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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Planning Policy Background

**1.1.1** Wyre Forest District Council adopted its Core Strategy in December 2010. This was followed by the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan and the Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan in July 2013. There have been a number of significant changes within the national and regional planning context since 2010. The introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) at the national level, and the abolition of Regional Spatial Strategies at Regional level has significantly changed the way in which the need for various types of development is calculated within Local Planning Authority areas. A Local Plan provides an opportunity for the District Council to reflect on these changes and update its planning policy framework accordingly.

**1.1.2** The first consultation stage of the Local Plan review is the Issues and Options consultation taking place from between 1st September and 16th October 2015. This focuses on strategic issues. A Preferred Options consultation will be undertaken during 2016. At this stage the Local Plan will be site specific and much more detailed. The Plan is due to be published in 2017 with an examination in public taking place later that year. It is anticipated that the Plan will be adopted in early 2018.

## 1.2 Sustainability and Strategic Environmental Assessment

**1.2.1** Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is a mechanism for assessing and evaluating the impacts of a plan. It looks at alternatives and identifies the most sustainable option. It seeks to identify and avoid adverse effects and provides suggested mitigation measures where adverse effects are unavoidable.

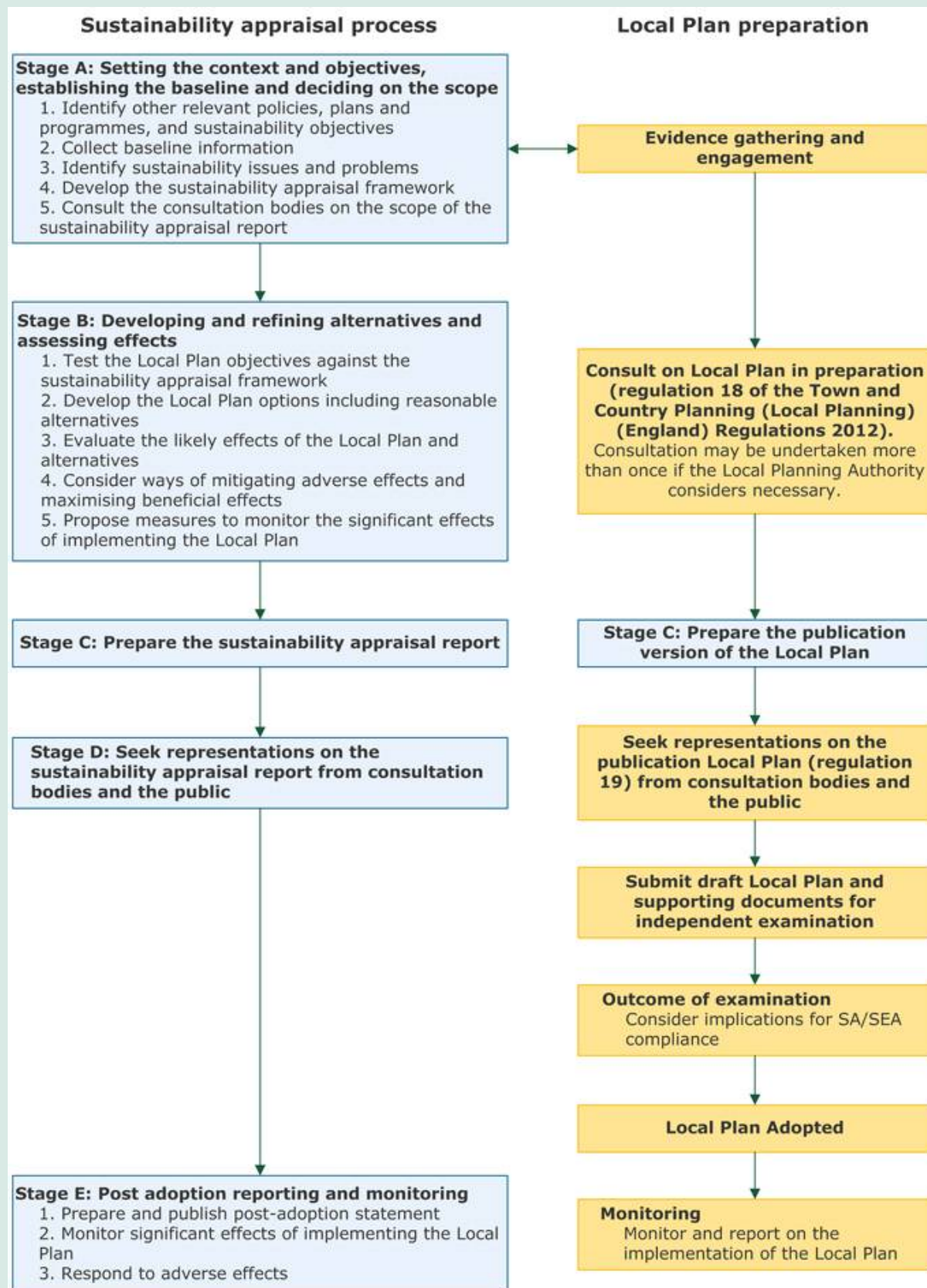
**1.2.2** There are many definitions of sustainable development. The most common and widely accepted is that adopted by the World Commission on Environment and Development in 1987: *“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”* This resulted in an international commitment to achieving sustainable development-Resolution 24/187 of the United Nations General Assembly. The UK Sustainable Development Strategy 2005 “Securing the Future” set out five ‘guiding principles’ to achieving sustainable development. These are:

- living within the planet’s environmental limits;
- ensuring a strong, healthy and just society;
- achieving a sustainable economy;
- promoting good governance; and
- using sound science responsibly.

**1.2.3** European Directive 2001/42/EC places a duty on and requires that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) be undertaken for plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. In England, the requirements of the SEA Directive are fully incorporated into Sustainability Appraisal. There is a mandatory requirement under the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 to undertake a Sustainability Appraisal of Local Plans. The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2014 set



out how SA should be undertaken. SA is an essential part of the plan making process which must be integrated into it at each stage as shown in the diagram below. The scoping report is the first stage in the Sustainability Appraisal process (Stage A).



## 1.3 The Scoping Stage

**1.3.1** The Scoping Report forms the first stage (Stage A) in the SA process for assessing the sustainability implications of the Local Plan review. Stage A of the process is undertaken during the pre-production stage of the Local Plan review. The purpose of this report is as follows:

- To scope other policies, plans, programmes and objectives to provide information on the relationship between the Local Plan review and other plans and programmes and the environmental protection objectives as established at intentional and national level, which are relevant to the Local Plan review.
- To collect relevant baseline information to identify the sustainability issues and problems within the District and cross boundary issues. Any issues identified need, where possible, to be linked to evidence by reference to the baseline information and the identification of historical or likely future trends.
- To identify existing sustainability issues and problems relevant to the Local Plan review.
- To develop the SA framework (objectives, targets and indicators) for assessing the sustainability of the Local Plan review. This provides a way of checking whether the policies proposed and that sites allocated are the best possible ones in terms of their sustainability and can be seen as a methodological yardstick against which the social, economic and environmental effects of a plan can be tested.
- To consult the statutory environmental consultation bodies (The Environment Agency; and Natural England, and English Heritage) on the scope and level of detail of the environmental information to be included in the SA report. This is necessary to meet the requirements of the SEA directive, and it means that gaps or inaccuracies in the data can be addressed early in the process.

## 1.4 Report Structure

**1.4.1** The rest of this report covers:

- An overview of the links to other plans, policies and programmes documented in Appendix A and the effects that these will have on the Local Plan review.
- A characterisation of the area drawn from the baseline information documented in Appendix B.
- Identification of the main sustainability issues and problems relevant to the plan drawn from the review of other plans policies and programmes and the baseline data.
- Presentation of the SA framework.
- Appraisal of the draft objectives of the Local Plan against the SA Framework
- An outline of the approach to be adopted for the appraisal.
- A summary of the responses received to the SA Scoping Report and how these have been addressed within this Revised SA Scoping Report is set out at Appendix C.

## 1.5 Consultation

**1.5.1** This SA Scoping Report was made available for consultation for a 5 week period between Monday 18th May and Monday 29th June 2015.

**1.5.2** Notification letters were sent to the environmental bodies as required by the SEA Directive as well as a number of other consultees who are considered to have an interest in the SA Scoping Report as follows:

- Natural England
- The Environment Agency
- Historic England
- Worcestershire County Council
- Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership
- Greater Birmingham and Solihull local Enterprise Partnership
- South Staffordshire Water Plc
- Network Rail
- Severn Trent Water Ltd
- The Worcestershire Partnership
- Canal and River Trust
- Worcestershire Wildlife Trust
- Wyre Forest Clinical Commissioning Group

**1.5.3** The consultation was also made available on the District Council's web-site.

**1.5.4** A total of 46 comments were received from 6 consultees. A summary of the comments received and how they have been addressed can be found at Appendix C to this report. Most of the comments have been included within this Revised SA Scoping Report, however, it has not been possible to incorporate all of the comments within the necessary timeframe and therefore, some of the comments will need to be addressed within the SA Report.

## 2 Establishing the Baseline and Providing a Context

### 2.1 Links to other Plans, Policies and Programmes

**2.1.1** The SEA Directive requires local authorities to review other plans, policies and programmes in order to establish the environmental protection objectives at international and national level, which are relevant to the Local Plan review. The SA process should also set out how these objectives have been taken into account during the preparation of the document.

**2.1.2** Information on these relationships will help to address constraints and identify potential synergies with other policies from international down to the local level and to ensure that the SA process is not undertaken in isolation.

**2.1.3** The table below sets out a summary list of plans, policies and programmes that have been reviewed as part of the SA scoping process. The review has been focused on the lowest level plan in relation to the topic concerned to avoid repetition. A detailed analysis of their objectives and how these might be incorporated into the SA Framework is included at Appendix 1 of this Scoping Report.

Document
<b>International</b>
European Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC)
EU Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP): Living Well, Within the Limits of our Planet (2013)
Water Framework Directive (WFD 2000) Updated for England and Wales 2014
<b>National</b>
Flood and Water Management Act 2010
Securing the Future – Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)
Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England - HM Government (2011)
Agricultural Land Classification – Protecting the Best and Most Versatile (2 <sup>nd</sup> edition) - Natural England (2012)
The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) - DCLG (2012)
The National Planning Practice Guide (NPPG) - DCLG (2014)
Circular 06/2005 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation HM Government (2005)
Environment Agency Groundwater Protection: Principles and Practice (GP3) (2013)
UK National Ecosystem Assessment (2014)
Climate Change Adaptation Manual (2015)
Biodiversity 2020: Making Space for Nature (2011)
Historic England Good Practice Advice Notes 1, 2 and 3 (2015)
<b>Local Enterprise Partnerships</b>
Strategy for Growth: Delivering Growth - Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (2013)
Greater Birmingham and Solihull Strategic Economic Plan - Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (2014)
The Spatial Plan for Recovery and Growth Consultation Draft (Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (2013)

Document
World Class Worcestershire: Our Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) - Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (2014)
Sub-Regional
Severn Trent Water - Water Resources Management Plan (2014)
Water for Life and Livelihoods - River Basin Management Plan, Severn River Basin District (2009)
County
Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire - Worcestershire County Council (2012)
Worcestershire Emerging Minerals Local Plan – second consultation - Worcestershire County Council (2012)
Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Strategy 2013-2018 - Worcestershire GI Partnership
A Single Community Strategy for Worcestershire 2011-2021 - The Worcestershire Partnership (2010)
Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 3 2011-2026 (Worcestershire County Council 2011)
Worcestershire Housing Strategy 2011-2016
Worcestershire Homelessness Strategy 2012-2017
Air Quality Action Plan for Worcestershire - Worcestershire Regulatory Services (2013)
Worcestershire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2014)
District
Kidderminster Regeneration Prospectus - Wyre Forest District Council (2009)

**2.1.4** The review has identified a number of issues to take into account in the preparation of the Scoping Report and the Local Plan. These are listed below, it should be noted that they are in no particular order:

- Adapting to climate change and mitigating against its impacts including flooding.
- Generating a greater proportion of energy requirements from renewable sources.
- Reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Reducing waste and increasing recycling.
- Ensuring a range of homes are provided to meet the needs of all people.
- Safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land.
- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity and designated sites in line with guidance in NPPF and statutory duties under section 40 NERC Act 2006, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981(as amended) and Conservation Regulations 2010.
- Reducing the need to travel and encouraging modal shift from the private car to more sustainable alternatives
- Providing employment opportunities.
- Protecting the District's landscape and protecting the Green Belt.
- Regenerating the town centres, particularly Kidderminster.
- Delivering the infrastructure needed to support population and economic growth.

## 2.2 Baseline Information

**2.2.1** The collection of relevant baseline information provides a basis for identifying sustainability problems and for predicting and monitoring the effects of the Local Plan. Data collection should focus on the social, economic and environmental characteristics of the District.



## 2.2.2 The SEA Directive requires the identification of:

*“Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan or programme and the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be significantly affected.” (Annex 1 (b)(c))*

*“any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme including, in particular, those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as areas designated pursuant to Directives 79/409/EEC and 92/43/EEC.” (Annex 1 (d))*

**2.2.3** A characterisation summary of the District is set out below. The baseline data collected is focused around those issues which are considered to be of relevance to the Local Plan review, it includes all of those topics identified by the SEA directive. Where data is not available or is not satisfactory this has been documented. A detailed record of baseline data collection is set out at Appendix 2 to this Scoping Report.

## Administrative Context

**2.2.4** Wyre Forest District is situated within north-west Worcestershire. It covers an area of 75 square miles and has a population of approximately 98,421 housed in approximately 43,785 dwellings. The District comprises the three towns of Kidderminster, Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley, together with a rural hinterland which includes a number of small villages. The three towns form a triangle of settlements at the centre of the District separated by narrow areas of open countryside. Outside of the urban areas, virtually the whole of the District to the east of the River Severn falls within the West Midlands Green Belt.

**2.2.5** The proximity of Birmingham provides opportunities for higher order and knowledge based jobs assisted by the improving rail service from Kidderminster. Worcester City is also accessible both by road and rail.

**2.2.6** When reading the baseline information, it should be noted that Wyre Forest District underwent a ward boundary review with new wards names and boundaries coming into effect following the election on 7th May 2015. All data in this report is presented using the pre May 2015 ward boundaries. As data becomes available based on new ward boundaries, this report will be updated to reflect that where necessary.

**2.2.7** There is a complex network of communities ranging from the isolated rural areas and market towns to the urban neighbourhoods of Kidderminster. Generally perceived to be relatively prosperous, the District is also home to the most deprived Worcestershire ward – Oldington and Foley Park, which along with the Greenhill and Broadwaters wards has also been identified as a health hotspot.

### Social

**2.2.8** The latest 2013 mid-year estimates from ONS give an estimated district population of 98,421. Almost 30% of the population is now over 60 with only 21.5% under 20 years of age. This proportion of over 60s is higher than the county average and way above that for England as a whole (below 23%). Over 97% of the District's residents are white which is significantly higher than the regional (82%) and national (85%) averages.

**2.2.9** Since 2001 the number of households has increased by 2,700 to around 43,000. This increase is mostly accounted for by single person households. Latest household projections (2012-based) show that in Wyre Forest District, the number of households is predicted to grow by only 9% 2012-2037. This is the lowest in the West Midlands (equalled only by Staffordshire Moorlands). Over the same period, the average household size in Wyre Forest is projected to fall from 2.25 to 2.12. The average household size in Worcestershire is projected to fall from 2.32 to 2.18.

**2.2.10** The figures for health are not directly comparable between the 2001 and 2011 Census results. However, when comparing the District to regional and national trends, Wyre Forest District compared more favourably to the West Midlands in 2001 than it did in 2011. Therefore, health is declining in the District relative to the region and nationally. Life expectancy within the District is higher than the regional average. On average, females can expect to live 5 years longer than males. Life expectancy increased by approximately 2 years for females and 18 months for males during the period between 2000 and 2009.

**2.2.11** The National Well-Being Survey shows that life satisfaction, those who find life worthwhile, and happiness have remained fairly static over the last three years. Feelings of anxiety have reduced during this time.

**2.2.12** Participation in sport within the District shows some fluctuation between 2005/6 and 2012/13 however, overall, there is a slight increase in the number of residents participating in sport at least once a week. Swimming is the most popular sport.

**2.2.13** The rural settlements vary in their service provision. The villages to the East of the District tend to be better served by facilities. Blakedown is the only village to have a railway station but the other villages are served by buses which provide links to Kidderminster and beyond although some services are limited. The towns have a network of neighbourhood centres which provide local shops and services. Over the last three years, in excess of 90% of all new residential development within the District has been located within 30 minutes public transport travel time of key facilities.

**2.2.14** Affordable housing completions across the District have generally increased over the last 10 years, there has been a growth in the popularity of shared ownership properties. There has been a significant increase in the number of residential completions over the last 4 years. This may be attributable to the economy recovering from a period of recession. There has been a noticeable increase in the number of four bedroom homes being completed within the District over the last five years. There has also been a noticeable increase in the number of one bedroom flats being completed within the District, this is in part due to the completion of a number of office to residential conversions.

## Economic

**2.2.15** Unemployment within the District ranges from below 1% in many of the rural areas to 4.1-5% in pockets located within the urban areas. The number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance within the District has fallen from 5% in 2008/09 to 2% in 2014. Whilst some of this fall can be attributed to improvements in the economy, some of it is likely to be as a result of changes which mean that 16-18 year olds must now be in education, employment or training. A greater number of businesses are closing down than opening within the District.

**2.2.16** Incomes within the District are lower than regional and national averages. The gap is smaller when considering residence based earnings than when considering workplace based earnings. This suggests that there are lower levels of higher paid jobs within the District.

**2.2.17** Educational attainment within the District is lower than the regional and national average at GCSE level, with fewer pupils within the District achieving 5 A\*-C grade than regionally or nationally. The District has a higher number of people qualified to NVQ Level 4 or above than the regional average however, it is lower than the national average.

**2.2.18** Average house prices within the District dropped sharply between 2008 and 2010. They have risen steadily since and are now broadly similar to pre 2008 values. This is in line with the national trend. The number of people living in fuel poverty within the District has fallen steadily since 2009, this is partly due to interventions to improve energy efficiency in homes, however, part of the fall is likely to be a result of changes in the way that fuel poverty is measured which means that the 2012 data isn't comparable with previous years. The number of empty homes within the District has fluctuated however, overall it has declined since 2009.

**2.2.19** Car and van ownership within the District has increased. There are now fewer households without access to a vehicle and more households with access to 2, 3 or 4 vehicles. Car ownership within the District is higher than regional and national averages and this is likely to be because of the rural nature of the District. Rail usage within the District has increased considerably with Kidderminster Station seeing passenger numbers almost triple between 1997/98 and 2012/13. The District has a range of parking provision including on-street parking and pay and display short, medium and long-stay car parks.

## Environmental

**2.2.20** Over half of the District is covered by the West Midlands Green Belt, it encompasses all of the rural land to the East of the River Severn. The District has a rich landscape heritage falling into the Mid Severn Sandstone Plateau Landscape Character Area. Part of the Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark falls into the District. Horsiculture places a particular pressure on the landscape and biodiversity of the District and can lead to issues of soil compaction and play a significant role in increasing surface water runoff, sedimentation of watercourses, due to poor over wintering facilities, resulting in pollution events. There have been a growing number of planning approvals relating to this use; approvals declined after 2003/04 but have started to increase again since 2010/11.

**2.2.21** The District has around 380 shacks or chalets which pre-date the 1947 Planning Act. Most of these are located in the Severn Valley itself in locations which can be quite isolated from services. A number of these chalets are positioned adjacent to and within the floodplain

of the River Severn, leading to issues relating to bank instability, risking human safety and damage to the river environment. Many of the structures perform poorly in terms of their energy efficiency however most have no occupancy restrictions and are used as permanent homes. In addition, there are also around 200 caravans in the District which have 12 month occupancy and a further 2800 licensed for holiday use ranging from 6-12 month occupancies. Large numbers are used as permanent dwellings.

**2.2.22** Around 6% of the District's land area is designated as SSSI with the largest designation being the Wyre Forest itself. 90% of the SSSI land area is either in a 'favourable' or unfavourable but recovering' condition. The District has a number of Local Wildlife Sites (LWSs), many of which run along watercourses. The geographical distribution of sites is skewed towards the West of the District. There are a range of different habitats throughout the District, one of the District's principal habitat types, for which it is regionally significant, is acid grassland. The District is also home to a number of protected species with most being found in the Wyre Forest itself. The District is home to a number of important wetland habitats, including the numerous wetlands associated with the River Stour and the Blakedown Brook. Many of the wetland wildlife sites are suffering or at risk from over-abstraction, past drainage and other damaging works. Future development places additional pressures on these sites, changing water flow routes and infiltration rates. Future development should not detrimentally affect the water flow paths to water dependant wildlife habitats and should contribute positively to the protection and enhancement of these sites.

**2.2.23** The District has high levels of groundwater abstraction, In parts of the District the Environment Agency is working with the water companies and other abstractors in order to reduce abstraction to sustainable rates and avoid long term adverse impact on wetlands and landscape and nature conservation interests. Flood risk is a particular issue within the District. All three of the main towns have rivers flowing through them making them susceptible to flooding. A network of temporary and permanent defences manage this risk, helping to protect 'existing' properties, but do not fully control flood risk within the district.

**2.2.24** The District has two Air Quality Monitoring Areas (AQMAs). These are located in Welch Gate, Bewdley and Horsefair, Kidderminster. Traffic congestion is the main reason for poor air quality within these areas.

**2.2.25** There is a large amount of Grade 1 and 2 agricultural land in the East of the District. The land to the West of the urban areas tends to be of lower quality however there are pockets of Grade 2 land concentrated adjacent to the built up areas of Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn.

**2.2.26** The District has 6 Grade I, 26 Grade II\* and 660 Grade II Listed buildings, 9 Scheduled Monuments and 1 Registered Park and Garden. This equates to over 900 designated heritage assets. The District also has a number of Local Heritage Lists which together contain over 830 entries. There are 17 Conservation Areas within the District covering both the urban areas and a number of rural villages. In Wyre Forest District there are currently 1893 non-designated monuments and 2010 non-designated Historic Buildings recorded in the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER).



**2.2.27** The 2014 Heritage at Risk Register contains three entries for Wyre Forest District: Gilgal Conservation Area; Baches Forge Churchill (a Scheduled Monument) and Ribbesford House (listed Grade II\*). The national list does not include Grade II Listed Building, locally, a survey of these building in 2006 identified 29 as being at risk.

**2.2.28** During the period 2006/7-2013/14, 93% of residential completions have been on brownfield land. As at October 2014, 93% of residential development under construction was on brownfield land. Overall in 2013/14, 78% of housing completions were at densities of at least 30 dwellings per hectare (dph).

**2.2.29** The volume of household waste produced fell between 2008-09 and 2011-12 and then started to increase again. Recycling rates increased from 2009-10 to 2012-13 but fell slightly in 2013-14.

**2.2.30** There is an overall declining trend in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions however there was a slight increase between 2012 and 2013. Climate change is expected to result in warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers as well as more frequent intense rainfall events.

## 2.3 Limitations to the Baseline Data

**2.3.1** The baseline data has been collected from a number of sources including Neighbourhood Statistics, District Council records and survey work. The most up-to-date information available has been used, however, some data sets, for example Census data, are not collected annually, therefore, some data sets are less reliable. Not all data is available at District Council level, some data sets are only published at County level making identifying trends within the District difficult. Where there are gaps in the data available, consideration will need to be given as to whether it is necessary to monitor any additional indicators in the future.

**2.3.2** Where possible comparisons over time have been provided, however, sometimes the way data is collected changes and therefore current data sets are not directly comparable with older information on the same topic making it difficult to accurately identify existing trends.

**2.3.3** The baseline data section also identifies likely future trends without the plan in place. These are based on projecting forward historic trends, however, it is recognised that policy changes outside of the proposed plan, for example at national level, as well as changes to the national context which are beyond the remit of the plan, for example, changing oil prices, will have implications for some likely future trends. These are impossible to predict and therefore, the likely future trends should be treated with caution.

## 2.4 Predicted Future Trends

**2.4.1** Predicting future trends with any certainty is always difficult. However, it is anticipated that the following trends are likely to continue without the preparation of the Local Plan:

### Social:

- The District's population will continue to age and ethnic minorities will be under represented when compared to County, Regional and National averages.
- Health?

- Life expectancy will continue to increase.
- Participation in sport will continue to increase slightly.
- Rural services may decline, however, Assets of Community Value legislation may enable services to be retained.

### **Economic:**

- Unemployment will continue to decline as the economic recovery continues resulting in a continued decline in the number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance.
- New businesses will continue to be established at a growing rate with a declining number of businesses failing.
- House prices will continue to rise, increasing beyond their pre-recession peak.
- Fuel poverty should start to decline as energy prices fall. If falling energy prices are a short-term trend fuel poverty will begin to increase again as and when energy prices rise.
- The number of empty homes will show an overall declining trend as legislation in this area continues to be implemented.
- Car ownership and use will continue to increase.
- Rail usage will continue to increase.

### **Environmental:**

- The Green Belt and the District's high quality landscape are likely to be subject to increasing development pressure.
- The condition of SSSIs will continue to improve as programmes are put in place to deliver improvements.
- New development will increase pressure on water resources.
- Flooding and flood resilience will continue to be a challenge for the District with more frequent intense rainfall events exacerbating surface water flooding as well as flooding of watercourses.
- Air quality will continue to be a challenge within the District, particularly in the AQMAs.
- The District's agricultural land will be subject to increased development pressure.
- The majority of development will continue to be delivered on brownfield land during the current plan period but without a further plan there will be increasing pressure on greenfield land.
- The percentage of household waste recycled is likely to increase as more emphasis is placed on recycleable packaging.
- CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are likely to continue to decrease.

## **2.5 Main Sustainability Issues**

**2.5.1** Sustainability issues include “existing environmental problems ... in particular those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance ...” as required by the SEA Directive (Annex I (c)). These have been identified from analysis of the baseline information as part of the characterisation of the area, exploring the relationship with other plans and programmes, existing information held by Wyre Forest District Council in connection with annual monitoring and other survey work and issues identified through previous SA work undertaken for the Core Strategy, Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan and Kidderminster Central Area

Action Plan. These are set out below together with a commentary as to the implications for the Local Plan. The identification of sustainability issues has been fed into the Sustainability Appraisal Framework.

Sustainability Issue	Implications for the Plan
The District has seen very little population growth in recent years and this trend is currently forecast to continue. The District's population is aging and lacks the diversity of the wider West Midlands and England as a whole.	The Plan will need to demonstrate that it has met housing need arising from within the District and how it has considered cross-boundary growth under the Duty to Cooperate. Population and employment growth will need to be carefully aligned.
There are noticeable variations in health across the District. Those describing themselves as in 'bad or very bad' health varies from 3.58% in Aggborough and Spennells to 8.37% in Oldington and Foley Park.	The Plan will need to consider access to healthcare within the District as well as the impact of new development on health and the accessibility of activities which can improve health.
The level of services available within the villages differs across the District. The availability of services within some of the villages, particularly to the West of the River Severn, has declined in recent years.	The Plan will need to locate growth sustainably, considering access to services and facilities but also considering whether some limited growth of the villages might help to safeguard service delivery in those areas.
There are considerable variations in unemployment across the District. The areas of highest unemployment are Oldington and Foley Park and Broadwaters.	The Plan will need to consider how much employment land should be provided within the District and where this is best located.
House prices within the District are increasing which will continue to reduce affordability.	The Plan will need to ensure that the right homes are provided in the right places offering housing choice to all. The delivery of affordable housing will need to be a key consideration in the Plan.
Over 10% of the District's population still live in fuel poverty.	The Plan will need to ensure that new homes are well designed in order to improve energy efficiency. The Building Standards review does however mean that much of this will be achieved through changes to Building Regulations.
Car and van ownership is disproportionately high within the District when compared to Regional and National averages.	The Plan should ensure that development is accessible by public transport and served by basic local facilities to reduce the need to travel by car.
Railway station usage has shown a significant increase, particularly at Kidderminster Railway Station.	The Plan should ensure that there is sufficient capacity on the rail network to absorb any demand created by new development.
Over half of the District lies within the West Midlands Green Belt.	The Plan should ensure that development is located to safeguard the Green Belt, only releasing parcels of Green Belt land as part of a comprehensive Green Belt boundary review.
The District has an important and distinctive landscape and is part of the Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark.	Development should be located to minimise impact on the landscape and ensure that the District's geodiversity is protected.
The District has a large number of chalets and caravan sites.	The Plan should continue to take measures to reduce the impact of such development on the landscape and consider how best to balance the benefits of such development with the wider sustainability concerns this type of development leads to.
Around 6% of the District's land area is covered by the SSSI designation. Furthermore, the District has a number of LWSs and is home to a wide range of habitats and species. Acid grasslands are a particularly important habitat type within the District.	New development should be located so as not to have a detrimental impact on the District's rich biodiversity. The Plan could help to address the condition of SSSIs by ensuring that new development is not located where it would have a detrimental impact on any SSSI and that where appropriate new development enhances nearby SSSIs
The District has particular issues relating to water abstraction which has to be carefully managed in order to avoid long-term impacts on nature conservation and wetlands. Water quality is also an issue within the District.	The Plan will need to ensure that new development does not result in over-abstraction and that wastewater is treated appropriately so that it does not have a detrimental impact on water quality.
Flooding is a particular issue within the District with all three towns located on Rivers.	The Plan will need to give careful consideration to the vulnerability of new development to flooding and maximise flood avoidance by

## 2 Establishing the Baseline and Providing a Context

Sustainability Issue	Implications for the Plan
	locating development within low risk areas, (based on a sequential test) and flood prevention and management (where necessary).
The District has two AQMAs located at Horsefair, Kidderminster and Welch Gate, Bewdley.	The Plan should consider how new development can improve the air quality situation at the Horsefair in particular as well as ensuring that new development does not have a detrimental impact on the District's air quality.
There is a large amount of Grade 1 and Grade 2 agricultural land to the East of the District.	The Plan should give consideration to the loss of Grade 1 and 2 agricultural land and avoid this wherever possible.
The District has a wealth of heritage assets including Conservation Areas, nationally listed buildings and locally listed buildings.	The Plan should ensure that new development protects and conserves the District's historic environment and where possible, seeks opportunities for enhancement
The District has a strong track record of delivering new development on brownfield land and of developing at densities of 30 dph or more.	The Plan should ensure that as much development as possible is located on brownfield land, only releasing greenfield sites where absolutely necessary. The Plan should also ensure that it promotes densities which use land to its greatest potential whilst not having a detrimental impact on the character of the area.
The percentage of household waste recycled has started to fall in recent years.	The Plan should encourage recycling of all waste.
District CO <sub>2</sub> emissions are lower than County averages.	When locating new development the Plan should consider the implications for CO <sub>2</sub> emissions.
The District continues to be at risk from the impacts of climate change.	The Plan should ensure that it includes policies to adapt to and mitigate against the impacts of climate change.



### 3 Sustainability Appraisal Framework

**3.0.1** Sustainable development can be defined as ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for future generations. Achieving sustainable development requires that the following four objectives are met simultaneously:

- Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone;
- Effective protection of the environment;
- Prudent use of natural resources;
- Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

**3.0.2** The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in para 6 states that: *'The purpose of the Planning System is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.'* and in para 7 goes on to define the economic, social and environmental roles for the planning system. Local Plans must be prepared with the objective of contributing to sustainable development (para 151) and this is expanded upon in para 152: *'Local Planning authorities should seek opportunities to achieve each of the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, and net gains across all three. Significant adverse impacts on any of these dimensions should be avoided and, where possible, alternative options which reduce or eliminate such impacts should be pursued. Where adverse impacts are unavoidable, measures to mitigate the impact should be considered. Where adequate mitigation measures are not possible, compensatory measures may be appropriate.'*

**3.0.3** Central to the Sustainability Appraisal process is the Sustainability Framework; this provides a format for describing, analysing and comparing sustainability effects. The initial Draft SA Framework developed for inclusion in this scoping report is based on that previously used for the council's Core Strategy adopted in 2010, and work undertaken for the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan and Kidderminster Central Area Action Plan, but this has been modified to reflect any changing local concerns and priorities, the introduction of the NPPF and the nature of the Local Plan now being developed.

**3.0.4** The full Sustainability Appraisal framework is set out below. A number of monitoring indicators have been included within the framework, however, these will be further refined throughout the SA process.

SA Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Indicator
1) To improve health and well-being within the District and reduce inequalities in health.	Will it improve access to health care facilities within the District?	Number of people citing health as 'very good' (Census)
	Will it help to improve quality of life for residents?	Quality of life Survey
	Will it help to increase participation in sport and active recreation?	Sport England Active People Survey
2) To improve the quality of, and accessibility to, cultural services and local services and facilities.	Will proposals enhance the provision of local services and facilities?	% of residential development within 30 minutes public transport travel time of a GP, hospital, employment, primary school, secondary school, retail centre.
	Will it contribute to rural service provision across the District?	% of villages with key facilities i.e. primary school, post office, GP, pub, village hall, convenience store.

SA Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Indicator
	Will it enhance accessibility to the District's countryside?	
3) To provide decent, affordable housing for all, of the right quality and type, tenure and affordability for local needs, in a clean, safe and pleasant local environment.	Will it provide opportunities to increase the supply of affordable housing across the District?	Number of affordable homes completed and the % of overall completions which are affordable.
	Will it provide affordable access to a range of housing tenures and sizes?	% of housing completions by size (gross).
		% of housing completions by tenure (net of demolitions).
		Number of additional gypsy/traveller pitches granted permission.
		Number of extra care units completed.
4) Reduce contributions to climate change and promote energy efficiency and energy generated from renewable and low carbon sources and managing waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy.	Will it reduce greenhouse gas emissions?	District per capita CO <sub>2</sub> emissions
	Will it encourage opportunities for renewable energy generation?	Number of planning consents which include the generation of renewable energy.
	Are opportunities for recycling waste incorporated into proposals?	Volume of waste recycled.
5) To reduce the need to travel and move towards more sustainable travel modes.	Will it provide opportunities to increase sustainable modes of travel and reduce congestion?	% of new residential development within 30 minutes public transport travel time of a GP, Hospital, Employment, Primary School, Secondary School, Retail Centre.
	Does it focus development in existing centres and make use of existing infrastructure to reduce the need to travel?	% of residential completions within Kidderminster, Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley.
6) Protect the use of water, soil and air, whilst maintaining or improving their quality.	Does it re-use brownfield land?	% of residential completions on brownfield land.
		% of employment floorspace completed on brownfield land.
		Number of brownfield sites remediated to an appropriate standard.
	Does it result in a loss of Grade 1 or 2 agricultural land?	Amount of best and most versatile agricultural land lost to built development.
	Does it have a detrimental impact on air quality?	Number of AQMAs and areas of air quality concern within the District.
	Does it have a detrimental impact on water quality?	Number of buildings exceeding the Plan requirement for water efficiency.
Water quality levels within the District's main watercourses - linked to the status or potential of waterbodies under the Water Framework Directive.		
7) To ensure that development does not occur in high flood risk areas or increase the likelihood of flooding occurring.	Does it protect the floodplain from development?	Number of new residential developments (permission granted) where any part of the site is located in flood zone 2 or 3.
	Does it reduce the risk of flooding in existing developed areas?	Number of developments incorporating SuDS, and providing improvements to watercourses / the floodplain

SA Objective	Decision Making Criteria	Indicator
8) Protect and enhance the character and appearance of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place including protecting and enhancing the historic environment.	Will it have a positive impact on the District's heritage assets?	Number of heritage assets removed from the national and local Heritage at Risk register.
	Will it achieve high quality, sustainable design for buildings, spaces and the public realm which is sensitive to the locality?	
9) To conserve and enhance the District's biodiversity and geodiversity.	Will it help to safeguard the District's biodiversity and geodiversity?	Condition of SSSIs.
		Proportion of local sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented (NI197).
		Number of applications adversely affecting habitats and species listed under section 41 of the NERC Act.
		Number of applications contributing to biodiversity enhancement.
	Does it have the potential to impact on SSSIs through increased visitor numbers?	Growth in population within the District.
	Will it contribute to the District's green infrastructure network?	Number of applications contributing to the District's green infrastructure network.
10) To raise the skills levels and qualifications of the workforce.	Will it provide opportunities to further develop adult and community learning facilities within the District?	% of school leavers with 5 A* to C GCSEs.
		% of the District's working age Increasing trend population qualified to NVQ level 4 or higher.
11) Create and maintain a diverse, knowledge-driven economy, ensuring all have the benefits, urban and rural.	Will it reduce unemployment?	% of the District's residents who are unemployed.
	Will it provide opportunities for businesses to develop and enhance their competitiveness?	De-registrations of VAT registered businesses in the area.

### 3.1 Comparing the Sustainability Appraisal Framework Against the National Planning Policy Framework

**3.1.1** This section considers how each of the SA objectives relates to the NPPF.

**To improve health and well-being within the District and reduce inequalities in health.**

**3.1.2** The NPPF includes a section on promoting healthy communities which includes requirements relating healthy lifestyles such as providing accessible open space and encouraging walking and cycling.

**To improve the quality of, and accessibility to, cultural services and local services and facilities.**

**3.1.3** Local Plans should ensure that: developments that generate significant movement are located where the need to travel will be minimised and the use of sustainable transport modes can be minimised.’ A core planning principle is ‘to take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.’

**To provide decent, affordable housing for all, of the right quality and type, tenure and affordability for local needs, in a clean, safe and pleasant local environment.**

**3.1.4** The NPPF requires Local Plans to meet the full requirements for market and affordable housing and deliver a wide choice of high quality homes and create inclusive and mixed communities.

**Reduce contributions to climate change and promote energy efficiency and energy generated from renewable and low carbon sources and managing waste in accordance with the waste hierarchy.**

**3.1.5** The NPPF para 94 states that ‘local planning authorities should adopt proactive strategies to mitigate and adapt to climate change, taking full account of flood risk, coastal change and water supply and demand considerations.

**3.1.6** Para 95 explains that in order ‘To support the move to a low carbon future, local planning authorities should:

- plan for new development in locations and ways which reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- actively support energy efficiency improvements to existing buildings; and
- when setting out any local requirement for a building’s sustainability, do so in a way consistent with the government’s zero carbon buildings policy, and adopt nationally prescribed standards.’

**To reduce the need to travel and move towards more sustainable travel modes.**

**3.1.7** The NPPF includes a section on promoting sustainable transport. It states that: *‘encouragement should be given to solutions which support reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and reduce congestion. In preparing Local Plans, local planning authorities should therefore support a pattern of development which, where reasonable to do so, facilitates the use of sustainable modes of transport’.*

**Protect the use of water, soil and air, whilst maintaining or improving their quality.**

The core planning principles set out in paragraph 17 of the NPPF include the need to ‘encourage the reuse of existing resources, including conversion of existing buildings, and encourage the use of renewable resources ...’ and paragraphs. 95 and 97 support the move to a low carbon future. Para 111 states that ‘In preparing plans to meet development needs, the aim should be to minimise pollution and other adverse effects on the local and natural environment. Plans should allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this framework.’ Paragraph 112 emphasises the need to ‘take into account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land.’



**To ensure that development does not occur in high flood risk areas or increase the likelihood of flooding occurring.**

**3.1.8** Paragraph 100 of the NPPF states that '*Inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding should be avoided by directing development away from areas at highest risk, but where development is necessary, making it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere.*' It goes on to state that '*Local Plans should apply a sequential, risk-based approach to the location of development to avoid where possible flood risk to people and property and manage residual risk, taking account the impacts of climate change, by:*

- *Applying the sequential test;*
- *If necessary, applying the Exception Test*
- *Safeguarding land from development that is required for current and future flood management;*
- *Using opportunities offered by new development to reduce the causes and impacts of flooding; and;*
- *Where climate change is expected to increase flood risk so that some existing development may not be sustainable in the long-term, seeking opportunities to facilitate the relocation of development, including housing, to more sustainable locations.'*

**Protect and enhance the character and appearance of the landscape and townscape, maintaining and strengthening local distinctiveness and sense of place including protecting and enhancing the historic environment.**

**3.1.9** The NPPF paragraph 111 states that '*Planning policies and decisions should encourage the effective use of land by re-using land that has been previously developed (brownfield land), provided that it is not of high environmental value.*' Paragraph 126 states that '*Local Planning authorities should set out in their local plan, a positive strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of the historic environment, including heritage assets most at risk through neglect, decay or other threats. In doing so, they should recognise that heritage assets are an irreplaceable resource and conserve them in a manner appropriate to their significance*'.

**To conserve and enhance the District's biodiversity and geodiversity.**

**3.1.10** Paragraph 117 of the NPPF states that: '*To minimise impacts on biodiversity and geodiversity, planning policies should:*

- *Plan for biodiversity at a landscape scale across local authority boundaries;*
- *Identify and map components of the local ecological networks, including the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them and areas identified by local [partnerships for habitat restoration or creation;*
- *Promote the preservation, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats, ecological networks and protection and recovery of priority species populations, linked to national and local targets, and identify suitable indicators for monitoring biodiversity in the plan;*
- *Aim to prevent harm to geological conservation interests; and*
- *Where Nature Improvement Areas are identified in Local Plans, consider specifying the types of development that may be appropriate in these Areas.*

### **To raise the skills levels and qualifications of the workforce.**

The NPPF states that the government *'is committed to ensuring that the planning system does everything it can to support sustainable economic growth.'*

### **Create and maintain a diverse, knowledge-driven economy, ensuring all have the benefits, urban and rural.**

**3.1.11** The economy is a key theme in the NPPF. Para 19 states *'The Government is committed to ensuring that the planning system does everything it can to support sustainable economic growth. Planning should operate to encourage and not act as an impediment to sustainable growth. Therefore significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth through the planning system.'*

## 4 Developing a Draft Assessment Rationale

**4.0.1** In order to ensure that the SA framework is applied consistently to development and policy options, the following assumptions have been made:

**4.0.2** When testing the options against the SA Framework, it will be assumed that 800m equates to a 10 minute walk time. The distance have been measured using GIS. For Kidderminster, the town centre will be defined as the Town Hall. Sources of information used to carry out the appraisal will include bus maps, Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) sheets, site assessment sheets, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, planning history and land ownership information. A number of specific assumptions have been applied to each objective and they are set out below:

**4.0.3 Objective 1:** The issues which will be considered in relation to health and well-being are travel time to the nearest GP, to Kidderminster hospital and to the nearest town centre. The town centre will be included as each of the District's three main towns provide a range of health facilities including opticians and dentists as well as other specialist medical services. The assessment will be carried out on the current location of GP surgeries based on information held on the Council's GIS system.

**4.0.4 Objective 2:** Within Kidderminster, cultural facilities include the Town Hall, library, cinema and the Rose Theatre. Within Stourport-on-Severn cultural facilities include the Civic Hall and the library, and within Bewdley cultural facilities include the library, Bewdley Museum and Jubilee Gardens. In addition, public transport connections to Birmingham and Worcester will be considered as part of the assessment of sites in Kidderminster and connections to Kidderminster were considered for sites within Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley. Access to local services and facilities includes considering walking distance to a local shop/convenience store.

**4.0.5 Objective 3:** This objective will consider the delivery of housing including affordable housing. It is assumed that all sites will need to provide affordable housing in accordance with any policy set out within the emerging Local Plan. It is assumed that sites currently owned by Wyre Forest Community Housing will come forward as 100% affordable housing schemes. Where sites are expected to fall below any threshold for affordable housing set out in the emerging Local Plan it will be assumed that no affordable housing will be provided.

**4.0.6 Objective 4:** It will be assumed that all new homes will be built to meet the minimum building regulations standard. The Local Plan review might include a policy to apply higher building regulations levels. This will be dependant on the whether the evidence base justifies this approach and it may result in assumptions being adjusted as the Local Plan develops.

**4.0.7 Objective 5:** The assessment for this objective will be based on current bus routes and the assumption that 800m is 10 minutes walk time. Bus routes will be taken from the County Council's bus route maps. Proximity to rail services and the town centres will also be considered under this objective.

**4.0.8 Objective 6:** Considerations for this objective will include whether or not the site is within or adjacent to an AQMA and any loss of trees/woodland which could reduce air quality. AQMAs will be taken from the District Council's GIS records. Information relating to potential

loss of tree cover will be taken from the District Council's aerial photography and site visits. It will be assumed that where there are known to have been industrial processes taking place on sites that there may be contamination issues. It will also be assumed that these will be remediated as a requirement of any development on-site. It is difficult to know exactly what land is contaminated as often this only becomes apparent through planning applications, therefore, assumptions will be made based on known previous activities. Agricultural land classification will be considered as part of this objective. Information relating to impact on water quality will be taken from the Water Cycle Strategy where possible and for those sites not included within the Water Cycle Strategy, assumptions will be made based on the information available.

**4.0.9 Objective 7:** The assessment for this objective will be based on the assumption that that all new development will provide SUDS in accordance with policies set out within the current Adopted Core Strategy. Considerations will include whether or not the site is within the floodplain based on the most recent flood maps at the time the assessment is undertaken. Any updates to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment will also be considered.

**4.0.10 Objective 8:** It will be assumed that Listed Buildings will be retained. Considerations will include the impact on the holistic townscape and sense of place of any buildings to be demolished, the impact of adding a new building where one did not exist before and the impact of intensification of development on the area where it was assumed that new development would be higher density than existing. Assessment against this objective will consider the loss of all buildings, including historic buildings and the loss of features which would impact on the setting of a Listed Building or a Conservation Area as well as the general townscape and sense of place. It will be assumed that Listed Buildings will be retained. Information on Conservation Areas and Listed Buildings will be taken from the Council's GIS records. The assessment will also consider proximity to other historic assets such as Scheduled Monuments, Registered Parks and Gardens and Registered Battlefields. Information on townscape and sense of place will come from local knowledge and site visits if necessary.

**4.0.11 Objective 9:** Assessment against this objective will consider loss of open space/natural features which may have an impact on biodiversity and it will consider the potential of new development to provide biodiversity features. The assessment will also make informed assumptions about the biodiversity of brownfield sites based on information within the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessments (HELAA) site assessment sheets. The proximity to designated sites will also be considered.

**4.0.12 Objective 10:** This objective will consider the impact of development on educational facilities within the District. Assessment against this objective will also consider the loss of employment land as it is considered that this will lead to loss of employment opportunities and potentially a loss of workplace training opportunities. Information from the Employment Land Availability Assessment will be used.

**4.0.13 Objective 11:** Assessment against this objective will consider the loss of employment land. Information from the Employment Land Availability Assessment will be used. The assessment will also consider the potential for delivery of new employment land as well as the potential to support tourism development and the location of new retail development.

## 5 Next Steps and Monitoring

### 5.1 Next Steps

**5.1.1** The SA Scoping Report is the first stage in the plan-making process. A Local Development Scheme (LDS) has been prepared and is regularly updated to cover a rolling three year period. The most recent LDS was adopted in July 2015. An Issues and Options consultation is taking place between 1st September and 16th October 2015 and this Revised SA Scoping Report is being made available alongside the Issues and Options Paper for information.

**5.1.2** A Preferred Options consultation will take place during 2016 and an Interim SA report will be published alongside this. The full SA Report will be made available alongside the Publication Draft Plan during early 2017. Following the Publication period, an Examination in Public will be held to examine the 'soundness' of the Plan. Subject to the Plan being found 'sound' it is anticipated that it will be adopted during late 2017/early 2018.

### 5.2 Monitoring

**5.2.1** An Annual Monitoring Report has been published since 2002 and whilst the AMR itself is no longer a legal requirement, it is a requirement to provide monitoring information at least once annually. It is therefore intended the the District Council will continue to prepare an AMR each year and that this will include information relating to the monitoring of the SA indicators in order to comply with Regulation 17 of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

**5.2.2** Monitoring indicators are included within the SA framework to ensure that significant sustainability effects of implementing the plan are monitored to identify any unforeseen adverse effects and enable remedial action to be taken.

**5.2.3** In developing the proposals for monitoring regard will be paid to:

- the objectives, targets and indicators developed for the Sustainability Appraisal Framework:
- baseline information and identified sustainability issues
- likely significant effects that were identified
- proposed mitigation measures

**5.2.4** Monitoring proposals need to consider both positive and negative impacts. It is not necessary to monitor everything or to monitor an effect indefinitely. Instead the focus of monitoring should be on significant sustainability effects that may give rise to irreversible damage and significant effects where there was uncertainty in the Sustainability Appraisal and where monitoring would enable preventative or mitigation measures to be taken. The proposed monitoring indicators reflect this.



## A Review of Relevant Plans, Policies and Programmes

Document	Document Summary	Implications for SA
<b>INTERNATIONAL</b>		
European Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC)	<p>European Union Directive in the field of environmental protection, evaluating plans and programmes which can produce environmental effects.</p> <p>Evaluates the effects on the environment when plans and programmes are implemented and alternative solutions to environmental plans and programmes.</p> <p>The assessment can be applied in the areas of: Agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning and land use.</p> <p>The Objective – Directive to provide a high level of protection of the environment, it wants to integrate environmental observations with adoption of plans and programmes in order to promote sustainable development and evaluate proposals that have a significant effect on the environment.</p> <p>SEA Directive applies to a wide range of public plans and programmes e.g land use, transport, energy, waste, agriculture, the SEA Directive does not refer to policies.</p> <p>Plans and programmes in the sense of the SEA Directive must be prepared or adopted by an authority at national, regional or local level and be required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions.</p> <p>An SEA is mandatory for plans and programmes which are:</p> <p>Prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste/waste management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in the EIA Directive</p> <p>Or,</p>	<p>Ensure the SA is compliant with the requirements of the Directive, and has an objective that take account of environmental effects which effect the environment and health including enhancing biodiversity including flora, fauna, soil air and water together with the enhancement of cultural heritage.</p>

Document	Document Summary	Implications for SA
	<p>Have been determined to require an assessment under the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>For plans and programmes not included above, a screening procedure has to be carried out by Member States of the European Union to determine whether the plans/programmes are likely to have significant effects on SEA is needed. Criteria for the screening procedure is set out in the Directive.</p> <p>The SEA procedure – an environmental report is prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment and the reasonable alternatives of the proposed plan or programme are identified. The public and the environmental authorities are informed and consulted on the draft plan or programme and the environmental report prepared. As regards plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment in another Member State, the Member State in whose territory the plan or programme is being prepared must consult the other Member State(s).</p> <p>The environmental report and the results of the consultations are taken into account before adoption. Once the plan or programme is adopted, the environmental authorities and the public are informed and relevant information is made available to them. In order to identify unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage, significant environmental effects of the plan or programme are to be monitored.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● “the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors. These effects should include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects”</li> <li>● “an alternative of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with”</li> <li>● “the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme”</li> </ul>	

Document	Document Summary	Implications for SA
EU Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP): Living Well, Within the Limits of our Planet (2013)	<p>The Union has set itself the objective of becoming a smart, sustainable and inclusive economy by 2020 with a set of policies and actions aimed at making it a low carbon and resource efficient economy.</p> <p>Unsustainable trends still persist in: Climate change, nature and biodiversity, environment and health and quality of life, and natural resources and waste.</p> <p>Aim –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduction of at least 20% of its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2020.</li> <li>Ensure 20% of energy consumed is by renewable energy by 2020.</li> <li>Achieve 20% cut in primary energy use by 2020.</li> <li>Halt loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystem by 2020 and restore where feasible.</li> <li>Halt global forest cover loss by 2030</li> <li>Achieve a good status for Union water including freshwater, transitional waters and coastal waters</li> <li>Good environmental status for marine water.</li> <li>Air Quality</li> <li>Protect environment and human health</li> <li>Reduce emissions</li> </ul> <p>The Union has met the 2020 climate and energy targets and is working towards reducing by 2050 GHG emissions by 80-95% compared to 1990 levels.</p> <p>Global diversity targets need to be met by 2020 as the basis for halting and ultimately reversing the loss of biodiversity worldwide.</p> <p>The EAP will be guiding European environment policy until 2020 but to give more long term direction it sets out a vision of where it wants the Union to be in 2050.</p> <p>"In 2050, we live well, within the Planets ecological limits....prosperity and healthy environment stem from innovative circular economy where nothing is wasted, natural resources managed sustainably. Biodiversity protected, valued and restored.</p> <p>The 3 key objectives:</p>	<p>Include an SA Objective that works towards sustainable development, combating climate change, reducing flood risk, generating renewable energy, reducing waste and emissions and promoting greener more environmentally friendly communities.</p>

Document	Document Summary	Implications for SA
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Protect, conserve and enhance the Unions natural capital</li> <li>● Turn Union into resource – efficient, green and competitive low carbon economy</li> <li>● Safeguard Unions citizens from environment related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing.</li> </ul>	
Water Framework Directive (WFD 2000) Updated for England and Wales 2014	<p>The WFD is a piece of water legislation produced by the European Commission for achieving sustainable management of water in the UK and other EU Member States for years to come.</p> <p>It requires that all inland and coastal waters within defined river basin districts must reach at least good status by 2015 and defines how this should be achieved through the establishment of environmental objectives and ecological targets for surface waters.</p> <p>The result will be a healthy water environment achieved by taking due account of environmental, economic and social considerations.</p>	Promote SA objectives to ensure a healthy water environment.
	<b>NATIONAL</b>	
Flood and Water Management Act 2010	<p>The Flood and Water Management Act provides for better, more comprehensive management of flood risk for people, homes and businesses, helps safeguard community groups from unaffordable rises in surface water drainage charges, and protects water supplies to the consumer. Serious flooding can happen at any time. Climate projections suggest that extreme weather will happen more frequently in the future. This act aims to reduce the flood risk associated with extreme weather.</p> <p>District Councils are key partners in planning local flood risk management and can carry out flood risk management works on minor watercourses, working with Lead Local Flood Authorities and others, including through taking decisions on development in their area which ensure that risks are effectively managed.</p>	Ensure the SA includes an objective relating to flood risk.
Securing the Future – Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy 2005	The Strategy takes account of developments since the 1999 strategy, both domestically and internationally; the changed structure of government in the UK with devolution to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland; greater emphasis on delivery at regional level and the new relationship between government and local authorities.	Include SA objectives that work towards sustainable development and combating climate change.

Document	Document Summary	Implications for SA
	<p>The document highlights the international push for sustainable development from the 2002 World Summit.</p> <p>The principles are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Living within environment limits</li> <li>● Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society</li> <li>● Promoting good governance</li> <li>● Using sound science responsibly.</li> </ul>	
Laying the Foundations: A Housing Strategy for England (HM Government 2011)	<p>Reforms to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Get the housing market moving again,</li> <li>● Lay foundations for a more responsive, effective and stable housing market in the future,</li> <li>● Support choice and quality for tenants</li> <li>● Improve environmental standards and design quality.</li> <li>● Address concerns across the housing market making it easier to secure mortgages on new homes, improving fairness in social housing and ensuring homes that have been left empty for years are lived in once again.</li> </ul> <p>Centralised attempts to dictate housing numbers have failed so the system needs to be driven by local communities.</p>	Develop SA objectives to promote the development of sustainable homes and to ensure that the SA includes an objective on the provision of homes to meet the needs of all people.
Agricultural Land Classification – Protecting the Best and Most Versatile (2 <sup>nd</sup> edition Natural England, 2012)	<p>Most of the land within the United Kingdom is in agricultural use but how it is used is vital to sustainable development including protecting it from inappropriate development.</p> <p>Government policy to protect agricultural land is found in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).</p> <p>If significant development of agricultural land is demonstrated to be necessary Local Authorities should seek to use the poorer quality land rather than higher quality agricultural land.</p> <p>Protecting our soils – land quality varies from place to place.</p>	An objective of the SA should relate to agricultural land classification in order that the best and most versatile land is safeguarded and that sustainable development takes place on lower value land.



Document	Document Summary	Implications for SA
The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)(DCLG 2012)	<p>This document sets out the Government's planning policies for England. It provides a framework within which local people and their accountable councils can produce their own distinctive local and neighbourhood plans, which reflect the needs and priorities of their communities.</p> <p>It states that the purpose of planning is to help achieve sustainable development. Sustainable means ensuring that better lives for ourselves does not mean worse lives for future generations. Sustainable development is about change for the better, and not only in our built environment. Sustainable development is about positive growth making economic, environmental and social progress for this and future generations. The NPPF promotes a presumption in favour of sustainable development. Development means growth.</p>	The SA process will make recommendations to improve the social, economic and environmental sustainability of the plan's policies and site allocations.

Document	Document Summary	Implications for SA
	<p>There are three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic role – contribute to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring sufficient land of the right type is available in the right place and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure.</li> <li>• Social role – support strong, vibrant and healthy communities by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; create a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support health, social and cultural well-being.</li> <li>• Environmental role – protect and enhance our natural, built and historic environment; improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.</li> </ul> <p>The NPPF aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Building a strong, competitive economy.</li> <li>• Ensuring the vitality of town centres.</li> <li>• Supporting a prosperous rural economy.</li> <li>• Promoting sustainable transport.</li> <li>• Supporting high quality communications infrastructure.</li> <li>• Delivering a wide choice of high quality homes.</li> <li>• Requiring good design.</li> <li>• Promoting healthy communities.</li> <li>• Protecting green belt land.</li> <li>• Meeting the challenge of climate change, flooding and coastal change.</li> <li>• Conserving and enhancing the natural and the historic environment.</li> <li>• Facilitating the sustainable use of minerals.</li> </ul>	
The National Planning Practice Guide (NPPG) (DCLG,2014)	<p>NPPG is the Government's supplementary advice designed to supplement the NPPF. It is a web based resource. It covers forty five different planning categories. The information in each category then filters down to sub-headings, giving further information.</p> <p>The NPPG can be updated regularly and has been revised and updated.</p>	Ensure that the SA Framework considers economic, social and environmental sustainability.

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Circular 06/2005 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation HM Government (2005)	Circular provides administrative guidance on the application of the law relating to planning and nature conservation in England. It covers Internationally designated sites, Nationally designated sites, Conservation of Habitats and Species outside Designated Sites and Conservation of species protected by law.	Ensure that the SA Framework considers nature conservation and recognises the need to ensure its protection.
Environment Agency Groundwater Protection: Principles and Practice (GP3) (2013)	<p>Environment Agency - Protect and improve the environment and make it a better place for people and wildlife.</p> <p>Groundwater is water stored below the water table in rocks or other geological strata called aquifers. It supplies approximately 33% of mains drinking water in England and 10% in Wales.</p> <p>Groundwater is at risk from both point source pollution (e.g oil storage tank) and diffuse pollution (e.g fertilisers leaching from land).</p> <p>Vision for the environment and a sustainable future is a healthy, rich and diverse environment in England and Wales for present and future generations. Clean and sustainable groundwater resources will play a crucial role in achieving this.</p>	<p>An objective of the SA is to work towards safeguarding groundwater by reducing pollution.</p>
UK National Ecosystem Assessment (2014)	<p>The UK National Ecosystem Assessment (UK NEA) was the first analysis of the UK's natural environment in terms of the benefits it provides to society and continuing economic prosperity. Part of the Living With Environmental Change (LWEC) initiative, the UK NEA commenced in mid 2009 and reported in June 2011. It was an inclusive process involving government, academic, NGO and private sector institutions.</p> <p>The most widely used definition of an ecosystem is "A dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit"</p> <p>The main feature of an ecosystem is that it is a system with interactions between its living elements and their environment. Ecosystems can be defined as areas which share similar features amongst the factors of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Climatic conditions</li> <li>● Geophysical conditions</li> <li>● Dominant use by humans</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure that the SA Framework considers the natural environment and its ecosystems.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Surface cover (based on type of vegetative cover in terrestrial ecosystems or on fresh water, brackish water or salt water in aquatic ecosystems)</li> <li>● Species composition</li> <li>● Resource management systems and institutions.</li> </ul>	
Climate Change Adaptation Manual (2015)	<p>Manual is evidence to support nature conservation in a changing climate.</p> <p>The evidence that the Earth's climate has changed as a result of human activities has become increasingly clear in recent decades, and there is strong evidence that we can expect further changes over the rest of this century and beyond.</p> <p>The manual is in three parts:</p> <p>Part 1 - background information and considers some of the key concepts that are widely recognised in developing adaptation. It includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Climate change and its impacts on the natural environment;</li> <li>● The principles behind successful adaptation action;</li> <li>● Vulnerability to climate change;</li> <li>● The role of spatial scale in adaptation.</li> </ul> <p>Part 2 - detailed information on climate change impacts and potential adaptation responses for a range of habitats.</p> <p>Part 3 - considers the impacts of climate change on ecosystem services.</p>	Ensure that the SA considers climate change and recognises the need to reduce contributions to it.
<p>Biodiversity 2020: Making Space for Nature (2011)</p> <p>A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services</p>	<p>Biodiversity is the variety of all life on Earth. It includes all species of animals and plants - everything that is alive on our planet. Biodiversity is important for its own sake, and human survival depends upon it.</p> <p>In October 2010 over 190 countries around the world agreed to take urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity. The agreement recognised how important our wildlife and ecosystems are for sustaining a healthy planet and for delivering essential benefits for people.</p> <p>Biodiversity is key to survival of life on Earth. Its loss deprives future generations of irreplaceable genetic information and compromises sustainability.</p>	Ensure that SA objectives take into account and recognise the importance of halting the loss of biodiversity and aim to reverse this trend.

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Historic England Good Practice Advice Notes 1, 2 and 3 (2015)	<p>In England the ambition is to halt overall loss of England's biodiversity by 2020. In the longer term, the ambition is to move progressively from a position of net biodiversity loss to net gain.</p> <p>The purpose of these advice notes is to provide information to assist local authorities, planning and other consultants, owners, applicants and other interested parties in implementing historic environment policy in the NPPF and NPPG.</p> <p>Good Practice Advice Note 1 - The Historic Environment in Local Plans:</p> <p>Site allocations can identify opportunities to conserve the historic environment and through Neighbourhood planning policies that support and encourage the conservation and enhancement of the historic environment can help to ensure that new development is integrated with existing and can encourage sensitive development of historic buildings and places.</p> <p>Good Practice Advice Note 2 - Managing Significance in Decision taking in the Historic Environment:</p> <p>Development proposals that affect the historic environment are much more likely to be successful if they are designed with the knowledge and understanding of the significance of the heritage assets they may affect.</p> <p>Good Practice Advice Note 3 - The setting of Heritage Assets:</p> <p>The setting of a heritage asset may reflect the character of the wider townscape or landscape in which it is situated or be quite distinct from it. A heritage asset's extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Assessment needs to be carried out to see whether, how and to what degree settings make a contribution to the significance of the heritage assets.</p>	<p>An objective of the SA should be to promote and enhance the historic environment.</p>
<b>LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIPS</b>		
Strategy for Growth: Delivering Growth	<p>This strategy is underpinned by three pillars – business, people and place.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business – two key priority outcomes:</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure that the SA objectives recognise the need to provide employment and housing opportunities.</p>



Document	Document Summary	Implications for SA
(GBSLEP – Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership 2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating a new ecosystem of business support, an environment where businesses are enabled to start, grow and succeed through integrated and locally relevant support and access to finance.</li> <li>Providing leadership in key sectors, building on our natural strengths and advantages and driving jobs growth and GVA growth in Greater Birmingham.</li> <li>People: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Working to align skills base and skills provision with the job opportunities.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Place (Local Authority led): – two key priority outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stronger connectivity, both within the GBSLEP and between national and international markets.</li> <li>A more effective approach to maximising the physical assets within the region, unlocking housing and employment land and creating a clear sense of place within the LEP.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>In October 2014 an agreement was signed with Worcestershire LEP (WLEP) and Stoke and Staffordshire LEP (SSLEP) to work on a range of projects and initiatives for the mutual benefit of the wider region.</p>	Ensure that the SA objectives recognise the need to provide employment opportunities and sustainable transport.
Greater Birmingham and Solihull Strategic Economic Plan (Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership 2014)	<p>The Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is made up of nine Local Authorities these are Birmingham, Bromsgrove, Cannock Chase, East Staffordshire, Lichfield, Redditch, Solihull, Tamworth and Wyre Forest.</p> <p>Overview of the programme – Drive business growth and put in place the interventions necessary for businesses to start, grow and succeed and therefore create jobs across Greater Birmingham.</p> <p>This is an integrated plan for growth with delivery on the ground to realise the potential of Greater Birmingham. Capitalise on the opportunities presented by HS2 delivering two world class stations, public realm improvements and the connectivity and infrastructure to attract business and transform the region. Work in partnership with private, public and third sectors to address barriers to growth. Deliver new jobs, new houses and</p>	

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<p>The Spatial Plan for Recovery and Growth Consultation Draft (Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership, 2013)</p>	<p>commercial space. This will create a rising tide of prosperity that will benefit everyone in Greater Birmingham through providing local people with the jobs and skills that businesses need, it will provide support to businesses to enable them to form, grow and locate in the area.</p> <p>Aim – develop a strategic spatial framework plan covering the Local Enterprise Partnership area, a 20 year view.</p> <p>Spatial plan would align directly with the Strategy for Growth and be developed through collaboration between local planning partners in the LEP, helping Local Authorities satisfy the duty to cooperate, and assist through pro-active contributions from partners, while providing a focus for relationships with adjoining LEPs.</p> <p>The plan provides a helpful context for individual local plans and core strategies rather than supplant them, working alongside existing and emerging plans and helping inform subsequent reviews.</p> <p>The plan is subject to an annual review and update, in the scenario testing phase five topics were looked at – shaping the economy, homes and communities, connectivity, sustainable living and environment and urban structure.</p> <p>The Strategy for Growth is the economic plan which underpins all the GBSLEP's activities and objectives. It has a simple strategy to create jobs and grow the economy and raise the quality of life for all of the LEP's population.</p> <p>Key principles of the Plan include sustainability, diversity, recycling of land and longevity.</p> <p>There are twelve drivers for change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Creating a place to do business, the economic imperative for growth</li> <li>● Globalisation of trade and capital</li> <li>● Innovation</li> <li>● Population growth</li> <li>● Climate change (adaptation and mitigation)</li> <li>● GBSLEP centrality</li> <li>● Land scarcity</li> </ul>	<p>An objective of the SA should be to recognise the need to include land for development for employment opportunities and encouraging regeneration of areas, creating jobs so that the quality of life improves for communities.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Public policy and opinion</li> <li>Quality of life</li> <li>Regulation</li> <li>Civic and business leadership</li> </ul> <p>Consultation on the plan began in October 2013, further consultation is expected later in 2015.</p>	
World Class Worcestershire: Our Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) (Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership 2014)	<p>This is a ten year plan for growth, a stronger local economy and for more, better paid jobs.</p> <p>Worcestershire is a great business location but is not yet world class, improvements need to be made such as improving local transport links and improving communications, more employment land needs to be freed up in order to have sites for building and premises to fulfil the potential of high growth sectors. Housing requirements need to be addressed and there is a shortage of accommodation for light industrial, offices and research and development (B1) and general industrial (B2).</p> <p>Within Worcestershire there are four strategically important sites to house high growth sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>South Kidderminster Enterprise Park – advanced manufacturing</li> <li>Redditch Eastern Gateway – advanced manufacturing</li> <li>Worcester Technology Park – Advanced manufacturing, agri-tech</li> <li>Malvern Hills Science Park – Cyber security, defence and IT.</li> </ul> <p>Making economy stronger – need to focus on creating jobs, developing skills, building world class education and make the most of a brilliant central location by radically improving the transport and broadband infrastructure.</p> <p>Creating the right environment to make the most of our place, our people and our business.</p>	Ensure SA promotes a stronger economy with land available for employment opportunities for better paid jobs and better transport links. Sites for development of sustainable and affordable housing with better technological infrastructure to ensure stronger, vibrant communities.
<b>SUB-REGIONAL</b>		
Severn Trent Water – Water Resources Management Plan 2014	The plan explains the proposals for making sure we have enough water available, in the right place at the right time in an affordable and sustainable way for the next 25 years.	Include SA objective on preservation and enhancement of the District's water resources and reduce the risk of flooding within the District

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Water for Life and Livelihoods – River Basin Management Plan Severn River Basin District, 2009	<p>The challenge for the next 25 years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting the demand for an expected additional population of approximately 1.6 million</li> <li>Potential lower river flows – climate change</li> <li>Investment as the network ages</li> <li>Replacing water from licensed water abstraction that is no longer environmentally sustainable.</li> </ul> <p>The strategy is to reduce the overall demand for water and make the best use of existing water resources through a more flexible and sustainable supply system.</p> <p>Provide clean water to 7.7 million people, sewage to 8.7 million people an area of 21,000km<sup>2</sup> and reduce leakage.</p> <p>Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce demand for water by becoming more water efficient.</li> <li>Improve the ability to deploy our existing resources flexibly and efficiently.</li> <li>Use water trading to make more efficient use of resources and improve resilience.</li> <li>Develop new sources of water when required, focussing on expanding existing sources first.</li> <li>Use proactive catchment management measures to protect our sustainable sources.</li> </ul> <p>Plan to address the pressures that face the water environment in the Severn river basin district. This is the first of a series of six year planning cycles, this cycle will end in 2015. The key targets are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2015 17% of surface waters in this river basin are going to improve for at least one biological, chemical or physical element.</li> <li>34% of surface waters good or better ecological status</li> <li>65% of ground water bodies good status by 2015.</li> <li>At least 38% of assessed surface waters will be at good or better biological status by 2015.</li> </ul> <p>Severn River basin district – area 21,590 km<sup>2</sup> home to over 5.3 million people, this is also the longest river in the UK.</p>	<p>Develop a SA objective which ensures that the River basin is protected and enhanced. Ensure that biodiversity, water quality and efficiency are all promoted, help waters reach good ecological potential, promote sustainable drainage and that sustainable transport options are considered.</p>

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	<p>There are pressures from high population densities and transport, discharges from sewage works can impact on air quality. There are also pressures from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Problems related to taking water</li> <li>● Invasive non-native species</li> <li>● Nitrate</li> <li>● Pesticides</li> <li>● Phosphates</li> <li>● Physical modification e.g flood defences</li> <li>● Sediment</li> <li>● Urban and transport pollution</li> </ul> <p>Want strong water efficiency policies in local development plans and frameworks from Local Authorities. We want to ensure that planning documents take into account the objectives of the Severn River basin management plan.</p>	
	<b>COUNTY</b>	
Waste Core Strategy for Worcestershire, 2012(WCC)	<p>Plan to manage all waste produced in Worcestershire up to 2027, it predicts how much waste is likely to be produced, how much capacity will be needed to manage it and when. It is part of the Development Plan which together with other documents including local plans cover the County. The NPPF is a material consideration and must be taken into account in the preparation of local and neighbourhood plans including the Waste Core Strategy.</p> <p>The purpose of the Waste Core Strategy is to enable Worcestershire County Council to make decisions on planning applications for waste management facilities in Worcestershire. This includes applications for facilities that handle, treat or dispose of waste.</p> <p>The types of waste management facilities include landfill, metal recycling, waste transfer stations, material recovery facilities, resource recovery from biodegradable waste, composting and anaerobic digestion.</p> <p>All of the County's waste is currently transported by road. There is a possible potential for rail transport but probably not economically viable.</p>	Ensure that the SA Framework includes an objective on sustainable waste management, reducing waste and increasing recycling. The top priority in the waste hierarchy is to prevent waste, any waste if possible should be reused, and if this is not possible recycled, this should all be reflected in the SA framework.



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	<p>Many types of Waste are produced including :Commercial and industrial, agricultural, construction, demolition and excavation, municipal solid waste, hazardous waste, clinical and radioactive.</p> <p>The objectives of the strategy are to base decisions on the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to be resilient to climate change. Decisions should be based on the principles of sustainable development by protecting and enhancing the County's natural resources, environmental, cultural and economic assets, together with the character and amenity of the local area and the health and wellbeing of local people.</p>	
<p>Worcestershire Emerging Minerals Local Plan – second consultation (Worcestershire County Council, 2012)</p>	<p>Minerals are an essential raw material, needed for building e.g roads, houses. Industrial materials are used to manufacture products, these include sand for making glass, clay for bricks, ores for metals.</p> <p>In Worcestershire minerals found include sand and gravel, rock, clay, silica sand, coal and salt.</p> <p>This plan identifies the issues that should be addressed through policies and establish the vision and objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How minerals should be worked</li> <li>• Where minerals should be worked</li> <li>• How mineral sites should be restored</li> <li>• How minerals should be safeguarded for the future</li> <li>• Identify how much mineral we need to make provision for and when</li> <li>• Develop “spatial strategy” to direct future minerals development.</li> </ul> <p>Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of relevant issues</li> <li>• Vision – Council's ambition for mineral provision and restoration, what type of development and where.</li> <li>• Objectives – high level priorities for realising the vision, this is used to monitor achievement of the vision.</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure that the SA objective includes an objective relating to the openness of the green belt to ensure that it is maintained and enhanced, and ensuring minimum impact of minerals development on the environment.</p>

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Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Strategy 2013-2018 (Worcestershire GI Partnership)	<p>The Green Infrastructure Partnership has considered the way in which the landscape character, biodiversity and historic environment contribute towards the character of the County. The Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Strategy is supported by four evidence base documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Green Infrastructure Framework document 1 - establishes Green Infrastructure concept and policy context for Worcestershire.</li> <li>● Green Infrastructure Framework document 2 – establishes the Environment Character Area based on the natural environment.</li> <li>● Green Infrastructure Framework document 3 – explores the supply, potential need and capacity of recreational assets.</li> <li>● Green Infrastructure Framework document 4 – investigates the economic, health and climate change benefits of green infrastructure.</li> </ul> <p>There are a number of strategic objectives which include establishing principles and priorities for green infrastructure in Worcestershire, identifying needs and opportunities to inform future planning and management of green infrastructure in Worcestershire.</p> <p>Green Infrastructure is the planned and managed network of green spaces and natural elements that intersperse and connect to our cities, towns and villages. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Biodiversity,</li> <li>● The landscape,</li> <li>● Historic environment,</li> <li>● Water environment (blue infrastructure)</li> <li>● Publicly accessible green spaces and informal recreation sites.</li> </ul> <p>The underlying principle of green infrastructure is that the same area of land can often offer multiple benefits. The green infrastructure approach therefore integrates consideration of economic, health and social benefits.</p> <p>Green space and natural elements do not exist in isolation. Considering networks in an integrated way also achieves benefits that are far greater than when individual components are considered separately.</p> <p>The most relevant indicators to green infrastructure are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Economy</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure that the SA objectives promote sustainable development, biodiversity and the historic environment. Promoting recreational opportunities and protecting and enhancing the environmental qualities of the countryside for all to enjoy.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Health and well being</li> <li>● Access to sites for informal recreation</li> </ul> <p>Worcestershire's high quality natural and historic environment will fulfil a multi-functional role. It will enable sustainable growth of the economy, improve the community's experience of natural and historic places, deliver benefits to health and well-being and underpin the county's resilience to climate change.</p> <p>Land is classified from the best land which is rated Premium down to the bottom of the scale which is classed as other (a) low environmental quality and (b) urban unsurveyed.</p> <p>Within the County thirty distinctive Green Infrastructure Environmental Character Areas have been identified. The quality of these areas has been assessed and placed into one of three categories, which are :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Protect and enhance (greatest existing green infrastructure value)</li> <li>● Protect and restore ( medium existing infrastructure value)</li> <li>● Restore and create (lowest existing green infrastructure value)</li> </ul> <p>Within Wyre Forest District there are a number of strategic green infrastructure assets, these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Wyre Forest which is one of the largest areas of lowland coppice woodland in the Country,</li> <li>● River Severn,</li> <li>● River Stour,</li> <li>● Bewdley riverside corridor</li> <li>● Ribbesford (Arley) Wood.</li> </ul> <p>These are all in the category for the greatest existing green infrastructure value.</p> <p>The priority is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Enhance stream and river corridors,</li> <li>● Protect ancient countryside character,</li> <li>● Protect and enhance the ancient woodland habitats of the Wyre Forest,</li> </ul>	

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A Single Community Strategy for Worcestershire 2011-2021 (The Worcestershire Partnership 2010)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Enhance and expand acid grassland habitats,</li> <li>● Provision of a strategic asset for access and recreation.</li> </ul> <p>Overarching principle Socio-economic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Enhance economic wealth and address health inequalities.</li> </ul> <p>The overall approach is to protect and enhance the environmental quality and invest in socio-economic enhancements.</p>	An objective of the SA to ensure communities have available affordable sustainable housing and employment opportunities to ensure healthy, vibrant communities.
	<p>The Strategy sets out the vision for the future of Worcestershire enabling partners to focus on the activity needed in the short term to improve the quality of life for people who live, or work in the County and visitors.</p> <p>Our vision for Worcestershire is a county with safe, cohesive, healthy and inclusive communities, a strong and diverse economy and a valued and cherished environment.</p> <p>Three key priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A skilled and prosperous economy.</li> <li>● An environment that is cherished and resilient.</li> <li>● Improving health and well being.</li> </ul> <p>The strategy sets out District priorities for the six districts within Worcestershire.</p> <p>The vision for Wyre Forest District is "to build a district which people want to live in and visit; where they feel free from the fear of crime and a place where the unique rural character and beauty of the area is looked after by all. A district where children can thrive and look forward to the possibility of suitable employment following their education. Where business is actively encouraged and the economy becomes stronger and where the population are healthy whatever their age.</p>	

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Worcestershire Local Transport Plan 3 2011-2026 (Worcestershire County Council 2011)	<p>The plan sets out the transport policies and strategies for Worcestershire from 2011 to 2026.</p> <p>The planning and delivery of an efficient, affordable and multimodal transport network is essential if Worcestershire is to be able to achieve its vision "A county with safe, cohesive, healthy and inclusive communities, a strong and diverse economy and a valued and cherished environment"</p> <p>National Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To support national economic competitiveness and growth, by delivering reliable and efficient transport networks;</li> <li>● To reduce transport emissions of CO<sup>2</sup> and other greenhouse gases, with the desired outcome of tackling climate change;</li> <li>● To contribute to better safety, security and health and longer life-expectancy by reducing the risk of death, injury or illness arising from transport and by promoting travel modes that are beneficial to health;</li> <li>● To promote greater equality of opportunity for all citizens, with the desired outcome of achieving a fairer society and;</li> <li>● To improve quality of life for transport users and non transport users, and to promote a healthy natural environment.</li> </ul> <p>The plan includes Kidderminster Transport Strategy major scheme - inter-related transport measures to support the local economy and improve the environment in Kidderminster.</p> <p>To bring about improvement, proposed transport schemes will be grouped into the following packages:</p> <p>The Kidderminster Urban Package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Hoo Brook link road,</li> <li>● Kidderminster ring road junction and public realm improvement scheme,</li> <li>● Kidderminster Station enhancement scheme,</li> <li>● Kidderminster town centre enhancement scheme.</li> </ul> <p>The Stourport on Severn Urban Package includes:</p>	<p>Include SA objectives encouraging walking, cycling and the use of public transport as well as improvements to road infrastructure to support the local economy and promote a healthy environment.</p>

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Worcestershire Housing Strategy 2011-2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stourport on Severn relief road, junction improvement scheme of A451 Minster Road/Worcester Street.</li> <li>Stourport on Severn town centre public realm enhancement scheme.</li> </ul> <p>The Bewdley Urban Package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welch Gate remediation scheme</li> <li>Bewdley town centre public realm enhancement scheme</li> <li>Traffic and parking management study</li> </ul> <p>The Wyre Forest Rural Package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interurban corridor and maintenance and improvement between Kidderminster A456 and M5 junction's 3 and 4,</li> <li>A448 between Kidderminster and Bromsgrove</li> <li>A449 between Kidderminster and Worcester</li> <li>Railway schemes to enhance Blakebrook Station and the Stourbridge railway line enhancement scheme.</li> </ul> <p>The right house, at the right time, in the right place.</p> <p>In this strategy four primary goals were identified</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better use of existing homes</li> <li>Delivering new homes</li> <li>Improving the condition of existing homes</li> <li>Providing housing related support</li> </ul> <p>Summary of Strategic Priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Creating the conditions to sustain and generate employment;</li> <li>Providing the right housing for all communities;</li> <li>Developing Worcestershire's Infrastructure</li> </ul> <p>The underpinning goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To ensure that our plans contribute to the development of sustainable communities and economic success for Worcestershire having regard to the themes and cross cutting themes of the Sustainable Community</li> </ul>	<p>Ensure SA objective relating to the provision of sustainable housing for all, together with affordable housing.</p>



Document	Document Summary	Implications for SA
	<p>Strategy, both within new housing developments and our regeneration activity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To adopt a strategic commissioning approach, including identification of needs; gap analysis; prioritisation; outcome based monitoring and review, to ensure the right solutions are provided.</li> <li>To embrace the diversity that exists within Worcestershire and ensure that we plan to meet the diverse needs of our communities.</li> <li>To ensure that services are delivered efficiently balancing performance, customer satisfaction, quality and cost.</li> </ul> <p>Progress will be monitored against the goals to ensure that the action plan continues to be relevant.</p>	
Worcestershire Homelessness Strategy 2012-2017	<p>"To ensure that everyone has access to a place that they can call home, where they can close their door and feel safe"</p> <p>The Strategy covers the six Worcestershire Local Authorities, the strategy sets out how we and our partners will work together to prevent homelessness.</p> <p>Four goals have been developed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goal 1- Provide a pathway for housing solutions for everyone that accesses our services.</li> <li>Goal 2 - Create strong partnerships to tackle homelessness.</li> <li>Goal 3 – Take effective action to prevent anyone new to the streets having to sleep out for more than one night.</li> <li>Goal 4 – Reduce financial deprivation within our communities to minimise homelessness.</li> </ul> <p>The Worcestershire Strategic Housing Partnership (WSHP) will be responsible for overseeing the strategic implementation of the strategy. Progress will be monitored against goals to ensure that delivery of the actions and the action plan continue to be relevant.</p>	SA objective to provide sites for housing and employment providing affordable homes and employment to reduce homelessness.
Air Quality Action Plan for Worcestershire (Worcestershire Regulatory Services, 2013)	<p>The purpose of the Plan which is a statutory duty is to set out local actions that will be implemented to improve air quality and work towards meeting the objectives.</p>	Include an SA objective to improve air quality by reducing traffic emissions within the District and promoting walking, cycling and public transport to ensure a healthier environment for people to live in.

Document	Document Summary	Implications for SA
	<p>The objectives are to identify solutions that can deliver real measurable contributions to improving air quality in Worcestershire.</p> <p>Within the County of Worcestershire there are ten declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs). This means that NO<sub>2</sub> exceeds the annual average air quality objective. Two of these are within Wyre Forest District, they are at Horsefair/Coventry Street, Kidderminster and Welch Gate, Bewdley.</p> <p>The Action Plan Options are in two sections relating to the effect the actions would have on air quality: Generic Actions and AQMA specific actions (looking at various ways that may effect air quality). The generic actions have been grouped into types under the following headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Traffic management</li> <li>● Lowering emissions</li> <li>● Promotion of alternatives</li> <li>● Education and information</li> <li>● Planning Initiatives</li> <li>● Policy and guidance</li> </ul> <p>A number of AQMA specific proposals were identified for both Horsefair, Kidderminster and Welch Gate, Bewdley, these included promoting public transport, restricting delivery, unloading/loading and service schedules and traffic calming all with the aim of improving air quality.</p> <p>The primary aim is to reduce transport emissions by accelerating the uptake of low emission fuels and technologies. In reducing transport emissions local air quality is improved and greenhouse gases reduced. Ways to help improve emissions include improving and promoting cycling and walking routes and by installing electric vehicle charging points.</p>	
Worcestershire Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment (2014)	Gypsies and Travellers are persons of nomadic habit of life whatever their race or origin, including such persons who on grounds of their own or their family's or dependant's educational or health needs or old age have ceased to travel temporarily or permanently, but excluding members of an organised group of travelling showpeople or circus people travelling together as such.	SA Objective to include reference to providing suitable plots for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

Document	Document Summary	Implications for SA
	<p>The assessment was undertaken County wide to identify the needs of Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople from across Worcestershire. The objective was for Authorities to determine an appropriate level of pitch and plot provision for each of the Districts.</p> <p>Across Worcestershire it was indicated that there was a shortfall of three plots. In Wyre Forest District it was indicated that replacement plots will be required for relocation of two travelling show people plots.</p>	
	<b>STRICT</b>	
Kidderminster Regeneration Prospectus (Wyre Forest District Council, 2009)	<p>Kidderminster is recognised as a Local Regeneration Area, recognising the status of a town undergoing major economic restructuring.</p> <p>Kidderminster lies outside the Rural Regeneration zone but settlements within the area look to Kidderminster for jobs and services.</p> <p>The prospectus aims to highlight the towns challenges and opportunities from within and outside the area in order to attract support and investment to transform the fortunes of the town.</p> <p>The ultimate goal which is a 30 year vision is to maximise the vitality and viability of Kidderminster as a place to live and a driver for the economy west of Birmingham and the Black Country conurbation. Recognising the towns position outside but serving the Rural Regeneration Zone which includes the western parts of Wyre Forest District.</p> <p>It is about maximising the overall sense of community well being in the town and achieving a sustainable and thriving community. The 4 key themes are transport, jobs, homes and communities, design and environmental quality.</p> <p>The four main action areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town centre</li> <li>• Comberton Hill gateway</li> <li>• Churchfields</li> <li>• Former British Sugar Factory</li> </ul> <p>Regeneration in these areas aims to bring industry, technology, create sustainable homes in the community, vibrant and cultural areas with good shopping and eating facilities in attractive surroundings.</p>	<p>Ensure that the SA objectives include regeneration of the town centre and the need to provide employment opportunities, improved transport to create a vibrant core to the town with public areas that satisfy a wide variety of needs.</p>

Document	Document Summary	Implications for SA
	<p>Tourism – Within Wyre Forest District are three regionally significant tourist attractions which draw in more than 0.75 million visitors a year. These are West Midlands Safari Park, Severn Valley Railway and the Wyre Forest. At the Rewyre Renewed conference in 2014 the event emphasised the aspiration to develop a thriving town and community in Kidderminster. In 2015 work commenced in Kidderminster town centre to create a high quality environment in the core of the town which will include a multifunctional public square, future plans are to provide a new transport hub and to progress West Midlands Safari Park.</p>	

## B Baseline Data

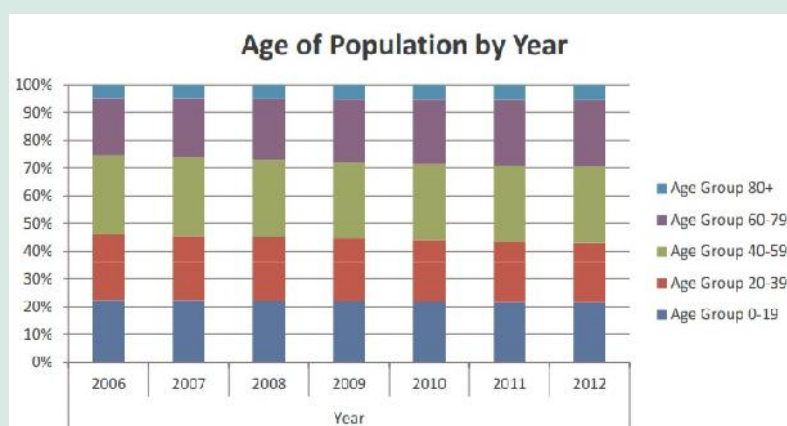
### B.1 Social

#### Population <sup>(1)</sup>

**B.1.1** The population for Wyre Forest District has increased only slightly over the past three decades. In 1981 the population was 91,169, a decade later in 1991 it had risen slightly to 94,814, it rose to 96,900 in 2001. Each decade the increase has been less than the previous so in 2011 the population was 97,975, in 2012 the mid year estimate was 98,074 and the mid year estimate for 2013 was 98,421. This shows that the population increase within Wyre Forest District has been very small.

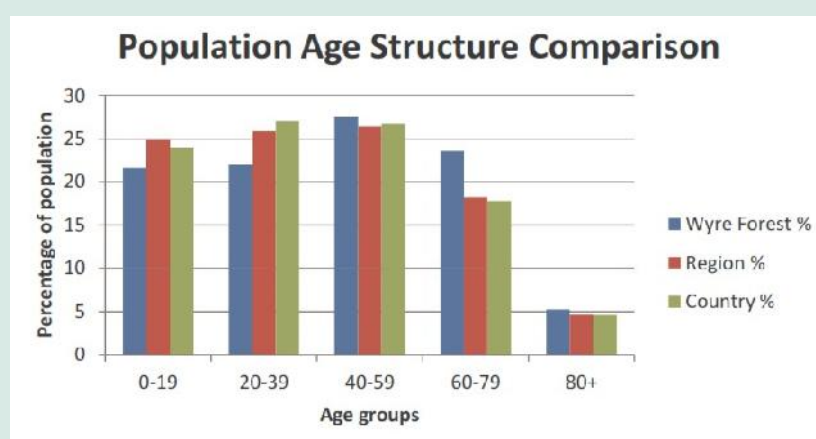
**B.1.2** The graph to the right shows the change in Wyre Forest District's population between 2006 and 2012. The adjacent chart shows that the population of the District is ageing. The percentage of 0-39 year old persons residing in the District has decreased. There has been a noticeable increase in the percentage of residents who are aged 60 to 79 and 80 and over.

Population Age Structure



**B.1.3** The graph to the right compares Wyre Forest District's population of age groups with the Region and the Country. This shows that Wyre Forest District has a lower percentage of residents within the 0-19 and 20-39 age groups when compared to both the West Midlands Region and England as a whole. The opposite occurs in the age groups of 40-59, 60-79 and 80+ this shows that Wyre Forest District has a more aged population structure than either the Region or National average.

Population Comparison



1 Neighbourhood Statistics

## Population Projections <sup>(2)</sup>

**B.1.4** The 2012-based household projections for England, 2012-2037 were published on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2015. The figures are based upon the 2012-based sub-national population projections, published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in May 2014. They replace the 2011-based interim household projections released in April 2013.

**B.1.5** The assumptions underlying national household and population projections are based on demographic trends. They are not forecasts as, for example, they do not attempt to predict the impact of future Government policies, changing economic circumstances or other factors that might have influence on household growth. The projections show the household numbers that would result if the assumptions based on previous demographic trends in the population and rates of household formation were to be realised in practice.

**B.1.6** In England as a whole, the number of households is predicted to grow by 24% 2012-2037 whereas average household size is projected to fall from 2.36 in 2012 to 2.21 in 2037.

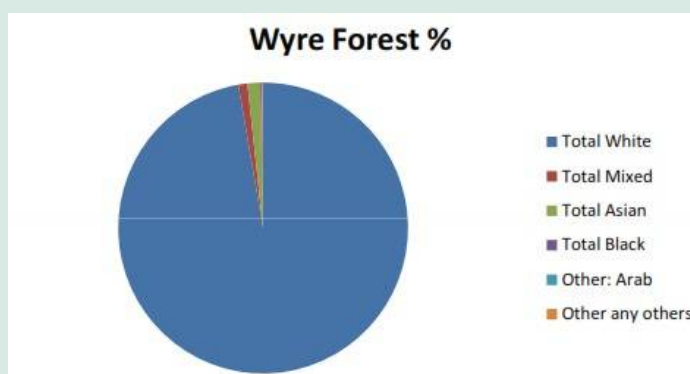
**B.1.7** In Wyre Forest District, the number of households is predicted to grow by only 9% 2012-2037. This is the lowest in the West Midlands (equalled only by Staffordshire Moorlands). Over the same period, the average household size in Wyre Forest is projected to fall from 2.25 to 2.12. The average household size in Worcestershire is projected to fall from 2.32 to 2.18.

**B.1.8** Worcester City and Bromsgrove are projected to grow by double that of Wyre Forest with 19% and 18% growth respectively. Over this same period, population is projected to grow by an average of 16% in England but by only 3% in Wyre Forest. Bromsgrove, on the other hand is projected to increase its population by 12% and Worcester City by 11%. The only other Worcestershire district with limited projected population growth is Redditch with 5%. It is must be remembered that these projections are based on past trends which saw very limited population growth of only 1.1% between the 2001 and 2011 censuses in Wyre Forest. The last 2 financial years have seen much higher levels of housebuilding in Wyre Forest than have been experienced for around 20 years. The housing stock at October 2014 totalled 45,791 so, even after allowing for empty homes and second homes, the number of households is likely to have seen a more marked increase than that projected by these figures.

## Ethnicity <sup>(3)</sup>

**B.1.9** The three pie charts to the right and below show the ethnicity profile of residents living within Wyre Forest District, the West Midlands and England as a whole.

**B.1.10** The pie chart to the right for Wyre Forest District shows that the ethnic profile is far less diverse than for either the West Midlands or England. Within Wyre Forest District over 97% of residents are white.

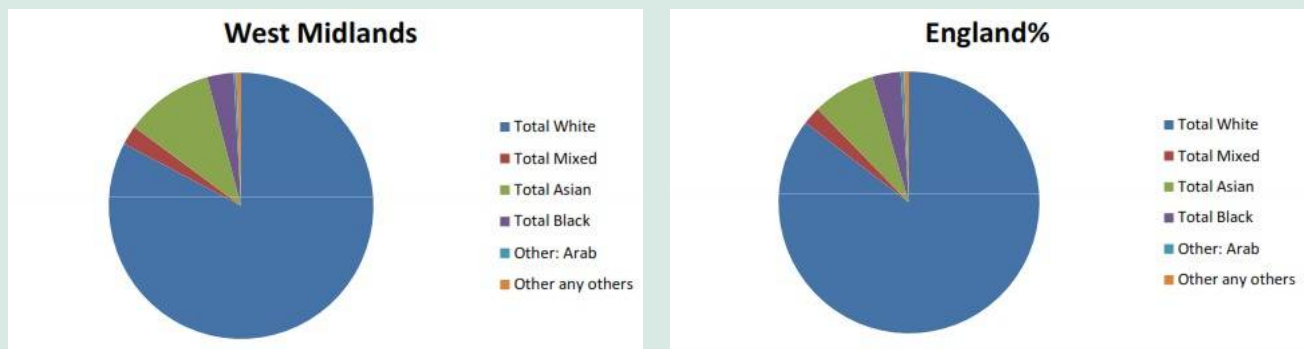


2 Office for National Statistics

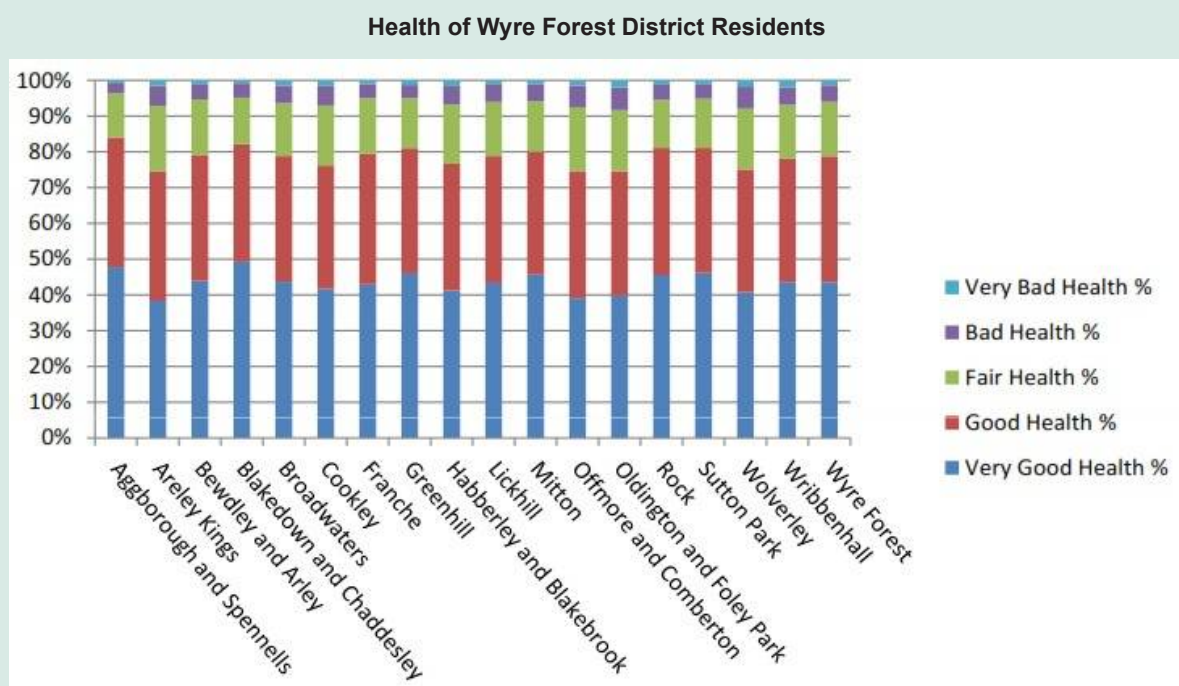
3 Neighbourhood Statistics



**B.1.11** The pie charts for both the West Midlands and England show a far greater ethnic diversity. The percentage of white residents is 82% in the West Midlands and 85% in England. The number of residents with an Asian heritage is over 10% in the West Midlands, less than 8% in England and less than 1.5% in Wyre Forest District.



## Health (4)

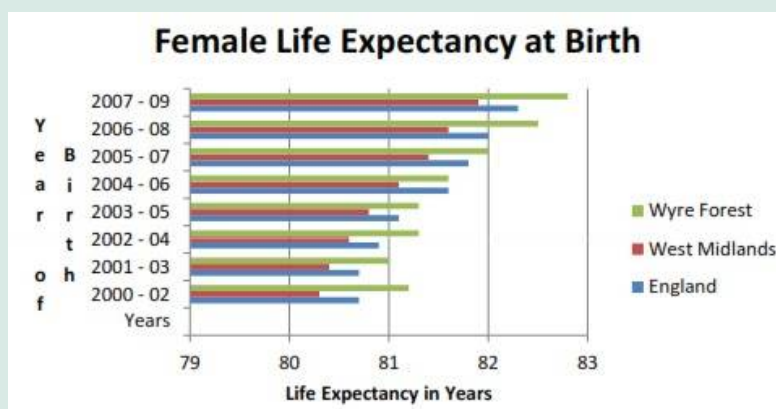
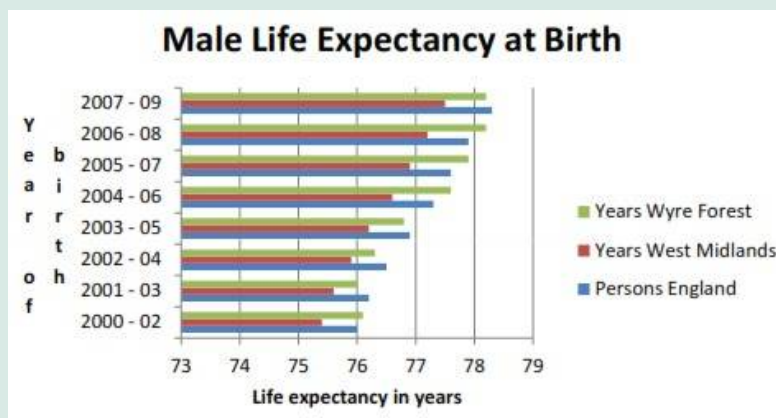


**B.1.12** The graph above shows the health status of residents within the Wyre Forest District by ward. The ward with the highest rate of residents with very good or good health is Aggborough and Spennells where 83.99% fall within these categories. Aggborough and Spennells also has the lowest rate of residents with bad or very bad health which is 3.58%. The ward with the lowest number of residents having very good or good health is Oldington and Foley Park at 74.51%, it also has the highest rate of residents with bad or very bad health at 8.37%. The population average across all wards within Wyre Forest District has 78.8% very good or good health and 6.0% with bad or very bad health.

**B.1.13** In 2001 67.46% of residents within Wyre Forest District reported good health, this was slightly higher than that of West Midlands of 67.21% but lower than the figure for England at 68.76%. Within the category of fairly good health 23.66% of Wyre Forest District residents fell within this category, this was higher than that of West Midlands at 23.06% and England at 22.21%. In the category of not good health 8.87% of Wyre Forest District residents were within this category compared to 9.73% in the West Midlands and 9.03% in England.

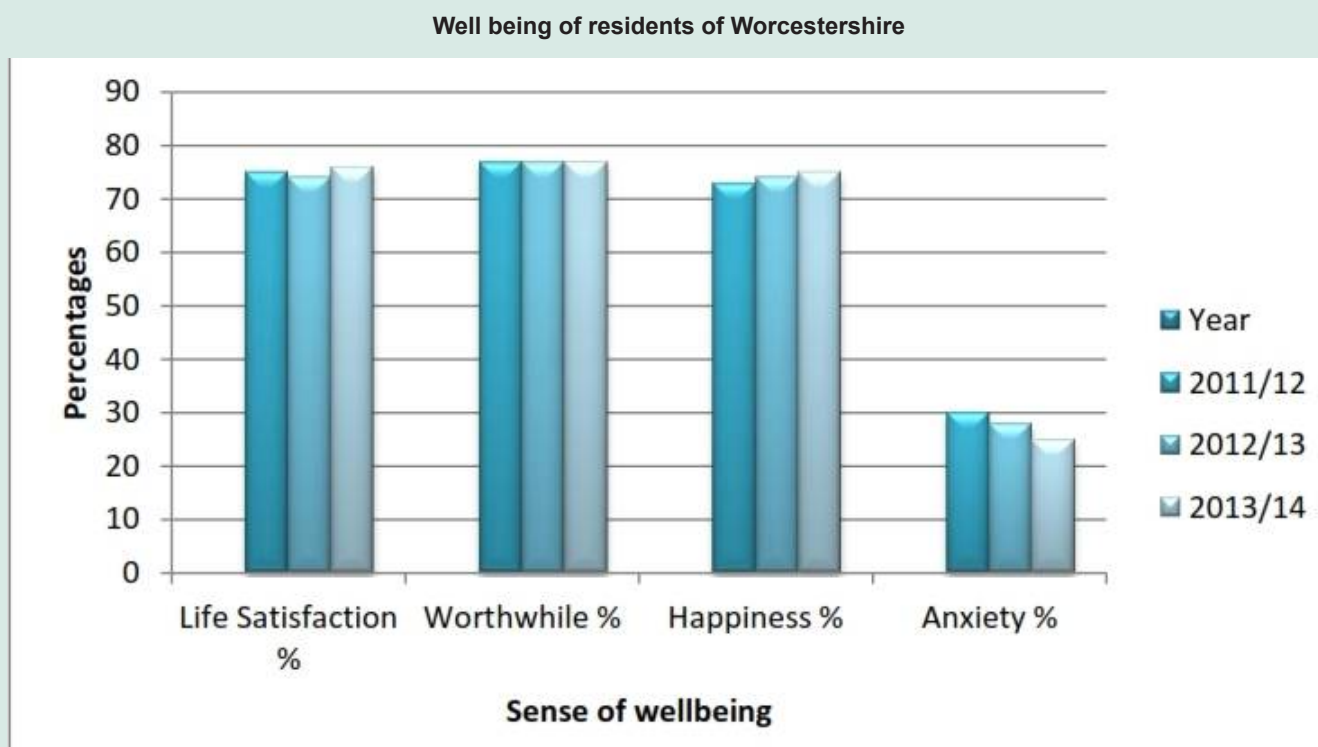
**B.1.14** The categories relating to health changed from 3 to 5 categories between 2001 and 2011, this means that they cannot be directly compared, the only marker is the comparison with Wyre Forest District to the West Midlands and to England. In 2011 78.8% of residents within Wyre Forest District reported very good or good health compared to 79.85% in the West Midlands and 81.39% in England. Bad or very bad health was reported by 6.0% of residents in Wyre Forest District, lower than 6.11% in the West Midlands but higher than the figure for England of 5.5%.

**B.1.15** The two graphs below show life expectancy of both males and females born within Wyre Forest District, the West Midlands and England. Life expectancy for both males and females is greater within Wyre Forest District than the West Midlands. For males life expectancy for those born within Wyre Forest District is similar to that of the expectancy for England, however for females those born within Wyre Forest District have a longer life expectancy than that for England by approximately 6 months. On average females can expect to live approximately 5 years longer than males.



## Well-Being <sup>(5)</sup>

**B.1.16** The graph below concerns the well being of residents living in Worcestershire. The figures for all of the four categories have remained fairly constant over the three year period. Life satisfaction percentages fell by 1% in 2012/13 and then rose by 2 % in 2013/14. Throughout the time period feelings of worthwhile were constant at 77%. Happiness figures rose by 1 % for each of the following 2 years while anxiety fell from 30 % to 28% and then fell again to 25%.

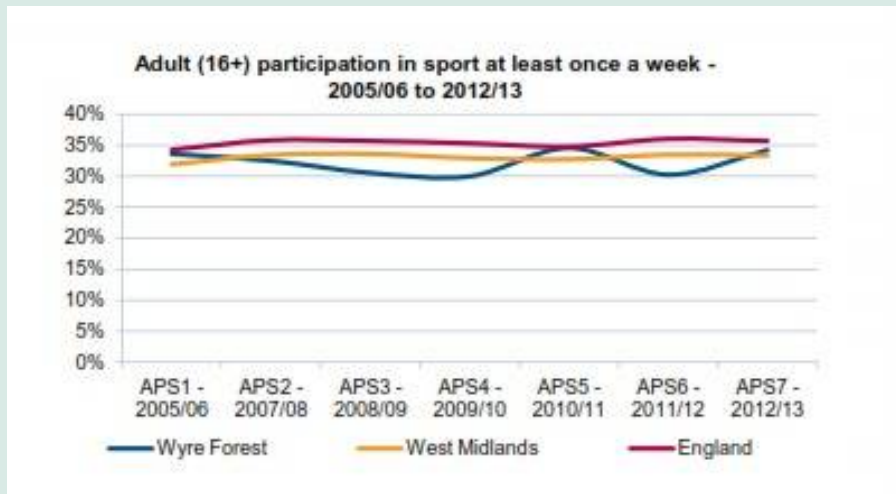


## Sport Participation <sup>(6)</sup>

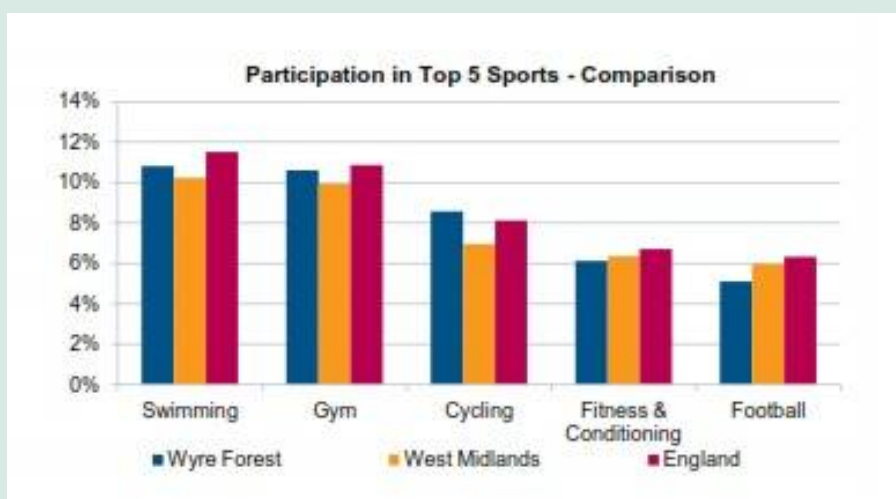
**B.1.17** The graph below shows participation in sport of at least once a week within Wyre Forest District in 2005/6 was very similar to that of the percentage for England, this level was slightly above that of the West Midlands. Between 2005/6 and 2012/13 the figure for both the West Midlands and England has remained fairly stable with a slight dip in numbers in 2010/11. Participation within Wyre Forest District has fluctuated with numbers declining from 2005/6 to 2009/10, then rising again the following year but then levels fell again, however in 2011/12 they rose again and are nearly back to being level with England. The percentage of the population participating in sport at least once a week within Wyre Forest District, West Midlands and England has remained at a level of between 30 and 35% of the population. Development should ensure that leisure and sport facilities are accessible to local residents.

5 Office for National Statistics

6 Sport England



**B.1.18** The graph below shows public participation in the five top participation sports. The two highest, which each have over 10% of the public participating in them are swimming and attending the gym, this is followed by cycling, fitness and conditioning and then football which has approximately 6% of the public participation in both the West Midlands and England although within Wyre Forest District the figure is slightly lower.



## Rural Facilities by Settlement

**B.1.19** The table below indicates rural facilities by settlement. Of these settlements only one, Blakedown has a railway station. All of the settlements have a bus service. The eastern side of the district has the larger more accessible settlements including Chaddesley Corbett, Blakedown, Cookley and Wolverley and these settlements have a more regular bus service than the smaller settlements of Clows Top, Far Forest, Callow Hill, Bliss Gate and Rock which are situated in the western side of the district where the bus services are more limited.

**B.1.20** All of the settlements have a post box although only Chaddesley Corbett and Cookley have a post office in addition to shops, the other settlements apart from Wolverley have a post office counter situated within the rural shop. Having a post office facility means that rural residents are able to withdraw cash without the need to travel to a bank in a town. Doctor's surgeries are

found in the larger settlements of Chaddesley Corbett, Cookley and Wolverley. Wolverley is also the only rural settlement to have a secondary school although a seven of the settlements do have a primary school.

**B.1.21** Bliss Gate does not have a church or village hall, and Callow Hill does not have a village hall, but all of the other settlements do have a church and village hall. Most of the settlements have one or more public houses the exception being Bliss Gate where the pub has closed and Clows Top where the nearest pub is some distance outside the village and has been changed to a café and village shop. Rural facilities are needed in order for the community to prosper. It is important that rural facilities are improved and enhanced so that rural residents can access services and continue to use these facilities, future development needs to take account of these issues in order for rural communities to thrive.

Table B.1.1

	Shop	Public House	School	Church	Village Hall	Post Office	Railway Station	Bus Stop	Post Box	Doctors
Blakedown	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	√	X
Bliss Gate	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	√	√	X
Callow Hill	X	√	X	√	X	X	X	√	√	X
Chaddesley Corbett	√	√	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√
Clows Top	√	X	X	√	√	√	X	√	√	X
Cookley	√	√	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	√
Far Forest	√	√	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	X
Rock	X	√	X	√	√	X	X	√	√	X
Upper Arley	√	√	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	X
Wilden	√	√	√	√	√	√	X	√	√	X
Wolverley	√	√	√	√	√	X	X	√	√	√

### Kidderminster Neighbourhood Centres

The following tables indicate existing retail facilities at neighbourhood centres within Wyre Forest District, an important local facility for the community.

Location	Retailer Representation	Vacancy and other changes	Car Parking	Anchor Unit(s)
Baskerville Road, Sion Hill				
	General Store	None	Parking available in front of stores	
	Takeaway			
	Hairdressers			
	Gift Shop			
Bewdley Road, Blakebrook				

Location	Retailer Representation	Vacancy and other changes	Car Parking	Anchor Unit(s)
	Fish and Chip Shop	Vacant unit formerly occupied by Estate Agent	Parking facilities located to the rear of shops. Limited on street parking	
	Charity Shop			
	Vacant unit			
	Chiropractor			
	Betting Shop			
The Parade, Broadwaters				
	Off licence and Convenience Store	No vacant units. Off licence extended into previous hair salon unit	Parking to rear and limited on street parking	
	Fish and Chip Shop			
Burcher Green, Comberton Estate				
	Newsagent	None	Parking facilities located at the front of the premises. On street parking nearby.	Costcutter
	Supermarket			
	Hair Salon			
	Charity Shop			
	Toy Shop			
	Gardening Shop			
Audley Drive, Ferndale				
	Newsagents	None	Parking available in front of shops	Costcutter
	Supermarket			
Canterbury Road, Habberley Estate				
	Convenience Store	None	On street parking available close to the shops. No designated spaces for the retail premises	Nisa
	Newsagent			
	Fish and Chip Shop			
	Hair Salon			
	Greengrocer			
Chester Road South, Hoobrook				
	General Store	None	Car parking available in front of store	
	Fish and Chip Shop			
Willowfield Drive, Marlpool Estate				
	Convenience Store	None	Parking facilities located at the front of the premises. On street parking nearby	Spar
	Chinese Takeaway			
	Marlpool Diner			
	Kitchen Showroom			
	Hair Salon			
Tennyson Way, Offmore Farm				
	Supermarket	None	Car park in front of stores	



Location	Retailer Representation	Vacancy and other changes	Car Parking	Anchor Unit(s)
	Fish and Chip Shop			
	Takeaway			
	Hairdressers			
Warbler Place, Spennels				
	Supermarket	None	Very good parking facilities available in designated bays located at the front of the centre. Also present within the car park is a recycling centre	Tesco Express
	Pharmacy			
	Tandoori Takeaway			
	Chinese Takeaway			
	Hairdressers			
	Charity Shop			
	Dog grooming establishment			
Stourport Road, Foley Park				
	Supermarket	None	Very good parking facilities located both at the front and to the rear of the shops	Tesco Express
	Pharmacy			
	Sub Way			
	Fish and Chip Shop			
	Convenience Store with Integral Post Office			
Lister Road, Sutton Farm				
	Chinese Takeaway	Hardware store is now vacant	On street parking nearby. No designated areas for car parking to use the shops.	Costcutter
	Hair Salon			
	Vacant			
	Convenience Store			

## Stourport-On-Severn Neighbourhood Centres

Location	Retailer Representation	Vacancy and recent changes	Car Parking	Anchor Unit(s)
Areley Common				
	Londis - General Store with post office	None	Restricted parking along a narrow road in front of the centre	Londis Store
	Taylor's newsagents			
	Pharmacy			
Queens Road, Areley Kings				
	Newsagents/General Store	None	Parking available in front of shops	
	Funeral Directors			
	Florists			
Calder Road, Burlish				

Location	Retailer Representation	Vacancy and recent changes	Car Parking	Anchor Unit(s)
	Post Office	None	Limited parking available off Calder Road, adjacent to the shops.	
	Hair Salon			
	Convenience Store			
Lime Tree Walk, Lickhill				
	Convenience Store	None	Parking facilities available on and off road location directly in front of the shops	Spar
	Photographers			
	Hair Salon			
	Florists			
	Laundrette			
	Public House			

## Bewdley Neighbourhood Centres

Location	Retailer Representation	Vacancy and recent changes	Car Parking	Anchor Unit(s)
<b>The Lakes</b>				
	Newsagent/Convenience Store	None	Parking available in front of the one shop and close by roads offer on street parking	Premier
<b>Queensway, Wribbenhall</b>				
	Convenience Store	Vacant store former hair salon	Parking available in front of shops	
	Vacant Unit			

## Other Village Centres

Location	Retailer Representation	Vacancy	Car Parking	Anchor Unit(s)
Blakedown Village Centre				
	Post Office	None	Parking provision for Blakedown consists of a pay and display car park which is situated behind the Post Office	
	Hair Salon			
	Wedding Dress Shop			
Chaddesley Corbett Village Centre				
	Convenience Store incorporating Post Office	None	On street parking is available along the whole of the main road that runs through the centre of the village	
	Butchers			
	Florist			
	Tea Room			
	Hair Salon			
Cookley Village Centre				

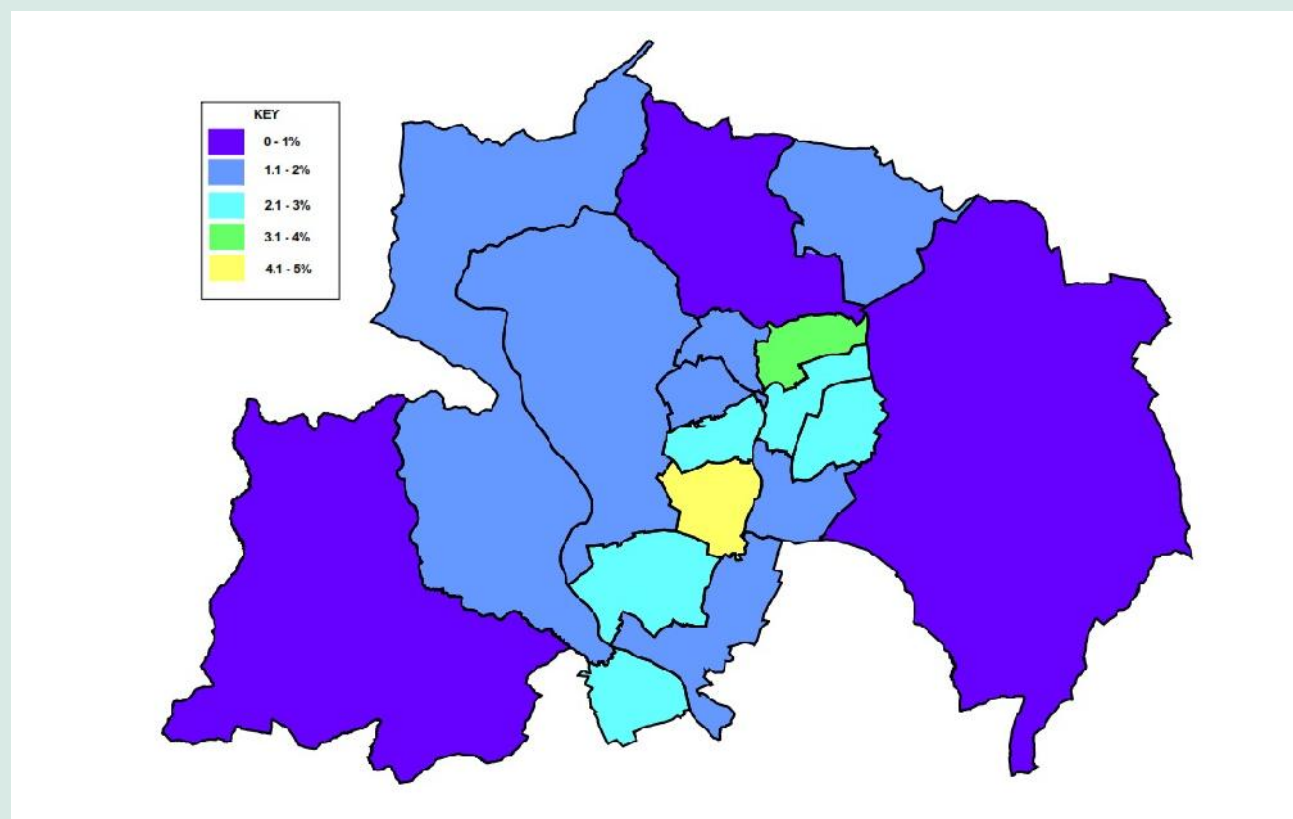
Location	Retailer Representation	Vacancy	Car Parking	Anchor Unit(s)
	Supermarket	None	Limited parking available in front of many of the shops. No on street parking available due to the designation of double yellow lines along Bridge Road	Tesco Express
	Fish and Chip Shop			
	Tandoori Takeaway			
	Florist			
	Butchers			
	Convenience Store with Post Office			

## B.2 Economic

### Unemployment <sup>(7)</sup>

**B.2.1** The following map shows the unemployment by ward for Wyre Forest District. The areas shown as purple show the lowest rate of unemployment which is below 1%. The wards with the highest rates of unemployment are all urban, these are shown as green which has 3.1 to 4.0% unemployment and yellow which has an unemployment rate of 4.1 to 5.0%. Unemployment is generally lower in the rural areas. Oldington and Foley Park and Broadwater wards have high concentrations of unemployment.

Unemployment by ward within Wyre Forest District



### Jobseeker's Allowance <sup>(8)</sup>

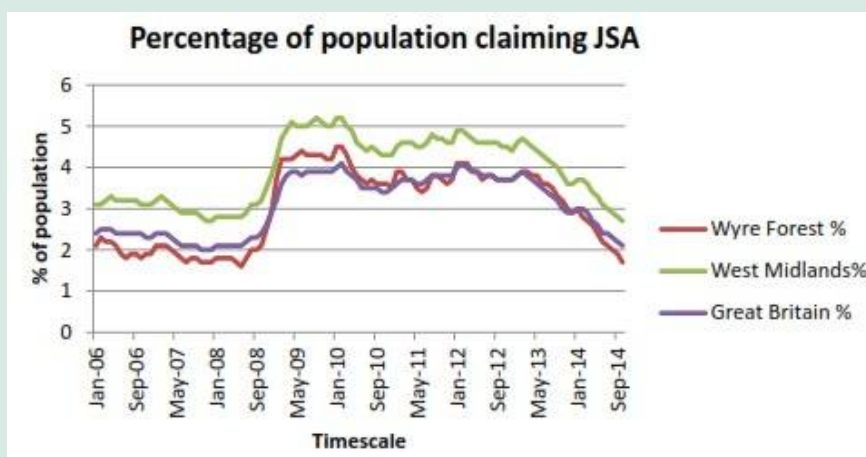
**B.2.2** The following graph shows the percentage of the population for Wyre Forest District, West Midlands and Great Britain claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). The graph shows that the percentage of people claiming JSA has fallen from over 5% in 2009/10 to less than 2% in 2014. The graph shows that Wyre Forest District consistently has lower JSA claimants than the West Midlands. Some of this decrease may be as a result of changing criteria such as school leavers now having to stay in education or training for longer and so they do not appear in JSA statistics.

7 County Economic Summary

8 Nomis official labour market statistics and County Economic Summary

## JSA Statistics

**B.2.3** The graph to the right shows that Worcestershire JSA claimants in October were less than 1.5% of the population whereas the figure for the West Midlands was more than 2.5% and the figure for England as a whole just over 2 %.



**B.2.4** The graph below shows that within Worcestershire the number of JSA claimants in Wyre Forest

District are lower than those for the City of Worcester and the same as those for Redditch, they are however higher than for Bromsgrove, Malvern Hills and Wychavon.

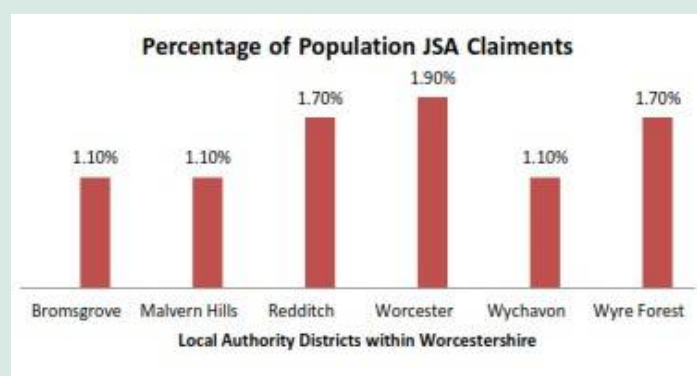
Income <sup>(9)</sup>

Table B.2.1 Earnings by Residence (gross weekly for all full-time workers)

Year	Wyre Forest (£)	West Midlands (£)	Great Britain (£)
2010	420.7	469.2	501.7
2011	436.4	465.2	500.2
2012	421.4	469.3	508.3
2013	464.0	483.0	517.9
2014	468.2	480.6	520.8

**B.2.5** Average earnings in Wyre Forest District by place of employment are lower than the regional and national average, however, they have increased by more than the national and regional averages since 2012 and therefore, the gap is starting to close.

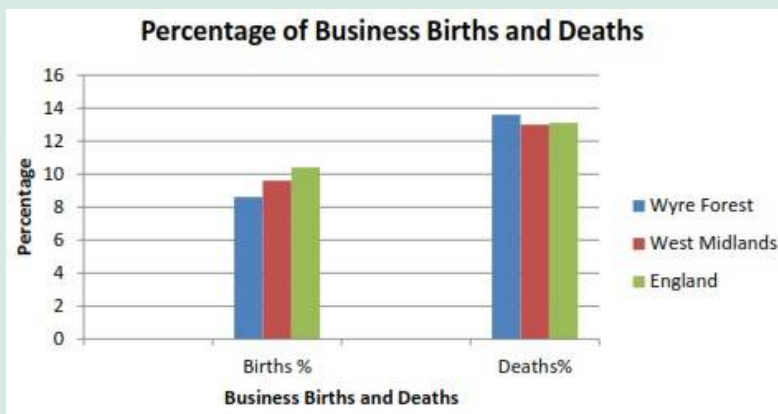
**Table B.2.2 Earnings by Location of Employment (Gross weekly for all full-time workers)**

Year	Wyre Forest (£)	West Midlands (£)	Great Britain (£)
2010	410.0	467.4	500.3
2011	381.8	464.4	500.0
2012	352.8	469.2	507.9
2013	390.0	484.5	517.6
2014	430.8	479.1	520.2

**B.2.6** Average earnings in Wyre Forest by place of residence are closer to national and regional averages than workplace based earnings. This gap is likely to be a result of the District's commuting patterns with many people commuting to Birmingham and Worcester where there are a greater number of higher paid jobs.

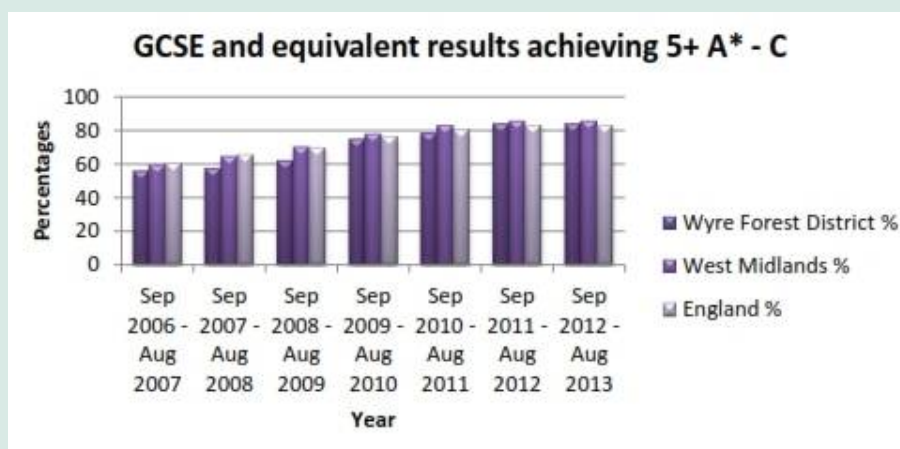
## Business Births and Deaths <sup>(10)</sup>

Business births and deaths relate to the number of businesses opening and closing down. The graph to the right shows that within Wyre Forest District, the West Midlands and England more businesses are closing down than are opening. Within Wyre Forest District less new businesses are opening as a percentage of all businesses than in the West Midlands or England, however more businesses are closing in Wyre Forest District as a percentage than in either the West Midlands or England.



## Education <sup>(11)</sup>

**B.2.7** The graph to the right shows the percentage of young people at the end of Key Stage 4 achieving 5 or more GCSE's at grades A\* to C. In 2006 the figure for Wyre Forest District was 55.8%, this was lower than that of the West Midlands at 59.4% or England at 60.4%. The figures rose each year for all areas until September 2011 - August 2012, the

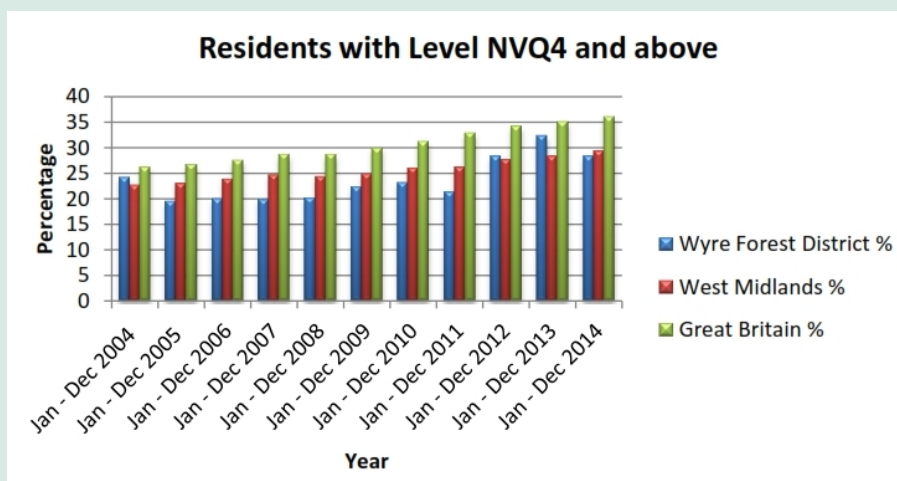


10 Office for National Statistics

11 Neighbourhood Statistics



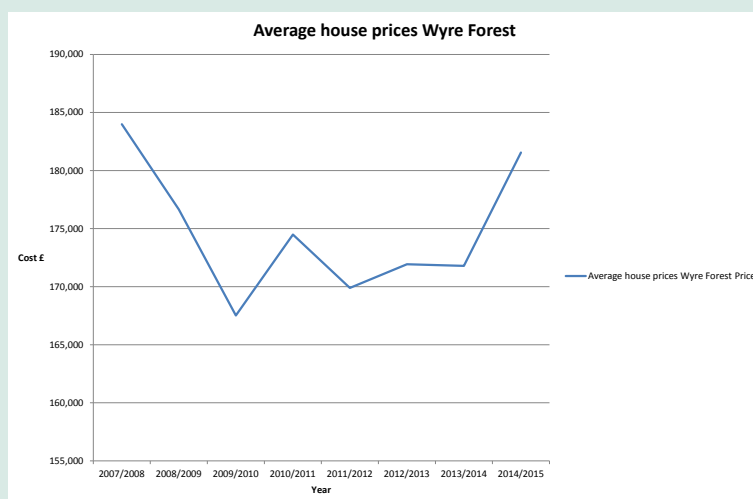
figures then remained the same the following year. All areas had significantly higher results with Wyre Forest District's figure having risen to 83.8%, the figure for the West Midlands was higher at 85.6% but the figure for England at 83.0% was lower than that of Wyre Forest District. It is likely that the criteria for collecting this information has changed as it seems unlikely that nearly 30% more students would be achieving this level in only 5 years.



**B.2.8** The graph to the left indicates the percentage of residents qualified to level 4 NVQ and equivalent or higher. The percentage has increased across Wyre Forest District, West Midlands and Great Britain over the last decade. In 2004 Wyre Forest District had a percentage of 24.1% qualified to this level or above, this figure was higher

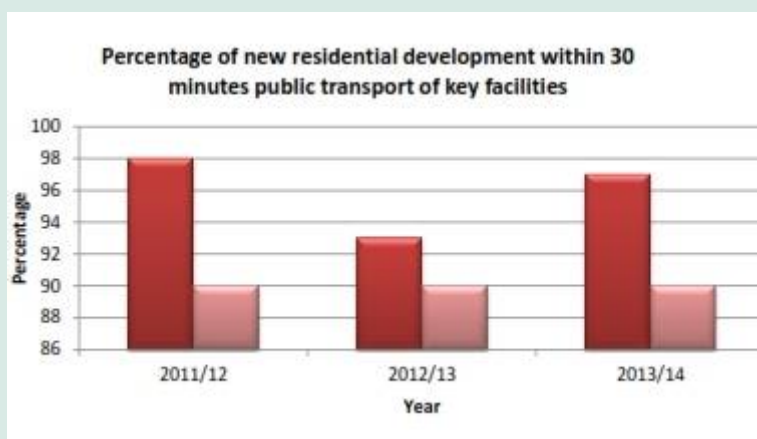
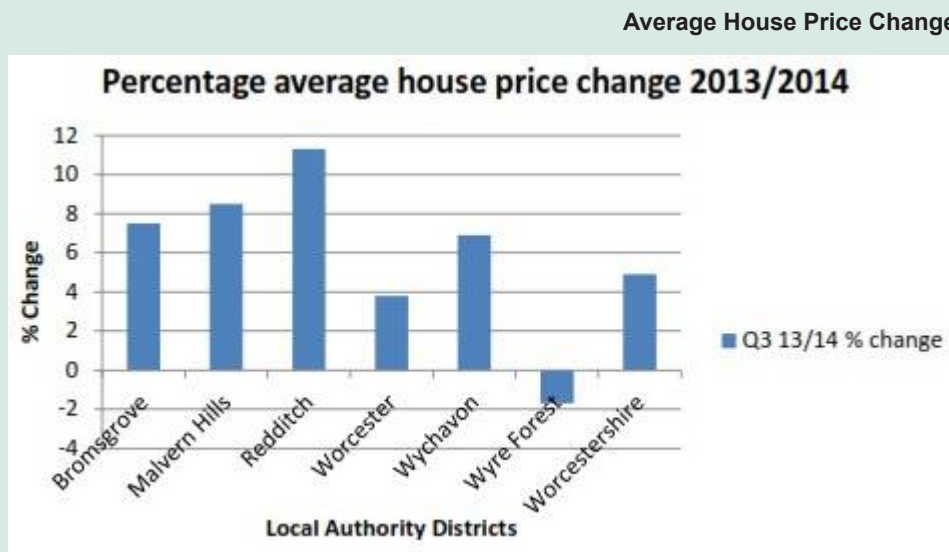
than the West Midlands at 22.7% but lower than Great Britain at 26.1%. Over the last decade the percentage for Great Britain has increased by 10% to a level of 36% in 2014, the percentage has increased to 29.4% in the West Midlands, a rise of 6.7%, Wyre Forest District has seen the lowest increase of 4.3% to give a total of 28.4%. This shows that Wyre Forest District is now slightly lower than the West Midlands or Great Britain, however, in 2013 the figure for Wyre Forest District was 32.4%, the figure may have reduced due to outmigration from the District.

## House Prices <sup>(12)</sup>



**B.2.9** The graph above shows average house prices within Wyre Forest District dropped sharply between 2008 and 2010 but then levelled out and since 2013 they have been rising so that they are not far short of where they were in 2007/8.

**B.2.10** The graph to the right compares average house prices across the Local Authority areas within Worcestershire. All of the Local Authority areas apart from Wyre Forest District show that there has been a percentage rise in house prices ranging from just under 4% in Worcester to over 11% in Redditch during 2013/14. Within Wyre Forest this shows a percentage fall in prices of nearly 2%.



**B.2.11** The graph above shows the percentage of new residential development within Wyre Forest District that is constructed within 30 minutes public transport time of key facilities. The target was set at 90% however this has been exceeded in all the years shown. The percentage in 2011/12 was 98%, 93% in 2012/13 and then increased again in 2013/14 to 97%. This means that residents are not reliant on having to have access to a vehicle as it is possible to access services required by public transport.

## Residential Completions

**B.2.12** The table below gives a breakdown of the number of affordable dwellings constructed in Wyre Forest District, the table excludes the number of affordable residential units that have been demolished during this time. Bewdley and rural areas have had a similar number of affordable dwellings constructed at 51 and 56, Stourport-on-Severn have had 126 constructed, Kidderminster have had 497 during the same time period. Apart from Stourport-on-Severn all areas have had at least three times as many residential units built for social rent than for shared ownership, however Stourport-on-Severn have had a similar numbers of dwellings built for social rent and for shared ownership.

Affordable Housing Completions by Type and Location (SO-Shared Ownership, SR - Social Rented)

Year	Bewdley			Stourport-on-Severn			Kidderminster			Rural Areas			District Total		
	SR	SO	Total	SR	SO	Total	SR	SO	Total	SR	SO	Total	SR	S O	Total
2006/7	0	0	0	0	8	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	8
2007/8	0	0	0	23	6	29	47	3	50	5	0	5	75	9	84
2008/9	0	0	0	0	15	15	51	33	84	0	0	0	51	48	99
2009/10	0	0	0	3	0	3	57	6	63	0	0	0	60	6	66
2010/11	0	0	0	19	10	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	10	29
2011/12	35	11	46	0	0	0	13	14	27	0	0	0	48	25	73
2012/13	0	0	0	0	0	0	42	8	50	7	3	10	49	11	60
2013/14	5	0	5	9	17	26	99	10	109	15	8	23	128	35	163
2014/15	0	0	0	11	5	16	86	28	114	18	0	18	89	33	148
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>519</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>730</b>

**B.2.13** The table below shows the total amount of dwellings constructed within Wyre Forest District and whether they are affordable or market. The total number of new built private dwellings is considerably higher than the number of affordable dwellings constructed for all areas of Wyre Forest District. The figures are net of residential demolitions.

Housing Completions by Tenure and Location (AH - Affordable Housing, MH - Market Housing)

Financial Year	Bewdley			Stourport-on-Severn			Kidderminster			Rural Areas			District Total		
	AH	PH	Total	AH	PH	Total	AH	PH	Total	AH	PH	Total	AH	PH	Total
2006/7	0	45	45	8	84	92	0	133	133	0	27	27	8	289	297
2007/8	0	9	9	29	31	60	6	93	99	5	19	24	40	152	192
2008/9	0	4	4	15	38	53	78	80	158	0	24	24	93	146	239
2009/10	0	8	8	3	47	50	48	69	117	0	16	16	51	140	191
2010/11	0	2	2	29	50	79	0	58	58	0	11	11	29	121	150
2011/12	46	3	49	0	52	52	-17	96	79	0	5	5	29	156	185
2012/13	0	8	8	0	66	66	50	74	124	10	14	24	60	162	222
2013/14	5	16	21	26	64	90	109	107	216	23	29	52	163	216	379
2014/15	0	5	5	16	29	45	114	245	359	18	29	47	148	310	458
<b>Total</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>388</b>	<b>955</b>	<b>1343</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>230</b>	<b>621</b>	<b>1692</b>	<b>2313</b>

Size of Residential Completions

Year	1 bed flat	2 bed flat	1 bed house	2 bed house	3 bed house	4+ bed house	Total
2006/7	46	69	4	39	75	68	301
2007/8	44	81	2	59	47	29	262

Year	1 bed flat	2 bed flat	1 bed house	2 bed house	3 bed house	4+ bed house	Total
2008/9	33	92	2	44	54	27	252
2009/10	57	89	1	34	15	23	219
2010/11	8	76	3	27	35	9	158
2011/12	25	74	1	34	71	30	235
2012/13	45	27	0	46	60	50	228
2013/14	42	68	2	67	80	122	381
2014/15	99	42	6	92	124	99	462
Total	399	618	21	442	561	457	2498

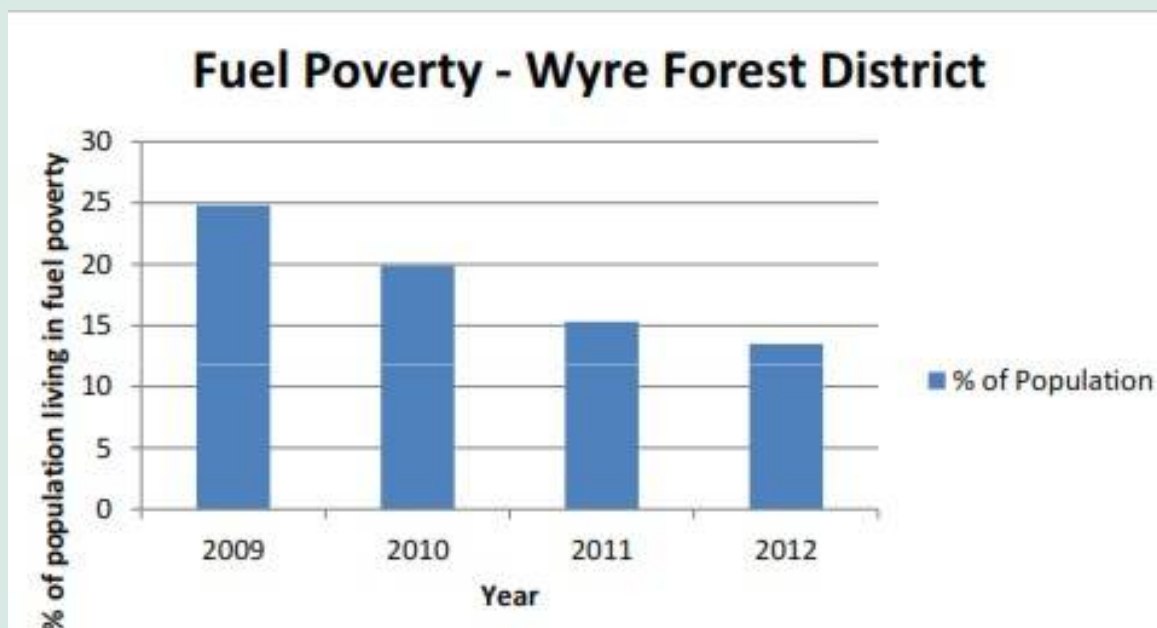
**B.2.14** The table above which is net of demolitions show how many bedrooms each of the new build residential units in Wyre Forest District have and if they are a flat or a dwelling house. The categories with the highest number of constructions are 2 bedroom flats and 3 bedroom houses. The category with the smallest number of constructions are 1 bedroom dwellings although the number of 1 bedroom flats is much higher. Since 2013 the number of dwellings with 4 or more bedrooms has increased considerably and as can be seen from the total number of residential units constructed in each of the years more residential units were constructed in 2014/15 than any year since 2006.

## Gypsy and Traveller Sites

**B.2.15** The map below shows the sites which are allocated for Gypsy and Traveller use within the District. The sites are concentrated within the Sandy Lane area of Stourport-on-Severn.

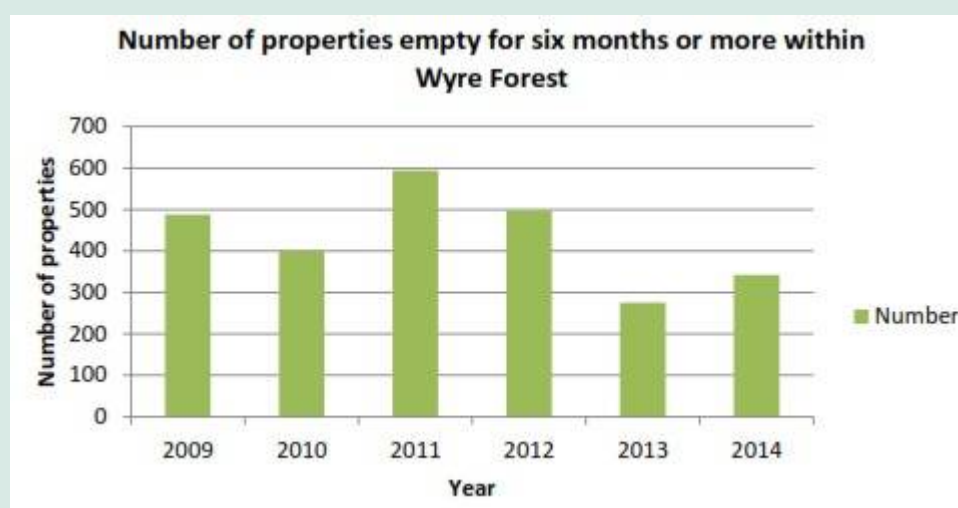


### Fuel Poverty <sup>(13)</sup>



**B.2.16** The graph above shows those households who are classed as being in fuel poverty. The graph shows a steady decline in numbers however the way that the Government defines households in fuel poverty has changed and therefore the figures for 2012 cannot be compared with the previous years.

### Empty Homes <sup>(14)</sup>



**B.2.17** The graph to the left shows the number of empty properties within Wyre Forest District declined during 2012 and 2013 following the peak of nearly 600 in 2011. During 2014 the number of empty properties has started to increase again. In 2012 the

percentage of empty properties within Wyre Forest District was 2.9%, slightly higher than that for Worcestershire at 2.79% but lower than the figure for England of 3.06%.

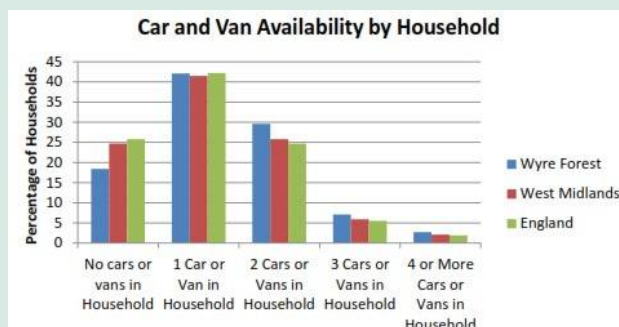
13 Department of Energy and Climate Change

14 WFDC Records, [www.gov.uk/government/publications/council-taxbase-2012-in-england](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/council-taxbase-2012-in-england)

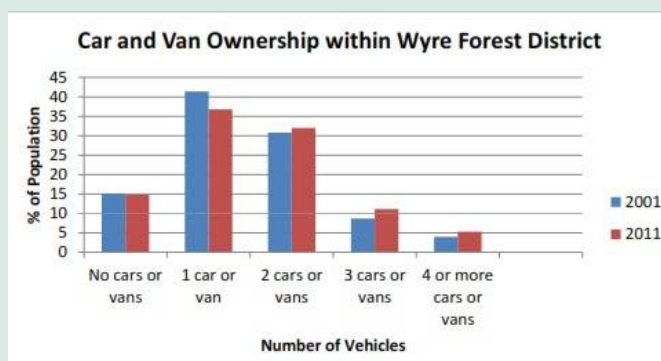


## Car and Van Ownership <sup>(15)</sup>

**B.2.18** The graph to the right shows the number of vehicles available to households within Wyre Forest District, West Midlands and England. Wyre Forest District has fewer households with no vehicle than the West Midlands or England. The number of households having access to one vehicle is similar for Wyre Forest District, West Midlands and England, however, Wyre Forest District has more households with access to 2, 3 or 4 or more vehicles than the West Midlands or England. The higher number in Wyre Forest District may be due to the rural nature of the District and in some areas a lack of public transport, this means that there is more reliance on having a vehicle. Locating development near to existing public transport corridors and improving public transport provision could reduce car dependence.

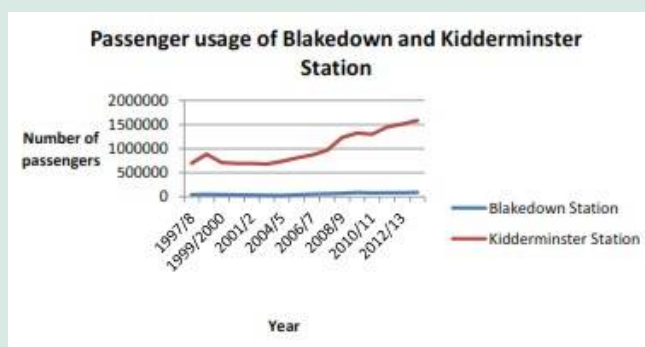


**B.2.19** The graph to the right shows car and van ownership within Wyre Forest District in 2001 and 2011. The information was collected by the Census of 2001 and 2011. The graph indicates that the amount of the population with no vehicle has altered very little during the ten year interval. In 2001 more of the population had 1 vehicle, this reduced by approximately 5% in 2011, however the percentage of the population with ownership of 2, 3 or 4 and more vehicles have all increased, in total the increase across these 3 categories is approximately 5%. Therefore the overall number of households owning a vehicle has stayed fairly constant over the ten year period, however, households tend to have access to a greater number of vehicles, perhaps this is due to young adults living at home longer.



## Rail <sup>(16)</sup>

**B.2.20** Wyre Forest District has two railway stations, they are located at Kidderminster and Blakedown. The graph shows passenger usage of these stations. Passenger numbers have more than doubled between 1997/8 and 2013/4 for both of the stations. During this time period the number of passengers using Blakedown Station increased from 43,091 to 89,252 and those using Kidderminster station have increased from approximately 710 thousand to over 1.5 million. Development should be located in order that the population has accessibility to this public transport facility.



15 Census 2001 and 2011  
16 Office of Rail Regulation



## Council Parking Provision <sup>(17)</sup>

**B.2.21** The following tables shows car parking availability that serves the three main retail centres within the district. The information was updated in October 2014.

Table B.2.3

Location	Duration	Number of Spaces
<b>Kidderminster</b>		
Market Street	Short Stay	83
Aldi Store	S/M/L	62
Bateman Yard	S/M/L	57
Bromsgrove Street	S/M/L	306
Pike Mills	S/M/L	188
Youth Centre	S/M/L	63
Private Carpark Weavers Wharf	S/M/L	417
Castle Road	S/M/L	38
Comberton Place	S/M/L	80
Horsefair	S/M/L	34
Stadium Close	S/M/L	150
St Mary's Church	S/M/L	33
<b>Stourport</b>		
Raven Street	Short Stay	28
Severn Meadows Number 1	S/M/L	114
Severn Meadows Number 2	S/M/L	111
Severn Meadows Number 3	S/M/L	114
Riverside Meadows	S/M/L	600
Stourport Sports Centre Number 1	S/M/L	66
Stourport Sports Centre Number 2	S/M/L	46
Stourport Sports Centre Number 3	S/M/L	16
Vale Road	S/M/L	75
<b>Bewdley</b>		
Load Street	Short Stay	33
Dog Lane	S/M/L	202
Gardeners Meadow	S/M/L	118
Private Carpark: Westbourne Street	S/M/L	16

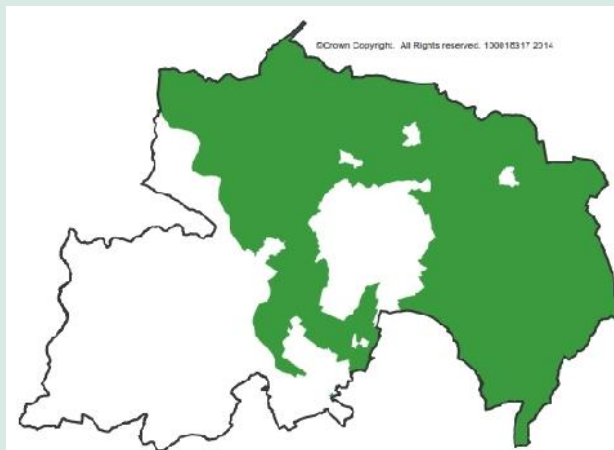
## B.3 Environmental

### Green Belt Designation <sup>(18)</sup>

**B.3.1** The map to the right indicates the areas of the District which are designated as part of the West Midlands Green Belt. The purposes of the Green Belt are set out within the NPPF. They are:

- to check the unrestricted sprawl of large built-up areas;
- to prevent neighbouring towns merging into one another;
- to assist in safeguarding the countryside from encroachment;
- to preserve the setting and special character of historic towns; and
- to assist in urban regeneration, by encouraging the recycling of derelict and other urban land.

Wyre Forest District Green Belt

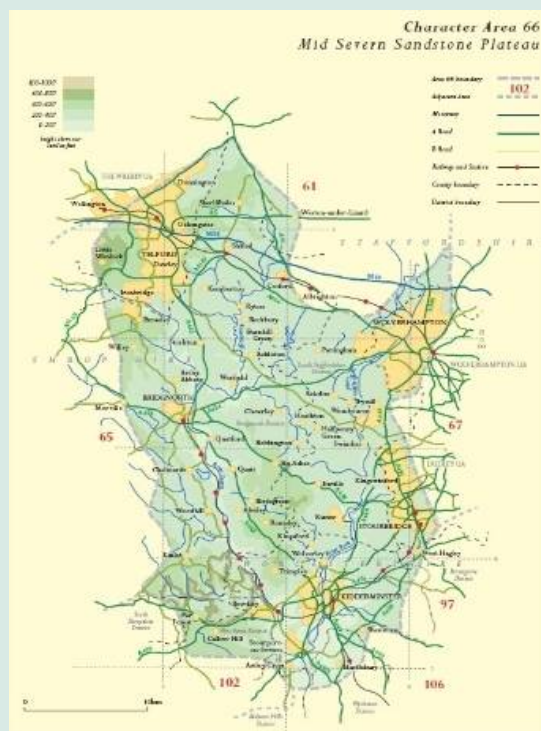


**B.3.2** The Plan will need to safeguard the Green Belt boundary unless exceptional circumstances exist to justify a review.

### Landscape Character Assessment <sup>(19)</sup>

**B.3.3** The Wyre Forest District is encompassed within the Mid-Severn Sandstone Plateau character area. The District is in the South of the character area. Here, the valley sides are steep and heavily wooded. Kidderminster occupies a substantial area around the confluence of the Rivers Severn and Stour. Industrial development on the floodplain and post-war residential development has spread onto higher ground. The fragmented and older coalfield pattern around the Forest of Wyre had now been absorbed into the wider landscape. Here the extensive and mixed woodlands on the wide, shallow bowl around Dowles Brook dominate the landscape. The area is drained by the valleys of the Severn and the Stour which meet in Stourport. Former terraces of these rivers, consisting of sand and gravel, overlie bedrock along the valleys.

Landscape Character



18 Source: Wyre Forest District Policies Map

19 Source: The Countryside Agency, 1999

- Rolling landform with open arable, cultivation dominating an often weak hedgerow pattern.
- Prominent urban fringe.
- Contrasting areas of smaller fields, and mixed field pattern with more distinctive hedgerows in West.
- Parklands and estate conifer and deciduous woodland.
- Patches of heath land.
- Extensive mixed woodland together with scattered mining and forest edge housing forming distinctive Wyre Forest landscape.
- Stour and Severn valleys with frequent villages and historic bridging towns.
- Narrow, steep-sided wooded dingles found throughout the area.
- Steep, wooded gorges of the Severn Valley.
- Coalfield remnant landscape along the Severn Valley.
- The Staffordshire and Worcestershire canal – an important man-made feature.

### The Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark <sup>(20)</sup>

**B.3.5** The Geopark (an area with geological heritage of international significance) was designated in 2004. This was the 17<sup>th</sup> European geopark to be established. The map shows that much of the Wyre Forest District lies within the park. Major objectives include conserving and enhancing geodiversity, encouraging geotourism and promoting education and research. There is an established geotourism programme based on geology and landscape trails, visitor centres and regular events. There is a rich legacy of mining activity associated with the area's carboniferous rocks.

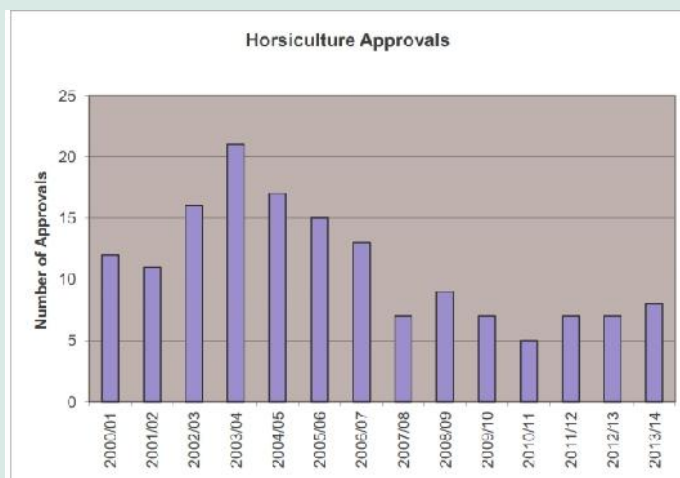
The Abberley and Malvern Hills Geopark



20 Source: <http://www.earthheritagetrust.org>

## Horsiculture <sup>(21)</sup>

**B.3.6** The graph below shows by year the number of equestrian related planning applications, which were approved in the District between April 2000 and March 2008. The map below shows the location of the developments. The graph shows that the number of approvals peaked in 2003/2004 and has steadily declined, however, more recently there has been an increasing trend. The Plan could include a policy to ensure that the needs of the horsiculture industry are balanced with the protection of the landscape and biodiversity.



## Chalets

**B.3.7** Within Wyre Forest District there are approximately 380 known properties described as 'shacks' or 'chalets'. These are buildings constructed of materials of less than average permanency and used for residential occupation. Most of them were built in the 1920s and 1930s in response to a post War housing shortage. Further chalets were built after the war, but before the 1947 Town and Country Planning Act began to be used as a means of control. Each chalet is individual, and most have no conditions restricting the time of year during which they may be occupied.

**B.3.8** Of the 380 chalets in the Wyre Forest District, approximately 78% are situated in the Severn Valley itself. The largest concentrations being at Hill Farm (including Severn Meadow), Northwood Lane, Bewdley; Hawkbatch Farm in the Parish of Upper Arley on the west bank of the Severn opposite Hill Farm; and Hungry Hill Farm in the north west corner of Upper Arley. Smaller concentrations are to be found at Pound Green and Far Forest.

**B.3.9** The Plan could help to control changes to current chalets to prevent them from becoming permanent homes. Where chalets have already become permanent homes the Plan should seek to mitigate the impacts of this.

## Caravans <sup>(22)</sup>

**B.3.10** The District currently has over 200 caravans that are licensed for use 12 months of the year. The majority of these are situated within two caravan parks, Severn Bank Caravan Park in Stourport on Severn (86) and Kinverdale Park, Kingsford Lane, Wolverley (110). There are also in excess of 2800 caravans licensed for holiday use, the period for permitted use of these caravans ranges from 6 to 12 months. However, a number of these are paying Council

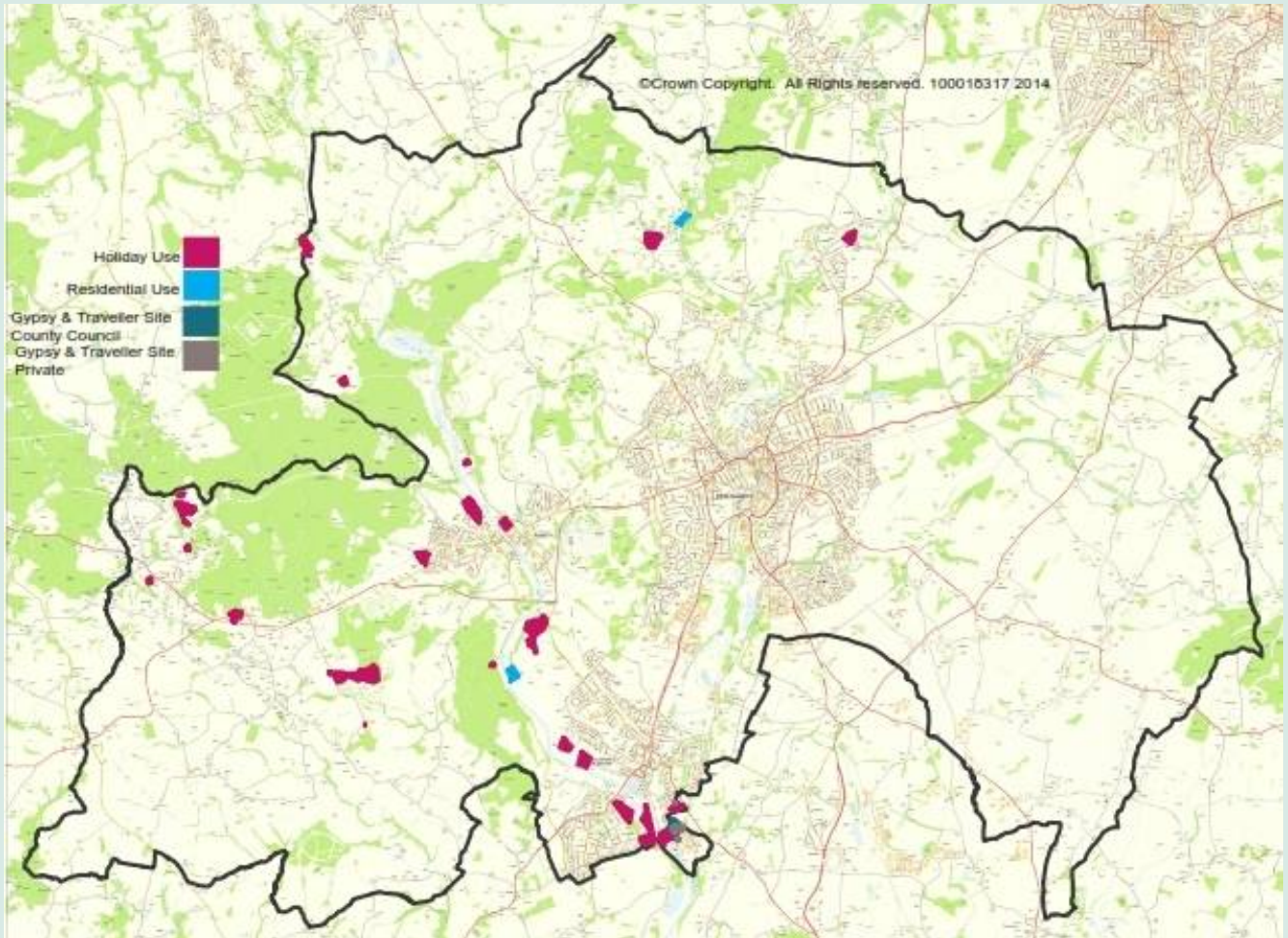
21 Wyre Forest District Council Records, 2014

22 Wyre Forest District Council



Tax as main residences with occupants taking a holiday when the sites are closed. The Plan could help to control the number of caravan sites within the District and their impact on the landscape by including a specific policy relating to the issue.

Caravan Sites within Wyre Forest District

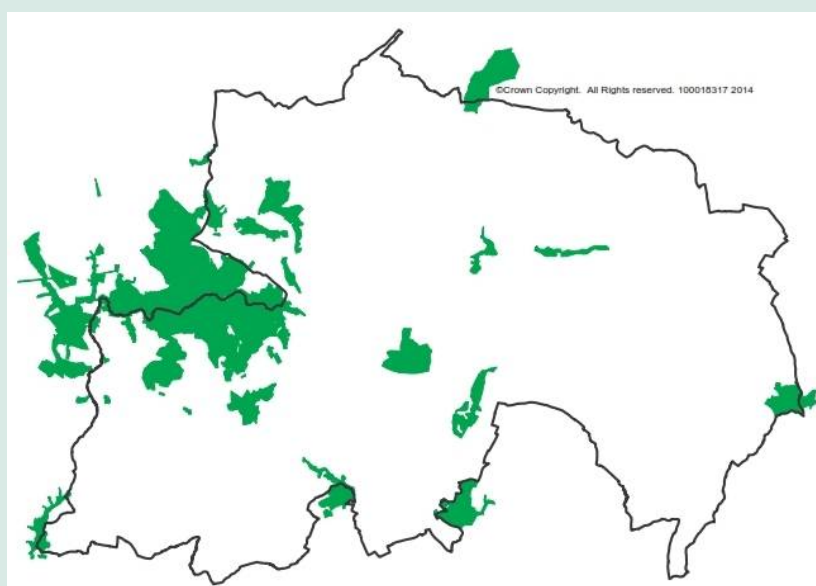


### Sites of Special Scientific Interest <sup>(23)</sup>

**B.3.11** The district contains a rich variety of nature conservation interests. A number of areas of national importance are found within the district with 6% of the land area designated as Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs). A variety of habitats are found including broadleaved mixed woodland, neutral grassland, acid grassland and heathland. The largest such designation is that of the Wyre Forest itself.

23 Source: Natural England SSSI Condition Survey and Wyre Forest District Policies Map

Sites of Special Scientific Interest



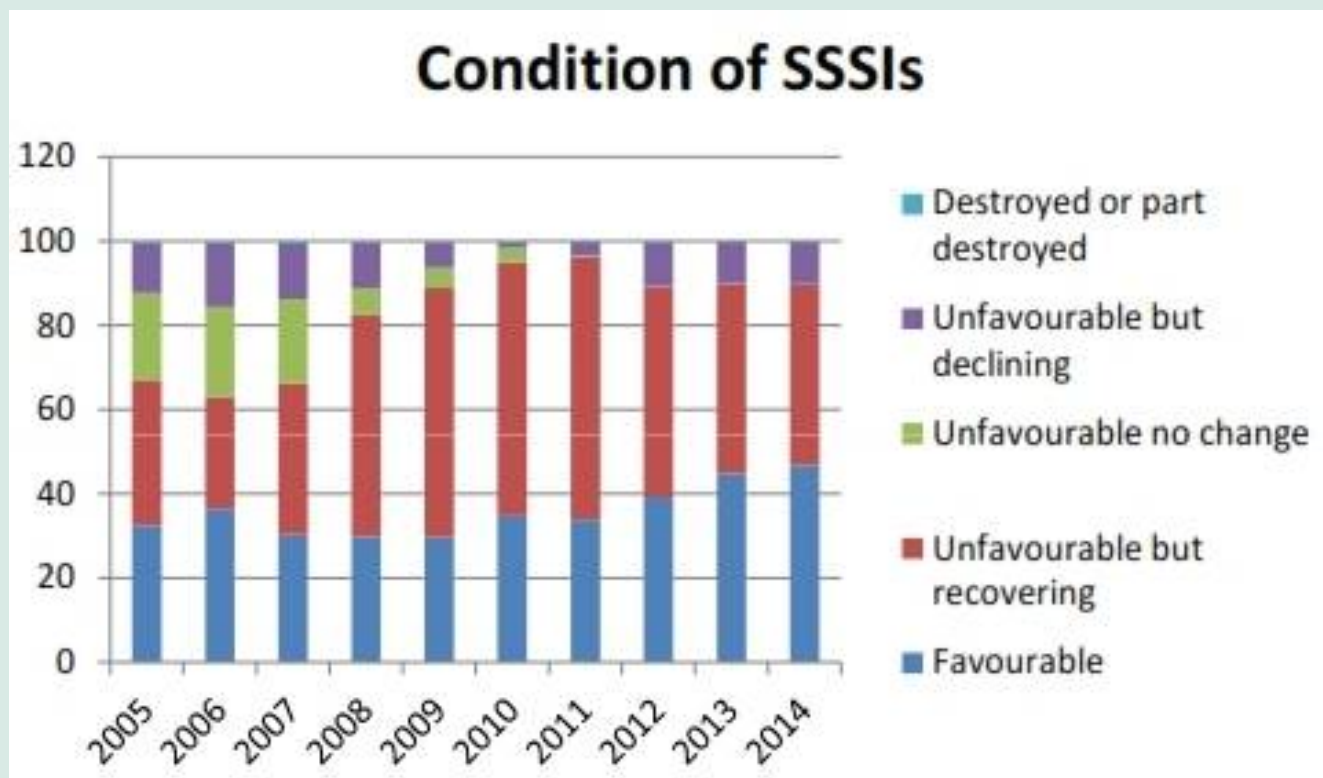
**B.3.12** Natural England conducts a rolling programme of site condition surveys for all the SSSIs over a six-year period. The results for those sites within Wyre Forest District are shown in the table below. The size of the SSSIs shown relates to those sites which fall within the boundaries of the District. The district contains a large number of Sites of Special Scientific Interest including the Wyre Forest itself. Natural England conducts a rolling six-year programme of site condition surveys. The latest results for those sites within the district are shown below. At Puxton Marsh, the situation has deteriorated still further and much of the area is now classed as Unfavourable Declining. However, an area grazed by the Grazing Animals Project is responding well to this positive management and should hopefully start to recover. At the Devil's Spittleful, almost all the site is now in favourable condition following the hard work put in by Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and the Council's ranger service. As a consequence of these latest surveys, only 90% of SSSIs by area were found to be in a 'favourable' or 'unfavourable but recovering' condition.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

Name of site	Type of site	Size in hectares	Condition(from Natural England surveys)
Areley Wood	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland	16.29 2.16	Favourable Unfavourable but recovering
Bliss Gate Pastures	Neutral grassland - lowland	1.23 0.78	Favourable Unfavourable but recovering
Browns Close Meadow	Neutral grassland - lowland	2.67	Favourable
Buckeridge Meadow	Neutral grassland - lowland	2.59	Favourable
Devil's Spittleful	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland	22.15	Favourable
	Dwarf Shrub Heath - lowland	64.07 10.88	Favourable Unfavourable but recovering
	Acid Grassland - lowland	2.18	Unfavourable but recovering



Name of site	Type of site	Size in hectares	Condition(from Natural England surveys)
Dumbleton Dingle	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland	1.49	Favourable
Eymore railway Cutting	Earth Heritage	0.22	Unfavourable no change
Feckenham Forest	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland	56.64	Favourable
	Neutral Grassland - lowland	2.01 1.2	Favourable Unfavourable but recovering
Hartlebury Common	Dwarf Shrub Heath - lowland	0.77	Unfavourable but recovering
Hurcott and Podmore Pools	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland	6.76 14.89	Favourable Unfavourable but recovering
Hurcott Pasture	Acid Grassland	4.69	Unfavourable but recovering
Kinver Edge	Dwarf Shrub Heath - lowland	9.65	Unfavourable but recovering
Puxton Marshes	Fen, Marsh and Swamp	3.95 8.98	Favourable Unfavourable declining
Ranters Bank pastures	Neutral Grassland - lowland	2.18	Unfavourable declining
River Stour Floodplain	Earth Heritage	17.64	Favourable
Showground Meadow Callow Hill	Neutral Grassland - lowland	0.83	Favourable
Stourvale Marsh	Fen, Marsh and Swamp	9.28	Unfavourable declining
Wilden Marsh and Meadows	Fen, Marsh and Swamp	18.9	Unfavourable but recovering
	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland	12.72	Unfavourable but recovering
	Neutral Grassland - lowland	8.88	Unfavourable but recovering
Wyre Forest	Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland	286.75 350.47 94.39	Favourable Unfavourable but recovering Unfavourable declining
	Neutral Grassland - lowland	31.85 46.92 1.69	Favourable Unfavourable but recovering Partially destroyed
	Boundary and Linear Features	9.55	Favourable



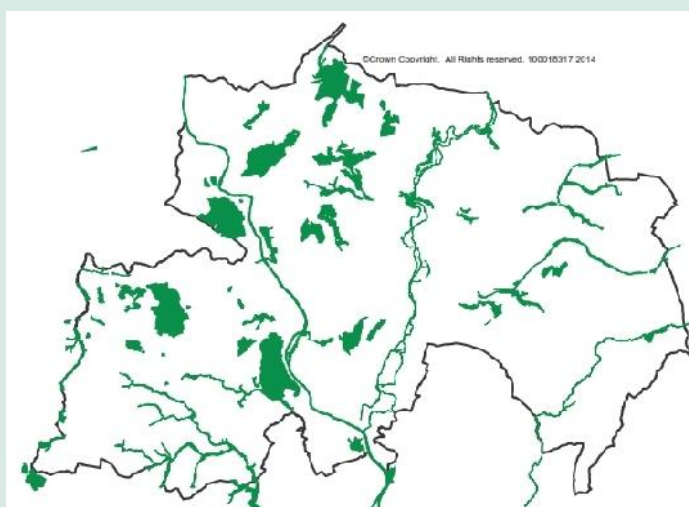
**B.3.13** The Plan could help to address the condition of SSSIs by ensuring that new development is not located where it would have a detrimental impact on any SSSI and that where appropriate new development enhances nearby SSSIs.

#### Local Wildlife Sites <sup>(24)</sup>

**B.3.14** The map to the right indicates the location of Local Wildlife Sites throughout the District as at March 2008. LWSs are non-statutory areas that have, in the past, been identified by the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust. LWS's are considered to be at least of county importance; although some may be of national importance.

**B.3.15** The District has a large number of LWSs which are particularly concentrated to the West of the River Severn and to the North of Kidderminster. Further details of each site are set out in the table below. The location of the sites shows a strong correlation with the former designated Landscape Protection Area. In contrast there are relatively few sites to the east of Kidderminster, which is washed over by Green Belt.

Local Wildlife Sites in Wyre Forest District



24 Worcestershire Wildlife Trust, 2008

**B.3.16** The Plan could help to protect LWSs by ensuring that new development does not have a detrimental impact on sites.

Site Name	Local Wildlife Habitat	Parish	Date of Listing
Blackstone Rock and Mucky Marsh Meadow	Grassland; Broadleaved woodland; open water; swamp; marsh	Bewdley	09/11/07
Snuffmill Dingle & Park	ASNW - broadleaved woodland	Bewdley	17/01/08
Hawthorn Bush Meadows	Grassland	Bewdley	09/04/03
Burlish Camp	Heathland; Grassland; Woodland	Bewdley, Kidderminster, Stourport-on-Severn	26/11/07
Wyre Forest	Woodland, wet woodland, grassland	Bewdley, Rock (Part outside District)	05/11/07
Broome Tower Mustard Verge	Species	Broome	31/08/01
Mearse Farm Heath	Heathland; grassland; woodland	Chaddesley Corbett	28/11/07
Hadley, Elmley & hockley Brooks	Open water - flowing	Chaddesley Corbett (Part outside District)	28/09/90
Churchill & Blakedown Valleys	Open water - flowing; Open water - standing; woodland; grassland	Churchill and Blakedown (Part outside District)	28/09/90
Habberley Valley	Grassland; heathland; broadleaved woodland	Kidderminster	20/08/07
Wilden Meadows	Marsh/mire, swamp	Kidderminster	04/01/08
Easthams Coppice	Broadleaved woodland; grassland	Kidderminster	24/04/07
Hurcott & Podmore Pools (Pastures)	Grassland; Broadleaved/wet woodland	Kidderminster	14/12/07
Vicarage Farm Heath	Heathland; grassland; woodland	Kidderminster	21/11/07
North Wood	ASNW - broadleaved woodland	Kidderminster	19/12/07
Wassell Wood	Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	Kidderminster Foreign	26/03/08
Parkatt Wood and Honeybottom	Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	Kidderminster Foreign, Wolverley and Cookley	26/03/08
Puxton Marsh	Marsh, swamp, wet woodland, wet grassland, unimproved acid grassland	Kidderminster, Wolverley and Cookley	08/10/07
Dumbleton Dingle	Woodland	Rock (Part outside District)	03/01/07
Horsehill Wood	ASNW - broadleaved woodland	Ribbesford	18/12/07
Ribbesford Wood	ASNW & AWS - broadleaved woodland	Ribbesford	17/12/07
River Severn	Open water - flowing		28/09/90
Culvert Meadows	Grassland	Rock	03/02/05
Gorst Hill Meadow	Grassland	Rock	20/12/07
Tynning Wood	ASNW - Broadleaved woodland	Rock	08/01/08

Site Name	Local Wildlife Habitat	Parish	Date of Listing
Bliss Gate Meadow	Grassland/Marsh	Rock	06/02/06
Quarry Bank Wood	Woodland	Rock	13/12/04
Willow Bank Pasture	Grassland and Scrub	Rock	24/01/05
Tanners Brook Meadow	Grassland	Rock	24/09/07
Woodward Coppice and Meadow	ASNW - broadleaved woodland; ASW - deciduous and coniferous	Rock	29/02/08
Buckeridge Meadows	Broadleaved woodland; grassland	Rock	30/08/07
Lem Brook and Meadows	Woodland, grassland	Rock	03/01/08
Wyre Forest (Tanner's Brook Section)	Woodland	Rock (Part outside District)	27/02/07
Dick Brook	Open water - flowing	Rock (Part outside District)	28/09/90
Knighton Disused Railway (Wyre Forest section)	Broadleaved woodland; grassland	Rock Bewdley	07/01/08
Stanklyn Lane Tower Mustard Verge	Species	Stone	11/05/01
Hoo & Barnett Brook	Open water - flowing, grassland, woodland, marshland	Stone, Chaddesley Corbett (Part outside District)	28/09/90
Captain's and Stanklyn Pools and Spennels Valley	Wet woodland; swamp; fen; marsh	Stone, Kidderminster	18/12/07
Redstone Local Nature Reserve (The Bogs)	Marsh, swamp, wet woodland, broadleaved woodland, wet grassland	Stourport-on-Severn	28/09/07
Nash Elm Wood	ASNW - broadleaved woodland	Upper Arley	03/01/08
Hawkbatch Valleys	Woodland, wet woodland, grassland	Upper Arley	20/11/07
Eyemore Wood	ASNW - broadleaved woodland; ASW - deciduous and coniferous	Upper Arley, Kidderminster	10/01/08
Arley Birch and Coldridge Wood	Ancient semi-natural woodland and plantation on Ancient Woodland Site	Upper Arley, Wolverley and Cookley	26/03/08
Kingsford Heath	Heathland, grassland, broadleaved woodland	Wolverley and Cookley	22/11/07
Wolverley Marsh	Marsh/mire, swamp	Wolverley and Cookley	10/12/07
Wolverley Court Lock Carr	Wet woodland, broadleaved woodland, marsh, swamp	Wolverley and Cookley	29/11/07
Caunsall Marsh	Marsh/ditches; wet woodland; grassland	Wolverley and Cookley	06/12/07
The Island Pool	Open water; swamp/marsh; wet woodland; broadleaved woodland	Wolverley and Cookley	04/12/07
Gloucester Coppice	Grassland; Broadleaved woodland	Wolverley and Cookley	26/09/07
Cornhill Coppice	Ancient Semi-Natural Woodland	Wolverley and Cookley	27/03/08

Site Name	Local Wildlife Habitat	Parish	Date of Listing
Honeytop Farm Pastures	Grassland	Wolverley and Cookley	03/10/02
River Stour	Open water- flowing	Wolverley and Cookley, Kidderminster, Stourport	28/09/90
Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal	Open water - standing	Wolverley and Cookley, Kidderminster, Stourport	28/09/90

## Habitats <sup>(25)</sup>

**B.3.17** There are various types of habitats throughout the Wyre Forest District; the table below indicates the different types found and examples of where they can be located. It demonstrates the rich variety of habitats that are present within the District. One of the District's principal habitat types, for which it is regionally significant, is acid grassland.

**Habitats and their Locations**

Habitat	Location (Examples, not exhaustive)
Woodland	Oak-birch woodland - the Wyre Forest, around Kidderminster Pendunculate oak woodland - Severn Valley Chaddesley Wood
Wet Woodland	River Severn corridor, Hurcott and Podmore Pools SSSI
Reedbeds	Along river corridors and canals, Wilden Marsh and Meadows SSSI
Fen and Marsh	Wilden Marsh, Stourvale Marsh. Puxton Marsh
Wet Grassland	Stourvale SSSI
Semi-natural Grassland	Lowland dry acidic grassland - around Kidderminster Devil's Spittleful and Riffle Range, in and around the Wyre Forest, Burlish Top, Habbeley Valley
Lowland Heathland	Devil's Spittleful/Riffle Range, Burlish Top, Vicarage Farm Heath, Kingsford Forest Park
Road Verges	Cluster of sites around Kidderminster
Urban	Parks, brownfield sites, allotments, churchyards, gardens, playing fields/school grounds, street trees
Canals	Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal
Rivers and Streams	River Stour, River Severn

## Protected Species <sup>(26)</sup>

**B.3.18** International and national law relevant to the protection of species in the District includes the following:

- European Council Habitats Directive 92/43

25 Worcestershire Biodiversity Action Plan - July 2008

26 Worcestershire Biodiversity Action Plan - July 2008

- Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981)
- Protection of Badgers Act (1992)

**B.3.19** These statutes provide comprehensive protection to a variety of flora and fauna. Some species are given total protection, whilst others are protected from activities such as killing or sale. Many of the species referred to are commonly encountered during the development process and include (although not exclusively) the following:

- Species protected under the European Habitats Directive:
  - All species of bats
  - Dormice
  - Great Crested Newts
  - Otter
- Species protected under British law:
  - Badgers
  - Birds, including owls and swift
  - Water Vole

**B.3.20** In England many of our rarest and most threatened species are listed under Section 41 (S41) of the 2006 Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act.

**B.3.21** The table below demonstrates the wide variety of protected species within the District.

**Protected Species and their Locations**

Species	Location (Examples, not exhaustive)
European Otter	Along the River Severn Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal
Dormouse	Ribbesford Wood
Bats	The Wyre Forest
Water Vole	The River Stour and its tributaries, canals and streams
Nightingale	Burlish Top
Noble Chafer	The Wyre Forest
Twaite and Alis Shad	River Severn
Adder	Wyre Forest, Habberley and Kingsford Country Park
Slow Worm	On allotments and at Puxton marsh and Habberley Valley
Great Crested Newt	In ponds in rural, urban and post-industrial settings
White-Clawed Crayfish	Wyre Forest Streams
High Brown Fritillary	The Wyre Forest
Pearl-Bordered and Small Peal-Bordered Fritillary Butterflies	The Wyre Forest



Species	Location (Examples, not exhaustive)
Club-tailed Dragonfly	River Severn, particularly above Bewdley
Hornet Robberfly	Hurcott pastures, being one of very sites within Worcestershire where the species is found
Black Poplar	Along the River Severn and Stour Valleys
True Service Tree	Arley Castle, Button Oak, Bewdley
Farmland Birds	Various sites across the District
Wood White	The Wyre Forest
Grizzled Skipper	The Wyre Forest
Drab Looper	The Wyre Forest

**B.3.22** The effects of climate change can have significant impact upon flora and fauna, through changes in water availability, changes in habitat as a result of changes in temperature and rainfall. Building habitat resilience to safeguard against climate change can directly benefit biodiversity by giving space for species to expand or move through the environment. However this also directly helps address climate change by creating green corridors which help to regulate the local and wider environment (green corridors can affect temperature peaks, reducing extremes of temperature locally. The carbon absorption of vegetation helps to combat climate change at the wider scale). More information on climate change is set out later in this section of the SA Scoping Report.

### Water Resources <sup>(27)</sup>

**B.3.23** The main water resource is the River Severn, which flows through the towns of Bewdley and Stourport-on-Severn. It is a major water resource river, which supports abstractions for public water supply and to a lesser extent for industry and agriculture. There is an abstraction licence for public water at Trimpey. The Severn is also valued for its navigational and recreational uses. The River Stour also runs through the District and is a main tributary to the River Severn. The River Stour runs parallel with the Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal through Kidderminster to meet the River Severn at Stourport-on-Severn. The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal also runs through the district from Cookley, through the centre of Kidderminster and ends in the historic Stourport basins areas.

### Water Consumption <sup>(28)</sup>

**B.3.24** Most of the public water supply for the District comes from groundwater abstraction. These groundwater reserves have no scope for further abstraction. In parts of the District the Environment Agency is working with the water companies and other abstractors in order to reduce abstraction to sustainable rates and avoid long term adverse impact on wetlands and landscape and nature conservation interests. Water consumption in new development is controlled through building regulations but they are tiered and the Plan could consider imposing a higher requirement. The Plan will also need to consider its impact on diffuse urban and agricultural pollution.

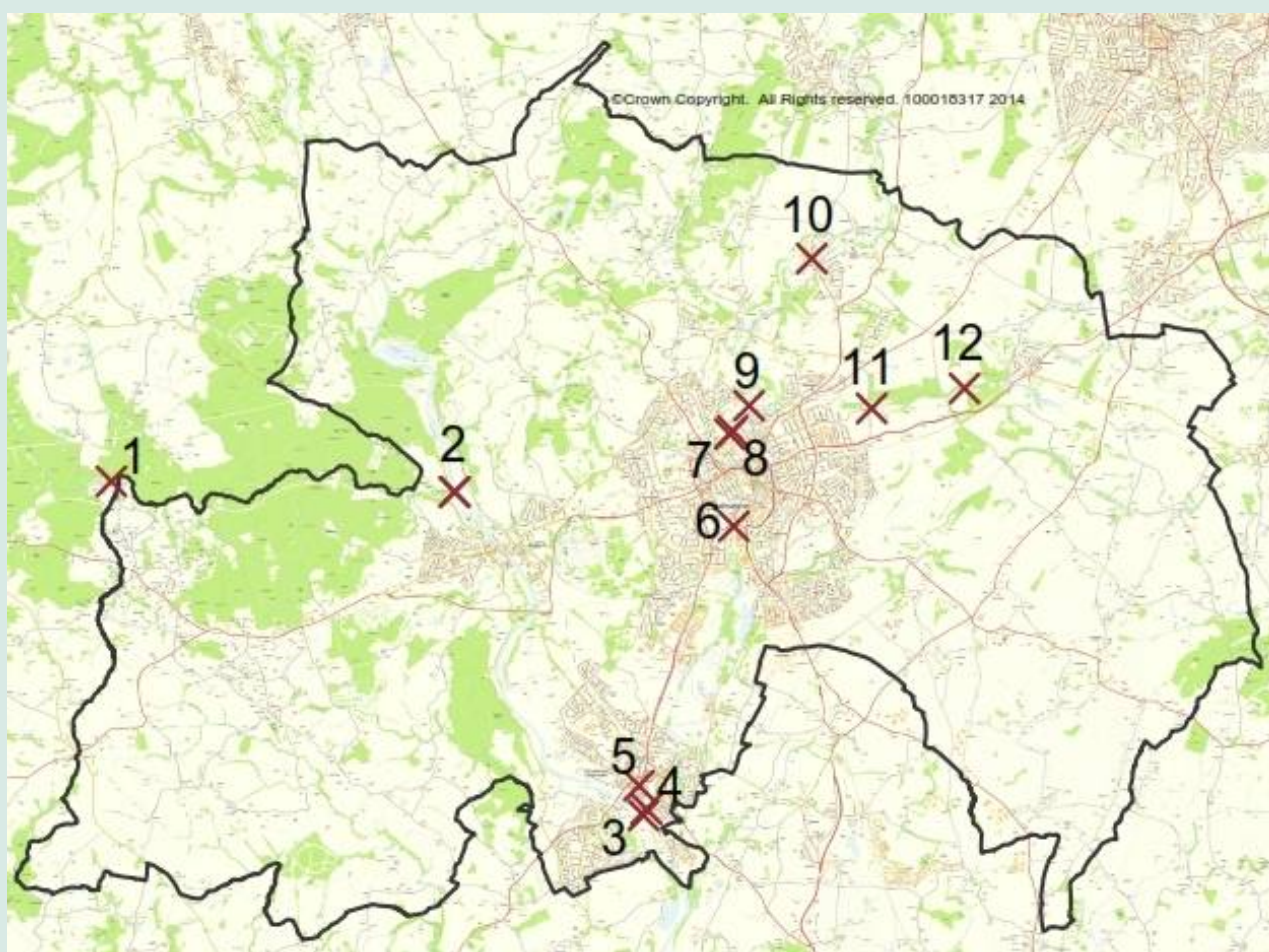
27 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, 2008

28 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, 2008

## Water Pollution <sup>(29)</sup>

**B.3.25** The Water Framework Directive (WFD) places a duty on Local Planning Authorities to address WFD failures through their role as planner, issuing watercourse consents and as land manager. All watercourses in the District (and UK) are duty bound to reach Good Ecological Status or Potential (GES/GEP) by 2027 at the latest under the WFD. It is essential that WFD is fully integrated into the Local Plan process and that all future development helps to address the issues that currently prevent the watercourse from achieving GES/GEP. The map below indicates the areas where the Environment Agency has taken samples of water. For each site levels of nitrates (N), phosphates (P), chemicals (C) and the level of biology (B) were measured and then graded accordingly. The table indicates the results of the survey.

Water Quality in Wyre Forest District



Map Ref.	Water Body	C	B	N	P
1	Dowles Brook	A	B	3	2
2	Dowles Brook	A	-	3	2
3	River Severn	A	B	3	4
4	River Stour	B	D	5	5
5	Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal	A	-	5	5

29 Environment Agency Water Quality 2009

Map Ref.	Water Body	C	B	N	P
6	Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal	A	-	5	5
7	River Stour	B	C	6	6
8	River Stour	B	-	6	6
9	Blakedown Brook	B	C	4	6
10	River Stour	B	D	6	6
11	River Stour	B	C	6	6
12	Blakedown Brook	A	C	6	6

**Groundwater Vulnerability:** The Wyre Forest district overlies a principal aquifer of regional strategic importance in terms of water supply and there are a number of SPZs (Inner, Outer and Total SPZ) to protect public water supply sources. SPZ1 is the inner zone and therefore the type of development and activities that can take place within this zone are restricted, in accordance with the Environment Agency's GP3 guidance. The depth to water table across a large proportion of the area is shallow, given the valley setting of the area. The area is therefore located in an extremely sensitive hydrogeological setting. The Plan will need to consider the impact of new development on groundwater.

### Flood Risk <sup>(30)</sup>

**B.3.26** The Environment Agency's designated flood zones are indicated on the map below. The map shows those areas affected by fluvial flooding from the main rivers. There are a number of ordinary watercourses, some of which have not been mapped on the Flood Map (catchments smaller than 3km<sup>2</sup> are not represented. Whilst the smaller catchments do not have an associated flood extent based on the flood map, this does not mean there is no flood risk associated with the watercourse). Other types of flooding also affect the District, including surface-water run-off, groundwater, and foul water flooding. The Environment Agency's surface water flooding maps will also be used to inform the Plan.

**B.3.27** As main rivers pass through the centre of all three towns in the District there is a pressure for development within the flood zones. The Plan will need to consider flood risk when allocating sites for development. The Plan could also provide opportunities to make the District more resilient to flooding.

**B.3.28** As part of the Plan preparation process, work will be undertaken to update the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and the Water Cycle Strategy.

30 Environment Agency, November 2014



**Flood Zones 2 and 3**



## Flood Defences

**B.3.29** Due to the nature of heavy flooding that the District has received in the past, steps have been taken by the EA to alleviate the impact of flooding in certain areas. Flood defence schemes have been constructed in Severn Side South/North, Bewdley and Crossley Park/Puxton Marsh in Kidderminster.

**Flood Defences Protecting Severnside South, Bewdley**



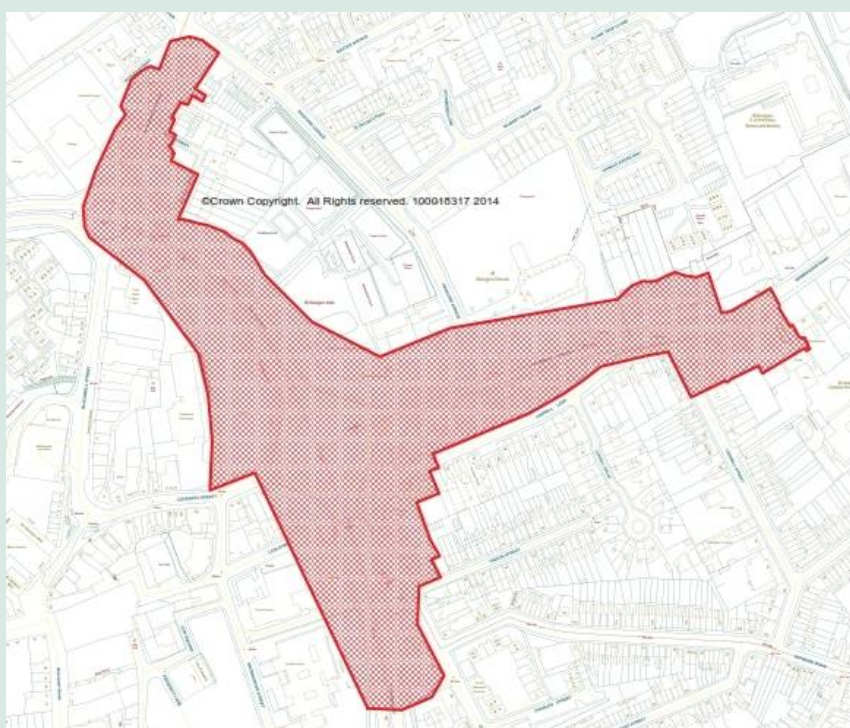
## SuDS

**B.3.30** In addition to the risk from direct flooding, the increase in flood risk to the rest of the District, resulting from run-off attributed to the development of sites, must be considered. The use of SuDS and in particular, source control measures should be optimised in new developments to minimise the impact of additional run-off. Most sites should be able to accommodate some form of SuDS depending on their characteristics. However, some sites will pose a much greater risk to other development than others and will require prioritisation when considering the implementation of SuDS. Where sites lie within Source Protection Zones, non-infiltration SuDS techniques will be required.

## Air Quality <sup>(31)</sup>

**B.3.31** The Horsefair/ Coventry Street AQMA extends from the Horsefair at its junction with Radford Avenue to the ring road, along the ring road in a southerly direction and extends up Coventry Street. The 2003 declared Horsefair AQMA ran in an approximate north south direction from a point adjacent to The Peacock public house on Blackwell Street to the junction of Blackwell Street with the Ring Road. The majority of the properties in the AQMA were ground floor retail units with residential first floor. In 2007 a detailed assessment recommended an extension of the area required to be covered by the AQMA and in 2009 it was extended to the footprint shown in the plan to the right.

**AQMA St Mary's/Horsefair, Kidderminster**



**B.3.32** The AQMA now extends from the north at the Junction of Blackwell Street to the Horsefair and Radford Avenue on the eastern side of Blackwell Street and from The Peacock public house on the western side of Blackwell Street to the ring road island. The AQMA follows the ring road in a southerly direction to a second island where it continues in a north easterly direction along Coventry Street to a point level with number 50 Coventry Street to the western side of the road and a point level with St Ambrose Roman Catholic Church to the eastern side of the road. The AQMA also extends in a further more southerly direction along the ring road to a point level with South Street.

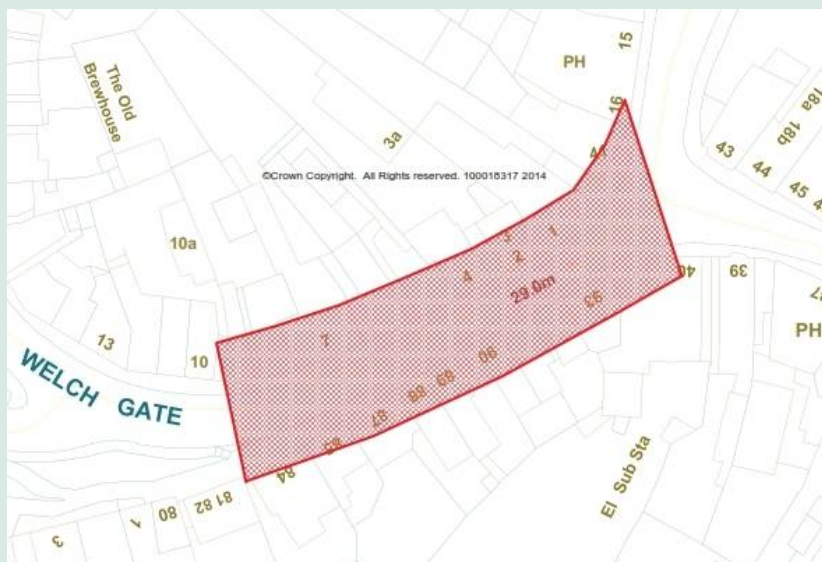
31 Worcestershire Air Quality Action Plan, 2013



**B.3.33** The AQMA is caused by emissions from traffic in the area. The Worcestershire Air Quality Action Plan (2013) suggests a number of actions to address this. Additional development in the area will need to address the issue of air quality and traffic management in the Horsefair.

**B.3.34** The AQMA in Welch Gate, Bewdley is illustrated to the right. The B4190 runs along Load Street from an easterly direction and then turns left up Welch Gate continuing on out of Bewdley in a westerly direction. The road numbering follows the previous layout of the junction where it was a through road from Bewdley town centre and out along Welch Gate.

AQMA Welch Gate, Bewdley



**B.3.35** The current area of the Welch Gate AQMA encompasses a short section of the B4190 Welch Gate from the junction with Dog Lane and Load Street to a point level with property number 84 Welch Gate and runs in an east north east to west south west direction. The AQMA is predominately residential.

**B.3.36** At the eastern end of the AQMA there is a junction on the B4190 where Dog Lane (B4194) extends to the north and Load Street (B4190) to the east. Dog Lane (B4194) continues for approximately 75m to a forked junction where the B4194 now named as Dowles Road continues north and Dog Lane forks to the north east. The Dog Lane properties at the closest point to the junction of the AQMA consist mainly of ground floor retail units with residential units at first floor level. Load Street (B4190) continues in an easterly direction through the town centre and out across the bridge, river crossing and towards Kidderminster. Load Street properties at their closest point to the junction of the AQMA Load Street consist mainly of ground floor retail units and residential units at first floor level.

**B.3.37** At the western end of the AQMA the B4194 continues in a west north westerly direction and is predominately a residential area. Sandy Bank joins the B4190 approximately 20m to the west of the AQMA, Sandy Bank is a steep residential area that becomes Wyre Hill further to the west where the local primary school is located. Approximately 50m to the north-west of the AQMA Richmond Road joins the B4190. Richmond Road is a residential area.

**B.3.38** Again, the AQMA is mainly a result of queueing traffic in the area. The Worcestershire Air Quality Action Plan (2013) suggest a number of actions designed to improve air quality in the area.

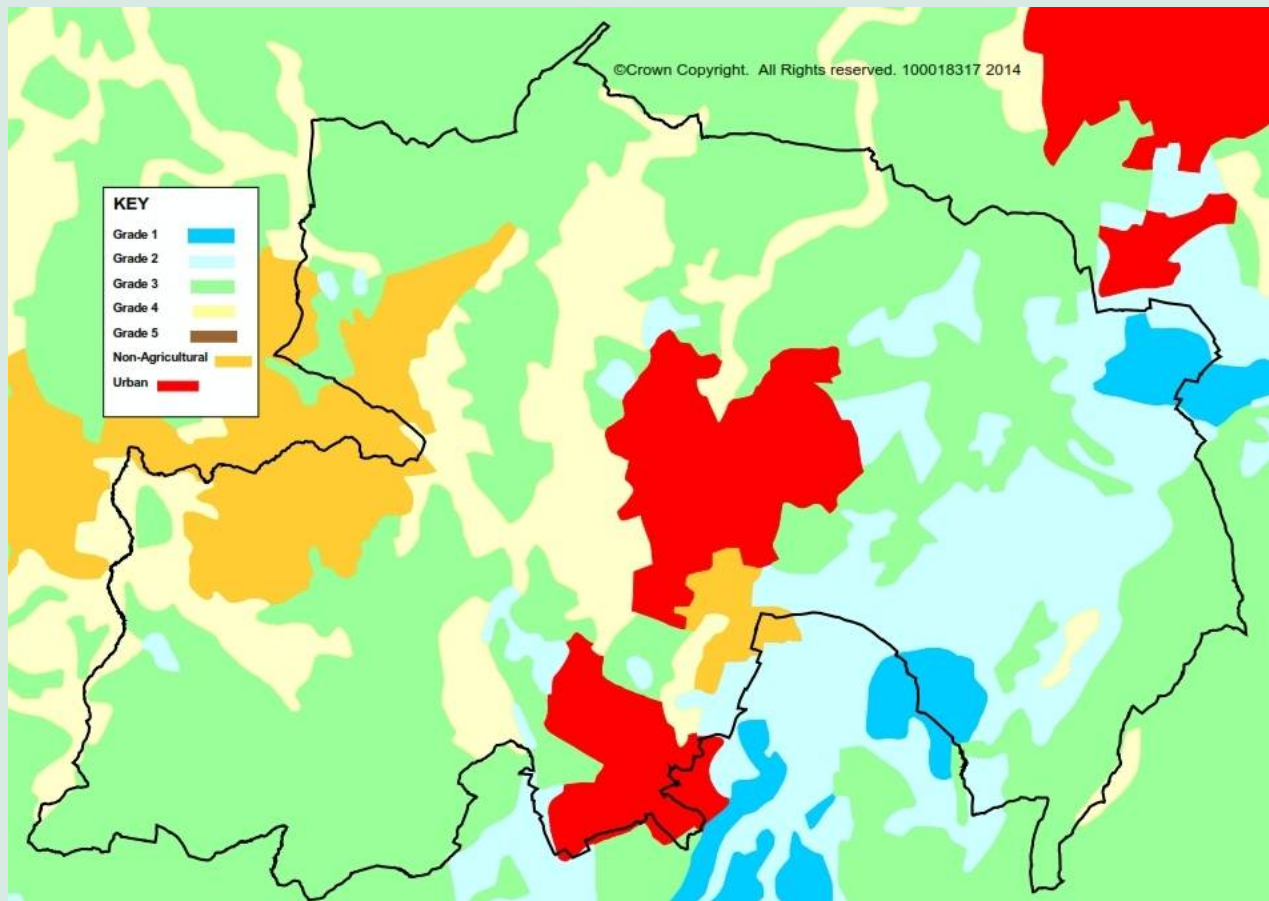
**B.3.39** The Plan will need to consider the impact of existing air quality on new development as well as the impact of new development on air quality. The Plan could help to address some of the issues with air quality within the District by locating development so as to enable measures to be taken to address quality.



## Agricultural Land Value <sup>(32)</sup>

**B.3.40** The map below shows the agricultural land values within the District. There is a large amount of Grade 1 and 2 agricultural land in the East of the District. The land to the West of the urban areas tends to be of lower quality however there are pockets of Grade 2 land concentrated adjacent to the built up areas of Kidderminster and Stourport-on-Severn. The Plan should take into account the agricultural land value of sites when making allocations for new development.

Agricultural Land Values in Wyre Forest District



## Listed Buildings <sup>(33)</sup>

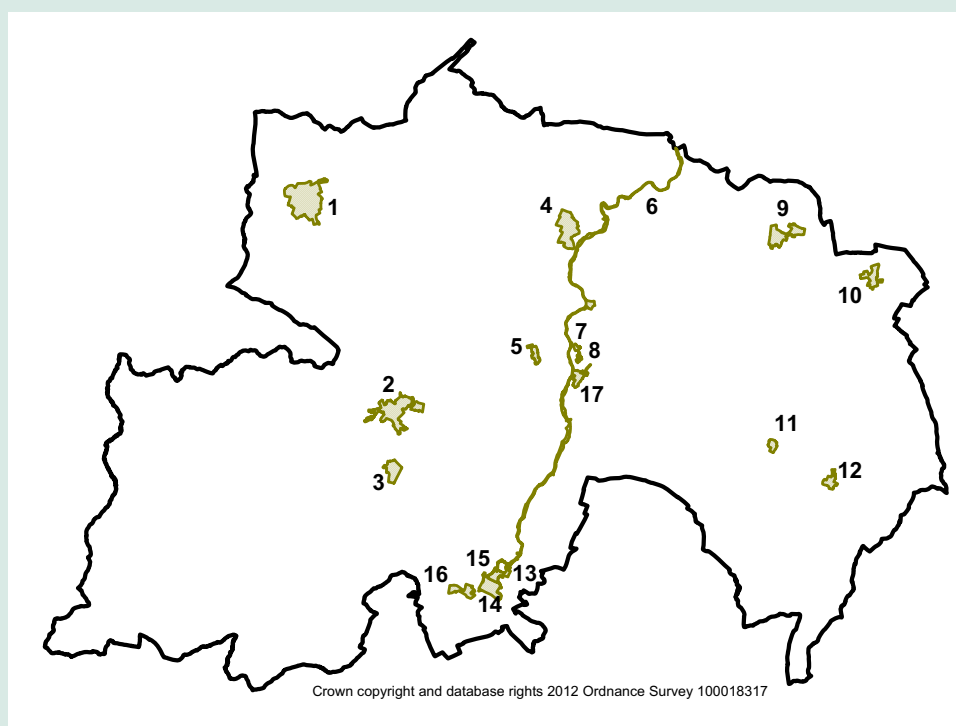
**B.3.41** Within the District at November 2014 The National Heritage List for England contained 6 Grade I, 26 Grade II\* and 660 Grade II Listed buildings, 9 Scheduled Monuments and 1 Registered Park and Garden. This equates to over 900 designated heritage assets.

## Locally Listed Buildings <sup>(34)</sup>

**B.3.42** Wyre Forest District Council has developed Local Heritage Lists (LHL) for several parts of the District with further Lists planned for the rural areas. Local heritage listing is a means for a community and a local authority to jointly identify heritage assets that are valued as distinctive elements of the local historic environment. The Local Heritage List identifies those heritage assets not protected by statutory designations. A Local Heritage List provides clarity on the location of these assets and what it is about them that is significant. It is not restricted to buildings and may comprise sites, places or areas. There are currently 830 entries on Local Heritage Lists within Wyre Forest District.

## Conservation Areas <sup>(35)</sup>

**B.3.43** The District has 17 Conservation Areas and these are shown on the map below. All of the District's Conservation Areas have Character Appraisals and a programme is in place to review these. The Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal and Green Street Conservation Areas also have Management Plans.



33 English Heritage

34 Wyre Forest District Council Records

35 Wyre Forest District Council Records

Conservation Areas			
Map Ref.	Conservation Area	Map Ref.	Conservation Area
1	Upper Arley	9	Churchill
2	Bewdley	10	Broome
3	Ribbesford	11	Harvington
4	Wolverley	12	Chaddesley Corbett
5	Blakebrook	13	Gilgal
6	Staffordshire and Worcestershire Canal	14	Stourport-on-Severn No.2
7	Church Street	15	Stourport-on-Severn No.1
8	Vicar & Exchange St.	16	Areley Kings (CA Appraisal in progress Summer 2012)
		17	Green Street

### Heritage at Risk <sup>(36)</sup>

**B.3.44** The Heritage at Risk Programme (HAR) was launched by English Heritage in 2008, as a way of understanding the overall state of England's historic sites. In particular, HAR identifies those sites that are most at risk of being lost as a result of neglect, decay or inappropriate development. This builds on two decades of Buildings at Risk surveys, mostly undertaken by Local Authorities. The method has since been widened to include other types of historic places (heritage assets) from archaeological sites and conservation areas to registered parks and gardens, registered battlefields, and protected shipwrecks. The end result is a dynamic picture of the health of the country's heritage. Every year English Heritage updates the Heritage at Risk Register, which is a list of those sites most at risk of being lost, and most in need of safeguarding for the future. Outside London entries exclude Grade II listed buildings. The 2014 the HAR Register contains three entries for Wyre Forest District: Gilgal Conservation Area; Baches Forge Churchill (a Scheduled Monument) and Ribbesford House (listed Grade II\*).

**B.3.45** A local Buildings at Risk survey update was compiled in 2006. 627 listed buildings were surveyed in Kidderminster, Bewdley and Stourport-on-Severn, of which 29 were considered to be at risk. English Heritage is encouraging Local Authorities to engage volunteers to assist with future local Heritage at Risk Surveys under the Help Historic Buildings Project.

### Historic Environment Record <sup>(37)</sup>

**B.3.46** In Wyre Forest District there are currently 1893 non-designated monuments and 2010 non-designated Historic Buildings recorded in the Worcestershire Historic Environment Record (HER). There is a wide variation in the coverage of HER assets across the District, with both distinctive concentrations and areas of low density, the latter often correlating with areas of key risk and sensitivity (E.g. within modern areas of expansion around Bewdley, Kidderminster and Stourport, the suburban fringe, The Wyre Forest and Rock parish). These areas of low density do not necessarily relate to areas of low archaeological potential, the paucity of data in some areas is due to the wooded and pastoral nature of the landscape and the lack of development

36 Wyre Forest District Council Records

37 Worcestershire Historic Environment Record

over the last few decades. In other areas of the County, cropmarks are visible on arable fields and extensive ploughing has brought quantities of artefacts to the surface. Also, in the more open landscapes of south Worcestershire, earthwork features are easily visible. This has led to the archaeology in the southern districts being recognised and targeted by both antiquarians and through the modern development process, resulting in archaeology that is well understood, but often poorly preserved. The type of landscape in Wyre Forest and the lack of targeted fieldwork have meant that many important and well-preserved historic assets are simply currently unknown. Consequently these archaeological features are probably of significant archaeological importance.

**B.3.47** The table below shows the entries currently on the Historic Environment Record for the District.

Type of Entry	Number of Entries
Registered Battlefields	0
Non-designated Monuments	1893
Non-designated Historic Parks and Gardens	39
Non-designated Historic Buildings	2010
Landscape Components	556

**B.3.48** The Plan will need to consider the impact of new development on the District's heritage assets. It could facilitate the re-use of heritage assets in order to secure their future.

## Housing Development on Brownfield Land <sup>(38)</sup>

**B.3.49** The district planning authority aims to make the best use of land by encouraging the re-use of previously developed or brownfield land and buildings. Over the last 10 years, the numbers of new dwellings (either new-build or conversions) has been carefully monitored to assess how much greenfield land is being used for housebuilding. 92% of housing completions were on brownfield sites in 2013/14. The 'greenfield' completions consisted of 16 houses on 'garden land' (no longer classified as brownfield) and 14 barn conversions. The table below shows the former use of sites of residential completions for 2013/14 by area.

Gross completions by previous use

2013/14	Greenfield (%)	Former (%)	Residential	Former (%)	Employment	Other Brownfield (%)
Kidderminster	12 (5%)	95 (43%)		1 (0%)		112 (52%)
Stourport-on-Severn	0	1 (1%)		61 (67%)		29 (32%)
Bewdley	10 (48%)	0		3 (14%)		8 (38%)
Rural areas	8 (16%)	2 (4%)		0		41 (80%)
District	30 (8%)	98 (26%)		65 (17%)		190 (49%)

38 Wyre Forest District Council Annual Monitoring Report, December 2014

**B.3.50** During the period 2006/7-2013/14 93% of residential completions have been on brownfield land. 93% of residential development currently under construction is on brownfield land and therefore, the trend is expected to continue at least in the short-term.

### Density of New Development <sup>(39)</sup>

**B.3.51** The density of new development will impact on the amount of land required to meet housing targets. Policy CP05 of the Adopted Core Strategy provides an indicative guide for different locations, including 70 dwellings per hectare (dph) within Kidderminster town centre and 50 dph adjacent to the town centre and railway station and within Stourport-on-Severn town centre. Elsewhere an indicative density of 30 dph is proposed. Overall in 2013/14, 78% of housing completions were at densities of at least 30 dph. The following table shows the breakdown between the different areas of the district.

Density of Housing Completions 2013/14

	<30 dph	30-50 dph	>50 dph
Kidderminster	21 (10%)	150 (68%)	50 (22%)
Stourport-on-Severn	3 (4%)	75 (92%)	3 (4%)
Bewdley	15 (71%)	2 (10%)	4 (19%)
Rural Areas	46 (79%)	12 (21%)	0
District	85 (22%)	239 (63%)	57 (15%)

### Household Waste

**B.3.52** The graph to the right shows the total amount of household waste collected per head of population in Wyre Forest District and the percentage of this which is recycled. The volume of household waste produced fell between 2008-09 and 2011-12 and then started to increase again. Recycling rates increased from 2009-10 to 2012-13 but fell slightly in 2013-14.

Household Waste Produced and Recycled, Wyre Forest District

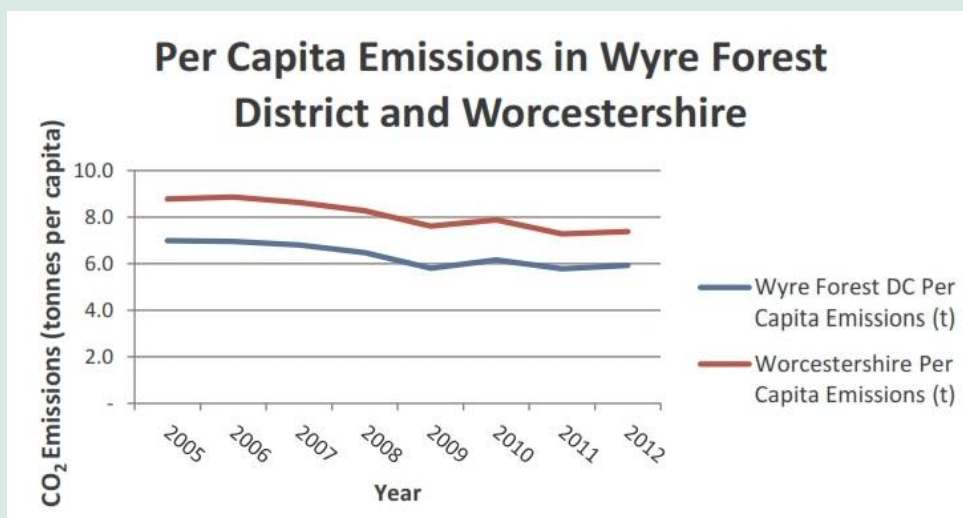


Recycling rates could be increased by ensuring that all new development includes adequate space for storing recyclable material as well as incorporating bin storage facilities.

## CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions <sup>(40)</sup>

**B.3.53** The graph to the right shows the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions per capita for Wyre Forest District and Worcestershire County. Wyre Forest District has lower emissions than Worcestershire County because there are no motorways running through the District. There is an overall declining trend in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions however there was a slight increase between 2012 and 2013.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions



## Climate Change:

### B.3.54

Climate Change

	Winter Mean Temperature	Summer mean Temperature	Winter Mean Precipitation	Summer Mean Precipitation
2020s	Increase in winter mean temperature of between 0.5°C and 2.1°C.	Increase in Summer mean temperatures of between 0.5°C and 2.1°C.	Change in winter mean precipitation of between -2% and +15%	Changes in summer mean precipitation of between -22% to +15%
2050s	Increase in winter mean temperature of between 0.9°C and 3.5°C	Increase in Summer mean temperatures of between 1°C and 4.8°C	Change in winter mean precipitation of between 1% and 33%	Change in summer mean precipitation of between -38% and +13%
2080s	Increase in winter mean temperature of between 1.4°C and 5.2°C	Increase in summer mean temperatures of between 1.3°C and 7.5°C	Changes in winter mean precipitation of between 5% and 51%	Changes in summer mean precipitation of between -51% and +11%.

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Table C.0.1

ID	Name	Number	Summary of Comment	Officer Response
LPRSASR26	Severn Trent Water Ltd		Severn Trent Water has no objections to the SA Report as there does not appear to be any major water issues on either water supply or waste water.	Comments are noted.
LPRSASR27	Historic England	2.1.3	Suggests including the three HE Good Practice Notes, as well as Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans and Historic Characterisation Studies within the scope of other plans, policies and programmes.	Comments are noted. Include the three Good Practice Advice Notes and Conservation Area Appraisals within the scope of other relevant plans, policies and programmes.
LPRSASR1	Environment Agency	Question 1	<p>Recommend's EA's guidance on Groundwater Protection: Policy and Practice (GP3) is referred to.</p> <p>Requests that reference is made to the Water Framework Directive and the next River basin Management Plan cycle as the current one ends this year.</p> <p>Suggests including reference to Biodiversity 2020: making Space for nature, Climate Change Adaptation Manual: UK Natural Ecosystem Assessment.</p>	<p>Comments are noted. Include the additional documents within the list of relevant plans, policies and programmes.</p> <p>Appendix A will be updated to include the next River Basin Management Plan once it is available.</p>
LPRSASR17	Worcestershire Wildlife Trust	Question 1	<p>Range of sustainable drainage strategies and guidance documents being produced to reflect requirements of the Water Framework Directive and Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and these should be referenced at an appropriate scale.</p> <p>Recommend consult Environment Agency and County Council.</p> <p>Guidance in circular 06/005 biodiversity and geological conservation still forms an important adjunct to details in NPPF.</p>	Comments are noted. The Environment Agency have provided details of some

## C Scoping Report Comments

ID	Name	Number	Summary of Comment	Officer Response
				<p>additional documents which will be scoped.</p> <p>Refer to Circular 06/005 on biological and geological conservation within the list of other relevant plans, policies and programmes.</p>
LPRSASR32	North Worcestershire Water Management	Question 1	Suggests including the Worcestershire Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment in the list of documents scoped.	Comments are noted. Include the Gypsy and Traveller Needs Assessment within Appendix A.
LPRSASR36	Natural England	Question 1	We see no additional relevant plans, policies, programmes or objectives that may affect the plan at this time.	Comments are noted.
LPRSASR24	Worcestershire Wildlife Trust	2.1.4	List should include specific reference to protecting and enhancing biodiversity in line with guidance in NPPF and statutory duties under section 40 NERC Act 2006, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981(as amended) and Conservation Regulations 2010.	Comments are noted. Include a reference to protecting and enhancing biodiversity in line with guidance in NPPF and statutory duties under section 40 NERC Act 2006, Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981(as amended) and Conservation Regulations 2010 within the list at paragraph 2.1.4.

ID	Name	Number	Summary of Comment	Officer Response
LPRSASR37	Natural England	2.1.4	2.1.4 – No mention of protection of designated sites, as should be identified by Environmental Policies within Appendix A and preceding table in the report.	Comments are noted. Include the protection of designated sites as an issue at paragraph 2.1.4.
LPRSASR2	Environment Agency	Question 2	<p>Within the baseline data section of the report, there is currently no reference to groundwater vulnerability, source protection zones (SPZs) or the WFD.</p> <p>Groundwater Vulnerability: The Wyre Forest district overlies a principal aquifer of regional strategic importance in terms of water supply and there are a number of SPZs (Inner, Outer and Total SPZ) to protect public water supply sources. SPZ1 is the inner zone and therefore the type of development and activities that can take place within this zone are restricted, in accordance with our GP3 guidance. The depth to water table across a large proportion of the area is shallow, given the valley setting of the area. The area is therefore located in an extremely sensitive hydrogeological setting and it is imperative that the above environmental factors should be referenced. The report acknowledges the increased pressure on water resources from increased housing developments, but it only highlights the detrimental impacts on the District's main watercourses, not on groundwater resource.</p>	Comments are noted. Include reference to groundwater vulnerability, source protection zones and the Water Framework Directive within the Baseline Data.
LPRSASR3	Environment Agency	Question 2	<p>WFD:</p> <p>No reference has been made to the WFD and Wyre Forest's duty to address WFD failures through its role as planner, issuing watercourse consents and as land manager. All watercourses in the District (and UK) are duty bound to reach Good Ecological Status or Potential (GES/GEP) by 2027 at the latest under the WFD. It is essential that WFD is fully integrated into the Local Plan process and that all future development helps to address the issues that currently prevent the watercourse from achieving GES/GEP.</p>	Comments are noted. Include reference to the Water Framework Directive, and its relevance to the Local Plan, within the Baseline Data.
LPRSASR10	Environment Agency	Question 2	The effects of climate change can have significant impact upon flora and fauna, through changes in water availability, changes in habitat as a result of changes in temperature and rainfall. Building habitat resilience to safeguard against climate change can directly benefit biodiversity by giving space for species to expand or move through the environment. However this also directly helps address climate change by creating green corridors which help to regulate the local and wider environment (green corridors can affect temperature peaks, reducing extremes of temperature locally. The carbon absorption of vegetation helps to combat climate change at the wider scale).	Comments are noted. Include a reference to the impact of climate change on habitats.
LPRSASR11	Environment Agency	Question 2	Watercourses form essential habitat and wildlife corridors and should be both retained and restored through the development process. Buffer strips along river corridors help to allow the free movement of wildlife through the countryside. Future development can help to achieve this by positioning semi-natural public open space along the watercourse corridor. Future development should help to facilitate the restoration of watercourses, such as deculverting of any watercourse within or on the boundary of a site, naturalising artificially engineered river bank or beds, and providing an adequate riparian corridor in meeting flood risk and WFD objectives.	Comments are noted.
LPRSASR18	Worcestershire Wildlife Trust	Question 2	Further details on SUDS, water quality and flood risk will be needed if the local plan is to demonstrate sustainable development.	Comments are noted. Work is on-going

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ID	Name	Number	Summary of Comment	Officer Response
				to interpret data on water quality and this will be included within the Interim SA Report at Preferred Options stage.
LPRSASR38	Natural England	Question 2	Suggests including data on the current most significant risks to each of the SSSIs which could potentially be useful to avoid increasing these risks. Data can be found by contacting the relevant SSSI advisors for each SSSI within the plan area.	Comments are noted. Further liaison is required with Natural England to obtain the data which will be included within the Interim SA Report at Preferred Options stage subject to availability.
LPRSASR5	Environment Agency	Question 3	Limitations in flood risk data should be acknowledged and reference should be made to additional types of flooding as well as the SFRA and Water Cycle Strategy.  Welcomes the references to the Plan providing opportunities to make the District more resilient to flooding.	Comments are noted. Include reference to the limitations of the data set out and also to the other types of flooding mentioned within the response.
LPRSASR19	Worcestershire Wildlife Trust	Question 3	Recommend SWS data updated for changes since 2008. SWS now known as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS). Number of new sites listed across Worcestershire. Information available from LWS Partnership, and area information from Worcestershire Biological Records Centre (WBRC).  Worth cross-referencing species and habitat data to NERC Section 41 list of habitats and species of principle importance to demonstrate Council's commitment to NERC Act section 40 duty.  We do not believe Hurcott pastures is only site for Homet Robberfly although only found at a few sites across Worcestershire.	Comments are noted. Updated SWS sites data has been requested and will be included within the Interim SA Report at the Preferred Options stage.

ID	Name	Number	Summary of Comment	Officer Response
				The reference to Hornet Robberfly has been amended.
LPRSASR39	Natural England	Question 3	We are not aware of any inaccuracies of the data at this time. Refers back to previous comment regarding inclusion of data relating to most significant risks to SSSIs.	Comments are noted.
LPRSASR8	Environment Agency	2.2.20	Biodiversity:  The report has acknowledged the pressure from horticulture on the biodiversity of the district (section 2.2.20). This land use can lead to issues of soil compaction and play a significant role in increasing surface water runoff, sedimentation of watercourses, due to poor over wintering facilities, resulting in pollution events. Policy should be developed which safeguards locally and nationally valuable habitats and protects watercourses, contributing to WFD objectives.	Comments are noted. Amend paragraph 2.2.20 to refer to the issues raised within the response.
LPRSASR6	Environment Agency	2.2.21	In relation to section 2.2.21, it could be noted that a number of these chalets are positioned adjacent to and within the floodplain of the River Severn, leading to issues relating to bank instability, risking human safety and damage to the river environment. Any policy should seek to avoid future development of this type within the floodplain or close to the banks of the river in reducing the risks to the environment and people. Improvements should be sought where practicable.	Comments are noted. Amend paragraph 2.2.21 to refer to the positioning of chalets adjacent to and within the floodplain and the issues of bank instability arising from this.
LPRSASR7	Environment Agency	2.2.22	Section 2.2.22 of the report states that a network of temporary and permanent defences control flood risk within the district. It is important to note that the defences help to manage flood risk, helping to protect 'existing' properties, but do not fully control flood risk within the district.	Comments are noted. amend the baseline data to reflect the fact that flood defences only manage flood risk.
LPRSASR9	Environment Agency	2.2.22	Reference should be made (section 2.2.22 of the report) to the important wetland habitats present in the district, including the numerous wetlands associated with the River Stour and the Blakedown Brook. Many of the wetland wildlife sites are suffering or at risk from over-abstraction, past drainage and other damaging works. Future development places additional pressures on these sites, changing water flow routes and infiltration rates. Future development should not detrimentally affect the water flow paths to water dependant wildlife habitats and should contribute positively to the protection and enhancement of these sites.	Comments are noted. Amend paragraph 2.2.22 to refer to wetlands, their importance within the District and



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ID	Name	Number	Summary of Comment	Officer Response
LPRSASR25	Worcestershire Wildlife Trust	2.2.22	Special Wildlife Sites (SWS) are now known as Local Wildlife Sites (LWS) to reflect national guidance.	the risk new development poses to them.  Comments are noted. Change all references to Special Wildlife Sites to refer to Local Wildlife Sites.
LPRSASR28	Historic England	2.2.27	Supports the inclusion of paragraphs 2.2.27 and 2.2.28. Local Plan should aim to address Heritage at Risk and look to reduce it. Questions whether there is an opportunity for the SA to assess how new development will respond to Heritage at Risk.  HE are also keen for local authorities to assess any impacts to undesignated archaeology through plan making.	Comments are noted and support is welcomed. Consideration will be given to including a monitoring indicator related to Heritage at Risk.
LPRSASR40	Natural England	2.5.1	Table under 2.5.1 should reiterate point made at B.1.13 (see below) in regards to impacts of development on SSSIs and how they should aim to enhance the SSSI.	Comments are noted. Pick up the points relating to the impact of development on SSSIs in the table under 2.5.1.
LPRSASR29	Historic England	2.5.1	Table following paragraph 2.5.1 states that 'the Plan should ensure that new development does not have a detrimental impact on the District's historic environment'. We recommend that this clause is re-worded to reflect a positive approach such as 'the Plan should ensure that new development protects and conserves the District's historic environment and where possible, seeks opportunities for enhancement'.	Comments are noted. Re-word as suggested.
LPRSASR12	Environment Agency	Question 4	Predicted Future Trends & Main Sustainability Issues:  The report identifies that new development will increase pressure on water resources. Water quality should also be identified in considering wastewater treatment. The Water Cycle Study (WCS) and Infrastructure Plan should be updated as part of the Local Plan review to reflect future planned development growth in identifying any pressures on the environment and infrastructure requirements. Water efficiency linked to the above and long term sustainability as part of your climate change objective could be considered and referenced within the 'main sustainability issues' section of the report.	Comments are noted. Identify water quality as a sustainability issue.  The Water Cycle Study and the Infrastructure

ID	Name	Number	Summary of Comment	Officer Response
LPRSASR13	Environment Agency	Question 4	We acknowledge the reference to flood risk as a main sustainability issue. The implication for the plan should include a reference to flood avoidance (for example through locating development within low risk areas, based on your sequential test) and flood prevention and management (where necessary). The SFRA should be updated as part of the Local Plan review to inform this.	Plan will be updated as part of the Local Plan review.  Comments are noted. Amend the implications for the plan to refer to flood avoidance.  The SFRA will be updated as part of the Plan review.
LPRSASR20	Worcestershire Wildlife Trust	Question 4	Agree with main sustainability issues identified.  Recommend expanding water abstraction commentary to include any other water issues such as diffuse urban and agricultural pollution as they may be relevant to planning process and local plan.	Comments are noted and support is welcomed. The water abstraction commentary at Appendix B will be updated to cover diffuse urban pollution and agricultural pollution.
LPRSASR41	Natural England	Question 4	Natural England agrees with the main sustainability issues and do not think there should be any further issues added at this time.	Comments are noted and support is welcomed.
LPRSASR30	Historic England	3.0.4	Suggests that SA objective 8 should include a monitoring objective to assess the number of heritage assets removed from the national and local HAR registers.  Considers that there is a need for a separate objective to assess heritage assets and the need for the Plan to protect, conserve and where possible enhance heritage assets.  Suggests that a paragraph is included within the SA to add more detail to a new historic environment objective. This could include reference to the NPPF and the three good practice guides issued by HE in March 2015.	Comments are noted. Include an additional indicator as suggested and consider including a

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ID	Name	Number	Summary of Comment	Officer Response
				specific objective on the historic environment.
LPRSASR21	Worcestershire Wildlife Trust	Question 5	Yes	Support is welcomed.
LPRSASR42	Natural England	Question 5	The SA Framework is an appropriate basis for the appraisal.	Comments are noted and support is welcomed.
LPRSASR22	Worcestershire Wildlife Trust	Question 6	No. Monitoring Objective 9 (conserving the district's biodiversity and geodiversity) based on SSSI and LWS quality alone is unlikely to provide a realistic assessment of the impact of development on the local environment. It would not help to demonstrate that the council's decisions were promoting biodiversity enhancement in line with the NERC Act duty and guidance in the NPPF (see for example paras. 9, 109 and 117). Accordingly whilst we support the use of these criteria we would also recommend that monitoring of planning applications be amended to include commentary on the number of applications adversely affecting habitats and species listed under section 41 of the NERC Act and the number of applications contributing to biodiversity enhancement. This would also fit more closely with the aspirations for assessment laid out in para. 4.0.11 later in the consultation document	Comments are noted. Review the monitoring indicators for objective 9 to consider NPPF paragraphs 9, 109 ad 117 and to include a new indicator relating to applications adversely affecting habitats and species listed under Section 41 of the NERC Act as well as the number of planning applications contributing to biodiversity enhancement.
LPRSASR43	Natural England	Question 6	Draft monitoring indicators shown are suitable.	Comments are noted and support is welcomed.
LPRSASR14	Environment Agency	4.0.8	SA Objective 6 – refers to re-development on brownfield sites and the number of completions as an indicator in protecting the use of water, soil and air. In considering contaminated land and the protection of controlled waters (ground and surface water) we would suggest that the indicator could include the number of re-developed brownfield sites remediated to an appropriate standard. The objective also includes an indicator on water quality levels within the districts main watercourses. This could be linked to the status or potential of waterbodies under WFD objectives. This could be considered in the context of seeking to improve failing waterbodies	Comments are noted. Amend the water quality indicator to link it to the WFD

ID	Name	Number	Summary of Comment	Officer Response
			through appropriate mechanisms such as Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) and improvements to watercourses (including new watercourses, or opening up of culverted systems). A water resource indicator could consider new development incorporating water efficiency measures that go beyond building regulation standards.	objectives. Include an indicator on buildings exceeding the building regulations requirements for water efficiency. Consider an indicator on remediated sites.
LPRSASR15	Environment Agency	4.0.9	SA Objective 7 – in managing and reducing flood risk, an indicator could be the number of developments incorporating SuDS, and providing improvements to watercourses / the floodplain, although we note the assumption on SuDS provided in section 4.0.9 of the report.  We welcome the reference to the WCS and SFRA evidence base, including relevant updates, as sources of information relating to SA Objective 6 and 7.	Comments are noted. Consider an indicator on developments which provide improvements to watercourses/the floodplain.
LPRSASR31	Historic England	4.0.10	Considers that paragraph 4.0.10 should be reworded to consider the objective that it is aiming to reflect.  Suggests including a specific objective on the historic environment using information from the end of paragraph 4.0.10. Recommends the specific inclusion of archaeology within such an objective.  Provides a link to EH guidance on SEA/SA  <a href="http://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/strategic-environ-assessment-sustainability-appraisal-historic-environment/">http://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/strategic-environ-assessment-sustainability-appraisal-historic-environment/</a>	Comments are noted. Revise paragraph 4.0.10 to better reflect the objective to which it relates and consider including an objective on the historic environment and archaeology.
LPRSASR16	Environment Agency	4.0.11	SA Objective 9 – Conserving the biodiversity of the district goes beyond the protected sites. Decision making criteria could reflect the benefits of the water environment and wider benefits: to green infrastructure, the countryside to biodiversity based upon the Biodiversity 2020 Strategy (Making Space for Nature).	Comments are noted. Consider revising the decision-making criteria for objective 9 to consider the Biodiversity 2020 Strategy.

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ID	Name	Number	Summary of Comment	Officer Response
LPRSASR23	Worcestershire Wildlife Trust	Question 7	Yes	Support is welcomed.
LPRSASR44	Natural England	Question 7	Objective 9 - Developments where there would be a significant increase in population in an area near to a SSSI(s) should take into account the impact of increased footfall and other direct impacts on the SSSI. For example the Wyre Forest would be susceptible to a large increase in populations in Kidderminster, Stourport-on-Severn and Bewdley. Could this be listed as an objective?	Comments are noted. Include increased and direct impact on SSSIs as a decision-making question under objective 9.
LPRSASR35	North Worcestershire Water Management	B	Really importantly Gypsy / traveller sites and needs are not dealt with at all in the baseline data, really must be in there and in the main body of report as well.	Comments are noted. Include a map of current Gypsy and Traveller sites within the District as part of Appendix B and pick up the issue of the need for additional sites within the body of the report.
LPRSASR33	North Worcestershire Water Management	B.3.9	B3.9, this sounds like setting a desired outcome of preventing them becoming permanent whereas perhaps they already are and therefore it is more appropriate to consider how to respond to the fact they are mostly used as permanent accommodation.	Comments are noted. Not all of the chalets are permanent. Re-word sentence to refer to preventing those that have not already become permanent from doing so.
LPRSASR34	North Worcestershire Water Management	B.3.10	B3.10, perhaps should acknowledge how many caravans are paying council tax as main residence despite being on 'holiday' sites and recognise the issue this brings of perhaps over 2000 people residing in caravans.	Comments are noted. Amend to refer to the fact that a considerable number of holiday



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				caravans are paying council tax as a main residence.
LPRSASR45	Natural England	B.3.12	Paragraphs repeat themselves with regards to six year surveys.	Comments are noted. Amend to remove any repetition.
LPRSASR46	Natural England	B.3.13	We strongly agree with this paragraph, developments that are in proximity to SSSIs should avoid damaging <b>and aim to enhance</b> SSSIs where possible.	Comments are noted and support is welcomed.
LPRSASR4	Environment Agency	B.3.23	The water quality data in Appendix B (ref. B.3.23) of the report is not up to date, in line with current WFD monitoring. Up to date WFD data on water quality and the status or potential or waterbodies within the District should be used and can be obtained from the Geostore 'data share' service at <a href="http://www.geostore.com/environment-agency/">http://www.geostore.com/environment-agency/</a>	Comments are noted. Work is on-going to obtain and interpret the data and it will be included within the Interim SA Report which will be published at Preferred Options stage.