HILLINGDON
LONDON

Screening for Appropriate Assessment

2014 Local Plan Part 2

Development Management Policies and Site Allocations

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HILLINGDON
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Contents

1. Introduction

1.1. What is Appropriate Assessment?

1.1.1. In October 2005, the European Court of Justice ruled that the UK had not been properly assessing the impacts of land use plans on European conservation sites. As a result the UK Habitat Regulations were amended to include the following requirement:

> *Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives.*

1.1.2. The London Borough of Hillingdon is therefore required to ensure that its Part 2 of the Local Plan does not have a significant effect on any of the following:

- Special Protection Areas (SPA)
- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- Candidate Special Protection Areas (cSPA)
- Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSAC)
- Sites of Community Importance (SCI)
- Ramsar Sites

1.1.3. These sites are collectively known as Natura 2000 sites except for Ramsar sites which are designated through different legislation. For the purposes of this report, they will be collectively known as 'designated sites'. If significant effects to these designated sites are deemed likely, the Council must undertake an appropriate assessment of the relevant plan.

1.2. Background to Local Plan Part 2 and Appropriate Assessment

1.2.1. Part 1 of Hillingdon's Local Plan (formerly the 'Core Strategy') was adopted in 2011. This Plan was subjected to a screening for appropriate assessment. The conclusion reached by the London Borough of Hillingdon in consultation with Natural England was that the Plan did not need to be subjected to

appropriate assessment.

1.2.2. Part 2 of the Local Plan ('Part 2) provides more detailed policies as to how the vision of Part 1 will be delivered. In addition, it includes the site allocations that reflect the broad strategic locations for new development identified in Part 1.

1.2.3. Part 2 is a separate Development Plan Document and therefore needs to be considered separately with regards to the Habitat Regulations. However, it is acknowledged that Part 2 is effectively a more detailed plan that follows the strategic Part 1. In that respect, Part 2 is entirely constrained by the framework set by Part 1 and the appropriate assessment screening must give consideration to this.

1.3. Purpose of this Report

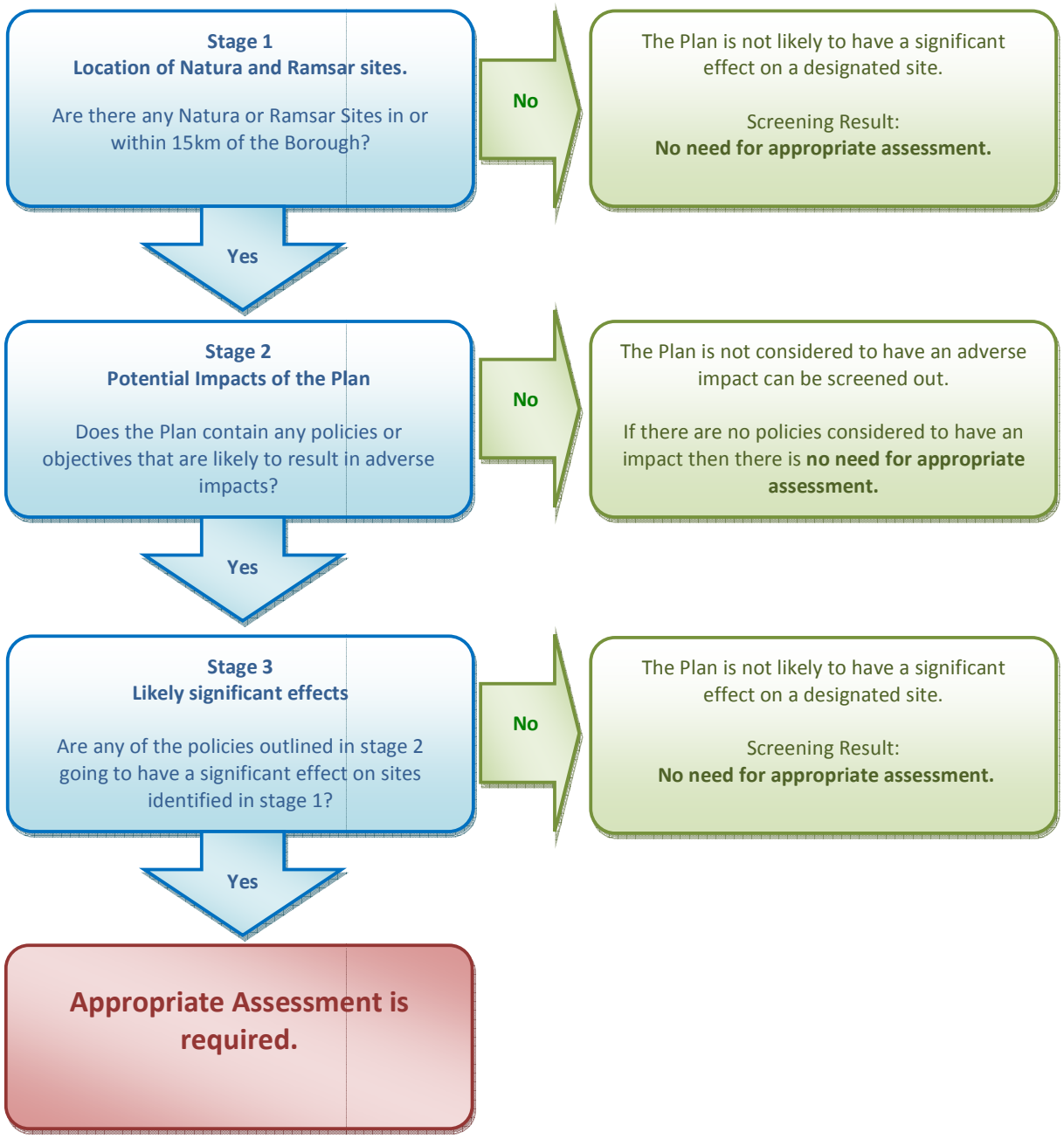
1.3.1. An appropriate assessment will only be required if Part 2 is considered to have an effect on European Designated sites. Although there are no European Sites within the London Borough of Hillingdon there are several within 15 km of the boundary. There is a potential for further growth to undermine conservation objectives associated with these European sites.

1.3.2. The purpose of this report is to determine the need for a full appropriate assessment. It comprises the screening stage of the appropriate assessment process and makes a determination on whether the Plan is likely to have a significant effect on a European site. This screening report will be sent to Natural England for comment before a final agreement on the need for appropriate assessment is confirmed.

1.3.3. If this screening process determines that significant adverse effects are anticipated, then full appropriate assessment will be required. This will be undertaken in consultation with Natural England if necessary.

2. Methodology

2.1.1. There are a number of necessary steps to investigate before the assessment of likely significant effects can be made. The flow chart below outlines these 4 stages of the screening process. The methodology is set out in relation to each of the numbered stages.



2.2. Stage 1: Location of Natura and Ramsar Sites

2.2.1. The first stage of the assessment process is to decide if there are any relevant designated sites within close proximity with the potential to be effected.

2.2.2. This report uses a similar methodology to the London Plan in assessing how to select the relevant European Sites. The location criteria used in the London Plan was based on criteria recommended by Natural England. This assessed European Designated sites within 10km of the boundary of Greater London. It is considered that impacts beyond this zone become dispersed and less likely to be significant in the context of the Habitats Directive.

2.3. Stage 2: Possible Impacts of Part 2

2.3.1. Part 2 is a spatial plan which aims to provide detailed policies to deliver sustainable communities. Importantly, it includes specific sites which are favoured for the location of growth.

2.3.2. Part 2 provides a framework for delivering new development and effectively encourages new development and influences its location although as it has to deliver the vision of Part 1, there is no change to the quantum of development. Part 2 will therefore facilitate an increase in new development which has the potential to generate adverse impacts on designated sites. It is therefore necessary to determine the scope of these impacts and the extent to which they are significant. The table below outlines the methodology and criteria for determining effects.

Criteria for Assessing Effects	
No Negative Effect *Reason why policy or allocation will have no negative effect*	
A1	Options / policies that will not themselves lead to development e.g. because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria for development, or it is not a land use planning policy
A2	Options / policies intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity
A3	Options / policies intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any negative effect on a European Site

A4	Options / policies that positively steer development away from European Sites and associated sensitive areas
A5	Options / policies that could have no effect because no development could occur through the policy itself, the development being implemented through later policies in the same plan, which are more specific and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects on European Sites and associated sensitive areas
No significant effect *Reason why policy could have a potential effect*	
B	Elements of the plan / options that could have an effect, but the likelihood is there would be no significant negative effect on a European Site either alone or in combination with other elements of the same plan, or other plans or projects
Significant Effect *The policy makes provision for a quantum, or kind of development or land use that in the location(s) proposed would be likely to have a significant effect on a European Site. The proposal must be subject to appropriate assessment to establish, in light of the site's conservation objectives, whether it can be ascertained that the proposal would not adversely affect the integrity of the site.*	
C	Likely significant effect alone
D	Likely significant effects in combination

2.4. Stage 3: Likely Significant Effects

2.4.1. If there are sites within close proximity to the borough and Part 2 is considered to have potential impacts, then it is necessary to develop a method to define 'significant effects'. Standard environmental assessment uses the following principal to assess an effect:

Nature and Scale of Impact

x

Sensitivity of Receptor

=

Significance of Effect

2.5. Nature and Scale of Impact

2.5.1. This report adopts the same methodology as the Sustainability Appraisal for assessing significant effects. It is a standard environmental assessment approach which uses the following criteria to define the extent and magnitude of an impact:

- Effect duration (whether short, medium or long term)
- Effect nature (whether direct or indirect, reversible or irreversible)
- Whether the impact occurs in isolation, is cumulative or interactive
- Performance against environmental quality standards or other relevant pollution control thresholds
- Compatibility with environmental policies

2.6. Sensitivity of Receptor

2.6.1. For the purposes of this report, the receptor is the conservation site with an international designation. It considers the conservation objectives for the site, the current status and it's reasoning for being designated. The sensitivity of the receptor is specific to the designated site.

2.7. Significance of Effect

2.7.1. The significance of the effect is ranked using the following criteria giving consideration to the factors outlined in 2.3.2:

Symbol	Likely Effect on the SA Objective
+ +	A likely Significantly positive effect
+	A likely positive effect
0	No significant effect or clear link
-	A likely negative effect
- -	A likely Significantly negative effect

3. Stage 1: Location of Natura and Ramsar Sites

3.1.1. The two tables below show the Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites within 15km of the London Borough of Hillingdon.

Natura and Ramsar sites within 10km and considered for assessment

Site	Designation	Distance from LB Hillingdon
South West London Waterbodies SPA/Ramsar • King George VI Reservoir • Wraysbury Reservoir • Staines Moor Reservoir • Wraysbury and Hythe Gravel Pits • Wraysbury Number 1 Gravel Pit	SPA Ramsar	0.5+ km
Windsor Forest and Great Park	SAC	6.5 km
Richmond Park	SAC	8.5 km
Burnham Beeches	SAC	9.0 km

Natura and Ramsar sites within 15km but over 10km and screened out of needing further assessment

Sites within 15km but screened out due to their distance from the Borough		
Site	**Designation**	**Distance from LB Hillingdon**
Thames Basin Heaths	SPA	11.5 km
Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham Commons	SAC	11.5 km
Wimbledon Common	SPA	12.5 km
SAC	**Special Area of Conservation**	
SPA	**Special Protection Area**	
Ramsar	**Named after location of first Convention on Wetlands (Ramsar, Iran, 1971)**	

3.1.2. The sites considered for the assessment are detailed below

South West London Waterbodies	Distance	Designation Type	Designation Ref
	0.5+ km	SPA	UK9012171
		Ramsar	UK11065
Qualifying	The European site and Ramsar site comprise of a series of seven embanked water		

Habitat Features	supply reservoirs and former gravel pits that support a range of man-made and semi-natural open water habitats. The reservoirs and gravel pits function as important feeding and roosting sites for wintering wildfowl. These habitats support internationally important populations of gadwall and shoveler. For this reason the South West London Waterbodies are designated as a SPA and a Ramsar site.
Qualifying Species Features	Northern shoveler (Anas clypeata) and gadwall (Anas strepera) occur at levels of international importance. The site also supports nationally important numbers of great crested grebe (Podiceps cristatus cristatus), great cormorant (Phalacrocorax carbo carbo) and tufted duck (Aythya fuligula).
Current Condition and Threats	Future decommissioning of reservoirs and maintenance works requiring reservoir draw-down. Recreational and development pressures have potential implications.
Result of Latest Survey	There are 7 SSSIs that form part of the South West London Waterbodies SPA/Ramsar within 10 km of the plan area, of which Kempton Park Reservoir, Knight and Bessborough Reservoirs, Wraysbury Reservoir and Thorpe Park No. 1 Gravel Pit are in 100% favourable condition. The condition of the other SSSIs are: Langham Pond: 63% favourable and 37% unfavourable recovering Wraysbury and Hythe End Gravel Pits: 85% favourable and 15% unfavourable recovering Wraysbury No. 1 Gravel Pit: 100% unfavourable declining.
Key Ecosystem Factors	• Water area • Water depth • Extent and distribution of habitat • Food availability • Vegetation characteristics • Population size of species

Windsor Forest and Great Park	Distance	Designation Type	Designation Ref
	6.5km	SAC	SAC UK0012586
Qualifying Habitat Features	**Primary Reason for Selection:** Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains. The site is one of only four known outstanding localities in the UK and has the largest number of veteran oaks Quercus spp. in Britain. It is of importance for its range and diversity of saproxylic invertebrate fauna, including many rare species only known in the UK at this site. **Secondary Reason for Selection:** The significant presence of Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion robori-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion).		
Qualifying	**Primary Reason for Selection:**		

Species Features	The habitat for Violet click beetle Limoniscus violaceus. Windsor Forest and Great Park is the site of the first record of the species, and is thought to support the largest of the three known outstanding populations in the UK. Due to the population of ancient trees and historical continuity of woodland cover the site is listed as the most important in the UK for fauna associated with decaying timber on ancient trees. The site is also considered to potentially be of international importance for its saproxylic invertebrate fauna.
Current Condition and Threats	Management practices are a threat to both the oak woodland and invertebrate fauna with habitat availability an additional pressure upon the invertebrate fauna. The presence of invertebrate species interest is dependent upon a continuous supply of very old and decaying trees.
Result of Latest Survey	The condition of Windsor Forest and Great Park SSSI is predominantly unfavourable recovering (54%) with 46% in favourable condition.
Key Ecosystem Factors	• Extent • Species • Population size of species • Number of veteran oak species • Quantity and size of fallen and decaying timber

Richmond Park	Distance	Designation Type	Designation Ref
	8.5km	SAC	SAC UK0030246
Qualifying Habitat Features	N/A		
Qualifying Species Features	The habitat for Stag Beetle Lucanus cervus. Richmond Park has a large number of ancient trees with decaying timber. It is at the heart of the south London centre of distribution for stag beetle, and is a site of national importance for the conservation of the fauna of invertebrates associated with the decaying timber of ancient trees.		
Current Condition and Threats	Due to its location in a densely populated urban area, the site experiences heavy recreational pressure.		
Result of Latest Survey	The condition of Richmond Park SSSI is predominantly unfavourable no change (86%), with 8% unfavourable recovering and 6% favourable.		
Key Ecosystem Factors	• Quantity of decaying timber of ancient trees • Condition and position of fallen timber • Species • Population size of species • Species, habitats, structures characteristic of the site.		

Burnham Beeches	Distance	Designation Type	Designation Re
	9.0km	SAC	SAC UK0030034
Qualifying Habitat Features	**Primary Reason for Selection:** Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion robori-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion) Burnham Beeches is an extensive area of former beech wood-pasture with many old pollards and associated beech Fagus sylvatica and oak Quercus spp. high forest. Surveys have shown that it is one of the richest sites for saproxylic invertebrates in the UK, including 14 Red Data Book species. The site also retains nationally important epiphytic communities, including the moss Zygodon forsteri.		
Qualifying Species Features	NA		
Current Condition and Threats	The site is potentially under pressure from adjacent land-uses, in particular mineral workings which have the potential to lead to changes in atmospheric dust and hydrological regime in the locality. Aerial pollutants also pose a threat to the site, with ambient levels of sulphur and nitrogen oxides in the area indicating that Environment Agency criteria levels for sensitive vegetation are being exceeded.		
Result of Latest Survey	The condition of Burnham Beeches SSSI is predominantly in favourable condition (63%) with 37% in unfavourable recovering condition.		
Key Ecosystem Factors	• Extent • Woodland structure • Presence of mature tree species • Species		

4. Stage 2: Possible Impacts of Part 2

4.1. Assessment of Impacts

4.1.1. Part 2 is made of two distinct sections. The first contains the development management policies. The second contains the site allocations that will deliver the strategic policies and targets set out in Part 1.

4.1.2. All the designated sites are outside the Borough boundary and therefore any impacts will be indirect. It is therefore possible to narrow down the potential impacts to those listed in the following table. These were set out in the Part 1 screening assessment.

Indirect Impact	Specifics
Air Quality	Increased pollution from human activity including industrial processes
	Increased emissions from transportation
Water Resources	Increased discharges putting pressure on existing consents, particularly from sewage
	Increased water consumption generating further draw down and greater chances of drought
Increased Human Interference	Population growth could lead to greater number of human visits to sites increasing the pressure on the conservation objectives

4.2. Development Management Policies

4.2.1. These policies will manage development and don't in themselves direct or encourage development to sensitive locations beyond those set out in Part 1. As a consequence it is not considered that they will increase the likelihood of adverse impacts beyond those assessed in the screening of Appropriate Assessment for Part 1.

4.2.2. Furthermore, Policies DMEI 13, DMEI 14-16, and DMEI 18, the London Plan and Part 1 policies ensure there will be appropriate management of air

quality and water resources in new development. This enables Part 2 to reduce impacts from new development. These policies combined with the lack of designated sites within the borough reduce the likelihood of the Policies themselves having a likely negative impact.

4.2.3. It is therefore considered that the development management policies all fall within categories A1-A5 shown in the table 'Criteria for Assessing Effects' (para 2.3.2). The policies included within Part 2 of the Local Plan are unlikely to have negative adverse effects. There is no need to undertake a stage 3 assessment of the policies.

4.3. Site Allocations

4.3.1. Part 2 includes a number of site allocations. These specific sites are a natural progression from the broad strategic locations identified within Part 1. In terms of housing, there is no change in the quantum of development and in terms of employment there is more detail about the specific sites chosen to facilitate growth. Nonetheless, the conclusion from the Part 1 assessment found that the broad locations for development would not, in isolation, have a likely adverse impact on designated sites. This conclusion was largely a result of having no designated sites in the borough.

4.3.2. The Part 1 assessment however, did find that the cumulative impact of the development being encouraged by the Plan could have a negative impact on designated sites. The screening assessment for Part 1 found:

> *The Local Development Framework [Part 1] steers a quantum or type of development or other land use towards, or encourages development or other land uses in, an area that includes a European Site or an area where development may indirectly affect a European site.*

4.3.3. The cumulative total of all the development coming forward could therefore be considered to have a negative effect. This was the conclusion reached for the screening assessment in Part 1. It found that Part 1 will result in more people being introduced to the borough and the increase in industrial and commercial operations with associated activities such as additional traffic and increased water consumption could have negative transient impacts.

4.3.4. Although the Site Allocations in Part 2 do not instigate growth beyond that

appraised in Part 1, it is nonetheless necessary to review the screening assessment now that the location of sites is known. The site allocations themselves do not warrant a Stage 3 assessment by virtue of having no direct impacts on designated sites. The cumulative total of development encouraged by Part 1 and now detailed in Part 2 does require a Stage 3 assessment.

4.4. Summary

The table below summarises the findings from the Stage 2 assessment for the relevant sections of Part 2.

Section of Plan	Stage 1 - Location of Designated Sites	Stage 2 - Potential Adverse Effects	Stage 3 - Likely Significant Effects
Development Management Policies	✓	✗	✗
Site Allocations	✓	✗	✗
Cumulative Impacts from Site Allocations	✓	✓	***See next chapter***

5. Stage 3: Likely Significant Effects

5.1. Introduction

5.1.1. This screening process has identified 3 likely negative impacts from the accumulation of development promoted by Part 2. This stage will consider whether these negative impacts are likely to have a significant effect on the Natura and Ramsar sites identified in Stage 1. The three impacts are:

- Air Quality
- Water Resources
- Increased Human Interference

5.1.2. These impacts have been assessed against the 4 designated sites identified in Stage 1. This is a review of the Part 1 assessment. The only difference between Part 1 and 2 is the level of detail available. For example, the spatial vision for Part 1 encouraged the Bath Road corridor (immediately north of Heathrow Airport) as an area for growth in hotels and areas around the Crossrail Station in Hayes for growth in commercial, industrial and residential; Part 2 provides more detail about where these sites will go in the broad locations. There is no material change between Part 1 and 2.

5.1.3. The following therefore sets out the conclusions from Part 1 with the addition of an update.

5.2. South West London Waterbodies

Assessment	
Air Quality	**Proximity to Air Quality Management Area** The site is in close proximity to Heathrow Airport and an area designated as an Air Quality Management Area. Further development will be directed towards the Heathrow Opportunity Area and this will be assessed in more detail through the Heathrow Opportunity Area planning document. There are no longer plans for a third runway at Heathrow and therefore the Core Strategy is based upon the existing extent of approved airport operations. The Heathrow area will be a focus for future development by the Council although the existing air quality problems are acknowledged. Consequently, Policy EM8 of the Core Strategy along with London Plan policies seek to reduce the existing air

	quality problems as well as minimising future impacts. **Condition of Site** The majority of the sites that make up the South West London Waterbodies are in a favourable condition. This suggests that the sites are not susceptible to existing poor air quality in the south of the Borough. The Core Strategy and the London Plan have made commitments to reduce the existing air quality problems and ensuring new development does not worsen them. Due to the nature of the site and their reason for designation, it is not considered likely that the Core Strategy will have a significant effect. At this stage of the Core Strategy it is not possible to fully determine the extent of air quality impacts on the site although any impacts are likely to be minimal. It is likely that the Heathrow Opportunity Development Plan Document will require further assessment under the Habitat Directive.
Water Resources	**Increase in Water Demand** The Core Strategy will facilitate the delivery of new housing in the Borough to serve a growing population. As a consequence water demand will also rise if left unchecked. The West London Waterbodies are primarily water storage sites which are designated for their attraction to certain species of flocking birds. Policy EM1 of the Core Strategy and A4.16 of the London Plan require new development to manage and use water more efficiently. The additional development in the Borough is likely to result in an increase in water demand. This is likely to have a negative effect on the Waterbodies, however these effects are not considered to have a significant long term lasting effect. **Condition of Site** The screening for appropriate assessment of the Spelthorne Core Strategy stated: *Evidence based on the last draining of the Staines North reservoir in 2004 suggests that as water levels decrease the large areas of shallow food–rich water become more popular as feeding grounds and attract huge numbers of many species including Gadwall and Shoveler. In contrast numbers declined significantly as recharge took place. A general lowering of water levels in all the reservoirs as a result of heavy demand or prolonged drought is unlikely to occur during the winter months when the Gadwall and Shoveler are present and would only have a significant effect if levels dropped below an acceptable range identified in the conservation objectives.(Spelthorne, 2007)* This evidence suggests that the site is not overly sensitive to the reduction in water levels. Furthermore, the designation is due to flocking birds that use the site primarily in the winter when water levels are likely to be higher.
Increased Human Interference	The majority of the sites within the West London Waterbodies have either restricted, or no public access, because of their water storage function. Some of the non designated sites are in private ownership with no public access while others have unrestricted public access for a range of formal or informal recreation activities.

	There are no supporting wildlife areas within close proximity within the borough.

Short Term (5 years)	Medium Term (10 years)	Long Term (15 years)
0	-	-

Part 1 **Result Summary**	In the short term the Core Strategy is likely to have a negligible effect on the West London Waterbodies. However, over time the impact on water demand may have a slight negative effect. This is unlikely to be significant but will require monitoring through the Annual Monitoring Report and in partnership with the Environment Agency.
Part 2 **Update**	The conclusion from the Part 1 assessment remains valid. The water resources impacts have not changed, nor has the sensitivity of the receptor. Furthermore, the Policies include additional water management control to reduce the impact from the Borough. Part 2 contains no proposals for the expansion of Heathrow Airport and includes a significant focus on improving air quality and not just ensuring no additional impacts.
Conclusion	**Part 2 is unlikely to have a significant effect**

5.3. Windsor Forest and Great Park

Assessment	
Air Quality	The site has not been identified as being particularly sensitive to adverse air quality. It is situated 6.5km to the south west of the Borough. Prevailing winds come from a south westerly direction. It is likely that any harmful pollutants will be dispersed prior to impacting on the site. Furthermore, policies within the Core Strategy aim to help improve the existing air quality as well as ensuring new development does not have an adverse impact. The site is not considered to be sensitive to the Air Quality impacts of the Core Strategy due to prevailing wind direction and the distance from the borough
Water Resources	The site is considered too far from the London Borough of Hillingdon for any future increase in water consumption to have an impact on drawdown in the location of Windsor Forest and Great Park. Policy EM1 will ensure that further developments use water efficiently, further reducing the impacts on water quantity. Further policies on protecting the quality of ground water will help to ensure there will be no adverse impacts from polluted or contaminated water resources. The site is not considered to be sensitive to the impacts of the Core Strategy on water quality or quantity.
Increased Human	The park actively encourages visitors to the park in order to attract funds for further management work. The site is over 5km outside of the Borough boundary

Interference	and public transport links are not as good as movement throughout the borough. The site is not considered to be sensitive to the population increase facilitated by the Core Strategy.

Short Term (5 years)	Medium Term (10 years)	Long Term (15 years)
0	**0**	**0**

Part 1 **Result Summary**	The Core Strategy is likely to have a negligible effect on the Windsor Forest and Great Park. The direct access will not result in significantly increased numbers in visitors and any increase is likely to be welcomed to attract further funding. The Site is too far and in the opposite direction to the prevailing wind and therefore Air Quality impacts are not likely to have any significant effect. Over time, the Core Strategy will facilitate improved air quality further reducing any adverse impacts. The site is not considered sensitive to the water demands of the London Borough of Hillingdon.
Part 2 **Update**	The conclusion from the Part 1 assessment remains valid. Water resources, air quality and increased human interference remains unlikely to have an impact on this designated site. The inclusion of policies to improve open spaces within the Borough will reduce the demand for location further afield.
Conclusion	**Part 2 is unlikely to have a significant effect**

5.4. Richmond Park

Assessment	
Air Quality	The site has not been identified as being particularly sensitive to adverse air quality. It is situated 6.5km to the south west of the Borough. Prevailing winds come from a south westerly direction. It is likely that any harmful pollutants will be dispersed prior to impacting on the site. Furthermore, policies within the Core Strategy aim to help improve the existing air quality as well as ensuring new development does not have an adverse impact. The site is not considered to be sensitive to the Air Quality impacts of the Core Strategy due to prevailing wind direction and the distance from the borough
Water Resources	The site is considered too far from the London Borough of Hillingdon for any future increase in water consumption to have an impact on drawdown in the location of Richmond Park. The site is primarily designated due to its ability to support an invertebrate population due to decaying ancient woodland. The site is not considered to be sensitive to decreasing water levels although extremes are likely to pose a threat. Policy EM1 will ensure that further developments use water efficiently, further reducing the impacts on water quantity. Further policies on protecting the quality of ground water will help to ensure

	there will be no adverse impacts from polluted or contaminated water resources. The site is not considered to be sensitive to the impacts of the Core Strategy on water quality or quantity.
Increased Human Interference	The park actively encourages visitors to the park in order to attract funds for further management work. The site is nearly 10km outside of the Borough boundary and public transport links are not as good as movement throughout the borough. The site is not considered to be sensitive to the population increase facilitated by the Core Strategy.

Short Term (5 years)	**Medium Term (10 years)**	**Long Term (15 years)**
0	**0**	**0**

Part 1 Result Summary	The Core Strategy is likely to have a negligible effect on Richmond Park. Air Quality impacts from the borough are not considered to be effecting the site currently, which is designated largely to its decaying trees and the support for protected invertebrate. Over time the Core Strategy will facilitate the improvement of air quality further reducing the possibility of adverse impacts. The Core Strategy aims to improve access to green spaces within the Borough reducing the likelihood of direct impacts of residents on Richmond Park. Any slight increase in water demand is unlikely to impact on Richmond Park.
Part 2 Update	The conclusion from the Part 1 assessment remains valid. Water resources, air quality and increased human interference remains unlikely to have an impact on this designated site. The inclusion of policies to improve open spaces within the Borough will reduce the demand for location further afield.
Conclusion	**Part 2 is unlikely to have a significant effect**

5.5. Burnham Beeches

Assessment	
Air Quality	The site is situated 9km to the south west of the Borough. Although the site is considered to be sensitive to air pollutants Prevailing winds come from a south westerly direction. It is likely that any harmful pollutants will be dispersed prior to impacting on the site. Furthermore, policies within the Core Strategy aim to help improve the existing air quality as well as ensuring new development does not have an adverse impact. The site is not considered to be sensitive to the Air Quality impacts of the Core Strategy due to prevailing wind direction and the distance from the borough
Water Resources	The site is considered too far from the London Borough of Hillingdon for any future increase in water consumption to have an impact on drawdown in the location of Burnham Beeches.

	Policy EM1 will ensure that further developments use water efficiently, further reducing the impacts on water quantity. Further policies on protecting the quality of ground water will help to ensure there will be no adverse impacts from polluted or contaminated water resources. The site is not considered to be sensitive to the impacts of the Core Strategy on water quality or quantity.
Increased Human Interference	The site is considered to be sensitive to adjacent land uses. These are outside the Borough boundary and therefore not within the scope of this screening. The Core Strategy will deliver increased access to green spaces throughout Council boundary further reducing the likelihood of residents traveling 9km west of the Borough. The increase in housing numbers may generate more visitors to the site, however, these numbers are not considered to have a likely impact on the site.

Short Term (5 years)	**Medium Term (10 years)**	**Long Term (15 years)**
0	**+**	**+**

Result Summary	The impacts of water demand and human interference resulting from the Core Strategy is considered to be negligible. However, Burnham Beeches is most susceptible to Air Quality. The site is currently situated in the opposite direction to the prevailing wind and close to areas of superior air quality within the Borough. Over time, the Core Strategy will further reduce the impacts on air quality which is more likely to result in positive impacts on Burnham Beeches than negative.
Part 2 Update	The conclusion from the Part 1 assessment remains valid. Water resources, air quality and increased human interference remains unlikely to have an impact on this designated site. The inclusion of policies to improve open spaces within the Borough will reduce the demand for location further afield.
Conclusion	**Part 2 is unlikely to have a significant effect**

6. Conclusions

6.1.1. Under the requirements of the Habitats Directive any plan or project needs to have its impacts on Natura 2000 and Ramsar assessed in accordance with the Habitats Directive. This report uses three stages to investigate the likely effects of Part 2 of the Local Plan.

- Stage 1: Identify Natura and Ramsar Sites
- Stage 2: Assess the likely impacts of Part
- Stage 3: Identify Significant Environmental Effects

6.1.2. Stage 1 identified several designated sites relevant to the Habitats Directive. Three of these were screened out due to their distance from Borough and four were considered in more detail.

6.1.3. Stage 2 of the assessment considered the development management policies in Part 2 and found that these did not encourage, promote or direct development towards areas that would have negative impact on designated sites beyond that appraised in Part 1. Furthermore, Part 2 contains further detailed policies to manage impacts from new development further reducing the likelihood of adverse impacts.

6.1.4. Stage 2 also considered the specific site allocations. These allocations provide the details sites to deliver the vision set out in Part 1. The sites in isolation are not considered to have a direct impact on designated sites. This reflects the conclusions from the Part 1 assessment.

6.1.5. However, the cumulative impacts of all the development allocations could combine to have negative impacts on designated sites. This also reflects the conclusion of Part 1. It was therefore necessary to review the previous assessment to determine whether there has been any changes to the receptors (designated sites) or the source of impacts (detailed site allocations as opposed to a broader spatial strategy). The assessment has found that the original conclusions remain valid by virtue of there being no material change in either the receptors or the source of impacts.

6.1.6. As a consequence, this screening assessment has found that there is no need for an appropriate assessment.