

Appendix IV: European Sites Screening Revised for Likely Significant Effects (LSEs)

Screening Summary Key

Likely Significant Effect	Yes	Further Appropriate Assessment required
No Likely Significant Effect	No	No further Appropriate Assessment required as no pathways identified
Significant Effect Uncertain	?	Precautionary approach taken and further Appropriate Assessment required

Identified European sites within or partly within the Gloucester City Plan area None

European sites outside the GCP area and within 15km of Gloucester City

- **Cotswold Beechwoods SAC**
- **Rodborough Common SAC**
- **Severn Estuary SA, SPA, Ramsar**
- **Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC**
- **Walmore Common SPA**

Please note that this policy screening has been revised to address the changes in developing the GCP from Regulation 18 to Regulation 19 and also to address the implications of the recent CJEU¹ which ruled that Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive must be interpreted as meaning that mitigation measures (referred to in the judgment as measures which are intended to avoid or reduce effects) should be assessed within the framework of an appropriate assessment (AA) and that it is not permissible to take account of measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of the plan or project on a European site at the screening stage.

¹ People over Wind & Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta Case C-323/17

Cotswold Beechwoods SAC						
Potential impacts of the Plan	Environmental Pathways	Is the site sensitive/vulnerable to these impacts?	Risk?	LSE alone ?	Potential impacts of other plans and programmes	LSE in-comb?
<p>Reduced Air Quality: through increased traffic and emissions from buildings.</p> <p>GCP Site Allocations: SA01-SA22; Policies E7 & G6</p>	<p>The A46 is within 200m of the SAC and proposed development has the potential to increase traffic along the A46 – potential pathway for short range atmospheric pollution.</p> <p>Much of the traffic that may increase on the A46 as a result of site allocations is unlikely to travel near to the site for commuter travel as the site is to the south-east and on the other side of the M5. Site allocations are mostly over 5km away from the site, with two allocations about 3km away². There could be increased traffic to the SAC for recreational use.</p> <p>Development proposed in the Plan area could contribute to long-range diffuse atmospheric pollution. However, the contribution of the plan is unlikely to be of significance.</p>	<p>Yes, the beech woods and grasslands are sensitive to atmospheric pollution.</p> <p>Critical loads for nitrogen are being exceeded for both the beech forest and grassland at the site³.</p> <p>Critical loads for acid deposition are not being exceeded at the site for either habitat.</p>	Yes	No	There is the potential for the policies to act in combination with plans, programmes & projects identified in Appendix II - specifically, the Stroud Local Plan & emerging LP Review ⁴ .	?
<p>Increased Disturbance: recreational activity, noise and light pollution.</p> <p>GCP Site Allocations: SA01-SA22</p>	<p>The majority of the protected site is open access land for people on foot. There is also a network of footpaths, as well as bridleways open to horse and bike riders. The Cotswold Way National Trail passes through the site.</p> <p>The site lies approx. 3 km outside of the Plan area so there are no pathways for noise and light pollution. It is unlikely that there will be a significant increase in recreational activity from individual site allocations that are nearby due to their local size.</p>	Yes, outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities are an issue at the site; it is sensitive to disturbance from recreational activities.	Yes	No	There is the potential for the policies to act in combination with other plans, specifically, the Stroud Local Plan & emerging LP Review & Cotswold Local Plan.	?

² GCT JCS Figure 1km distance circles from entrance to the Cotswold Beechwoods <https://www.jointcorestrategy.org/>

³ Air Pollution Information System (2014-16) Site Relevant Critical Loads. Online at <http://www.apis.ac.uk/> [Accessed March 2018]

⁴ <https://www.stroud.gov.uk/environment/planning-and-building-control/planning-strategy/stroud-district-local-plan-review>

GCP Policies E7 & G6	New energy-related developments - unlikely to be any LSEs alone or in-combination due to distance and use of land.	Yes, the site is sensitive to disturbance from recreational activities.	Yes	No	N/A	No
Changes to Water Levels and Quality: though increased levels of abstraction, surface water runoff and discharges. GCP Policies SA1-22; E7 & G6	The site is outside the plan area and proposed development is not likely to result in any increased nutrient input to the site as a result of consented discharge. There are no pathways for impacts on surface water runoff or water quality at the site given the elevation of the protected site ⁵ . The site is situated within the Seven Water Resource Zone although increased levels of abstraction are unlikely to affect the integrity of the site.	Site is not considered sensitive to the impacts increased surface water run-off, discharges and abstraction.	No	No	No pathways for LSEs; site is not considered sensitive to the impacts increased surface water run-off, discharges and abstraction.	No
Habitat Loss and Fragmentation: as a result of proposed development GCP Site Allocations: SA1-22; E7 & G6	None of the site allocations or proposed employment or energy-related development are likely to lead to direct or indirect loss or fragmentation of designated land or supporting habitat.	The designated feature is sensitive to the loss and fragmentation of habitat.	Yes	No		No

⁵ Enfusion telephone conversation with Natural England 01/08/2013 for JCS HRA

Rodborough Common SAC						
Potential impacts of the Plan	Environmental Pathways	Is the site sensitive/vulnerable to these impacts?	Risk?	LSE alone?	Potential impacts of other plans and programmes	LSE in-comb?
<p>Reduced Air Quality: through increased traffic and emissions from buildings.</p> <p>GCP Policies SA1-22; E7 & G6</p>	<p>The site is over 15km to the south east and the other side of the M5 from Gloucester.</p>	<p>Yes, the site is sensitive to atmospheric pollution.</p> <p>Critical loads for nitrogen & acid are not being exceeded for the dry grasslands & scrublands of the site⁶.</p>	No	No		No
<p>Increased Disturbance: through recreational activity, noise & light pollution.</p> <p>GCP Policies SA1-22; E7 & G6</p>	<p>The site is over 15km to the south east and the other side of the M5 from Gloucester. It is unlikely that the proposed development would lead to significant increased disturbance due to the local size and distance from the site.</p>	<p>Yes, the site is sensitive to disturbance from recreational activities.</p>	No	No		No
<p>Changes to Water Levels and Quality: though increased levels of abstraction, surface water runoff, and discharges.</p> <p>GCP Policies SA1-22; E7 & G6</p>	<p>The site is over 15km to the south east and the other side of the M5 from Gloucester. The site is designated for its dry grasslands & scrublands.</p>	No	No	No		No
<p>Habitat Loss & Fragmentation:</p> <p>GCP Policies SA1-22; E7 & G6</p>	<p>The site is over 15km to the south east and the other side of the M5 from Gloucester. The proposed development will not lead to any loss or fragmentation of habitat.</p>	<p>Yes, the site is sensitive to loss or fragmentation of the dry grasslands and scrublands.</p>	No	No		No

⁶ Air Pollution Information System (2014-16) Site Relevant Critical Loads. Online at <http://www.apis.ac.uk/> [Accessed March 2018]

Severn Estuary SAC, SPA, Ramsar						
Potential impacts of the Plan	Environmental Pathways	Is the site sensitive/vulnerable to these impacts?	Risk?	LSE alone ?	Potential impacts of other plans and programmes	LSE in-comb?
<p>Reduced Air Quality: through increased traffic and emissions from buildings.</p> <p>GCP Site Allocations: SA09, SA21</p>	<p>Proposed development is not considered likely to result in a significant increase in traffic along any major roads that are within 200m of the SAC, SPA, Ramsar designated area, as the City is some 8km north of the Estuary. However, SPA/Ramsar birds continue using the estuary and river beyond the designation. The river is functionally linked to the designated site and the life and productivity of the SPA birds. It is the corridor that they use for migrations and to reach functionally linked land, e.g. Ashleworth Ham. Alney Island, which lies immediately to the west of the Gloucester City Plan area, is thought to be a key wetland and stepping stone along the river⁷.</p> <p>Sites SA09 & SA21 are within 200m of the River Severn/Gloucester & Sharpness Canal. Therefore, it is possible that there are pathways for short range atmospheric pollution to functionally linked areas.</p> <p>Development proposed in the Plan area could contribute to long-range diffuse atmospheric pollution. However, the contribution of the plan is unlikely to be of significance.</p>	<p>Yes, the designated site is vulnerable to nitrogen and acid deposition.</p> <p>Critical loads of nitrogen are not being exceeded at this site for those features that have critical loadings⁸.</p> <p>Critical loads for acid deposition are not being exceeded at the site.</p>	Yes?	?	There is the potential for the policy to act in combination with other plans and projects, including those of neighbouring planning authorities.	?
<p>GCP site Allocations: SA01-SA08, SA10 -SA20 & SA22</p>	<p>These site allocations are more than 200m from the River Severn/Gloucester & Sharpness Canal and therefore, unlikely to be any environmental pathways for short range atmospheric pollution to functionally linked areas.</p>	As above	No	No		No

⁷ As advised by Natural England in representation comments to Regulation 18 consultation HRA Report (October 2016)

⁸ <http://www.apis.ac.uk/> [accessed March 2019]

GCP Policy B3 New & Intensification of Employment Sites	Many of these sites are existing sites carried over from the previous GCP and already developed. The sites are to meet employment needs of local people such that there is unlikely to be a significant increase in traffic on roads nearby the River Severn/Gloucester & Sharpness Canal.	As above	No	No		No
GCP Policy B4 Development within & adjacent to Docks & Canal	Proposed development projects are unlikely to result in a significant increase in traffic along any major roads that are within 200m of the SAC, SPA, Ramsar designated area – but they may increase traffic in functionally linked land.	As above	No	?		?
GCP Policy E7 Renewable Energy Potential of River and Canal	Proposed developments utilising the renewable energy potential of the river and canal could lead to increased traffic within 200m of the watercourses, particularly during the operational phases.	As above	Yes	?	There is the potential for the policy to act in combination with other plans and projects, including those of neighbouring planning authorities.	?
Increased Disturbance: through recreational activity, noise and light pollution. GCP Site Allocations SA09, SA12, SA21 & SA22	The designated estuary site lies approx. 8 km outside of the Plan area to the south-west so there are no pathways for noise and light pollution. These Site Allocations are close to the River Severn/Gloucester & Sharpness Canal where there is existing noise, light and recreational activity. It seems unlikely that there will be a significant increase in recreational activity on the functionally linked land and water arising from each of these site allocations alone – due to their local small size and distance from the designated area.	Yes, outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities are an issue at the site.	Yes	No	There is the potential for the policies to act in combination other plans and projects, including those neighbouring authorities, with regard to disturbance from recreational activities.	?
GCP site Allocations: SA01-SA08, SA10 -SA11, SA13-SA20	These Site Allocations are approximately 750m or more than 3km away from the river and canal – therefore no pathways for noise and light pollution.	Yes, outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities are an issue at the site.	Yes	No	As above	?

	It seems unlikely that there will be a significant increase in recreational activity on the functionally linked land and water arising from each of these site allocations alone – due to their local small size and distance from the designated area.					
GCP Policy B3 New & intensification of Employment Sites	Many of these sites are existing sites carried over from the previous GCP and already developed. The sites are to meet employment needs of local people and there is unlikely to be any significant increase in disturbance from recreational activity, noise or light pollution.	As above	No	No		No
GCP Policy B4 Development within & adjacent to Docks & Canal	Proposed development could increase noise and light disturbance.	As above	Yes	?	There is the potential for the policies to act in combination other plans and projects, including those neighbouring authorities, with regard to disturbance from noise and light on functionally linked areas.	?
GCP Policy E7 Renewable Energy Potential of River and Canal	Proposed developments utilising the renewable energy potential of the river and canal could lead to increased noise and light pollution for the watercourses, particularly during the operational phases. It is unlikely that there would be any effects on recreational activities due to the type of development proposed.	As above	Yes	?	There is the potential for the policies to act in combination other plans and projects, including those neighbouring authorities, with regard to disturbance from noise and light on functionally linked areas.	?
Changes to Water Levels and Quality: though increased levels of abstraction, surface water runoff and discharges.	Although the designated estuary area is in outside the GCP area, there are many water courses within the Gloucester area that eventually flow into the River Severn and therefore there are pathways for potential LSEs on water quality. Increased abstraction has the potential to affect water levels at the site - water is transferred	The site is vulnerable to changes in hydraulic conditions and water quality.	Yes	?	There is the potential for the policies to act in combination with other plans and projects, including those of neighbouring authorities.	?

GCP Site allocations SA09, SA11, & SA21	between resource zones by Welsh Water and Severn Trent Water. These Site Allocations are within the WFD Drinking Water Protected Area (surfacewater) ⁹ indicating a risk of pollution and the need to protect water quality.					
GCP Site Allocation SA07	Site Allocation Lynton Fields has a small stream at its boundary – upper reaches of Dimore Brook a tributary of the R Severn but over 5km distant. Site is allocated for employment use; it is unlikely that this allocation would cause LSEs due to its small size and distance from the area functionally linked to the designated site.	The site is vulnerable to changes in hydraulic conditions and water quality.	Yes	No	There is the potential for the policies to act in combination with other plans and projects, including those of neighbouring authorities.	?
GCP Site Allocation SA14	Site Allocation Rea Lane is about 550m east of the R Severn but outside of the WFD Protection zone. So potential for LSEs but it is unlikely that this allocation would cause LSEs due to its small size and distance from the area functionally linked to the designated site.	The site is vulnerable to changes in hydraulic conditions and water quality.	Yes	No	There is the potential for the policies to act in combination with other plans and projects, including those of neighbouring authorities.	?
GCP Site Allocation SA02	Site Allocation at Barnwood Manor includes the Wotton Brook running through it and the potential for environmental pathway. It is located over 4km from the River Severn to the west. It is unlikely that this allocation would cause LSEs due to its small size and distance from the area functionally linked to the designated site.	The site is vulnerable to changes in hydraulic conditions and water quality.	Yes	No	There is the potential for the policies to act in combination with other plans and projects, including those of neighbouring authorities.	?
GCP site Allocations: SA01-SA08, SA09, SA11-SA22	These Site Allocations are approximately 750m or more than 3km away from the river and canal; outside of the WFD Protection Zone; and some 8km away from the designated site. It seems unlikely that these allocations would cause LSEs due to their local size and distance from the area functionally linked to the designated site.	The site is vulnerable to changes in hydraulic conditions and water quality.	Yes	No	There is the potential for the policies to act in combination with other plans and projects, including those of neighbouring authorities.	?
GCP Policy B3 New & Intensifications	Many of these sites are existing sites carried over from the previous GCP and already developed. The sites are to meet employment needs of local	The site is vulnerable to changes in hydraulic conditions and water quality.	No	No		No

⁹ <https://magic.defra.gov.uk/magicmap.aspx> [accessed March 2019]

of Employment Sites	people and there is unlikely to be any significant increase in water levels or quality.					
GCP Policy B4 Development within & adjacent to Docks & Canal	Proposed development within or adjacent to the docks and canal could affect changes in water quality or water levels.	The site is vulnerable to changes in hydraulic conditions and water quality.	Yes	?	There is the potential for the policies to act in combination with other plans and projects, including those of neighbouring authorities.	?
GCP Policy E7 Renewable Energy Potential of River and Canal	Proposed developments utilising the renewable energy potential of the river and canal is likely to lead to changes in water levels and quality.	The site is vulnerable to changes in hydraulic conditions and water quality.	Yes	?	There is the potential for the policies to act in combination with other plans and projects, including those of neighbouring authorities.	?
Habitat Loss and Fragmentation: as a result of proposed development GCP Site Allocations: SA09, SA21	None of the site allocations SA01-SA22 are likely to lead to direct or indirect loss or fragmentation of designated land. These site allocations are near to the River Severn and the Alney Island LNR – that may be important functionally linked land. Therefore, some potential for loss or fragmentation of supporting habitat.	The designated features are sensitive to the loss of supporting habitat – the River Severn is functionally linked to the Estuary and important for migratory birds. It is the corridor that they use for migrations and to reach functionally linked land, e.g. Ashleworth Ham. Alney Island, which lies immediately to the west of the Gloucester City Plan area, is thought to be a key wetland and stepping stone along the river ¹⁰ .	Yes	?	There is the potential for the policies to act in combination with other plans and projects, including those of neighbouring authorities.	?
GCP Site Allocations: SA01-SA08, SA10-SA20, SA22	None of these site allocations will lead to direct or indirect loss or fragmentation of designated land; unlikely to have any effects on supporting habitat of functionally linked land.	As above	Yes	No		No
GCP Policy B4 Development within & adjacent to Docks & Canal	Development within or adjacent to the docks and/or canal could affect supporting habitat of functionally linked land.	As above	Yes	?	There is the potential for the policies to act in combination with other plans and projects,	?

¹⁰ As advised by Natural England in representation comments to Regulation 18 consultation HRA Report (October 2016)

					including those of neighbouring authorities.	
GCP Policy E7 Renewable Energy Potential of River and Canal	Proposed developments utilising the renewable energy potential of the river and canal is likely to lead to changes in water levels and quality – and this may affect functionally linked land/supporting habitat – directly or indirectly. Therefore, potential environmental pathways.	As above	Yes	?	There is the potential for the policies to act in combination with other plans and projects, including those of neighbouring authorities.	?

Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC						
Potential impacts of the Plan	Environmental Pathways	Is the site sensitive/vulnerable to these impacts?	Risk?	LSE alone?	Potential impacts of other plans and programmes	LSE in-comb?
<p>Reduced Air Quality: through increased traffic and emissions from buildings.</p> <p>GCP Site Allocations SA01-SA22; Policies E7 & G6</p>	<p>Proposed development is not considered likely to result in a significant increase in traffic along any major roads that are within 200m of the SAC. It is therefore determined that there are no pathways for short range atmospheric pollution. The site is located around 20km to the west of Gloucester City.</p> <p>Development proposed in the Plan area could contribute to long-range diffuse atmospheric pollution. However, the contribution of the plan is unlikely to be of significance.</p>	<p>APIS¹¹ shows that critical loads of Nitrogen are being exceeded for the Broadleaved Deciduous woodlands habitat that is home to both the Greater and Lesser Horseshoe Bat for which the site is designated – maternity roosts in disused mines in forest.</p> <p>Critical loads for acid deposition are not being exceeded at the site.</p>	Yes	No	There is the potential for the policies to act in combination with other plans and projects, including those of neighbouring authorities.	No
<p>Increased Disturbance: through recreational activity, noise and light pollution.</p> <p>GCP site Allocations SA01-SA22; Policies E7 & G6</p>	<p>The site lies approx. 20 km outside of the Plan area so there are no pathways for noise and light pollution, and it is unlikely that there will be a significant increase in recreational activity.</p>	<p>Yes, outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities are an issue at the site.</p>	Yes	No		No
<p>Changes to Water Levels and Quality: though increased levels of abstraction, surface water</p>	<p>The site is outside the plan area and proposed development is not likely to result in any increased nutrient input to the site as a result of consented discharge. There are no pathways for impacts on surface water runoff or water quality at the site.</p>	<p>The SAC is vulnerable to modifications of the ecosystem as well as changes in hydraulic conditions.</p>	No	No		No

¹¹ <http://www.apis.ac.uk/src/> [accessed March 2019]

runoff and discharges. GCP Site Allocations SA01-SA22; Policies E7 & G6						
Habitat Loss and Fragmentation: as a result of proposed development GCP Site Allocations SA01-SA22; Policies E7 & G6	The site is some 20km outside the plan area and proposed development will not result in any direct loss or fragmentation of habitat. It is unlikely that there will be any significant effects on any supporting habitat such as deciduous woodlands used for foraging due to the location/size of proposed development.	The designated features are sensitive to the loss of habitat.	No	No		No

Walmore Common SPA						
Potential impacts of the Plan	Environmental Pathways	Is the site sensitive/vulnerable to these impacts?	Risk?	LSE alone?	Potential impacts of other plans and programmes	LSE in-comb?
<p>Reduced Air Quality: through increased traffic and emissions.</p> <p>GCP Site Allocations SA01-SA22 Policies E7 & G6</p>	<p>A small proportion of the site lies in close proximity (within 200m) to the A48, passing to its east and south. There is potential for proposed development to increase the level of traffic along the A48. Therefore, there is a pathway for short range atmospheric pollutants.</p> <p>Development proposed in the Plan area could contribute to long-range diffuse atmospheric pollution. However, the contribution of the plan is unlikely to be of significance.</p>	<p>Critical load information¹² is not available for the habitat for the Bewick's Swan for which the site is designated.</p> <p>The GCP allocates local sites & most are within the city urban area; none are within 5km of the SPA. The proposed individual developments would not result in significant increased traffic due to their location and size.</p>	Yes	No	There is the potential for the policies to act in combination with other plans and projects, including those of neighbouring authorities.	?
<p>Increased Disturbance: through recreational activity, noise and light pollution.</p> <p>GCP Site Allocations: SA01-SA22</p>	<p>The site lies to the south and west approx. 4 km outside of the nearest boundary of the Plan area so there are limited possible pathways for noise and light pollution.</p> <p>It is considered that any significant increase in recreational activities is unlikely due to the locations of Site Allocations some distance away and their local size.</p>	Yes, outdoor sports, leisure and recreational activities are an issue at the site.	Yes	No	There is the potential for the policies to act in combination with other plans and projects, including those of neighbouring authorities.	?
<p>GCP Policies E7 & G6</p>	<p>The employment sites are existing sites and their allocation will not result in any increased disturbance. The energy development policies of E7 are for employment use & although location not known, increased recreational activity is unlikely due to the nature of the proposed development.</p>	As above	No	No		No

¹² <http://www.apis.ac.uk/srcl/> [accessed March 2019]

<p>Changes to Water Levels and Quality: though increased levels of abstraction, surface water runoff and discharges.</p> <p>GCP Site Allocations: SA01-SA22;</p>	<p>The site is outside the plan area and proposed development is not likely to result in any increased nutrient input to the site as a result of consented discharge. There are no pathways for impacts on surface water runoff or water quality at the site. Whilst the R Severn is functionally linked to the wetlands of the SPA, it is unlikely that the proposed developments would have any significant effects due to their local size and distance from the site.</p> <p>Increased abstraction has the potential to affect water levels at the site as it is situated in the Severn Water Resource Zone.</p>	<p>The site is vulnerable to changes in hydraulic conditions.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>		<p>No</p>
<p>GCP Policies E7 & G6</p>	<p>Proposed developments utilising the renewable energy potential of the river and canal is likely to lead to changes in water levels and quality. Energy related development has the potential for changes to water levels and quality – effects depend upon location, size and precise type of development – uncertainties of LSEs alone or in-combination.</p>	<p>The site is vulnerable to changes in hydraulic conditions.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>?</p>	<p>There is the potential for the policies to act in combination with other plans and projects, including those of neighbouring authorities</p>	<p>?</p>
<p>Habitat Loss and Fragmentation: as a result of proposed development</p> <p>GCP Site Allocations SA01-SA22; Policies E7 & G6</p>	<p>None of the proposed development is likely to lead to direct or indirect loss or fragmentation of designated land or supporting habitat.</p>	<p>The designated features are sensitive to the loss of habitat.</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>No</p>		<p>No</p>