

## Statement of Common Ground between Wyre Forest District Council and Natural England

### 1) Introduction

Under the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2019), strategic policy making authorities, such as local planning authorities, should produce, maintain and keep up to date a Statement of Common Ground (SofCG) to highlight agreement on cross boundary strategic issues with neighbouring local authorities and other relevant bodies.

This SofCG has been produced to support the emerging Wyre Forest District Local Plan Review. It sets out how Wyre Forest District Council has engaged with Natural England in order to fulfil its Duty to Cooperate requirements.

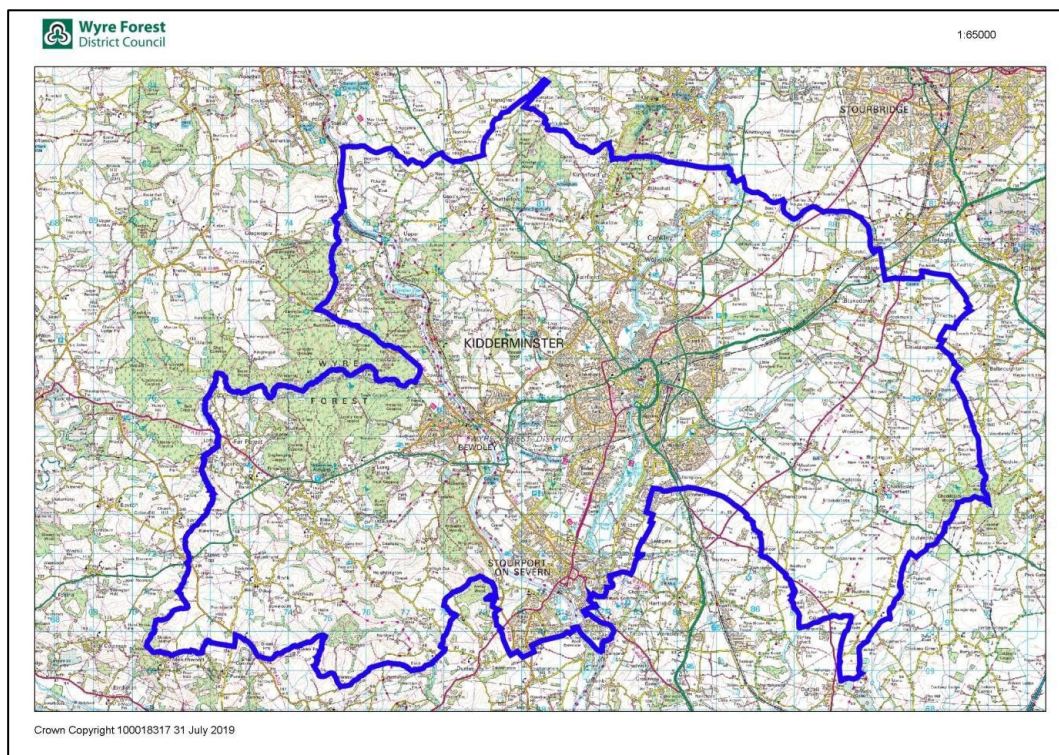
### 2) Parties Involved

This Statement of Common Ground (SofCG) has been prepared jointly by Wyre Forest District Council (WFDC) and Natural England (NE). Natural England is a statutory consultee.

### 3) Strategic Geography

This SofCG covers all of the Wyre Forest District and has been produced for the purposes of the Wyre Forest District Local Plan 2016-2036, which is due to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in Spring 2020.

**Figure 1: Map of Wyre Forest District**



#### 4) **Background / Duty to Cooperate**

There has been ongoing engagement between WFDC and Natural England throughout the preparation of the WFDC Local Plan Review. WFDC has consulted with Natural England at every stage of plan making. The Local Plan Review consultation periods were as follows:-

- Issues and Options Consultation – September / October 2015
- Preferred Options Consultation – June / August 2017
- Pre-Submission Consultation – November / December 2018
- Pre-Submission Consultation (re-opened) – September / October 2019

Duty to Cooperate meetings have also taken place on the following dates:-

- 8<sup>th</sup> November 2017 – meeting at Wyre Forest House to discuss Local Plan post Preferred Options consultation.
- 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019 – telephone conference call meeting to discuss Local Plan during Pre-Submission consultation.

#### 5) **Strategic Matters Identified**

Natural England responded to the WFDC Local Plan Pre-Submission consultation that was undertaken in November / December 2018. Table 1 shows a summary of the responses received from Natural England (the full response can be viewed in Appendix 2).

Table 1: Natural England response to WFDC Local Plan Pre-Submission (October 2018)

	<b>Issues</b>
<b>Natural England (2018 response)</b>	<p><u>Sustainability Appraisal</u></p> <p>Natural England advise that the following should be addressed in the Appendix B Site Appraisal:</p> <p><u>WFR/WC/15 Lea Castle Hospital</u> – The site appraisal does not acknowledge that there is a direct hydrological link to Hurcott and Podmore Pools SSSI, which could impact the SSSI. This potential impact should be addressed through mitigation. We would welcome it if the SA was amended to better steer the policy towards this outcome. Although at this late stage in plan making, we would be satisfied to see the policy amended accordingly.</p> <p><u>OC/13 Land at Stone Hill</u> – The site appraisal does not acknowledge that the water courses on site connects to Wilden Marsh and Meadows SSSI. This potential impact should be addressed through mitigation. We would welcome it if the SA was amended to better steer the policy towards this outcome. Although at this late stage in plan making, we would be satisfied to see the policy amended accordingly.</p>
<b>Natural England (2018 response)</b>	<p><u>Sustainability Appraisal</u></p>

	<p>Natural England advise that the following should be addressed in the Appendix B Site Appraisal:</p> <p><u>BR/BE/6, Land off Highclere</u> – Priority habitats should be considered within these allocations.</p> <p><u>OC/13, Land at Stone Hill</u> – The site appraisal does not acknowledge that the water courses on site connect to Wilden Marsh and Meadows SSSI. This potential impact should be addressed through mitigation. We would welcome it if the SA was amended to better steer the policy towards this outcome. Although at this late stage in plan making, we would be satisfied to see the policy amended accordingly.</p>
<b>Natural England (2018 response)</b>	<p><u>Policy 11D – Table 1</u></p> <p>Incorrect or missing details in Table 1. Missing information, which should be added:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hurcott Pasture SSSI – a good example of species-rich, lowland, acidic grassland pasture.</li> <li>• Incorrectly named SSSI's, which should be changed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hartlebury Common and Hillditch Coppice SSSI</li> <li>○ Showground Meadow, Callow Hill SSSI</li> </ul> </li> <li>• SSSI which would benefit from further information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kinver Edge SSSI is also notified for geology.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Natural England request that the LPA makes the corrections listed above in advance of the Examination.</p>
<b>Natural England (2018 response)</b>	<p><u>Policy 14, B (iii)</u></p> <p>If there is scope to make a minor amendment to the plan, then Natural England consider that the following change would improve Policy 14:</p> <p>Natural England notes that Policy 14 does not give a specific figure for the provision of green infrastructure (GI) on brownfield land. Natural England suggest that a proviso for circumstances where the LPA may need to require a certain amount of GI for a proposal. For example, for onsite mitigation for impacts on a protected site or where brownfield sites have high environmental value.</p>
<b>Natural England (2018 response)</b>	<p><u>Policy 30.2 Lea Castle Village Principles of Development</u></p> <p>Surface water drainage from this site discharges into Hurcott pool, part of the Hurcott and Podmore Pools Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (17/0205 Drainage Strategy – <a href="http://www.wyreforest.gov.uk/fastweb/welcome.asp">http://www.wyreforest.gov.uk/fastweb/welcome.asp</a>), development at the site could impact the SSSI through bad water quality and reduced water quantity. The SSSI has suffered in the past from poor water quality and reduced water levels which have led to a loss of aquatic plants in favour of algae and impacted on invertebrate species, both of which are important food sources for a range of</p>

	wetland birds. This policy should reflect these issues and include a point to ensure that current levels of water quality and volume entering the SSSI from the proposal site are maintained and that the improvements and net gains especially in terms of water quality are achieved as part of the development.
<b>Natural England (2018 response)</b>	<u>Policy 30.21 Land at Low Habberley (WA/KF/3)</u> – Natural England recommend that the allocation should set out how biodiversity and environmental net gain will be achieved, in line with the NPPF (paragraphs 118a, 170d, 174b) and delivering the aspirations of the Government’s 25 year Environment Plan. Specifically, NE recommends that the policy requires planning proposals to specify how the existing and surrounding habitats (which includes Habberley Valley Local Wildlife Site/ Nature Reserve and Easthams Coppice) will be taken into consideration. Measures to protect and mitigate for bats and brown hare should also be considered.

Natural England also responded to the WFDC re-opening of the Local Plan Pre-Submission consultation that was undertaken in September / October 2019. Table 2 shows a summary of the responses received from Natural England (the full response can be viewed in Appendix 1).

	<b>Issues</b>
<b>Natural England (2019 response)</b>	<p>Natural England wish to withdraw their previous response for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Sustainability appraisal (SA) comment re WFR/WC/15 Lea Castle Hospital site</u> – Reason: NE original concerns regarding hydrological linkage and issues focusing on water supply and water quality in respect of the Hurcott and Podmore Pools SSSI are explicitly addressed in the Kidderminster north Green Infrastructure Concept Plan, compliance with which forms a criterion in the list of principles for development of this site.</li> <li>• <u>Policy 31.2 Lea Castle Village principles of development</u> – Reason: As above – the N. Kidderminster GI Concept Plan addresses the water supply and water quality issue.</li> <li>• <u>SA comment re BR/BE/6 Land off Highclere</u> – Reason: this site no longer forms part of the plan’s proposed allocations.</li> <li>• <u>SA comment on OC13 Land at Stone Hill</u> – Reason: SA makes clear reference to hydrological connection with Wilden Marsh &amp; Meadows SSSI.</li> <li>• <u>Policy 14b(iii) proportion of land allocated to GI within developments</u> – Reason: Policy 11D (Biodiversity) and NPPF provisions regarding previously developed land (e.g. glossary definition and relevant exclusions) provide adequate scope for site specific decisions on GI delivery on previously developed land.</li> </ul>
<b>Natural England (2019 response)</b>	Natural England has suggested some additional comments/changes to Policy 11D of the Local Plan:-

	<p>Policy 11D – incorrect or missing details in Table 11.4.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Missing information which should be added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hurcott Pasture SSSI – a good example of species-rich, lowland, acidic grassland pasture.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Incorrectly named SSSI's, which should be changed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hartlebury Common and Hillditch Coppice SSSI</li> <li>○ Showground Meadow, Callow Hill SSSI</li> </ul> </li> <li>• SSSI which would benefit from further information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kinver Edge SSSI is also notified for geology.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Natural England (2019 response)</b>	<p>Natural England notes and supports the deletion of the former settling ponds at Wilden Lane (reference FPH/1) from the list of allocated sites for Kidderminster (Policy and Table 30) and the policies map. This land adjoins Wilden Marsh and Meadows Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The deletion of FPH/1 is consistent with the NPPF paragraphs 170 and 171. NPPF paragraph 170 regarding the establishment of coherent and resilient ecological networks is supported through the Nature Recovery Network approach set out in the Government's emerging 25-Year Environment Plan.</p>
<b>Natural England (2019 response)</b>	<p>Natural England welcomes revised policy 30.31 South Kidderminster Enterprise Park (SKEP) for its clear criteria dealing with biodiversity issues at sub sections 3 (Worcestershire Canal and Stour corridor) and 4 (Positive enhancement of the Wilden Marsh &amp; Meadows Site of Special Scientific Interest).</p> <p>Natural England refer the Council to their supporting representation on the deletion of FPH/1 from the local plan's allocations. This land falls within the SKEP as shown on the policies map. In the interests of planning certainty, to foster positive environmental outcomes and to be consistent our supporting representation on the deletion of former allocation FPH/1, Natural England believe the policies map and paragraph 30.74's reference to 'previously developed sites' must make clear that land at the former FPH/1 site is excluded from this reasoned justification's meaning when referring to previously developed sites. The glossary at Annex 2 of the NPPF offers helpful clarification defining exclusions from the definition including: '...land that was previously developed but where the remains of the permanent structure or fixed surface structure have blended into the landscape.'</p> <p>Natural England has suggested amending the policies map to remove the SKEP annotation from Wilden Marsh and Meadows SSSI and the adjoining former settling ponds west of Wilden Lane AND use revised 30.74 wording as follows:</p> <p><i>"Although the area of the SKEP covers some natural features and Green Belt land, development will only be permitted on previously developed sites. The site designation lies adjacent to Wilden Marsh and Meadows SSSI and the associated, former settling ponds west of</i></p>

	<i>Wilden Lane. Impacts on this land are to be considered as part of any application for development and positive benefits consistent with policy 11(d) secured to enhance this area."</i>
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## 6) Matters that parties agree on

Table 2 below shows the matters that both parties agree on.

Table 2: Matters that both parties agree on

	Issues	WFDC Response
<b>Natural England (2019 response)</b>	<p>Natural England wish to withdraw their previous response for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Sustainability appraisal (SA) comment re WFR/WC/15 Lea Castle Hospital site</u> – Reason: NE original concerns regarding hydrological linkage and issues focusing on water supply and water quality in respect of the Hurcott and Podmore Pools SSSI are explicitly addressed in the Kidderminster north Green Infrastructure Concept Plan, compliance with which forms a criterion in the list of principles for development of this site.</li> <li>• <u>Policy 31.2 Lea Castle Village principles of development</u> – Reason: As above – the N. Kidderminster GI Concept Plan addresses the water supply and water quality issue.</li> <li>• <u>SA comment re BR/BE/6 Land off Highclere</u> – Reason: this site no longer forms part of the plan's proposed allocations.</li> <li>• <u>SA comment on OC13 Land at Stone Hill</u> – Reason: SA makes clear reference to hydrological connection with Wilden Marsh &amp; Meadows SSSI.</li> <li>• <u>Policy 14b(iii) proportion of land allocated to GI within developments</u> – Reason: Policy 11D (Biodiversity) and NPPF provisions regarding previously developed land (e.g. glossary definition and relevant exclusions) provide adequate scope for site specific decisions on GI delivery on previously developed land.</li> </ul>	<p>WFDC accepts this request from Natural England to withdraw their previous response as shown in table opposite.</p> <p>However, WFDC intend to amend the wording of Policy 14 as a proposed modification to the Local Plan, based on the comments received from Natural England in regard to the provision of Green Infrastructure (GI) on brownfield land. The proposed changes to Policy 14 are as follows:-</p> <p>Policy 14, B. iii.</p> <p>For Brownfield sites: no specific GI figure.</p> <p><b><u>However, mitigation would be expected if the proposed development will impact negatively on protected environmental sites and/or where brownfield sites have a high environmental value.</u></b></p> <p>Paragraph 14.8 (insert new paragraph)</p> <p><b><u>When considering GI on</u></b></p>

		<p><u>brownfield sites no specific figure has been set as such sites can be relatively constrained by development viability. Therefore any GI provision will be as a direct consequence of development proposals having to meet other policy requirements as necessary in order to make the development acceptable in planning terms. Where proposed development is likely to impact negatively on protected sites and/or where brownfield sites have a high environmental value then appropriate mitigation measures will be expected. Brownfield habitats qualifying as Open Mosaic Habitat or supporting NERC S.41 species would qualify as a site offering 'high environmental value'.</u></p>
<p><b>Natural England (2019 response)</b></p>	<p>Natural England has suggested some additional comments/changes to Policy 11D of the Local Plan:-</p> <p>Policy 11D – incorrect or missing details in Table 11.4.1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Missing information which should be added: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hurcott Pasture SSSI – a good example of species-rich, lowland, acidic grassland pasture.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Incorrectly named SSSI's, which should be changed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Hartlebury Common and Hillditch Coppice SSSI</li> <li>○ Showground Meadow, Callow Hill SSSI</li> </ul> </li> <li>• SSSI which would benefit from further information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Kinver Edge SSSI is also notified for geology.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>WFDC is agreeable to making these suggested changes. The proposed modifications to Policy 11D are as follows:-</p> <p>Table 11.4.1 – Areas of National Importance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Devil's Spittleful and the Rifle Range SSSI and nature reserve</b></li> <li>• <del>and</del> Hartlebury Common <b>and Hillditch Coppice SSSI</b></li> <li>• Kinver Edge SSSI – Woodland, <del>and</del> heathland <b>and geology.</b></li> <li>• <del>Bliss Gate Pastures,</del></li> </ul>

		<p><del>Brown Close Meadow, Buckridge Meadow and Showground Meadow, Callow Hill</del> SSSIs – Meadows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Hurcott Pasture SSSI – A species-rich lowland, acidic grassland pasture.</u></li> </ul>
Natural England (2019 response)	<p>Natural England notes and supports the deletion of the former settling ponds at Wilden Lane (reference FPH/1) from the list of allocated sites for Kidderminster (Policy and Table 30) and the policies map. This land adjoins Wilden Marsh and Meadows Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The deletion of FPH/1 is consistent with the NPPF paragraphs 170 and 171. NPPF paragraph 170 regarding the establishment of coherent and resilient ecological networks is supported through the Nature Recovery Network approach set out in the Government’s emerging 25-Year Environment Plan.</p>	<p>WFDC note the support from Natural England for <u>not</u> including the former Settling Ponds site at Wilden Lane (ref: FPH/1) from the list of allocated sites for the Local Plan.</p>
Natural England (2019 response)	<p>Natural England welcomes revised policy 30.31 South Kidderminster Enterprise Park (SKEP) for its clear criteria dealing with biodiversity issues at sub sections 3 (Worcestershire Canal and Stour corridor) and 4 (Positive enhancement of the Wilden Marsh &amp; Meadows Site of Special Scientific Interest).</p> <p>Natural England refer the Council to their supporting representation on the deletion of FPH/1 from the local plan’s allocations. This land falls within the SKEP as shown on the policies map. In the interests of planning certainty, to foster positive environmental outcomes and to be consistent our supporting representation on the deletion of former allocation FPH/1, Natural England believe the policies map and paragraph 30.74’s reference to ‘previously developed sites’ must make clear that land at the former FPH/1 site is excluded from this reasoned justification’s meaning when referring to previously developed sites. The glossary at Annex 2 of the NPPF offers helpful clarification defining exclusions from the definition including:</p>	<p>WFDC note the support from Natural England for <u>not</u> including the former Settling Ponds site at Wilden Lane (ref: FPH/1) from the list of allocated sites for the Local Plan.</p> <p>WFDC are agreeable to the suggested amendments to Paragraph AM30.74 for Policy AM30.31 South Kidderminster Enterprise Park (SKEP), and the suggested changes to the policies map.</p>



	<p>‘...land that was previously developed but where the remains of the permanent structure or fixed surface structure have blended into the landscape.’</p> <p>Natural England has suggested amending the policies map to remove the SKEP annotation from Wilden Marsh and Meadows SSSI and the adjoining former settling ponds west of Wilden Lane AND use revised 30.74 wording as follows:</p> <p><i>“Although the area of the SKEP covers some natural features and Green Belt land, development will only be permitted on previously developed sites. The site designation lies adjacent to Wilden Marsh and Meadows SSSI and the associated, former settling ponds west of Wilden Lane. Impacts on this land are to be considered as part of any application for development and positive benefits consistent with policy 11(d) secured to enhance this area.”</i></p>	
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## 7) Matters that parties disagree on

There are no matters that parties disagree on.

## 8) Other Strategic Matters

As part of the Duty to Cooperate discussions, Natural England has also asked WFDC to amend the Reasoned justification to ‘Policy 11D – Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity’ as follows:-

Amendment to Paragraph 11.38 to read:

*“11.38 Wyre Forest District has a range of nationally and locally important sites. The NPPF provides the context for conserving biodiversity and this Local Plan protects the relevant designated sites through identifying them on the Policies Map. The designate sites are also set out in the table below. ~~It should be noted that there are no sites within the District which are designated as being of international importance.~~ Additional sites may be designated during the lifetime of the Local Plan.”*

Insert new paragraph to read:

**“11.39 The River Severn, Severn Estuary and tributaries provide a route for migratory fish forming part of the reasons for the Severn Estuary’s designation as a Special Area of Conservation and Ramsar Site. The Severn Rivers Trust has been established to promote projects to improve fish passage along the Severn and to develop greater use of the rivers Severn and Teme by locals and visitors. Development that may have direct or indirect impacts on watercourses used by the SAC and Ramsar species will be subject to a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).”**

WFDC are agreeable to these proposed modifications to the Local Plan.

## 9) Governance Arrangements

The governance arrangements are key to the effectiveness and implementation of the Statement of Common Ground. The table below sets out the requirements for the authorities involved.

Local Authority	Method of Approval
Wyre Forest District Council	SofCG to be agreed by Council Members
Natural England	Signed by Lead Advisor

## 10) Timetable for agreement

The table below sets out the timetable arrangement for the Statement of Common Ground to be agreed.

Local Authority	Timetable for approval
Wyre Forest District Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Overview &amp; Scrutiny – 6<sup>th</sup> February 2020</li><li>- Cabinet Meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2020</li><li>- Extraordinary Council Meeting – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2020</li></ul>
Natural England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 3 weeks</li></ul>

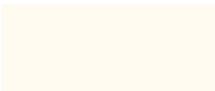
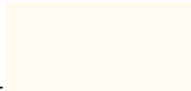
## 11) Conclusions

The parties agree that:

- WFDC has fulfilled its Duty to Cooperate with Natural England.
- Natural England is satisfied that all matters raised in its representations to the WFDC Local Plan Review (2016-2036) have been addressed by WFDC's responses.
- Natural England is agreeable to the proposed modifications as set out within this SofCG.
- The parties will continue to work positively together, including with other authorities where relevant on strategic cross boundary issues.

## 12) Signatories

This Statement of Common Ground has been agreed and signed by the following:-

<u>Natural England</u>	<u>Wyre Forest District Council</u>
Name: <u>Antony Muller</u>	Name: <u>Mike Parker</u>
Position: <u>Lead Adviser</u>	Position: Corporate Director: Economic Prosperity & Place
Date agreed: <u>14 January 2020</u>	Date agreed: <u>17<sup>th</sup> March 2020</u>
Signature 	Signature: 

### **13) Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Natural England response to the WFDC re-opening of Pre-Submission consultation (Sept / Oct 2019)
- Appendix 2 – Natural England response to the WFDC Pre-Submission Consultation (Nov/Dec 2018)
- Appendix 3 – Natural England response to the WFDC Preferred Options consultation (June – August 2017)
- Appendix 4 – Natural England response to the WFDC Issues & Options consultation (2015)

# Wyre Forest District Local Plan Pre-Submission Publication 2019

## Consultation Response Form

2 September – 14 October 2019

### REF OFFICE USE ONLY:

Representor number:

Representation number:

Plan reference:

Tests of soundness:

This form has two parts: **Part A** Personal Details and **Part B** Your Comments

To help present your comments in the best way for the inspector to consider them, the Planning Inspectorate has issued this standard comment form for you to complete and return. We ask that you use this form because it structures your response in the way in which the inspector will consider comments at the public examination. Using the form to submit your comments also means that you can register your interest in speaking at the examination.

**Please read the guidance notes carefully before completing the form.** If you responded to the last Pre-Submission consultation held in 2018, you do not have to respond again unless you want to add to them, withdraw them or make completely new comments.

Please fill in a separate part B for each issue/comments you wish to make.

Any additional sheets must be clearly referenced. This form can be submitted electronically. If hand writing, please write clearly in blue or black ink.

Consultation response forms can be completed and submitted online at [www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/localplanreview](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/localplanreview)

**Comments must be received by 5:00pm on 14 October 2019. Comments received after this time will not be considered.**

## Part A

(Please complete in full; in order for the Inspector to consider your representations you must provide your name and postal address).

1. Personal Details		2. Agent's Details (if applicable)
Title	Mr	
First Name	Antony	
Last Name	Muller	
Organisation (where relevant)	Natural England	
Job title (where relevant)	Lead Adviser – West Midlands Planning for a Better Environment Team	
Address – line 1	Worcestershire County Hall	
Address – line 2	Spetchley Road	
Address – line 3	Worcester	
Postcode	WR5 2NP	
E-mail Address		
Telephone Number		

## Part B - Please use a separate sheet for each comment

Your representation should cover all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested change, as there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further representations following this publication stage.

After this stage, further submission will only be at the request of the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he/she identifies for examination.

Name or Organisation

Natural England

### 3. Did you submit a consultation response form to the last Pre-Submission consultation held in 2018?

Yes

X

No

#### a) If yes, would you like to withdraw any/all of your previous comments?

Yes, all

Yes, specific comments

X

#### b) If specific comments only, please specify which ones?

- Sustainability appraisal (SA) comment re WFR/WC/15 Lea Castle Hospital site  
Reason: Our original concerns regarding hydrological linkage and issues focusing on water supply and water quality in respect of the Hurcott and Podmore Pools SSSI are explicitly addressed in the Kidderminster north Green Infrastructure Concept Plan, compliance with which forms a criterion in the list of principles for development of this site.
- Policy 31.2 Lea Castle Village principles of development  
Reason: As above – the N.Kidderminster GI Concept Plan addresses the water supply and water quality issue.
- SA comment re BR/BE/6 Land off Highclere  
Reason – this site no longer forms part of the plan's proposed allocations.
- SA comment on OC13 Land at Stone Hill  
Reason – SA makes clear reference to hydrological connection with Wilden Marsh & Meadows SSSI.
- Policy 14 b(iii) proportion of land allocated to GI within developments  
Reason – Policy 11D (Biodiversity) and NPPF provisions regarding previously developed land (e.g. glossary definition and relevant exclusions) provide adequate scope for site specific decisions on GI delivery on previously developed land.

### 4. To which document of the Local Plan does this representation relate?

Amendments to Pre-Submission Local Plan (July 2019 version)

Yes

X

No

Pre-Submission Local Plan (October 2018 version)

Yes

No

X

### 5. Please specify which part of the Local Plan you are commenting on (e.g. paragraph, policy, map, table or figure reference)?

Paragraph

AM30.74

Policy

Other: e.g. Policies map,  
table, figure, key diagram

Policies  
Map

## 6. Do you want to support/object/comment on this part of the Local Plan?:

Support

☐

Comment

☒

Object

☐

## 7. Do you consider the Local Plan is:

a) Legally Compliant

Yes

☒

No

☐

b) Sound

Yes

☒

No

☐

c) Complies with the Duty to co-operate

Yes

☒

No

☐

## 8. If you answered 'No' to Question 7b, please specify on what grounds you consider the Local Plan to be unsound? (see guidance notes part 3 for explaining of terms)

Positively Prepared ☐

Justified ☐

Effective ☐

Consistent with National Policy ☐

Please Tick as appropriate

## 9. Please give details of why you consider the Local Plan is not legally compliant or is unsound or fails to comply with the Duty to co-operate. Please be as precise as possible.

If you wish to support the legal compliance or soundness of the Local Plan or its compliance with the Duty to co-operate, please also use this box to set out your comments.

Natural England welcomes revised policy 30.31 South Kidderminster Enterprise Park (SKEP) for its clear criteria dealing with biodiversity issues at sub sections 3 (Worcestershire Canal and Stour corridor) and 4 (Positive enhancement of the Wilden Marsh & meadows Site of special scientific Interest).

We refer the Council to our supporting representation on the deletion of FPH/1 from the local plan's allocations. This land falls within the SKEP as shown on the policies map. In the interests of planning certainty, to foster positive environmental outcomes and to be consistent our supporting representation on the deletion of former allocation FPH/1, we believe the policies map and paragraph 30.74's reference to 'previously developed sites' must make clear that land at the former FPH/1 site is excluded from this reasoned justification's meaning when referring to previously developed sites.

The glossary at Annex 2 of the NPPF offers helpful clarification defining exclusions from the definition including: '*...land that was previously developed but where the remains of the permanent structure or fixed surface structure have blended into the landscape*'.

10. Please set out what modification(s) you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound, having regard to the Matter you have identified at 9 above where this relates to soundness. (NB Please note that any non-compliance with the Duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination). You will need to say why this modification will make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound. It would be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.

Amend the policies map to remove the SKEP annotation from Wilden Marsh and Meadows SSSI and the adjoining former settling ponds west of Wilden Lane AND use revised 30.74 wording as follows:

Although the area of the SKEP covers some natural features and Green Belt land, development will only be permitted on previously developed sites. The site designation lies adjacent to Wilden Marsh and Meadows SSSI and the associated, former settling ponds west of Wilden Lane. Impacts on this land are to be considered as part of any application for development and positive benefits consistent with policy 11(d) secured to enhance this area.

*Please note your representation should cover succinctly all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested modification, as there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further representations based on the original representation at publication stage. After this stage, further submissions will be only at the request of the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he/she identifies for examination.*

11. If your representation is seeking a modification, do you consider it necessary to speak at the examination?

x

**No** I do not wish to speak at the examination.

**Yes** I would like to speak at the examination.

12. If you wish to speak at the examination, please outline why you consider this to be necessary:

Expand box / continue on a separate sheet if necessary

## Appendix 1

**Please note** the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to speak at the examination.

### 13. Are there any other comments you would like to make?:

No.

Expand box / continue on a separate sheet if necessary

#### **Data Protection**

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*Please see the Council's Data Protection and Privacy statement:*

<http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/the-council/data-protection-and-privacy.aspx>

**By signing this form you are agreeing to The Council's Data Protection Policy above and the storage of your information.**

Signature

Date 10.10.19

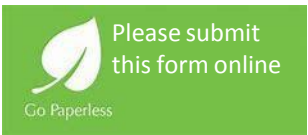
Please return the completed form by **no later than 5:00pm on 14 October 2019** to:

Email: [LPR@wyreforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:LPR@wyreforestdc.gov.uk)

Or post to: Planning Policy Team, Wyre Forest District Council, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF

Consultation response forms can be completed and submitted online at: [www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/localplanreview](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/localplanreview)





# Wyre Forest District Local Plan Pre-Submission Publication 2019

## Consultation Response Form

2 September – 14 October 2019

**REF OFFICE USE ONLY:**

Representor number:

Representation number:

Plan reference:

Tests of soundness:

This form has two parts: **Part A** Personal Details and **Part B** Your Comments

To help present your comments in the best way for the inspector to consider them, the Planning Inspectorate has issued this standard comment form for you to complete and return. We ask that you use this form because it structures your response in the way in which the inspector will consider comments at the public examination. Using the form to submit your comments also means that you can register your interest in speaking at the examination.

**Please read the guidance notes carefully before completing the form.** If you responded to the last Pre-Submission consultation held in 2018, you do not have to respond again unless you want to add to them, withdraw them or make completely new comments.

Please fill in a separate part B for each issue/comments you wish to make.

Any additional sheets must be clearly referenced. This form can be submitted electronically. If hand writing, please write clearly in blue or black ink.

Consultation response forms can be completed and submitted online at [www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/localplanreview](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/localplanreview)

**Comments must be received by 5:00pm on 14 October 2019. Comments received after this time will not be considered.**

## Part A

(Please complete in full; in order for the Inspector to consider your representations you must provide your name and postal address).

1. Personal Details		2. Agent's Details (if applicable)
Title	Mr	
First Name	Antony	
Last Name	Muller	
Organisation (where relevant)	Natural England	
Job title (where relevant)	Lead Adviser – West Midlands Planning for a Better Environment Team	
Address – line 1	Worcestershire County Hall	
Address – line 2	Spetchley Road	
Address – line 3	Worcester	
Postcode	WR5 2NP	
E-mail Address		
Telephone Number		

## Part B - Please use a separate sheet for each comment

Your representation should cover all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested change, as there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further representations following this publication stage.

After this stage, further submission will only be at the request of the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he/she identifies for examination.

Name or Organisation

Natural England

### 3. Did you submit a consultation response form to the last Pre-Submission consultation held in 2018?

Yes

X

No

#### a) If yes, would you like to withdraw any/all of your previous comments?

Yes, all

Yes, specific comments

X

#### b) If specific comments only, please specify which ones?

- Sustainability appraisal (SA) comment re WFR/WC/15 Lea Castle Hospital site  
Reason: Our original concerns regarding hydrological linkage and issues focusing on water supply and water quality in respect of the Hurcott and Podmore Pools SSSI are explicitly addressed in the Kidderminster north Green Infrastructure Concept Plan, compliance with which forms a criterion in the list of principles for development of this site.
- Policy 31.2 Lea Castle Village principles of development  
Reason: As above – the N.Kidderminster GI Concept Plan addresses the water supply and water quality issue.
- SA comment re BR/BE/6 Land off Highclere  
Reason – this site no longer forms part of the plan's proposed allocations.
- SA comment on OC13 Land at Stone Hill  
Reason – SA makes clear reference to hydrological connection with Wilden Marsh & Meadows SSSI.
- Policy 14 b(iii) proportion of land allocated to GI within developments  
Reason – Policy 11D (Biodiversity) and NPPF provisions regarding previously developed land (e.g. glossary definition and relevant exclusions) provide adequate scope for site specific decisions on GI delivery on previously developed land.

### 4. To which document of the Local Plan does this representation relate?

Amendments to Pre-Submission Local Plan (July 2019 version)

Yes

X

No

Pre-Submission Local Plan (October 2018 version)

Yes

X

No

### 5. Please specify which part of the Local Plan you are commenting on (e.g. paragraph, policy, map, table or figure reference)?

Paragraph

Policy

30

Other: e.g. Policies map, table, figure, key diagram

Table  
AM30.0.1 &  
Policies  
Map

## 6. Do you want to support/object/comment on this part of the Local Plan?:

Support

☒

Comment

Object

## 7. Do you consider the Local Plan is:

a) Legally Compliant

Yes

☒

No

b) Sound

Yes

☒

No

c) Complies with the Duty to co-operate

Yes

☒

No

## 8. If you answered 'No' to Question 7b, please specify on what grounds you consider the Local Plan to be unsound? (see guidance notes part 3 for explaining of terms)

Positively Prepared ☐

Justified ☐

Effective ☐

Consistent with National Policy ☐

Please Tick as appropriate

## 9. Please give details of why you consider the Local Plan is not legally compliant or is unsound or fails to comply with the Duty to co-operate. Please be as precise as possible.

If you wish to support the legal compliance or soundness of the Local Plan or its compliance with the Duty to co-operate, please also use this box to set out your comments.

Natural England notes and supports the deletion of the former settling ponds at Wilden Lane (reference FPH/1) from the list of allocated sites for Kidderminster (Table 30) and the policies map.

This land adjoins Wilden Marsh and Meadows Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The deletion of FPH/1 is consistent with the following NPPF paragraphs:

170 (Sub section 'a' 'protecting and enhancing.... sites of biodiversity value' and 'd' minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures'),

171 (Excerpt – 'Plans should: distinguish between the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites; allocate land with the least environmental or amenity value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework...').

NPPF Para 170 regarding the establishment of coherent and resilient ecological networks is supported through the Nature Recovery Network approach set out in the Government's Emerging 25-year Environment Plan.

**10. Please set out what modification(s) you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound, having regard to the Matter you have identified at 9 above where this relates to soundness. (NB Please note that any non-compliance with the Duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination). You will need to say why this modification will make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound. It would be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.**

N/a

Expand box / continue on a separate sheet if necessary

***Please note*** your representation should cover succinctly all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested modification, as there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further representations based on the original representation at publication stage. ***After this stage, further submissions will be only at the request of the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he/she identifies for examination.***

**11. If your representation is seeking a modification, do you consider it necessary to speak at the examination?**

☒

**No** I do not wish to speak at the examination.

☐

**Yes** I would like to speak at the examination.

**12. If you wish to speak at the examination, please outline why you consider this to be necessary:**

Expand box / continue on a separate sheet if necessary

***Please note*** the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to speak at the examination.



## 13. Are there any other comments you would like to make?:

No

Expand box / continue on a separate sheet if necessary

### **Data Protection**

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<http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/the-council/data-protection-and-privacy.aspx>

**By signing this form you are agreeing to The Council's Data Protection Policy above and the storage of your information.**

Signature

Date

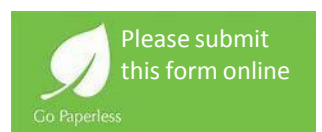
10.10.19

Please return the completed form by **no later than 5:00pm on 14 October 2019** to:

Email: [LPR@wyreforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:LPR@wyreforestdc.gov.uk)

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# Wyre Forest District Local Plan Pre-Submission Publication 2019

## Consultation Response Form

2 September – 14 October 2019

**REF OFFICE USE ONLY:**

Representor number:

Representation number:

Plan reference:

Tests of soundness:

This form has two parts: **Part A** Personal Details and **Part B** Your Comments

To help present your comments in the best way for the inspector to consider them, the Planning Inspectorate has issued this standard comment form for you to complete and return. We ask that you use this form because it structures your response in the way in which the inspector will consider comments at the public examination. Using the form to submit your comments also means that you can register your interest in speaking at the examination.

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Please fill in a separate part B for each issue/comments you wish to make.

Any additional sheets must be clearly referenced. This form can be submitted electronically. If hand writing, please write clearly in blue or black ink.

Consultation response forms can be completed and submitted online at [www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/localplanreview](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/localplanreview)

**Comments must be received by 5:00pm on 14 October 2019. Comments received after this time will not be considered.**

## Part A

(Please complete in full; in order for the Inspector to consider your representations you must provide your name and postal address).

1. Personal Details		2. Agent's Details (if applicable)
Title	Mr	
First Name	Antony	
Last Name	Muller	
Organisation (where relevant)	Natural England	
Job title (where relevant)	Lead Adviser – West Midlands Planning for a Better Environment Team	
Address – line 1	Worcestershire County Hall	
Address – line 2	Spetchley Road	
Address – line 3	Worcester	
Postcode	WR5 2NP	
E-mail Address		
Telephone Number		



## Part B - Please use a separate sheet for each comment

Your representation should cover all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested change, as there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further representations following this publication stage.

After this stage, further submission will only be at the request of the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he/she identifies for examination.

Name or Organisation

Natural England

### 3. Did you submit a consultation response form to the last Pre-Submission consultation held in 2018?

Yes

X

No

#### a) If yes, would you like to withdraw any/all of your previous comments?

Yes, all

Yes, specific comments

X

#### b) If specific comments only, please specify which ones?

- Sustainability appraisal (SA) comment re WFR/WC/15 Lea Castle Hospital site  
Reason: Our original concerns regarding hydrological linkage and issues focusing on water supply and water quality in respect of the Hurcott and Podmore Pools SSSI are explicitly addressed in the Kidderminster north Green Infrastructure Concept Plan, compliance with which forms a criterion in the list of principles for development of this site.
- Policy 31.2 Lea Castle Village principles of development  
Reason: As above – the N.Kidderminster GI Concept Plan addresses the water supply and water quality issue.
- SA comment re BR/BE/6 Land off Highclere  
Reason – this site no longer forms part of the plan's proposed allocations.
- SA comment on OC13 Land at Stone Hill  
Reason – SA makes clear reference to hydrological connection with Wilden Marsh & Meadows SSSI.
- Policy 14 b(iii) proportion of land allocated to GI within developments  
Reason – Policy 11D (Biodiversity) and NPPF provisions regarding previously developed land (e.g. glossary definition and relevant exclusions) provide adequate scope for site specific decisions on GI delivery on previously developed land.

### 4. To which document of the Local Plan does this representation relate?

Amendments to Pre-Submission Local Plan (July 2019 version)

Yes

No

X

Pre-Submission Local Plan (October 2018 version)

Yes

X

No

### 5. Please specify which part of the Local Plan you are commenting on (e.g. paragraph, policy, map, table or figure reference)?

Paragraph

Policy

11D

Other: e.g. Policies map,  
table, figure, key diagram

Table 1

## 6. Do you want to support/object/comment on this part of the Local Plan?:

Support

☐

Comment

☐

Object

☒

## 7. Do you consider the Local Plan is:

a) Legally Compliant

Yes

☒

No

☐

b) Sound

Yes

☐

No

☒

c) Complies with the Duty to co-operate

Yes

☒

No

☐

## 8. If you answered 'No' to Question 7b, please specify on what grounds you consider the Local Plan to be unsound? (see guidance notes part 3 for explaining of terms)

Positively Prepared ☐

Justified ☐

Effective ☐

Consistent with National Policy ☒

*Please Tick as appropriate (Apologies – couldn't make tick or cross insertion work!)*

## 9. Please give details of why you consider the Local Plan is not legally compliant or is unsound or fails to comply with the Duty to co-operate. Please be as precise as possible.

**If you wish to support the legal compliance or soundness of the Local Plan or its compliance with the Duty to co-operate, please also use this box to set out your comments.**

Incorrect or missing details in Table 1

Missing information, which should be added:

Hurcott Pasture SSSI - a good example of species-rich, lowland, acidic grassland pasture

Incorrectly named SSSI's, which should be changed:

Hartlebury Common and Hillditch Coppice SSSI

Showground Meadow, Callow Hill SSSI

SSSI which would benefit from further information:

Kinver Edge SSSI is also notified for geology.

## Appendix 1

**10. Please set out what modification(s) you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound, having regard to the Matter you have identified at 9 above where this relates to soundness. (NB Please note that any non-compliance with the Duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination). You will need to say why this modification will make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound. It would be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.**

We request that the LPA makes the corrections listed above.

**Please note** your representation should cover succinctly all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested modification, as there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further representations based on the original representation at publication stage. **After this stage, further submissions will be only at the request of the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he/she identifies for examination.**

**11. If your representation is seeking a modification, do you consider it necessary to speak at the examination?**

☒

**No** I do not wish to speak at the examination.

☐

**Yes** I would like to speak at the examination.

**12. If you wish to speak at the examination, please outline why you consider this to be necessary:**

N/a

Expand box / continue on a separate sheet if necessary

**Please note** the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to speak at the examination.

## 13. Are there any other comments you would like to make?:

No

Expand box / continue on a separate sheet if necessary

### Data Protection

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Signature

Date 10.10.19

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Email: [LPR@wyreforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:LPR@wyreforestdc.gov.uk)

Or post to: Planning Policy Team, Wyre Forest District Council, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF

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# Wyre Forest District Local Plan Pre-Submission Publication 2018

**OFFICE USE ONLY:**

Representor number:

Representation number:

Plan reference:

Tests of soundness:

## Consultation Response Form

1<sup>st</sup> November – 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018

This form has two parts: **Part A** Personal Details and **Part B** Your Representation

To help present your comments in the best way for the inspector to consider them, the Planning Inspectorate has issued this standard comment form for you to complete and return. We ask that you use this form because it structures your response in the way in which the inspector will consider comments at the public examination. Using the form to submit your comments also means that you can register your interest in speaking at the examination.

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**Representations must be received by 5:00pm on 17th December 2018.**

**Representations received after this time will not be considered duly made.**

## Part A

(Please complete in full. In order for the Inspector to consider your representations you must provide your name and postal address)

Personal Details		Agent's Details (if applicable)
Title	Ms	Click here to enter text.
First Name	Gillian	Click here to enter text.
Last Name	Driver	Click here to enter text.
Organisation	Natural England	Click here to enter text.
Job title	Lead Adviser	Click here to enter text.
Address – line 1	County Hall	Click here to enter text.
Address – line 2	Spetchley Road	Click here to enter text.
Address – line 3	Worcester	Click here to enter text.
Address – line 4	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Address – line 5	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Postcode	WR5 2NP	Click here to enter text.
E-mail Address		Click here to enter text.
Telephone Number		Click here to enter text.

### Part B - Please use a separate sheet for each representation

Your representation should cover all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested change, as there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further representations following this publication stage.

After this stage, further submission will only be at the request of the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he/she identifies for examination.

**Name or Organisation**    **Natural England**

#### 3. To which part of the Local Plan does this representation relate?

Paragraph                      [Click here to enter text.](#)

Policy                              [Click here to enter text.](#)

Other:                              Sustainability Appraisal  
(e.g. Policies map, table,  
figure, key diagram)

#### 4. Do you consider the Local Plan is:

4.1 Legally Compliant                      Yes ☐                      No ☐

4.2 Sound                                      Yes ☐                      No ☐

4.3 Complies with the Duty to co-operate                      Yes ☐                      No ☐

#### 5. If you do not consider the Local Plan is sound, please specify on what grounds

Positively Prepared                      ☐

Justified                                      ☐

Effective                                      ☐

Consistent with National Policy                      ☐

*Please tick as appropriate*

**6. Please give details of why you consider the Local Plan is not legally compliant or is unsound or fails to comply with the Duty to co-operate. Please be as precise as possible.**

If you wish to support the legal compliance or soundness of the Local Plan or its compliance with the Duty to co-operate, please also use this box to set out your comments.

**7. Please set out what modification(s) you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound, having regard to the Matter you have identified at 6 above where this relates to soundness. (NB Please note that any non-compliance with the Duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination). You will need to say why this modification will make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.**

We advise that the following should be addressed in the Appendix B Site Appraisal:

WFR/WC/15 WLEA CASTLE HOSPITAL

The site appraisal does not acknowledge that there is a direct hydrological link to Hurcott and Podmore Pools SSSI, which could impact the SSSI. This potential impact should be addressed through mitigation. We would welcome it if the SA was amended to better steer the policy towards this outcome. Although at this late stage in plan making, we would be satisfied to see the policy amended accordingly.

OC/13 LAND AT STONE HILL

The site appraisal does not acknowledge that the water courses on site connects to Wilden Marsh and Meadows SSSI . This potential impact should be addressed through mitigation. We would welcome it if the SA was amended to better steer the policy towards this outcome. Although at this late stage in plan making, we would be satisfied to see the policy amended accordingly.



*Please note your representation should cover succinctly all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested modification, as there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further representations based on the original representation at publication stage.*

*After this stage, further submissions will be only at the request of the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he/she identifies for examination.*

**8. If your representation is seeking a modification, do you consider it necessary to participate at the oral part of the examination?**

**No** I do not wish to participate at the oral examination. ☒

**Yes** I would like to participate at the oral examination. ☐

**9. If you wish to participate at the oral part of the examination, please outline why you consider this to be necessary:**

*Please note the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate at the oral part of the examination.*

### Data Protection

The information you provide on the form will be stored on a database used solely in connection with the Local Plan.

## Appendix 2

Representations will be available to view on the council's website, but address, signature and contact details will not be included. However, as copies of representations must be made available for public inspection, they cannot be treated as confidential and will be available for inspection in full. Copies of all representations will also be provided to the Planning Inspectorate as part of the submission of the Wyre Forest District Local Plan. By submitting this form you are agreeing to these conditions.

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[www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/the-council/data-protection-and-privacy.aspx](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/the-council/data-protection-and-privacy.aspx)

If you are submitting this form electronically you will need to agree to our data protection policy. Please tick here if you agree. ☒

Signature

Date 17/12/2018

Please return the completed form via email by **no later than 5:00pm on 17 December 2018**

Email: **LPR@wyreforestdc.gov.uk**

Or in writing to: Planning Policy, Wyre Forest District Council, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF

**Consultation response forms can be completed and submitted online at:**

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# **Wyre Forest District Local Plan Pre-Submission Publication 2018**

**OFFICE USE ONLY:**

Representor number:

Representation number:

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Tests of soundness:

## **Consultation Response Form**

**1<sup>st</sup> November – 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

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To help present your comments in the best way for the inspector to consider them, the Planning Inspectorate has issued this standard comment form for you to complete and return. We ask that you use this form because it structures your response in the way in which the inspector will consider comments at the public examination. Using the form to submit your comments also means that you can register your interest in speaking at the examination.

Please read the guidance notes carefully before completing the form.

Please fill in a separate part B for each issue/representation you wish to make.

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**Representations received after this time will not be considered duly made.**

## Part A

(Please complete in full. In order for the Inspector to consider your representations you must provide your name and postal address)

Personal Details		Agent's Details (if applicable)
Title	Ms	Click here to enter text.
First Name	Gillian	Click here to enter text.
Last Name	Driver	Click here to enter text.
Organisation	Natural England	Click here to enter text.
Job title	Lead Adviser	Click here to enter text.
Address – line 1	County Hall	Click here to enter text.
Address – line 2	Spetchley Road	Click here to enter text.
Address – line 3	Worcester	Click here to enter text.
Address – line 4	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Address – line 5	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Postcode	WR5 2NP	Click here to enter text.
E-mail Address		Click here to enter text.
Telephone Number		Click here to enter text.

### Part B - Please use a separate sheet for each representation

Your representation should cover all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested change, as there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further representations following this publication stage.

After this stage, further submission will only be at the request of the Inspector, based on the matters and issues he/she identifies for examination.

**Name or Organisation**    **Natural England**

#### 3. To which part of the Local Plan does this representation relate?

Paragraph                      [Click here to enter text.](#)

Policy                              [Click here to enter text.](#)

Other:                              Sustainability Appraisal  
(e.g. Policies map, table,  
figure, key diagram)

#### 4. Do you consider the Local Plan is:

4.1 Legally Compliant                      Yes ☐                      No ☐

4.2 Sound                                      Yes ☐                      No ☐

4.3 Complies with the Duty to co-operate                      Yes ☐                      No ☐

#### 5. If you do not consider the Local Plan is sound, please specify on what grounds

Positively Prepared                      ☐

Justified                                      ☐

Effective                                      ☐

Consistent with National Policy                      ☐

*Please tick as appropriate*

**6. Please give details of why you consider the Local Plan is not legally compliant or is unsound or fails to comply with the Duty to co-operate. Please be as precise as possible.**

If you wish to support the legal compliance or soundness of the Local Plan or its compliance with the Duty to co-operate, please also use this box to set out your comments.

**7. Please set out what modification(s) you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound, having regard to the Matter you have identified at 6 above where this relates to soundness. (NB Please note that any non-compliance with the Duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination). You will need to say why this modification will make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.**

We advise that the following should be addressed in the Appendix B Site Appraisal:

BR/BE/6, Land off Highclere

Priority habitats should be considered within these allocations.

OC-13 LAND AT STONE HILL

The site appraisal does not acknowledge that the water courses on site connect to Wilden Marsh and Meadows SSSI . This potential impact should be addressed through mitigation. We would welcome it if the SA was amended to better steer the policy towards this outcome. Although at this late stage in plan making, we would be satisfied to see the policy amended accordingly.

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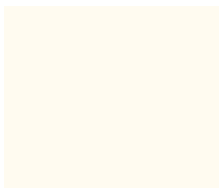
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**8. If your representation is seeking a modification, do you consider it necessary to participate at the oral part of the examination?**

**No** I do not wish to participate at the oral examination. ☒

**Yes** I would like to participate at the oral examination. ☐

**9. If you wish to participate at the oral part of the examination, please outline why you consider this to be necessary:**



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Signature

Date 17/12/2018

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**1<sup>st</sup> November – 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

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## Appendix 2

### Part A

(Please complete in full. In order for the Inspector to consider your representations you must provide your name and postal address)

Personal Details		Agent's Details (if applicable)
Title	Ms	Click here to enter text.
First Name	Gillian	Click here to enter text.
Last Name	Driver	Click here to enter text.
Organisation	Natural England	Click here to enter text.
Job title	Lead Adviser	Click here to enter text.
Address – line 1	County Hall	Click here to enter text.
Address – line 2	Spetchley Road	Click here to enter text.
Address – line 3	Worcester	Click here to enter text.
Address – line 4	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Address – line 5	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Postcode	WR5 2NP	Click here to enter text.
E-mail Address		Click here to enter text.
Telephone Number		Click here to enter text.

### Part B - Please use a separate sheet for each representation

Your representation should cover all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested change, as there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further representations following this publication stage.

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**Name or Organisation**    **Natural England**

#### 3. To which part of the Local Plan does this representation relate?

Paragraph                      [Click here to enter text.](#)

Policy                              11D

Other:                              Table 1  
(e.g. Policies map, table,  
figure, key diagram)

#### 4. Do you consider the Local Plan is:

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 4.1 Legally Compliant                    | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 4.2 Sound                                | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4.3 Complies with the Duty to co-operate | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            |

#### 5. If you do not consider the Local Plan is sound, please specify on what grounds

- |                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Positively Prepared             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Justified                       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Effective                       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Consistent with National Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> |

*Please tick as appropriate*

**6. Please give details of why you consider the Local Plan is not legally compliant or is unsound or fails to comply with the Duty to co-operate. Please be as precise as possible.**

If you wish to support the legal compliance or soundness of the Local Plan or its compliance with the Duty to co-operate, please also use this box to set out your comments.

Some of the information in the table is incorrect or missing.

**7. Please set out what modification(s) you consider necessary to make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound, having regard to the Matter you have identified at 6 above where this relates to soundness. (NB Please note that any non-compliance with the Duty to co-operate is incapable of modification at examination). You will need to say why this modification will make the Local Plan legally compliant or sound. It will be helpful if you are able to put forward your suggested revised wording of any policy or text. Please be as precise as possible.**

Incorrect or missing details in Table 1

Missing information, which should be added:

Hurcott Pasture SSSI - a good example of species-rich, lowland, acidic grassland pasture

Incorrectly named SSSI's, which should be changed:

Hartlebury Common and Hillditch Coppice SSSI

Showground Meadow, Callow Hill SSSI

SSSI which would benefit from further information:

Kinver Edge SSSI is also notified for geology.

We request that the LPA makes the corrections listed above and confirms that this has been done via email in advance of the Examination.

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Address – line 3	Worcester	Click here to enter text.
Address – line 4	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Address – line 5	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Postcode	WR5 2NP	Click here to enter text.
E-mail Address		Click here to enter text.
Telephone Number		Click here to enter text.



## Part B - Please use a separate sheet for each representation

Your representation should cover all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested change, as there will not normally be a subsequent opportunity to make further representations following this publication stage.

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**Name or Organisation**    **Natural England**

### 3. To which part of the Local Plan does this representation relate?

Paragraph                      B iii

Policy                              14

Other:                              [Click here to enter text.](#)  
(e.g. Policies map, table,  
figure, key diagram)

### 4. Do you consider the Local Plan is:

4.1 Legally Compliant                      Yes ☒                      No ☐

4.2 Sound                                      Yes ☒                      No ☐

4.3 Complies with the Duty to co-operate                      Yes ☒                      No ☐

### 5. If you do not consider the Local Plan is sound, please specify on what grounds

Positively Prepared                      ☐

Justified                                      ☐

Effective                                      ☐

Consistent with National Policy                      ☐

*Please tick as appropriate*

**6. Please give details of why you consider the Local Plan is not legally compliant or is unsound or fails to comply with the Duty to co-operate. Please be as precise as possible.**

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If there is scope to make a minor amendment to the plan, then we consider that the following change would improve policy 14.

We note that you have not given a specific figure for the provision of green infrastructure (GI) on brownfield land. We suggest that you add in a proviso for circumstances where you may need to require a certain amount of GI for a proposal. For example for onsite mitigation for impacts on a protected site or where brownfield sites have high environmental value.

*Please note your representation should cover succinctly all the information, evidence and supporting information necessary to support/justify the representation and the suggested modification, as there will*

## Appendix 2

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**Yes** I would like to participate at the oral examination. ☐

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Please tick here if you agree. ☒

Signature

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(Please complete in full. In order for the Inspector to consider your representations you must provide your name and postal address)

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First Name	Gillian	Click here to enter text.
Last Name	Driver	Click here to enter text.
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Job title	Lead Adviser	Click here to enter text.
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Address – line 5	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Postcode	WR5 2NP	Click here to enter text.
E-mail Address		Click here to enter text.
Telephone Number		Click here to enter text.

### Part B - Please use a separate sheet for each representation

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**Name or Organisation**    **Natural England**

#### 3. To which part of the Local Plan does this representation relate?

Paragraph                      [Click here to enter text.](#)

Policy                              30.21

Other:                              [Click here to enter text.](#)  
(e.g. Policies map, table,  
figure, key diagram)

#### 4. Do you consider the Local Plan is:

- |  |   |                             |
|--|---|-----------------------------|
| 4.1 Legally Compliant                    | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4.2 Sound                                | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4.3 Complies with the Duty to co-operate | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/> |

#### 5. If you do not consider the Local Plan is sound, please specify on what grounds

- |                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Positively Prepared             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Justified                       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Effective                       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Consistent with National Policy | <input type="checkbox"/> |

*Please tick as appropriate*

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Policy 30.21 Land at Low Habberley WA/KF/3

If there is scope to make a minor amendment to the plan, then we consider that the following change would improve policy 30.21.

The allocation should set how biodiversity and environmental net gain will be achieved\*, in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (paragraphs (118a, 170d, 174b) and delivering the aspirations of the Government's 25 year Environment Plan. Specifically, we recommend that the policy requires planning proposals to specify how the existing and surrounding habitats (which includes Habberley Valley Local Wildlife Site/Nature Reserve and Easthams Coppice) will be taken into consideration. Measures to protect and mitigate for bats and brown hare should also be considered.



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**Yes** I would like to participate at the oral examination. ☐

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Signature

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Address – line 5	Click here to enter text.	Click here to enter text.
Postcode	WR5 2NP	Click here to enter text.
E-mail Address		Click here to enter text.
Telephone Number		Click here to enter text.

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**Name or Organisation**    **Natural England**

#### 3. To which part of the Local Plan does this representation relate?

Paragraph                      [Click here to enter text.](#)

Policy                              31.2

Other:                              [Click here to enter text.](#)  
(e.g. Policies map, table,  
figure, key diagram)

#### 4. Do you consider the Local Plan is:

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| 4.1 Legally Compliant                    | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | No <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 4.2 Sound                                | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4.3 Complies with the Duty to co-operate | Yes <input type="checkbox"/>            | No <input type="checkbox"/>            |

#### 5. If you do not consider the Local Plan is sound, please specify on what grounds

- |                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Positively Prepared             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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### Policy 31.2 Lea Castle Village Principles of Development

Surface water drainage from this site discharges into Hurcott pool, part of the Hurcott and Podmore Pools Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (17/0205 Drainage Strategy- <http://www.wyreforest.gov.uk/fastweb/welcome.asp>), development at the site could impact the SSSI through bad water quality and reduced water quantity. The SSSI has suffered in the past from poor water quality and reduced water levels which have led to a loss of aquatic plants in favour of algae and impacted on invertebrate species, both of which are important food sources for a range of wetland birds. This policy should reflect these issues and include a point to ensure that current levels of water quality and volume entering the SSSI from the proposal site are maintained and that improvements and net gains especially in terms of water quality are achieved as part of the development.

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**No** I do not wish to participate at the oral examination. ☒

**Yes** I would like to participate at the oral examination. ☐

**9. If you wish to participate at the oral part of the examination, please outline why you consider this to be necessary:**

*Please note the Inspector will determine the most appropriate procedure to adopt to hear those who have indicated that they wish to participate at the oral part of the examination.*

### Data Protection

The information you provide on the form will be stored on a database used solely in connection with the Local Plan.

## Appendix 2

Representations will be available to view on the council's website, but address, signature and contact details will not be included. However, as copies of representations must be made available for public inspection, they cannot be treated as confidential and will be available for inspection in full. Copies of all representations will also be provided to the Planning Inspectorate as part of the submission of the Wyre Forest District Local Plan. By submitting this form you are agreeing to these conditions.

Please see the Councils Data Protection and Privacy statement:

[www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/the-council/data-protection-and-privacy.aspx](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/the-council/data-protection-and-privacy.aspx)

If you are submitting this form electronically you will need to agree to our data protection policy. Please tick here if you agree. ☒

Signature

Date 17/12/2018

Please return the completed form via email by **no later than 5:00pm on 17 December 2018**

Email: **LPR@wyreforestdc.gov.uk**

Or in writing to: Planning Policy, Wyre Forest District Council, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF

**Consultation response forms can be completed and submitted online at:**

[www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/localplanreview](http://www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk/localplanreview)



## Appendix 3

---

From: Plan Cons Area Team (South Mercia) (NE)

Sent: LPR Consultation

To: Muller, Antony (NE)

Cc: Local Plan Review Preferred Options consultation - Duty to Co-operate (Wyre Forest DC)

Subject: Natural England response

Attachments: 20170615PreferredOptionsemailto1.pdf; Response-Form-June-2017-NE- SA - High level comments.docx; Response-Form-June-2017-NE- Allocations rep 2.docx; Response-Form-June-2017- NE - Allocations rep 1.docx; WFDLP Review - DTC Proforma (June 2017)-NE recreation and des sites.docx; Response-Form-June-2017-NE-SA site comments.docx; NE Feedback Form.pdf

---

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For the attention of Helen Smith,

Please find Natural England's response in relation to the above mentioned Duty to Co-operate consultation attached herewith.

We welcome your feedback on Natural England's revised standing advice. Please provide comments and suggested improvements regarding usability, quality of content and its clarity and effectiveness as a tool in guiding decision-making using the text box on the attached customer feedback form. Alternatively email your feedback directly to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

Kind regards

James Hughes  
Lead Adviser  
West Midlands Planning Team

Follow us on twitter @NE\_WestMids

[www.gov.uk/natural-england](http://www.gov.uk/natural-england)

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

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

---

From: LPR Consultation [<mailto:LPR@wyreforestdc.gov.uk>]  
Sent: 15 June 2017 10:34  
To: LPR Consultation  
Subject: Local Plan Review Preferred Options consultation - Duty to Co-operate

Dear Addressee

Please find attached correspondence notifying you of the Local Plan Review Preferred Options consultation which starts today and ends at Spm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017.

Yours faithfully

LPRConsultation  
Wyre Forest District Council  
01562 732928  
Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY11 7WF  
[LPR@wyreforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:LPR@wyreforestdc.gov.uk)

Have you seen our free online magazine for residents, WyredIn? [Sign-up to receive it.](#)

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## **Wyre Forest District Local Plan Review** **Duty to Co-operate Proforma**

The Local Plan Review Preferred Options Consultation takes place from 15<sup>th</sup> June until 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017. During this time Wyre Forest District Council is contacting each Local Authority and body under the Duty to Co-operate Requirements to ask if there are any strategic or cross boundary issues that you would wish to be considered in the preparation of the Local Plan Review. National Planning Policy Framework (paragraphs 178-181) states that public bodies have a Duty to Co-operate on strategic planning issues that cross administrative boundaries. Please could you identify any such issues on the proforma below.

It would be helpful if you could return it to us signed even if there are no particular issues, so that we can ensure that our Duty to Co-operate Requirements are addressed right from the beginning of plan preparation.

**Kind Regards,**  
**Helen Smith**  
**Spatial Planning Manager**  
**Wyre Forest District Council**

<b>Local Planning Authorities and other bodies party to this agreement/ understanding:</b>
--

- |   |
|---|
| <div style="padding: 5px;"><p>A. Wyre Forest District Council</p><br/><p>B. Malvern Hills District Council<br/>Worcester City Council<br/>Wychavon District Council<br/>Redditch Borough Council<br/>Wolverhampton City Council<br/>Birmingham City Council<br/>Bromsgrove District Council<br/>South Staffordshire District Council<br/>Worcestershire County Council<br/>Staffordshire County Council</p><br/><p>C. Environment Agency<br/>Historic England<br/><b>Natural England</b><br/>Civil Aviation Authority<br/>Homes and Communities Agency<br/>Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG)<br/>NHS Commissioning Board<br/>Office of Rail Regulation<br/>Centro<br/>The Highway Authority<br/>Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership<br/>Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership<br/>Local Nature Partnership.</p></div> |
|---|

<b>Local Development Document(s) covered by this agreement / understanding:</b>
---

Wyre Forest District Local Plan Review
--

<b>Stage in the process forming part of this agreement:</b>
Preferred Options Consultation

**Do you consider that there are cross boundary issues that need addressing through the Local Plan Review? If so what measures do you feel are required to address these?**

Yes.

With regard to final bullet point of NPPF para 156:

*“climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation and enhancement of the natural and historic environment, including landscape”.*


The Wyre Forest Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and National Nature Reserve (NNR) straddles the border between Wyre Forest District and Shropshire, while Hartlebury Common and Hillditch Coppice SSSI is located within Wychavon District but adjoins Wyre Forest district at Stourport. Both these nationally designated sites provide a variety of informal recreation opportunities and are well used recreation resources accordingly. Natural England would encourage participation in a collaborative approach to evidence gathering (e.g. visitor use) in order to ensure these assets are properly and proportionately served through the land use planning system. We anticipate such work involving relevant land owners and managers together with:

**Wyre Forest SSSI** – Shropshire Council, Wyre Forest DC, South Staffordshire and Malvern Hills DC.

**Hartlebury Common and Hillditch Coppice SSSI** – Wychavon DC, Wyre Forest DC and Malvern Hills DC.

Appendix 3

<b>Name</b>	James Hughes
<b>Organisation</b>	Natural England
<b>Postal Address</b>	
<b>Email Address</b>	

	<b>Wyre Forest District Council</b> <b>Local Plan Review</b>	<b>FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY</b>
	<b>Preferred Options Document</b> <b>Consultation June 2017</b>	Response Number: <input type="text"/>
		Date Received: <input type="text"/>
		Date Acknowledged: <input type="text"/>

## DETAILED RESPONSE FORM

This response form accompanies the Wyre Forest District Local Plan Review Preferred Options document consultation. The Council welcomes your comments on the document. Please note that any comments made will not be treated as confidential and may be made publicly available.

Please use additional sheets if required, clearly marking the part of the document to which the comments relate e.g. option / paragraph / page number.

**Comments must be received by 5pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2017.** Comments can be submitted in the following ways:

- online via the consultation portal <http://wyreforestdc-consult.limehouse.co.uk/portal/>
- by email to [LPR@wyreforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:LPR@wyreforestdc.gov.uk)
- via post to Planning Policy, Wyre Forest District Council, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF

1. Personal Details		2. Agent Details (if applicable)	
Title	Mr	Title	
First Name	James	First Name	
Last Name	Hughes	Last Name	
Job Title	Lead Adviser	Job Title	
(where relevant)		(where relevant)	
Organisation	Natural England	Organisation	
(where relevant)		(where relevant)	
Address Line 1		Address Line 1	
Line 2		Line 2	
Line 3		Line 3	
Line 4		Line 4	
Post Code		Post Code	
Telephone Number		Telephone Number	
E-mail address		E-mail address	

Please tick if you are happy to receive future correspondence by email. ☐

## Appendix 3

3. Please indicate which part of the document you would like to comment on (e.g. paragraph, policy, map, table or figure reference)

Sustainability Appraisal

4. Do you want to support/object/comment on this part of the document?

Support

☐

Comment

X

Object

☐

5. Please set out your comments below clearly stating which part of the Local Plan Preferred Options document each comment relates to (e.g. question / option / paragraph / page number).

We offer the following high level comments and provide site specific comments on a separate response form:

Natural England is pleased to have been consulted at this stage in the SA process and welcome the general approach taken by the Sustainability Appraisal. We acknowledge that the SA has considered reasonable alternatives by considering a range of potential sites for development and that all of the sites have been assessed against the SA objectives.

We note at 2.16 that the next stage of the local plan will consider 'proposed site allocations' i.e. pre-submission (Scheduled for Spring 2018) and further that;

4.2 ".....Alternatives considered at the early stages of plan-making need not be elaborated in too much detail so that the "big issues" are kept clear; only the main differences between alternatives need to be documented i.e. the assessment should be proportionate to the level and scope of decision-making for the plan preparation".

4.4 – "As a plan evolves, there may be further consideration of options that have developed by taking the preferred elements from earlier options. Thus the options for plan-making change and develop as responses from consultation are considered and further studies are undertaken."

4.5 – "There is a hierarchy of options assessment with sites that are not viable or deliverable or might have adverse effects on protected environmental assets rejected at an early stage."

Nonetheless our concerns regarding sites consulted on in 2016 and affecting nationally designated sites around the town remain unaddressed. Our consultation responses dated 9.9.16 and 2.12.16 refer. Natural England repeats its requests for a meeting (previously expressed by email in December 2016 and April 2017) with the LPA to discuss the approach to be taken with regard to these sites.


We draw the Council's attention to the fundamental nature of these concerns and the need to ensure as far as possible that the plan can be judged 'sound' at the next stage of local plan making.

Signature:

Date:

### Data Protection and Freedom of Information

All personal information that you provide will be used solely for the purpose of the Local Plan consultation. Please note that each comment and the name of the person who made the comment may be featured on the Wyre Forest District Council website, comments will not be confidential. Full comments, including addresses, may also be available to view on request. **By submitting this form you are agreeing to these conditions.**

	<b>Wyre Forest District Council Local Plan Review</b>  <b>Preferred Options Document Consultation June 2017</b>	<b>FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY</b>
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1. Personal Details		2. Agent Details (if applicable)	
Title	Mr	Title	<input type="text"/>
First Name	James	First Name	<input type="text"/>
Last Name	Hughes	Last Name	<input type="text"/>
Job Title (where relevant)	Lead Adviser	Job Title (where relevant)	<input type="text"/>
Organisation (where relevant)	Natural England	Organisation (where relevant)	<input type="text"/>
Address Line 1	<input type="text"/>	Address Line 1	<input type="text"/>
Line 2	<input type="text"/>	Line 2	<input type="text"/>
Line 3	<input type="text"/>	Line 3	<input type="text"/>
Line 4	<input type="text"/>	Line 4	<input type="text"/>
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Telephone Number	<input type="text"/>	Telephone Number	<input type="text"/>
E-mail address	<input type="text"/>	E-mail address	<input type="text"/>

Please tick if you are happy to receive future correspondence by email. ☐



# Appendix 3

3. Please indicate which part of the document you would like to comment on (e.g. paragraph, policy, map, table or figure reference)

Site Allocations 1

4. Do you want to support/object/comment on this part of the document?

Support

☐

Comment

X

Object

☐

5. Please set out your comments below clearly stating which part of the Local Plan Preferred Options document each comment relates to (e.g. question / option / paragraph / page number).

For the purposes of Natural England's remit when considering site allocations we regard sites of around 100 or more houses or 3ha or more of employment land (as a rule of thumb) as 'strategic sites' and apply a range of considerations to inform plan making. The themes and issues described below are therefore relevant to the following site allocation policies:

Policy 30 - Kidderminster Town – all tables.

Policy 31 – Kidderminster urban extensions - all tables

Policy 32 – Stourport-on-Severn – all tables

Policy 33 – Bewdley – Table 33.0.1

Policy 34 – Previously developed sites in the green belt – Table 34.0.1

**Least environmental value** – In particular allocations should avoid designated sites, priority habitats and best and most versatile land. NPPF para 110 refers – as do our previous consultation responses of 9.9.16 and 2.12.16.

**Landscape** - The allocation should be consistent with local plan landscape policies. A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment should be undertaken for each site under consideration, and its conclusions should inform the development specification/masterplan/brief. Sites proceeding to formal allocation should conserve and enhance the landscape character of the area. NPPF paras 17, 109 and 170 refer.

**Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)** – please see above re 'least environmental value'. NPPF para 118 also refers as do our previous consultation responses of 9.9.16 and 2.12.16. We look forward to meeting with the Council to discuss our previous responses regarding the potential impacts of those allocations likely to have adverse effects on SSSIs including: Hurcott Pasture, Hurcott & Podmore Pools, Wilden Marsh & Meadows, Hartlebury Common & Hillditch Coppice, Areley Wood.


**Local Sites (biodiversity and geodiversity)** – While Natural England is unable to provide advice on the specific impacts of proposed development allocations on local sites we strongly encourage the Council to use locally available evidence and expertise to assess impacts on them. A number of local wildlife site datasets are available via [gov.uk](http://gov.uk). Such sites should be mapped and impacts properly assessed. NPPF paras 113,117,118 refer. *[Continued on second representation form....]*

Signature:

Date:

## Data Protection and Freedom of Information

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	<p><b>Wyre Forest District Council</b>  <b>Local Plan Review</b></p> <p><b>Preferred Options Document</b>  <b>Consultation June 2017</b></p>	<p><b>FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY</b></p>
		<p>Response Number: <input type="text"/></p>
		<p>Date Received:</p>
		<p>Date Acknowledged:</p>

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- via post to Planning Policy, Wyre Forest District Council, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF

1. Personal Details		2. Agent Details (if applicable)	
Title	<input type="text"/>	Title	<input type="text"/>
First Name	<input type="text"/>	First Name	<input type="text"/>
Last Name	<input type="text"/>	Last Name	<input type="text"/>
Job Title (where relevant)	<input type="text"/>	Job Title (where relevant)	<input type="text"/>
Organisation (where relevant)	<input type="text"/>	Organisation (where relevant)	<input type="text"/>
Address Line 1	<input type="text"/>	Address Line 1	<input type="text"/>
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Post Code	<input type="text"/>	Post Code	<input type="text"/>
Telephone Number	<input type="text"/>	Telephone Number	<input type="text"/>
E-mail address	<input type="text"/>	E-mail address	<input type="text"/>

Please tick if you are happy to receive future correspondence by email. ☐

## Appendix 3

3. Please indicate which part of the document you would like to comment on (e.g. paragraph, policy, map, table or figure reference)

Site Allocations 2

4. Do you want to support/object/comment on this part of the document?

Support

☐

Comment

X

Object

☐

5. Please set out your comments below clearly stating which part of the Local Plan Preferred Options document each comment relates to (e.g. question / option / paragraph / page number).

### **Strategic sites (100 homes/3ha of employment land, and above) – Continued from Site Allocations 1**

**Ancient woodland and veteran trees** – our Standing Advice refers as does NPPF para 118.

**Priority species and habitats** – Proposed site allocations should take account of records of these assets. NPPF para 117 refers.

**Protected species** – As above. Our standing advice refers.

**Ecological networks** – Allocations should set out how connectivity of the network will be maintained or enhanced. NPPF para 117 refers.

**Green infrastructure** – Allocations should maintain and enhance the green infrastructure resource by connecting with existing GI and providing new GI on site. NPPF para 114 refers.

**Rights of way** – Allocations should protect and enhance public rights of way, incorporating them into new development in sympathy with their character and quality. NPPF paras 74 and 75 refer.

Signature:


Antony Muller

Date:

11/08/2017

### **Data Protection and Freedom of Information**

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	<b>Wyre Forest District Council Local Plan Review</b>  <b>Preferred Options Document Consultation June 2017</b>	<b>FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY</b>
		Response Number: <input type="text"/>
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## DETAILED RESPONSE FORM

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- via post to Planning Policy, Wyre Forest District Council, Wyre Forest House, Finepoint Way, Kidderminster, DY11 7WF

1. Personal Details		2. Agent Details (if applicable)	
Title	<input type="text"/>	Title	<input type="text"/>
First Name	<input type="text"/>	First Name	<input type="text"/>
Last Name	<input type="text"/>	Last Name	<input type="text"/>
Job Title (where relevant)	<input type="text"/>	Job Title (where relevant)	<input type="text"/>
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Please tick if you are happy to receive future correspondence by email. ☐

## Appendix 3

3. Please indicate which part of the document you would like to comment on (e.g. paragraph, policy, map, table or figure reference)

SA – sites

4. Do you want to support/object/comment on this part of the document?

Support

☐

Comment

X

Object

☐

5. Please set out your comments below clearly stating which part of the Local Plan Preferred Options document each comment relates to (e.g. question / option / paragraph / page number).

The comments set out below relate to the matrices within Appendix G and follow up on our previous response on the SA:

**FPH/1, Settling ponds, Wilden Lane** – the SA matrices for this allocation highlights that proposals could result in impacts on landscape and biodiversity but it is not explained in the accompanying text. We would have concerns that development in this location could potentially impact on the Wilden Marsh & Meadows SSSI.

**BW/4, Hurcott ADR** – we note that the matrices have identified that this site is adjacent to the SSSI and a residual negative impact on landscape and biodiversity may result unless mitigation is in place. We acknowledge that the local plan policy explains that extensive areas will be left undeveloped to protect the adjacent Hurcott Meadows SSSI.

**WFR/WC/15, Lea Castle** - we acknowledge that the SA identifies that this site includes large tracts of woodland and acid grassland that needs to be protected and that fragmentation of ecological corridor should be avoided.

**BR/RO/7, New Road Far Forest and BR/BE/6, Land off Highclere** – priority habitats should be considered within these allocations.

**AS/5, Victoria Carpets, Sports Ground** – Whilst flooding issues are mentioned in the SA for this site the possible impact on the Wilden Marsh & Meadows SSSI via the Hoo Brook has not been included.

**OC/13 East of Kidderminster** – Whilst we support enhancements to the watercourse and pools for this area we would expect the SA to mention the potential impact on Wilden Marsh & Meadows SSSI.

**MI/3, Parsons Chain** – The potential impact on the Hartlebury Common and Hilditch Coppice SSSI should be mentioned.

**FPH/10, British Sugar Phase 2** – the potential impact on Wilden Marsh & Meadows does not appear to have been fully considered.

**BW1, Churchfields & BW2 Lime Kiln Bridge** – the impact on deciduous woodland, the River Stour and Wilden Marsh & Meadows should be considered.

Signature:

Antony Muller

Date:

11/08/2017

### Data Protection and Freedom of Information

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## Appendix 4

Date: 14 November 2015  
Our ref: 164324  
Your ref: Wyre Forest Issues and Options Consultaiton



Rebecca Brown  
Wyre Forest District Council  
**BY EMAIL ONLY**

Customer Services  
Hornbeam House  
Crewe Business Park  
Electra Way  
Crewe  
Cheshire  
CW1 6GJ

Dear Ms Brown

**Planning consultation:** Wyre Forest District Local Plan Review; Issues and Options Consultation  
**Location:** Wyre Forest District

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 01 September 2015 which was received by Natural England on 02 September 2015.

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

**The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (as amended) 2010;**  
**The Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) 1981;**  
**Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006**  
**The Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000**

In response to the Issues and Options Consultation please find our responses below. We did not respond to some of the questions asked as we do not have a statutory involvement in these areas, therefore only questions that we had an answer to are listed. My sincere apologies for the lateness of our response.

### Q 1

There are no evidence based studies in regards specifically to the Environment. For example, impacts on designated sites etc. As the developments in the area will be impacted by restrictions due to these designated sites it would be appropriate for all evidence on these designated sites to be collated and examined.

### Q2

The plan should be seen as an opportunity to reach government targets in regards to improving SSSIs in the area rather than just avoiding impacts on them. Proactive work on SSSIs in the Wyre Forest District could have a significant beneficial impact.  
Threats should also include the threat of increased developments on SSSIs, as this is very likely in this area.

### Q5

Nothing further to add as the following statement covers what we would wish to see;  
'Protecting, conserving and, where it is possible to do so, enhancing the District's rich natural

## Appendix 4

environment and historic assets.'

### Q6

We would like to see more reference to the SSSIs within the area, specifically the Wyre Forest SSSI in improving its condition and enhancing where possible. The document states that the local community rely on the natural environment in several ways, specifically to encourage visitors for example and therefore it should be a high priority within this vision to protect and enhance it. .

### Q8

A key strategic issue should the impacts of cumulative development in important areas in regards to the environment. This is often over looked as planning comes in on a case by case basis. The Wyre Forest District should be working closely with planning teams in all surrounding districts.

### Q9

Due to the size, complexity and local impact that the Wyre Forest has this should be a character area in itself.

### Q10

We agree with brown field regeneration, however impacts on local SSSIs should be taken into account at each of these locations, construction at some of these areas would have impacts on SSSIs, specifically ones that have a hydrological link.

### Q11

Yes it should be implemented and will help deliver important infrastructure.

### Q12

We don't know in regards to the first question. It would be good in some ways if there were.

Development is needed in rural areas as well as in the main towns to provide affordable housing in rural villages. However due to the high importance of the environment in surrounding rural areas this would have to be done with caution to avoid impacts on protected sites.

### Q16

Due to its proximity to the Wyre Forest any expansion to Bewdley should be carefully planned so as not to impact on the Wyre Forest SSSI.

### Q35

Despite the landscape not being a protected landscape it is still of high importance. A proactive approach should be taken to ensure new developments do not negatively impact on the different landscape areas.

A different policy for each character would not be necessary but the policy to cover landscape in the district should be comprehensive and defensible against inappropriate development.

### Q36

We would like to see continued strict control over any expansion of chalets and mobile homes.

### Q37

The current policy is good but it could be tightened further. Equestrian facilities in the district do seem to be expanding and their impacts are often underestimated during planning in regards to impacts on the environment and landscape.

### Q38

Increased residential development would increase the usage of these areas but this should be managed correctly. Providing information as to the reasons for the importance of these areas would encourage people to look after them. Encouraging local groups and the community to become

## Appendix 4

involved in managing and protecting these areas has been successful in other similar cases.

Sites in and around urban areas suffer due to developments and antisocial behaviour. Therefore perhaps the current policies need some amendments to strengthen them.

### **Q39**

Green Infrastructure should continue to be a key priority. An increase in green infrastructure should encourage more use of the natural assets previously mentioned. This would hopefully reduce impacts of anti-social behaviour. Green Infrastructure should play a part in several policies throughout the plan.

### **SSSI Impact Risk Zones**

The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 requires local planning authorities to consult Natural England on “Development in or likely to affect a Site of Special Scientific Interest” (Schedule 4, w). Our SSSI Impact Risk Zones are a GIS dataset designed to be used during the planning application validation process to help local planning authorities decide when to consult Natural England on developments likely to affect a SSSI. The dataset and user guidance can be accessed from the [data.gov.uk](https://data.gov.uk) website.

Yours sincerely

Liz Appleyard

Lead Adviser – Planning. South Mercia Sustainable Development team