



Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment

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Borough Council

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This report describes work commissioned by Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. The Client's representative for the contract was Daisy Shields of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council. Mairi Gillis and Rachael Brady of JBA Consulting carried out this work.

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Abbreviations

AMP7	Seventh Asset Management Plan period (runs 2020-2025)
AONB	Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
ECJ	European Court of Justice
HBBC	Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council
HRA	Habitats Regulations Assessment
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NPPG	National Planning Practice Guidance
NRW	Natural Resources Wales
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SPA	Special Protection Area
SSSI	Site of Special Scientific Interest
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage System
SUE	Sustainable Urban Extension

Executive Summary

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) is currently developing a new Local Plan that includes planning policies and site allocations to guide development until 2045 (HBBC, 2026). To support the development of this Local Plan, HBBC is carrying out a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in line with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). JBA Consulting was commissioned by HBBC to undertake the HRA of the Local Plan. It is a legal requirement under Regulation 105, before a plan can be adopted, that the 'competent authority' must demonstrate that the plan would have no significant effects on any European sites' integrity.

This report details the HRA for the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan 2024-2045 and includes an assessment for the development of the policies and site allocations within the plan. The first stage of the HRA process was to screen the Local Plan to determine whether it could lead to a likely significant effect on European sites, either directly or indirectly, alone or in-combination with other plans and projects.

European sites consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated for habitats and animal species, and Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated for bird species. Ramsar sites designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands 1971 are also included. Although not a legislative requirement until recently, Government guidance and policy required that Ramsar sites were given the same level of protection as SACs and SPAs. However, there are now provisions in the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 which extend protections contained in the Habitats Regulations to Ramsar sites.

The most likely effects of the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan on European sites are related to changes in water quality (surface run-off, pollution events, wastewater discharge), air pollution and increased recreational pressure arising from new housing developments and mixed-use sites, and increased tourism. The River Mease SAC and Ensor's Pool SAC were considered in the assessment.

The Screening Assessment determined that the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan could potentially have significant adverse effects from changes in water quality (attributed to surface water run-off), both alone and in-combination with other plans, on the River Mease SAC.

An Appropriate Assessment was undertaken to assess whether the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan has the potential to result in significant adverse effects on the integrity of the River Mease SAC, either alone or in combination with a number of other plans and projects.

The Assessment identified that the existing policies and provisions in the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan (namely Policy HPD03, NE01 and ER07), in relation to prevention of pollution, ensuring that any planning applications for site allocations will include a HRA for each of the sites if there is any chance there could be a significant effect on the River Mease SAC and the use of SuDS, will ensure that the Local Plan will have no adverse effects on this European site.

1 Introduction

1.1 Background

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council (HBBC) is currently developing a new Local Plan that includes planning policies and site allocations to guide development until 2045 (HBBC, 2026). To support the development of this Local Plan, HBBC is carrying out a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in line with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). JBA Consulting was commissioned by HBBC to undertake the HRA of the Local Plan.

1.2 Legislative context

Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna (Habitats Directive) provides legal protection to habitats and species of European importance. The principal aim of this directive is to maintain at, and where necessary restore to, favourable conservation status of flora, fauna and habitats found at these designated sites.

The Directive was transposed into English legislation through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (a consolidation of the amended Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2010) published in November 2017.

Due to the United Kingdom's withdrawal from the European Union on the 31st of January 2020, until the implementation period completion day (31st December 2020) the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) were amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.

It is a requirement of Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) that *"the plan-making authority for that plan must, before the plan is given effect, make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives"*, where the plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects), and where it is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site. Regulation 105 also requires that *"in the light of the conclusions of the assessment, and subject to regulation 107 (considerations of overriding public interest), the plan-making authority or, in the case of a regional strategy, the Secretary of State must give effect to the land use plan only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site or the European offshore marine site (as the case may be)"*.

The HRA process is underpinned by the precautionary principle, especially in the assessment of potential impacts and their resolution. If it cannot be concluded that the proposed plan will not adversely impact upon the integrity of the site(s), the plan will not be able to proceed without further conditions and/or assessment.

1.3 Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment

The HRA must be undertaken by the Competent Authority, or by a specialist advisor, acting on its behalf, providing a draft or 'shadow' assessment that the Competent Authority adopts as its own, before determining the integrity test. Accordingly, this report is a Shadow HRA.

1.4 Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan

HBBC is currently preparing a new Local Plan for the borough. The Local Plan sets out the vision and objectives for the future form, scale and quality of development in the borough up to 2045. The plan is now in the pre-submission stage under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, and this latest version of the plan builds on previous consultations, reflecting the feedback received and incorporating new evidence gathered since those earlier stages.

The current Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan (2006-2026) comprises the Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD), adopted in December 2009, the Site Allocations & Development Management Policies DPD (2016), Hinckley Town Centre Area Action Plan (AAP) DPD (2011), and Earl Shilton & Barwell AAP DPD (2014).

The Council published a new Local Development Scheme in March 2025 (HBBC, 2025), which sets out the plan documents that will be prepared and a timetable for their preparation. The new Local Plan will use the existing suite of adopted development plan documents as the starting point for developing the strategy and vision for Hinckley & Bosworth up to 2045.

The new Local Plan identifies land and areas for development for a broad range of uses and also identifies areas that should be conserved or enhanced and where future development should be carefully managed. In addition, it gives an overview of settlements in the borough and the aims for their growth and preservation, sets clear policies that guide decisions on planning applications and indicates how the Plan will be delivered.

1.5 Study Area

Hinckley & Bosworth Borough is one of seven districts within Leicestershire, in the East Midlands. It shares boundaries with six local authorities: Rugby, North Warwickshire, Nuneaton and Bedworth in the West Midlands, and Blaby, Charnwood and North West Leicestershire in Leicestershire. The borough is situated between two regional hubs, being 22km from Leicester and 24km from Coventry (see Figure 1-1). It has an area of 297km² and a population of 113,600 in 2021, this is an 8.1% increase since 2011 (ONS, 2024).

The borough extends from the rocky and steep slopes in Charnwood Borough in the north-east, across undulating arable farmland, characterised by the distinctive heritage-rich parkland of Market Bosworth. A network of tributaries of the River Sence and River Mease flow through a flat expanse of land in the south-west, which contrasts with the tributaries of the River Soar in the north-east, which flow through steeper valleys before again reaching flatter land towards the edge of the borough near Leicester. The main urban centre, Hinckley, is in the south, with Burbage, Earl Shilton and Barwell nearby, which together

comprise the main urbanised areas, with numerous villages and hamlets scattered throughout the borough. Hinckley & Bosworth borough is well connected to most of the larger towns and cities in the Midlands via the regional road network. The M1 runs through the north-eastern part of the borough, connecting settlements such as Markfield and Groby to Loughborough, Derby and Nottingham to the north. The M69 runs through the southern edge of the borough, connecting the town of Hinckley to Coventry and Leicester. The A5 also forms the southern boundary of the borough, stretching from Luton to Cannock (north of Birmingham). A single train station, at Hinckley, is in the borough, where Cross Country run hourly services to Birmingham New Street and Leicester.

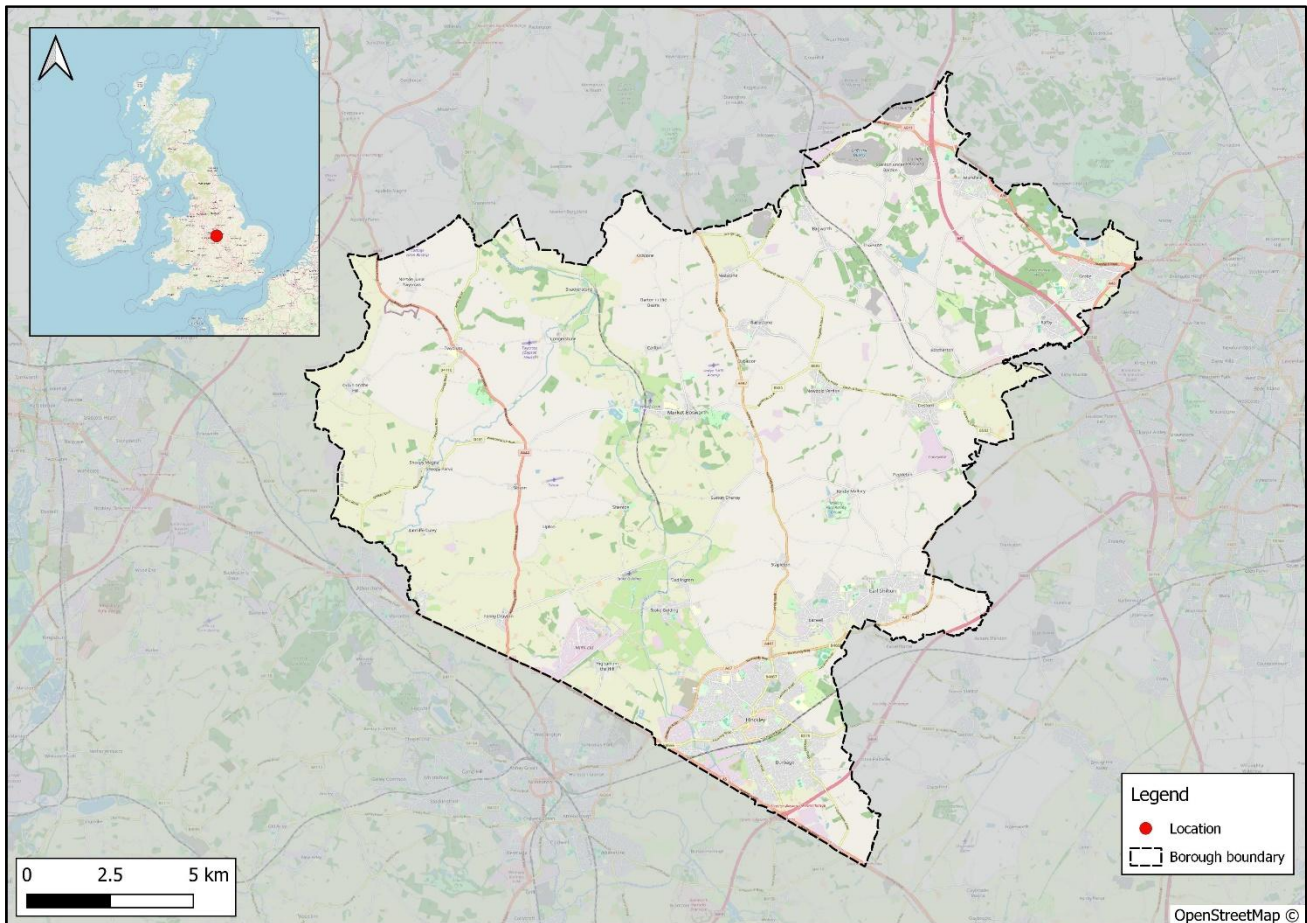


Figure 1-1 Local Plan Area

2 Habitats Regulations Assessment Methodology

2.1 Introduction

It is accepted best-practice for the HRA of strategic planning documents to be run as an iterative process alongside the plan development, with the emerging policies, sites or options continually assessed for their possible effects on European sites and modified or abandoned (as necessary) to ensure that the subsequently adopted plan is not likely to result in significant effects on any European sites, either alone or 'in-combination' with other plans. This is undertaken in consultation with Natural England and other appropriate consultees.

2.2 HRA Process

Habitat Regulations Assessment follows a three-stage process. These stages are described in Table 2 1, below.

Stage	Description
HRA Stage 1 - Screening	This process identifies the likely impacts upon a European site of a project or plan, either alone or in-combination with other projects or plans and determines whether these impacts are likely to be significant. Following the European Court of Justice (ECJ) judgement in the case of "people over wind" (Case C-323/17), measures that are necessary to avoid or reduce impacts on the European site, even when considered standard environmental best-practice, can only be considered at Stage 2. If no likely significant effect is determined, the project or plan can proceed. If a likely significant effect is identified, Stage 2 is commenced.

Stage	Description
HRA Stage 2 - Appropriate Assessment	Stage 2 is after the identification of likely significant effects upon a European site in Stage 1. This assessment determines whether a project or plan would have an adverse impact on the integrity of a European site, either alone or in-combination with other projects or plans. This assessment is confined to the effects on the internationally important habitats and species for which the site is designated (i.e. the interest features of the site). Appropriate Assessments, in line with ECJ Case C-461/17 Holohan v An Bord Pleanála, must also consider impacts upon habitats and species within or outside of a site boundary if they support a qualifying feature and could impact upon the conservation objectives of the site. The appropriate assessment assesses the likely significant effects of a proposal on the integrity of the site and its conservation objectives and identifies ways to avoid or reduce (mitigate) any potential for an 'adverse effect on the integrity of the site'. If no adverse impact on site integrity is determined, the project or plan can proceed. If an adverse impact is identified, Stage 3 is commenced.
HRA Stage 3 - Derogations	Where a plan or project has been found to have adverse impacts on the integrity of a European site it may be granted an exemption, known as a derogation. It must pass 3 legal tests for a derogation to be granted: 1. There are no feasible alternative solutions that would be less damaging or avoid damage to the site. 2. The proposal needs to be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest. 3. The necessary compensatory measures can be secured. If feasible alternative solutions are identified, that result in there being no adverse impacts from the project or plan on European sites, the project or plan can proceed. If no feasible alternative solutions are identified, as a rule the project or plan should not proceed. However, in exceptional circumstances, if there is an 'imperative reason of overriding public interest' for the implementation of the project or plan, consideration can be given to proceeding in the absence of alternative solutions. In these cases, compensatory measures will have to be put in place to offset any negative impacts.

Other guidance documents have been used to help inform the methodology of this assessment, including:

- Assessment of Plans and Projects Significantly Affecting Natura 2000 Sites: Methodological Guidance on the Provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2002).

- Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (EC, 2019).
- UK Government Guidance on the use of Habitats Regulations Assessment (UK Government, 2023).
- Natural England's approach to advising competent authorities on the assessment of road traffic emissions under the Habitats Regulations - NEA001 (Natural England, 2018).
- The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) (UK Government, 2025).
- The Planning Inspectorate PINS Note 05/ 2018: Consideration of avoidance and reduction measures in Habitats Regulations Assessment: People over Wind, Peter Sweetman, v Coillte Teoranta (The Planning Inspectorate, 2018).

2.3 HRA Stage 1: Screening Methodology

The principles of 'screening' are applied to a plan or its components (i.e. policies and site allocations) to allow the assessment stage to focus on those aspects that are most likely to have potentially significant or adverse effects on European sites, as well as shape the emerging strategy. Screening aims to determine whether the plan will have any 'likely significant effects' on any European site as a result of its implementation. It is intended to be a coarse filter for identifying effects (positive and negative) that may occur, to allow the assessment stage to focus on the most important aspects. A plan should be considered 'likely' to have an effect if it is not possible (on the basis of objective information) to exclude the likelihood that the plan could have significant effects on any European site, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects; an effect will be 'significant' if it could undermine the site's conservation objectives.

Screening can be used to 'screen-out' European sites and plan components from further assessment, if it is possible to determine that significant effects are unlikely (e.g. if sites or interest features are clearly not vulnerable (exposed and / or sensitive) to the outcomes of a plan due to the absence of any reasonable impact pathways).

To complete the Screening Assessment, it is necessary to:

- Identify the European sites within and outside the plan area likely to be affected, reasons for their designation and their conservation objectives.
- Describe the plan and its aims and objectives and those of other projects or plans that in combination have the potential to impact upon the European sites.
- Identify the potential effects on the European sites.
- Assess the significance of these potential effects on the European sites.

2.3.1 The Precautionary Principle

If there is uncertainty, and it is not possible, based on the information available, to confidently determine that there will be no likely significant effects on a site then the

precautionary principle was applied, and the plan was considered to require Appropriate Assessment (HRA Stage 2).

2.3.2 Pre-screening decisions

It should be noted that, for plan level HRA, the early stages of checking and testing the plan through an iterative process, in light of the People over Wind Judgement, are documented as pre-screening decisions (Tyldesley & Chapman, 2025).

When the plan is to be published, a single formal screening decision is then taken, which excludes all mitigation measures to avoid or reduce impacts. Pre-screening changes to the plan in the early stages will then either become essential features or characteristics of the plan or will be considered as mitigation and carried forward to an Appropriate Assessment.

2.4 HRA Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment Methodology

There is no set methodology for an Appropriate Assessment, but there are a number of requirements. The Assessment must be of the implications of the plan, for the qualifying features of the site, in view of the site's conservation objectives.

The Assessment must consider all aspects of the proposed plan for each qualifying feature, including those outside of the site but functionally linked. It should take account of the entirety of the habitats and species for which a site is protected. In reference to the ECJ case C-462/17 (Nov 18) *Holohan v An Pleanala*, the Appropriate Assessment needs to include all typical habitats and species present within and outside the boundaries of the European site, if they are necessary for the conservation of the habitats and species designated for the protected area.

The Assessment must inform the integrity test.

The Assessment should be complete but proportionate to the scale and degree of risk of effects on the site/s and the relative complexity of the ecological judgements to be made.

2.5 Consultation

It is a requirement of the Habitats Regulations to consult the appropriate nature conservation statutory body. Consultation on the approach to the HRA and the information on European sites considered has been undertaken with Natural England at earlier stages of the plan development, with feedback incorporated where necessary into this HRA and the Local Plan.

2.6 Limitations

The Local Plan is still under development. This assessment has been completed using the draft plan information available at the time of writing. The assessment and its conclusions may require reassessment as the Local Plan evolves.

This report has been undertaken by JBA Consulting, which recognises that it is not a Competent Authority in the decision-making process. JBA is undertaking a shadow HRA in

order to inform the Competent Authority's decision-making process. It is understood that the wording of the HRA will be adopted by the Competent Authority on its completion.

3 European sites

3.1 Introduction

European sites are an EU-wide network of nature protection areas established under European Union Council Directive 92/43/EEC (the Habitats Directive). The aim of the network is to assure the long-term survival of Europe's most valuable and threatened habitats and species. Under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, in England and Wales, these sites form the National Site Network.

The sites consist of:

- **Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)** - these are designated under the UK Regulations made under the Habitats Directive to protect those habitat types and species that are most in need of conservation at a European level (excluding birds).
- **Special Protection Areas (SPAs)** - these are designated under the UK Regulations under the Birds Directive to protect rare and vulnerable birds, and regularly occurring migratory species.
- **Ramsar sites** - these are wetlands of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention.

The objectives of the National Site Network are to:

- maintain at, or where appropriate restore habitats and species listed in Annexes I and II of the Habitats Directive to a favourable conservation status in their natural range (so far as it lies in the United Kingdom's territory, and so far as is proportionate).
- contribute to ensuring, in their area of distribution, the survival and reproduction of wild birds listed in Annex I to the new Wild Birds Directive which naturally occur in the United Kingdom's territory and regularly occurring migratory species of birds not listed in that Annex which naturally occur in the United Kingdom's territory, and so securing compliance with the overarching aims of the Wild Birds Directive.

Although not included in the legislation, up until recently, Government guidance and policy required that Ramsar sites were given the same level of protection as SACs and SPAs. However, there are now provisions in the Planning and Infrastructure Act 2025 which extend protections contained in the Habitats Regulations to Ramsar sites.

For simplicity in this report, SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites are collectively referred to as 'European sites'.

The vast majority of Ramsar sites are also classified as SPAs and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). All SPAs and terrestrial SACs in England and Wales are also designated as SSSIs under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended.

Possible SACs (pSACs), potential SPAs (pSPAs) and proposed Ramsar sites are given the same protection under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024), following a precautionary approach.

3.2 European sites in and around Hinckley & Bosworth

Best practice suggests that in addition to European Sites located within the plan or project boundary, sites occurring within approximately 10km to 15km of the area directly affected by a plan should be assessed as part of the screening process (Therivel, 2009). In addition to this, it is important to consider the possibility of impacts for any European site, whatever its location, given the range of influence of activities included in the plan. For this HRA a buffer of 15km has been applied to the boundary of the Hinckley & Bosworth Borough.

The following European sites are located within 15km of the borough:

- River Mease SAC
- Ensor's Pool SAC

The location of these sites in relation to the boundary are shown in Figure 3-1 and Table 3-1.

Table 3-1: European sites within 15km of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough

Designation	Site	Distance from boundary	Located
SAC	River Mease	1.08km	NW
SAC	Ensor's Pool	5km	SW

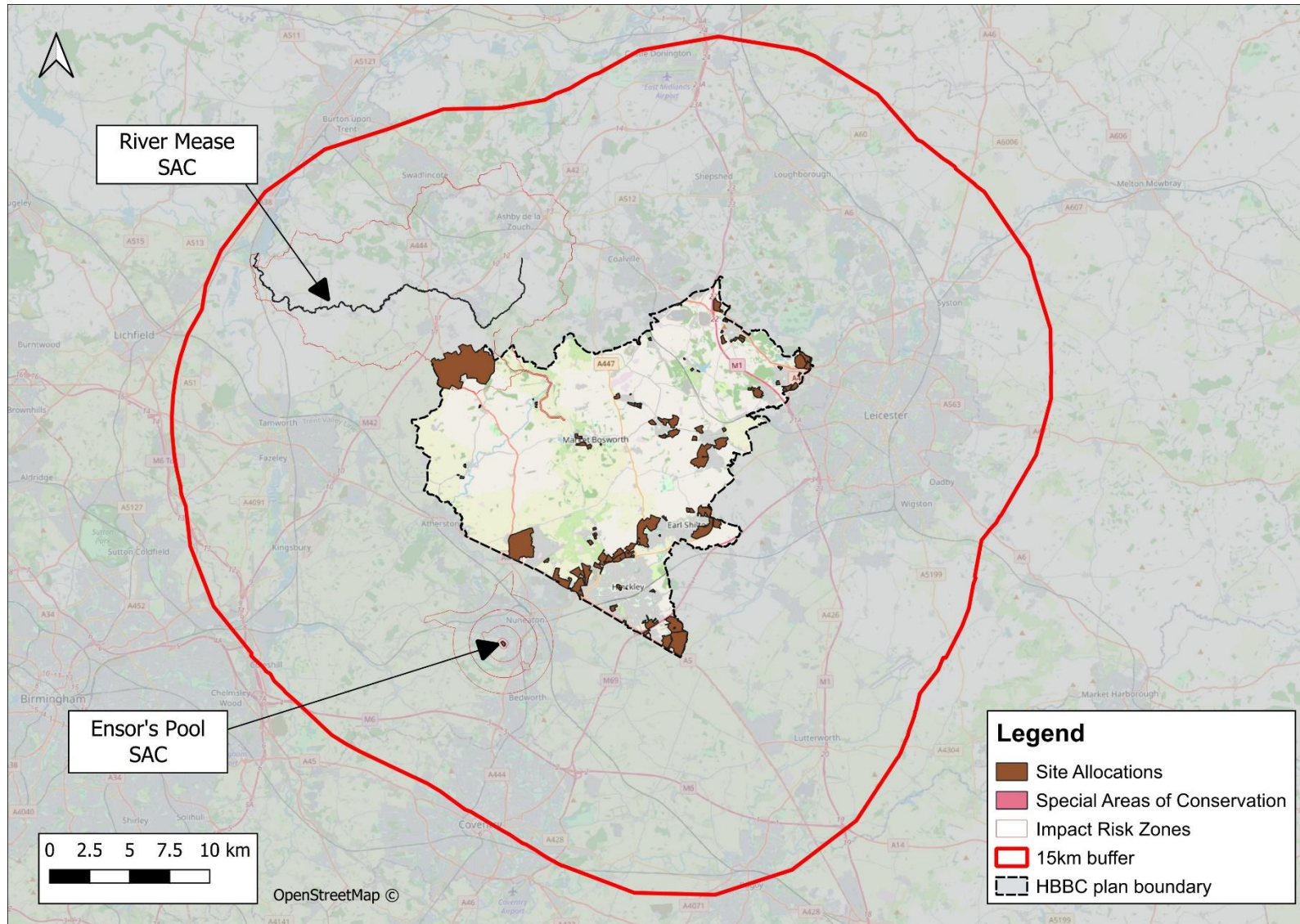


Figure 3-1: European sites within 15km of Hinckley & Bosworth Borough

3.3 River Mease SAC

The River Mease is a relatively un-modified lowland river that rises in the Coal Measures of north-west Leicestershire and flows approximately 25 kilometres westwards across a largely rural and agricultural landscape to its confluence with the River Trent at Croxall. It contains a diverse range of physical in-channel features, including riffles, pools, slacks, vegetated channel margins and bankside tree cover, which provide the conditions necessary to sustain populations of Spined Loach *Cobitis taenia*, Bullhead *Cottus gobio*, Freshwater White-clawed Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* and Otter *Lutra lutra* (English Nature, 2005).

3.3.1 Qualifying features

The qualifying features of the River Mease SAC are:

- H3260 Watercourses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation
- S1092 Freshwater Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*
- S1149 Spined Loach *Cobitis taenia*
- S1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio*
- S1355 Otter *Lutra lutra*

3.3.2 Conservation objectives

The conservation objectives for the River Mease SAC are as follows:

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely
- The populations of qualifying species, and,
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site (Natural England, 2018).

3.3.3 Threats and pressures

Table 3-2: Threats to conservation of River Mease SAC (Natural England, 2014)

Priority & Issue	Features affected	Measure
Water Pollution	H3260 Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot, S1092 White-clawed crayfish, S1149 Spined loach, S1163 Bullhead, S1355 Otter	Reduce the levels of nutrients by controlling point and diffuse pollution sources
Drainage	H3260 Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot	Understand and better manage drainage discharges
Inappropriate weirs, dams and other structures	H3260 Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot, S1092 White-clawed crayfish, S1149 Spined loach, S1163 Bullhead, S1355 Otter	Implement the River Restoration Plan
Invasive species	H3260 Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot, S1092 White-clawed crayfish, S1149 Spined loach, S1163 Bullhead, S1355 Otter	Reduce and manage the impact of invasive species
Siltation	H3260 Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot, S1092 White-clawed crayfish, S1149 Spined loach, S1163 Bullhead, S1355 Otter	Work with land managers to reduce siltation levels
Water abstraction	H3260 Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot, S1092 White-clawed crayfish, S1149 Spined loach, S1163 Bullhead, S1355 Otter	Improve the understanding of the ecological implications of the current water inputs and abstractions

3.4 Ensor's Pool SAC

Ensor's Pool lies on the western edge of Nuneaton and was formed in an abandoned clay pit. It has an average depth of 8 metres and is fed by groundwater. It holds a very large and healthy population of native White-clawed Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes* and is considered one of the best lake populations of crayfish in England. Although crayfish plague outbreaks have occurred in the Midlands, this water body is isolated from river systems and is a good example of a 'refuge' site in an important part of the species' former range (English Nature, 2005).

3.4.1 Qualifying features

The qualifying feature of Ensor's Pool SAC is:

- S1092 Freshwater crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*

3.4.2 Conservation objectives

The conservation objectives for the Ensor's Pool SAC are as follows:

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely
- The populations of qualifying species, and,
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site (Natural England, 2018).

3.4.3 Threats and pressures

Although Ensor's Pool was formerly a stronghold for the native White-clawed Crayfish with a population estimated at around 50,000 animals, surveys undertaken in 2014 found no crayfish in the pool. The cause of this decline is unknown and further investigations are taking place. The spread of crayfish plague is a key reason for decline of other populations (Natural England, 2014).

Table 3-3: Threats to conservation of Ensor's Pool SAC (Natural England, 2014)

Priority & Issue	Feature affected	Measure
Changes in species distribution	S1092 White-clawed crayfish	Investigate the reasons for decline and consider the options in response

4 Potential impacts and pathways

4.1 Introduction

Development for housing, business, infrastructure, services and recreation/tourism promoted as part of a Local Plan can potentially have adverse impacts on the habitats and species for which European sites are designated. These impacts can be direct, such as habitat loss, fragmentation or degradation, or indirect such as disturbance or pollution from construction, transportation etc. They can also include long-term effects associated with the operational phase of proposed developments or general population growth, and short-term effects arising from construction phases.

This chapter identifies the potential impacts and their pathways to European sites within and adjacent to Hinckley & Bosworth Borough which may arise as a result of the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan. It then identifies the types of impact/pathway to which the qualifying features of the European sites are particularly sensitive.

4.2 Hazards to European sites

The hazards identified in Table 4-1 are adapted from those identified in Environment Agency's EU Habitats Directive Handbook (Environment Agency, 2005), however, local conditions have also been considered during the hazard identification process. These hazards are considered to be relevant to river or other wetland sites, and therefore applicable to the sites considered in this HRA which contain river and wetland habitats (i.e. The River Mease SAC and Ensor's Pool SAC).

Table 4-1: Potential hazards to European sites

Potential Hazard	Description
Habitat loss	This is a loss of habitat within the European sites designated boundaries – it is expected that there will be no direct loss as a result of implementation of the Local Plan as both SACs fall outside the borough boundary.
Habitat fragmentation	This is where activities result in the separation of available habitats or split extensive areas of suitable habitat. This hazard is most likely to affect species. It is expected that there will be no habitat fragmentation as a result of implementation of the Local Plan as both sites fall outside of the borough boundary.
Changes in physical regime	These are changes to physical process that will alter the present characteristics of the European site e.g. fluvial and geomorphological processes, erosion processes, deposition.
Physical damage	This includes recreational pressures such as trampling and erosion, and where sites are close to urban areas, other damaging activities may occur such as rubbish tipping, vandalism, arson, and predation, particularly by cats.
Habitat/community	Changes to environmental conditions, due to human activities, that

Potential Hazard	Description
simplification	result in a reduction and fragmentation of habitats that will reduce biodiversity.
Disturbance (noise, visual)	Activities which result in disturbance, causing sensitive birds and mammals to deviate from their normal, preferred behaviour, such as construction, recreation, traffic.
Competition from invasive non-native species (INNS)	Activities may cause the introduction or spread of invasive non-native animals and plants which could result in changes to community composition and even to the complete loss of native communities.
Changes in water levels or tables	Activities which may affect surface and groundwater levels, such as land drainage and abstraction, may have adverse impacts on water dependant habitats and species.
Changes in water quality	Activities which may impact upon water quality, such as accidental pollution spills, run-off from urban areas, nutrient enrichment from agriculture, and discharged from sewage works, may adversely affect wetland habitats and species.
Changes to surface water flooding	Activities that may result in a reduction or increase in the frequency and extent of surface water flooding, which may affect riverine and floodplain habitats
Turbidity and siltation	Increases in turbidity within water environments can impact upon aquatic plants, fish and wildfowl due to sedimentation and reduction in penetrable light.
Air Pollution	Activities that may lead to the release of pollutants to the air such as oxides of nitrogen, oxides of sulphur or ammonia, or pollutants deposited on the ground through acidification or terrestrial eutrophication via soil (deposition of nitrogen).

4.3 Qualifying features and sensitivity to hazards

Table 4-2 shows the qualifying features of the European sites that are within 15km of the HBBC boundary and identifies the hazards to which they are most sensitive.

It must be noted that these potential hazards relate to the European sites in their entirety. During the assessment of the potential impacts of the HBBC Local Plan all of the potential impacts will be considered, but this report will focus on those with the greatest potential to result in likely significant effects resulting from the Local Plan.

Table 4-2: Sensitivity of qualifying features to potential impacts/pathways

Potential Impacts												
	Habitat loss	Habitat fragmentation	Changes in physical regime	Physical damage	Habitat/ community simplification	Disturbance	Competition from invasive non-native species	Changes in water levels or table	Changes in water quality	Changes to surface water flooding	Turbidity and siltation	Air Pollution
River Mease SAC												
Watercourses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Freshwater Crayfish <i>Austro-potamobius pallipes</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spined Loach <i>Cobitis taenia</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ensor's Pool SAC												
Freshwater Crayfish <i>Austro-potamobius pallipes</i>	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

4.4 Key potential impact pathways

The HBBC Local Plan and other identified plans have the potential to cause a number of direct and indirect effects on European sites via one or more pathways. Such potential effects include long-term effects associated with the operational phase of proposed

developments or general population growth, and short-term effects arising from the development construction phases. The main potential effects are described below.

4.4.1 Air Pollution Effects

New developments and an increase in population have the potential to result in an increased use of the road network by vehicles, which could have adverse effects on air quality. This could have subsequent effects on habitats sensitive to air quality changes and higher deposits of nitrogen dioxide, ammonia, particulates and sulphur dioxide (diesel vehicles).

Air quality impacts are not an identified threat/pressure for the two SACs that could be impacted by the Local Plan and the qualifying habitats and species are not significantly sensitive to this pressure. However, freshwater effects of nitrogen deposition can include changes in algal productivity, whereas acid deposition can result in impacts to invertebrate populations and toxicity to fish (APIS, 2025). These factors can also result in impacts to White-clawed Crayfish populations where deposition impacts water quality (Peay, 2002).

It should be noted that the likelihood of this effect is greatly reduced as the distance increases between the deposit area (typically the road network) and the European site. Pollutant levels can be expected to fall substantially at a distance more than 50m from the source and can be expected to fall to background levels at a distance of more than 200m (Holman, et al., 2019).

In addition, the clear majority of new vehicles on the road generally emit fewer emissions than older vehicles. This has become as the car industry has responded to increasing climate change (carbon reduction) pressures (SMTT, 2017). Road tax bands were also amended by the Government in 2009 to ensure that the most polluting cars are penalised more heavily than previously. These measures have helped to increase the demand for cleaner more fuel-efficient vehicles; this trend will only increase further in the future as cars continue to become even greener. Additionally, with the increase in electric vehicles, fewer emissions are now being emitted into the atmosphere.

This assessment will consider how the potential impact of new development/housing and the associated increase in traffic has the potential to generate increases in atmospheric pollution. This will be considered in relation to the European sites identified, taking into account the vulnerability of their interest features, proximity to proposed development sites and likely associated traffic increases. Potential point source emissions from industrial developments are also considered. For traffic emissions, the appropriate Natural England Guidance will be considered (Natural England, 2025).

This assessment takes into account the High Court judgment in *Wealden v SSCLG* [2017] ('the Wealden Judgment 2017') and Natural England's guidance on significance thresholds in relation to traffic emissions for roads within 200m of European sites (Natural England, 2025).

4.4.2 Hydrological impacts

New development and population increase can result in hydrological effects to existing watercourses and groundwater resources. Such effects can include changes to surface and ground water flows, quality and levels; this can have subsequent effects on habitats and supported species. The main types of potential hydrological effects are as follows:

- Water abstraction – new developments would increase the demand for water resulting in increased levels of water abstraction and subsequently affect surface and/or ground water flow, quality and levels. Any such effects would be more extreme during the summer as water demand will peak at this time. The assessment of potential effects of increased water demand will consider how the public water supply system operates and how it is regulated with other water-resource consents. Water abstraction is an identified threat to the River Mease SAC.
- Water discharges – new developments could result in an increase in discharges to water via foul and surface water/storm water drainage (flood risk). This could also occur during construction phases (e.g. oil spillage or other pollution incidents from construction plant and machinery) but would be short-term and of reduced significance. Discharges can also occur during the operational phase of works through the increased use of waterways by motor powered boats and oil from a higher number of cars using roads close to the watercourse network. Such discharges can impact on surface water and ground water quality, quantity and flows. Water pollution and drainage discharges are an identified threat to the River Mease SAC.

The water quality effects of the plan are likely to be either controlled by existing consent regimes (which must undergo HRA) or have diffuse ‘in-combination’ effects that are difficult to quantify and therefore any assessment must focus on the development of suitable mitigating policy that will minimise the impacts of development on water quality. The Local Plan boundary falls within the Nutrient Neutrality Catchment of the River Mease SAC (Natural England, 2025a) and therefore Nutrient Neutrality (Natural England, 2023) is considered for impacts relating to water discharges.

The screening assessment will consider the potential for impacts on a European site due to changes in water levels and/or quality by taking into consideration the vulnerability of their interest features to such impacts, and the pathways i.e. the hydrological connectivity between the site and the areas proposed for development.

In line with the *People over Wind & Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta* Case C-323/1, policy or proposal-level protective and mitigation measures relating to water abstraction and/or water discharges will only be considered at the appropriate assessment stage of a HRA.

4.4.3 Disturbance impacts

Increased recreational pressures from urban populations, including dog walking, fishing, boating and other water-based recreational activities are likely to result from new housing developments and population increases.

Improved access to the countryside and increased tourism will also attract more visitors to the area as well as residents. This can lead to significant pressures on sensitive habitats resulting in damage and disturbance to the species they support.

Many European sites will be vulnerable to some degree of impact as a result of recreational pressure, although the effects of recreational impacts are complex and very much dependent on the specific conditions and interest features at each site.

Most recreational activities with the potential to affect European sites are 'casual' and pursued opportunistically (e.g. dog walking) which makes it difficult to quantify or predict the impacts of these activities on European sites and harder to control or manage. It also means it is difficult to explore in detail all potential impacts of recreational pressures at the strategic level. However, it is possible for plans and strategies to influence recreational use of European sites through the planning process, for example by increasing the amount of green/open space and leisure/recreational facilities required within or near developments if potentially vulnerable European sites are located nearby.

The screening assessment will consider the potential for recreational pressures on a European site by taking into consideration the vulnerability of their interest features to such pressures, the accessibility of the site to the public, the likely attractiveness of the site and its habitats/species to visitors, and the proximity of the site to sites allocated for development.

The HRA will also consider visual and noise disturbance related to the construction phase of any project work, or through any ongoing operations, for example from employment sites.

5 Relevant plans

This section gives a brief description of the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan development policies and site allocations and outlines how these may impact upon the European sites identified in Table 3-1.

The Habitat Regulations also require that the potential effects of the plan on European sites must be considered 'in-combination with other plans or projects'. The 'in-combination' assessment must also consider within-plan effects (i.e. between policies or strategic sites). Consideration of 'in-combination' effects is not a separate assessment, but is integral to the screening and appropriate assessment stages, and the development of avoidance/mitigation measures. There is limited guidance available on the scope of the 'in-combination' element, particularly which plans should be considered. However, the assessment should not necessarily be limited to plans at the same level in the planning hierarchy and there is consequently a wide range of plans that could have potential 'in-combination' effects with the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan due to its regional scale. This section, therefore, also identifies the other plans that it is considered could potentially act 'in-combination' with the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan to have 'significant effects' on European sites.

5.1 Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan

5.1.1 Introduction

The Local Plan is the Statutory Development Plan for the Hinckley and Bosworth Borough and is the basis for determining planning applications.

The first part of the Local Plan is Part A: Setting the Context for the Local Plan, which sets out the long-term vision, priorities and objectives for growth of the borough. It contains strategic planning policies to guide developments in how they can support the wider vision for the whole borough. The long-term vision for Hinckley & Bosworth is that the borough will be a prosperous, inclusive and environmentally resilient borough, offering a high quality of life for its communities and a strong and adaptable local economy.

The second part of the Local Plan is Part B: The Development Strategy, which sets out spatially how growth and development will be delivered. It includes a policy on ensuring continued effectiveness of the Local Plan through review. Site allocation is included within this part of the Local Plan, with areas allocated for housing and employment uses alongside provision for development in more rural areas. Sites for housing generally vary between non-strategic smaller sites of between 11-100 dwellings, non-strategic major sites of up to 499 dwellings or 33 hectares in size, and large strategic sites of 500 or more new dwellings or around 700 hectares in size which includes mixed-use new settlements.

The third part of the Local Plan is Part C: Development Management Policies. This part sets out the detailed policies that will be used in the assessment of planning applications such as high-quality design and protections for heritage and the environment.

5.1.2 Policies

The Local Plan includes policies around sustainable development, development of infrastructure, allocation of housing and employment sites, ongoing review of the Local Plan, promotion of active travel and provision of green space, environmental protection, renewables and flood risk.

The policies included aim to guide decisions on planning applications and future development through identification of allocated sites and areas for development as well as areas that should be conserved or enhanced.

5.1.3 Site Allocations

Within the Local Plan, sites have been allocated for housing and employment using the methodology set out in the Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council Methodology Paper (HBBC, 2020).

A Sustainability Appraisal, incorporating the requirements of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), has also been prepared alongside this HRA (JBA Consulting, 2026) to assess how the Local Plan policies and site allocations will achieve environmental, economic and social objectives.

5.2 Other relevant plans and projects that might act in-combination

A series of individually modest effects may in-combination produce effects that are likely to adversely affect the integrity of one or more European sites. Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive tries to address this by taking into account the combination of effects from other plans or projects. The Directive does not explicitly define which other plans and projects are within the scope of the combination provision. Guidance in section 4.4.3 of 'Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC', published by the European Commission, states:

'When determining likely significant effects, the combination of other plans or projects should also be considered to take account of cumulative impacts. It would seem appropriate to restrict the combination provision to other plans or projects which have been actually proposed.'

There is limited guidance available on the scope of the 'in-combination' element, particularly which plans or projects should be considered. The plans identified by the Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (JBA Consulting, 2025), provided the basis for the assessment of 'in-combination' effects for plans. These plans were reviewed to identify any potential effects and these were then considered (as necessary) within this screening report. Attention was focused on those aimed at delivering planned spatial growth with the most significant being those that seek to provide housing, employment and infrastructure. The assessment did not include national plans/strategies, policy or legislation since the Local Plan must be compliant with these. It is considered that in-combination effects are most likely in respect of other regional and sub-regional development plans and strategies.

Table 5-1 provides the results of an initial scoping assessment of plans and projects which could cause in combination effects with the Publication Local Plan. Majority of the plans identified have been used to develop policies within the Local Plan and therefore are not expected to cause in combination effects. Further details of the other plans and projects considered in this assessment is shown in Appendix A alongside a more detailed in-combination assessment.

Table 5-1: Scoping of other plans, projects and strategies considered in this assessment

Plans and documents	Potential to act in-combination
Regional	
Viewpoints on the Historic Environment of the East Midlands (2002)	N
Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan (2018)	N
Putting Wildlife Back on the Map: A Biodiversity Strategy for the East Midlands (2006)	N
Leicestershire Resources and Waste strategy 2022 to 2025	N
Humber River Basin Management Plan (2022)	N
River Trent Catchment Flood Management Plan (2010)	N
Leicestershire Local Transport Plan 3 2011-2026 (2014)	N
Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland - Landscape Woodland Strategy 2001	N
Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan 2023-2027	N
Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan up to 2031 (2019)	N
Leicestershire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2024)	N
Leicester and Leicestershire Tourism Growth Plan (2019)	N
Leicestershire Environment Strategy 2018 - 2030: delivering a better future	N
Leicestershire Environment Strategy Action Plan 2025-2030	N
Action for Nature: A Strategic Approach to Biodiversity, Habitat and the Local Environment for Leicestershire County Council (2021)	N
Leicestershire Biodiversity Duty Plan 2024	N
Tree Management Strategy 2020-2025	N
Severn Trent draft Water Resource Management Plan 2024	N
Midlands Connect	N
A5 Partnership	N
Leicester & Leicestershire Housing & Economic Needs Assessment (2022)	N
Local	
Hinckley Town Centre Area Action Plan DPD 2011	N
Agricultural Land Study: Land Quality in the Hinckley and Bosworth District 2020	N

Plans and documents	Potential to act in-combination
Bosworth Battlefield: The Way Forward 2013	N
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council District, Local and Neighbourhood Centre Review 2015	N
Infrastructure Capacity Study Phase 1 2020	N
Infrastructure Capacity Study Phase 2 2024	N
Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2016	N
Heritage Strategy 2025-2029	N
Habitat Survey Report 2025	N
Playing Pitch and Open Space Strategy 2025	N
Open Space Assessment 2025	N
Earl Shilton and Barwell Area Action Plan DPD 2014	N
Market Bosworth Modified Neighbourhood Plan 2020-2039	N
Green Space Strategy 2023 to 2033	N
Green Infrastructure Strategy 2020	N
Renewable Energy Capacity Study 2014	N
Hinckley & Bosworth Economic Regeneration Strategy 2021 -2025	N
Town Centre's Vision 2015	N
The Good Design Guide SPD 2020	N
Community, Cultural and Tourism Facilities Review	N
Affordable Housing SPD 2011	N
Burbage Village Design Statement	N
Ratby Village Design Statement	N
Rural Needs SPD	N
Hinckley Town Centre Strategic Development Transport Contributions SPD	N
Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD	N
Hinckley & Bosworth Town and District Centres Study 2017	N
Joint Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Level 1 (2025) and Level 2 (2020)	N
Authority Monitoring Report 2019 - 2020	N
Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (2022)	N
Green Wedge Review 2011 (2020 update)	N
Landscape Character Assessment (2017)	N
District, Local and Neighbourhood Centre Review (2015)	N
Employment Land and Premises Review (2020)	N
2023 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR)	N

Plans and documents	Potential to act in-combination
Hinckley & Bosworth Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2022 to 2025	N
Community Safety Strategy 2023-2026	N
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council Anti-Social Behaviour Policy 2022	N
Hinckley & Bosworth Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy 2024 to 2028	N
Hinckley & Bosworth Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023 - 2026	N

6 Screening Assessment

6.1 Introduction

This section considers the development policies and site allocations listed in the Local Plan and identifies whether or not they are likely to have significant effects on European sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans.

6.2 Development Policies

The development policies have initially been screened. The results of the initial screening are shown in Table 6-1. Any policies with likely significant effects and any in-combination effects are further discussed in Table 6-4 where appropriate. The screening outcome in Table 6-1 includes any relevant in-combination assessment outcomes. Where the outcome is marked with an asterisk, no in-combination assessment is necessary because the policy has zero impact alone on any European Sites. Policies related to strategic site allocations are assessed in Table 6-2.

Table 6-1: Initial screening assessment of the policies in the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan

Policy number and title	Screening assessment summary	Screening Outcome
Part B: The Development Strategy		
PS01: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development	Policy related to development proposals that support sustainable development objectives within the NPPF	Screened out*
PS02: Hinckley Western Link Road	Policy related to the prevention of some development proposals within the Hinckley Western Link Road corridor	Screened out*
PS03: Nuneaton Parkway	Policy related to the prevention of development proposals impacting the delivery of Nuneaton Parkway	Screened out*
PS04: Delivering Sustainable Growth	Policy related to the general requirements of development proposals to meet housing and economic development needs	Screened out*
PS05: Housing Development Sites	Policy related to site allocations for housing development	Assessment included in Table 6-2 for each of the allocated development sites.
PS06: Strategic Site: Earl Shilton Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE)	Policy related to a specific site allocation for a mixed use sustainable urban extension	
PS07: Strategic Site: Barwell Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE)	Policy related to a specific site allocation for a mixed use sustainable urban extension	
PS08: Strategic Site: Lindley Meadows, Land North of Watling Street, A5	Policy related to a specific site allocation for a residential development and supporting infrastructure	

Policy number and title	Screening assessment summary	Screening Outcome
PS09: Strategic Site: Land North of Normandy Way, 'Hinckley North', Hinckley	Policy related to a specific site allocation for a residential development and supporting infrastructure	
PS10: Strategic Site: Land West of Hollycroft Grange, Hinckley	Policy related to a specific site allocation for a residential development and supporting infrastructure	
PS11: Strategic Site: South of the A47, Earl Shilton	Policy related to a specific site allocation for a residential development and supporting infrastructure	
PS12: Strategic Site: Land South of Desford, Desford	Policy related to a specific site allocation for a residential development and supporting infrastructure	
PS13: Employment Development Sites	Policy related site allocations for employment development	Assessment included in Table 6-2 for each of the allocated employment sites.
PS14: Strategic B8 Employment Site: HIN004 Land at Wapping and Harrow Farm, Watling Street, Hinkley	Policy related to a specific site allocation for an employment development and supporting infrastructure	
PS15: Strategic B8 Employment Site: BURB001 Land South of Soar Brook, Burbage	Policy related to a specific site allocation for an employment development and supporting infrastructure	
PS16: Strategic B8 Employment Site: BURB002	Policy related to a specific site allocation for an employment development and supporting infrastructure	

Policy number and title	Screening assessment summary	Screening Outcome
Land East of Hinckley Park, Burbage		
PS17: Strategic B8 Employment Site: MARK004 Land at Cliffe Hill Farm (Junction 22 M1) Markfield	Policy related to a specific site allocation for an employment development and supporting infrastructure	
PS18: Circumstances for an early review of the Local Plan	Policy related to a review of the Local Plan as a result of certain circumstances including environmental constraints	Screened out*
PS19: Strategy for the Urban Areas	Policy related to development proposals of within urban areas of the borough	Assessment included in Table 6-2.
PS20: Strategy for the key Rural Centres	Policy related to development proposals within rural areas of the borough	
PS21: Strategy for the Rural Villages	Policy related to development proposals within rural villages of the borough	
PS22: Strategy for the Rural Hamlets	Policy related to development proposals within rural hamlets of the borough	
PS23: Development in the Countryside	Policy related to support for development proposals of unknown location and size within the countryside Development under this policy to comply with all other policies within the Local Plan	Screened out*

Policy number and title	Screening assessment summary	Screening Outcome
PS24: Small-scale Residential Development Immediately Adjacent to the Settlement Boundary	Policy related to support for small-scale residential development Additional housing in the borough may contribute towards indirect effects on water quality	Screened in
Development Management Policies		
HPD01: High Quality Design and Design Code Requirements	General policy related to high quality design of developments	Screened out*
HPD02: Design Principles	General policy related to design principles of developments	Screened out*
HPD03: Enabling Active Design and Sustainable Travel Choice	Policy related to development proposals ensuring consideration for active travel	Screened out*
HPD04: Preventing Pollution	Policy related to ensuring development proposals avoid unacceptable pollution and environmental harm This policy aims to support proposals that demonstrate no harm to the River Mease SAC	Screened out*
HPD05: Health and Wellbeing	General policy related to assessing impacts of development on public health	Screened out*
HPD06: Hot Food Takeaways and Fast-Food Outlets	General policy related to assessing impacts of development of fast-food takeaways on public health	Screened out*

Policy number and title	Screening assessment summary	Screening Outcome
HPD07: Waste, Recycling and Refuse: Storage, Access and Collection	General policy related to the provision of refuse bin storage areas within development plans	Screened out*
HH01: Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople	Policy related to the provision of new sites for travellers Sites of an unknown scale in the absence of mitigation	Screened in
HH02: Affordable Housing	General policy related to the provision of affordable housing within development sites	Screened out*
HH03: Housing Mix, Size and Type	General policy related to the provision of varied dwelling sizes within development sites	Screened out*
HH04: Space Standards	General policy related to the provision of adequate size houses within development sites	Screened out*
HH05: Housing Density	General policy related to the consideration of appropriate housing density within development sites	Screened out*
HH06: Accessible Housing	General policy related to the provision of accessible homes within development sites	Screened out*
HH07: Redundant Rural Buildings	Policy related to the sustainable re-use of redundant or disused rural buildings Consideration of impacts on biodiversity are required to be assessed	Screened out
HH08: Self-Build and Custom Housing	General policy related to council support for self-build and custom build houses to contribute to an appropriate housing mix as part of developments	Screened out*

Policy number and title	Screening assessment summary	Screening Outcome
HH09: Rural Needs Housing	General policy related to approval of rural residential development where rural workers are required to live near their place of work	Screened out
IU01: Infrastructure and Delivery	General policy related to granting of planning permission where the provision of appropriate infrastructure, services, facilities and mitigation required are included	Screened in
IU02: Water Supply and Wastewater Management	General policy related to incorporating appropriate water efficiency, water recycling and wastewater management as part of new development	Screened out*
IU03: Telecommunications Infrastructure	General policy related to provision of telecommunications for new build residential and commercial development	Screened out*
IU04: Highways and Transportation	General policy related to provision of appropriate transport and highways infrastructure as part of developments, including car parking provision and sustainable modes of transport. The policy does not propose any specific transport infrastructure developments.	Screened out*
IU05: Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	General policy related to the provision of electric vehicle charging points as part of development proposals that include car parking	Screened out*
NE01: Protecting Biodiversity and Geodiversity	General policy related to the assessment of impacts on internationally designated nature conservation sites	Screened out*

Policy number and title	Screening assessment summary	Screening Outcome
NE02: Enhancing Biodiversity and Habitat Connectivity	General policy related to applying the mitigation hierarchy and enhancing biodiversity as part of development proposals	Screened out*
NE03: Green Infrastructure	General policy related to provision of open space as part of a connected network Improved connectivity of existing Public Rights of Way could result in increased recreational pressures on European sites	Screened in
NE04: Blue Infrastructure	General policy related to protection, enhancement and creation of water environments as part of a connected network	Screened out*
NE05: Landscape Character and Sensitivity	General policy related to conserving and enhancing the landscape setting	Screened out*
NE06: Green Wedges	Policy related to the delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Screened out*
NE07: National Forest & Charnwood Forest	Policy related to approval of development within the National Forest & Charnwood Forest positively contributing to landscape character, biodiversity, geodiversity and climate objectives	Screened out
NE08: Trees, Hedgerows & Woodlands	General policy related to appropriate assessment of impacts on trees as part of development proposals	Screened out*
NE09: Local Green Space	General policy related to designation of Local Green Spaces and no development in Local Green Spaces, except in exceptional circumstances	Screened out

Policy number and title	Screening assessment summary	Screening Outcome
NE10: Soils and Best & Most Versatile Agricultural Land	General policy related to safeguarding of soil resources as part of development proposals	Screened out*
HC01: Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment	General policy related to the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment	Screened out*
HC02: Heritage Assets	General policy related to protection of heritage assets as part of development proposals	Screened out*
HC03: Preserving the Boroughs Archaeology	General policy related to protection of heritage assets as part of development proposals	Screened out*
ER01: Net Zero Carbon: New Residential Development	General policy related to designing net zero carbon actions into new development	Screened out*
ER02: Net Zero Carbon: New Non-Residential Development	General policy related to designing net zero carbon actions into new development	Screened out*
ER03: Overheating in new buildings	General policy related to designing appropriate heating methods into new development	Screened out*
ER04: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Generation	General policy related to renewable and low carbon energy developments	Screened out*
ER05: Embodied Carbon and Waste	General policy related to minimising carbon emissions from development	Screened out*

Policy number and title	Screening assessment summary	Screening Outcome
ER06: Flood Risk	General policy related to development in flood risk areas where the development will not increase flood risk and must incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) into design	Screened out*
ER07: Sustainable Drainage Systems	General policy related to mitigation of surface water runoff through the use of SuDS	Screened out*
EP01: Existing Employment Areas	General policy related to development within existing employment areas Development under this policy to comply with all other policies within the Local Plan	Screened out
EP02: New Employment Development on non-allocated sites	General policy related to development not within existing employment areas Development under this policy to comply with all other policies within the Local Plan	Screened out
EP03: Education and Skills for a Strong Local Workforce	General policy related to provision of employment as part of development proposals	Screened out*
EP04: Growing and Diversifying the Rural Economy	General policy related to growth of the rural economy as part of development proposals Proposals under this policy must demonstrate that the natural environment and traffic levels has been taken account of	Screened out

Policy number and title	Screening assessment summary	Screening Outcome
EP05: MIRA Technology Park: Employment and Enterprise Zone Development	Policy related to support for employment development within the MIRA Technology Park as part of development proposals	Screened in
CT01: Hinckley Town Centre	Policy related to development within the Hinckley Town Centre boundary Not within the IRZ for the SACs and lack of physical pathways	Screened out
CT02: Vitalising Borough, Local and Neighbourhood Centres	Policy related to retail development within borough, local and neighbourhood centres Not within the IRZ for the SACs, however Market Bosworth centre adjoins with tributary included within IRZ for the River Mease	Screened in
CT03: Sequential and Impact Tests	General policy related to development location prioritisation	Screened out*
CT04: High Quality Shop Fronts and Advertisements	General policy related to development of shop fronts	Screened out*
LST01: Community, Cultural and Tourism Facilities	General policy related to tourism development Unknown locations, however attracting more tourists to the area could increase recreational disturbance to the SACs	Screened in

Policy number and title	Screening assessment summary	Screening Outcome
LST02: Twycross Zoo Special Policy Area	Policy related to development of Twycross Zoo Attracting more tourists to the area could increase recreational disturbance to the SACs	Screened in
LST03: Open Space Provision	General policy related to provision and enhancement of open space as a part of new residential development proposals Unknown locations to infer potential impacts on the SACs	Screened out*
LST04: Sport and Recreation Facilities: Outdoor and Indoor Provision	General policy related to protection of sport and recreation facilities from development	Screened out*

6.3 Site allocations

Table 6-2 summarises the sites being considered for site allocation and provides a preliminary outline of the potential for each site being considered to impact upon European sites, taking into account the location of the potential site allocation in relation to each of the European sites. The Use category "Other" is used to signify where secondary proposed uses include general associated infrastructure. This is a high-level screening assessment, taking into account the location of the European sites in relation to the sites being considered for allocation. This information is used to support the overall screening assessment (Table 6-4).

Further details of the site allocations can be seen in the Local Plan. Taking into account the location of the European sites in relation to the sites being considered for allocation (Table 6-2 and Table 6-3), the identified potential hazards and impact pathways associated with the developments, an assessment has been made as to whether the Local Plan, either alone or in-combination with other plans, will have likely significant effects on any European sites. This assessment is detailed in Table 6-4. Any relevant policies or site allocations that are considered to require further assessment in Table 6-3 are identified and considered in this table. For European sites covering several locations, this column also indicates which component SSSI is considered to potentially be impacted upon.

It should be noted that potential impacts from other plans and projects are only considered in the screening assessment where there is no likely significant effect on a designated site from the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan alone.

Table 6-2: Summary of site options being considered in the development of the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan and initial screening.

Site Option	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
Hinckley North						
AS1029, AS1031 A, AS1031 B, LPR199 (combined)	Land North of Normandy Way, 'Hinckley North', Hinckley	✓			✓ - Other associated infrastructure	No. This site is at least 8km away from the nearest European site (Ensor's Pool SAC). No potential impact pathways were identified for this site allocation regarding any of the European sites.
Hinckley Central						
LPR138	Land at Brick Kiln Street (the former Cadent site), Hinckley	✓				No. This is at least 8km away from the nearest European site (Ensor's Pool SAC). No potential impact pathways were identified for this site allocation regarding any of the European sites.
Hinckley West						
LPR31	Land West of Hollycroft Grange, Hinckley	✓				No. All sites being considered within the site allocation process are at

Site Option	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
Hinckley North						
LPR22	Land at Wapping and Harrow Farm, Watling Street (A5), Hinckley		✓			least 5km away from the nearest European site (Ensor's Pool SAC). No potential impact pathways were identified for these site allocations regarding any of the European sites.
Barwell						
AS86	Barwell Business Centre, Arthur Street, Barwell	✓				No. All sites being considered within the site allocation process are at least 10km away from the nearest European site (Ensor's Pool SAC). No potential impact pathways were identified for these site allocations regarding any of the European sites.
LPR185	Land South of New Barn Farm, Kirkby Road, Barwell	✓			✓ - Other associated infrastructure	
AS58	Barwell Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE)	✓	✓	✓	✓ - Other associated infrastructure	
Burbage West						

Site Option	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites	
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other		
Hinckley North							
LPR44	Land adjoining Hinckley Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW), Brookfield Road, Burbage		✓			No. This site at least 7km away from the nearest European site (Ensor's Pool SAC). No potential impact pathways were identified for this site allocation regarding any of the European sites.	
Burbage Smockington							
LPR259	Land East of Hinckley Park, Burbage		✓				
LPR16 A	Land South of Soar Brook, Burbage		✓				
LPR241	Land at Start Farm, Burbage		✓			No. All sites being considered within the site allocation process are at least 8km away from the nearest European site (Ensor's Pool SAC). No potential impact pathways were identified for these site allocations regarding any of the European sites.	
Earl Shilton South							
AS237	Earl Shilton Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE)	✓	✓	✓	✓ - Other associated infrastructure		No. All sites being considered within the site allocation process are at least 13km away from the nearest European site (Ensor's Pool SAC).

Site Option	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
Hinckley North						
LPR216	Land South of Thurlaston Lane and East of the A47, Earl Shilton	✓				No potential impact pathways were identified for these site allocations regarding any of the European sites.
LPR200	Land South East of the A47, Earl Shilton	✓	✓	✓	✓ - Other associated infrastructure	
Bagworth						
LPR221	Land West of Station Road, Bagworth	✓			✓ - Other associated infrastructure	No. All sites being considered within the site allocation process are at least 8km away from the nearest European site (River Mease SAC). No potential impact pathways were identified for these site allocations regarding any of the European sites.
LPR243	Land at Wiggs Farm, Bagworth		✓			
Barlestone						
AS455 (phase 2)		✓				

Site Option	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
Hinckley North						
	Land North of Barton Road, Barlestone					No. All sites being considered within the site allocation process are at least 8km away from the nearest European site (River Mease SAC). No potential impact pathways were identified for these site allocations regarding any of the European sites.
Desford						
LPR86	Land off Barns Way and North of Leicester Lane, Desford	✓			✓ - Open space	No. All sites being considered within the site allocation process are at least 13km away from the nearest European site (River Mease SAC). No potential impact pathways were identified for these site allocations regarding any of the European sites.
LPR151 A	Land South of Desford, Desford	✓	✓	✓	✓ - Mixed-use	
Newbold Verdon						

Site Option	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
Hinckley North						
LPR207	Land North West of Old Farm Lane and South of Bosworth Lane, Newbold Verdon	✓	✓	✓		No. All sites being considered within the site allocation process are at least 11km away from the nearest European site (River Mease SAC). No potential impact pathways were identified for these site allocations regarding any of the European sites.
LPR190	Land South of Arnolds Crescent, Newbold Verdon	✓				
Ratby						
LPR107	Land South of Markfield Road, Ratby	✓			✓ - Primary school	No. All sites being considered within the site allocation process are at least 15km away from the nearest European site (River Mease SAC). No potential impact pathways were identified for these site allocations regarding any of the European sites.
Market Bosworth						

Site Option	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
Hinckley North						
LPR139	Land South of Station Road (Phase 2), Market Bosworth	✓				No. This site is at least 8km away from the nearest European site (River Mease SAC). No potential impact pathways were identified for this site allocation regarding any of the European sites.
Groby						
LPR146 A & B	Land South of Sacheverell Way, Groby	✓			✓ - Other associated infrastructure including open space, allotments and drainage	No. All sites being considered within the site allocation process are at least 16km away from the nearest European site (River Mease SAC). No potential impact pathways were identified for these site allocations regarding any of the European sites.
LPR134 A	Land North of Glenfield, Groby (Parcel A)		✓			
Markfield						
LPR94 B	Land South of London Road	✓		✓	✓ - Community	No. All sites being considered within the site allocation process are at

Site Option	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
Hinckley North						
	and West of Ratby Lane (Site B), Markfield				use including cemetery and allotments	least 11km away from the nearest European site (River Mease SAC). No potential impact pathways were identified for these site allocations regarding any of the European sites.
LPR70	Land East of Ratby Lane and South of Jacqueline Road, Markfield	✓				
LPR94 A	Land South of London Road (Site A), Markfield	✓				
LPR95	Land at Cliffe Hill Farm (Junction 22), Markfield		✓			
Higham on the Hill						

Site Option	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
Hinckley North						
LPR181	Land Between the A5 and Northwood Farm, Wood Lane, Higham on the Hill	✓				No. All sites being considered within the site allocation process are at least 5km away from the nearest European site (Ensor's Pool SAC). No potential impact pathways were identified for these site allocations regarding any of the European sites.
Sheepy Magna						
AS518	Land at The Rectory, Church Lane, Sheepy Magna	✓				No. This site is at least 8km away from the nearest European site (River Mease SAC). No potential impact pathways were identified for this site allocation regarding any of the European sites.
Thornton						

Site Option	Description	Use				Potential Impact on European Sites
		Residential	Employment	Retail	Other	
Hinckley North						
AS33	Land off Warwick Close, St Peters Drive and Sharp's Close, Thornton	✓				No. This site is at least 10km away from the nearest European site (River Mease SAC). No potential impact pathways were identified for this site allocation regarding any of the European sites.
Fenny Drayton						
LPR235 A	New Settlement: Lindley Meadows	✓	✓	✓	✓ - Other associated infrastructure including leisure, education, district centre, open space and sports	No. All sites being considered within the site allocation process are at least 5km away from the nearest European site (Ensor's Pool SAC). No potential impact pathways were identified for these site allocations regarding any of the European sites.

Table 6-2 (summary of site options) has informed the site selection process on an iterative and ongoing basis. The high-level HRA screening assessment (taking into account the location of the European sites in relation to the sites being considered for allocation), when considered alongside other suitability and achievability factors in the site selection process, has been used to inform decisions on which allocations are proposed to be brought forward in the Local Plan.

Table 6-3 below sets out the list of proposed site allocations and also highlights those sites where a potential impact on a European site has been identified.

Table 6-3: Proposed site allocations and potential for impacts on European sites

*Corresponding policy for strategic sites only

Settlement	Site Allocations and Development Policies Document Reference	Other Site Reference and Corresponding Policy* (within the Local Plan)	Site Name	Potential Impact on European Site
Hinckley North	AS1029, AS1031 A, AS1031 B, LPR199 (combined)	HIN001 (Policy PS09)	Land North of Normandy Way, 'Hinckley North', Hinckley	No
Hinckley Central	LPR138	HIN003	Land at Brick Kiln Street (the former Cadent site), Hinckley	No
Hinckley West	LPR31	HIN002 (Policy PS10)	Land West of Hollycroft Grange, Hinckley	No
	LPR22	HIN004 (Policy PS14)	Land at Wapping and Harrow Farm, Watling Street (A5), Hinckley	No
Barwell	AS86		Barwell Business Centre, Arthur Street, Barwell	No

Settlement	Site Allocations and Development Policies Document Reference	Other Site Reference and Corresponding Policy* (within the Local Plan)	Site Name	Potential Impact on European Site
	LPR185	BAR002	Land South of New Barn Farm, Kirkby Road, Barwell	No
	AS58	BAR001 (Policy PS07)	Barwell Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE)	No
Burbage West	LPR44	BURB003	Land adjoining Hinckley Waste Water Treatment Works (WWTW), Brookfield Road, Burbage	No
Burbage Smockington	LPR259	BURB002 (Policy PS16)	Land East of Hinckley Park, Burbage	No
	LPR16 A	BURB001 (Policy PS15)	Land South of Soar Brook, Burbage	No
	LPR241	BURB004	Land at Start Farm, Burbage	No
East Shilton South	AS237	ES001 (Policy PS06)	Earl Shilton Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE)	No
	LPR216		Land South of Thurlaston	No

Settlement	Site Allocations and Development Policies Document Reference	Other Site Reference and Corresponding Policy* (within the Local Plan)	Site Name	Potential Impact on European Site
			Lane and East of the A47, Earl Shilton	
	LPR200	ES002 (Policy PS11)	Land South East of the A47, Earl Shilton	No
Bagworth	LPR221	BAG001	Land West of Station Road, Bagworth	No
Barlestone	AS455 (phase 2)	BARL001	Land North of Barton Road, Barlestone	No
Desford	LPR86	DES002	Land off Barns Way and North of Leicester Lane, Desford	No
	LPR151 A	DES001 (Policy PS12)	Land South of Desford, Desford	No
Newbold Verdon	LPR207	NV002	Land North West of Old Farm Lane and South of Bosworth Lane, Newbold Verdon	No
	LPR190	NV001	Land South of Arnolds Crescent, Newbold Verdon	No

Settlement	Site Allocations and Development Policies Document Reference	Other Site Reference and Corresponding Policy* (within the Local Plan)	Site Name	Potential Impact on European Site
Ratby	LPR107	RAT001	Land South of Markfield Road, Ratby	No
Market Bosworth	LPR139	MKBOS001	Land South of Station Road (Phase 2), Market Bosworth	No
Groby	LPR146 A & B	GRO001	Land South of Sacheverell Way, Groby	No
	LPR134 A	GRO003	Land North of Glenfield, Groby (Parcel A)	No
Markfield	LPR94 B	MARK003	Land South of London Road and West of Ratby Lane (Site B), Markfield	No
	LPR70	MARK001	Land East of Ratby Lane and South of Jacqueline Road, Markfield	No
	LPR94 A	MARK002	Land South of London Road (Site A), Markfield	No
	LPR95	MARK004 (Policy PS17)	Land at Cliffe Hill Farm (Junction 22), Markfield	No

Settlement	Site Allocations and Development Policies Document Reference	Other Site Reference and Corresponding Policy* (within the Local Plan)	Site Name	Potential Impact on European Site
Higham on the Hill	LPR181	HH001	Land Between the A5 and Northwood Farm, Wood Lane, Higham on the Hill	No
Sheepy Magna	AS519		Land off Oakfield Way and Meadow Close, Sheepy Magna	No
	AS518		Land at The Rectory, Church Lane, Sheepy Magna	No
Thornton	AS33	THOR001	Land off Warwick Close, St Peters Drive and Sharp's Close, Thornton	No
Fenny Drayton	LPR235 A	LIN001 (Policy PS08)	New Settlement: Lindley Meadows	No

Where there has been a potential impact on a European site identified in Table 6-3 above, the site allocation will be considered in further detail through the remaining stages of the assessment (and outcomes documented in this report).

6.4 Assessment of Likely Significant Effects on European Sites

Table 6-4 below highlights the assessment of likely significant effects on European Sites (sites in the borough and within 15 km of the borough boundary) taking account of the relevant sites and policies identified in Table 6-1 (summary policy assessment) and Table 6-2/ Table 6-3 (site assessment).

Table 6-4: Assessment of Likely Significant Effects on European sites

European site and Qualifying features	Potential hazards	Relevant Policy/Site being considered in the assessment	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)	Screening Assessment
			Air Quality	Hydrological	Disturbance (recreational)		
River Mease SAC <i>Qualifying features:</i> H3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculon fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation S1092 Freshwater Crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> S1149 Spined Loach <i>Cobitis taenia</i> S1163 Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> S1355 Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Physical damage (due to recreational pressures) Disturbance (due to recreational pressures) Pollution	Policies: PS24, HH01, IU01, NE03, EP05, CT02, LST01, LST02	Only small sections of road coming from within the borough cross the River Mease (therefore falling within 200m of the SAC), with none running directly along the stretch of watercourse within 15km of the borough boundary for any substantial length. The habitats and species within the River Mease SAC are not significantly sensitive to changes in air quality and it is not listed as a threat to the SAC. Deposition of nitrogen or acidification could impact on fish (prey of Otter) and White-clawed Crayfish, however, this is expected to be negligible. No likely significant effect	Development of new housing and employment land within the Hinckley & Bosworth borough could lead to increased levels of surface water runoff as a result of the development and increased traffic on roads that could affect water quality. Likely significant effect Increases in wastewater from new development will be accounted for through connection to existing WwTWs that do not discharge into the River Mease catchment. This is covered by policy IU02: Water Supply and Wastewater Management. No likely significant effect Developments within the MIRA Technology Park under policy EP05 are not hydrologically connected to the River Mease SAC and the site is located over 12km away from the River Mease SAC, therefore potential for adverse effects due to changes in water quality are highly unlikely. No likely significant effect	It is unlikely that any sites being considered for potential allocation will result in recreational/disturbance impacts that extend as far as the River Mease SAC. No likely significant effect	The Local Plan policies and site allocations are unlikely to have any significant effects on the River Mease SAC in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects, in relation to air quality and recreational impacts. No likely significant effect In-combination assessment for hydrological impacts undertaken at Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment.	Potential for likely significant effects. Screened in.
Ensor's Pool SAC <i>Qualifying features:</i> S1092 Freshwater Crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i>	Changes in water quality Changes in water levels or table Physical damage (due to recreational pressures) Disturbance (due to recreational)	None	The potential for adverse effects on Ensor's Pool SAC due to air pollution from increased vehicles associated with the potential site allocations using the local road and motorway network is unlikely. This is due to the distance of the SAC from	The potential for adverse effects due to changes in water levels and/or quality is highly unlikely due to the distance (more than 5km) of the SAC from any potential allocated site, and the lack of hydrological connectivity with any watercourses that could be affected by development.	It is unlikely that any sites being considered for potential allocation will result in recreational/disturbance impacts that extend as far as Ensor's Pool SAC; all potential allocated sites are more than 5 km from this SAC.	The Local Plan is unlikely to have significant adverse effects on Ensor's Pool SAC in-combination with any other relevant plans or projects. No likely significant effect	No likely significant effects. Screened out.

European site and Qualifying features	Potential hazards	Relevant Policy/Site being considered in the assessment	Potential hazard impact pathways			Potential in-combination effects with other plans or projects (if applicable)	Screening Assessment
			Air Quality	Hydrological	Disturbance (recreational)		
	pressures) Pollution		the main road network, as pollutant levels can be expected to fall substantially at a distance less than 50m from the source and can be expected to fall to background levels at a distance of more than 200 m (Holman et al. 2019). No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect		

6.5 Further details of assessment

6.5.1 Hydrological - Nutrient Neutrality (River Mease SAC)

This section gives details on further information used for the screening assessment to screen out effect from the discharge of phosphorus in wastewater on nutrient neutrality as a result of development. All development areas have the potential to increase wastewater discharge to surrounding watercourses.

Legally, developments are not permitted to discharge raw sewage into watercourses and will be required to connect to a mains sewerage network under the UK's Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations or install a septic tank or package treatment plant. Discharge permits are required from the Environment Agency. A search of the WwTWs within the Hinckley & Bosworth borough returned five treatment plants. All of which discharge into local watercourses that drain into the River Sence, a tributary of the River Soar and River Anker. Both rivers flow into the River Trent, to the Humber Estuary and then out to the North Sea. These discharges are not located within the River Mease catchment area, therefore discharge of wastewater has been excluded from further assessment following government guidance set out for assessment of nutrient neutrality (Gov.uk, 2026). Considerations of effects on surface water runoff on nutrient neutrality within the River Mease SAC has been further assessed in Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment.

6.6 Screening Statement and Conclusions

The HRA screening assesses the possible impacts of the draft Local Plan on European Sites within 15km of the Hinckley & Bosworth borough boundary. The assessment also considers in-combination effects with other relevant plans and projects, although at this stage no in-combination assessment is necessary because all impact pathways have either been screened in alone, or have been screened out with no effect identified.

There are two European sites within 15km of the boundary. There is the potential for likely significant effects resulting from the draft Local Plan on the following European Sites:

- River Mease SAC, in relation to potential hydrological impacts from surface water runoff.

The below table (Table 6-5) summarises the impacts screened in that could have a likely significant effect on the European designated sites.

Table 6-5. Potential impacts screened in or out from further assessment.

European site	Impact pathways screened in			
	Air Quality	Hydrology	Disturbance (construction/operation)	Recreational disturbance
River Mease SAC	Out	In	Out	Out

Due to likely significant effects of the Local Plan alone for the River Mease SAC, the requirements of the Habitats Regulations necessitates that the Local Plan progresses to Stage 2, Appropriate Assessment.

7 Appropriate Assessment

7.1 Introduction

This section describes Stage 2 the Appropriate Assessment of the HRA of the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan, as outlined in Section 2.

Where the potential for significant effects has been identified, the nature and likely scale of effects on the integrity of the individual European sites are reported, excluding those aspects that have been screened out. Additional information and interpretation is provided to allow for a reasonable assessment of the effects, and to identify appropriate mitigation that can be included within the plan to ensure that adverse effects do not occur.

7.2 Screening Conclusion

The HRA Stage 1 Screening Assessment identified that the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan could potentially have significant adverse effects on the following sites:

- River Mease SAC

8 Assessment of Effects on Site Integrity

The following section details the Appropriate Assessment of the potential effects of the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan on the integrity of the identified European sites, taking into account the conservation objectives of the site. This assessment lists and considers all qualifying species in the European sites. Any other typical habitats or species within or outside the boundaries of this protected site that are necessary to the conservation qualifying features are also considered in the assessment.

8.1 Hydrology: Nutrient Neutrality

The Screening Assessment has identified likely significant effects for hydrological impacts within the River Mease SAC, in relation to nutrient neutrality. All interest features of the River Mease SAC have the potential to be impacted by changes to water quality and increased nutrient levels.

8.1.1 Consideration of adverse impacts of the plan alone

The screening assessment could not rule out potential adverse impacts to the habitats and species designated as part of the River Mease SAC in relation to hydrological impacts from surface water runoff as a result of general development of new housing and employment under policies PS24, HH01, IU01 and CT02. No specific allocated sites were screened in for further assessment.

8.1.2 Measures which will allow or reduce adverse impacts

Hinckley & Bosworth council have included policies within the Local Plan to mitigate against adverse impacts resulting from changes to surface water and adverse impacts on the River Mease SAC. These are:

- **HPD03: Preventing Pollution** states that development proposals must avoid unacceptable pollution and environmental harm. Any applications must be supported by proportionate evidence demonstrating that risks have been assessed and, where necessary, effectively mitigated. This includes considering impacts on the water environment and demonstrating that there will be no adverse impact on groundwater or surface water. Additionally, it specifically makes consideration for the River Mease SAC, stating that within the River Mease SAC hydrological catchment, sufficient information must be provided to enable an assessment of impacts on site integrity. Appropriate mitigation (including nutrient neutrality) must be secured where adverse impacts cannot be ruled out.
- **NE01: Protecting Biodiversity and Geodiversity** states that development that could have a significant effect on internationally designated sites must be assessed in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

- **ER07: Sustainable Drainage Systems** states that in order to restrict or reduce runoff from all development sites, surface water will be managed in a sustainable manner through the integration of Sustainable Drainage Methods, unless it can be robustly demonstrated that the surface water drainage issues from the development can be alternatively mitigated. It also states that developments must follow the drainage hierarchy to ensure surface water runoff is managed as close to the source as possible and planning applications must be supported by a proportionate Surface Water Drainage Strategy.

8.1.3 Consideration of residual impacts in combination with other plans and projects

Policy NE01 ensures that any planning applications for site allocations will include a HRA for each of the sites if there is any chance there could be a significant effect on the River Mease SAC. Impacts from surface water runoff will be mitigated through the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (following Policy ER07).

8.1.4 Conclusions of impacts upon site integrity

Provided that the mitigation required by Policy HPD03, NE01 and ER07 are implemented there will be no adverse effects on site integrity of the River Mease SAC as a result of the Local Plan, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects.

9 Appropriate Assessment Conclusion

Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) (the 'Habitats Regulations') states that if a land-use plan is "(a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects); and (b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site" then the plan-making authority must "...make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives" before the plan is given effect. The process by which Regulation 105 is met is known as Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

It is accepted best-practice for the HRA of strategic planning documents to be run as an iterative process alongside the plan development, with the emerging policies and sites proposed for development continually assessed for their possible effects on European sites and modified or abandoned (as necessary) to ensure that the subsequently adopted plan is not likely to result in significant effects on any European sites, either alone or 'in combination' with other plans. This report details the HRA for the draft version of the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan.

The most likely effects of the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan on European sites are related to pressures from new development including changes to surface and ground water levels/quality (surface run-off, pollution events).

The Screening Assessment determined that the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan is not likely to have significant effects, either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects, on the following European site:

- Ensor's Pool SAC

Potential significant effects as a result of changes in water quality (due to surface water runoff) were identified for the following site:

- River Mease SAC

The Assessment identified that the existing policies and provisions in the Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan, in relation to SuDS, preventing pollution and protecting biodiversity, will ensure that the Local Plan will have no adverse effects on these European sites.

A Details of in combination assessment

A.1 Other relevant plans

Document	Summary of content, objectives and targets (taken from Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report, 2025)	Potential in-combination effects on European sites
Regional		
Viewpoints on the Historic Environment of the East Midlands (2002)	Focuses on the importance of the historic environment and the impact it has on people's quality of life in the East Midlands.	This document supports the conservation of the historic environment and is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Leicester and Leicestershire Strategic Growth Plan (2018)	A Strategic Growth Plan has been jointly prepared to demonstrate these needs post 2031 up to 2050, and detail how jobs and homes can be planned for in a coordinated way through local plans.	The Strategic Growth Plan identifies where new growth in housing and infrastructure is required. The objectives of this plan are compatible with those in the Local Plan and are unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Putting Wildlife Back on the Map: A Biodiversity Strategy for the East Midlands (2006)	Provides the strategic framework for the conservation of biodiversity in the region.	This document supports the conservation of biodiversity and is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Leicestershire Resources and	The Strategy contains 12 pledges that help meet its vision and objectives for using waste as a resource and reducing the raw materials needed for	The objectives of this strategy are compatible with the Local Plan and are unlikely to result in in-combination effects.

Document	Summary of content, objectives and targets (taken from Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report, 2025)	Potential in-combination effects on European sites
Waste strategy 2022 to 2025	producing new goods, which has environmental, social and financial benefits.	
Humber River Basin Management Plan (2022)	The RBMPs describe the condition of the water environment and sets out the actions needed to deliver environmental improvements to achieve compliance with the WFD.	The objectives of this management plan are reflected in the Local Plan through Policy NE04 where HBBC ensure that development contributes towards delivering the objectives of the Humber River Basin Management Plan. It is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
River Trent Catchment Flood Management Plan (2010)	The CFMPs provide an overview of the flood risk across river catchments and establishes policies to manage those risks immediately and over the next 50-100 years.	The objectives of the management plan ensure good flood risk management, therefore it is unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Leicestershire Local Transport Plan 3 2011-2026 (2014)	Sets out how the region can deliver a safe and sustainable transport system.	The more recent Leicestershire Local Transport Plan 4 (LTP4) 2025-2040 was used to inform the Local Plan Policy PS02, PS08 and HPD03. The policies for strategic sites and general development include a clause stating that a site-specific Transport Assessment will be required to assess impacts from a new development or they will follow policy HPD03 which supports protecting the environment which is one of five core themes included within the Leicestershire LTP4.

Document	Summary of content, objectives and targets (taken from Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report, 2025)	Potential in-combination effects on European sites
Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland - Landscape Woodland Strategy 2001	Provides guidelines for conserving and enhancing landscapes and expanding woodland cover in the region.	This document supports the conservation of woodlands and is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Net Zero Leicestershire Action Plan 2023-2027	The Net Zero strategy sets out the approach to delivering the council's ambitions to work with others to achieve net zero carbon emissions in Leicestershire by 2045 or before. The strategy is accompanied with an action plan which demonstrates the actions the council will lead on and those where we will ask and influence others to deliver action, including Leicestershire businesses, organisations, and residents and national government over the next 5 years.	This strategy aims to deliver Net Zero carbon emissions and is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Leicestershire Minerals and Waste Local Plan up to 2031 (2019)	This Minerals and Waste Local Plan includes a spatial vision, spatial strategy, 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 of Leicestershire over the period to the end of 2031.	This plan is referred to in the Local Plan and the Local Plan states that development proposals for minerals and waste will only be supported where the accord with this plan alongside Policy ER04 and relevant national policy. It is unlikely to result in in-combination effects.

Document	Summary of content, objectives and targets (taken from Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report, 2025)	Potential in-combination effects on European sites
Leicestershire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2024)	Guides flood risk management within the county.	This management strategy was used to inform the Local Plan Policy ER06 which states that development will only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that it will not increase any form of flood risk on-site or elsewhere within the wider catchment, therefore it is unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Leicester and Leicestershire Tourism Growth Plan (2019)	Aims to improve the tourism sector in the County by improving services and therefore encouraging visitors.	This growth plan was used to inform the Local Plan Policy LST01, therefore it is unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Leicestershire Environment Strategy 2018 - 2030: delivering a better future	This Strategy sets out the council's vision, aims, objectives and targets which will be used to drive improved environmental performance. The scope of the Strategy covers both the council's own operations and also where it has control and influence within the county of Leicestershire.	This strategy supports improvements in environmental performance and is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Leicestershire Environment Strategy Action Plan 2025-2030	This document supports the LCC Environment Strategy for 2018-2030 (above) and outlines themes and timescales to achieve them, as well as the responsible parties. It is to be reviewed annually and updated with new projects and information.	This action plan supports improvements in environmental performance and is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.

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Action for Nature: A Strategic Approach to Biodiversity, Habitat and the Local Environment for Leicestershire County Council (2021)	This strategy builds on and supports the aims and objectives of the Environment Strategy. The report brings together the headlines from the various internal and external strategies and plans that touch on supporting and improving nature in Leicestershire as well providing clarity on the County Councils interactions with nature.	This document supports improvements in environmental performance and improvements for nature and is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Leicestershire Biodiversity Duty Plan 2024	The Plan addresses how the Council is currently addressing biodiversity aims and identifies actions to meet this where necessary.	This plan provides actions to improve biodiversity and is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Tree Management Strategy 2020-2025	The Strategy aims to emphasise the importance of its trees identify standards for management. This is will the aim of long-term conservation of Leicestershire forests.	This document gives information on appropriate tree management and is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Severn Trent draft Water Resource Management Plan 2024	All water companies in England and Wales need to publish their plans every five years under the Water Industry Act 1991. This is Severn Trent's fifth WRMP, following on from the previous version published in 2019. It is a plan that explains their proposals for making sure that enough water is available to supply to customers in an affordable and sustainable way over the next 25 years.	As stated in Policy IU02, the Environment Agency's Water Stressed Areas - Final Classification Report (2021) has identified the borough as 'seriously water stressed'. The policy states that developers are required to fund any additional sewerage infrastructure needed to accommodate flows arising from development. Severn Trent have identified several sewage treatment works that may face capacity pressures from growth, but it hasn't raised concerns over the ability to support future

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		demand. Applicants must engage with Severn Trent Water to identify water supply and wastewater infrastructure requirements and demonstrate that sufficient capacity exists or can be provided. Provided appropriate evidence is provided as part of planning application which clearly demonstrates this, it is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Midlands Connect	Midlands Connect Partnership and the Department for Transport have developed a transport strategy that identifies the major infrastructure projects needed to improve the connectivity of regions in the Midlands to drive economic growth.	Midlands Connect have been involved with the development of plans for Nuneaton Parkway (Policy PS03). The development of this new heavy rail station will alleviate pressure on the local and regional roads and will support more sustainable travel choices, contributing towards Net Zero targets. The main focus of the Midlands Connect transport strategy is on development of the rail network, with some improvements to existing road networks. The development of the rail network may reduce traffic emissions and in general, the Local Plan is compatible with this strategy. Therefore, both strategy and plan may reduce traffic emissions through development of the rail network and may therefore reduce any impact on nearby European sites from reductions in air quality.
A5 Partnership	Aims to develop an effective plan to remedy growth impacts affecting the A5 and make the case for	The A5 runs along the southern boundary of the HBBC Local Plan area. The Local Plan includes Policy PS02

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	future investment on improvements to tackle key congestion issues.	that identifies a potential development corridor for the Hinckley Western Link Road as part of improvements along the A5 corridor. The strategy produced by the A5 partnership aims to contribute to a low carbon A5 and improve air quality along the corridor as one of four key aims. The Hinckley Western Link Road is currently at an early concept stage therefore a fixed route has not been agreed. Any developments that prejudice the potential delivery of this scheme will be prevented. This includes fragmentation of land required for construction, mitigation or access, therefore it is unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Leicester & Leicestershire Housing & Economic Needs Assessment (2022)	Aims to assess future housing needs, the scale of future economic growth and quantity of land and floorspace required for economic development.	This document informed the housing need within the current HBBC Local Plan draft and is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Local		
Hinckley Town Centre Area Action Plan DPD 2011	Sets out the strategy for the future of the town centre and identifies sites for development.	The Local Plan will replace this document and is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.

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Agricultural Land Study: Land Quality in the Hinckley and Bosworth District 2020	Summarises desk study findings and details of land quality survey with their relevance to planning policy.	This study has been used to inform the Local Plan Policy NE10 and is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Bosworth Battlefield: The Way Forward 2013	A document for conservation of the historically significant area that takes development changes and the community into account.	This document supports the conservation of the historic environment and is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council District, Local and Neighbourhood Centre Review 2015	Review outlining the distribution of town centres, districts and populations in the Borough. Identifies facilities in urban areas, and urban centres facing high vacancy rates of residences and businesses. Considers where intervention may be necessary, in line with NPPF and local policies.	This document is a summary of the neighbourhood centres across the borough and is compatible with the Local Plan.
Infrastructure Capacity Study Phase 1 2020	Informs the preparation of the new Local Plan for the Borough through a baseline infrastructure capacity assessment, followed by an infrastructure delivery schedule highlighting areas for improvement.	These studies have been used to inform the Local Plan Policy PS05, PS19, PS20, PS21, PS22, IU01, and strategic site policies alongside more recent studies Infrastructure Capacity Study Phase 2 Addendum (2025) and Infrastructure Capacity Study Phase 3 & Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) (2026). They are therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Infrastructure Capacity Study Phase 2 2024	Informs the preparation of the new Local Plan, ensuring infrastructure delivery is properly guided and understood to maximise investment potential.	

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Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment 2016	Outlines expected population growth and accommodation needs in the Gypsy and Traveller Community	The Local Plan has been informed by the more recent Hinckley & Bosworth Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2026) (in preparation) which was an update to this assessment. It is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Heritage Strategy 2025-2029	Outlines visions for heritage and conservation in the borough and how it should contribute to the local area and community.	This document supports the conservation of the historic environment and is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Habitat Survey Report 2025	Provides a baseline habitat assessment of sites across the borough and outlines possible ecological constraints, to inform site allocations in the Local Plan.	This report provides background information to inform site allocations and is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Playing Pitch and Open Space Strategy 2025	Strategy outlining how facilities are to be monitored and maintained and where to implement provisions for quality improvements. Outlines capacity and surplus for sporting facilities and pitches across the borough.	The Open Space Assessment 2025 (below) was used to inform this strategy. Both documents were used to inform the Local Plan and are therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Open Space Assessment 2025	The Assessment contributes to informing the PPOSS (above) and provides details of open space provision, condition, distribution and quality. It gives direction on where prioritisation should be for investment and improvement of facilities.	This assessment has been used to inform the Local Plan where identification of open space within strategic and general development is required and is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.

Document	Summary of content, objectives and targets (taken from Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report, 2025)	Potential in-combination effects on European sites
Earl Shilton and Barwell Area Action Plan DPD 2014	Sets out the strategy for future development across the two settlements.	The Local Plan will replace this document and is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Market Bosworth Modified Neighbourhood Plan 2020-2039	Addresses the need for sustainable development within Market Bosworth parish. Recommends areas for future growth in the parish.	The policies within this plan are compatible with those in the Local Plan including inclusion of SuDS as provision for natural water management and flood resilience.
Green Space Strategy 2023 to 2033	This strategy identifies HBBC's Green Space priorities for the next 10 years, as well as providing advice to Town & Parish Councils to develop their own green spaces. The Strategy's vision is to enhance and enrich resident and visitor's lives through delivering quality green space with partnership and engagement with the community.	This strategy will ensure that green infrastructure is expanded to accommodate a larger population within the area, including an improvement in the Public Right of Way network and greater access to green spaces. This could result in in-combination effects through increased visitor numbers resulting in disturbance or physical damage on nearby European sites. This strategy is borough-wide however and would therefore provide opportunities for access to other areas of the borough away from the European sites, therefore it is unlikely to result in in-combination effects.

Document	Summary of content, objectives and targets (taken from Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report, 2025)	Potential in-combination effects on European sites
Green Infrastructure Strategy 2020	As a largely rural Borough, Hinckley & Bosworth is rich in GI assets of various kinds and has a valued landscape that gives the Borough its identity. Therefore, a strategic framework was needed to ensure that the existing GI network is protected, strengthened and expanded to deal with future challenges. The strategy aims to review the GI assets in the borough; identify where there are gaps in GI provision; and set out actions and interventions to enhance the GI assets. The Strategy also includes an emphasis on the importance of GI in responding to concerns over health, wellbeing and climate change resilience.	This strategy, as with the strategy above, will ensure that green infrastructure is expanded to accommodate a larger population within the area, including an improvement in the Public Right of Way network. This could result in in-combination effects through increased visitor numbers resulting in disturbance or physical damage on nearby European sites. This strategy is borough-wide however and would therefore provide opportunities for access to other areas of the borough away from the European sites, therefore it is unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Renewable Energy Capacity Study 2014	Examines the potential for the deployment of renewable energy and low carbon technologies within Hinckley & Bosworth. It identifies key opportunity areas for renewable and low carbon developments and develops and realistic borough specific renewable energy generation target.	This study was used to inform the previous Local Plan and it is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.

Document	Summary of content, objectives and targets (taken from Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report, 2025)	Potential in-combination effects on European sites
Hinckley & Bosworth Economic Regeneration Strategy 2021 -2025	Created to implement the Town Centre's Vision document, and provides objectives to promote the local economy, and increase the attractiveness of the area for businesses.	The updated Hinckley & Bosworth Economic Regeneration Strategy (2026-2029) has been used to inform the Local Plan and it is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Town Centre's Vision 2015	The vision sets out key opportunities to boost economic success and attractiveness, through the production of master plans and Investor Prospectuses to promote regeneration of town centres.	The vision in this document aligns with those in the Local Plan, it is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
The Good Design Guide SPD 2020	Developed as a practical and useful guide to design for all of the key parties involved in the planning process. The objective is to provide clarity to all involved, to save time, reduce confusion and ultimately raise the quality of design in the Borough. It is to form a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.	This guide aims to raise design quality and is compatible with the Local Plan. It is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Community, Cultural and Tourism Facilities Review	Provides evidence about the community in Hinckley & Bosworth, and cultural and tourism's provision within the urban and rural areas of the borough.	A review of current provisions for the community and tourists. The provision of new facilities for the community through this review combined with improved connection between facilities will could result in in-combination through increased visitor numbers resulting in disturbance or physical damage on nearby European sites. This review is borough-wide however and would

Document	Summary of content, objectives and targets (taken from Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report, 2025)	Potential in-combination effects on European sites
		therefore provide opportunities for access to other areas of the borough away from the European sites, therefore it is unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Affordable Housing SPD 2011	Forms part of Local Plan 2006-2026 and provides guidance and further detail relating to the council's policies 15, 16, and 17 of the adopted Core Strategy which relate to affordable housing, housing density and mix, and rural needs. This document facilitates the provision of affordable housing in the borough.	This document was used to inform the previous iteration of the Local Plan, therefore it is unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Burbage Village Design Statement	Forms part of Local Plan 2006-2026 and sets out principles, design features and quality standards that should be adopted by those wishing to build, modify or extend buildings in the settlement of Burbage.	This statement was used to inform the previous iteration of the Local Plan, therefore it is unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Ratby Village Design Statement	Forms part of Local Plan 2006-2026 and sets out principles, design features and quality standards that should be adopted by those wishing to build, modify or extend buildings in the settlement of Ratby.	This statement was used to inform the previous iteration of the Local Plan, therefore it is unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Rural Needs SPD	Forms part of Local Plan 2006-2026 and provides supplementary guidance to policy 17. The key objectives of the SPD are to set out an approach to the provision of housing in rural areas, give further	This document was used to inform the previous iteration of the Local Plan, therefore it is unlikely to result in in-combination effects.

Document	Summary of content, objectives and targets (taken from Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report, 2025)	Potential in-combination effects on European sites
	guidance on economic development in rural areas, and give support for the provision of community facilities in rural areas.	
Hinckley Town Centre Strategic Development Transport Contributions SPD	Forms part of Local Plan 2006-2026 and outlines a list of highway and public transport improvements which would be needed in the town centre if major development went ahead, and suggests contributions that developers should pay to finance these improvements.	This document was used to inform the previous iteration of the Local Plan, therefore it is unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Play and Open Space Developer Contributions SPD	Forms part of Local Plan 2006-2026 and provides guidance for planning permission applicants on what level of financial contribution will be required to pay for the provision of play facilities and/or open spaces.	This document was used to inform the previous iteration of the Local Plan, therefore it is unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Hinckley & Bosworth Town and District Centres Study 2017	Forms part of Local Plan 2006-2026 and forms a clear strategy for Hinckley & Bosworth's network of town and district centres to ensure that they remain attractive, vibrant centres over the course of the Plan period, and are able to meet local resident's shopping, leisure, services and cultural needs.	This study was used to inform the previous iteration of the Local Plan, therefore it is unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Joint Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	The strategic flood risk assessment (SFRA) provides a comprehensive and robust evidence base on issues of flood risk to support the	These two assessments have been used to inform Policy PS05 Housing Development Sites and strategic site policies ensuring a site-specific flood risk assessment is

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Level 1 (2025) and Level 2 (2020)	production of the Local Plan to 2045. The SFRA will be used inform decisions on the location of future development and the preparation of sustainable policies for the long-term management of flood risk. The level 2 SFRA is an assessment of flood risk of a number of sites that have been submitted to the Borough Council for consideration for the location of future development. This document should be considered in conjunction with the level 1 SFRA (published in 2025).	completed as part of any planning application and appropriate mitigation is implemented in accordance with the SFRA. This assessment is compatible with the Local Plan and it is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Authority Monitoring Report 2019 - 2020	The AMR provides information on the implementation of the LDS. The report provides information on the extent to which policies, as set out in Local Plan 2006 to 2026 documents, are being achieved, during the period 1 April to 31 March each year.	Delivery of the needs of the Local Plan will be monitored through the Authority Monitoring Report. This report is compatible with the Local Plan and it is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Strategic Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (2022)	Key component of the evidence required to support the delivery of sufficient land in suitable locations, aiming to create sustainable and mixed communities in line with government objectives.	This assessment and the 2024 update of this assessment were used to inform the policies for general housing development sites (both strategic and non-strategic sites) and existing employment areas within the Local Plan. It is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.

Document	Summary of content, objectives and targets (taken from Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report, 2025)	Potential in-combination effects on European sites
Green Wedge Review 2011 (2020 update)	Assesses the two existing green wedges within the Borough known as Rothley Brook Meadow Green Wedge and Hinckley/Barwell/Earl Shilton/Burbage Green Wedge and its aim is to assist the council in determining boundaries.	An updated review of the Green Wedges (2025 and 2026) across the borough has been used to inform the Local Plan. These are compatible with the Local Plan and it is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Landscape Character Assessment (2017)	Provides an understanding of the landscape, it's evolution and future pressures. It recommends future management strategies which will help ensure the unique qualities and sensitive areas are protected, and enhanced where there is opportunity to do so.	This assessment is compatible with the Local Plan and it is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Employment Land and Premises Review (2020)	Assesses the supply, need and demand for employment land and premises (B use classes) in the borough. Main elements to the study include review of scale and distribution of employment land; consideration of economic impact of key policy decisions; review of economic growth forecasts; assessment of the Borough's economy; and projection of employment land and premises requirements by scale, sector and nature until 2026.	An updated Employment Land and Premises Review was undertaken in 2024. This review incorporates an employment land availability assessment and employment needs assessment and was used to inform the Local Plan. It covers the same elements as the previous 2020 iteration and it is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
2023 Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR)	Provides an overview of air quality in the Borough of Hinckley & Bosworth during 2023. The Annual Status Report did not identify any exceedances of the Air Quality Objectives based on the	This report is compatible with the Local Plan, with LAQM reports being used to inform Policy HPD04 Preventing

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	assessment criteria in Local Air Quality Management Technical Guidance LAQM (TG16). In line with national trends levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) continue a steady decline	Pollution within the Local Plan. It is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Hinckley & Bosworth Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2022 to 2025	The strategy outlines a strategic framework to inform the Borough Council's approach to preventing homelessness, in all its forms, and to address the causes of homelessness.	This strategy is compatible with the Local Plan and is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Community Safety Strategy 2023-2026	The Hinckley & Bosworth and Blaby Community Safety Partnership have identified the following priorities: - Protecting and supporting people - Preventing and reducing serious violence - Reducing offending and re-offending The Community Safety Strategy is a three-year plan developed through public consultation and analysis of crime and disorder in the borough.	This strategy is compatible with the Local Plan and is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council Anti-Social Behaviour Policy 2022	Provides objectives surrounding a management and prevention strategy for Anti-Social behaviour.	This policy is compatible with the Local Plan and is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.

Document	Summary of content, objectives and targets (taken from Hinckley & Bosworth Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal: Scoping Report, 2025)	Potential in-combination effects on European sites
Hinckley & Bosworth Climate Change and Biodiversity Strategy 2024 to 2028	This strategy sets out the actions and opportunities that HBBC will undertake to continue to address the climate change emergency. It provides a list of actions to reduce the impact that activities in the borough are having on climate change, including raising awareness, increasing the use of renewable energy and reducing carbon dioxide emissions.	This strategy is compatible with climate change and nature recovery objectives within the Local Plan and is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.
Hinckley & Bosworth Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2023 - 2026	Created to tackle the council's priorities for improving the borough, which were creating a thriving local economy, keeping everyone safe, enabling good health for residents, giving children a good start and supporting those most in need.	This plan is compatible with health and wellbeing objectives within the Local Plan and is therefore unlikely to result in in-combination effects.

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