



West Midlands
Interchange

Four Ashes Ltd

Intended for
Four Ashes Limited

Reference
UK15-22821

Date
July 2018

WEST MIDLANDS INTERCHANGE

**HABITATS REGULATIONS STATEMENT –
NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS REPORT (NSER)**

WEST MIDLANDS INTERCHANGE NO SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS REPORT (NSER)

Revision **7**
Date **19th July 2018**
Made by **Carl Bailey**
Checked by **Malcolm Robertson**
Approved by **Matt Royall**

Ref UK15-22821_NSER

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1.1 This document has been prepared to fulfil the requirements of Regulation 5 (2) (g) of The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedures) Regulation 2009 as amended (SI 2009 No. 2264)¹, as specified in Advice Note Ten: Habitats Regulations Assessment relevant to nationally significant infrastructure projects (Planning Inspectorate, 2016)².
- 1.1.2 Regulation 5 sets out certain documents which are required to accompany an application. Regulation 5 (2) (g) includes the following:
- “any report identifying any European site to which regulation 48 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994(c) applies, or any Ramsar site(d), which may be affected by the proposed development, together with sufficient information that will enable the Commission to make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site if required by regulation 48(1)”.*
- 1.1.3 The development proposed by this application is for a new Strategic Rail Freight Interchange ('SRFI' or 'Proposed Development'). The proposals for the SRFI constitute a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project ('NSIP') under the criteria provided by the Planning Act 2008 ('the Act'). It is necessary, therefore, for the proposals to be applied for using the Development Consent Order ('DCO') process with the application being submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

Site Location

- 1.1.4 The site is approximately 10 kilometres to the north of Wolverhampton and immediately west of Junction 12 of the M6 in South Staffordshire (the 'Site'). The Site is approximately 297 hectares (ha) in size and is located within the administrative boundary of South Staffordshire District Council (SSDC), within the Civil Parishes of Brewood and Coven, Penkridge and Hatherton.
- 1.1.5 Figure 1 identifies the Site's location. For the avoidance of doubt, the Site does not overlap into devolved administrations or any other European Economic Area States.
- 1.1.6 The Site is broadly bound by the A5 road to the north (from Junction 12 to the Gailey Roundabout); Calf Heath reservoir, the M6, Stable Lane and Woodlands Lane to the east; Station Drive, Straight Mile and Woodlands Lane to the south; and the A449 (Stafford Road), from the Gailey Roundabout to Station Drive to the west. The south-eastern area of the Site is bisected by Vicarage Road.

Existing Site Description

- 1.1.7 The Site is characterised by a large area of sand and gravel mineral extraction within the east known as Calf Heath Quarry (Application Ref: SS.07/19/681); a patchwork of agricultural fields with hedgerows and trees to the west and south of this; and an area of mixed woodland known as Calf Heath Wood. The current use of the Site is mainly arable farming and the mineral extraction area covers approximately 38ha, with almost the entirety of this area currently open-cast.
- 1.1.8 The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal runs roughly north to south through the western part of the Site. The West Coast Main Line (WCML) runs north to south through the Site, near the western edge.

Proposed Development

- 1.1.9 The Proposed Development comprises:
- An intermodal freight terminal with direct connections to the West Coast Main Line, capable of accommodating up to 10 trains per day and trains of up to 775m long, including container storage, Heavy Goods Vehicle parking, rail control building and staff facilities;

¹ The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009. Available online: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2009/2264/contents/made> [Accessed 25.01.2017]

² The Planning Inspectorate (2017) Habitats Regulations Assessment Advice Note Ten: Habitat Regulations Assessment relevant to nationally significant infrastructure projects. November 2017, Version 8.

- Up to 743,200 square metres (gross internal area) of rail served warehousing and ancillary service buildings;
- New road infrastructure and works to the existing road infrastructure;
- Demolition and alterations to existing structures and earthworks to create development plots and landscape zones;
- Reconfiguring and burying of electricity pylons and cables; and
- Strategic landscaping and open space, including alterations to public rights of way and the creation of new ecological enhancement areas and publicly accessible open areas.

1.1.10 Further descriptions of the Proposed Development, including indicative timescales of construction and operation, are included in Chapter 4 (Description of the Proposed Development) of the Environmental Statement (ES) submitted with the DCO application.

Consultation

- 1.1.11 The Proposed Development has evolved through the on-going process of consultation with relevant statutory and non-statutory consultees, local stakeholders, members of the local community and Planning Inspectorate (PINS).
- 1.1.12 An Environmental Report was produced and publicised as part of the Stage 1 consultation process (13 June – 24 July 2016). The Environmental Report summarised the planning policy, legislation and guidance that will be considered throughout the preparation of the ES, the baseline studies undertaken up to that point, and provided an indication on the potential likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development.
- 1.1.13 Following this a draft ES (which comprised a Preliminary Environmental Information Report) and draft No Significant Effects Report (NSER) were produced and distributed for review as part of a Stage 2 consultation process (July-August 2017). The outcome of the Stage 2 consultation process was used to further refine the design of the Proposed Development, as well as content and methodology of the ES.
- 1.1.14 A copy of the draft ES and draft NSER was provided to Natural England during Stage 2 Consultation and a Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) between the WMI team and Natural England has been in the process of being produced.
- 1.1.15 A summary of the comments provided by Natural England relating to this report during the consultation process and the applicant's responses/actions taken is provided in the following table (copies of correspondence are included in Appendix C – please note comments relating to matters outside of this report are covered in Chapter 10 (Ecology and Nature Conservation) of the ES):

Table 1.1 Summary of Consultation

Correspondence Type and Date	Natural England Comment	Response/Action Taken
Email – 10 th July 2017	<p>Commenting on an initial draft of the NSER submitted in June prior to formal Stage 2 Consultation, Natural England stated:</p> <p><i>“We note that the indicative ‘no likely significant effects’ conclusion in the report is subject to confirmation in terms of traffic modelling and assessment of related air quality impacts. Cannock Extension Canal lies within the 200m ‘zone’ for screening of air quality impacts arising from road transport schemes (the A5 lying close by). It may be</i></p>	<p>The current version of the NSER has been updated with full reference to the now complete Transport Assessment and the Air Quality chapter of the ES. This information is assessed and presented in Appendix A: Transport and Secondary Effects</p>

	<p><i>worthwhile indicating over what timescales the transport modelling and related assessment of air quality impacts are expected. This would help to provide a firmer fix on when any uncertainty may be resolved.</i></p> <p><i>Conversely, in terms of the forthcoming environmental statement scope exists to describe the potential for positive effects on other European Sites (as well as UK sites of national and local status) by virtue of the Strategic Rail Freight Interchange removing or reducing the need for HGV traffic elsewhere in the country."</i></p>	Summary for the Cannock Extension Canal SAC.
Letter Ref: 228911, dated 6 th November 2017	<p>In response to a draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) submitted to Natural England on 13th October 2017, Natural England made the following comments:</p> <p><i>"Ecological Designated Sites – We note that this part of the text references the 'Habitats Regulations Assessment – No significant effects report'. We agree with the statements in this section of the draft SoCG.</i></p> <p><i>In addition we note and welcome the draft SoCG reference to the draft HRA conclusions at Section 6.0 of the document (Matters not agreed):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Cannock Extension Canal Special Area of Conservation (SAC) - Our email response dated 10.7.17 (Our reference 218129) sets out our advice and we await further information on the subject of traffic modelling in order to understand whether further HRA work is needed."</i> 	<p>The first part of this response comprises Natural England's agreement on the scope, study area and effects matrices considered in the NSER, including confirmation of the three sites to be assessed. The NSER has therefore been completed on this basis.</p> <p>Further information on the traffic modelling outputs and associated secondary effects is presented in Appendix A and utilised in assessment of likely significant effects for the Cannock Extension Canal SAC.</p>
Further correspondence March 2018	<p>An updated NSER addressing the comments above was submitted to Natural England on 6th February 2018. This version provided much greater detail on transport and associated effects on air quality and the water environment and how this had been used in the NSER. Natural England provided further feedback on this report (within an email dated 5th March 2018), asking for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarification on the traffic numbers used in the assessment; and • Further information on the methodology for cumulative schemes used in the transport assessment, specifically in relation to the 'Wealden judgement'. 	<p>The NSER has been updated to add greater clarity on the traffic numbers, which are consistent with the latest version of the ES and associated Transport Assessment.</p> <p>The Transport Assessment and ES chapter include a highly conservative consideration of cumulative schemes. The NSER text in Appendix A has been amended to better emphasise this.</p>
Letter Ref: 247644, dated 12 th June 2018	<p>Natural England provided a response to email correspondence from Ramboll (dated 21st May 2018), which included an updated NSER (Revision 5 dated 21st May 2018). The fifth version of the NSER addressed</p>	<p>This version of the NSER has been updated to include specific reference to relevant paragraphs from the Transport and</p>

	<p>comments received from Natural England dated 26th April (letter dated 25th April, ref: 243475).</p> <p>The 12th June 2018 correspondence from Natural England acknowledged changes to the NSER. Also Natural England noted relevant paragraphs from the draft Transport and Access ES Chapter (submitted as part of Stage 2 consultation). On the basis of the latest additions to the NSER Natural England concluded that <i>"the NSER appears to be evidenced"</i>. Natural England also suggested that in order to improve the transparency of the NSER relevant paragraphs of the Transport and Access ES chapter be referenced.</p>	<p>Access ES chapter. Note these paragraph numbers are different to those stated in Natural England's letter of 12th June 2018, as these referenced the draft Transport and Access ES chapter submitted as part of Stage 2 consultation, whereas this version of the NSER references relevant paragraphs in the final ES. However, the details in the relevant paragraphs are broadly the same.</p>
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Methodology – Selection of European Sites / Assessment of Likely Significant Effects

- 1.1.16 The methodology outlined below has taken into account the comments from Natural England and PINS made during Stage 2 Consultation.
- 1.1.17 As part of ecological assessment undertaken by Ramboll, European Sites within 10 km of the Site were identified. An assessment was completed for 'Likely Significant Effects' (LSEs) on the qualifying features of the identified European Sites. The 10 km search area was agreed with Natural England and reflects the maximum likely distance over which impacts could reasonably be foreseen to occur. The European Sites identified are shown in Figure 2.
- 1.1.18 The qualifying features for each of the European Sites are detailed in Appendix B of this NSER, along with impact matrices (in Section 2 of this report) and information in Appendix A which assesses potential LSE's from the following potential impacts:
- Direct physical effects, habitat loss / fragmentation / displacement;
 - Disturbance from noise (all sources);
 - Changes in ambient air quality – direct (NO₂, NO_x, SO₂ and dust) and indirect (Nitrogen and acid deposition); and
 - Changes to water quality.
- 1.1.19 The assessment has been undertaken on a desk study basis and utilises the findings and technical data from the ES for the Proposed Development, along with information from various technical reports which support the ES, and information gathered from the following sources:
- Multi Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website³;
 - Natural England Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) websites for SAC citations and further information on the respective SACs; and
 - EA website⁴ and OS mapping for information on hydrology and rivers within the 10km study area.
- 1.1.20 Of particular importance to this assessment, and relating to the significant distance between the Site and the three identified SACs, was consideration of the transport effects and associated diffuse pollution (air quality and water) that can arise from the affected transport network. As outlined in Natural England's consultation response, the Transport Assessment study area for the Proposed Development extends to within the 200m zone for air quality impacts for the Cannock Extension Canal SAC. Technical assessments presented within Appendix A: Transport and Secondary Effects Summary for the Cannock Extension Canal SAC utilise information from ES Chapter 15: Transport and the Transport Assessment, Chapter 7: Air Quality and Chapter 16: Water Environment and

³ www.magic.gov.uk, accessed 16/11/2017

⁴ <http://environment.data.gov.uk/catchment-planning/>, accessed 16/11/2017

Flood Risk to support the conclusions drawn in Section 2 of this NSER in establishing whether there are LSEs for the Cannock Extension Canal SAC.

- 1.1.21 The assessment of LSEs has been undertaken qualitatively and using professional judgement, rather than adopting specific thresholds. However, thresholds exist for technical disciplines associated with this assessment and these are applicable to the sites and effects in question, they have been used in the assessment (for example, air quality).
- 1.1.22 The assessment of LSEs has been undertaken without taking account of mitigation measures outlined in the ES (i.e. the assessment of LSEs is without inclusion of proposed mitigation measures).
- 1.1.23 The Proposed Development is not considered to need additional regulatory consents which will require assessment of the LSEs with respect to the European Sites identified in Section 2 of this report.
- 1.1.24 In relation to in-combination effects, the assessment uses the list of 'Other Developments' established through consultation with the relevant local authorities for use in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). These developments are presented and considered in full with regard to cumulative effects on all disciplines including ecology and European designated sites in Chapter 17: Cumulative Effects of the ES. This information has been used in this NSER. The only identified potential effects in this report relate to secondary effects resulting from transport effects, and cumulative effects from 'Other Developments' are considered as an integral part of the Transport Assessment and ES Chapter 15: Transport. On this basis, this NSER is considered to include in-combination effects as an integral part of the identification of LSEs. Natural England acknowledged the approach used in letter correspondence dated 25th April 2018 (included in Appendix C).
- 1.1.25 The Proposed Development is not connected with or necessary to the management for nature conservation of any of the European sites considered in the report. The assessment indicates that there would be no LSEs on any European site, either alone or in-combination, and therefore an Appropriate Assessment is not required.

2. POTENTIAL EFFECTS

2.1.1 The European sites included within the screening assessment are (refer to Figure 2):

- Cannock Chase SAC (UK0030107)
- Mottey Meadows SAC (UK0030051)
- Cannock Extension Canal SAC (UK0012672)

2.1.2 This section briefly describes the potential effects considered in the screening matrices in this section of the report Table 2.1 rationalises specific effects into categories for ease of presentation in the screening matrices. The screening matrices are based upon a template developed by PINS and comprise the evidence for the assessment of the NSER.

Table 2.1 Effects considered in the Screening Matrices

Designation	Effects described in submission information	Presented in screening matrices as
Cannock Chase SAC	No separate submission information on European Sites outside this report	Direct physical effects, habitat loss / fragmentation / displacement
		Disturbance from noise (all sources)
		Changes in ambient air quality – direct (NO ₂ , NO _x , SO ₂ , dust) and indirect (Nitrogen and acid deposition)
		Changes in water quality
Mottey Meadows SAC	No separate submission information on European Sites outside this report	Direct physical effects, habitat loss / fragmentation / displacement
		Disturbance from noise (all sources)
		Changes in ambient air quality – direct (NO ₂ , NO _x , SO ₂ , dust) and indirect (Nitrogen and acid deposition)
		Changes in water quality
Cannock Extension Canal SAC	No separate submission information on European Sites outside this report	Direct physical effects, habitat loss / fragmentation / displacement
		Disturbance from noise (all sources)
		Changes in ambient air quality – direct (NO ₂ , NO _x , SO ₂ , dust) and indirect (Nitrogen and acid deposition)
		Changes in water quality

2.1.3 Evidence for, or against, likely significant effects on the European Sites and their qualifying features is detailed within the footnotes to the screening matrices below.

Matrix Key:

- ✓ = Likely significant effect cannot be excluded
- ✗ = Likely significant effect can be excluded

C = construction

O = operation

D = decommissioning

2.1.4 Where effects are not relevant to a particular feature the matrix cell is formatted as follows:



HRA Screening Matrix 01: Cannock Chase SAC

Name of European site and designation: Cannock Chase SAC																
EU Code: UK0030107																
Distance to NSIP: 7.4 km (NE)																
European site features		Likely effects of NSIP ✓/✗														
<i>Effect</i>		<i>Direct physical effects, habitat loss / fragmentation / displacement [a]</i>			<i>Disturbance from noise (all sources) [b]</i>			<i>Changes in ambient air quality – direct (NO₂, NO_x, SO₂, dust) and indirect (Nitrogen and acid deposition) [c]</i>			<i>Changes in water quality [d]</i>			<i>In combination effects [e]</i>		
<i>Stage of Development</i>		<i>C</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>D</i>
<i>Annex I habitat 4030 European Dry Heaths</i>		✗	✗	✗				✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
<i>Annex I habitat 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix</i>		✗	✗	✗				✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

Evidence supporting conclusions:

- a. The Site is located 7.4km from the Cannock Chase SAC (see European Sites map, Figure 2). No direct physical effects are anticipated on habitats on or adjoining the SAC.
- b. Habitats listed as qualifying features of the SAC are not vulnerable to disturbance effects from noise.

The Site is located 7.4km from the Cannock Chase SAC (see European Sites map, Figure 2) and the SAC is located away from major transport routes affected by the Proposed Development. The closest major roads to the SAC are the A34 (360m from the SAC) and the M6 (3.7km from the SAC). No noise impacts are anticipated at or near the location of the SAC. Chapter 13 of the ES assesses the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development in respect of noise.

- c. The Site located 7.4km from Cannock Chase SAC (see European Sites map, Figure 2) and the SAC is away from major transport routes affected by the Proposed Development. The closest major roads to the SAC are the A34 (360m from the SAC) and the M6 (3.7km from the SAC) both of which are outside the zone of

influence for road air quality effects (200m). Furthermore, the closest stretch of the A34 to the SAC is not included within the study area for the Transport Assessment and as such no effects above negligible would be anticipated. No significant effects are anticipated on roads outside of the network links assessed in ES Chapter 15: Transport including all roads located close to the SAC. On this basis no LSEs on Cannock Chase SAC from air quality have been identified.

- d. Cannock Chase SAC is located within a different sub-catchment of the River Trent to the Site and located on a plateau situated at a higher elevation than the Site. Cannock Chase SAC is not located on or near the road or rail network affected by the Proposed Development. There are no direct or indirect hydrological links, either natural or anthropogenic, between Cannock Chase SAC and the Site or affected transport network. ES Chapter 16: Water Environment describes the river catchment in which the Site is located in more detail.
- e. Potential effects as a result of the Proposed Development on the Cannock Chase SAC have been excluded based on the Site's distance and lack of connectivity with the SAC, and information from the Transport Assessment and ES Chapter 15: Transport, which already accounts for in combination effects with other developments (paragraphs 15.73 to 15.88, 15.125 and 15.309). Therefore, no in combination effects with other projects are anticipated.

HRA Screening Matrix 02: Motte Meadows SAC

Name of European site and designation: Motte Meadows SAC																
EU Code: UK0030051																
Distance to NSIP: 7.5 km (WNW)																
European site features		Likely effects of NSIP ✓/✗														
<i>Effect</i>		<i>Direct physical effects, habitat loss / fragmentation / displacement [a]</i>			<i>Disturbance from noise (all sources) [b]</i>			<i>Changes in ambient air quality – direct (NO2, NOx, SO2, dust) and indirect (Nitrogen and acid deposition) [c]</i>			<i>Changes in water quality [d]</i>			<i>In combination effects [e]</i>		
<i>Stage of Development</i>		<i>C</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>D</i>
<i>Annex I habitat 6510 Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis)</i>		✗	✗	✗				✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

Evidence supporting conclusions:

- a. The Site is located 7.5km from the Motte Meadows SAC (see European Sites map, Figure 2). No direct physical effects are anticipated on habitats on or adjoining the SAC.
- b. Habitats listed as qualifying features of the SAC are not vulnerable to disturbance effects.

No noise impacts are anticipated at or near the location of the SAC because there are no features of the SAC that could be influenced by noise. Chapter 13 of the ES assesses the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development in respect of noise.
- c. The Site is located 7.5km from the Motte Meadows SAC (see European sites map, Figure 2) and the SAC is located away from major transport routes affected by the Proposed Development. The closest major road to the SAC is the A5, located 1.5km south of the SAC at its closest point, which is outside the zone of influence (200m) for air quality effects from roads. No significant effects are anticipated on roads outside of the network links assessed in ES Chapter 15: Transport. On this basis no LSEs have been identified on Motte Meadows SAC as a result of the Proposed Development.

- d. Mottey Meadows SAC is located towards the top of a separate tributary to the River Penk, to that of the Site. There are no direct or indirect hydrological links, either natural or anthropogenic, between Mottey Meadows SAC and the Site or the affected transport network. ES Chapter 16: Water Environment describes the river catchment in which the Site is located, in more detail.
- e. Potential effects as a result of the Proposed Development on the Mottey Meadows SAC have been excluded based on the Site's distance and lack of connectivity with the SAC, and information from the Transport Assessment and ES Chapter 15: Transport, which already accounts for in combination effects with other developments (paragraphs 15.73 to 15.88, 15.125 and 15.309). Therefore, no in combination effects with other projects are anticipated.

HRA Screening Matrix 03: Cannock Extension Canal SAC

Name of European site and designation: Cannock Extension Canal SAC																
EU Code: UK0012672																
Distance to NSIP: approx. 10 km (E)																
European features	site	Likely effects of NSIP ✓/✗														
<i>Effect</i>		<i>Direct physical effects, habitat loss / fragmentation / displacement [a]</i>			<i>Disturbance from noise (all sources) [b]</i>			<i>Changes in ambient air quality – direct (NO2, NOx, SO2, dust) and indirect (Nitrogen and acid deposition) [c]</i>			<i>Changes in water quality [d]</i>			<i>In combination effects [e]</i>		
<i>Stage of Development</i>	<i>of</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>C</i>	<i>O</i>	<i>D</i>
<i>Annex II Species 1831 Luronium natans</i>		✗	✗	✗				✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗

Evidence supporting conclusions:

- a. The Site is located approximately 10 km from the Cannock Extension Canal SAC (see European Sites map, Figure 2). No direct physical effects on habitats on or adjoining the SAC are anticipated.
- b. Habitats present in the SAC are not vulnerable to disturbance effects from noise.

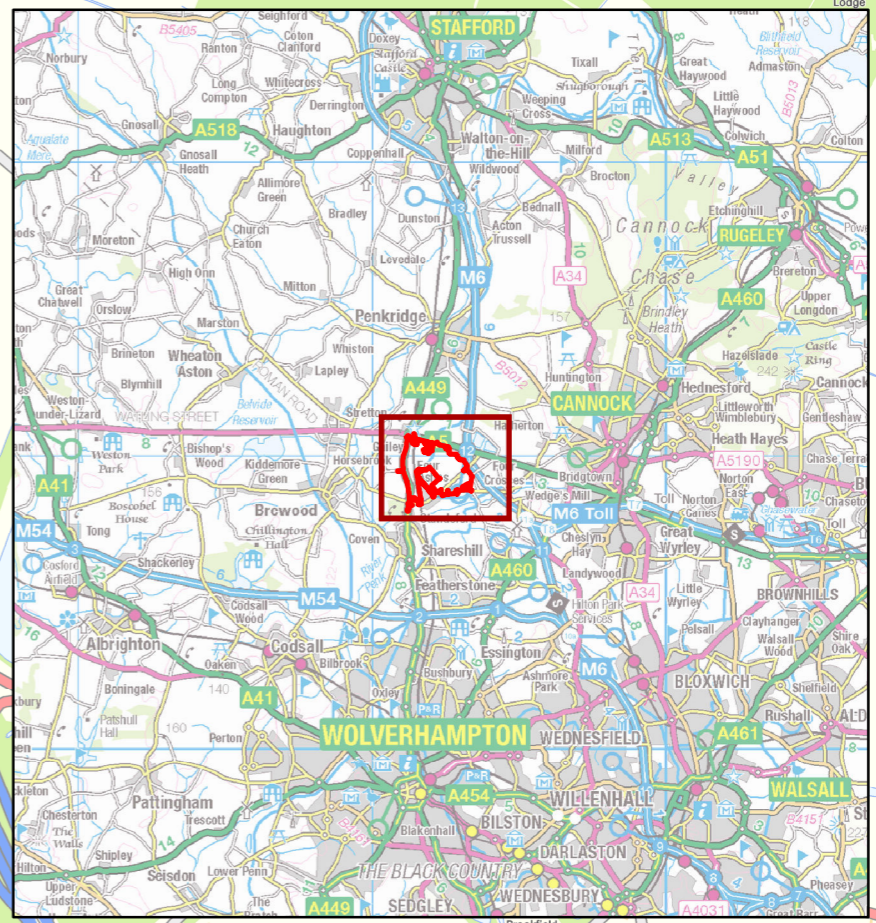
No noise impacts are anticipated at or near the location of the SAC because there are no features of the SAC that could be influenced by noise. Chapter 13 of the ES assesses the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development in respect of noise.
- c. The Site is located approximately 10 km from the Cannock Extension Canal SAC (see European Sites map, Figure 2). The Cannock Extension Canal SAC at its northern extremity is located adjacent to the A5 and within approximately 300m of the M6 Toll motorway. The M6 Toll is located outside the zone of influence for air quality (200m), and therefore not considered further. Potential air quality effects from the A5 are discussed in Appendix A. In summary, negligible changes in traffic flows are predicted for the closest road link (Link 45 in ES Chapter 15: Transport). As a result, further assessment of these links was scoped out of the air quality ES chapter in accordance with DMRB guidance, and on the basis that no significant effects are anticipated. Therefore, no LSEs have been identified on the Cannock Chase Extension Canal as a result of the Proposed Development.

- d. Although theoretically connected hydrologically by the wider canal network – via the Wolverhampton to the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal that runs through the Site – there is in excess of 30km of complex urban canal network separating the SAC from the Site.
- e. Cannock Extension Canal SAC at its northern extremity is located adjacent to the A5 and within approximately 300m of the M6 Toll motorway, both of which are located to some extent within the study area for Chapter 15: Transport of the ES and the associated Transport Assessment.

Based on a review of OS maps and aerial photographs, it is considered unlikely that a direct hydrological link between the SAC and the closest stretch of the A5 exists. In the absence of establishing reasonable doubt on this connection and assuming a worst case – that a direct hydrological connection does exist – further analysis of the transport data was carried out. The analysis, provided in Appendix A, shows negligible changes in traffic volumes predicted as a result of the Proposed Development on the nearest links to the SAC, including the stretch of A5 located immediately adjacent. Any consequential change in levels of diffuse pollution and risk of acute pollution events would be in similar order to the negligible change in traffic volumes, and as such no LSEs are identified for water quality on the Cannock Extension Canal SAC.

- f. Potential effects as a result of the Proposed Development on the Cannock Extension Canal SAC have been excluded based on information from the Transport Assessment and ES Chapter 15: Transport. The Transport Assessment inherently takes into account all consented and committed schemes in accordance with DMRB Vol11 methodology, so is considered to account for all cumulative effects as an integral part of the assessment (ES Chapter 15: paragraphs 15.73 to 15.88, 15.125 and 15.309). Therefore, no in combination effects with other projects are anticipated. Further information is provided in Appendix A.

FIGURE 1: SITE LOCATION PLAN



West Coast Main Line

Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal

Calf Heath Wood

SI Group

Four Ashes

M6 Junction 12

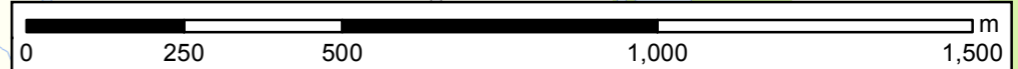
Calf Heath Reservoir

Straight Mile

Calf Heath

Legend

Site Boundary



Reproduced from OS map data by permission of the Ordnance Survey. Licence No: 100040631

Client
Four Ashes Limited

Project Title
West Midlands Interchange

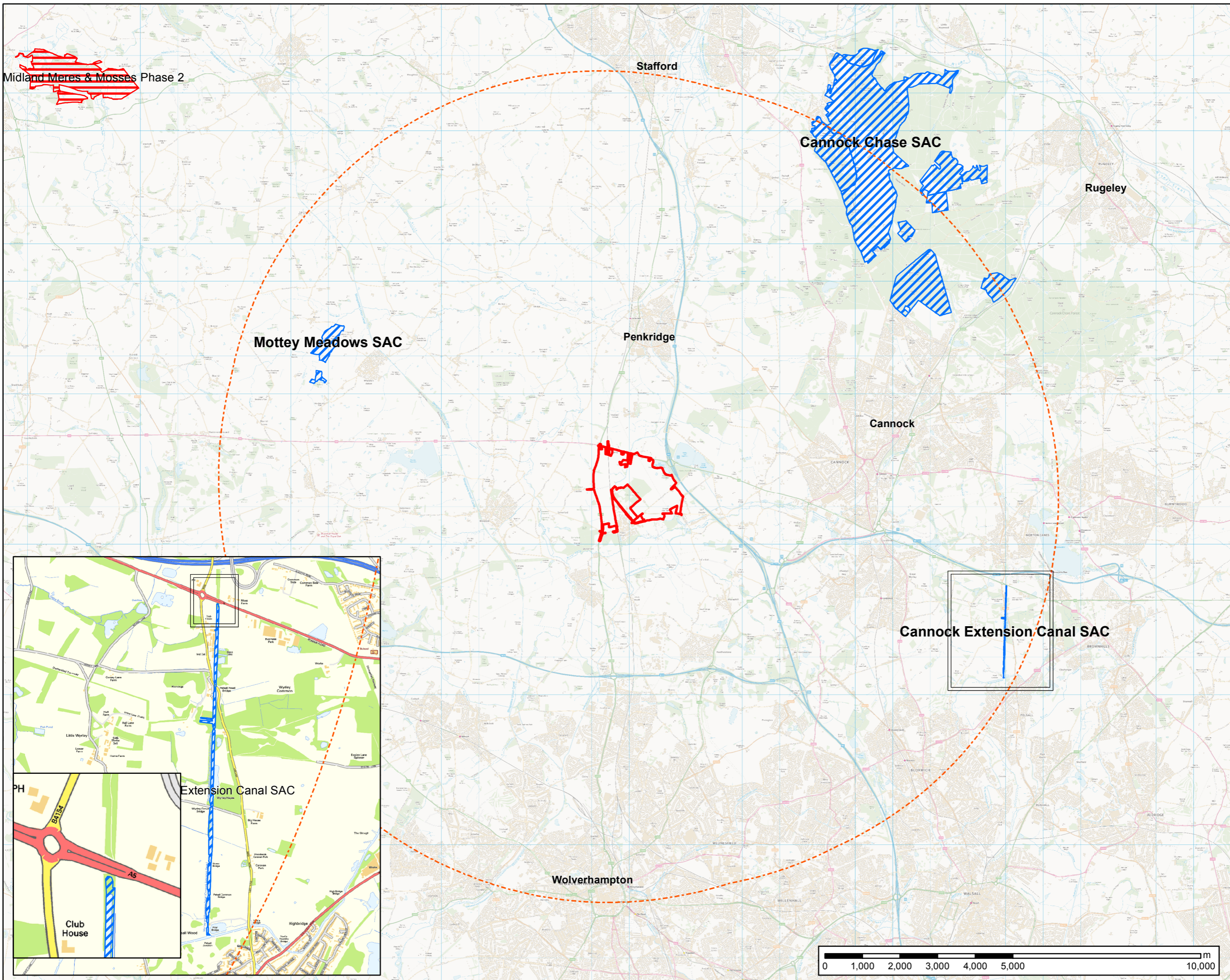
Project Number
1620002055

Figure Title
Figure 1 Site Location





RAMBOLL ENVIRON
Tel: 023 8081 7500 southampton@ramboll.co.uk
www.ramboll.co.uk

Date 16/03/2018

Scale 1:12,000@A3



Legend

-  Site Boundary
-  10km Buffer
-  Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
-  Ramsar Site

GoogleEarth © 2016 Google
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 Licence No: 100040631



Client
Four Ashes Limited

Project Title
West Midlands Interchange

Project Number
1620002055

Figure Title
European Designated Sites

RAMBOLL ENVIRON
 Tel: 023 8081 7500 southampton@ramboll.co.uk
 www.ramboll.co.uk

Date **22/11/2017**

Scale **1:90,000 @A4**

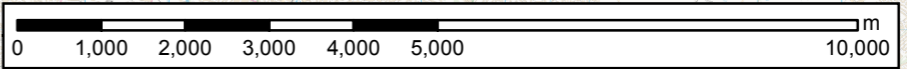
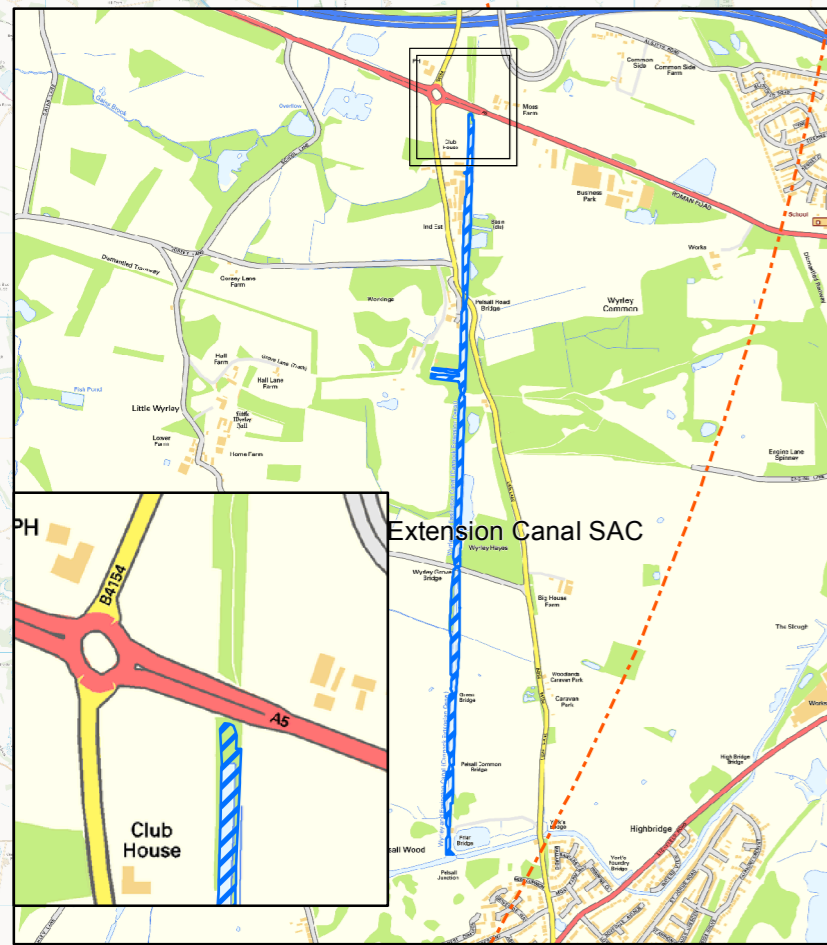


FIGURE 2: EUROPEAN DESIGNATED SITES MAP

Appendix A: Transport and Secondary Effects Summary for the Cannock Extension Canal SAC

Air Quality

The traffic impacts study area assessed in the ES was determined by the likelihood of impacts to the existing road network and which roads would have a direct impact on local sensitive receptors. Any effects from traffic using road links outside of the assessed network would be anticipated to be negligible in relation to changes in traffic numbers as a result of the Proposed Development.

In the first instance traffic data for the various assessment scenarios was provided by the transport consultants, WSP, as part of the Transport Assessment (Technical Appendix 15.1 of the ES).

The road network considered in the air quality assessment was determined from the data set using thresholds set out in the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB): Volume 11, Section 3 Part 1: Air Quality, as follows:

- The road alignment will change by 5m or more;
- Daily traffic flows will change by 1000 annual average daily traffic (AADT) flow or more;
- Heavy Duty Vehicles (HDV) flows will change by 200 AADT or more; or
- Daily average speed will change by 10km/hr or more.

The transport assessment identified the road link closest to the Cannock Extension Canal SAC as Link 34, although this link only extends as far as the A5 Junction with the B4154, approximately 130m from the Cannock Extension Canal SAC at its closest point, and does not extend as far as the section of the A5 immediately adjacent to the SAC.

The traffic model data for Link 34 is shown below in an extract of Table 15.1 from the ES Chapter 15: Transport. The data shows that the change in traffic for the 2021 with development scenario is well below the DMRB thresholds detailed above for both total traffic vehicles and HDVs, at 129 and 113 additional respectively. Any consequential effects on air quality and noise would therefore be expected to be negligible.

Figure 15.2 Ref.	Road	Near to Sensitive Receptor?	AADT* Total Vehicles			AADT* HGV's			Assess Link?
			No DM Development	DS with Development	% Change	No DM Development	DS with Development	% Change	
			2021	2021		2021	2021		
34	A5 between A34 and B4154	No	29524	29653	0.44 %	3386	3499	3.34%	No

Beyond the extent of the modelled traffic network, specifically the section of A5 between the B4154 and the A452 that passes immediately to the north of the SAC, traffic data analysed specifically for the NSER by the Transport consultant (WSP) for the future year scenarios indicate that there would be negligible change to traffic flow volumes as a result of the Proposed Development, both total and HGVs for the future (2021) scenario, as would be expected for a section of road outside of the transport assessment study area.

Water Quality

In order to assess the risks to the Cannock Extension Canal SAC from water quality – specifically the risk of runoff/pollution from the nearby road network affecting water quality in the canal, a desk-based assessment has been undertaken to understand the hydrological link (if any) between the road and the canal, and the transport assessment and ES chapter have been used to understand the changes in traffic along the closest road link to the SAC. A linkage or effect from the road on the canal would not constitute an LSE for the Proposed Development in itself – for this there must be an increased risk in traffic levels from the Proposed Development sufficient to cause a significant increase in diffuse pollution or risk of acute pollution events – a linkage involving secondary and tertiary effects.

A review of OS maps and aerial photographs suggests the Cannock Extension Canal SAC is situated at or slightly higher than the topographic level of the A5. The canal reaches its terminus slightly to the south of the A5 and a belt of woodland/scrub separates the two. There is no apparent hydrological link between the road and the canal at this location, however in order to confirm this beyond reasonable doubt would require survey and detailed analysis of the road and canal at this location, which sits well away from the Site boundary and on a busy stretch of road. There are no laybys, lorry parks or similar facilities in the vicinity of the SAC that would allow a greater residence time for vehicles.

Assuming a worst case – that a potential hydrological link is present between the road and the canal – the focus in establishing whether there are LSEs for the SAC as a result of the Proposed Development turns to the transport assessment outcomes. As described above under air quality, negligible increases in AADT for both total vehicles and HDVs are anticipated for the closest assessed part of the road network (Link 34 in the Transport Assessment/ES chapter 15), amounting to 129 (0.44%) and 113 (3.34%) additional AADT respectively.

Similarly, traffic data analysed specifically for the closest stretch of the A5 which sits outside the Transport Assessment study area, indicate that there would negligible change to traffic flow volumes as a result of the Proposed Development, both total and HGVs for the future (2021) scenario, as would be expected for a section of road outside of the transport assessment study area.

On the basis of a linear and proportional relationship between traffic numbers and pollution, the resultant increase in diffuse pollution and acute pollution event risk would be anticipated to be of the same order as the percentage increases in traffic – 0.44% and 3.34% for total vehicles and HGVs respectively, for the closest assessed link, and lower for the closest stretch of road. These levels of increase would not be significant.

Furthermore, roads and associated infrastructure including highways drainage are managed, either by Highways England or the local authority in such a way as to prevent or minimise pollution to nearby watercourses, water bodies, land and habitats, proportionate to the level of traffic using the road through use of appropriate drainage infrastructure and Sustainable drainage Systems (SuDS). In the event of a spill the response would be as per the baseline condition, and no hazardous or high risk traffic would be anticipated as a result of the Proposed Development.

In combination (cumulative) effects

The Transport and Access ES Chapter, which identifies negligible effects in terms of transport numbers for the closest stretches of the A5 as described in detail above, includes consideration of all relevant 'Other Developments' identified for assessment for cumulative effects, and in addition includes a growth factor which accounts for further growth in traffic levels from developments not specifically assessed. ES Chapter 15: Transport and Access describes in full the process behind selection of cumulative schemes for the assessment (paragraphs 15.73 to 15.88, 15.125 and 15.309). The process used is considered to be highly conservative and a robust assessment of cumulative effects. Therefore, the results of the Transport assessment used in this NSER are considered to comprehensively account for in combination effects.

Appendix B: European Sites Information

European Designated Sites identified within the 10km search radius of the Proposed Development comprise three SACs only. There are no SPAs, Ramsar sites, or proposed SACs/SPAs/Ramsar Sites within 10km of the Site. The closest European Designated Site outside the 10km search area is Aqualate Mere, which forms part of the Midland Meres and Mosses Phase 2 Ramsar site. This site is located 15.5km north-west of the Proposed Development, and therefore well outside the radius inside which effects could be reasonably foreseen. The three SACs are described in detail below and the full data sheets are included in this appendix.

Cannock Chase SAC (UK0030107)

Cannock Chase SAC is located 7.4km north-east of the Site at its closest point. The SAC, which is split into a number of separate units, covers 1244.2ha of lowland heathland. Most of the SAC is located more than 10km from the Site.

Cannock Chase SAC was designated in 2005 for the following qualifying features:

- i. Annex 1 habitat 4030 European Dry Heaths (933.15ha) [Primary feature]; and
- ii. Annex I habitat 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* (16.17ha).

The Citation describes the SAC as follows:

“The area of lowland heathland at Cannock Chase is the most extensive in the Midlands, although there have been losses due to fragmentation and scrub/woodland encroachment. The character of the vegetation is intermediate between the upland or northern heaths of England and Wales and those of southern counties. Dry heathland communities belong to NVC types H8 Calluna vulgaris – Ulex gallii and H9 Calluna vulgaris – Deschampsia flexuosa heaths. Within the heathland, species of northern latitudes occur, such as cowberry Vaccinium vitis-idaea and crowberry Empetrum nigrum. Cannock Chase has the main British population of the hybrid bilberry Vaccinium intermedium, a plant of restricted occurrence. There are important populations of butterflies and beetles, as well as European nightjar Caprimulgus europaeus and five species of bats.”

The SAC is considered important for its significant presence of Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* and European dry heaths for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

Cannock Chase SAC overlaps closely with Cannock Chase Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

Mottey Meadows SAC (UK0030051)

Mottey Meadows SAC is located 7.5km west, north-west of the Site at its closest point. The SAC, which is split into two separate units, covers 43.69ha of lowland grassland and meadow habitat. The smaller and detached southern section of the SAC is the closest part to the Site.

Mottey Meadows SAC was designated in 2005 for the following qualifying features:

- i. Annex I habitat 6510 Lowland hay meadows *Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*, 32% coverage.

The Citation describes the SAC as follows:

“Mottey Meadows represents lowland hay meadows in the English Midlands, and holds a relatively large area of the habitat (approximately 40 ha). The site contains grassland with limited influence

*of agricultural intensification and so demonstrates good conservation of structure and function. There are transitions to other dry and wet grassland types. The site is important for a range of rare meadow species, including fritillary *Fritillaria meleagris* at its most northerly native locality."*

The SAC is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom for its lowland hay meadow (*Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*) habitat.

The SAC overlaps precisely with the Motte Meadows SSSI and Motte Meadows National Nature Reserve.

Cannock Extension Canal SAC (UK0012672)

Cannock Extension Canal SAC is located approximately 10 km east of the Site at its closest point. The SAC boundary is formed by the banks of a terminal branch of the Wyrley and Essington, or 'Cannock Extension' Canal which is approximately 2.4km long and covers an area of 5ha.

The SAC was designated in 2005 for the following qualifying features:

- i. Annex II Species 1831 floating water-plantain *Luronium natans*.

The Citation describes the SAC as follows:

*"Cannock Extension Canal in central England is an example of anthropogenic, lowland habitat supporting floating water-plantain *Luronium natans* at the eastern limit of the plant's natural distribution in England. A very large population of the species occurs in the Canal, which has a diverse aquatic flora and rich dragonfly fauna, indicative of good water quality. The low volume of boat traffic on this terminal branch of the Wyrley and Essington Canal has allowed open-water plants, including floating water-plantain, to flourish, while depressing the growth of emergents."*

The site is considered to be one of the best in the United Kingdom for its population of floating water-plantain *Luronium natans*.

The site overlaps precisely with the Cannock Extension Canal SSSI.

EC Directive 92/43 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Cannock Chase
Unitary Authority/County: Staffordshire
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: SJ982188
SAC EU code: UK0030107
Area (ha): 1236.93
Component SSSI: Cannock Chase SSSI

Site description:

The area of lowland heathland at Cannock Chase is the most extensive in the Midlands. The character of the vegetation is intermediate between the upland or northern heaths of England and Wales and those of southern counties. Dry heathland communities are of the heather – western gorse (*Calluna vulgaris* – *Ulex gallii*) and heather – wavy hair-grass (*Calluna vulgaris* – *Deschampsia flexuosa*) types. Within the heathland, species of northern latitudes occur, such as cowberry *Vaccinium vitis-idaea* and crowberry *Empetrum nigrum*. Cannock Chase has the main British population of the hybrid bilberry *Vaccinium intermedium*, a plant of restricted occurrence. The scarcity of water over much of the Chase effectively confines wetland flora and fauna to the stream valley systems and a scatter of natural and artificial pools and damp depressions. The Oldacre and Sherbrook valleys have small-scale mosaics of spring-fed mire and wet heath vegetation, a result of complex water chemistry. Where acidic conditions prevail the mires are mostly formed of bog mosses *Sphagnum* spp. with cranberry *Vaccinium oxycoccus*, cottongrasses *Eriophorum* spp. and cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*.

Qualifying habitats: The site is designated under **article 4(4)** of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following habitats listed in Annex I:

- European dry heaths
- Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*. (Wet heathland with cross-leaved heath)

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.

Register reference number: UK0030107

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: [REDACTED]

On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment,
Food and Rural Affairs

NATURA 2000 – STANDARD DATA FORM

Special Areas of Conservation under the EC Habitats Directive (includes candidate SACs, Sites of Community Importance and designated SACs).

Each Natura 2000 site in the United Kingdom has its own Standard Data Form containing site-specific information. The data form for this site has been generated from the Natura 2000 Database submitted to the European Commission on the following date:

22/12/2015

The information provided here, follows the officially agreed site information format for Natura 2000 sites, as set out in the [Official Journal of the European Union recording the Commission Implementing Decision of 11 July 2011](#) (2011/484/EU).

The Standard Data Forms are generated automatically for all of the UK's Natura 2000 sites using the European Environment Agency's Natura 2000 software. The structure and format of these forms is exactly as produced by the EEA's Natura 2000 software (except for the addition of this coversheet and the end notes). The content matches exactly the data submitted to the European Commission.

Please note that these forms contain a number of codes, all of which are explained either within the data forms themselves or in the end notes.

Further technical documentation may be found here
http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/activities/Natura_2000/reference_portal

As part of the December 2015 submission, several sections of the UK's previously published Standard Data Forms have been updated. For details of the approach taken by the UK in this submission please refer to the following document:
http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Natura2000_StandardDataForm_UKApproach_Dec2015.pdf

More general information on Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in the United Kingdom is available from the [SAC home page on the JNCC website](#). This webpage also provides links to Standard Data Forms for all SACs in the UK.

Date form generated by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee
25 January 2016.



NATURA 2000 - STANDARD DATA FORM

For Special Protection Areas (SPA),
Proposed Sites for Community Importance (pSCI),
Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and
for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SITE UK0030107
SITENAME Cannock Chase

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- [1. SITE IDENTIFICATION](#)
- [2. SITE LOCATION](#)
- [3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION](#)
- [4. SITE DESCRIPTION](#)
- [5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS AND RELATION WITH CORINE BIOTOPES](#)
- [6. SITE MANAGEMENT](#)

1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code UK0030107	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Cannock Chase

1.4 First Compilation date 2001-03	1.5 Update date 2015-12
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1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation: Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Address: Joint Nature Conservation Committee Monkstone House City Road Peterborough
PE1 1JY
Email:

Date site proposed as SCI: 2001-03
Date site confirmed as SCI: 2004-12
Date site designated as SAC: 2005-04

National legal reference of SAC designation:

Regulations 11 and 13-15 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010
(<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made>).

2. SITE LOCATION

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G	Code	Name	S	NP	T	Size		Unit	Cat.	D.qual.	A B C D		A B C	
						Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	Glc
I	1092	Austropotamobius pallipes			p				P	DD	D			
A	1166	Triturus cristatus			p	11	50	i		M	D			

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, I = Invertebrates, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Type:** p = permanent, r = reproducing, c = concentration, w = wintering (for plant and non-migratory species use permanent)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the Standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting (see [reference portal](#))
- **Abundance categories (Cat.):** C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present - to fill if data are deficient (DD) or in addition to population size information
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation); VP = 'Very poor' (use this category only, if not even a rough estimation of the population size can be made, in this case the fields for population size can remain empty, but the field "Abundance categories" has to be filled in)

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

4.1 General site character

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Habitat class	% Cover
N08	76.3
N17	12.0
N21	10.5
N06	0.5
N23	0.7
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

1 Terrestrial: Soil & Geology: nutrient-poor,acidic,peat,sandstone 2 Terrestrial: Geomorphology and landscape: lowland

4.2 Quality and importance

Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* for which the area is considered to support a significant presence. European dry heaths for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

Negative Impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
H	A04		I
H	K04		I
H	J02		B
H	H04		B

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
H	B02		I
H	A02		I

Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low

Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input/acidification,

T = toxic inorganic chemicals, O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions

i = inside, o = outside, b = both

4.5 Documentation

Conservation Objectives - the Natural England links below provide access to the Conservation Objectives (and other site-related information) for its terrestrial and inshore Natura 2000 sites, including conservation advice packages and supporting documents for European Marine Sites within English waters and for cross-border sites. See also the 'UK Approach' document for more information (link via the JNCC website).

Link(s): http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Natura2000_StandardDataForm_UKApproach_Dec2015.pdf

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216>

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/3212324>

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

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5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
UK04	100.0				

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

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6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

Organisation:	Natural England
Address:	
Email:	

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, but in preparation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

For available information, including on Conservation Objectives, see Section 4.5.

EXPLANATION OF CODES USED IN THE NATURA 2000 STANDARD DATA FORMS

The codes in the table below are also explained in the [official European Union guidelines for the Standard Data Form](#). The relevant page is shown in the table below.

1.1 Site type

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Designated Special Protection Area	53
B	SAC (includes candidates Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance and designated SAC)	53
C	SAC area the same as SPA. Note in the UK Natura 2000 submission this is only used for Gibraltar	53

3.1 Habitat representativity

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent	57
B	Good	57
C	Significant	57
D	Non-significant presence	57

3.1 Habitat code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	57
1130	Estuaries	57
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	57
1150	Coastal lagoons	57
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	57
1170	Reefs	57
1180	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	57
1210	Annual vegetation of drift lines	57
1220	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	57
1230	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts	57
1310	Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	57
1320	Spartina swards (Spartinion maritimae)	57
1330	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	57
1340	Inland salt meadows	57
1420	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi)	57
2110	Embryonic shifting dunes	57
2120	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ("white dunes")	57
2130	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")	57
2140	Decalcified fixed dunes with Empetrum nigrum	57
2150	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea)	57
2160	Dunes with Hippophila rhamnoides	57
2170	Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (Salicion arenariae)	57
2190	Humid dune slacks	57
21A0	Machairs (* in Ireland)	57
2250	Coastal dunes with Juniperus spp.	57
2330	Inland dunes with open Corynephorus and Agrostis grasslands	57
3110	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae)	57
3130	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea	57
3140	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.	57
3150	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation	57

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
3160	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	57
3170	Mediterranean temporary ponds	57
3180	Turloughs	57
3260	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation	57
4010	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	57
4020	Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix	57
4030	European dry heaths	57
4040	Dry Atlantic coastal heaths with Erica vagans	57
4060	Alpine and Boreal heaths	57
4080	Sub-Arctic Salix spp. scrub	57
5110	Stable xerothermophilous formations with Buxus sempervirens on rock slopes (Berberidion p.p.)	57
5130	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	57
6130	Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae	57
6150	Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands	57
6170	Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands	57
6210	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)	57
6230	Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe)	57
6410	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	57
6430	Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	57
6510	Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis)	57
6520	Mountain hay meadows	57
7110	Active raised bogs	57
7120	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	57
7130	Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	57
7140	Transition mires and quaking bogs	57
7150	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	57
7210	Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae	57
7220	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	57
7230	Alkaline fens	57
7240	Alpine pioneer formations of the Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae	57
8110	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)	57
8120	Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (Thlaspietea rotundifolii)	57
8210	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	57
8220	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	57
8240	Limestone pavements	57
8310	Caves not open to the public	57
8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	57
9120	Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion robori-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion)	57
9130	Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests	57
9160	Sub-Atlantic and medio-European oak or oak-hornbeam forests of the Carpinion betuli	57
9180	Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines	57
9190	Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains	57
91A0	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	57
91C0	Caledonian forest	57
91D0	Bog woodland	57
91E0	Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	57
91J0	Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles	57

3.1 Relative surface

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	15%-100%	58
B	2%-15%	58
C	< 2%	58

3.1 Conservation status habitat

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent conservation	59
B	Good conservation	59
C	Average or reduced conservation	59

3.1 Global grade habitat

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent value	59
B	Good value	59
C	Significant value	59

3.2 Population (abbreviated to 'Pop.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	15%-100%	62
B	2%-15%	62
C	< 2%	62
D	Non-significant population	62

3.2 Conservation status species (abbreviated to 'Con.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent conservation	63
B	Good conservation	63
C	Average or reduced conservation	63

3.2 Isolation (abbreviated to 'Iso.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Population (almost) Isolated	63
B	Population not-isolated, but on margins of area of distribution	63
C	Population not-isolated within extended distribution range	63

3.2 Global Grade (abbreviated to 'Glo.' Or 'G.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent value	63
B	Good value	63
C	Significant value	63

3.3 Assemblages types

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
WATR	Non breeding waterfowl assemblage	UK specific code
SBA	Breeding seabird assemblage	UK specific code
BBA	Breeding bird assemblage (applies only to sites classified pre 2000)	UK specific code

4.1 Habitat class code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
N01	Marine areas, Sea inlets	65
N02	Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	65
N03	Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes	65
N04	Coastal sand dunes, Sand beaches, Machair	65
N05	Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets	65
N06	Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water)	65
N07	Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	65
N08	Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana	65
N09	Dry grassland, Steppes	65
N10	Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland	65
N11	Alpine and sub-Alpine grassland	65
N14	Improved grassland	65
N15	Other arable land	65
N16	Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	65
N17	Coniferous woodland	65
N19	Mixed woodland	65
N21	Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including Orchards, groves, Vineyards, Dehesas)	65
N22	Inland rocks, Screes, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice	65
N23	Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites)	65
N25	Grassland and scrub habitats (general)	65
N26	Woodland habitats (general)	65

4.3 Threats code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A01	Cultivation	65
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	65
A03	Mowing / cutting of grassland	65
A04	Grazing	65
A05	Livestock farming and animal breeding (without grazing)	65
A06	Annual and perennial non-timber crops	65
A07	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals	65
A08	Fertilisation	65
A10	Restructuring agricultural land holding	65
A11	Agriculture activities not referred to above	65
B01	Forest planting on open ground	65
B02	Forest and Plantation management & use	65
B03	Forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth	65
B04	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (forestry)	65
B06	Grazing in forests/ woodland	65
B07	Forestry activities not referred to above	65
C01	Mining and quarrying	65
C02	Exploration and extraction of oil or gas	65
C03	Renewable abiotic energy use	65
D01	Roads, paths and railroads	65
D02	Utility and service lines	65
D03	Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions	65
D04	Airports, flightpaths	65
D05	Improved access to site	65
E01	Urbanised areas, human habitation	65
E02	Industrial or commercial areas	65

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
E03	Discharges	65
E04	Structures, buildings in the landscape	65
E06	Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities	65
F01	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture	65
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	65
F03	Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including damage caused by game (excessive density), and taking/removal of terrestrial animals (including collection of insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds of prey, etc., trapping, poisoning, poaching, predator control, accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear), etc.)	65
F04	Taking / Removal of terrestrial plants, general	65
F05	Illegal taking/ removal of marine fauna	65
F06	Hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above	65
G01	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities	65
G02	Sport and leisure structures	65
G03	Interpretative centres	65
G04	Military use and civil unrest	65
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	65
H01	Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)	65
H02	Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)	65
H03	Marine water pollution	65
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants	65
H05	Soil pollution and solid waste (excluding discharges)	65
H06	Excess energy	65
H07	Other forms of pollution	65
I01	Invasive non-native species	65
I02	Problematic native species	65
I03	Introduced genetic material, GMO	65
J01	Fire and fire suppression	65
J02	Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions	65
J03	Other ecosystem modifications	65
K01	Abiotic (slow) natural processes	65
K02	Biocenotic evolution, succession	65
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	65
K04	Interspecific floral relations	65
K05	Reduced fecundity/ genetic depression	65
L05	Collapse of terrain, landslide	65
L07	Storm, cyclone	65
L08	Inundation (natural processes)	65
L10	Other natural catastrophes	65
M01	Changes in abiotic conditions	65
M02	Changes in biotic conditions	65
U	Unknown threat or pressure	65
XO	Threats and pressures from outside the Member State	65

5.1 Designation type codes

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
UK00	No Protection Status	67
UK01	National Nature Reserve	67
UK02	Marine Nature Reserve	67
UK04	Site of Special Scientific Interest (UK)	67

EC Directive 92/43 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Mottey Meadows
Unitary Authority/County: Staffordshire
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: SJ840134
SAC EU code: UK0030051
Area (ha): 43.87
Component SSSI: Mottey Meadows SSSI

Site description:

Mottey Meadows contains lowland hay meadows with limited influence of agricultural intensification and so demonstrates good conservation of structure and function. There are transitions to other dry and wet grassland types. The site is important for a range of rare meadow species, including fritillary *Fritillaria meleagris* at its most northerly native locality.

Qualifying habitats: The site is designated under **article 4(4)** of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following habitats listed in Annex I:

- Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*)

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.

Register reference number: UK0030051

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: [REDACTED]

On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

NATURA 2000 – STANDARD DATA FORM

Special Areas of Conservation under the EC Habitats Directive (includes candidate SACs, Sites of Community Importance and designated SACs).

Each Natura 2000 site in the United Kingdom has its own Standard Data Form containing site-specific information. The data form for this site has been generated from the Natura 2000 Database submitted to the European Commission on the following date:

22/12/2015

The information provided here, follows the officially agreed site information format for Natura 2000 sites, as set out in the [Official Journal of the European Union recording the Commission Implementing Decision of 11 July 2011 \(2011/484/EU\)](#).

The Standard Data Forms are generated automatically for all of the UK's Natura 2000 sites using the European Environment Agency's Natura 2000 software. The structure and format of these forms is exactly as produced by the EEA's Natura 2000 software (except for the addition of this coversheet and the end notes). The content matches exactly the data submitted to the European Commission.

Please note that these forms contain a number of codes, all of which are explained either within the data forms themselves or in the end notes.

Further technical documentation may be found here
http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/activities/Natura_2000/reference_portal

As part of the December 2015 submission, several sections of the UK's previously published Standard Data Forms have been updated. For details of the approach taken by the UK in this submission please refer to the following document:
http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Natura2000_StandardDataForm_UKApproach_Dec2015.pdf

More general information on Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in the United Kingdom is available from the [SAC home page on the JNCC website](#). This webpage also provides links to Standard Data Forms for all SACs in the UK.

Date form generated by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee
25 January 2016.



NATURA 2000 - STANDARD DATA FORM

For Special Protection Areas (SPA),
Proposed Sites for Community Importance (pSCI),
Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and
for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SITE UK0030051
SITENAME Motte Meadows

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [1. SITE IDENTIFICATION](#)
- [2. SITE LOCATION](#)
- [3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION](#)
- [4. SITE DESCRIPTION](#)
- [5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS AND RELATION WITH CORINE BIOTOPES](#)
- [6. SITE MANAGEMENT](#)

1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code UK0030051	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Motte Meadows

1.4 First Compilation date 1998-06	1.5 Update date 2015-12
--	-----------------------------------

1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation: Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Address: Joint Nature Conservation Committee Monkstone House City Road Peterborough
PE1 1JY
Email:

Date site proposed as SCI: 1998-06
Date site confirmed as SCI: 2004-12
Date site designated as SAC: 2005-04

National legal reference of SAC designation:

Regulations 11 and 13-15 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010
(<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made>).

2. SITE LOCATION

[Back to top](#)

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude
-2.236944444

Latitude
52.7175

2.2 Area [ha]:

43.69

2.3 Marine area [%]

0.0

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code

Region Name

UKG2

Shropshire and Staffordshire

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (100.0
%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

[Back to top](#)

Annex I Habitat types						Site assessment			
Code	PF	NP	Cover [ha]	Cave [number]	Data quality	A B C D	A B C		
						Representativity	Relative Surface	Conservation	Global
6510			32.76		G	A	B	A	A

- **PF:** for the habitat types that can have a non-priority as well as a priority form (6210, 7130, 9430) enter "X" in the column PF to indicate the priority form.
- **NP:** in case that a habitat type no longer exists in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Cover:** decimal values can be entered
- **Caves:** for habitat types 8310, 8330 (caves) enter the number of caves if estimated surface is not available.
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation)

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

4.1 General site character

[Back to top](#)

Habitat class	% Cover
N10	97.0

N21	3.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

1 Terrestrial: Soil & Geology: neutral,alluvium 2 Terrestrial: Geomorphology and landscape: floodplain,lowland

4.2 Quality and importance

Lowland hay meadows (*Alopecurus pratensis*, *Sanguisorba officinalis*) for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

Negative Impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
H	J02		B
H	H02		B
H	A02		I

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
H	A04		I
H	D05		I

Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low

Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input/acidification, T = toxic inorganic chemicals, O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions

i = inside, o = outside, b = both

4.5 Documentation

Conservation Objectives - the Natural England links below provide access to the Conservation Objectives (and other site-related information) for its terrestrial and inshore Natura 2000 sites, including conservation advice packages and supporting documents for European Marine Sites within English waters and for cross-border sites. See also the 'UK Approach' document for more information (link via the JNCC website).

Link(s): <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/3212324>
http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Natura2000_StandardDataForm_UKApproach_Dec2015.pdf
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216>

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

[Back to top](#)

Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
UK04	100.0	UK01	88.6		

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

[Back to top](#)

Organisation:	Natural England
Address:	
Email:	

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes	Name: Mottey Meadows: The Mottey Meadows National Nature Reserve (NNR) Management Plan provides management information related to this site. This is available from Natural England. Link: _____
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, but in preparation	
<input type="checkbox"/>	No	

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

For available information, including on Conservation Objectives, see Section 4.5.

EXPLANATION OF CODES USED IN THE NATURA 2000 STANDARD DATA FORMS

The codes in the table below are also explained in the [official European Union guidelines for the Standard Data Form](#). The relevant page is shown in the table below.

1.1 Site type

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Designated Special Protection Area	53
B	SAC (includes candidates Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance and designated SAC)	53
C	SAC area the same as SPA. Note in the UK Natura 2000 submission this is only used for Gibraltar	53

3.1 Habitat representativity

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent	57
B	Good	57
C	Significant	57
D	Non-significant presence	57

3.1 Habitat code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	57
1130	Estuaries	57
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	57
1150	Coastal lagoons	57
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	57
1170	Reefs	57
1180	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	57
1210	Annual vegetation of drift lines	57
1220	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	57
1230	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts	57
1310	Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	57
1320	Spartina swards (Spartinion maritimae)	57
1330	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	57
1340	Inland salt meadows	57
1420	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (Sarcocornetea fruticosi)	57
2110	Embryonic shifting dunes	57
2120	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ("white dunes")	57
2130	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")	57
2140	Decalcified fixed dunes with Empetrum nigrum	57
2150	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea)	57
2160	Dunes with Hippophila rhamnoides	57
2170	Dunes with Salix repens ssp. argentea (Salicion arenariae)	57
2190	Humid dune slacks	57
21A0	Machairs (* in Ireland)	57
2250	Coastal dunes with Juniperus spp.	57
2330	Inland dunes with open Corynephorus and Agrostis grasslands	57
3110	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae)	57
3130	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoëto-Nanojuncetea	57
3140	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.	57
3150	Natural eutrophic lakes with Magnopotamion or Hydrocharition - type vegetation	57

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
3160	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	57
3170	Mediterranean temporary ponds	57
3180	Turloughs	57
3260	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation	57
4010	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	57
4020	Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix	57
4030	European dry heaths	57
4040	Dry Atlantic coastal heaths with Erica vagans	57
4060	Alpine and Boreal heaths	57
4080	Sub-Arctic Salix spp. scrub	57
5110	Stable xerothermophilous formations with Buxus sempervirens on rock slopes (Berberidion p.p.)	57
5130	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	57
6130	Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae	57
6150	Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands	57
6170	Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands	57
6210	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)	57
6230	Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe)	57
6410	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	57
6430	Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	57
6510	Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis)	57
6520	Mountain hay meadows	57
7110	Active raised bogs	57
7120	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	57
7130	Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	57
7140	Transition mires and quaking bogs	57
7150	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	57
7210	Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae	57
7220	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	57
7230	Alkaline fens	57
7240	Alpine pioneer formations of the Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae	57
8110	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)	57
8120	Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (Thlaspietea rotundifolii)	57
8210	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	57
8220	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	57
8240	Limestone pavements	57
8310	Caves not open to the public	57
8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	57
9120	Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion robori-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion)	57
9130	Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests	57
9160	Sub-Atlantic and medio-European oak or oak-hornbeam forests of the Carpinion betuli	57
9180	Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines	57
9190	Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains	57
91A0	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	57
91C0	Caledonian forest	57
91D0	Bog woodland	57
91E0	Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	57
91J0	Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles	57

3.1 Relative surface

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	15%-100%	58
B	2%-15%	58
C	< 2%	58

3.1 Conservation status habitat

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent conservation	59
B	Good conservation	59
C	Average or reduced conservation	59

3.1 Global grade habitat

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent value	59
B	Good value	59
C	Significant value	59

3.2 Population (abbreviated to 'Pop.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	15%-100%	62
B	2%-15%	62
C	< 2%	62
D	Non-significant population	62

3.2 Conservation status species (abbreviated to 'Con.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent conservation	63
B	Good conservation	63
C	Average or reduced conservation	63

3.2 Isolation (abbreviated to 'Iso.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Population (almost) Isolated	63
B	Population not-isolated, but on margins of area of distribution	63
C	Population not-isolated within extended distribution range	63

3.2 Global Grade (abbreviated to 'Glo.' Or 'G.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent value	63
B	Good value	63
C	Significant value	63

3.3 Assemblages types

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
WATR	Non breeding waterfowl assemblage	UK specific code
SBA	Breeding seabird assemblage	UK specific code
BBA	Breeding bird assemblage (applies only to sites classified pre 2000)	UK specific code

4.1 Habitat class code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
N01	Marine areas, Sea inlets	65
N02	Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	65
N03	Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes	65
N04	Coastal sand dunes, Sand beaches, Machair	65
N05	Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets	65
N06	Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water)	65
N07	Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	65
N08	Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana	65
N09	Dry grassland, Steppes	65
N10	Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland	65
N11	Alpine and sub-Alpine grassland	65
N14	Improved grassland	65
N15	Other arable land	65
N16	Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	65
N17	Coniferous woodland	65
N19	Mixed woodland	65
N21	Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including Orchards, groves, Vineyards, Dehesas)	65
N22	Inland rocks, Scree, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice	65
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U	Unknown threat or pressure	65
XO	Threats and pressures from outside the Member State	65

5.1 Designation type codes

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
UK00	No Protection Status	67
UK01	National Nature Reserve	67
UK02	Marine Nature Reserve	67
UK04	Site of Special Scientific Interest (UK)	67

EC Directive 92/43 on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora

Citation for Special Area of Conservation (SAC)

Name: Cannock Extension Canal
Unitary Authority/County: Walsall, Staffordshire
SAC status: Designated on 1 April 2005
Grid reference: SK020058
SAC EU code: UK0012672
Area (ha): 5.47
Component SSSI: Cannock Extension Canal SSSI

Site description:

Cannock Extension Canal in central England is an example of anthropogenic, lowland habitat supporting floating water-plantain *Luronium natans* at the eastern limit of the plant's natural distribution in England. A very large population of the species occurs in the Canal, which has a diverse aquatic flora and rich dragonfly fauna, indicative of good water quality. The low volume of boat traffic on this terminal branch of the Wyrley and Essington Canal has allowed open-water plants, including floating water-plantain, to flourish, while depressing the growth of emergents.

Qualifying species: The site is designated under **article 4(4)** of the Directive (92/43/EEC) as it hosts the following species listed in Annex II:

- Floating water-plantain *Luronium natans*

This citation relates to a site entered in the Register of European Sites for Great Britain.

Register reference number: UK0012672

Date of registration: 14 June 2005

Signed: [REDACTED]

On behalf of the Secretary of State for Environment,
Food and Rural Affairs

NATURA 2000 – STANDARD DATA FORM

Special Areas of Conservation under the EC Habitats Directive (includes candidate SACs, Sites of Community Importance and designated SACs).

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22/12/2015

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Further technical documentation may be found here
http://bd.eionet.europa.eu/activities/Natura_2000/reference_portal

As part of the December 2015 submission, several sections of the UK's previously published Standard Data Forms have been updated. For details of the approach taken by the UK in this submission please refer to the following document:
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More general information on Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) in the United Kingdom is available from the [SAC home page on the JNCC website](#). This webpage also provides links to Standard Data Forms for all SACs in the UK.

Date form generated by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee
25 January 2016.



NATURA 2000 - STANDARD DATA FORM

For Special Protection Areas (SPA),
Proposed Sites for Community Importance (pSCI),
Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and
for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SITE UK0012672
SITENAME Cannock Extension Canal

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code UK0012672	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Cannock Extension Canal

1.4 First Compilation date 1995-06	1.5 Update date 2015-12
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1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation: Joint Nature Conservation Committee
Address: Joint Nature Conservation Committee Monkstone House City Road Peterborough
PE1 1JY
Email:

Date site proposed as SCI:	1995-06
Date site confirmed as SCI:	2004-12
Date site designated as SAC:	2005-04
National legal reference of SAC designation:	Regulations 11 and 13-15 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/490/contents/made).

2. SITE LOCATION

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2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude

-1.970555556

Latitude

52.64972222

2.2 Area [ha]:

5.0

2.3 Marine area [%]

0.0

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code

Region Name

UKG2	Shropshire and Staffordshire
UKG3	West Midlands

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Atlantic (100.0
%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

3.2 Species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC and site evaluation for them

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Species			Population in the site							Site assessment				
G	Code	Scientific Name	S	NP	T	Size		Unit	Cat.	D.qual.	A B C D		A B C	
						Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	Glo.
P	1831	Luronium natans			p				C	DD	C	B	B	B

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, I = Invertebrates, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Type:** p = permanent, r = reproducing, c = concentration, w = wintering (for plant and non-migratory species use permanent)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the Standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting (see [reference portal](#))
- **Abundance categories (Cat.):** C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present - to fill if data are deficient (DD) or in addition to population size information
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation); VP = 'Very poor' (use this category only, if not even a rough estimation of the population size can be made, in this case the fields for population size can remain empty, but the field "Abundance categories" has to be filled in)

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

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4.1 General site character

Habitat class	% Cover
N16	4.9
N06	75.0
N10	10.0
N23	10.1
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

2 Terrestrial: Geomorphology and landscape: lowland

4.2 Quality and importance

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

4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

Negative Impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
H	H02		B
H	I01		B
H	H04		B
H	A04		I

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]

Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low

Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input/acidification,

T = toxic inorganic chemicals, O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions

i = inside, o = outside, b = both

4.5 Documentation

Conservation Objectives - the Natural England links below provide access to the Conservation Objectives (and other site-related information) for its terrestrial and inshore Natura 2000 sites, including conservation advice packages and supporting documents for European Marine Sites within English waters and for cross-border sites. See also the 'UK Approach' document for more information (link via the JNCC website).

Link(s): http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/Natura2000_StandardDataForm_UKApproach_Dec2015.pdf

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/6490068894089216>

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/category/3212324>

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

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5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
UK04	100.0				

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

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6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

Organisation:	Natural England
Address:	
Email:	

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> No, but in preparation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

For available information, including on Conservation Objectives, see Section 4.5.

EXPLANATION OF CODES USED IN THE NATURA 2000 STANDARD DATA FORMS

The codes in the table below are also explained in the [official European Union guidelines for the Standard Data Form](#). The relevant page is shown in the table below.

1.1 Site type

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Designated Special Protection Area	53
B	SAC (includes candidates Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance and designated SAC)	53
C	SAC area the same as SPA. Note in the UK Natura 2000 submission this is only used for Gibraltar	53

3.1 Habitat representativity

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent	57
B	Good	57
C	Significant	57
D	Non-significant presence	57

3.1 Habitat code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
1110	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	57
1130	Estuaries	57
1140	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	57
1150	Coastal lagoons	57
1160	Large shallow inlets and bays	57
1170	Reefs	57
1180	Submarine structures made by leaking gases	57
1210	Annual vegetation of drift lines	57
1220	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	57
1230	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic Coasts	57
1310	Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	57
1320	Spartina swards (<i>Spartinion maritimae</i>)	57
1330	Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)	57
1340	Inland salt meadows	57
1420	Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>)	57
2110	Embryonic shifting dunes	57
2120	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes")	57
2130	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")	57
2140	Decalcified fixed dunes with <i>Empetrum nigrum</i>	57
2150	Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (<i>Calluno-Ulicetea</i>)	57
2160	Dunes with <i>Hippophila rhamnoides</i>	57
2170	Dunes with <i>Salix repens</i> ssp. <i>argentea</i> (<i>Salicion arenariae</i>)	57
2190	Humid dune slacks	57
21A0	Machairs (* in Ireland)	57
2250	Coastal dunes with <i>Juniperus</i> spp.	57
2330	Inland dunes with open <i>Corynephorus</i> and <i>Agrostis</i> grasslands	57
3110	Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>)	57
3130	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i>	57
3140	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of <i>Chara</i> spp.	57
3150	Natural eutrophic lakes with <i>Magnopotamion</i> or <i>Hydrocharition</i> - type vegetation	57

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
3160	Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds	57
3170	Mediterranean temporary ponds	57
3180	Turloughs	57
3260	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation	57
4010	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	57
4020	Temperate Atlantic wet heaths with Erica ciliaris and Erica tetralix	57
4030	European dry heaths	57
4040	Dry Atlantic coastal heaths with Erica vagans	57
4060	Alpine and Boreal heaths	57
4080	Sub-Arctic Salix spp. scrub	57
5110	Stable xerothermophilous formations with Buxus sempervirens on rock slopes (Berberidion p.p.)	57
5130	Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands	57
6130	Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae	57
6150	Siliceous alpine and boreal grasslands	57
6170	Alpine and subalpine calcareous grasslands	57
6210	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)	57
6230	Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on silicious substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas in Continental Europe)	57
6410	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	57
6430	Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels	57
6510	Lowland hay meadows (Alopecurus pratensis, Sanguisorba officinalis)	57
6520	Mountain hay meadows	57
7110	Active raised bogs	57
7120	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration	57
7130	Blanket bogs (* if active bog)	57
7140	Transition mires and quaking bogs	57
7150	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	57
7210	Calcareous fens with Cladium mariscus and species of the Caricion davallianae	57
7220	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion)	57
7230	Alkaline fens	57
7240	Alpine pioneer formations of the Caricion bicoloris-atrofuscae	57
8110	Siliceous scree of the montane to snow levels (Androsacetalia alpinae and Galeopsietalia ladani)	57
8120	Calcareous and calcshist screes of the montane to alpine levels (Thlaspietea rotundifolii)	57
8210	Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	57
8220	Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation	57
8240	Limestone pavements	57
8310	Caves not open to the public	57
8330	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	57
9120	Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (Quercion roburi-petraeae or Ilici-Fagenion)	57
9130	Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests	57
9160	Sub-Atlantic and medio-European oak or oak-hornbeam forests of the Carpinion betuli	57
9180	Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines	57
9190	Old acidophilous oak woods with Quercus robur on sandy plains	57
91A0	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	57
91C0	Caledonian forest	57
91D0	Bog woodland	57
91E0	Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	57
91J0	Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles	57

3.1 Relative surface

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	15%-100%	58
B	2%-15%	58
C	< 2%	58

3.1 Conservation status habitat

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent conservation	59
B	Good conservation	59
C	Average or reduced conservation	59

3.1 Global grade habitat

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent value	59
B	Good value	59
C	Significant value	59

3.2 Population (abbreviated to 'Pop.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	15%-100%	62
B	2%-15%	62
C	< 2%	62
D	Non-significant population	62

3.2 Conservation status species (abbreviated to 'Con.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent conservation	63
B	Good conservation	63
C	Average or reduced conservation	63

3.2 Isolation (abbreviated to 'Iso.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Population (almost) Isolated	63
B	Population not-isolated, but on margins of area of distribution	63
C	Population not-isolated within extended distribution range	63

3.2 Global Grade (abbreviated to 'Glo.' Or 'G.' in data form)

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A	Excellent value	63
B	Good value	63
C	Significant value	63

3.3 Assemblages types

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
WATR	Non breeding waterfowl assemblage	UK specific code
SBA	Breeding seabird assemblage	UK specific code
BBA	Breeding bird assemblage (applies only to sites classified pre 2000)	UK specific code

4.1 Habitat class code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
N01	Marine areas, Sea inlets	65
N02	Tidal rivers, Estuaries, Mud flats, Sand flats, Lagoons (including saltwork basins)	65
N03	Salt marshes, Salt pastures, Salt steppes	65
N04	Coastal sand dunes, Sand beaches, Machair	65
N05	Shingle, Sea cliffs, Islets	65
N06	Inland water bodies (Standing water, Running water)	65
N07	Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens	65
N08	Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana	65
N09	Dry grassland, Steppes	65
N10	Humid grassland, Mesophile grassland	65
N11	Alpine and sub-Alpine grassland	65
N14	Improved grassland	65
N15	Other arable land	65
N16	Broad-leaved deciduous woodland	65
N17	Coniferous woodland	65
N19	Mixed woodland	65
N21	Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including Orchards, groves, Vineyards, Dehesas)	65
N22	Inland rocks, Scree, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice	65
N23	Other land (including Towns, Villages, Roads, Waste places, Mines, Industrial sites)	65
N25	Grassland and scrub habitats (general)	65
N26	Woodland habitats (general)	65

4.3 Threats code

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
A01	Cultivation	65
A02	Modification of cultivation practices	65
A03	Mowing / cutting of grassland	65
A04	Grazing	65
A05	Livestock farming and animal breeding (without grazing)	65
A06	Annual and perennial non-timber crops	65
A07	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals	65
A08	Fertilisation	65
A10	Restructuring agricultural land holding	65
A11	Agriculture activities not referred to above	65
B01	Forest planting on open ground	65
B02	Forest and Plantation management & use	65
B03	Forest exploitation without replanting or natural regrowth	65
B04	Use of biocides, hormones and chemicals (forestry)	65
B06	Grazing in forests/ woodland	65
B07	Forestry activities not referred to above	65
C01	Mining and quarrying	65
C02	Exploration and extraction of oil or gas	65
C03	Renewable abiotic energy use	65
D01	Roads, paths and railroads	65
D02	Utility and service lines	65
D03	Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions	65
D04	Airports, flightpaths	65
D05	Improved access to site	65
E01	Urbanised areas, human habitation	65
E02	Industrial or commercial areas	65

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
E03	Discharges	65
E04	Structures, buildings in the landscape	65
E06	Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities	65
F01	Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture	65
F02	Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources	65
F03	Hunting and collection of wild animals (terrestrial), including damage caused by game (excessive density), and taking/removal of terrestrial animals (including collection of insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds of prey, etc.), trapping, poisoning, poaching, predator control, accidental capture (e.g. due to fishing gear), etc.)	65
F04	Taking / Removal of terrestrial plants, general	65
F05	Illegal taking/ removal of marine fauna	65
F06	Hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above	65
G01	Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities	65
G02	Sport and leisure structures	65
G03	Interpretative centres	65
G04	Military use and civil unrest	65
G05	Other human intrusions and disturbances	65
H01	Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish)	65
H02	Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources)	65
H03	Marine water pollution	65
H04	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants	65
H05	Soil pollution and solid waste (excluding discharges)	65
H06	Excess energy	65
H07	Other forms of pollution	65
I01	Invasive non-native species	65
I02	Problematic native species	65
I03	Introduced genetic material, GMO	65
J01	Fire and fire suppression	65
J02	Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions	65
J03	Other ecosystem modifications	65
K01	Abiotic (slow) natural processes	65
K02	Biocenotic evolution, succession	65
K03	Interspecific faunal relations	65
K04	Interspecific floral relations	65
K05	Reduced fecundity/ genetic depression	65
L05	Collapse of terrain, landslide	65
L07	Storm, cyclone	65
L08	Inundation (natural processes)	65
L10	Other natural catastrophes	65
M01	Changes in abiotic conditions	65
M02	Changes in biotic conditions	65
U	Unknown threat or pressure	65
XO	Threats and pressures from outside the Member State	65

5.1 Designation type codes

CODE	DESCRIPTION	PAGE NO
UK00	No Protection Status	67
UK01	National Nature Reserve	67
UK02	Marine Nature Reserve	67
UK04	Site of Special Scientific Interest (UK)	67

Appendix C: Copies of correspondence from Natural England

Matthew Royall

From: Muller, Antony (NE) <Antony.Muller@naturalengland.org.uk>
Sent: 10 July 2017 11:36
To: Matthew Royall
Subject: Draft HRA (Staffordshire) West Midlands Interchange

Dear Matt

West Midlands Interchange – Habitats Regulations Assessment - No significant effects report (NSER) (Draft - June 2017)
Our reference 218129

Thank you for your email dated 13.6.17. I understand from your voicemail that this consultation opportunity does not form part of the statutory section 42 stage of the project. Natural England is able to offer the following provisional feedback:

We note that the indicative 'no likely significant effects' conclusion in the report is subject to confirmation in terms of traffic modelling and assessment of related air quality impacts. Cannock Extension Canal lies within the 200m 'zone' for screening of air quality impacts arising from road transport schemes (the A5 lying close by). It may be worthwhile indicating over what timescales the transport modelling and related assessment of air quality impacts are expected. This would help to provide a firmer fix on when any uncertainty may be resolved.

Conversely, in terms of the forthcoming environmental statement scope exists to describe the potential for positive effects on other European Sites (as well as UK sites of national and local status) by virtue of the Strategic Rail Freight Interchange removing or reducing the need for HGV traffic elsewhere in the country.

Kind regards

Antony

Antony Muller

Assistant Casework Manager

Sustainable Development Team - West Midlands

Direct dial – 0208 026 0939

Mobile - 07971 294109

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/>

We are here to secure a healthy natural environment for people to enjoy, where wildlife is protected and England's traditional landscapes are safeguarded for future generations.

Natural England offers two chargeable services – The Discretionary Advice Service ([DAS](#)) provides pre-application, pre-determination and post-consent advice on proposals to developers and consultants as well as pre-licensing species advice and pre-assent and consent advice. The Pre-submission Screening Service ([PSS](#)) provides advice for protected species mitigation licence applications.

These services help applicants take appropriate account of environmental considerations at an early stage of project development, reduce uncertainty, reduce the risk of delay and added cost at a later stage, whilst securing good results for the natural environment.

In an effort to reduce Natural England's carbon footprint, I will, wherever possible, avoid travelling to meetings and attend via audio, video or web conferencing.

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Date: 06 November 2017
Our ref: 228911
Your ref: N/a



Matt Royall
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T 0300 060 3900

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Matt

NSIP consultation: West Midlands Interchange - Draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) with Natural England

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 13 October 2017 which was received by Natural England on the same day.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Terms of reference

We note that the section 2.0 (introduction) of the draft Statement of Common Ground (SoCG) defines the document's scope as:

- Ecology and Biodiversity – specifically the elements under the remit of NE; and
- Landscape and Visual Impact.

The document's title page includes reference to 'agriculture and soils' although this subject is not referenced within the draft text.

Ecology

Ecological Designated Sites – We note that this part of the text references the 'Habitats Regulations Assessment – No significant effects report'. We agree with the statements in this section of the draft SoCG.

In addition we note and welcome the draft SoCG reference to the draft HRA conclusions at Section 6.0 of the document (Matters not agreed):

Cannock Extension Canal Special area of Conservation (SAC) - Our email response dated 10.7.17 (Our reference 218129) sets out our advice and we await further information on the subject of traffic modelling in order to understand whether further HRA work is needed in respect of the Cannock Extension Canal SAC.

Four Ashes Pit Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) – We agree with section 6.1.2's reference to the drainage strategy for the scheme.

Ecological surveys – Natural England is satisfied with the proposed wording at section 5.1.5.

Protected Species – Agreed.

Ecological enhancement – Natural England was unable to attend the recent green infrastructure meeting in Stafford. We anticipate that significant scope is likely to exist for ecological enhancements to be realised in tandem with the scheme's green infrastructure design and would welcome your feedback from the meeting in order to agree the wording for this section of the SoCG.

Comment on the Ecological Mitigation and Management Plan – Agreed.

Landscape

Natural England is satisfied with paragraphs 5.1.10, 5.1.12, 5.1.13, 5.1.14 and 5.1.15.

Paragraph 5.1.11 is not yet agreed. Following a telephone conversation between my colleague Andrew Baker and Tim Jackson of FPCR on 4.10.17 we expect to receive further information to clarify the relevant issue, specifically the LVIA's coverage regarding duration (and hence magnitude) of effect for the construction phase.

Green infrastructure – With regard to para 5.1.16 please see our comments above (Ecological enhancement) regarding outcomes from the recent meeting on the green infrastructure theme.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact me on 020 802 60939. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondence to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Antony Muller
Senior Adviser – Sustainable Development Team – West Midlands

Date: 05 March 2018
Our ref: 238930
Your ref: NSER revisions



Ramboll Environ UK

For attention of Matt Royall

BY EMAIL ONLY

Customer Services
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CW1 6GJ

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Matt

Planning consultation: West Midlands Interchange NSIP – No significant effects report (NSER) revisions. Advice regarding the need to consider case law - the 'Wealden Judgement' - before adopting a 'no significant effects' conclusion

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 06 February 2018 which was received by Natural England on the same day.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Further to our phone conversation on Friday 2.3.18 Natural England sets out advice below in relation to the narrative supporting the 'no likely significant effect' conclusion regarding air quality impacts upon the Cannock Extension Canal Special Area of Conservation (SAC). We have highlighted an inconsistency in the traffic data and, further, proposed some next steps that we believe would help to offset unforeseen substantive work on this subject at the Examination stage i.e. by demonstrating to the inspector that Natural England and WMI took active steps to address potential uncertainty on this theme. We enclose examples of two local plan HRAs in the West Midlands addressing this issue in order to allow consideration of the way forward in respect of this NSIP.

Why is further consideration needed?

It is unclear whether the approach to the Environmental Statement (ES) and associated NSER has taken account of the implications of the 'Wealden judgment' (Wealden District Council v. Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Lewes District Council and South Downs National Park Authority [2017] EWHC 351 (Admin)).

Current draft ES and NSER approach

Natural England notes the draft ES's reference at Chapter 15 Transport & Access to IEMA guidelines and the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) volume 11 methodologies. We acknowledge the findings of the screening work stated in the NSER but draw your attention to an inconsistency in the HDV figures quoted here in comparison with Table 15.1 of the draft ES.

NSER states - "*negligible increases in AADT for both total vehicles and HDVs are anticipated for the closest assessed part of the road network (Link 34 in the Transport Assessment/ES chapter), amounting to 129 (0.44%) and 113 (3.34%) additional AADT respectively*"

Table 15.1 in the ES and Table 15.3 in the NSER quote different figures in respect of HDV traffic (3590/6.01% and 3499/3.34% respectively). The difference in the figures quoted (91 HDV AADT) would exceed the 200 HDV threshold and lead to further HRA (appropriate assessment) of the project 'alone'. We advise that the project team checks on the traffic volumes data to establish which figures are correct.

Turning to the assessment of in combination effects, a key question arising from the Wealden judgement is whether other plans and projects exist, which when assessed in combination with the NSIP, would trigger the need for an 'appropriate assessment' i.e. the DMRB criteria for traffic volumes would be exceeded (1000 AADT light vehicles and 200 HDV AADT respectively).

The following bullet points seek to illustrate those aspects of the ES and resulting NSER that may need to be checked and clarified, either to support the conclusions you have reached so far, or to evidence why more detailed assessment is needed:

1. We note that the adopted transport assessment methodology applies traffic volumes at 2021 (first occupation) assuming that the whole development is operational at this time, though in fact construction and operation will take place over the period 2021-2036. This appears to represent a precautionary approach i.e. one that would imply greater traffic related impacts than would in fact be the case. However it is unclear whether/to what extent the decision to adopt this precautionary approach reflects uncertainty regarding the route of the proposed M54/M6/M6 Toll Link.
2. Cannock Extension Canal SAC lies just outside the nearest identified 'link' in the ES (link 34 A5 between A34-B4155). The identification of 'links' in the ES would appear to be triggered by the forecast increase in traffic volumes caused by the NSIP. We understand links to be defined as any route expected to experience a 30% increase in traffic or a 10% increase where 'sensitive receptors' are identified. Sensitive receptors are described as schools, health facilities, community facilities and sites where significant pedestrian movements occur. Natural environment receptors including European designed sites would not appear to be mentioned.
 - a. Table 15.1 states that the link closest to the SAC was screened out because the expected increase in traffic volume was less than 10%.
 - b. Table 15.2 of the ES refers the reader to the corresponding ES chapter on Ecology. The draft ES states that the results of air quality modelling are awaited.
 - c. NSER HRA screening matrix 03 (Cannock Extension Canal) and Appendix A set out the narrative regarding air quality assessment. The SAC has been screened out using DMRB Vol11 criteria (volume of traffic) and therefore no air quality modelling has yet taken place.
3. Section 15.270 re 'Likely significant effect' (LSE) concludes 'no LSE after mitigation'. Referring to section 15.244 regarding mitigation for the NSIP's operational phase it appears that mitigation measures are focused primarily on human health.
 - a. It may be helpful to describe how the IEMA and DMRB Vol11 methodologies interact in order to demonstrate that the SAC has been given a suitable level of consideration and whether the stated mitigation measures also serve to address impacts on environment receptors such as designated sites.

4. Section 15.271 'Cumulative impacts' states that "traffic models data takes account of all committed and consented schemes as agreed with the relevant authorities".
 - a. Given the above approach regarding the identification of those road routes subject to assessment (links) and the corresponding approach to selection of mitigation measures the narrative should explain how the figures derived for the NSIP (e.g. table 15.3 in the NSER) take account of environmental receptors like the SAC and whether the 'no likely significant effect' conclusion remains robust in the light of the Wealden Judgement.

Please see the examples from Cotswold District and North Warwickshire Borough local plans (attached separately) to show how these authorities have approached the air quality theme in respect of European designated sites while taking account of the Wealden Judgement.

Finally we would add that if stage 2 of HRA ('appropriate assessment') is needed then we recognise that this does not necessarily mean that the project would have an adverse effect on the integrity of the SAC. Rather that the assessment data gathered to 'screen' the project supports the need to apply greater scrutiny to the effects the NSIP may have.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact me on 020 802 60939. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondence to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk copying me in for reference.

Yours sincerely

Antony Muller
Senior Adviser – Planning for a Better Environment – West Midlands Area Team

Matthew Royall

From: Matthew Royall
Sent: 04 April 2018 12:33
To: Muller, Antony (NE)
Subject: RE: NSER response

Antony

Thanks for your comments. Please find below further details by way of response. For ease I've copied your original comments and provided my response in green.

Natural England notes the draft ES's reference at Chapter 15 Transport & Access to IEMA guidelines and the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) volume 11 methodologies. We acknowledge the findings of the screening work stated in the NSER but draw your attention to an inconsistency in the HDV figures quoted here in comparison with Table 15.1 of the draft ES.

NSER states - *"negligible increases in AADT for both total vehicles and HDVs are anticipated for the closest assessed part of the road network (Link 34 in the Transport Assessment/ES chapter), amounting to 129 (0.44%) and 113 (3.34%) additional AADT respectively"*

Table 15.1 in the ES and Table 15.3 in the NSER quote different figures in respect of HDV traffic (3590/6.01% and 3499/3.34% respectively). The difference in the figures quoted (91 HDV AADT) would exceed the 200 HDV threshold and lead to further HRA (appropriate assessment) of the project 'alone'. We advise that the project team checks on the traffic volumes data to establish which figures are correct.

To clarify we have issued you the very latest version of the NSER which corresponds with the very latest traffic modelling data. Your comments make reference to the latest version of the NSER in comparison with the draft traffic ES chapter submitted as part of s.42 consultation. Since this consultation stage the traffic numbers have been revised. The project traffic consultants (WSP) confirmed that there is an explanation for the change in traffic flows. WSP re-ran the VISSIM model after s.42 consultation to address comments received from Highways England (HE) on the details of the traffic model. There were some very specific changes to the VISSIM model coding as requested by HE including changes to fixed time signals at M6 Junction 11, removing some 'blocks' that had been placed on specific routes along with other minor changes. This resulted in changes to the predicted traffic flows. The updated traffic modelling will be included in the final ES to be included in the DCO submission. However, the revised figures used in the latest NSER are considered more accurate and accord with HE requirements.

We note that the adopted transport assessment methodology applies traffic volumes at 2021 (first occupation) assuming that the whole development is operational at this time, though in fact construction and operation will take place over the period 2021-2036. This appears to represent a precautionary approach i.e. one that would imply greater traffic related impacts than would in fact be the case. However it is unclear whether/to what extent the decision to adopt this precautionary approach reflects uncertainty regarding the route of the proposed M54/M6/M6 Toll Link.

WSP have been unable to carry out a 2036 assessment as the M6 / M54 / M6 Toll Link Road route is yet to be defined by HE. This link road is expected to reduce overall traffic flows on the roads in the vicinity of it, specifically, the A5 between M6 Junction 12 and Gailey roundabout, the A449 between Gailey Roundabout and M54 Junction 2 and the A460 between M54 Junction 1 and M6 Junction 11. It is not expected to have a significant impact on traffic volumes on the A5 east of the M6, however, until the final route alignment is announced modelling can't be undertaken.

WSP have seen the results from the previous modelling of the M6 / M54 / M6 Toll Link Road, which is now superseded, and this indicated that there would be very little change to the flows on the A5 east on M6 Junction 12. HE have advised that the old model should not be relied upon and there is no other model that can be utilised to assess the effects of the Link Road.

As a result we can say the modelling used in the NSER is the most reliable data we have available for assessment at this location. Also by way of a precautionary approach it should be noted that as confirmed in the NSER, traffic data

for the A5 between A34 and B4154 is well below the DMRB thresholds. The AADT for total vehicles and HGVs would need to further increase by 871 and 87 respectively (when compared to the predicted 129 and 113 respective changes) before the thresholds were exceeded.

Cannock Extension Canal SAC lies just outside the nearest identified 'link' in the ES (link 34 A5 between A34-B4155). The identification of 'links' in the ES would appear to be triggered by the forecast increase in traffic volumes caused by the NSIP. We understand links to be defined as any route expected to experience a 30% increase in traffic or a 10% increase where 'sensitive receptors' are identified. Sensitive receptors are described as schools, health facilities, community facilities and sites where significant pedestrian movements occur. Natural environment receptors including European designed sites would not appear to be mentioned. **Ecological Receptors are considered more fully in the final Air Quality and Ecology ES chapters which will be issued with the DCO submission.**

a. Table 15.1 states that the link closest to the SAC was screened out because the expected increase in traffic volume was less than 10%. **See above comment.**

b. Table 15.2 of the ES refers the reader to the corresponding ES chapter on Ecology. The draft ES states that the results of air quality modelling are awaited. **The final ES will include all air quality modelling.**

c. NSER HRA screening matrix 03 (Cannock Extension Canal) and Appendix A set out the narrative regarding air quality assessment. The SAC has been screened out using DMRB Vol11 criteria (volume of traffic) and therefore no air quality modelling has yet taken place. **Using this screening approach, as discussed with NE, no air quality modelling is considered necessary for this location.**

Section 15.270 re 'Likely significant effect' (LSE) concludes 'no LSE after mitigation'. Referring to section 15.244 regarding mitigation for the NSIP's operational phase it appears that mitigation measures are focused primarily on human health. **The ecology and air quality chapters of the final ES will consider this in more detail.**

a. It may be helpful to describe how the IEMA and DMRB Vol11 methodologies interact in order to demonstrate that the SAC has been given a suitable level of consideration and whether the stated mitigation measures also serve to address impacts on environment receptors such as designated sites. **Ecological receptors such as designated sites have been considered using DMRB Vol11 following liaison with Natural England. This is covered in the final ES.**

Section 15.271 'Cumulative impacts' states that "traffic models data takes account of all committed and consented schemes as agreed with the relevant authorities". **Correct.**

a. Given the above approach regarding the identification of those road routes subject to assessment (links) and the corresponding approach to selection of mitigation measures the narrative should explain how the figures derived for the NSIP (e.g. table 15.3 in the NSER) take account of environmental receptors like the SAC and whether the 'no likely significant effect' conclusion remains robust in the light of the Wealden Judgement. **We shall include further detail in the NSER. We consider that the conclusion remains robust in light of the Wealden judgment. The traffic data takes account of all committed and consented schemes, so this precautionary basis is inherent in the traffic data. This data has then been used in conjunction with the DMRB Vol11 methodology. We can appreciate NE's comments, however some of these comments relate to cross referencing prior, past versions of draft ES chapters (which have been superseded) against the latest version of the NSER.**

Should you have any queries regarding the above please don't hesitate to contact me.

Regards

Matt

Matt Royall

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Principal

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From: Muller, Antony (NE) [mailto:Antony.Muller@naturalengland.org.uk]
Sent: 05 March 2018 17:34
To: Matthew Royall <MRoyall@ramboll.com>
Subject: NSER response

Dear Matt

Further to our phone conversation on Friday I enclose our advice regarding the assessment of air quality impacts on Cannock Extension Canal SAC. We also attach information relating to two local plan examples dealing with this theme for your reference. Before we respond to the separate SoCG consultation you may wish to liaise with your project team to decide next steps. Please get in touch if you would like to discuss further.

[Cotswold DC local plan – Statement of common ground](#)

Link to [North Warwickshire BC Local Plan HRA](#) -

https://www.northwarks.gov.uk/downloads/download/2386/new_local_plan_2016

See – ‘Habitat Regulations assessment Draft submission Local Plan 2017’ and in particular Sections 5.11-5.24 (Air pollution impacts – Cannock Extension Canal SAC)

And our response:

Kind regards

Antony

Antony Muller

Assistant Casework Manager

Planning for a Better Environment – West Midlands Area Team

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<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/>

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These services help applicants take appropriate account of environmental considerations at an early stage of project development, reduce uncertainty, reduce the risk of delay and added cost at a later stage, whilst securing good results for the natural environment.

In an effort to reduce Natural England's carbon footprint, I will, wherever possible, avoid travelling to meetings and attend via audio, video or web conferencing.

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Date: 25 April 2018
Our ref: 243475
Your ref: NSER (revised Feb 2018)



Ramboll Environ UK Ltd

For attention of Matt Royall

BY EMAIL ONLY

Customer Services
Hornbeam House
Crewe Business Park
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T 0300 060 3900

Dear Matt

West Midlands Interchange NSIP – NSER narrative re air quality and European Designated Sites in the light of the Wealden Judgement

Thank you for your reply to our advice letter dated 5.3.18, which was received by email on 4.4.18. This advice letter deals with the NSER and we will write separately in response to your updated version of the draft 'Statement of common ground' (Email dated 13.2.18).

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England welcomes your explanation on the points raised in our letter dated 5.3.18. We understand the project team to be content in terms of the NSER's compliance with the implications of the Wealden Judgement. On the basis of the information provided and subject to the updated information proposed for inclusion in the final ES, Natural England agrees with this conclusion. We offer more detailed comments below. Natural England proposes that you keep this correspondence as a record of our dialogue on this aspect of the Habitats Regulations Assessment 'screening' for the NSIP.

You raise a point about 'version control' and we would encourage the project team to consider what steps you might take to ease the task of navigating the significant volume of information presented in the ES.

We note the proposal to use the latest traffic modelling and that this will inform *"the final ES to be included in the DCO submission"*.

Natural England acknowledges the uncertainty regarding the route of the proposed M54/M6/M6 Toll Link and your statement that as a result *"the modelling used in the NSER is the most reliable data we have available for assessment at this location"*.

With regard to the fundamental issue arising from the Wealden judgement, that of assessing in combination impacts, we note the project team's finding with respect to forecast traffic data for the A5 between A34 and B4154 *"(being) well below the DMRB thresholds"*. In terms of transparency we welcome your proposal to include further detail in the NSER. Reference to the narrative underpinning the selection of 'other plans and projects' for the purposes of the in combination assessment would also be beneficial.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact me on 020 802 60939. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Antony Muller
Lead Adviser – Sustainable Development Team – North Mercia Area

Date: 12 June 2018
Our ref: 247644
Your ref: N/a



Ramboll Environ UK limited

For the attention of Matt Royall

BY EMAIL ONLY

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T 0300 060 3900

Dear Matt

West Midlands Interchange – ‘No significant effects report’ (NSER) revisions and summary note of proposed ecological enhancements

Thank you for your update on the above dated 21 May 2018 which was received by Natural England on the same day.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

NSER revisions

With regard to the NSER we have concluded that the following changes have been made:

- P6/26 – NSER text amended to emphasise the conservative (precautionary) approach in respect of cumulative impacts.
- P24/26 – Appendix A – New concluding paragraph entitled ‘Cumulative effects’.

This new paragraph refers to the process behind selection of cumulative schemes for the assessment and states that Chapter 15 ‘Transport & Access’ contains a full description of the process. From a review of Chapter 15 it appears the following paragraphs are relevant:

- 15.77-15.91 - 15.86 in particular dealing with ‘additional cumulative schemes’.
- 15.119 – Assumptions and limitations
- 15.271 – Cumulative effects

On the basis of these references the new text in the NSER appears to be evidenced. You may wish to include these Draft ES volume 1 references in order to improve the NSER’s transparency. Please let us know if we have overlooked any parts of Chapter 15 that you feel the NSER relies on.

Proposed ecological enhancements

Thank you for providing a copy of the overview document for mitigation and enhancement measures. By way of an interim response at this stage we would welcome a conversation to understand whether further dialogue with the project stakeholders has resulted in any changes to the stated mitigation and enhancement proposals.

With regard to the Parameter plan for green infrastructure (Key Plan) we note the very substantial mounding proposed around the site and would like to understand the reasons for these proposed features and their interrelationship with the biodiversity and landscape aspects of the scheme. I will be out of the office between 14.6.18 and 24.6.18 inclusive and will contact you on my return.

If you need to send us any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondence to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Antony Muller
Lead Adviser – West Midlands Planning for a Better Environment Team