

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

European sites within or partly within the Plan area

- Cotswold Beechwoods SAC
- Dixton Wood SAC

European sites outside the Plan area

- Bredon Hill SAC

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

European sites within or partly within the Plan area

Cotswold Beechwoods SAC						
Potential impacts of the Cheltenham 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>Draft CLP Policies: EM3; HM1-HM5; GT1; C11; H1 and HD1-8; H2 and MD1-5</p>	<p>Proposed development has the potential to increase traffic along the A46, which is within 200m of the site. Potential pathway for short range atmospheric pollution. Baseline information indicates that the most residents work within the JCS area, commuting within & between the three main settlements¹ of Gloucester City, Cheltenham Town and Tewkesbury Town. Therefore, much of the traffic that might increase on the A46 as a result of certain strategic Site Allocations is unlikely to travel near to the SAC site as the site is south (approx. between 2 and 5.5km away) of the three main settlements. Thus, the policies are unlikely to result in a significant increase in traffic on major roads within 200m of the site².</p> <p>Most CLP local site allocations are within the central area of the town and approx. 12km from the SAC; 2 allocations HD4 & MD5 are to the south-east and approx. 8km from the SAC.</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 habitat⁴.</p>	Yes	No	<p>There is the potential for the policies to act in combination with plans & programmes identified in Appendix II, specifically with the emerging Stroud Local Plan Review.</p>	Yes

¹ ONS - Area Based Analysis, Commuting Patterns from the Annual Population Survey, Local Authorities, 2010 and 2011

² According to the Department of Transport's Transport Analysis Guidance, beyond 200m, the contribution of vehicle emissions from the roadside to local pollution levels is not significant. Department for Transport (2015) Local Air Quality TAG Unit 3.1.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/638648/TAG_unit_a3_envir_imp_app_dec_15.pdf (accessed October 2016 & July 2018)

³ Air Pollution Information System (2012) Site Relevant Critical Loads. Online at <http://www.apis.ac.uk/> [Accessed October 2016 & July 2018]

⁴ Ibid

	There is also the potential for impacts as a result of increased diffuse (long range) atmospheric pollution.					
Increased disturbance - recreational activity and noise and light pollution. Draft CLP Policies: H1 and HD1-8; H2 and MD1-5	The majority of the 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 also passes through the site.	Yes, the site is sensitive to disturbance from recreational activities.	Yes	No	There is the potential for the policies to act in combination with plans & programmes identified in Appendix II, specifically the Stroud Local Plan Review.	Yes
Changes to Water Quality and Levels through increased surface water run-off, discharges and abstraction. Draft CLP Policies: H1 and HD1-8; H2 and MD1-5	There are no pathways for impacts on water quality given the elevation of the 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 of increased surface water run-off, discharges and abstraction.	No	No	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. Draft CLP Policies: GT1; H1 and HD1-8; H2 and MD1-5	The Plan makes provision over the Plan period for 10,917 new homes and 4 small allocations to support new jobs. The development will be focused in the existing urban area of Cheltenham. None of the proposed site allocation locations 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 of supporting habitat.	Yes	No	N/A	No

⁵ Enfusion telephone conversation with Natural England with regard to the HRA of the emerging GCT JCS (August 2013)

Dixton Woods 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>Draft CLP Policies: EM3; HM1-HM5; GT1; C11; H1 and HD1-8; H2 and MD1-5</p>	<p>There are no major roads within 200m of the site⁶; therefore, there is no pathway for impacts as a result of short range atmospheric pollution.</p> <p>However, there is the potential for impacts as a result of increased diffuse (long range) atmospheric pollution.</p>	<p>According to APIS critical loads for nitrogen are being exceeded at the site. However, given that the Violet Click Beetle relies upon decaying timber it is not considered sensitive to the impacts of increased atmospheric pollution.</p>	No	No	<p>There is the potential for the CLP to act in-combination with a number of plans and programmes. However, given that the site is not considered sensitive to the impacts of atmospheric pollution, it is considered that there will not be significant effects.</p>	No
<p>Increased disturbance - recreational activity and noise and light pollution.</p> <p>Draft CLP Policies: EM3; HM1-HM5; GT1; C11; H1 and HD1-8; H2 and MD1-5</p>	<p>As stated previously, the level of development that the Plan makes provision for will be focused in the existing urban area and in urban extensions and strategic allocations set out in JCS Policies A1, A4-5, A8-11.</p> <p>The nearest JCS strategic allocation is A8 which is approximately 4 km away. The CLP sites are over 15 km away.</p>	<p>Increased recreational activity has the potential to result in physical disturbance (e.g. the removal of decaying wood) of the habitat that supports the Violet Click Beetle. However, discussion with an NE Officer confirmed that recreation is not an issue at the site⁷. Although it was noted that the site may be vulnerable to vandalism if development was located close by⁸.</p>	Yes	No	<p>Given the small levels of development proposed within 10km of the site in the neighbouring authority of South Worcester, the sites inaccessibility and steepness, the main focus of development in the JCS and the CLP being located in urban areas, and the distance (over 15-20</p>	No

⁶ According to the Department of Transport's Transport Analysis Guidance, beyond 200m, the contribution of vehicle emissions from the roadside to local pollution levels is not significant. Department for Transport (2015) Local Air Quality TAG Unit 3.1. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/638648/TAG_unit_a3_envir_imp_app_dec_15.pdf (accessed October 2016 & July 2018)

⁷ Enfusion telephone conversation with Natural England with regard to the HRA of the emerging GCT JCS (August 2013)

⁸ Consultation response – Natural England (October 2011) on HRA Screening Report for Gloucester, Cheltenham and Tewkesbury (December 2011)

	The site is steep and inaccessible and as a result the potential for LSE is small.				km) of Cheltenham from the 4 site, it is considered unlikely that the policies will contribute to increased levels of recreational activity and therefore in combination effects.	
Changes to Water Quality and Levels through increased surface water run-off, discharges and abstraction. Draft CLP Policies: EM3; HM1-HM5; H1 and HD1-8; H2 and MD1-5	There are no pathways for impact given the elevation of the site and the Violet Click Beetles reliance on decaying timber.	The Violet Click Beetle relies upon decaying timber so it is therefore not considered to be vulnerable to reduced water quality and levels.	No	No	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. Draft CLP Policies: EM3; HM1-HM5; H1 and HD1-8; H2 and MD1-5	The Plan makes provision over the Plan period for 10,917 new homes and 4 small allocations to support new jobs. The development will be focused in the existing urban area of Cheltenham. None of the proposed site allocation locations 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 of supporting habitat.	Yes	No	N/A	No

European sites outside the Plan area

Bredon Hill 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>Draft CLP Policies: EM3; HM1-HM5; H1 and HD1-8; H2 and MD1-5</p>	<p>There are no major roads within 200m of the site; therefore, there is no pathway for impacts as a result of short range atmospheric pollution⁹. However, there is the potential for impacts as a result of increased diffuse (long range) atmospheric pollution.</p>	<p>According to APIS critical loads for nitrogen are being exceeded at the site. However, given that the Violet Click Beetle relies upon decaying timber it is not considered sensitive to the impacts of increased atmospheric pollution.</p>	No	No	<p>There is the potential for the JCS & CLP to act in-combination with a number of plans and programmes; however, given that the site is not considered sensitive to the impacts of atmospheric pollution, it is considered that there will not be significant effects.</p>	No
<p>Increased disturbance - recreational activity and noise and light pollution.</p> <p>Draft JCS Policies: EM3; HM1-HM5; H1 and HD1-8; H2 and MD1-5</p>	<p>There are a number of public paths/tracks and bridleways that run through and around the site. However, the NE Officer responsible for Bredon Hill SAC has stated that recreational activity is not an issue at the site¹⁰.</p> <p>The site is approximately 2 km outside of the JCS area and over 15 km from the Cheltenham urban area such that it is very unlikely that proposed development will</p>	<p>Increased recreational activity has the potential to result in physical disturbance (e.g. the removal of decaying wood) of the habitat that supports the Violet Click Beetle. The site is not considered sensitive to noise and light pollution.</p>	Yes	No	<p>The JCS & CLP policies have the potential act in-combination with the South Worcestershire Development Plan as well as the Cotswold Local Plan. However, recreational activity is not an issue at the site¹¹, and therefore, there will not be significant effects.</p>	No

⁹ According to the Department of Transport's Transport Analysis Guidance, beyond 200m, the contribution of vehicle emissions from the roadside to local pollution levels is not significant. Department for Transport (2015) Local Air Quality TAG Unit 3.1. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/638648/TAG_unit_a3_envir_imp_app_dec_15.pdf (accessed October 2016 & July 2018)

¹⁰ Enfusion telephone conversation with Natural England with regard to the HRA of the emerging GCT JCS (July 2012)

¹¹ Ibid

	increase levels of noise and light pollution at the site.					
Changes to Water Quality and Levels through increased surface water run-off, discharges and abstraction. EM3; HM1-HM5; H1 and HD1-8; H2 and MD1-5	There are no pathways for impact given the elevation of the site and the Violet Click Beetles reliance on decaying timber.	The Violet Click Beetle relies upon decaying timber so if therefore not considered to be vulnerable to changes in water levels.	No	No	There is the potential for the JCS & CLP to act in-combination with a number of plans and programmes; however, the Violet Click Beetle relies upon decaying timber so if therefore not considered to be vulnerable to changes in water levels. As a result, it is unlikely that there will be significant effects.	No
Habitat loss and fragmentation as a result of proposed development.	No development is proposed that would result in the direct or indirect loss or fragmentation of designated land or supporting habitat.	The designated feature is sensitive to the loss of supporting habitat; however, there are no pathways for impacts.	No	No	N/A	No