spring Cottage Road. Three personnel use the toilet facilities on a daily basis, and the toilets and wash basin drain into a septic tank located in the ground at the back of the office block where it is stored. The septic tank is emptied when full, which based on current usage, is approximately once every two years. The sewage removed from the septic tank is disposed at Wanlip treatment facility operated by Seven Trent, which is located approximately 30 miles from the Donington Island clay stocking facility. The contents of the septic tank are not disposed of within the River Mease catchment.

5.6 In the light of this information, Natural England was satisfied that the continuation of the Donington Island Clay Stocking Site would not have a likely significant effect upon the Mease SAC.

5.7 In their letter dated 25th August 2015 in response to the Consultation Draft Plan, Natural England welcomed the acknowledgement in paragraph 1.5 of the accompanying Habitats Regulation Assessment that, although the only designated site of European interest in Leicestershire is the River Mease Special Area of Conservation (SAC), development within Leicestershire could have a potential impact on designated sites of European interest outside the administrative boundaries of Leicestershire County Council, namely Ensor's Pool SAC in Warwickshire and Rutland Water Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site in Rutland. Natural England agreed with the conclusion that the Leicestershire County Council Minerals and Waste Local Plan is not likely to have any significant effect on the River Mease SAC or any other designated site of European interest.

5.8 As the competent authority, under the Habitat Regulations, the Environment Agency has undertaken a Review of Consents for the River Mease SAC which includes consents associated with the tributaries of the River Mease. Under Stage 3 of the Review of Consents, the consents relevant to the Donington Island Site were not found to be having an adverse effect on the integrity of the River Mease SAC. The Stage 3 Assessment has also been signed off by Natural England.

- 5.9 A planning application to extend the life of the existing claystocking facility until the end of 2032 was submitted in September 2015. In their response to the application, Natural England was of the opinion that the proposal would not be likely to have a significant effect on the internationally important interest features of the River Mease SAC, and had no objections to the proposed development.
- 5.10 Based on the assumptions that:
- the proposed facility at Donington Island is unlikely to be larger than the existing operation hence the total volume of surface water discharged from the site is unlikely to change;
 - environmental controls have improved and will need permission under any new development; and
 - water management methods at the site are unlikely to change, it is concluded that there will not be a significant change in flow rates and water chemistry associated with the discharge from the Donington Island site.
- 5.11 Policy M6 (and the potential establishment of a temporary clay stocking site at Donington Island) is not therefore considered to be likely to result in adverse effects on the quantity or quality of the water reaching the River Mease SAC or result in a significant effect on the integrity of the River Mease or its qualifying interest and conservation objectives.

6. CONCLUSIONS

Findings of the Assessment

- 6.1 In compiling this report, regard has been had to relevant guidance and the SA/SEA report prepared for the Pre-Submission Draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan. The assessment has examined the legislative requirements, relevant European sites and their integrity, and has analysed the impact of proposals sites contained within the Local Plan that fall within the vicinity of the River Mease SAC. Impacts of other plans and projects have also been discussed.
- 6.2 The report falls within Stage 1 of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process, i.e. a screening process to determine whether any of the policies and proposals contained within the Pre-Submission Draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan is likely to have a significant effect on the River Mease European site. The screening process has looked at the main factors affecting the integrity of the SAC interest, and their relationship to the potential operations that may take place.
- 6.3 The screening process has shown that the majority of effects associated with the Local Plan policies would be either neutral or positive. Assessment undertaken at this stage cannot propose physical mitigation measures as these would more appropriately fall into project level controls when more precise locations and likely impacts are known. Only one proposal (Donington Island) lies within the catchment area of the River Mease and thus has the potential to impact on the SAC. It is not however considered that the continuation of claystocking operations at the Donington Island Site is likely to result in a significant effect on the integrity of the River Mease SAC or the qualifying interest and conservation objectives.
- 6.4 Overall, it has been possible to screen out the policies within the Pre-Submission Draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan document, largely due to the wording of Policy DM7 regarding the protection of internationally important biodiversity sites. It is therefore concluded that no likely significant effects on European Sites either alone or in combination with other projects and plans will result from the implementation of the Plan. However, future works in the catchment area of the River Mease SAC may require appropriate assessment to ensure that the qualifying interest and conservation objectives of the site are not affected.

Assessment Statement

- 6.5 This assessment of the Pre-Submission Draft Minerals and Waste Local Plan has not identified any likely significant effects to Natura 2000 sites, specifically the River Mease SAC, and hence the Appropriate Assessment stage of the process is not required.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1

Joint Nature Conservation Committee Site Details and Ecological Data Form

River Mease

Site details

Country	England
Unitary Authority	Derbyshire; Leicestershire; Staffordshire
Grid Ref*	SK260114
Latitude	52 41 59 N
Longitude	01 36 56 W
SAC EU code	UK0030258
Status	Designated Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
Area (ha)	21.86

* This is the approximate central point of the SAC. In the case of large, linear or composite sites, this may not represent the location where a feature occurs within the SAC.

General site character

Inland water bodies (standing water, running water) (100%)

Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site

Not applicable

Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site

3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation

Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site

1149 Spined loach *Cobitis taenia*

The River Mease is a good example of a riverine population of **spined loach *Cobitis taenia***. It is a small tributary of the River Trent and has retained a reasonable degree of channel diversity compared to other similar rivers containing spined loach populations. It has extensive beds of submerged plants along much of its length which, together with its relatively sandy sediments (as opposed to cohesive mud) provides good habitat opportunities for the species.

1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio*

The Mease is an example of **bullhead *Cottus gobio*** populations in the rivers of central England. Bed sediments are generally not as coarse as other sites selected for the species, reflecting the nature of many rivers in this geographical area, but are suitable in patches due to the river's retained sinuosity. The patchy cover from submerged macrophytes is also important for the species.

Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection

1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*

UK SAC data form

NATURA 2000
STANDARD DATA FORM

FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS (SPA)
FOR SITES ELIGIBLE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS SITES OF COMMUNITY IMPORTANCE (SCI)
AND
FOR SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SAC)

1. Site identification:

1.1 Type 1.2 Site code

1.3 Compilation date 1.4 Update

1.5 Relationship with other Natura 2000 sites

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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1.6 Respondent(s)

1.7 Site name

1.8 Site indication and designation classification dates

date site proposed as eligible as SCI	200105
date confirmed as SCI	200412
date site classified as SPA	
date site designated as SAC	200504

2. Site location:

2.1 Site centre location

longitude	latitude
01 36 56 W	52 41 59 N

2.2 Site area (ha) 2.3 Site length (km)

2.5 Administrative region

NUTS code	Region name	% cover
UK311	Derbyshire	36.32%
UK722	Staffordshire	47.35%
UK321	Leicestershire	16.33%

2.6 Biogeographic region

Alpine
 Atlantic
 Boreal
 Continental
 Macaronesia
 Mediterranean

UK SAC data form

3. Ecological information:

3.1 Annex I habitats

Habitat types present on the site and the site assessment for them:

Annex I habitat	% cover	Representativity	Relative surface	Conservation status	Global assessment
Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranuncion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation	30.01	C	C	B	C

3.2 Annex II species

Species name	Population				Site assessment			
	Resident	Migratory			Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global
		Breed	Winter	Stage				
<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>	Common	-	-	-	C	B	C	C
<i>Cobitis taenia</i>	Common	-	-	-	C	B	B	B
<i>Cottus gobio</i>	Common	-	-	-	C	B	C	B
<i>Lutra lutra</i>	Common	-	-	-	C	C	C	C

4. Site description

4.1 General site character

Habitat classes	% cover
Marine areas. Sea inlets	
Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	
Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes	
Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair	
Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets	
Inland water bodies (standing water, running water)	100.0
Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens	
Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana	
Dry grassland. Steppes	
Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland	
Alpine and sub-alpine grassland	
Improved grassland	
Other arable land	
Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	
Coniferous woodland	
Evergreen woodland	
Mixed woodland	
Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including orchards, groves, vineyards, dehesas)	
Inland rocks. Screes. Sands. Permanent snow and ice	
Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites)	
Total habitat cover	100%

UK SAC data form

4.1 Other site characteristics

Soil & geology:

Alluvium, Clay, Sandstone, Sedimentary

Geomorphology & landscape:

Floodplain, Lowland

4.2 Quality and importance

Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranuncilion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation

- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Austropotamobius pallipes

- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence.

Cobitis taenia

- for which this is one of only four known outstanding localities in the United Kingdom.

Cottus gobio

- for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

Lutra lutra

- for which the area is considered to support a significant presence

4.3 Vulnerability

The River Mease is an unusually semi-natural system in a largely rural landscape, dominated by intensive agriculture. Water quality and quantity are vital to the European interests, whilst competition for water resources is high. Diffuse pollution and excessive sedimentation are catchment-wide issues which have the potential to affect the site.

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code	% cover
UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)	100.0

Natural England Condition Summary Table

SSSI name: River Mease

% Area meeting PSA target	% Area favourable	% Area unfavourable recovering	% Area unfavourable no change	% Area unfavourable declining	% Area destroyed / part destroyed
0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%

Compiled: 01 Oct 2010

Natural England Favourable Condition Table

RIVER MEASE - LEICESTERSHIRE, STAFFORDSHIRE (LICHFIELD, NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE)								
Main Habitat	Responsible Officer	Unit No.	Unit Id	Area (ha)	Latest Assessment Date	Assessment Description	Comment	Adverse Condition Reasons
RIVERS AND STREAMS	SADIE HOBSON	001	1027105	5.9295	14/01/2010	Unfavourable - No change	The River Mease fails on the following targets: biological GQA phosphours - due to point source and diffused pollution. Physical modifications - over dredging, weir, other impoundments non native species, lack of river bank vegetation lack of macrophyte species density and composition. over abstraction - lack of fresh water entering the river density of the designated fish species	FRESHWATER - DRAINAGE,FRESHWATER - INVASIVE FRESHWATER SPECIES,FRESHWATER - SILTATION,FRESHWATER POLLUTION - WATER POLLUTION - AGRICULTURE/RUN OFF,FRESHWATER POLLUTION - WATER POLLUTION - DISCHARGE
RIVERS AND STREAMS	SADIE HOBSON	002	1027106	9.485	14/01/2010	Unfavourable - No change	The River Mease fails on the following targets: biological GQA phosphours - due to point source and diffused pollution. Physical modifications - over dredging, weir, other impoundments non native species, lack of river bank vegetation lack of macrophyte species density and composition.	AGRICULTURE - AGRICULTURE - OTHER,FRESHWATER - DRAINAGE,FRESHWATER - INVASIVE FRESHWATER SPECIES,FRESHWATER - SILTATION,FRESHWATER POLLUTION - WATER POLLUTION - AGRICULTURE/RUN OFF

							over abstraction - lack of fresh water entering the river density of the designated fish species	
RIVERS AND STREAMS	SADIE HOBSON	003	1027107	5.2684	14/01/2010	Unfavourable - No change	The River Mease fails on the following targets: biological GQA phosphours - due to point source and diffused pollution. Physical modifications - over dredging, weir, other impoundments non native species, lack of river bank vegetation lack of macrophyte species density and composition. over abstraction - lack of fresh water entering the river density of the designated fish species	FRESHWATER - DRAINAGE,FRESHWATER - INVASIVE FRESHWATER SPECIES,FRESHWATER POLLUTION - WATER POLLUTION - AGRICULTURE/RUN OFF
RIVERS AND STREAMS	SADIE HOBSON	004	1027108	2.191	14/01/2010	Unfavourable - No change	The River Mease fails on the following targets: biological GQA phosphours - due to point source and diffused pollution. Physical modifications - over dredging, weir, other impoundments non native species, lack of river bank vegetation lack of macrophyte species density and composition. over abstraction - lack of fresh water entering the river density of the designated fish species	FRESHWATER - DRAINAGE,FRESHWATER - INVASIVE FRESHWATER SPECIES,FRESHWATER - SILTATION,FRESHWATER POLLUTION - WATER POLLUTION - AGRICULTURE/RUN OFF

Appendix 2

Minerals and Waste Local Plan Analysis Matrix

Policy	Text	Comments	Potential Impacts
<p>Policy M1: Supply of Sand and Gravel Aggregate</p>	<p>The County Council will ensure a steady and adequate supply of sand and gravel for aggregate purposes by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) making provision over the plan period (2015 to 2031) for the extraction of some 19 million tonnes of sand and gravel; (ii) maintaining a landbank of at least 7 years based on the past 10 years average sales; and (iii) giving priority to proposals for extraction to be worked as extensions to existing site operations. 	<p>This policy identifies the amount of provision required for sand and gravel extraction. It gives priority to extensions to existing sites, but none of these are within the catchment area of the River Mease SAC. Policy DM7 clearly states that development ‘must show that a proposal can be delivered without adverse effect on the integrity of any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site’ before it will be permitted. On that basis the policy can be screened out as being unlikely to lead to a significant effect.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GREEN</p>
<p>Policy M2: Supply of Sand and Gravel Aggregate from Sites</p>	<p>The County Council will make provision over the plan period (2015 to 2031) for the supply of sand and gravel for aggregate purposes from the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the extraction of remaining reserves at the following permitted sites: Brooksby Cadeby Husbands Bosworth Lockington Shawell (ii) the following extensions to existing sites sites as 	<p>It is not considered that the development of any of these sites would affect the integrity of the River Mease SAC as none of the proposed sites lie within its catchment area.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GREEN</p>

Policy	Text	Comments	Potential Impacts
	<p>shown on the Policies Map Insets, subject to the requirements set out in Boxes SA1-4: Brooksby – Spinney Farm and south of the existing plant site Cadeby – west of plant site; north of Brascote Lane; and east of Newbold Road Husbands Bosworth - Butt Lane extension Shawell – western extension adjacent to Lutterworth Road; land south of Gibbet Lane to the west of the plant site; land to the south west of Cotesbach village; and eastern extension adjacent to Lutterworth Road north of Shawell village Planning permission will be granted to extend a site subject to the extension area only being worked following cessation of mineral working within the previously permitted areas unless it has been demonstrated that there are operational reasons why this is not practicable.</p>		
<p>Policy M3: Sand and Gravel Extraction (Unallocated Sites)</p>	<p>Planning permission will be granted for sand and gravel extraction for aggregate purposes outside allocated areas provided that the proposal: (i) is an extension to an existing permitted sand and gravel site that is required to maintain production from that site or is needed to meet an identified shortfall in the landbank; or (ii) is for a new quarry that is required to replace an existing permitted sand and gravel site that is nearing exhaustion where it has been demonstrated that there are no potential extensions to that site and that remaining sites cannot maintain the required level of provision; or (iii) would offer significant environmental benefits as a</p>	<p>This policy provides for sand and gravel outside the allocated areas in certain circumstances. As such, there is potential for pathways of impact to lead to effects on the River Mease SAC. However, Policy DM7 clearly states that development ‘must show that a proposal can be delivered without adverse effect on the integrity of any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site’ before it will be permitted. On that basis the policy can be screened out as being unlikely to lead to a significant effect.</p>	<p>GREEN</p>

Policy	Text	Comments	Potential Impacts
	<p>result of the exchange or surrender of existing permissions or be significantly more acceptable overall than the allocated sites.</p>		
<p>Policy M4: Crushed Rock</p>	<p>The County Council will ensure a steady and adequate supply of crushed rock for aggregate purposes by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) making provision over the plan period (2015 to 2031) for the extraction of some 231 million tonnes of crushed rock; (ii) maintaining a landbank of at least 10 years based on the past 10 years average sales; (iii) giving priority to proposals for extraction to be worked as extensions to existing rail-linked site operations where they are required to ensure sustainable supply; and (iv) allowing proposals for new extraction sites where it has been demonstrated that the landbank and production capacity cannot be maintained from existing permitted sites. 	<p>This policy identifies the amount of provision required for crushed rock extraction. Potential areas for rock extraction in the county lie well outside the catchment area for the River Mease SAC. It is not therefore considered that the development of any future rock extraction would affect the integrity of the River Mease SAC.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GREEN</p>
<p>Policy M5: Brickclay</p>	<p>The County Council will ensure a steady and adequate supply of brickclay by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) allowing extensions to existing sites where they are required to maintain a landbank of at least 25 years of permitted reserves to support the level of investment required to maintain and improve existing brick-making plant and equipment; (ii) giving priority to proposals for extraction to be worked as extensions to existing sites with associated brickworks; and (iii) allowing new brickclay extraction sites where it can be demonstrated that production cannot be maintained from existing sites and appropriate extensions to existing sites. 	<p>This policy provides for the future supply of brickclay. One of the existing brickworks is at Measham within the catchment area of the River Mease SAC. Potential future resources also lie within the catchment area. However, Policy DM7 clearly states that development 'must show that a proposal can be delivered without adverse effect on the integrity of any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site' before it will be permitted. On that basis the policy can be screened out as being unlikely</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GREEN</p>

Policy	Text	Comments	Potential Impacts
Policy M6: Fireclay	<p>The County Council will ensure a steady and adequate supply of fireclay by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) allowing proposals for extraction where it can be demonstrated that the clays are required to meet a proven need; or particular qualities of clay are required that cannot be obtained from existing permitted reserves; (ii) establishing a temporary stocking and blending facility within the Donington Island Site, subject to the requirements set out in Box SA5; and (iii) supporting the recovery of fireclays associated with the extraction of surface coal. 	<p>to lead to a significant effect.</p> <p>The proposed stocking and blending facility at the existing Donington Island Site lies within the catchment of the River Mease SAC. This is an existing facility which has not been considered to affect the SAC. Potential fireclay resources also lie within the catchment area. However, Policy DM7 clearly states that development 'must show that a proposal can be delivered without adverse effect on the integrity of any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site' before it will be permitted. On that basis the policy can be screened out as being unlikely to lead to a significant effect.</p>	<p>AMBER</p>
Policy M7: Gypsum	<p>The County Council will ensure a steady and adequate supply of gypsum by allowing proposals for new extraction sites and extensions to existing extraction areas where they are required to meet a proven need. The County Council will make provision over the plan period (2015 to 2031) for the supply of gypsum from the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the extraction of remaining reserves at the existing Barrow Mine; and (ii) an extension to the existing Marblaegis Mine, subject to the requirements set out in Box SA6. 	<p>Policy for the future extraction of gypsum. Neither of the proposed sites lies within the catchment area of the River Mease SAC.</p>	<p>GREEN</p>
Policy M8: Building Stone	<p>Planning permission for the extraction of natural building stone will be granted where it can be demonstrated that the material would primarily be used in the conservation and repair of historic buildings or structures built of the</p>	<p>Policy for future extraction of building stone. Potential areas for building stone extraction within the County all lie outside the River Mease SAC</p>	<p>GREEN</p>

Policy	Text	Comments	Potential Impacts
	same or similar materials, or in new construction projects where use of the material is specified in order to maintain or enhance the character of the local area.	catchment area.	
Policy M9: Coal	<p>In assessing proposals for the extraction of coal, particular regard will be had to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the employment and other economic benefits of the proposal; (ii) any environmental improvements or other material planning benefits to the community likely to result from the proposal; (iii) the contribution of the proposal towards the comprehensive reclamation of areas of derelict or contaminated land, or the remediation of coal mining legacy issues; (iv) the avoidance of the sterilisation of mineral resources in advance of development; (v) the avoidance of the piecemeal working of surface deposits; and (vi) the need for fireclay. 	<p>Proposals for the extraction of coal will be considered against the provisions of the National Planning Policy Framework. The NPPF specifically excludes developments that may lead to an adverse effect on European sites from the presumption in favour of sustainable development. The Policy outlines particular factors that will be taken into account in assessing proposals. Potentially workable coal resources exist within the catchment area of the River Mease SAC. However, Policy DM7 clearly states that development 'must show that a proposal can be delivered without adverse effect on the integrity of any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site' before it will be permitted. On that basis the policy can be screened out as being unlikely to lead to a significant effect.</p>	GREEN
Policy M10: Conventional and Unconventional Hydrocarbons (Oil and Gas)	<p>Planning permission will be granted for the exploration of conventional and unconventional hydrocarbons (oil and gas) provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the well site and associated facilities are sited in the least sensitive location from which the target reservoir can be accessed; and that (ii) operations are for a temporary length of time. 	<p>Policy covers exploration and production of hydrocarbon resources. There are currently no exploration licence areas within the catchment of the River Mease SAC. In any event, Policy DM7 clearly states that development 'must show that a</p>	GREEN

Policy	Text	Comments	Potential Impacts
	<p>Where hydrocarbons have been discovered, planning permission will be granted to appraise, drill and test the resource provided that the proposal adheres to requirements (i) and (ii) above, and is consistent with an overall scheme for the appraisal and delineation of the resource.</p> <p>Planning permission will be granted for the production of conventional and unconventional hydrocarbons (oil and gas) provided that the proposal adheres to requirements (i) and (ii) above, and is consistent with an overall scheme which would facilitate the full development of the resource.</p> <p>Particular consideration will be given to the location of hydrocarbon development involving hydraulic fracturing having regard to impacts on water resources, seismicity, local air quality, landscape, noise and lighting impacts. Planning permission will be granted for proposals which involve the process of “associated hydraulic fracturing” for shale gas, as defined in the Infrastructure Act 2015, provided that it can be demonstrated that the proposal can accord with the above requirements and that surface and underground operations will not be undertaken in “protected groundwater source areas”, as defined in the Infrastructure Act 2015 and associated Regulations.</p>	<p>proposal can be delivered without adverse effect on the integrity of any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site’ before it will be permitted. On that basis the policy can be screened out as being unlikely to lead to a significant effect.</p>	
<p>Policy M11: Safeguarding of Mineral Resources</p>	<p>Sand and gravel, limestone, igneous rock, surface coal, fireclay, brickclay and gypsum resources within the Minerals Safeguarding Areas shown on the figures contained within the Mineral and Waste Safeguarding documents will be protected from permanent sterilisation by other development.</p> <p>Planning permission will be granted for development</p>	<p>This policy concerns itself with safeguarding minerals resources rather than promoting their extraction. The safeguarding of mineral resources is intended to prevent the sterilisation of those resources by conflicting development and carries</p>	<p>GREEN</p>

Policy	Text	Comments	Potential Impacts
	<p>that is incompatible with safeguarding mineral within a Mineral Safeguarding Area if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the applicant can demonstrate that the mineral concerned is no longer of any value or potential value; or (ii) the mineral can be extracted satisfactorily prior to the incompatible development taking place; or (iii) the incompatible development is of a temporary nature and can be completed and the site restored to a condition that does not inhibit extraction within the timescale that the mineral is likely to be needed or (iv) there is an overriding need for the incompatible development; or (v) the development comprises one of the types of development listed in Table 4. <p>Planning applications for non-mineral development within a Mineral Safeguarding Area should be accompanied by a Mineral Assessment of the effect of the proposed development on the mineral resource beneath or adjacent to it.</p> <p>Planning permission for mineral extraction that is in advance of approved surface development will be granted where the reserves would otherwise be permanently sterilised provided that operations are only for a temporary period. Where planning permission is granted, conditions will be imposed to ensure that the site can be adequately restored to a satisfactory after-use should the main development be delayed or not implemented.</p>	<p>with it no presumption that the minerals ever will be worked. As such, it is considered that there is no pathway for this policy to lead to likely significant effects on European sites.</p>	
<p>Policy M12: Safeguarding of Existing Mineral Sites and</p>	<p>Significant infrastructure that supports the supply of minerals in the County will be safeguarded against development that would adversely affect operations at</p>	<p>This policy concerns itself with safeguarding existing sites and associated infrastructure in order to</p>	<p>GREEN</p>

Policy	Text	Comments	Potential Impacts
Associated Minerals Infrastructure	an existing mineral site and the use of associated mineral infrastructure by creating incompatible land uses nearby.	prevent their operation being constrained by conflicting development. As such, it is considered that there is no pathway for this policy to lead to likely significant effects on European sites.	
Policy M13: Associated Industrial Development	Planning permission for ancillary industrial development within or in close proximity to mineral sites will be granted provided that it is demonstrated that there is a close association with the mineral site and there are environmental benefits in providing a close link with the extraction site. Where permission is granted, the operation and retention of the development will be limited to the life of the permitted reserves.	The policy does allow for new development in areas where pathways of impact could occur that might have effects on the River Mease SAC. However, Policy DM7 clearly states that development ‘must show that a proposal can be delivered without adverse effect on the integrity of any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site’ before it will be permitted. On that basis the policy can be screened out as being unlikely to lead to a significant effect.	GREEN
Policy M14: Borrow Pits	Planning permission will be granted for borrow pits to supply materials for major construction projects where: (i) there is a need for a particular type of mineral which cannot reasonably be supplied from existing sites, including alternative materials, or where the transport of mineral to the construction project from existing sites would be seriously detrimental to the environment and local amenities because of the scale, location and timing of the operations; (ii) the site is in close proximity to the proposed construction project it is to serve so that mineral can be transported to the point of use without leading to harmful conditions on a public highway; and	Policy allows for borrow pits to take place where there are environmental benefits over conventional supply for major projects. Major new construction sites are unlikely to be sited in close proximity to European protected sites because the principle of avoidance ought to be adopted, and developments will be controlled under the terms of assessment under the Habitats Regulations even if they are. In any event, Policy DM7 clearly	GREEN

Policy	Text	Comments	Potential Impacts
	<p>(iii) the site can be restored to a satisfactory after-use without the need to import material other than that generated by the construction project itself and which can be brought to the site without leading to harmful conditions on a public highway.</p> <p>Where planning permission is granted, conditions will be imposed to ensure that operations are time-limited and that all mineral extracted is used only for the specified project.</p>	<p>states that development 'must show that a proposal can be delivered without adverse effect on the integrity of any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site' before it will be permitted. On that basis the policy can be screened out as being unlikely to lead to a significant effect.</p>	
<p>Policy M15: Mineral Waste</p>	<p>Planning permission will be granted for new sites for the disposal of mineral wastes where</p> <p>(i) it is not feasible to retain the waste materials on the extraction site; and</p> <p>(ii) it is demonstrated that the re-use of the material to be disposed of is not practicable.</p> <p>Planning permission for the reworking of mineral waste will be granted where an environmental improvement results.</p>	<p>Policy provides controls for the disposal of mineral waste. Policy DM7 clearly states that development 'must show that a proposal can be delivered without adverse effect on the integrity of any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site' before it will be permitted. On that basis the policy can be screened out as being unlikely to lead to a significant effect.</p>	<p>GREEN</p>
<p>Policy M16: Mineral Exploration</p>	<p>Planning permission for mineral exploration will be granted provided that operations are only for a temporary period. Where planning permission is granted, conditions will be imposed to ensure that the site is restored to a satisfactory after-use.</p>	<p>Policy enables mineral exploration activities to take place for temporary periods. Policy DM7 clearly states that development 'must show that a proposal can be delivered without adverse effect on the integrity of any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site' before it will be permitted. On that basis the policy can be screened out as being unlikely to lead to a significant effect.</p>	<p>GREEN</p>
<p>Policy M17: Incidental Mineral Extraction</p>	<p>Planning permission for mineral extraction that forms a subordinate and ancillary element of other development will be granted provided that operations are only for a</p>	<p>Policy for enabling mineral extraction in advance of other development. The principal development will be</p>	<p>GREEN</p>

Policy	Text	Comments	Potential Impacts
	<p>temporary period. Where planning permission is granted, conditions will be imposed to ensure that the site can be adequately restored to a satisfactory after-use should the main development be delayed or not implemented.</p>	<p>controlled under the terms of assessment under the Habitats Regulations. In any event, Policy DM7 clearly states that development 'must show that a proposal can be delivered without adverse effect on the integrity of any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site' before it will be permitted. On that basis the policy can be screened out as being unlikely to lead to a significant effect.</p>	
<p>Policy W1: Waste Management Capacity</p>	<p>The County Council will make provision for a sufficient range of waste facilities within the County of Leicestershire to manage the predicted arisings up to and including 2031 and to meet the recycling, composting and recovery targets as a minimum as presented in Tables 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 at 2020/21, 2025/26 and 2030/31 subject to any new arisings forecasts published in the Council's Annual Monitoring Reports.</p>	<p>This policy makes provision for waste facilities within Leicestershire. Whilst there is potential for waste facilities to affect the River Mease SAC, Policy DM7 clearly states that development 'must show that a proposal can be delivered without adverse effect on the integrity of any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site' before it will be permitted. On that basis the policy can be screened out as being unlikely to lead to a significant effect.</p>	<p>GREEN</p>
<p>Policy W2: Low Level Radioactive Waste</p>	<p>Planning permission will be granted for low level radioactive waste management facilities where it is demonstrated that the County of Leicestershire is a sustainable location for managing such waste.</p>	<p>This policy allows for low level radioactive waste management facilities in sustainable locations. The potential effect on European sites will be one consideration in determining whether the location is sustainable. In any event, Policy DM7 clearly states that development 'must show that a proposal can be delivered without</p>	<p>GREEN</p>

Policy	Text	Comments	Potential Impacts
		adverse effect on the integrity of any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site' before it will be permitted. On that basis the policy can be screened out as being unlikely to lead to a significant effect.	
<p>Policy W3: Strategic Waste Facilities</p>	<p>Planning permission will be granted for new strategic waste facilities, including extensions to existing waste facilities which would in combination with the existing use(s) create a strategic facility, provided that they are within the Broad Locations for Strategic Waste Facilities indicated on the Key Diagram, namely in or close to the urban areas of Loughborough/Shepshed, Hinckley/Burbage and Coalville and close to the urban area of Leicester, taking into account the principles set out in Policy W5.</p>	<p>Policy aimed at directing strategic waste sites to broad locations. All the identified locations lie outside the catchment area of the River Mease SAC.</p>	<p>GREEN</p>
<p>Policy W4: Non Strategic Waste Facilities</p>	<p>Planning permission will be granted for new non strategic waste facilities, including extensions to existing waste facilities, within the following areas taking into account the principles set out in Policy W5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) the Broad Locations for Strategic Waste Facilities, that is, in or close to the urban areas of Loughborough/Shepshed, Hinckley/Burbage and Coalville and close to the urban area of Leicester; (ii) in or close to the main urban areas of Melton Mowbray and Market Harborough; and (iii) within major growth areas. <p>Proposals for new waste facilities, including extensions to existing waste facilities, outside the above areas will only be granted where they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) facilities for the biological treatment of waste including anaerobic digestion and open-air windrow composting; 	<p>Policy aimed at directing waste sites to broad locations. Whilst the specified locations all lie outside the catchment area of the River Mease SAC, the policy does allow waste facilities outside of these areas which could lead to likely significant effects on Mease SAC. However, Policy DM7 clearly states that development 'must show that a proposal can be delivered without adverse effect on the integrity of any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site' before it will be permitted. On that basis the policy can be screened out as being unlikely to lead to a significant effect. HRA should be carried out on individual</p>	<p>GREEN</p>

Policy	Text	Comments	Potential Impacts
	<p>(b) the treatment of waste water and sewage; (c) landfilling of waste; or (d) facilities that require a more dispersed location to provide a clear link between the proposed location and the waste managed which would result in transport, operational and environmental benefits subject to the principles set out in Policy W5. Such a proposal must demonstrate there is an overriding need for the development and that this cannot be met within the urban areas set out above in (i) to (iii).</p>	<p>site applications as appropriate.</p>	
<p>Policy W5: Locating Waste Facilities</p>	<p>Planning permission will be granted for waste facilities in accordance with the objectives of Policies W3 and W4 upon the following land: (i) on land with an existing waste management use, where transport, operational and environmental benefits can be demonstrated either as a consequence of proximity to the existing waste management uses or the co-location of waste management facilities; (ii) on existing or planned industrial/employment land; (iii) on previously developed, contaminated and/or derelict land; and (iv) on existing mineral working sites. Land not included in (i)-(iv) above will be considered where there is a clear link between the proposed location and the waste managed which would result in transport, operational and environmental benefits, and there is an overriding need for the development which cannot be met within the urban areas set out in (i)-(iii) of Policy W4.</p>	<p>Policy identifies the type of land where waste sites could be located. Policy DM 7 would also apply, therefore no likely significant effects should occur to the River Mease SAC.</p>	<p>GREEN</p>
<p>Policy W6: Biological Treatment of Waste Including Anaerobic</p>	<p>Planning permission will be granted for waste facilities for anaerobic digestion, open air composting, and other</p>	<p>Policy dealing with waste facilities for various forms of biological treatment.</p>	<p>GREEN</p>

Policy	Text	Comments	Potential Impacts
<p>Digestion and Open Air Windrow Composting</p>	<p>forms of biological treatment outside of those areas set out in (i)-(iii) of Policy W4 where the proposal is an appropriate distance from any sensitive receptors and is located on either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) land meeting the requirements of (i)-(iv) of Policy W5, or (ii) land associated with an existing agricultural, livestock, or food processing use where it is demonstrated that there are close links with that use. 	<p>Although there are pathways of impact that require consideration when biological treatment of waste facilities are assessed, Policy DM 7 would apply, therefore no likely significant effects should occur on the River Mease SAC.</p>	
<p>Policy W7: Facilities for Energy and Value Recovery from Waste</p>	<p>Planning permission will be granted for waste management facilities that would provide for the recovery of waste, provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) pre-sorting is carried out ensuring that residual waste (i.e. that which cannot be reused, recycled or composted) is recovered; ii) value recovery from by-products of the process is maximised; iii) energy recovery is maximised, where possible utilising combined heat and power (CHP); and iv) any residue of the process can be satisfactorily managed and or made use of. <p>Planning permission will be granted for waste management facilities making use of new or emerging technologies where this will lead to the more efficient and sustainable management, through recovery, of waste.</p>	<p>Policy dealing with facilities for the recovery of waste. Facilities would need to be located in accordance with Policies W3-5. In any event, Policy DM 7 would apply therefore no likely significant effects should occur on the River Mease SAC.</p>	<p>GREEN</p>
<p>Policy W8: Waste Disposal</p>	<p>Planning permission will be granted for new or extended waste disposal facilities where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) it is demonstrated that the waste cannot be managed in a more sustainable way; ii) environmental benefits will be secured by the development; 	<p>Policy dealing with waste disposal facilities. Although there are pathways of impact that require consideration when waste disposal facilities are assessed, Policy DM 7 would apply therefore no likely</p>	<p>GREEN</p>

Policy	Text	Comments	Potential Impacts
	<p>iii) there is an overriding need for the development; and iv) the development does not delay the final restoration of existing landfill or landraise sites.</p>	<p>significant effects should occur on the River Mease SAC.</p>	
<p>Policy W9: Safeguarding Waste Management Facilities</p>	<p>Planning permission will be granted for the redevelopment of existing and permitted waste management facilities to a non-waste use where it is demonstrated that the loss of the facility does not prejudice the County's implementation of the waste hierarchy either through the provision of a new waste facility in the vicinity of that to be lost or that there is no longer a need for the waste facility at that location. Planning permission will be granted for development which adjoins, is adjacent to or would locate a potentially sensitive receptor in closer proximity to an existing or permitted waste management facility where it is demonstrated that there would be no adverse effect upon amenity and the development would not prejudice the current and future operation of the facility.</p>	<p>As with minerals, safeguarding policies are intended to prevent the operation of waste sites being affected by inappropriate redevelopment. As such, it is considered that no impact pathway exists connecting this policy to the River Mease SAC.</p>	<p>GREEN</p>
<p>Policy DM1: Sustainable Development</p>	<p>When considering proposals for minerals and waste development Leicestershire County Council will take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework. Proposals should contribute to the three dimensions (economic, environmental and social) of sustainable development, as well as providing clear evidence of how a proposal would make a positive contribution to reducing its effects on climate change. The County Council will always work proactively with applicants jointly to find solutions which mean that proposals can be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that</p>	<p>Overarching policy based on Government's sustainability objectives which include protection of internationally designated areas. The National Planning Policy Framework specifically excludes developments that may lead to an adverse effect on European sites from the presumption in favour of sustainable development. Therefore, there is no mechanism for this policy to result in likely significant effects on European sites.</p>	<p>GREEN</p>

Policy	Text	Comments	Potential Impacts
	<p>improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in Leicestershire.</p> <p>Planning applications that accord with the policies in this Minerals and Waste Local Plan will be approved unless material considerations indicate otherwise.</p> <p>Where there are no policies relevant to the application or relevant policies are out of date at the time of making the decision then the County Council will grant permission unless material considerations indicate otherwise – taking into account whether:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Any adverse impacts of granting permission would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, when assessed against the policies in the National Planning Policy Framework taken as a whole; or (ii) Specific policies in that National Planning Policy Framework indicate that development should be restricted. 		
<p>Policy DM2: Local Environment and Community Protection</p>	<p>Planning permission will be granted for minerals and waste development where it is demonstrated that the potential effects from birdstrikes, dust, emissions, flooding, illumination, noise, odour, run-off, traffic, vibration, or visual intrusion to adjoining land uses and users and those in close proximity to the proposal would be acceptable. Where appropriate, separation distances between a development and other land uses will be applied.</p>	<p>Policy aimed at protecting the local environment and communities from the adverse effects of minerals and waste development. Controls aimed at preserving quality and flow of surface and ground waters are specifically relevant to the River Mease SAC interest and would ensure that no unacceptable effects occur.</p>	<p>GREEN</p>
<p>Policy DM3: Strategic Green Infrastructure</p>	<p>Planning permission will be granted for minerals and waste development where proposals do not compromise the integrity of strategic green infrastructure corridors in connecting locations of natural and cultural heritage, green spaces, biodiversity or other</p>	<p>Policy aimed at protecting and enhancing strategic green infrastructure corridors. Proposals within the National Forest which make provision for habitat</p>	<p>GREEN</p>

Policy	Text	Comments	Potential Impacts
	<p>environmental interest in urban and countryside areas. The design and layout of new development should take account of and provide opportunities to create and enhance green infrastructure provision, and improve accessibility to these assets.</p> <p>Planning permission will be granted for minerals and waste development within or adjacent to Charnwood Forest will be granted where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) proposals include measures to protect and enhance the character of the area, including its landscape, biodiversity, geodiversity, cultural heritage, built heritage and recreational value; and (ii) the siting, scale and design of the development together with the materials to be used reflect and complement the character of the surrounding landscape and minimise any harm. <p>Planning permission will be granted for minerals and waste development within the National Forest where proposals reflect the National Forest Strategy by making provision for the planting of woodlands, habitat creation, the creation of new leisure and tourism facilities and/or for public access, in accordance with the Planting Guidelines as set out in the National Forest Company's Guide for Developers and Planners, and are designed to reflect the character of The National Forest as set out in the National Forest Company's Design Charter.</p> <p>Planning permission will be granted for minerals and waste development within Strategic River Corridors where proposals include measures to protect and enhance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the capacity of the river corridor to function as a natural floodplain; 	<p>creation could create opportunities for the enhancement of the River Mease SAC.</p> <p>Strategic River Corridors within Leicestershire includes the River Mease, which is a tributary of the River Trent. The Policy requires measures to be taken to protect and enhance the natural environment of the river corridors, which will contribute to the protection of the River Mease SAC</p>	

Policy	Text	Comments	Potential Impacts
	<p>(b)the habitat connectivity, habitat quality, function and viability of the river wildlife corridor; and (c)the form, local character and distinctiveness of the natural, historic and built environment. Proposals which provide improved access, recreation and tourism facilities within the Strategic River Corridors will be encouraged where they do not have an unacceptable effect on the above interests.</p>		
<p>Policy DM4: Green Wedges</p>	<p>Planning permission will be granted for minerals and waste development within Green Wedges where it is demonstrated that the proposal would:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) maintain the strategic planning function of preventing the coalescence of settlements and guiding development form; (ii) retain the current level of leisure/amenity value for surrounding communities; (iii) protect and enhance the open and undeveloped character of the Green Wedge; (iv) improve public access to the Green Wedge, especially for recreation; and (v) in the case of waste development, have a particular need to be located in the Green Wedge. 	<p>Protection policy for green wedges. No impact on River Mease SAC.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GREEN</p>
<p>Policy DM5: Landscape Impact</p>	<p>Planning permission will be granted for minerals and waste development where it is demonstrated that the proposal is well designed, contributes positively to the character and quality of the area in which it is to be located, and (where appropriate) contains sufficient provision for new woodland planting. In granting planning permission for minerals and waste development, screening (including planting in advance of the commencement of the development) will be required, where appropriate.</p>	<p>Protection policy for the landscape and the countryside. No impact on River Mease SAC.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GREEN</p>

Policy	Text	Comments	Potential Impacts
<p>Policy DM6: Soils</p>	<p>Planning permission will be granted for minerals and waste development development that would result in the significant loss of the best and most versatile agricultural land (Grades 1, 2 and 3a) where it is demonstrated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) there is an overriding need for the facility; (ii) there is no suitable alternative site of lower agricultural quality that provides the same benefits in terms of sustainability; and (iii) in the case of temporary uses, the land could be restored to its previous agricultural quality or better or another beneficial after-use can be secured which outweighs any loss. 	<p>Protection policy for best and most versatile agricultural land. No impact on River Mease SAC.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GREEN</p>
<p>Policy DM7: Sites of Biodiversity/Geodiversity Interest</p>	<p>Proposals for minerals and waste development should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by minimising impacts on biodiversity and taking all opportunities to provide a net gain in biodiversity.</p> <p>Internationally Important Sites of Biodiversity Conservation Value</p> <p>Proposals for minerals and waste development that are likely to have significant effects on any Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) or Ramsar site should be supported by sufficient information for the purposes of an appropriate assessment of the implications of the proposal, alone or in-combination with other plans and projects. The conclusions of the assessment, in accordance with Council Directive 92/42 EEC and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, must show that a proposal can be delivered without any adverse effects on the integrity of any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site.</p>	<p>Protection policy for sites of biodiversity/geodiversity interest. This is the Key Policy acting to prevent harm to European sites. It devolves the need to consider HRA to the level of specific proposals.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">GREEN</p>

Policy	Text	Comments	Potential Impacts
	<p>Nationally Important Sites of Biodiversity Conservation Value Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and irreplaceable habitats, including ancient woodland, will be safeguarded from inappropriate minerals and waste development. Planning permission will only be granted for minerals and waste development on land within or outside a SSSI where: the status and quality of the SSSI or National Nature Reserve is retained and protected; the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats is unlikely to occur; or the benefits of developments likely to impact on SSSIs, NNRs or irreplaceable habitats clearly outweigh such impacts and loss. In such circumstances, developments should follow the mitigation hierarchy outlined in the National Planning Policy Framework, and the development will be required to deliver a net-gain in biodiversity through the creation of priority habitat(s).</p> <p>Locally Important Sites of Biodiversity Conservation Value Planning permission will be granted for minerals and waste development where the status and quality of locally designated sites of biodiversity conservation value and sites meeting Local Wildlife Site criteria, and priority habitats and species identified in the Leicestershire Biodiversity Action Plan is retained and protected, and where the development cannot reasonably be located to an alternative site with less harmful impacts. If the benefits of the development outweigh the likely impact, the harm should be adequately mitigated or, as a last resort, compensated</p>		

Policy	Text	Comments	Potential Impacts
	<p>for, and the development will be required to deliver a net-gain in biodiversity through the creation of priority habitat.</p> <p>Locally Important Sites of Geological Conservation Value</p> <p>Planning permission will be granted for minerals and waste development where the development is unlikely to have any adverse effects on locally designated sites of geological conservation value, cannot reasonably be located to an alternative site to avoid damage to the geological feature, or where the merits of development outweigh the likely impact and the proposal results in geodiversity enhancements.</p>		
<p>Policy DM8: Historic Environment</p>	<p>Planning permission will be granted for minerals and waste development where it is demonstrated that the proposal would retain and protect heritage assets, including their setting.</p> <p>There will be a presumption against minerals and waste development that will be detrimental to the significance of a heritage asset. Any harm to heritage assets will require clear and convincing justification.</p> <p>Where a proposal would affect a non-designated heritage asset, the benefits of the proposal will be balanced against the scale of harm to or loss of the heritage asset (including archaeological features) and its significance.</p> <p>Proposals for minerals and waste development affecting heritage assets or their setting will be expected to:</p> <p>(i) identify and determine the nature, extent and level of the significance of the heritage asset, the contribution of its setting to that significance, and the potential impacts on the asset or its setting;</p>	<p>Protection policy for sites of historic interest.</p> <p>No impact on River Mease SAC.</p>	<p>GREEN</p>

Policy	Text	Comments	Potential Impacts
	<p>(ii) include an appropriate desk-based assessment and field evaluation where a site includes or has the potential to include heritage assets of archaeological interest setting out proposals and justification for the preservation in situ or excavation; and</p> <p>(iii) identify the requirement for a programme of post-permission works including any mitigation measures, long-term monitoring and recording of any affected heritage assets or archaeological remains.</p> <p>Where appropriate, proposals should provide for the enhancement of specific features of the historic environment, including individual heritage assets or historic landscapes, as part of their restoration.</p>		
<p>Policy DM9: Transportation by Road</p>	<p>Planning permission will be granted for minerals and waste development involving the transportation of material by road where it is demonstrated that:</p> <p>(i) road transport is the only practicable and environmentally preferable alternative;</p> <p>(ii) the proposed access arrangements would be safe and appropriate to the proposed development and the impact on road safety of the traffic generated would be acceptable;</p> <p>(iii) the highway network is able to accommodate the traffic that would be generated and would have an acceptable impact on the environment of local residents;</p> <p>(iv) the proposal is in close proximity to the County's lorry network and would not result in unnecessary impact on residential areas and minor roads; and</p> <p>(v) in the case of new waste management facilities, the proposal is in close proximity to the waste arisings that would be managed to minimise the</p>	<p>Policy providing control of the transportation of minerals. No impact on River Mease SAC.</p>	<p>GREEN</p>

Policy	Text	Comments	Potential Impacts
<p>Policy DM10: Public Rights of Way</p>	<p>transportation of waste.</p> <p>Planning permission will be granted for minerals and waste development where it is demonstrated that the proposal would protect public rights of way. Where disruption of a right of way is unavoidable, convenient and safe diversion or the creation of an alternative route both during operations and following restoration of the site will be required. The opportunity will be taken, wherever possible, to secure appropriate, improved access into the countryside.</p>	<p>Policy aimed at protecting and enhancing the rights of way network. No impact on River Mease SAC.</p>	<p>GREEN</p>
<p>Policy DM11: Cumulative Impact</p>	<p>Planning permission will be granted for minerals and waste development where it is demonstrated that cumulative impacts on the environment of an area or on the amenity of a local community, either in relation to the collective effect of different impacts of an individual proposal, or in relation to the effects of a number of developments occurring either concurrently or successively, are acceptable.</p>	<p>Policy providing safeguards against the cumulative impacts of minerals and waste development on the environment. This may have potential benefits for the River Mease SAC.</p>	<p>GREEN</p>
<p>Policy DM12: Restoration, Aftercare and After-use</p>	<p>Planning permission will be granted for temporary minerals and waste development where satisfactory provision has been made to ensure high quality, progressive restoration of the site (where practicable) and a minimum five year programme of aftercare. Site restoration shall attain a net gain in biodiversity. Sites of less than 10 hectares shall create a minimum of one of the priority habitats set out in the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan. Sites greater than 10 hectares shall provide for a mosaic of priority habitats set out in the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Biodiversity Action Plan to attain a significant net gain in biodiversity.</p>	<p>Policy controls aimed at ensuring all relevant matters are satisfactorily restored. Restoration proposals which include the creation of priority habitats could create opportunities for the enhancement of the River Mease SAC.</p>	<p>GREEN</p>

Policy	Text	Comments	Potential Impacts
	<p>The priority habitats specified below will be sought as after-uses in the following broad areas of Leicestershire:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charnwood Forest (within and adjoining) – Heath grassland and/or native deciduous woodland; • National Forest – Native deciduous woodland; • Soar, Wreake and Welland Valleys – Floodplain wetland; • North East Leicestershire – Calcareous grassland; and • River Floodplains – Wet woodland. <p>All opportunities should be taken to provide new Barn Owl and Bat boxes, and Sand Martin colonies.</p> <p>Sites should be restored with consideration to its setting so that opportunities are taken to create, protect and enhance biodiversity, green and blue infrastructure networks, heritage assets, and the restored landscape reflects the local character of the area.</p> <p>Sites in the Leicestershire Vales National Character Area shall be expected to manage retained mature hedgerows in the traditional ‘Midlands-style’ hedgelaying technique.</p> <p>Where restoration is to an agricultural use the final landscape and field pattern shall reflect the historic landscape character of the site and its surroundings.</p> <p>Restored sites will be expected to take all possible opportunities to maximise public access and improve the public rights of way network.</p> <p>Innovative restoration of the hard rock quarries in Charnwood Forest which would provide for biodiversity, public access, educational activities and recreational pursuits will be sought by the County Council.</p>		