
Local Development Framework

Publication Stage Report Core Strategy Habitat Directive Assessment (HDA) Screening Report

September 2010

Executive summary

This report presents the findings of a Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA) Screening exercise undertaken in compliance with the EU Habitats Directive for Barnet's Core Strategy. This screening exercise will determine whether any of the policies and proposals that form the Core Strategy will have a likely significant impact on any European designated site within or adjacent to the plan area.

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Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
CLG	Communities and Local Government
DPD	Development Plan Document
HDA	Habitat Directive Assessment
LDD	Local Development Document
LDF	Local Development Framework
PCT	Primary Care Trust
RSS	Regional Spatial Strategy
SA	Sustainability Appraisal
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SPA	Special Protection Area
SR	Screening Report
UDP	Unitary Development Plan

1 Introduction

- 1.1 We are undertaking this Screening Report (SR) to consider the need for an Appropriate Assessment (AA) known for this report as a Habitat Directive Assessment (HDA), in compliance with the EU Habitats Directive, as part of Barnet's Core Strategy. The HDA screening exercise considers whether the approach to a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of a European site.
- 1.2 The first step in undertaking a screening exercise for a Habitat Directive Assessment (HDA) is to identify any policies and proposals with the potential for significant impact on any European designated site within or adjacent to the plan areas. These policies would then be taken through subsequent stages of the HDA process. This screening exercise is presented here.

2 The need for habitat directive assessment

- 2.1 In October 2005, the European Court of Justice ruled that HDA's must be carried out on all land use planning documents in the UK. The purpose of the HDA of land use plans is to ensure that the protection and integrity of European nature conservation sites (also known as the Natura 2000 network) is part of the planning process at the regional and local level. In response to this ruling, a new section (Part IVA) was inserted into Conservation (Natural Habitats & c) Regulations, 1994 ('the regulations') during August 2007 which requires local planning authorities to undertake habitat directive assessment of land use plans in England and Wales in accordance with the provision of the Habitats Directive.
- 2.2 The requirement for a HDA of plans or projects is outlined in Article 6(3) and (4) of the European Communities (1992) Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora ('Habitats Directive'). The EU Habitats Directive is implemented in the UK through 'the regulations'. The regulations are responsible for safeguarding designated conservation sites considered of EU importance. Such designated sites include Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas for Conservation (SACs) and international RAMSAR sites.
- 2.3 Guidance from the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) on HDAs (Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment – Guidance for Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents (August 2006)) summarises the HDA process prescribed in Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitat Directive into three main stages:
- Task 1 – Likely significant effects
 - Task 2 – Appropriate assessment to ascertain adverse impacts on site integrity
 - Task 3 – Mitigation and alternative solutions
- 2.4 Task 1 of the process to identify whether a plan option may have likely significant effects on European sites and is referred to as a 'screening' exercise under the regulations. This determines whether stages 2 and 3 (the HDA) are required.
- 2.5 In accordance with the regulations a HDA is required when, in view of a European Site's objectives, the effect of a land use plan:
- a) is likely to have adverse impact on a European site in Great Britain (either alone or in combination with other plans and projects); and
 - b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site.

3 The purpose of screening

- 3.1 Screening for HDA will determine whether the plan is likely to have a significant adverse impact on the conservation objectives of European sites and therefore whether stage 2 and stage 3 (the HDA) are required. In situations where significant indirect impacts of the plan implementation could occur within Natura 2000 Sites beyond the plan area, these remote sites should be considered at the HDA screening stage.
- 3.2 If the potential for significant adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites is identified during screening, a HDA considers the potential for impacts in more detail and whether alternative measures can be adopted. If there are no viable alternatives, the Plan can only be implemented if there are ‘imperative reasons of overriding public interest’ (Article 6(4)).

4 Methodology

- 4.1 In accordance with ‘Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment’ and ‘The Assessment of Regional Spatial Strategies and Sub- Regional Strategies under the Provisions of Habitats Regulation Guidance’ (the guidance) the following methodology was adopted for this screening report:

- **Identification of Natura 2000 sites**

This involved the identification of European sites within or in close proximity (within 15km) to Barnet.

- **Site information**

Information was obtained for each European site, based on information relating to the site’s qualifying features, geographical boundaries and conservation objectives, available from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), the statutory advisor to the government on UK nature conservation.

- **Analysis of the plan for potential adverse impacts**

Providing a framework of criteria against which the policies can be assessed for impact.

- **Screening Analysis of the Core Strategy policies**

Using the codes / criteria for recording the effect and impacts of a policy on a European Site, the options for each issue of the Core Strategy will be assessed for its impact on a European Site.

- **Assessment of ‘in-combination’ effects**

This involved the consideration of other plans which may, in combination with the Core Strategy, have the potential to adversely impact European sites.

- 4.2 This report comprises the first stage of the process, screening, which determines likely significant effects the Core Strategy may have on a Natura 2000 site and thus whether or not a HDA is needed.
- 4.3 The emerging objectives for the Core Strategy are described and a test is applied to identify any likely significant effects on the likely impact of the principles on the conservation objectives of designated Natura 2000 sites.
- 4.4 Where one or more likely significant effects are found, or where it cannot be objectively shown that adverse impact on site integrity will not occur, the second stage of the process will commence and the Plan becomes subject to a Habitats Directive Assessment against the conservation objectives of each of the Natura 2000 sites. If no adverse impacts on site integrity are identified, the Core Strategy can proceed.

4.5 The figure below highlights the methodology to be followed when applying Regulation 85 of the Habitats Regulation, with the steps recorded within this report highlighted in yellow.

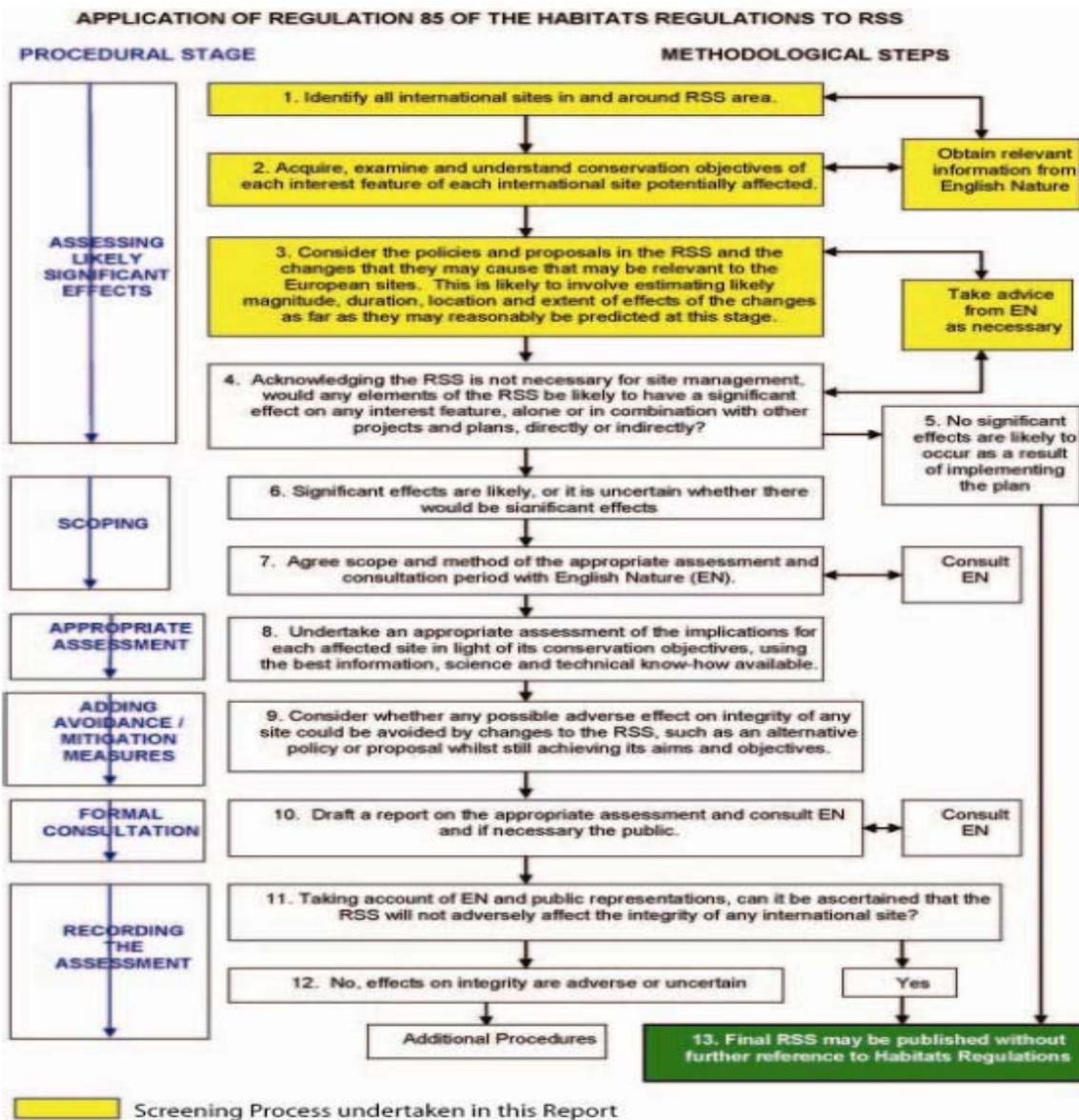


Figure 1: Steps involved in carrying out an Appropriate Assessment

5 Identification of sites

5.1 For the authority to undertake this part of the screening assessment, it is necessary to identify which Natura 2000 sites should be considered in the assessment. Only then can an assessment be made as to whether the Core Strategy is directly connected with or necessary to the management of the Natura 2000 sites.

5.2 In identifying which Natura 2000 sites may be affected by proposals within the Core Strategy, the authority has considered any site that lies within 15 Km of the borough's administrative boundaries. Maps of sites within this radius are included in Appendix 1. In order to take a precautionary approach a 15 Km buffer has been selected.

- 5.3 5 Natura 2000 sites were identified between 0 and 15 Km of the Plan area. The sites are:
- Lee Valley (Ramsar / SPA)
 - Epping Forest (SAC)
 - Richmond Park (SAC)
 - Wimbledon Common (SAC)
 - Wormley – Hoddesdonpark Woods (SAC)

6 Site information

- 6.1 The following table identifies the general characteristics and the reasons for its designation or conservation objectives / issues.

Type of Site	Site Name	General Site Character	Conservation Objectives / Issues
SAC	Richmond Park	846.62 Ha Inland water bodies (standing water, running water) (1.5%) Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (0.5%) Scrub. (25%) Dry grassland. (18%) Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland (5%) Improved grassland (20%) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (25%) Mixed woodland (5%)	<p><u>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site;</u> Not applicable</p> <p><u>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site;</u> Not applicable.</p> <p><u>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site;</u></p> <p>1083 Stag beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i></p> <p>Richmond Park has a large number of ancient trees with decaying timber. It is at the heart of the south London centre of distribution for stag beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i>, and is a site of national importance for the conservation of the fauna of invertebrates associated with the decaying timber of ancient trees.</p> <p><u>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection;</u> Not applicable.</p>
SAC	Epping Forest	1630.5 Ha Inland water bodies (standing water, running water) (6%) Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (0.2%) Heath. Scrub. (3.8%) Dry grassland. Steppes (20%) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (70%)	<p><u>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site;</u></p> <p>9120 Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with <i>Ilex</i> and sometimes also <i>Taxus</i> in the shrublayer (<i>Quercion robur-petraeae</i> or <i>Illici-Fagenion</i>)</p> <p>Epping Forest represents Atlantic acidophilous beech forests in the north-eastern part of the habitat's UK range. Although the epiphytes at this site have declined, largely as a result of air pollution, it remains important for a range of rare species, including the moss <i>Zygodon forsteri</i>. The long history of pollarding, and resultant large number of veteran trees, ensures that the site is also rich in fungi and dead-wood invertebrates.</p> <p><u>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site;</u></p> <p>4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i></p> <p>4030 European dry heaths</p> <p><u>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site;</u></p> <p>1083 Stag beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i></p> <p>Epping Forest is a large woodland area in which records of stag beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i> are widespread and frequent; the site straddles the Essex and east London population centres. Epping Forest is a very important site for fauna associated with decaying timber, and supports many Red Data Book and Nationally Scarce invertebrate species.</p> <p><u>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection;</u> Not applicable.</p>

SAC	Wimbledon Common	<p>351.38 Ha Inland water bodies (standing water, running water) (1%) Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens (0.5%) Heath. Scrub. (5%) Dry grassland. (45%) Improved grassland (3.5%) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (45%)</p>	<p><u>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site;</u> Not applicable. <u>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site;</u> 4010 <u>Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>.</u> 4030 <u>European dry heaths.</u> <u>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site;</u> 1083 <u>Stag beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i></u> Wimbledon Common has a large number of old trees and much fallen decaying timber. It is at the heart of the south London centre of distribution for stag beetle <i>Lucanus cervus</i>, and a relatively large number of records were received from this site during a recent nationwide survey for the species (Percy <i>et al.</i> 2000). The site supports a number of other scarce invertebrate species associated with decaying timber. <u>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection.</u> Not applicable.</p>
SAC	Wormley-Hoddesdon Woods	<p>336.47 Ha Heath Scrub.(2%) Dry grassland. (3%) Broad-leaved deciduous woodland (90%) Coniferous woodland (3%) Mixed woodland (2%).</p>	<p><u>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site;</u> 9160 <u>Sub-Atlantic and medio-European oak or oak-hornbeam forests of the <i>Carpinus betuli</i>.</u> Wormley Hoddesdonpark Woods in south-east England has large stands of almost pure hornbeam <i>Carpinus betulus</i> (former coppice), with sessile oak <i>Quercus petraea</i> standards. Areas dominated by Bluebell <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> do occur, but elsewhere there are stands of great wood-rush <i>Luzula sylvatica</i> with carpets of the mosses <i>Dicranum majus</i> and <i>Leucobryum glaucum</i>. Locally, a bryophyte community more typical of continental Europe occurs, including the mosses <i>Dicranum montanum</i>, <i>D. flagellare</i> and <i>D. tauricum</i>. <u>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site;</u> Not applicable. <u>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site;</u> Not applicable. <u>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection;</u> Not applicable.</p>
Ramsar	Lee Valley	<p>451.29 Ha Series of embanked water supply reservoirs; sewage treatment lagoons, and former gravel pits extending along about 24km of the valley from near Ware southward to Finsbury Park in London.</p>	<p>These water bodies support internationally important numbers of wintering Gadwall and Shoveler (Criterion 6) and nationally important numbers of several other bird species. The site also contains a range of wetland and valley bottom habitats, both human made and semi-natural, which support a diverse array of wetland fauna and flora. Four SSSIs are included within the site. Virtually all parts of the site are subject to management plans in which nature conservation is a high or sole priority. Potential threats from eutrophic condition of the water, over-abstraction of surface water for public supply in periods of drought, and urban development pressures are felt to be addressed by several directives and regulations. Non-consumptive recreational activities are important and mostly well regulated.</p>

7 Analysis of the plan for potential adverse impacts

7.1 Using the following coding for recording effects and impacts on a European Site¹, each Core Strategy option has been assessed and the relevant criterion / criterion determined for each. Those awarded one or more of the criterion numbered 1-7 in the table below will be assessed as having no effect on a European Site. Those policies awarded 8 are considered to have a potential impact and those awarded a 9 are likely to have a significant effect on a European site. Policies considered to have no impact on a European Site, do not require an Appropriate Assessment.

<i>Reason why policy would not have likely significant effects on a European Site</i>
1. The policy itself will not itself lead to development (e.g. it related to design or other qualitative criteria for development, or it is not a land use planning policy).
2. The policy makes provision for a quantum / type of development (and may or may not indicate one or more broad locations e.g. county, or district, or sub region) but the location of the development is to be selected following consideration of options in lower tier plans (Development Plan Documents).
3. No development could occur through this policy alone, because it is implemented through sub-ordinate policies that are more detailed and therefore more appropriate to assess for their likely significant effects on a European Site and associated sensitive areas.
4. Concentration of development in urban areas will not affect a European Site and will help to steer development and land use change away from a European Site and associated sensitive areas.
5. The policy will help to steer development away from a European Site and associated sensitive areas, e.g. not developing in areas of flood risk or areas otherwise likely to be affected by climate change.
6. The policy is intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity.
7. The policy is intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, and enhancement measure will not be likely to have any effect on a European Site.
<i>Reason why policy could have a potential effect</i>
8. The Local Development Framework steers a quantum or type of development towards, or encourages development in, an area that includes a European Site or an area where development may indirectly affect a European Site.
<i>Reason why policy would likely to have a significant effect</i>
9. The policy makes provision for a quantum, or kind of development that in the location(s) proposed would be likely to have a significant effect on a European Site. The proposal must be subject to appropriate assessment to establish, in light of the site's conservation objectives, whether it can be ascertained that the proposal would not adversely affect the integrity of the site.

8 Screening analysis of the Core Strategy

- 8.1 This section screens the policies discussed within the Core Strategy Publication Stage report. The policies are assessed, for their impact, against the criteria provided in Section.
- 8.2 The policies included in the Publication Stage report for Barnet's Core Strategy were analysed for their potential to result in likely significant impacts on European sites. A precautionary approach was used and the assessment also considers cumulative impacts.

¹ Tyldesley and Associates – prepared for Natural England Draft Guidance – The Assessment of Regional Spatial Strategies and Sub Regional Strategies under the Provisions of the Habitats Regulations 2006 – Annex 2

Core Strategy Publication Stage policy CS1

Policy CS 1 – Barnet’s Place Shaping Strategy – Protection, Enhancement and Consolidated Growth – The Three Strands Approach

Barnet’s place shaping strategy is to concentrate and consolidate housing and economic growth in well located areas that provide opportunities for development, creating a quality environment that will have positive economic impacts on the deprived neighbourhoods that surround them. The key diagram sets out the areas where we expect housing and economic growth.

The council, along with its partners, will focus major housing and economic growth in the most suitable locations and manage it to ensure that we deliver sustainable development, while continuing to conserve and enhance the distinctiveness of Barnet as a place to live work and visit. An appropriate level of transport provision will be provided as the regeneration schemes roll out.

We will seek the highest standards of urban design in order to generate development proposals of landmark quality and create a safe and attractive environment for people who live in, work in or visit Barnet’s areas of housing and economic growth.

We will only consider tall buildings subject to them not having an unacceptably harmful impact on their surroundings.

We will work with partners and other relevant organisations to secure ‘critical’, ‘necessary’ and ‘preferred’ infrastructure as set out in Barnet’s Infrastructure Delivery Plan and ensure that new development funds infrastructure through S106 and other funding mechanisms.

As our focus of housing and employment growth we will promote opportunities on the west side of the borough in the strategically identified North West London – Luton Coordination Corridor. We will promote the following **regeneration** and **development** areas in the west of the borough:

- Brent Cross – Cricklewood regeneration area - 7,500 new homes
- Colindale regeneration area - 10,000 new homes
- Mill Hill East development area – 2,000 new homes

Core Strategy Policy CS 3 sets out the areas where we expect 28,000 new homes to be delivered between 2011/12 and 2025/26

Core Strategy Policy CS 4 sets out our aim to create successful communities by providing quality homes and housing choice

Consolidated growth will be complimented by:

Protection of

- Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land that covers over one third of Barnet
- Core Strategy Policy CS 5 sets out how we will ensure that development helps to protect and enhance Barnet’s heritage and character
- Core Strategy Policy CS 7 sets out how in order to create a greener Barnet we will enhance and protect our open spaces

Enhancement of

- priority town centres (Chipping Barnet, Edgware, Finchley Church End and North Finchley) where we will promote mixed use development in accordance with the place making policies set out within the Core Strategy;
- the historic suburban environment comprising 18 conservation areas, 1,300 listed buildings and registered historic parks and gardens
- Core Strategy Policy CS 6 sets out how we will realise development opportunities in town centres in order to promote them as successful and vibrant places
- Core Strategy Policy CS 8 sets out how in order to provide opportunity for economic advancement we will ensure a strong and prosperous Barnet

Core Strategy Publication Stage policy CS2

Policy CS 2 – Brent Cross – Cricklewood

Brent Cross – Cricklewood is identified as an Area of Opportunity in the London Plan and on Map 5. It will be a major focus for the creation of new jobs and homes, building upon the area's strategic location and its key rail facilities.

We will seek comprehensive redevelopment of Brent Cross – Cricklewood in accordance with the London Plan, the saved UDP policies and the adopted Development Framework. This will provide the key elements of the local planning policy framework for deciding future planning applications unless and until replaced by new DPD or SPD as a result of the LDF Monitoring and review process. It is considered likely that comprehensive regeneration will be achieved in accordance with the planning permission which is resolved to be granted to the BXC Development Partners. If this proves unlikely then we will consider whether in the circumstances the LDF needs to be reviewed.

Specific monitoring indicators for Brent Cross – Cricklewood are set out in Appendix B and we will have regard to them in monitoring the progress made in the implementation and delivery of regeneration, including the achievement of important milestones (as set out in Appendix B) towards the initiation of development under the planning permission described in the information box on Brent Cross – Cricklewood.

It is anticipated that the BXC Development Partners are committed to progressing the project as quickly as reasonably practicable towards commencement of the development under the permission subject to securing the necessary planning approvals, highways orders and site assembly. On the basis of these indicators we expect that comprehensive re-development will commence in relation to Phase 1 at some time between 2015 and 2017.

If in the light of progress made in securing pre-commencement approvals and other related procedures as well as actual delivery of the development these milestones are not achieved (or are not likely to be capable of being delivered) we will consider the possible need for a review of the Core Strategy policy on Brent Cross – Cricklewood in the light of progress that is being made in delivering this important strategic project.

Core Strategy Publication Stage policy CS3

Policy CS 3 - Distribution of Growth in Meeting Housing Aspirations

On the basis of our Three Strands Approach we expect that in the range of 28,000 new homes will be provided within the lifetime of this Core Strategy 2011/12 to 2025/26.

As our focus of growth we will promote opportunities on the west side of the borough in the strategically identified North West London – Luton Coordination Corridor. We will promote the following regeneration and development areas in the Corridor:

- Brent Cross - Cricklewood
- Colindale
- Mill Hill East

These areas are expected to provide in the range of 17,000 new homes between 2011/12 to 2025/26. An appropriate level of transport provision will be provided as the regeneration schemes roll out.

We will, in order to meet the Decent Homes standard, and deliver a greater range and variety of accommodation, also promote the regeneration of priority housing estates at:

- Dollis Valley
- Grahame Park²
- Granville Road

² The regeneration of Grahame Park is incorporated into the Colindale regeneration area

- Stonegrove and Spur Road
- West Hendon

These areas are expected to provide in the range of 2,400 new homes between 2011/12 to 2025/26 We will also promote the development area of the North London Business Park and Oakleigh Road South in order to develop 400 new homes by 2020/21 as part of a mixed use development in accordance with the adopted Planning Brief of June 2006

Through the regeneration and development areas, regeneration estates and town centres housing will be provided in the following 5 year phases

2011/12 to 2015/16

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| • Colindale | 5,300 new homes |
| • Mill Hill East | 900 new homes |
| • West Hendon | 680 new homes |
| • Granville Road | 140 new homes |
| • Stonegrove and Spur Road; | 120 new homes |
| • Dollis Valley | 160 new homes |
| • North London Business Park | 150 new homes |

TOTAL 7,500 new homes

2016/17 to 2020/21

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| • Brent Cross - Cricklewood | 3,100 new homes |
| • Colindale | 2,600 new homes |
| • Mill Hill East | 1,000 new homes |
| • West Hendon | 420 new homes |
| • Stonegrove and Spur Road | 80 new homes |
| • Dollis Valley | 270 new homes |
| • North London Business Park | 150 new homes |

TOTAL 7,620 new homes

2021/22 to 2025/26

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| • Brent Cross - Cricklewood | 3,200 new homes |
| • Colindale | 300 new homes |
| • Mill Hill East | 200 new homes |
| • West Hendon | 410 new homes |
| • Dollis Valley | 110 new homes |

TOTAL 4,220 new homes

Through a programme of town centre strategies we will develop frameworks for the town centres of Chipping Barnet, Edgware, Finchley Church End and North Finchley. These locations will provide the main focus for enhancement and infill housing development: and will provide for residential uses above ground floor level

Our strategic approach on further development opportunity sites will be set within the context of the density matrix in the existing London Plan. We will seek to optimise rather than simply maximise housing density to reflect local context, public transport accessibility and provision of social infrastructure.

Core Strategy Publication Stage policy CS4

Policy CS 4 - Providing quality homes and housing choice in Barnet

We will aim to create successful communities in Barnet by:

- seeking to ensure a mix of housing products in the affordable and market sectors to provide choice for all households and enable Barnet residents to progress on a housing journey that can meet the aspirations of home ownership
- seeking a range of dwelling sizes and types of housing including family and lifetime homes that meets our identified housing priorities and does not undermine suburban character or local distinctiveness
- seeking a variety of housing related support options that maximise the independence of vulnerable residents including young people, people with disabilities, older people, homeless people and other vulnerable adults
- delivering a minimum affordable housing target of 5,500 new affordable homes by 2025/26 and seeking a boroughwide target of 30% affordable homes on sites capable of accommodating ten or more dwellings
- seeking an appropriate mix of affordable housing of 60% social rented and 40% intermediate for Barnet that will support our objectives of widening home ownership and providing family homes
- on sites which are suitable for the provision of an element of affordable housing, we may exceptionally accept the provision of off-site housing, or a commuted payment instead of such provision

Within the Site Allocations DPD we will seek to identify land to meet the long term needs of Gypsies and Travellers, having regard to:

- potential of the site for good management
- impact on local environment, character and amenity
- access to essential services including water and waste disposal

We will monitor the delivery of additional housing against our target of 28,000 new homes by 2025/26 and will seek to maintain supply at the rate necessary to meet or exceed the target. In seeking to maintain the housing supply we will adjust the type and mix of housing sought, having regard to the financial viability of development, the housing market and the needs of different groups.

Core Strategy Publication Stage policy CS5

Policy CS 5 - Protecting and enhancing Barnet's character to create high quality places

We will ensure that development in Barnet respects local context and distinctive local character creating places and buildings of high quality design that :

- are safe and attractive and fully accessible
- provide vibrant, attractive and accessible public spaces
- respect and enhance the distinctive natural landscapes of Barnet
- protect and enhance the gardens of residential properties
- protecting important local views from places within Barnet
- enhance the borough's high quality suburbs and historic areas through the provision of buildings of the highest quality that are sustainable and adaptable
- protect and enhance Barnet's rich heritage including conservation areas, listed buildings and historic parks and gardens; and London's only battlefield site

The Barnet Characterisation Study forms the baseline for the identification of places with a consistent and coherent architectural character. Within the typologies identified in the Characterisation Study we will through our Development Management Policies DPD and Residential Design Guidance SPD develop a framework to protect and enhance those high quality suburbs in Barnet not protected by Conservation Area designations.

Tall Buildings

Tall buildings (in excess of 8 storeys) will only be considered subject to the key considerations outlined in the Tall Buildings Study. These considerations include

- Proximity and access to green open space
- Integration into urban grain and use of active street frontages and podium blocks
- Impact on important local views
- Impact on historic environment
- Access to good public transport, shops and services
- Landmark tall buildings should only be located in places that warrant marking

Core Strategy Publication Stage policy CS6

Policy CS 6 – Promoting Barnet's town centres

In order to promote competitive town centre environments and provide consumer choice we will realise development opportunities for the town centres of Edgware, North Finchley, Finchley Church End, and Chipping Barnet. We will pursue the individual planning objectives for each centre as set out in their Town Centre Frameworks through the delivery of environmental, design, transport and community safety measures

- we will promote successful and vibrant centres throughout Barnet to serve the needs of residents, workers and visitors and ensure that new development is of an appropriate scale and character for the centre in which it is located
- In order to create a distinct and attractive business offer we will promote Brent Cross/Cricklewood as a new metropolitan town centre and an Outer London Development Centre following successful mixed use regeneration which delivers an additional 55,000m² (net) of comparison floorspace and 370,000 m² of office floorspace as part of a mix of uses that accords with the London Plan and the saved suite of UDP Policies on Brent Cross- Cricklewood
- we will promote the distribution of retail growth to meet the capacity for an additional 2,200 m² of convenience goods floorspace across Barnet by 2021 -2026. The majority of the convenience capacity arises in the East sub-area (centred on the District Centre of North Finchley) and West sub-area (centred on the Major Centre of Edgware) beyond 2016. **We will therefore not plan further significant convenience goods provision before 2026**
- we will promote the distribution of retail growth to meet the capacity for an additional 16,800 m² of comparison goods floorspace across Barnet by 2021 -2026. The majority of this capacity arises in the East, West and South West sub-areas. On basis of continued expenditure growth we will in addition support comparison goods provision in Edgware, North Finchley and Chipping Barnet
- we will ensure that food, drink, entertainment uses as part of a healthy night time economy in our town centres do not have a harmful effect on residents and the local area
- we will ensure the efficient use of land and buildings in all town centres, encouraging a mix of compatible uses including retail, managed affordable and flexible workspace, leisure and residential that add to the vibrancy of the area whilst respecting character
- we will take a planned approach to development opportunities in Golders Green, Whetstone and New Barnet

- we will through our Site Allocations DPD promote development opportunities in our smaller District Centres at Burnt Oak, Colindale – the Hyde and Cricklewood that enhance the overall attractiveness of these centres
- we will, in order for them to compete with other centres and particularly out of centre retail parks and shops, support retail uses in town centres by improvements to the public realm, the public transport network, short-trip parking and accessibility by cyclists and pedestrians
- we will seek to protect and enhance more 'local' neighbourhood centres and parades of shops in terms of their potential contribution to sustainable suburbs and shopping; and
- we will seek to protect existing markets as part of the retail offer of Burnt Oak, Chipping Barnet and North Finchley town centres and, where appropriate, use S106 contributions to ensure the provision of 'affordable shops' in new retail development.

Core Strategy Publication Stage policy CS7

Policy CS 7 - Enhancing and Protecting Barnet's Open Spaces

In order to create a greener Barnet we will enhance and protect Barnet's Open Spaces by:

- protecting designated open spaces, including Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land, and other suitable land with the potential to be used as open space

Meeting increased demand for access to open space and opportunities for physical activity, by tackling deficiencies and under provision through:

- securing additional on-site open space or other open space improvements in the identified growth areas including 8 ha of new provision at Brent Cross – Cricklewood, 5.5 ha of new provision at Mill Hill East and 5 ha at Colindale
- improving access to open spaces particularly in North and East Finchley and other areas of public open space deficiency identified by Map 9. We will seek to improve provision in these areas of deficiency with the objective of increasing the area of the borough that has access to district and local parks in accordance with the London Plan criteria
- securing improvements to open spaces including provision for children's play, sports facilities and better access arrangements, where opportunities arise, from all developments that create an additional demand for open space
- maintaining and improving the greening of the environment through the protection of incidental greenspace, trees, hedgerows and watercourses enabling green corridors to link Barnet's rural, urban fringe and urban green spaces
- protecting existing Sites of Nature Conservation Importance and working with our partners including the London Wildlife Trust to improve protection and enhancement of biodiversity in Barnet
- ensuring that development protects existing site ecology and makes the fullest contributions to enhancing biodiversity, both through on-site measures and by contribution to local biodiversity improvements; and
- enhancing local food production through the protection of allotments and support for community food growing including the Mayor's Capital Growth Initiative

In supporting new green infrastructure we will:

- as part of the All London Green Grid work with neighbouring authorities to establish Area Frameworks as the basis for identification, creation and management of new green spaces as part of:
 - Lea Valley and Finchley Ridge Green Grid Area
 - Brent Valley and Barnet Plateau Green Grid Area

Reflect the policies and objectives in the Watling Chase Forest Plan when assessing development proposals in the area covered by the Community Forest

Core Strategy Publication Stage policy CS8

Policy CS 8 – Promoting a strong and prosperous Barnet

The Council and its partners will ensure a strong and prosperous Barnet that provides opportunity for economic advancement.

We will support Barnet residents in accessing work by:

- Delivering 1,500 new jobs in our growth areas of Colindale and Mill Hill East by 2021 and a total of 20,000 new jobs in Brent Cross-Cricklewood by 2026
- Attracting business growth as part of Brent Cross - Cricklewood with further provision in the other growth areas and town centres to meet the forecast demand for business space of 13.5 ha by 2026
- requiring major developments to provide financial contributions and to deliver employment and training initiatives in line with the Skills Development Plan;
- working in partnership with the Skills Development Group in delivering the skills agenda required for a growing borough in a successful London suburb

We will support businesses by:

- safeguarding existing employment sites that meet the needs of modern business.
- encouraging development that improves the quality of existing employment provision
- encouraging new mixed use commercial floorspace in our priority town centres (Edgware, North Finchley, Finchley Church End and Chipping Barnet) where access to public transport is good
- in order to support small to medium sized enterprises new employment provision should include a range of unit sizes and types such as affordable and flexible workspaces and home working hubs
- through the Skills Development Group building an understanding about the experience of local businesses and their skills needs
- encouraging partnership working between providers of further and higher education and local business

Core Strategy Publication Stage policy CS9

Policy CS 9 – Providing effective and efficient travel

We will promote the delivery of appropriate transport infrastructure in order to support growth, relieve pressure on Barnet's transport network and reduce the impact of travel whilst maintaining freedom and ability to move at will.

We will ensure that new development funds infrastructure (through Section 106 and other funding mechanisms) that enables Barnet to keep the existing traffic moving and cope with new movements both by all modes of transport.

Ensuring more efficient use of the local road network

- In order to enable traffic to flow more smoothly we will prioritise the reduction of congestion, including through encouraging trips to route according to the road hierarchy, the implementation of development related schemes that also address pinch-points, a review of traffic signals, parking management measures and more efficient freight movements.
- We will continue to invest in improvements to the condition of roads and footways in the borough to ensure that the local road network operates efficiently and safely, and seek to improve co-ordination of maintenance and utility works
- We will continue to manage a parking regime which recognises that many Barnet residents will continue to own and travel by car
- We will work with TfL to review and improve the bus network

- We will continue to make travel safer and attractive by improving street lighting and security coverage at transport interchanges and around bus stops as well as delivering, where resources permit, targeted local safety schemes.

Taking a comprehensive approach to tackling the school run

- We will seek to improve the effectiveness of our School Travel Plans to achieve a greater reduction in car based journeys and increase levels in walking and cycling to and from school
- We will implement complementary traffic management schemes outside schools, including preventing pupil parking

Delivery of high quality transport systems in regeneration areas

We will ensure that development is matched to capacity and promote key transport infrastructure proposals in our town centres and regeneration areas to support Barnet's growth, in particular we will seek the following:

- Pursue housing and commercial growth in the areas outlined in CS1 (Spatial Strategy), CS2 (Distribution of Growth), and CS4 (Town Centres)
- To ensure major planning proposals incorporate Transport Assessments, Travel Plans, Delivery and Servicing Plans, mitigation measures and S106 contributions / planning conditions and that adequate capacity and high quality safe transport facilities are delivered in line with demand for schemes that have phased delivery programmes
- With partners, high quality public transport improvements along the A5 corridor
- Bus service enhancements as part of the Boroughs regeneration schemes, particularly at BXC and Colindale, including a new state of the art bus station as part of the redevelopment of the Brent Cross Shopping Centre and better bus services connecting these two key areas in Barnet
- A Rapid Transit Bus Service at BXC - a dedicated bus service system which will link the key interchanges and destinations in the growth area
- We will promote public transport provision that is accessible to people with physical or sensory impairment including a new step-free rail station at BXC together with improvements to Brent Cross underground and Cricklewood train stations
- Major Improvements to the strategic road network, especially the A406 (North Circular Road) at Staples Corner and the A41 interchanges, and in the long term Golders Green Road and Henlys Corner
- Town centre development opportunities and enhancement programmes to improve the public realm, public transport services, short-trip making by walking, parking and servicing controls and accessibility improvements
- To strongly support improvements to rail services in the borough including upgrades to the Thameslink and Northern Line routes (but no splitting of the latter).

More environmentally friendly transport networks

- We will support the use of low emission vehicles including electric cars through provision of charging points in new developments
- We will encourage mixed use development that will help to reduce the distances people need to travel to access everyday goods and services
- We will require the minimisation of road based freight movements associated with the roll-out of our regeneration schemes through, for BXC, the establishment of a (preferably rail based) construction consolidation centre, and for all regeneration schemes, the use of Delivery, Servicing, and Construction Management Plans.
- Through the development management process and partnership working we will seek further efficiencies and inter-modal transfer through the implementation of the Rail Freight Facility as part of the Brent Cross Cricklewood Proposals, and the promotion of Consolidation Centres and Freight Quality Partnerships.

- Identify and safeguard land for transport purposes (as per our site allocation DPD)

Core Strategy Publication Stage policy CS10

Policy CS 10 – Enabling Integrated Community Facilities and Uses

The Council will work with our partners to ensure that community facilities including schools, libraries, leisure centres and pools, community meeting places and facilities for younger and older people, are provided for Barnet's communities.

We will:

- ensure that our programmes for capital investment in schools and services for young people address the needs of a growing, more diverse and increasingly younger population
- promote the role of schools as 'community hubs', providing a wide range of educational, advice, leisure and support services to children, families and the wider community
- support the enhancement of community facilities ensuring their efficient use and the provision of multi-purpose community hubs that can provide a range of services to the community at a single accessible location
- expect development that increases the demand for community facilities and services to make appropriate contributions towards new and accessible facilities, particularly within the regeneration and development areas of the borough or improving existing provision, particularly within town centres

In addressing educational needs within Barnet and responding to the need for parental choice we will support proposals for parent promoted schools or 'Free Schools' that:

- Conform with DfE guidance on becoming a new school and
- Meet parental demand for school places and
- Provide educational facilities that conform with basic school requirements as set out in relevant DfE guidance.

Through the Site Allocations DPD we will seek to allocate sites for development that are capable of providing new school premises including parent promoted schools that meet DCSF requirements.

Core Strategy Publication Stage policy CS11

Policy CS 11 – Improving health and well being in Barnet

We will improve health and well-being in Barnet by:

- supporting the plans of NHS Barnet and from 2013 its successor bodies (including GP Consortiums) to deliver modern primary and community care
- supporting healthier neighbourhoods through targeting of unhealthy lifestyles such as those which cause obesity and addressing health inequalities in terms of ill health and access to health facilities as identified in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- supporting the remodelling of residential care homes to other forms of special accommodation in order to widen housing choice and to reduce over supply
- ensuring that additional residential care home provision is only supported when evidence of local need can be demonstrated and that the proposal addresses the priorities of NHS Barnet, or its successor bodies, and the Council's Adult Social Services.

Core Strategy Publication Stage policy CS12

Policy CS 12 - Making Barnet a safer place

We will aim to make Barnet a safer place. It is important that we ensure through the management of growth that Barnet is a place where people from different communities get on together. We will:

- work with our partners to tackle crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour;
- work with the Metropolitan Police to provide re-modelling of its estate as a basis for an effective and responsive police service in Barnet;
- support the work of Safer Neighbourhood Teams to make our neighbourhoods safer places to live in, work in and visit;
- encourage appropriate security and community safety measures in buildings, spaces and the transport system;
- require developers to demonstrate that they have incorporated design principles which contribute to community safety and security in all new development;
- ensure that through the town centre strategy programme we promote safer and more secure town centre environments; and
- promote safer streets and public areas including open spaces.

Core Strategy Publication Stage policy CS13

Policy CS 13 - Ensuring the efficient use of natural resources

We will seek to minimise Barnet's contribution to climate change and ensure that through the efficient use of natural resources the borough develops in a way which respects environmental limits and improves quality of life.

- We will promote the highest environmental standards for development and through our SPDs on Sustainable Design and Construction and Green Infrastructure. We will continue working to deliver exemplary levels of sustainability throughout Barnet
- We will expect all development to be energy-efficient and seek to minimise any wasted heat or power.
- In line with the London Plan we will expect major development to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by at least 20 per cent through use of on-site energy generation
- We will maximise opportunities for implementing new district-wide networks supplied by decentralised energy (including renewable generation) in partnership with key stakeholders in areas of major mixed use growth including town centres. Where feasible we will expect all development to contribute to new and existing frameworks
- We will make Barnet a water efficient borough and minimise the potential for fluvial and surface flooding by ensuring development does not cause harm to the water environment, water quality and drainage systems. Development should utilise Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) in order to reduce surface water run-off and ensure such run-off is managed as close to its source as possible
- We will improve air and noise quality by requiring Air Quality Assessments and Noise Impact Assessments from development in line with Barnet's SPD on Sustainable Design and Construction

Core Strategy Publication Stage policy CS14

Policy CS 14 – Dealing with our waste

We will encourage sustainable waste management by:

- promoting waste prevention, re-use, recycling, composting and resource efficiency over landfill
- requiring developments to provide waste and recycling facilities which fit current and future collection practices and targets

- designating sites through the NLWP to meet an aggregated apportionment target across the seven North London boroughs. These sites will be the principle locations considered suitable for waste facilities
- safeguarding a Waste Management Facility in the Brent Cross - Cricklewood Regeneration Area.

Core Strategy Publication Stage policy CS15

Policy CS 15 - Delivering the Core Strategy

We will work with Barnet's Local Strategic Partnership and other partners to deliver the vision, objectives and policies of this Core Strategy. We will:

- Utilise the Infrastructure Delivery Plan to improve understanding of current and future assets and their long term investment and management
- work with relevant providers to ensure that necessary infrastructure is secured to support Barnet's consolidated growth and development and provide the facilities needed for the borough's communities.
- use planning obligations and other suitable funding mechanisms to secure infrastructure, facilities and services to meet needs generated by development and mitigate the impact of development;
- work with neighbouring boroughs to co-ordinate delivery across boundaries; and
- monitor the implementation of the Core Strategy and publish the results in our Annual Monitoring Report.

9 Tyldesley analysis

Core Strategy Policy	European Site Effect ³	Likelihood of Impact	Comments Where Needed
Policy CS 1 – Barnet’s Place Shaping Strategy – Protection, Enhancement and Growth – The Three Strands Approach	4, 6, 7	No likely effect	Development is to be concentrated in urbanised areas in need of renewal (especially to the West of the borough). This policy seeks to protect Green Belt, Metropolitan Open Land and the historic environment within Barnet.
Policy CS 2 – Brent Cross – Cricklewood	4, 5	No likely effect	The Brent Cross Cricklewood area is a strategic site providing opportunity for comprehensive redevelopment of brownfield land for new jobs and housing.
Policy CS 3 - Distribution of Growth in Meeting Housing Aspirations	4, 5	No likely effect	This policy sets out the most sustainable locations for housing growth in the west of the borough together with the priority housing estates and town centres. It also sets out how much these areas will contribute to an estimated supply of 28,000 new units between 2011/12 and 2025/26.
Policy CS 4 - Providing quality homes and housing choice in Barnet	1, 2	No likely effect	This policy sets out need to provide wider choice in accessing housing in terms of tenures, types and size. It highlights that an appropriate level and mix of affordable housing will be determined following a viability assessment. Policy sets criteria based approach for meeting needs of Gypsies and Travellers
Policy CS 5 - Protecting and enhancing Barnet’s character to create high quality places	6, 7	No likely effect	This is a strategy which sets out our priorities for high quality design and the importance of protecting and enhancing Barnet’s rich historical heritage and what makes Barnet distinctive in particular our suburban family houses and gardens. Provides basis for more detailed design guidance on suburban streets whose residential character has changed or may change in future.
Policy CS 6 – Promoting Barnet’s town centres	4	No likely effect	This strategy sets out priorities for improving larger town centres, ensuring efficient use of land and buildings in such locations. It also provides protection for local neighbourhood centres and parades of shops because of their contribution to sustainable suburbs.
Policy CS 7 - Enhancing and Protecting Barnet’s Open Spaces	6	No likely effect	This policy ensures that access to open spaces is improved and that they become more attractive as places to a wider range of users

Policy CS 8 – Promoting a strong and prosperous Barnet	1, 4	No likely effect	Policy CS8 sets out how we support businesses (especially small to medium enterprises) and residents (particularly in developing skills) to access the regeneration opportunities in a changing borough
Policy CS 9 – Providing effective and efficient travel	1, 4	No likely effect	Policy CS9 promotes delivery of integrated transport infrastructure and increased availability of travel choices in order to support growth, relieve pressure on Barnet's transport network and reduce the environmental impact of travel
Policy CS 10 – Enabling Integrated Community Facilities and Uses	1, 3	No likely effect	Policy CS10 ensures community buildings including schools, libraries and meeting spaces are located where they are easily accessible and that new and existing provision is used more efficiently for joint service delivery
Policy CS 11 – Improving health and well being in Barnet	1	No likely effect	Policy CS11 supports the plans of NHS Barnet to deliver modern primary care and the creation of healthier neighbourhoods. It also highlights that residential care homes are overprovided and should be remodelled to widen housing choice
Policy CS 12 - Making Barnet a safer place	1	No likely effect	Policy CS12 ensures that streets, town centres and open spaces feel safer and that new development designs out crime. It also highlights partnership working with the Metropolitan Police on re-modelling its estate as a basis for an effective and responsive police service in Barnet
Policy CS 13 - Ensuring the efficient use of natural resources	3	No likely effect	This policy sets out our priorities to reduce carbon emissions and use energy and water more efficiently as well as reduce the impact of noise and air pollution
Policy CS 14 – Dealing with our waste	3	No likely effect	This policy promotes waste minimisation and provides link to the North London Waste Plan
Policy CS 15 - Delivering the Core Strategy	1	No likely effect	This policy sets out monitoring arrangements and provides context for the Infrastructure Delivery Plan and how the necessary infrastructure will be funded and delivered

European site condition and potential threats to site integrity

Site Name	Reason for Designation	Conservation Objectives	Condition of site and potential threats to integrity
Richmond Park	Extensive area with large number of ancient trees with decaying timber – an important habitat for invertebrates, and in particular Stag Beetles	Maintenance of woodland pastures through grazing, pollarding and leaving remains of fallen trees which form important fungi and invertebrate habitats. Active management of acidic grasslands through grazing and prevention of invasive scrub and bracken. Avoid pollution from inorganic fertilisers and pesticides. Management of access and recreational activities.	86% of site area considered to be in unfavourable condition no change. This means that much of the area will not reach a favourable condition unless management or external conditions change. However, the woodland elements of the site (for which the site is European protected) are in favourable condition or are recovering due to thinning/coppicing and bracken clearance. The site is surrounded by urban area and is prone to high recreational pressure.
Epping Forest	Atlantic acidophilus beech forest. Supports rare species of moss. History of pollarding means that the site is rich in fungi and dead-wood invertebrates including the Stag Beetle.	Repollarding and cutting to maintain diverse woodland density. Preserve fallen timber and decaying wood as habitat for fungi and invertebrates. Deer management and protection from rabbits or livestock.	Over half the area surveyed is in a favourable or unfavourable condition. However, other areas are showing poor levels of beech regeneration due in particular to air pollution and high NO2 levels. Pollarding is required to maintain supporting habitats.
Wimbledon Common	Has a large number of old trees and much fallen decaying timber and supports relatively large numbers of stag beetle as well as other scarce invertebrate species associated with decaying timber. The site also represents Northern Atlantic wet heaths and European dry heath habitats. These factors are not primary reasons for selection of this site.	Maintaining open nature of heath through low intensity grazing or cutting/mowing. Active management of acidic grasslands through grazing and prevention of invasive scrub and bracken. Avoid pollution from inorganic fertilizers and pesticides. Management of access and recreational activities.	99% of the site area is in a favourable or unfavourable recovering condition. The woodland elements of the site are in favourable condition and will maintain so with some thinning and coppicing. Surrounded by urban area and is prone to high recreational pressure. Air pollution can also have an impact on the quality of heathland habitat.
Wormley-Hoddesdon Woods	Broadleaved, mixed and Yew Woodland – Lowland.	No loss of semi-natural stands or ancient woodland. Avoid human impacts in 'minimum intervention' stands. Maintain regeneration through establishment and growth of young trees. Limit presence of invasive aliens and non-native/non-naturalised species. Maintain vegetation structure, age mix, amount of open space and sufficient number of dead trees	Death or replacement of woodland species due to pollution (e.g. eutrophication from adjacent farmland). Excessive grazing is a potential problem. Recreational pressure also presents a potential issue.

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Lee Valley</p>	<p>Open water and surrounding marginal habitats which support wintering populations of Bittern, Shoveler and Gadwell.</p>	<p>Water level management.</p> <p>Protection of habitats associated with shallowly sloping margins that are not too exposed to wave action.</p> <p>Protection of water quality by ensuring nutrient levels do not increase (due to pollution from direct and diffuse sources and due to changes in water levels).</p> <p>Maintenance of appropriate nesting and feeding areas free from disturbance during breeding and winter periods.</p> <p>Management of recreational activities such as angling and boating.</p>	<p>Walthamstow reservoirs are in 100% favourable condition.</p> <p>Increase in recreational activity could impact upon wintering wildfowl numbers.</p> <p>Management plans are in place in which nature conservation is a high or sole priority.</p> <p>There is also a potential problem from over-extraction of surface water for public supply, particularly during periods of drought. This will be addressed through the Environment Agency review of consents.</p>
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10 Possible impacts of Barnet's Core Strategy on European sites

- 10.1 Barnet's Core Strategy sets out the borough's spatial vision, objectives and key planning policies, which will guide and determine how Barnet develops over the next 15 years or so.
- 10.2 In summary the Core Strategy plans for:
- consolidated housing growth and regeneration in the west of the borough (Brent Cross – Cricklewood, Colindale and Mill Hill East), priority housing estates and town centres;
 - 28,000 new homes, population growth of 14%; which amounts to a total population of 384,600 and at least 21,500 new jobs by 2026;
 - commercial regeneration and mixed use development will be focussed in some of Barnet's larger town centres (Edgware, North Finchley, Finchley Church End and Chipping Barnet);
 - improved transport infrastructure with emphasis on high quality transport systems in regeneration areas and more environmentally friendly transport networks;
 - more efficient use of natural resources to help reduce carbon emissions;
 - New housing provision will be supported by social and utilities infrastructure.
- 10.3 Possible impacts of the Core Strategy on identified European sites are:
- Development of 28,000 new homes could generally lead to greater noise, light and air pollution. The development of tall buildings (especially near the Brent Reservoir) could impact on migrating birds and recent reports have suggested that further study in this area is required.
 - Increased water demand and limited supply could affect water quality and levels within European sites. Please see 10.4 below.
 - Increased traffic generated through housing and commercial development and increased trips to Brent Cross as a regional shopping destination, could lead to increases in air pollution which in turn could affect sensitive species.
 - Population growth leading to increased numbers of trips to European sites which in turn could lead to disturbance to flora and fauna and impacts on supporting habitats due to recreational activities.
- 10.4 Water quality in Barnet is impacted by urban diffuse pollution which could be exacerbated by Barnet's large growth targets during the lifetime of the Core Strategy. Water quality could be affected by the following:
- The boroughs main watercourses flow through developed urban areas with impermeable surfaces, and over London Clay, so they respond quickly to rainfall. Urban run-off carries pollutants directly into the rivers.
 - Misconnections, caused by the incorrect installation of domestic and industrial plumbing, mean untreated water is discharged directly into the watercourse. This is a particular problem for the smaller tributaries where there is less dilution. A programme was initiated between the Environment Agency and Thames Water to tackle the problem of domestic misconnections.
 - Polluted surface water outfalls on Barnet's watercourses can lead to a decline in water quality, particularly at times of low flow.
- 10.5 Some potential negative environmental impacts will be mitigated through other strategies employed in the Core Strategy, the Mayor's London Plan and national planning policy.

- 10.6 Promotion and improvements to public transport provision and a new railway station at Brent Cross could help to reduce levels of single occupancy car journeys.
- 10.7 Maximising development within town centres and locations well served by public transport may also lead to reduced car usage as many services and facilities will be within walking distance or easily accessible by public transport.
- 10.8 Reviewing school travel plans and the promotion of walking and cycling to school should help to reduce road traffic levels at peak times.
- 10.9 Other positive strategies include:
- the promotion of low emission vehicles for public transport purposes;
 - the use of and promotion of SUDS in all development;
 - the requirement for air quality and noise impact assessments to become a part of all major development proposals;
 - the requirement that all new residential development incorporates water metering.
- 10.10 These are some of the measures which will help mitigate some of the negative effects that could be associated with the Core Strategy for Barnet.

11 Possible impacts of the Core Strategy in-combination with wider trends

- 11.1 The Habitat Regulations require that we take into consideration likely cumulative impacts of effects ‘in-combination with other plans or projects’. This means that we need to consider the cumulative impact of our strategy in tandem with those of neighbouring authorities, whose plans will be similar and therefore mutually reinforcing. The London Plan Sustainability Report identifies a number of key trends in the London region which are having or are likely to have adverse environmental consequences. Those impacts that are development related and also likely to have adverse impacts on European sites include:
- Increases in road traffic and associated air pollution;
 - The number of goods vehicles is set to increase – and therefore associated air pollution;
 - Rising water demand and a predicted deficit in periods of drought;
 - Drier summers will have adverse effects on the water levels of London’s tributaries;
 - Air pollution is likely to worsen through continued growth and management of municipal waste. London’s air pollution is amongst the worst in Europe and it is estimated that targets on NO₂ levels will not be met;
 - Continued ambient noise from road traffic, air craft and people may disturb wildlife;
 - Increases in impermeable surfaces and subsequent run-off could lead to greater water pollution;
 - Increases in incidences and severity of floods. This will threaten water quality further;
 - Housing and population growth will place greater recreational pressure on London’s open spaces which could result in negative impacts on biodiversity;
 - Increased consumption of non-renewable energy and an increase in waste production.
- 11.2 There are strategies and measures in place which will have positive environmental consequences and will therefore mitigate some of the negative impacts listed above. These include:
- Growth in the environmental economy;

- Continuous improvement in water quality – through Environment Agency initiatives and river restoration schemes;
 - European Environmental Noise Directive will reduce ambient noise levels;
 - Mayor’s Energy Strategy sets targets for increases in production of renewable energy;
 - Increase in freight travel by rail;
 - Woodland area extent is to remain stable or increase.
- 11.3 In-combination effects are largely concerned with overall population and housing growth in London and surrounding areas. Such growth has already been determined through housing targets which have been set out in The London Plan. In summary, implications for European sites relate to:
- Increased air and water pollution;
 - Increases in water demand and its associated threat to water levels in rivers;
 - Noise and disturbance associated with the growth in population and the use of European sites for recreational use.

12 Assessment of in-combination effects

- 12.1 Policies identified in the strategies and plans of neighbouring authorities have the potential to affect Natura 2000 sites at a wider level than that of individual Local authorities. These policies are influenced by the London Plan (Consolidated with Alterations since 2004) which is considering this issue in further detail.
- 12.2 The table below summarises the key policies of Barnet’s neighbouring authorities that could lead to ‘in combination’ impacts with Barnet’s Core Strategy:

Growth taking place in neighbouring boroughs

Local Authority	Development Plans or Proposals
LB Brent	LDF Core Strategy sets out a vision to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deliver 10,146 additional homes between 2007 and 2017.
LB Camden	LDF Core Strategy sets out a vision to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deliver 5,950 additional homes between 2007-2017
LB Enfield	LDF Core Strategy sets out a vision to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deliver 3,950 additional homes between 2007-2017
LB Harrow	LDF Core Strategy sets out a vision to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deliver 4,000 additional homes between 2007-2017
LB Haringey	LDF Core Strategy sets out a vision to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deliver 6,800 additional homes between 2007-2017
Hertsmere BC	LDF Core Strategy sets out a vision to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deliver 4,200 homes between 2001 and 2021

13 Cross cutting issues

Site	Vulnerability to:			Comments
	Air pollution	Recreation	Water level/quality	
Lee Valley		✓	✓	The whole area is affected by rather eutrophic water quality. The other main threat is that of human recreational pressure, but this is already well regulated. There is also a potential problem from over-extraction of surface water for public supply, particularly during periods of drought.
Wimbledon Common	✓	✓		The site is located in an urban area and therefore experiences heavy recreational pressure. Air pollution can also have an impact on the quality of heathland habitat.
Richmond Park		✓		The site is surrounded by urban area and therefore experiences high levels of recreational pressure.
Epping Forest	✓			The forest's epiphytic bryophyte population had been declining due to the death of pollards, shading and pollution from acid rain. The reintroduction of pollarding and wood pasture management is helping to reverse the decline. The slow recovery can also be attributed to the reduction of atmospheric pollutants since the passing of the 1956 Clean Air Act. However, other areas are showing poor levels of beech regeneration due in particular to air pollution and high NO ₂ levels. This site is particularly sensitive to atmospheric pollution.
Wormley Hoddesdon park Woods		✓		There is some pressure from informal recreation but this is concentrated on well established paths.

- 13.1 The table above highlights specific conditions which could threaten the integrity of the screened European sites. Each condition should not be considered in isolation but should be assessed in-combination with neighbouring boroughs plans. Each 'threat' will be discussed in turn below.
- 13.2 **Air pollution** - All five of the identified European sites are susceptible to poor air quality. Air pollution can impact negatively on these sites either indirectly, through the process of precipitation leading to water pollution, or directly. Air pollution is a London-wide problem and Barnet's role in reducing contributions is detailed in 'The Local Air Quality Strategy for Barnet' (2002). This strategy is essentially an action plan of 13 policies that aim to improve air quality through specific measures. This strategy is monitored annually.
- 13.3 Of the five European sites, Epping Forest and Wimbledon Common are particularly vulnerable to impacts caused by air pollution. Epping Forest is the only site where air pollution is listed as a current threat to about half of the site's land area. The forest's epiphytic bryophyte population has declined in the past due to the impact of acid rain caused

by air pollution and the regeneration of the Beech population has been slow to recover due in part to high levels of NO₂ in the air.

- 13.4 **Air pollution from road traffic** - One of the main contributors of air pollution in Barnet comes from road traffic. Vehicle emissions from road traffic include Carbon Monoxide, Oxides of Nitrogen (NO₂), volatile organic compounds and particles less than 10 microns in size (PM₁₀'s).
- 13.5 Pollution from vehicle emissions is highly localised, with pollution levels decreasing exponentially with distance from its source. Since the five European sites under consideration are not within the borough's boundary it is fairly safe to conclude that the potential for Barnet road traffic to have any impact on them is remote. This scenario fails to consider that new development in Barnet in combination with development elsewhere could lead to increases in levels of road traffic outside the borough boundary which may be adjacent to European sites. Road traffic air pollution can also contribute to diffuse ambient air pollution levels, which we will discuss later. Successful implementation of Barnet's Core Strategy will reduce contributions to air pollution from vehicular emissions through several different approaches. For example, the Core Strategy places strong emphasis on tackling the school run and its effects as a major contributor to traffic congestion. There will also be improvements to public transport including rapid transit services at Brent Cross as part of improvements to the bus network.
- 13.6 Major development in the borough is to be located within urbanised areas which are well served by public transport and have good PTAL's. Development is to be promoted in Barnet's town centres which form the community 'hubs' and are also well served by public transport.
- 13.7 Mixed-use development is being promoted in growth areas and town centres within the borough, which means that shops and facilities will be located closer to resident's homes and therefore the need to travel by car will be greatly reduced. The Core Strategy also seeks to improve the strategic road network at 'pinch points' and especially the A406. This will lead to less road congestion and therefore lower car emissions.
- 13.8 Travel plans and transport assessments will form a requirement for all new major planning applications which will make reduction of car based journeys a major consideration in determining the grant of planning permission. The Core Strategy also seeks the promotion of low emission vehicles, including electric cars, through the provision of charging points that utilise 'green energy' in public places in new developments.
- 13.9 These strategies in-combination with London-wide plans, such as low-emission zones and congestion charging will help to mitigate the negative impacts of traffic-associated air pollution across Barnet and London generally.
- 13.10 **Diffuse and other sources of air pollution** - The London Borough of Barnet is a designated Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) for NO₂ and PM₁₀s; as such the council therefore have an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP), which employs strategies to improve air quality by reducing air pollution emissions, both directly and indirectly. The AQAP includes strategies including; carrying out vehicles emissions testing; improving coordination of traffic lights to improve traffic flow; introduction of controlled parking zones (CPZs) and the promotion of alternative forms of transport for school children e.g. 'walking buses'.
- 13.11 The AQAP is currently under review and will reinforce and strengthen the policies within the Core Strategy at publication stage which aim to:
- Concentrate mixed-use development in locations that are well served by public transport;
 - Deliver high quality public transport in regeneration areas;
 - Promote environmentally friendly transport networks;
 - Make more efficient use of the road network;
 - Promote Barnet's SPD on Sustainable Design and Construction;

- Utilise development opportunities to implement district-wide networks supplied by decentralised energy; and
 - These measures, in-combination with existing national and international restrictions on emissions should protect the integrity of European sites.
- 13.12 **Water quality and water levels** - Barnet is predominantly within the Brent river catchment, but also covers part of the Lower Lee catchment in the north-east and the Colne catchment in the north-west.
- 13.13 Lee Valley is the only protected site of the five under consideration that is particularly sensitive to water quality and vulnerable to change in water levels.
- 13.14 The Environment Agency has identified that water quality in Barnet is particularly impacted by urban diffuse pollution. Urban diffuse pollution is caused by the following:
- The borough's main watercourses flow through developed urban areas with impermeable surfaces, and over London Clay, so they respond quickly to rainfall. Urban run-off carries pollutants directly into the rivers.
 - Misconnections, caused by the incorrect installation of domestic and industrial plumbing, mean untreated water is discharged directly into the watercourse. This is a particular problem for the smaller tributaries where there is less dilution. A programme has been implemented between the Environment Agency and Thames Water to tackle the problem of domestic misconnections.
- 13.15 Polluted surface water outfalls on Barnet's watercourses can lead to a decline in water quality, particularly at times of low flow.
- 13.16 Although there are no European sites within the borough boundary, Pymmes Brook is part of the River Lee catchment and feeds the Walthamstow Reservoirs SSSI. Therefore water quality impacts, resulting from development in the borough, may be felt downstream.
- 13.17 The Borough of Barnet is served by two water companies: Thames Water and Three Valleys Water. The 5 year average (2004 – 2009) per capita consumption is 158.4 litres per day in the London Water Resources Zone which is above the England and Wales average.
- 13.18 Additional development will lead to increased demand for water extraction, which in turn can impact negatively on water levels, and so European sites. The Environment Agency has the responsibility for meeting the water demand of the population "without damaging the environment". This is achieved through regulation of water abstraction, environmental monitoring and working closely with the water industry and abstractors to plan for future needs. Water companies are required to produce water resource management plans, which show how they will protect the environment. The Environment Agency is consulted on all major development applications which allows for the assessment of potential impacts on water resources.
- 13.19 Barnet's Core Strategy contains policies which will mitigate any potential negative impacts that development may have. These strategies include:
- We will promote the highest environmental standards through our SPD on Sustainable Design and Construction;
 - Development should include sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) in order to reduce surface water run-off thereby reducing the potential for urban diffuse pollution; and
 - Making Barnet a more water efficient borough.
- 13.20 Barnet's SPD on Sustainable Design and Construction makes it necessary that:
- Residential developments are designed to achieve average water use in new dwellings of less than 40m³ per bed space per year (approx.110 litres/head/day). This should be calculated according to the same methodology used in Ecohomes or the Code for Sustainable Homes. Planning applications must provide a schedule of the measures to

be included in a development to achieve this standard, and to which the development will be conditioned.

- The council requires that in development proposals where there are insufficient measures to meet the above standard, then a feasibility study must be provided on the potential to incorporate grey water recycling. If proven technically feasible, such a system must be committed to in the designs.
- The council requires that all new development, including house extensions, must include provision of water butts or equivalent techniques for rainwater harvesting for use in gardens and landscaping, unless it can be shown that these are inappropriate.
- The council requires all new development to include water meters.
- The council requires that proposals for hotels and offices must demonstrate that water consumption is 'below average' against the benchmarks provided by CIRIA (see SPD). The BREEAM water calculator should be used for estimating the design performance.

13.21 The above measures will help to mitigate the burdens placed upon water resources in the borough in light of forthcoming developments. With such measures in place it is unlikely that future development will impact on any of the European sites in any significant way.

13.22 **Impacts from increased recreation** - It has been estimated that Barnet's population will increase from 338,100 in 2008 to 384,600 by 2026. Also, between 2007 and 2026 it is expected that Barnet will have built 28,000 new homes to accommodate the growing population. This will be in-combination with overall population and housing growth across London and the wider region. This will put additional visitor pressure on London's green spaces including the European sites. Also, increased provision for employment growth will lead to increased recreational demand from workers.

13.23 All of the identified European sites are popular destinations for visitors from London and further afield. Lee Valley, Wimbledon Common, Richmond Park and Wormley Hoddesdonpark Woods have all been identified as being particularly vulnerable to the potential impacts of recreation.

13.24 Potential negative impacts, for example, include:

- Lee Valley Park is a popular destination for angling and water sports. Such activity can cause disturbance to protected wintering bird populations;
- At Richmond Park the majority of visitors arrive by car – 79%, which can result in negative impacts on conservation including wildlife accidents and noise pollution;
- There is the risk of major blazes caused by visitors lighting small fires during long, hot dry spells; and
- The heaths at Wimbledon Common are sensitive to trampling.

13.25 Such threats to the conservation status of these sites tends to be mitigated through local management plans. An example of this is the Lee Valley Planning Authority's Water Management Strategy which aims to minimise the conflict between recreational interests and nature conservation by separately allocating nature conservation and recreation uses to open waters and rivers within the park. At Richmond Park, traffic speed limits have been introduced to reduce accidents and noise pollution.

13.26 Barnet's Core Strategy Policy CS7 seeks to enhance and protect open spaces within the borough. This strategy recognises that there is an unmet need for public open space in Barnet. Much of the new provision of open spaces will come about as part of the regeneration taking place in Barnet's regeneration and development areas such as Mill Hill East, Colindale and Brent Cross/Cricklewood.

13.27 Increasing the provision of and improving access to and the facilities provided at green spaces within the borough should result in reduced pressure on the European sites under

scrutiny in this report. The need to travel to these European sites will be significantly reduced if there is good quality green space provision in Barnet and neighbouring boroughs. Such sites would offer alternative destinations other than the European sites. For example, The Welsh Harp provides 170 ha of open space. Activities at the Welsh Harp include: bird watching, walking, jogging, dog-walking and passive recreation. Local sailing clubs provide organised water activities on the reservoir. Hadley Common, Totteridge Common and Hampstead Heath (including the extension) offer further alternative destinations for green space provision in Barnet. We should also take into consideration the fact that approximately a third of Barnet's land area is designated as Green Belt land.

- 13.28 Recreational pressure poses a risk to the conservation status of 4 out of the 5 screened European sites. Risk to these sites is mitigated to a considerable extent by site management plans and interventions. The screened European sites are not immediately accessible to Barnet residents and workers, and there are a number of alternative open spaces within the borough and neighbouring boroughs that will attract visitors away from protected European sites. Housing and employment growth in Barnet, in-combination with other London boroughs, will increase pressure on the capital's open spaces and biodiversity. However, Barnet's in-combination contribution will be significantly reduced through its strategy to protect all open space in the borough and seek enhancements and new open space in areas of deficiency. In light of the above we can conclude that Barnet's Core Strategy will have no likely significant effects through recreational impacts on European protected sites.

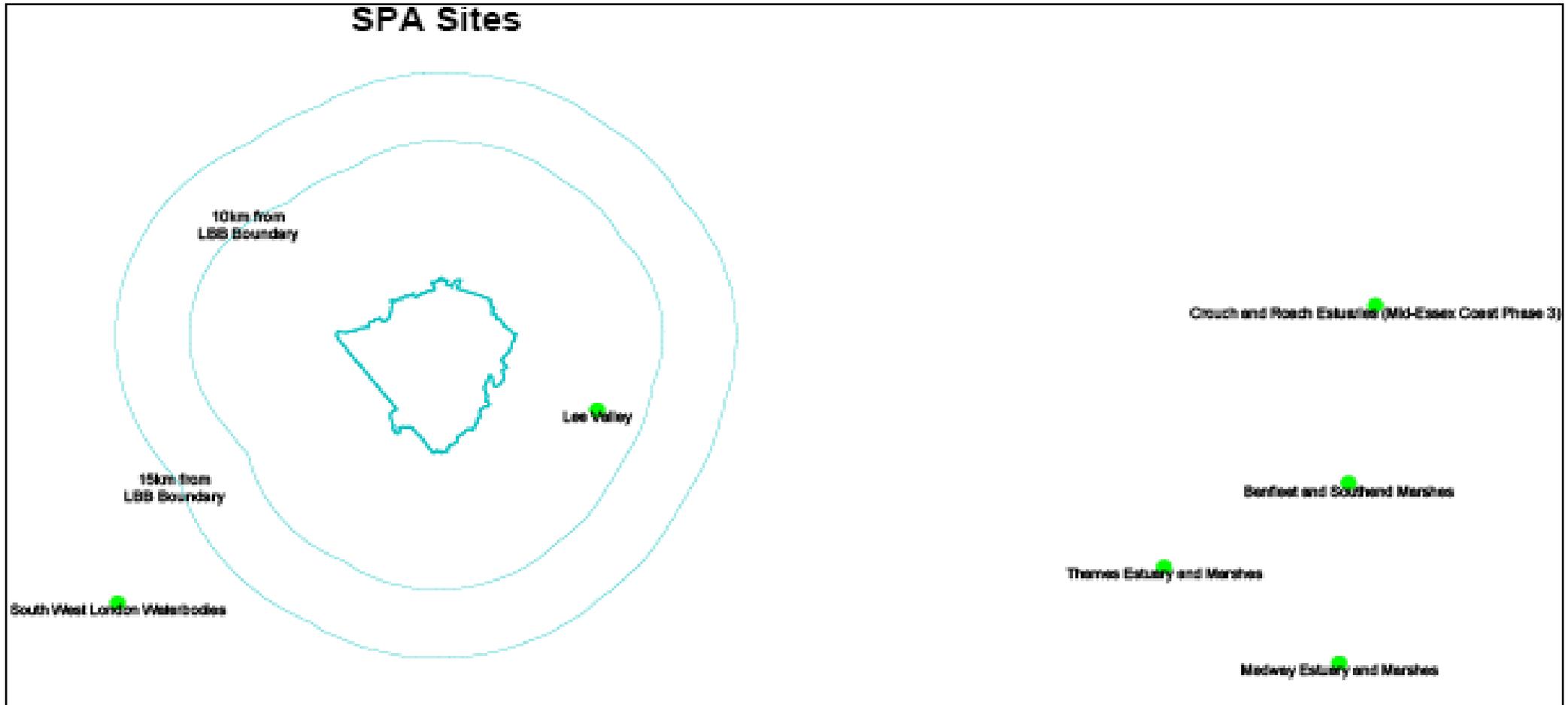
14 Conclusions

14.1 Habitat Directive Assessment HDA – Screening Stage

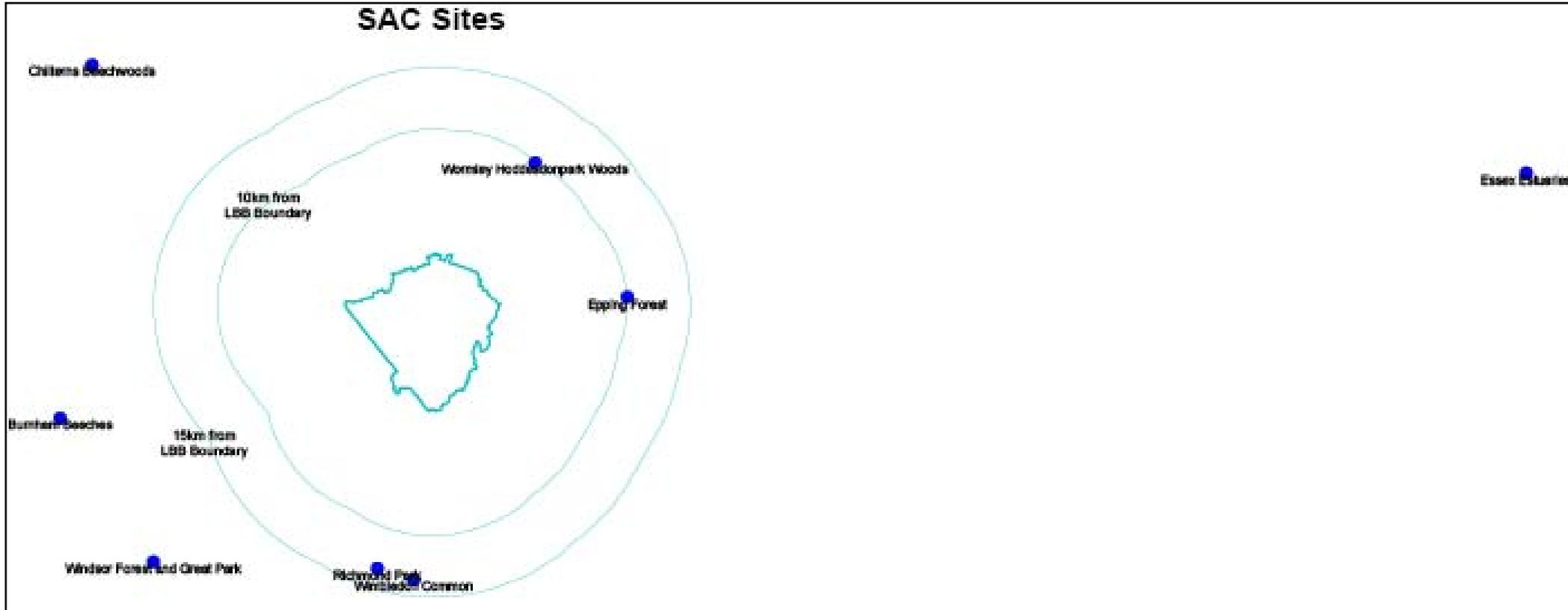
- 14.2 Barnet's Core Strategy sets out the council's spatial vision, objectives and key planning policies, which will determine how Barnet develops over the next 15 years. This HDA has identified a range of indirect, and/or in combination impacts, which could possibly affect five Natura 2000 sites within a 15 Km radius of the borough.
- 14.3 The assessment has screened these impacts against the sites qualifying features and can conclude that there will be no likely significant effect on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites as a result of Barnet's Core Strategy. Therefore in accordance with guidance, a Habitat Directive Assessment is not necessary and does not need to be undertaken.

15 Appendix 1

SPA Sites within 15 Km of the Borough Boundary:



SAC Sites within 15 Km of the Borough Boundary:



RAMSAR sites within 15 Km of the Borough Boundary:

