Sites of Regional/Local Importance

2.4.89 Sites of regional/local importance include Local Nature Reserves (LNRs), Non-Statutory Nature Reserves, and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation.

A Local Nature Reserve is designated at Brocton (Cannock Chase).

2.4.90 A large number of non-statutory sites of biological and geological interest were identified in the County Biological Survey. A full list of those currently identified within the Borough is provided in the Technical Appendix but it can be anticipated this information is subject to change.

2.4.91 English Nature have carried out survey work that identified some 40 ancient woodlands in a provisional Countryside inventory in 1989, and 5 lowland heathland sites. The latter includes the single largest block remaining in the West Midlands Region - Cannock Chase High Plateau identified in its “Lowland Heathlands of Staffordshire” 1990 report. The heathland site area within Stafford Borough amounts to 715 ha, 41% of the County total.

2.4.92 The protection and management of both statutory and non-statutory nature conservation sites is an important policy objective. Advice will be sought from English Nature, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and Staffordshire County Council, on any proposal affecting or likely to affect such areas.

POLICY E & D39 NATURE CONSERVATION: SITES OF REGIONAL/LOCAL IMPORTANCE

Development which may harm, directly or indirectly, Local Nature Reserves, Sites of Nature Conservation interest and Regionally Important Geological Sites will not be permitted unless the reasons for the proposal clearly outweigh the need to safeguard the intrinsic nature conservation value of the site or feature.