

Final Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating SEA): Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation Supplementary Planning Document

1 Introduction	3
2 Stage A - Scoping	7
3 Stage B - Developing and Refining Options and Assessing Effects	12
4 Results of the Appraisal	18
5 Conclusions and Future Tasks	21

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Summary of Consultation Responses	22
Appendix 2 - Options Appraisals - Full Appraisal Tables	25
Appendix 3 - Full Appraisal Tables-Thames Basin Heath Avoidance and Mitigation SPD	31
Appendix 4- Quality Assurance checklist	37
Appendix 5 - Glossary	41
Appendix 6 - References	43

1 Introduction

Background

1.1 A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of Bracknell Forest Councils Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been carried out by the Design, Environment and Transport team at Bracknell Forest Council.

1.2 The Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD will form part of the Bracknell Forest Local Development Framework (LDF) which comprises a number of documents that together guide the future development of the Borough. There are two types of document:

- Development Plan Documents (DPDs) which contain policies and proposals; and
- Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) which contain the detail needed to implement the policies.

1.3 The Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation document is an SPD which will formalise guidance on the avoidance and mitigation strategy for future development in order to protect the SPA from adverse impacts under European and UK Law.

Sustainable Development

1.4 Sustainable development first moved into mainstream policy making and legislation after the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, having emerged as a key issue in 1987, highlighted by Bruntland. Following the Rio Earth Summit, the UK government produced 'A Better Quality of Life, a Strategy for Sustainable Development in the UK'⁽¹⁾ which describe the main themes of sustainable development. These were highlighted as being:

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

1.5 Subsequently, in March 2005 a new UK framework for sustainable development 'Securing the Future'⁽²⁾ was launched which took account of new policies since 1999, and highlighted the renewed international push for sustainable development from the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002. Five principles of sustainable development are identified in 'Securing the Future':

- Living within environmental limits;
- Ensuring a strong, healthy and just society;
- Achieving a sustainable economy;
- Promoting good governance; and
- Using sound science responsibly.

1 Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (1999) A Better Quality of Life: a Strategy for Sustainable Development in the United Kingdom

2 HM Government (2005) Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy

1.6 A Council officer and a member working group drafted a local definition of sustainable development which has been adopted by Bracknell Forest Council: "*Sustainable development is development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Therefore sustainability is acting to create harmony between a developed economy and the environment.*"

1.7 For ease of use the themes of sustainability are typically categorised under the 3 general headings of social, economic and environmental. However, in reality many of the issues should overlap and do not fall distinctly into one of these categories. The Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area SPD should be based on the principles of sustainable development.

Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal

1.8 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required in the EU by an EU Directive (2001/42/EC)⁽³⁾ on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment. This Directive is often referred to as the "SEA Directive". SPDs are considered to have the potential for causing significant environmental effects and are therefore required to be screened for SEA to ensure that significant negative environmental effects are minimised and the positive environmental effects are maximised.

1.9 Sustainability Appraisal (SA) is required in the UK by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004⁽⁴⁾. However, the recent Planning Act 2008⁽⁵⁾ has removed the requirement for carrying out SA of SPDs. Despite SA being no longer required for SPDs, Bracknell Forest Council has decided to prepare an SA incorporating SEA for the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Areas Avoidance and Mitigation SPD. This ensures that social and economic factors are considered as well as environmental.

1.10 As there are many cross-overs between SA and SEA, government guidance⁽⁶⁾ has recommended that the two processes be undertaken simultaneously. This approach has been taken for the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD, therefore where SA is referred to this also incorporates the requirements of SEA.

Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD

1.11 As well as helping to interpret policy CS14 of the Core Strategy⁽⁷⁾, policy NRM6 of the South East Plan⁽⁸⁾ and the Thames Basin Heaths Delivery Framework⁽⁹⁾, the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD will also identify strategic Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspaces (SANGs) within the Borough, provide and implement the SAMM (Strategic Access Management and Monitoring) Project in the Borough. The SPD will provide an Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy which sets out both the measures and the implementation mechanisms necessary to allow development to proceed without harm to the SPA, provide guidance on bespoke approaches to SPA mitigation is also included and implement the SAMM (Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Project) in the Borough.

3 EU 2001 The SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

4 HM Government (2004) Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act.

5 HM Government Planning Act 2008

6 OPDM (2005) Sustainability Appraisals of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents

7 Bracknell Forest Council (February 2008) *Core Strategy Development Plan Document*

8 Government Office for the South East of England (2009) *The South East Plan: Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East of England*

9 Thames Basin Heaths Joint Strategic Partnership Board (2009) *Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Delivery Framework*

Core Strategy Objectives

1.12 The Bracknell Forest Core Strategy identifies 12 Spatial Objectives to guide development in the Borough up until 2026. These are as follows:

A	To plan for a balance of housing and employment growth
B	To aid delivery of housing in the Borough, which meets the needs of all sectors of the community, including the provision of affordable housing
C	To deliver the regeneration of Bracknell town centre
D	To promote a sequential approach to the location of new development
E	To promote a transport system which enables access to services, by a choice of transport modes
F	To ensure high quality well designed development is delivered in the Borough
G	To support and facilitate essential community facilities and infrastructure in accessible locations
H	To deliver accessible development meeting the needs of the Borough
I	To maintain and improve the built and natural environment, and to avoid or mitigate the effects of new development upon the natural and historic environment
J	To maintain high and stable levels of economic growth
K	To promote the sustainable use and disposal of resources
L	To mitigate against and adapt to climate change

1.13 The content of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD will contribute to meeting some or all of these Spatial Objectives guiding development in the Borough up until 2026.

Stages of the SA Process

1.14 Government guidance on SA⁽¹⁰⁾ identifies the various stages of SA and how these relate to the different stages of preparing an SPD such as the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD. The stages are shown in **Table 1** below, taken from the ODPM guidance.

SPD Stage 1: Pre-production - Evidence Gathering
SA stages and tasks
Stage A: Setting the context and objectives, establishing the baseline and deciding on the scope

10 ODPM (2005) *Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Frameworks*

SPD Stage 1: Pre-production - Evidence Gathering
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A1: Identifying other relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives • A2: Collecting baseline information • A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems • A4: Developing the SA framework • A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA
SPD Stage 2: Production - Prepare draft SPD
SA stages and tasks
<p>Stage B: Developing and refining options and assessing effects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B1: Testing the SPD objectives against the SA framework • B2: Developing the SPD options • B3: Predicting the effects of the SPD • B4: Evaluating the effects of the SPD • B5: Considering ways of mitigating adverse effects and maximising beneficial effects • B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the SPD
<p>Stage C: Preparing the Sustainability Appraisal Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • C1: Preparing the SA Report
<p>Stage D: Consulting on the draft SPD and Sustainability Appraisal Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D1: Public participation on the SA Report and the draft SPD • D2: Assessing significant changes
SPD Stage 3: Adoption
SA stages and tasks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • D3: Making decisions and providing information
<p>Stage E: Monitoring the significant effects of implementing the SPD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • E1: Finalising aims and methods for monitoring • E2: Responding to adverse effects

Table 1 Incorporating SA within the SPD Process

1.15 This report, is the Sustainability Appraisal Report. This report will document and describe the SA process which has been undertaken to appraise the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD.

2 Stage A - Scoping

Introduction

2.1 This section of the report sets out how the scoping stage of the SA was carried out, with reference to the tasks listed in stage A in Table 1 of the previous section. It is important to note that the scoping stage for this SA has been able to draw on the Scoping Report for SA of the overall LDF⁽¹¹⁾, and the SA of the Core Strategy⁽¹²⁾. This has avoided the repetition of much of the contents of these reports and is an accepted approach to SA. A separate Scoping Report for the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD⁽¹³⁾ has also been prepared, but this only includes information specific to the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD. The LDF Scoping Report, the core Strategy SA Scoping Report, and the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD Scoping Report are available on Bracknell Forest Council's Website at www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk.

Task A1: Identify relevant policies, plans and programmes, and sustainability objectives

2.2 This task requires a review of policies, plans and programmes relevant to the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD to establish the sustainability objectives which need to be considered.

2.3 A comprehensive review of relevant policies, plans and programmes for the Bracknell Forest LDF was undertaken as part of the LDF SA Scoping Report⁽¹⁴⁾ and Core Strategy SA Scoping Report⁽¹⁵⁾. In preparing the SA Scoping Report for the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD, consideration was given to whether there were additional plans or programmes which should be considered specific to the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD.

2.4 The following documents were identified as relevant for consideration for the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD and the associated SA:

Plan/Programme	Summary
<p>The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 HM Government</p>	<p>The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the “Habitats Regulations”) consolidate and update the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 1 (“the 1994 Regulations”).</p>

- 11 Bracknell Forest Council (2006) Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) Revised Scoping Report: Bracknell Forest Borough Local Development Framework, Jan 2010
- 12 Bracknell Forest Council (2005) Sustainability (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) Revised Scoping Report: Bracknell Forest Borough Core Strategy and Site Allocations Development Plan Documents, April 2005
- 13 Bracknell Forest Council (2009) Scoping Report (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment): Thames Basin Heath Avoidance and Mitigation Supplementary Planning Document, July 2009
- 14 Bracknell Forest Council (2006) Sustainability Appraisal (Incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment) Revised Scoping Report: Bracknell Forest Borough Local Development Framework, April 2006
- 15 Bracknell Forest Council (2005) Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment) Revised Scoping Report: Bracknell Forest Borough Core Strategy and Site Allocations Development Plan Documents, February 2005

	<p>These regulations transpose the requirements of the Habitats and Birds Directives into UK law. Their aim is to protect internationally designated sites from harm by introducing a stringent assessment regime.</p>
<p>Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3): Housing (June 2011) CLG</p>	<p>Sets out the national planning policy framework for delivering the Government's housing objectives. The document indicates that when considering design quality, the extent to which the proposed development provides for the retention or establishment of biodiversity within residential environments should be considered. It should also be considered whether proposed development provides, or enables good access to green and open amenity and recreational space.</p>
<p>The South East Plan: Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East of England (2009) Government Office for the South East</p>	<p>South East Plan (Regional Spatial Strategy)- Whilst the Government has clearly stated its intention to revoke Regional Spatial Strategies (RSSs), the Council considers that South East Plan Policies NRM5 and NRM6, associated supporting evidence base, and the Thames Basin Heaths SPA Delivery Framework (2009) set out the most up to date requirements and advice to enable the Borough to deliver development whilst protecting the SPA. The Government's proposals to abolish RSSs is contained in the Localism Act which gained Royal Assent on 15 November 2011, and it is anticipated that these provisions will come into effect in April 2012.</p> <p>Policy NRM6 of the South East Plan is specifically about the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA). The policy indicates that new residential development which is likely to have a significant effect on the ecological integrity of the SPA will be required to demonstrate that adequate measures are put in place to avoid or mitigate any potential adverse effects. The policy also sets out where mitigation takes the form of provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG), that a minimum of 8 hectares of SANG land should be provided per 1,000 new occupants.</p>
<p>South East Green Infrastructure Framework: From Policy into Practice (2009) Land Use Consultants on behalf of a partnership of regional organisations</p>	<p>Regional guidance produced to facilitate strategic green infrastructure planning required by Policy CC8 of the South East Plan.</p>
<p>Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Delivery Framework (2009)</p>	<p>Sub-regional guidance produced by the Thames Basin Heaths Joint Strategic Partnership. The aim is to enable a consistent approach to avoidance and mitigation of impacts arising from</p>

Thames Basin Heaths Joint Strategic Partnership Board	new residential development which might otherwise adversely affect the Thames Basin Heaths SPA.
---	---

Table 2 Additional Relevant Plans and Programmes

Task A2: Collecting baseline information

2.5 This task requires the collection of baseline information about the plan area and anywhere outside the plan area which may be relevant. A large amount of baseline data is presented in the LDF Scoping Report and the Core Strategy SA Scoping Report, both of which cover the whole Borough. The information in these two documents is considered to be sufficient for the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD, therefore no additional baseline data has been collected specific to the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD. The LDF and Core Strategy SA Scoping Report should be read in conjunction with this document.

Task A3: Identifying sustainability issues and problems

2.6 This task requires the identification of key sustainability issues and problems relevant to the plan in question, based on the review of plans and programmes and the baseline information collected as part of the previous tasks.

2.7 The LDF SA Scoping Report identified a number of significant sustainability issues within Bracknell Forest. The Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD SA Scoping Report did not identify additional issues to be considered. Sustainability issues and problems highlighted in the LDF SA Scoping Report have therefore been selected for consideration for this SA as appropriate. The sustainability issues considered of most relevance to the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD are listed below:

- Housing provision for all;
- Protecting the landscape character of the Borough;
- Biodiversity and conservation issues, especially key species and habitats.

Task A4: Developing the SA Framework

2.8 The SA framework is made up of a number of SA objectives which are then used to test the plan against. A set of 24 SA objectives were identified as part of the LDF SA Scoping Report to consider relevant local issues covering a range of social, environmental and economic impacts. The justification for their selection and a testing for internal compatibility are detailed in the LDF Scoping Report.

2.9 As the Thames Basin Heath Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD relates to a specific topic, it is possible that not all the SA objectives will be relevant for consideration. Relevance of SA Objectives to the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD below, lists the SA objectives, and indicates which are relevant to this SPD. The SPD will only be tested against the SA objectives which are considered relevant.

Bracknell Forest Council SA Objectives	Can this objective be delivered by the SPD?
1. To meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home	Yes
2. To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment	Yes
3. To protect and enhance human health and wellbeing	Yes
4. To reduce poverty and social exclusion	No
5. To raise educational achievement levels	No
6. To reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	Yes
7. To create and sustain vibrant and locally distinctive communities	Yes
8. To provide accessible essential services and facilities	Yes
9. To make opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation readily accessible	Yes
10. To encourage urban renaissance by improving efficiency in land use, design and layout. This includes making best use of previously developed land in meeting future development needs	Yes
11. To maintain air quality and improve where possible	Yes
12. To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, and ensure Bracknell Forest is prepared for associated impacts	Yes
13. To conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity	Yes
14. To protect and enhance where possible the Borough's characteristic countryside and its historic environment in urban and rural areas	Yes
15. To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys	Yes
16. To sustainably use and re-use renewable and non-renewable resources	No
17. To address the waste hierarchy by: minimising waste as a priority, reuse, then by recycling, composting or energy recovery	No
18. To maintain and improve water quality in the Borough's water courses and to achieve sustainable water resource management	Yes

Bracknell Forest Council SA Objectives	Can this objective be delivered by the SPD?
19. To maintain and improve soil quality	Yes
20. To increase energy efficiency, and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the Borough	No
21. To ensure high and stable levels of employment	No
22. To sustain economic growth and competitiveness of the Borough	No
23. To encourage 'smart' economic growth	No
24. To develop and maintain a skilled workforce by developing the opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills needed to find work	No

Table 3 Relevance of SA Objectives to the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD

2.10 When carrying out an SA, the SA objectives are used to assess each assessable aspect of the plan. The appraisal is informed by the information from previous stages, notably the review of plans and programmes, and the baseline data but it is also based on the professional judgement of the Design, Environment and Transport team at Bracknell Forest Council.

2.11 As many of the LDF SA objectives are relevant to this SPD, the SA Framework detailed in the LDF Scoping Report is directly applicable. Therefore the SA Framework table has not been reproduced in this document.

Task A5: Consulting on the scope of the SA

2.12 The LDF SA Scoping Report was consulted upon in 2010, the Core Strategy Scoping Report was consulted upon in February 2005 and the Thames Basin Heath Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD SA Scoping Report was consulted upon in July - September 2009. The statutory environmental consultees (Environment Agency, Natural England, English Heritage) were consulted during these consultations, as well as other relevant organisations for a minimum of five weeks. Members of the public were also given an opportunity to comment. A summary of consultation responses relating to the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD SA Scoping Report is provided in '**Appendix 1 - Summary of Consultation Response to Thames Basin Heath Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD SA Scoping Report**' of this report.

3 Stage B - Developing and Refining Options and Assessing Effects

Introduction

3.1 This section sets out how stage B tasks of the SA have been carried out in Table 1 'Incorporating SA within the SPD Process' in the 1. 'Introduction' Chapter of this document. This explains much of the methodology behind the appraisal process itself.

Task B1: Testing the SPD objectives against the SA framework

3.2 The aim of the Thames Basin Heath Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD is to help achieve Core Strategy Objective I: to maintain and improve the built and natural environment, and to avoid or mitigate the effects of new development upon the natural and historic environment; and to provide guidance for the implementation of Core Strategy policy CS14. There are no separate objectives of the Thames Basin Heath Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD.

3.3 The Compatibility of Core Strategy Objective I with the SA Objectives has already been assessed in the SA of the Core Strategy. The results of this are shown in Table 4 'Compatibility of Objective I with SA Objectives' below.

SA Objective	Compatibility with Core Strategy Objective I
SA1: To meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home	Y
SA2: To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people and property and the environment	Y
SA3: To protect and enhance human health and wellbeing	Y
SA4: To reduce poverty and social exclusion	
SA5: To raise educational achievement levels	
SA6: To reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	
SA7: To create and sustain vibrant and locally distinctive communities	Y
SA8: To provide accessible essential services and facilities	
SA9: To make opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation readily accessible	Y

SA Objective	Compatibility with Core Strategy Objective I
SA10: To encourage urban renaissance by improving efficiency in land use, design and layout. This includes making best use of previously developed land in meeting our future development needs	Y
SA11: To maintain air quality and improve where possible	Y
SA12: To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, and ensure Bracknell Forest is prepared for associated impacts.	Y
SA13: To conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity	Y
SA14: To protect and enhance where possible the Borough's characteristic countryside and its historic environment in urban and rural areas	Y
SA15: To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys	
SA16: To sustainably use and re-use renewable and non-renewable resources	
SA17: To address the waste hierarchy by: minimising waste as a priority, reuse, then by recycling, composting or energy recovery	
SA18: To maintain and improve water quality in the Borough's water courses and to achieve sustainable water resource management	Y
SA19: To maintain and improve soil quality	Y
SA20: To increase energy efficiency, and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources in the Borough	
SA21: To ensure high and stable levels of employment	Y
SA22: To sustain economic growth and competitiveness of the Borough	Y
SA23: To encourage 'smart' economic growth	Y
SA24: To develop and maintain a skilled workforce by developing the opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills needed to find work	

Table 4 Compatibility of objective I with SA Objectives

Y	Compatible
X	Incompatible

Table 5 Key

3.4 The key to the symbols used in Table 4 'Compatibility I with SA Objectives' is shown in Table 5 'Key'. Where the table is left blank, these objectives are not applicable, not directly related to each other, or neutral. As can be seen from Table 4 'Compatibility of Objective I with SA Objectives' Core Strategy objective I is considered to be compatible with the SA Objectives.

Task B2: Developing the SPD Options

3.5 Different options for how the SPD should be developed were explored at the early stages of preparing this document. Three options were considered:

- To prepare an SPD on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area which takes a local approach to the production of the SPD, and has measures and mitigation which tie into a strategic avoidance and mitigation strategy:
- To prepare an SPD on Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area which takes a strategic approach to the preparation of the SPD.
- To prepare no SPD on Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area.
- In order to help decide which option was most appropriate, the three options were assessed against the SA objectives.

3.6 The methodology used to assess the options for the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD is based on the approach suggested in Figure 29 of the ODPM guidance on SA⁽¹⁶⁾. The results of the options assessment are shown in Table 7 'Options Appraisal Summary Table' below. This is a summary table only, the full assessment tables for each option can be found in **Appendix 2**, including commentary on the scoring. The scoring mechanism is shown in Table 6 'Scoring Mechanism' below.

Scoring	Explanation
++	Very positive effect on the SA objective
+	Minor positive effect on the SA objective
0	Neutral
-	Minor negative effect on the SA objective
--	Very negative effect on the SA objective
I	Outcome dependent upon implementation
?	Impact cannot be predicted

Table 6 Scoring Mechanism

16 ODPM (2005) Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents

- Option 1 is to prepare an SPD on Thames Basin Heath Special Protection Area to take a local approach to the production of the SPD that links into a strategic avoidance and mitigation strategy. This would involve preparing guidance that covers Bracknell Forest Borough, but that links into a Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Project with all 13 Thames Basin Heaths affected areas.
- Option 2 is to prepare an SPD on Thames Basin Heath Special Protection Area to take a strategic approach to the avoidance and mitigation strategy. This would involve all 13 Thames Basin Heath affected areas to work together to produce an SPD.
- Option 3 is to not prepare an SPD on Thames Basin Heath Special Protection Area.

SA Objective	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
SA1: To meet housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home	0	-	0
SA2: To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment	I	I	0
SA3: To protect and enhance human health and wellbeing	+	+	0
SA6: To reduce and prevent crime	0	0	0
SA7: To create and sustain vibrant and locally distinctive communities	+	I/-	0
SA8: To provide accessible essential services and facilities	0	I/+	0
SA9: To make opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation readily accessible	+/I	+	0
SA10: To encourage urban renaissance by improving efficiency in land use, design and layout. This includes making best use of previously developed land in meeting future development needs	+	I/-	0
SA11: To maintain air quality and improve where possible	0	0	0
SA12: To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, and ensure Bracknell Forest is prepared for associated impacts	0	I/-	0
SA13: To conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity	++	++	0
SA14: To protect and enhance where possible the countryside and its historic environment in urban and rural areas	I/+/-	I/+	0

SA15: To improve travel choices and accessibility, reduce the need to travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys	0	?	0
SA18: To maintain and improve water quality in the Borough's water course and to achieve sustainable water resource management	0/I	0	0
SA19: To maintain and improve soil quality	I	I/-	0

Table 7 Options Appraisal Summary Table

3.7 As can be seen from Table 7 'Options Appraisal Summary Table' above, there are no predicted effects of having no SPD. This is because planning policies such as Limiting the Impact of Development SPD and the Core Strategy policies will be in place whether or not an SPD is produced. This does not mean that it is not necessary to prepare a Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area SPD. The appraisal of Options 1 and 2 show some positive effects which would not be gained if no SPD were prepared. Option 1 is considered preferable as it scores slightly higher in the appraisal. It may not be appropriate or practicable for all 13 Thames Basin Heaths affected Authorities to work together to produce an SPD and this approach may not achieve the best results for Bracknell Forest. Option 1 provides the certainty that the Thames Basin Heath will be protected across all 13 affected Authorities but will also be able to have recommendations that are tailored specifically to Bracknell Forest.

3.8 Option 1 has therefore been chosen for the approach to the SPD. The SPD will take a local approach to the production but will have recommendations that link into a strategic avoidance and mitigation strategy for the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area. The SPD will provide guidance on interpreting policy CS14 of the Core Strategy.

Task B3-B5: Preparing and Evaluation the effects of the SPD and considering Mitigation

3.9 The purpose of these tasks is to predict and assess the effects of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD. The methodology used to carry out the SA of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD is based on the approach suggested in Figure 34 of the ODPM guidance on SA⁽¹⁷⁾. The chosen approach for the appraisal is shown below in Table 8 'Approach for Assessment Table'. The scoring mechanism is the same as that used for the options appraisal.

SA Objective	Assessment of effect	Commentary
SA1: To meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home	++	Comments: Likelihood of effect: Spatial Scale: Temporary / Permanent Short, medium, long term

17 ODPM (2005) Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents

SA2: To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment	+	Comments: Likelihood of effect: Spatial Scale: Temporary / Permanent Short, medium, long term
Etc.		

Table 8 Approach for Assessment Table

3.10 The assessment involves predicting and evaluating the effects of the SPD against the SA objectives. In describing the effects, consideration is given to the likelihood of these effects, the spatial, permanence of effects, and whether the effects will be experienced in the short, medium and/or long term. Consideration is also given to the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects, including cumulative, secondary and synergistic effects. Baseline information is used to inform the decisions regarding scoring but professional judgement is also used, therefore there is some subjectivity in the assessment. Reasoning behind the scoring is given in the commentary section. Also, where mitigation is considered necessary to minimise adverse effects or maximise beneficial effects, this is suggested in the commentary column.

Task B6: Proposing measures to monitor the significant effects of implementing the SPD

3.11 As part of the SA, a monitoring programme is required to be put forward to monitor the effects of the SPD on the SA objectives over time once the SPD is in place. Monitoring is already in place for the Core Strategy of the LDF, and includes the topics relevant to the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD, therefore no additional monitoring is proposed specific to this SPD.

4 Results of the Appraisal

Introduction

4.1 In this section the results of the SA of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD are provided using the methodology set out in section 4. As SPDs do not contain policies, these cannot be assessed, therefore the two pronged strategy has been assessed.

4.2 Each recommendation has a separate assessment, and this section contains a summary table of these assessments and a discussion of the significant issues raised. Full appraisal tables are provided in **Appendix 3**.

Significant changes to the SPD following consultation

4.3 The following significant changes to the SPD have taken place either as a result of the Draft SA findings and/or consultation feedback. Where significant changes to the methodology have taken place these have been acknowledged and any implications noted both in the full appraisal tables and the summary below.

4.4 Following consultation with Natural England the previous two pronged approach has been expanded so that it is now a three pronged approach including 'Habitats Management', as well as SANG (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace) and SAMM (Strategic Access Management and Monitoring).

4.5 In the longer term, habitat management may theoretically - be taken to be an avoidance measure; however, the focus in the short-term must be improving the quality of the SPA to favourable condition status. This is a duty of SPA landowners which falls outside of Development Management and therefore outside of the SPD influence.

4.6 For consistency 'Habitat Management' has been included as a way of mitigating any likely significant effects on the SPA. However as it is considered to be the duty of the SPA landowner and therefore falls outside the influence of the SPD, no further Appraisal work was considered to be required.

4.7 Other significant changes to the SPD included a recalculation of the SANG costings resulting in a lowering of fees and a recalculation of the SANG boundaries. These amendments do not result in any significant change to the original SANG recommendation and therefore for this reason the SA scoring for recommendation (2) SANG has not been altered.

4.8 No significant changes were made to the SAMM approach as this has already been agreed by the SAMM Project Board and a legal agreement has been signed by the relevant authorities. As such there have been no changes to the original scoring against recommendation (1) SAMM.

4.9 Other minimal changes to the text have taken place as a result of consultation feedback. None of which are considered significant enough to change the overall methodology as established at the Draft stage.

SA Objective	Recommendations	
	(1.) Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM)	(2.) Provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANG)
SA1	0	+
SA2	0	-
SA3	+	+
SA6	0	0
SA7	+	+
SA8	0	0
SA9	+	0
SA10	0	+
SA11	I	-
SA12	I	-
SA13	++	+/-
SA14	0	0/?
SA15	0	0
SA18	0	-/I
SA19	-/+	I

Table 9 Summary results table

Summary of Recommendation 1 (SAMM)

4.10 The appraisal of the Strategic Access Management and Monitoring recommendation demonstrates that there are likely to be no significant affects on the objectives. However it does score positively especially against SA13. There are several positive effects against the SA objectives as the provision of and quality of SANGs in the Borough will be enhanced as a result of this recommendation. It does score a minor negative for soil quality as there is likely to be increased pressure on SANGs and increased footfall, this is likely to lead to soil compaction within the SANGs, however soil quality within the SPA may improve. It is thought that the positive effects outweigh this minor negative effect. There are some scores of 'I' indicating that the effects will depend on how the recommendation is implemented. This is because it is currently unclear how the recommendation may help to meet objectives 11 (Air Quality) and 12 (Climate Change). Some SANGS may well be located within walking distance. However it is understood that they are not there just to provide parkland but to provide a suitable alternative to that of the SPA; and therefore are not always accessible by foot. Therefore until implementation this affect if any may not be known.

Summary of Recommendation 2 (SANG)

4.11 The recommendation to have an 8 hectare strategy for mitigation per 1000 people has received some negative scores. This is because the current mitigation strategy is 12 hectares per 1000 people. However following the 12 hectare strategy this could prevent the Council from delivering the housing numbers put forward for the Borough in the Core Strategy (2008). The recommendation received minor negative scores for SA2, SA11 and SA12, this is because more houses can be provided which could lead to more traffic generation and more impermeable surfaces. It is thought that the negative scores are justifiable as the recommendation scores well against social and economic objectives.

Overall conclusion

4.12 As the primary purpose of this SPD is to provide certainty that the SPA will remain protected and alternative accessible and suitable open space will be provided for residents, it is not recommended that any changes to the SPD are required. Although some negative scores have been awarded it is considered that all of these are justifiable.

5 Conclusions and Future Tasks

Conclusions

5.1 This report forms the final SA Report. Having carried out a thorough appraisal of all the recommendations made in the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD, it was concluded that the recommendations as they stand were considered to be sustainable and did not require alteration. Many positive scores were awarded and a few very positive scores were awarded. Only a few minor negative scores were given against one of the recommendations, all of which are considered to be justifiable.

5.2 No secondary, cumulative or synergistic effects were identified. Some scores were considered uncertain or will depend on how the recommendations are implemented. It was considered important that all aspects of sustainable development were considered when finalising the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD.

Future Tasks

5.3 Table 10 below lists the various outputs of the SA and shows what stages have been completed and when.

5.4 Due to policy changes and work at the regional level, BFC undertook a second consultation on its draft SPD. Details are set out in the table below.

SA Output	Stage	Date
Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report	Completed	July 2009
Draft Sustainability Report- Consultation (November 2009)	Completed	2nd November - 14 December 2009
Draft Sustainability Appraisal Report- Consultation	Completed	July 2011
Final Sustainability Appraisal Report	Completed- This report	March 2012
Monitoring of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area SPD	To be carried out	Ongoing from the completion of document

Table 10 Stages of the SA

As can be seen from the table above, this report is the Final SA report of the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Avoidance and Mitigation SPD. Monitoring of the SPD will take place as part of the monitoring of the whole LDF.

Quality Assurance

5.5 A quality assurance checklist is provided in **Appendix 4** of this document. It is based on Figure 14 of the ODPM SA Guidance⁽¹⁸⁾. It is designed to signpost the requirements of the SEA Directive through references to specific parts of the SA Report, or other documents.

18 ODPM (2005) Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents

Appendix 1 - Summary of Consultation Responses

Organisation	Summary of Comments	Action Taken
Natural England	Responded with no comments	No action necessary
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	Responded with no comments	No Action necessary
Environment Agency	Requested inclusion of PPS25, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, Thames Catchment Flood Management Plan in the relevant plans, policies and programmes	Outside the scope of the SA / SEA process. No Action necessary
	Requested review of both local and Berkshire Biodiversity Action Plans Requested update of baseline information, in particular on water quality, surface water flooding and flood risk.	The Council is currently updating the LDF SA Scoping report, this will include update of water quality and flood risk information. No Action necessary
	SANGs should be designed to alleviate flood risk, be located adjacent to development, create BAP habitat and contain SuDS	The primary purpose of SANGs is to avoid harm to the SPA by providing alternative recreational space for new residents. Designing SANGs to flood could conflict with their primary purpose, however SANGs may deliver secondary benefits in some cases. No Action necessary

Table 11 Summary of Consultation Responses to Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area SPD SA Scoping Report

Organisation	Summary of Comments	Action Taken
Natural England	2.5 - This table lists a previous version of the Habitats Regulations. They were updated in 2010.	<p>Action:</p> <p>The relevant tables have been amended so that up to date regulations have been taken into consideration.</p>
Environment Agency	Table 13 row SA2 suggests that flood risk could be increased by the introduction of impermeable surfaces. We would expect that sustainable drainage features (SuDs) would be included with new development in line with the requirements of PPS25.	<p>SuD's would be a requirement of any new development so that it is in line with the requirements of PPS25.</p> <p>No Action necessary.</p>
Warfield Parish Council	Table 4 summary results table Draft Sustainability Appraisal fails to identify this risk to the local biodiversity. Also we question objective SA13, the provision of sustainable alternative SANG which has a white entry containing '+/-' with no explanation of what this means.	<p>When appraising SANG (Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space) the local biodiversity baseline was considered and this can be seen in the full appraisal table against SA Objective 13 (Appendix 3).</p> <p>When assessing the SANG recommendation the following statement was included in the relevant full appraisal table (Appendix 3):-</p> <p>"The recommendation will continue to protect the SPA. However more housing may result in a loss of Greenfield sites and biodiversity in the Borough as more land will be developed."</p> <p>No Action necessary.</p>
On behalf of Legal & General	Table 2 at paragraph 2.5. There should be a reference to "The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010", even if this legislation was not passed at the time of initial appraisal there should be a reference to the current legislation pertaining to nature conservation matters on European sites.	<p>Action:</p> <p>The relevant tables have been amended so that up to date regulations have been taken into consideration whilst preparing this the Final SA Report.</p>

Boyer Planning (On behalf of Luff Development Limited)	We support the Council's decision to approach the protection of the SPA on a local basis (p.15), as opposed to a more strategic approach, or not to prepare an SPD.	Noted.
	The recommendation with regard to provision of SANG land is welcomed, as a reduction from a requirement of 12ha per 1,000 population to 8ha per 1,000 population will support the Council's housing target, both in terms of space for development and in financial terms.	Noted.
	The reduction in SANG size required should in theory lead to a decrease in the overall costs of SANGS provision, however as stated in para. 2.2.4 above, the cost has increased substantially since the SPD 2007 was adopted. We would therefore question how the Council have arrived at the current costs used to calculate the contributions sought in the consultation SPD.	Action: This comment has been noted and is to be addressed in a separate document- Thames Basin Heath Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy SPD, Statement of Consultation.

Table 12 Summary of Comments on the Draft SA Report

Appendix 2 - Options Appraisals - Full Appraisal Tables

SA Objective	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Comments
SA1 To meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home	0	0	0	No effects predicted.
SA2 To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment	l	l	l	The effect on this objective will depend on the implementation of the SPD. Effects are likely to be limited as there is only a very small area of the Borough at risk from flooding.
SA3 To protect and enhance human health and wellbeing	+	+	+	It is thought that protecting the SPA and providing alternative open spaces will enhance human health and wellbeing.
SA6 To reduce and prevent crime	0	0	0	No effects predicted.
SA7 To create and sustain vibrant and locally distinctive communities	+	+	+	It is thought that protecting the SPA will help to create and sustain vibrant and locally distinctive communities especially around the SPA.
SA8 To provide accessible essential services and facilities	0	0	0	No effects predicted.
SA9 To make opportunities for culture, leisure and recreations readily accessible	+/l	+/l	+/l	Effects are likely to be positive, but depend on implementation of the SPD. However a strategic approach should allow more opportunities for leisure and recreation and make it more readily accessible.
SA10 To encourage urban renaissance by improving efficiency in land use, design and layout. This includes making best use	+	+	+	Effects are likely to be positive as this approach will allow more efficient land use.

of previously developed land in meeting future development needs				
SA11 To maintain air quality and improve where possible	0	0	0	No effects predicted.
SA12 To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, and ensure Bracknell Forest is prepared for associated impacts	0	0	0	No effects predicted.
SA13 To conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity	++	++	++	The effect on this objective is like to be very positive on conserving and enhancing the Borough's biodiversity and the surrounding areas biodiversity especially the SPA.
SA14 To protect and enhance where possible the Borough's characteristic countryside and its historic environment in urban and rural areas	+/-	+/-	+/-	The effects on this objective depend on implementation, however they could be either positive or negative, as the SPD may help protect the Borough's countryside however if the SPD allows for more development then this may lead to a negative effect on this objective.
SA15 To improve travel choices and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys	0	0	0	No effects predicted.
SA18 To maintain and improve water quality in the borough water course and to achieve sustainable water resource management	0/1	0/1	0/1	There is likely to be no effect on water quality. However any possible effects will be dependent on implementation of the SPD.

SA19 To maintain and improve soil quality	I	I	I	Effects depend on how the SPD is written and implemented.
--	---	---	---	---

Table 13 Option 1 - To prepare an SPD on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area which takes a local approach to the production of the SPD, and has measures and mitigation which tie into a strategic avoidance and mitigation strategy

Option 2 - To prepare an SPD on Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area which takes a strategic approach to the preparation of the SPD.

SA objective	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Comments
SA1 To meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home	-	-	-	If all 13 Thames Basin Heaths SPA Authorities work together to produce an SPD then its production may be delayed, it is thought that this could lead to a reduction in development whilst the SPD is being produced.
SA2 To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment	I	I	I	The effect on this objective will depend on the implementation of the SPD. Effects are likely to be limited as there is only a very small area of the Borough at risk from flooding.
SA3 To protect and enhance human health and wellbeing	+	+	+	It is thought that protecting the SPA and providing alternative open spaces will enhance human health and wellbeing.
SA6 To reduce and prevent crime	0	0	0	No effects predicted.
SA7 To create and sustain vibrant and locally distinctive communities	I/-	I/-	I/-	By producing a joint SPD locally distinctive communities could be lost, but any effects will depend on how the SPD is written and implemented.
SA8 To provide accessible essential services and facilities	I/+	I/+	I/+	It is thought that producing a joint SPD this will have a positive effect on making essential services and facilities accessible, however this will depend on how the SPD is written and implementation.
SA9 To make opportunities for culture, leisure and recreations readily accessible	+	+	+	It is thought that producing an joint SPD will increase opportunities for leisure and recreation readily

				available, both within the Borough and the surrounding areas.
SA10 To encourage urban renaissance by improving efficiency in land use, design and layout. This includes making best use of previously developed land in meeting future development needs	I/-	I/-	I/-	Any effects will depend on how the SPD is written and how it is implemented, but it is possible that having a joint approach may lead to less efficient use of land.
SA11 To maintain air quality and improve where possible	0	0	0	No effects predicted.
SA12 To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, and ensure Bracknell Forest is prepared for associated impacts	I/-	I/-	I/-	Any effects will depend on how the SPD is written and implemented, but it is likely that producing a joint SPD may encourage people to travel further for recreation.
SA13 To conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity	++	++	++	It is thought that the SPD will have a very positive effect on the Borough's biodiversity.
SA14 To protect and enhance where possible the Borough's characteristic countryside and its historic environment in urban and rural areas	I/+	I/+	I/+	Any effects will depend on how the SPD is written, but it could help to protect the Borough's characteristic countryside.
SA15 To improve travel choices and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys	?	?	?	It is difficult to predict what effect there will be on this objective, but it is thought that effects will be limited.
SA18 To maintain and improve water quality in the borough water course and to achieve sustainable water resource management	0	0	0	No effects predicted.

SA19 To maintain and improve soil quality	I/-	I/-	I/-	Any effects will depend on how the SPD is written that how it is implemented, but increased pressure on open spaces could lead to soil compaction and have a negative effect on this objective.
--	-----	-----	-----	---

Table 14 Options Appraisal- Option 2: To prepare an SPD on Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area which takes and strategic approach to the reparation of the SPD

Option 3 - To prepare no Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area SPD.

SA Objective	Short Term	Medium Term	Long Term	Comments
SA1 To meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home	0	0	0	No effects predicted.
SA2 To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment	0	0	0	No effects predicted.
SA3 To protect and enhance human health and wellbeing	0	0	0	No effects predicted.
SA6 To reduce and prevent crime	0	0	0	No effects predicted.
SA7 To create and sustain vibrant and locally distinctive communities	0	0	0	No effects predicted.
SA8 To provide accessible essential services and facilities	0	0	0	No effects predicted
SA9 To make opportunities for culture, leisure and recreations readily accessible	0	0	0	No effects predicted.
SA10 To encourage urban renaissance by improving efficiency in land use, design and layout. This includes making best use of previously developed land in meeting future development needs	0	0	0	No effects predicted.
SA11 To maintain air quality and improve where possible	0	0	0	No effects predicted.
SA12 To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, and ensure Bracknell Forest is prepared for associated impacts	0	0	0	No effects predicted.

SA13 To conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity	0	0	0	No effects predicted.
SA14 To protect and enhance where possible the Borough's characteristic countryside and its historic environment in urban and rural areas	0	0	0	No effects predicted.
SA15 To improve travel choices and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys	0	0	0	No effects predicted.
SA18 To maintain and improve water quality in the borough water course and to achieve sustainable water resource management	0	0	0	No effect predicted.
SA19 To maintain and improve soil quality	0	0	0	No effects predicted.

Table 15 Options Appraisal - Option 3: To prepare no Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area SPD

Appendix 3 - Full Appraisal Tables- Thames Basin Heath Avoidance and Mitigation SPD

SA Objective	Assessment of Effect	Commentary
SA1: To meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home	0	Comments: It is not thought that the recommendation will have any significant effect on meeting this objective.
SA2: To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment	0	Comments: It is not thought that the recommendation will have any significant effect on meeting this objective.
SA3: To protect and enhance human health and wellbeing	+	<p>Comments: Promoting new access opportunities for local people to SANGs is likely to have a beneficial effect on human health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Likelihood of effect: Likely</p> <p>Spatial Scale: Thames Basin Heath affected areas</p> <p>Temporary/Permanent: Permanent</p> <p>Short, medium, long term: Short, medium and long term.</p>
SA6: To reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime	0	Comments: It is not thought that the recommendation will have any significant effects on meeting this objective.
SA7: To create and sustain vibrant and locally distinctive communities	+	<p>Comments: Following the recommendation will maintain the protection of the SPA and the distinctive communities around it. New housing developments will also help to meet this objective.</p> <p>Likelihood of effect: Likely</p> <p>Spatial Scale: Thames Basin Heaths affected areas.</p>

		<p>Temporary/Permanent: Permanent</p> <p>Short, medium, long term: Short, medium and long term.</p>
<p>SA8: To provide accessible essential services and facilities</p>	0	<p>Comments: It is not thought that the recommendation will have any significant effects on meeting this objective.</p>
<p>SA9: To make opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation readily available</p>	+	<p>Comments: The proposal will promote accessibility to SANGs both within the Borough and surrounding area.</p> <p>Likelihood of effect: Likely</p> <p>Spatial Scale: Borough wide and Thames Basin Heath effected area</p> <p>Temporary/Permanent: Permanent</p> <p>Short, medium, long term: Short, medium and long term.</p>
<p>SA10: To encourage urban renaissance by improving efficiency in land use, design and layout. This includes making the best use of previously developed land in meeting future development needs</p>	0	<p>Comments: It is not thought that the recommendation will have any significant effects on meeting this objective.</p>
<p>SA11: To maintain air quality and improve where possible</p>	I	<p>Comments: The effect on this objective depends on the implementation of the recommendation.</p>
<p>SA12: To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, and ensure Bracknell Forest is prepared for associated impacts</p>	I	<p>Comments: The effect on this objective depends on the implementation of the recommendation.</p>
<p>SA13: To conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity</p>	++	<p>Comments: The recommendation will increase certainty of protecting the SPA across the Thames Basin Heaths affected area. The recommendation will help to conserve the Boroughs biodiversity, especially within the SPA.</p>

		<p>Likelihood of effect: Likely</p> <p>Spatial Scale: Thames Basin Heaths affected area</p> <p>Short, medium, long term: short, medium and long term.</p>
<p>SA14: To protect and enhance where possible the Borough's characteristic countryside and its historic environment in urban and rural areas</p>	0	<p>Comments: It is not thought that the recommendation will have any significant effects on meeting this objective.</p>
<p>SA15: To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys</p>	0	<p>Comments: It is not thought that the recommendation will have any significant effects on meeting this objective.</p>
<p>SA18: To maintain, protect and improve water quality in the Borough's water course including groundwater and to achieve sustainable water resource management</p>	0	<p>Comments: It is not thought that the recommendation will have any significant effects on meeting this objective.</p>
<p>SA19: To maintain and improve soil quality</p>	+/-	<p>Comments: If there are more visits to the SANGs this could result in increased soil compaction, which could effect soil quality. There is also a positive element as the strategic Access management Plan will encourage visitors to use clear way-marked routes and subsequently keep compaction to specific areas. In addition soil quality within the SPA may improve.</p> <p>Likelihood of effect: uncertain</p> <p>Spatial Scale: within SANGs</p> <p>Short, medium, long term: Mainly medium to long term as pressures increase.</p>

Table 16 Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM)

SA Objective	Assessment of effect	Commentary
<p>SA1: To meet local housing needs by ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to live in a decent, sustainably constructed and affordable home</p>	+	<p>Comments: The 8ha standard will allow the Borough to meet local housing needs, as there is sufficient land available to provide both the housing and the SANGs.</p> <p>Likelihood of effect: Likely</p> <p>Temporary/Permanent: For the lifetime of the South East Plan</p> <p>Short, medium, long term: Short, medium and long term.</p>
<p>SA2: To reduce the risk of flooding and harm to people, property and the environment</p>	-	<p>Comments: Increased housing numbers and less open space, is likely to increase flood risk by increasing the amount of impermeable surfaces and reducing flood capacity.</p> <p>Likelihood of effect: Likely</p> <p>Spatial Scale: Borough wide</p> <p>Temporary/Permanent: Permanent</p> <p>Short, medium, long term: more long term.</p>
<p>SA3: To protect and enhance human health and wellbeing</p>	+	<p>Comments: The 8ha strategy will allow the Borough to meet local housing needs which will benefit human health and wellbeing.</p> <p>Likelihood of effect: Likely</p> <p>Spatial Scale: Borough wide</p> <p>Temporary/Permanent: Permanent</p> <p>Short, medium, long term: Short, medium and long term.</p>
<p>SA6: To reduce and prevent crime and the fear of crime</p>	0	<p>Comments: It is not thought that the recommendation will have any significant effects on meeting this objective</p>
<p>SA7: To create and sustain vibrant and locally distinctive communities</p>	+	<p>Comments: the recommendation will maintain the protection of the SPA and the distinctive communities surrounding it. New housing will also help to meet this objective.</p>

		<p>Likelihood of effect: Likely</p> <p>Spatial Scale: Borough wide</p> <p>Temporary/Permanent: Life time of the South East Plan</p> <p>Short, medium, long term: short, medium and long term.</p>
SA8: To provide accessible essential services and facilities	0	<p>Comments: It is not thought that the recommendation will have any significant effects on meeting this objective.</p>
SA9: To make opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation readily available	0	<p>Comments: It is not thought that the recommendation will have any significant effects on meeting this objective.</p>
SA10: To encourage urban renaissance by improving efficiency in land use, design and layout. This includes making the best use of previously developed land in meeting future development needs	+	<p>Comments: This recommendation makes more efficient use of land as more houses can be provided.</p> <p>Likelihood of effect: Likely</p> <p>Spatial Scale: Borough wide</p> <p>Temporary/Permanent: Permanent</p> <p>Short, medium, long term: more long term.</p>
SA11: To maintain air quality and improve where possible	-	<p>Comments: The recommendation will enable more houses to be built which will result in more cars in the Borough. This will have a negative effect on this objective.</p> <p>Likelihood of effect: Likely</p> <p>Spatial Scale: Borough wide</p> <p>Temporary/Permanent: Permanent</p> <p>Short, medium, long term: short, medium and long term.</p>
SA12: To address the causes of climate change through reducing emissions of greenhouse gases, and ensure Bracknell Forest is	-	<p>Comments: The proposal enables more housing to be built, as a result there is likely to be more cars in the Borough. This will have a negative effect on this objective.</p> <p>Likelihood of effect: Likely</p>

prepared for associated impacts		<p>Spatial Scale: Borough wide</p> <p>Temporary/Permanent: Permanent</p> <p>Short, medium, long term: more medium t long term.</p>
SA13: To conserve and enhance the Borough's biodiversity	+/-	<p>Comments: The recommendation will continue to protect the SPA. However more housing may result in a loss of Greenfield sites and biodiversity in the Borough as more land will be developed.</p> <p>Likelihood of effect: Likely</p> <p>Spatial Scale: Borough wide</p> <p>Temporary/Permanent: Permanent</p> <p>Short, medium, long term: Short, medium and long term.</p>
SA14: To protect and enhance where possible the Borough's characteristic countryside and its historic environment in urban and rural areas	0/?	<p>Comments: The recommendation may have no effect on meeting this objective unless it involves building in the countryside. It is likely to have no effect.</p>
SA15: To improve travel choice and accessibility, reduce the need for travel by car and shorten the length and duration of journeys	0	<p>Comments: It is not thought that the recommendation will have any significant effects on meeting this objective.</p>
SA18: To maintain, protect and improve water quality in the Borough's water course including groundwater and to achieve sustainable water resource management	-/I	<p>Comments: There could be a negative effect on water quality due to more surface runoff. There is a potential impact on water resources this depends on the implementation of the recommendation.</p>
SA19: To maintain and improve soil quality	I	<p>Comments: The effect on this objective depends on the implementation of the recommendation.</p>

Table 17 Provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANG)

Appendix 4- Quality Assurance checklist

Appendix 4 - Quality Assurance Checklist

The following checklist is taken from Figure 14 of the ODPM SA Guidance⁽¹⁹⁾. It is designed to signpost the requirements of the SEA Directive through references to specific parts of the SA Report, or other documents.

Quality Assurance Checklist	Completed / Location
Objectives and context	
The Plan's purpose and objectives are made clear.	Completed - Paras 1.12-1.14
Sustainability issues, including international and EC objectives are considered in developing objectives and targets	Completed - Section 2
SA objectives are clearly set out and linked to indicators and targets where appropriate	Completed - Paras 2.9-2.12
Links with other related plans, programmes and policies are identified and explained.	Completed - Paras 2.2-2.4 and LDF SA Scoping Report and Core Strategy SA Scoping Report
Conflicts that exist between SA objectives, between SA plan objectives, and between SA and other plan objectives are identified and described.	Completed - Paras 3.2-3.4
Scoping	
The environmental consultation bodies are consulted in appropriate ways and at appropriate times on the content and scope of the SA report.	Completed - Para 2.12 and Appendix 1
The appraisal focuses on significant issues.	Completed
Technical, procedural and other difficulties encountered are discussed; assumptions and uncertainties are made explicit.	Completed - Paras 3.5-3.11 and Section 4
Reasons are given for eliminating issues from further consideration	Completed Section 4
Options/Alterations	
Realistic alternatives are considered for key issues, and the reasons for choosing them are documented.	Completed - Paras 3.5-3.11
Alternatives include 'do nothing' and/or 'business as usual' scenarios wherever relevant.	Completed - Paras 3.5-3.11

19 ODPM (2005) Sustainability Appraisal of Region Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents

The sustainability effects (both adverse and beneficial) of each alternative are identified and compared.	Completed - Paras 3.5-3.11
Inconsistencies between the alternatives and other relevant plans, programmes or policies are identified and explained.	Completed - Paras 3.5-3.11
Reasons are given for selection or elimination of alternatives.	Completed - Paras 3.5-3.11
Baseline Information	
Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and their likely evolution without the plan are described.	Completed - Para 2.5 - 2.7 and LDF SA Scoping Report, and Core Strategy SA Scoping Report
Characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected are described, including areas wider than the physical boundary of the plan area where it is likely to be affected by the plan where practicable.	Completed - Section 2 and LDF SA Scoping Report, and Core Strategy SA Scoping Report
Difficulties such as deficiencies in information or methods are explained.	Completed - Section 2 and LDF SA Scoping Report, and Core Strategy SA Scoping Report
Predicting and evaluation of likely significant effects	
Likely significant social, environmental and economic effects are identified, including those listed in the SEA Directive (biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, oil, water, air, climate factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape), as relevant.	Completed - Section 4 and Appendix 3
Both positive and negative effects are considered, and where practicable, the duration of effects (short, medium or long-term) is addressed.	Completed - Section 4 and Appendix 3
Likely secondary, cumulative and synergistic effects are identified where possible.	Completed - Section 4, Section 5 and Appendix 3
Inter-relationships between effects are considered where practicable.	Completed - Section 4 and Section 5
Where relevant, the prediction and evaluation of effects makes use of accepted standards, regulations and thresholds.	Completed - Section 4
Methods used to evaluate the effects are described.	Completed - especially Paras 3.9 - 3.10
Mitigation Measures	

Measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the plan are indicated.	Not applicable
Issues to be taken into account in development consents are identified.	Not applicable
The Sustainability Appraisal Report	
Is clear and concise in its layout and presentation.	Completed
Uses simple, clear language and avoids or explains technical terms.	Completed - especially Appendix 5
Use maps and other illustrations where appropriate.	Completed
Explains the methodology used.	Completed - Section 3
Explains who was consulted and what methods of consultation were used.	Completed - Para 2.12 and Appendix 1
Identifies sources of information , including expert judgement and matters of opinion.	Completed - Section 3 and Section 4
Contains a non-technical summary	Completed
Consultation	
The SA is consulted on as an integral part of the plan-making process.	Completed - Para 2.12 and Appendix 1
The consultation bodies, other consultees and the public are consulted in ways which give them an early and effective opportunity within appropriate time frames to express their opinions on the draft plan and SA Report.	Completed
Decision-making and information on the decision	
The SA Report and the opinions of those consulted are taken into account in finalising and adopting the plan.	Completed
An explanation is given of how they have been taken into account.	Completed
Reasons are given for choices in the adopted plan, in the light of other reasonable options considered.	Completed
Monitoring Measures	
Measures proposed for monitoring are clear, practicable and linked to the indicators and objectives used in the SA.	Completed - Section 4.5 of the LDF SA Scoping Report

Monitoring is used, where appropriate, during implementation of the plan to make good deficiencies in baseline information in the SA.	To be completed over the lifetime of the SPD
Monitoring enables unforeseen adverse effects to be identified at an early stage (These effects may include predictions which prove to be incorrect).	To be completed over the lifetime of the SPD
Proposals are made for action in response to significant adverse effects.	To be completed over the lifetime of the SPD

Table 18 Quality Assurance Checklist

Appendix 5 - Glossary

Baseline Information – Information or data gathered at a point in time which is used to describe the present conditions and the state of an area and monitor future changes against. Gathered to describe the conditions that exist before an action is taken.

Biodiversity – Variability among living organisms from all sources, including land-based and aquatic ecosystems, and the ecosystems of which they are part. This includes diversity within species, between species, and or ecosystems.

Core Strategy – Sets out the Council's long-term vision and strategy to be applied in promoting and controlling development throughout its area.

Cumulative Impacts – These arise where several individual effects of the plan have a combined effect.

Development Plan Document (DPD) – A document which is subject to external examination and therefore carries full statutory weight for determining planning applications. DPDs are a series of documents which set out the Borough's policies relating to the development and use of land in its administrative area.

Indicator – A measure of variables over time often used to measure achievement of objectives.

Local Development Framework (LDF) – The overall folder of documents (Local Development Documents) setting out the planning strategy and policies for the area. This is as a result of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) which introduced significant changes to the plan-making process at all levels.

Local Development Document (LDD) – Any document making up the LDF.

Mitigation - An approach which is aimed at avoiding, preventing, reducing or compensating for significant adverse impacts.

Objective – A statement of what is intended, specifying the desired direction of change.

Previously Developed Land – Land which has previously been developed, excluding mineral workings, agriculture and forestry buildings or other temporary uses.

SANGs - Suitable Accessible Natural Greenspaces - open space, meeting guidelines on quantity and quality, for the purpose of providing recreational alternatives to the SPA.

Smart Growth – Economic growth that does not require the importing of extra labour or the use of extra land. This is achieved by such means as: encouraging more of the existing population to become economically active, increasing the skill base of the workforce, the use of technology to improve productivity, and out-sourcing jobs that do not have to be based in the area.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) – Internationally-used term to describe high-level environmental assessment as applied to policies, plans and programmes required by the EU SEA Directive.

Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – Guidance which provides additional information to explain further policies and proposals within the Local Development Framework to assist in the preparation of planning applications.

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) – The assessment of the impact of plan policies from an environmental, economic and social perspective. Required in the UK by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, but which fully incorporates the requirements of the SEA Directive.

Sustainable Development – Most common definition is from the Brundtland Commission (1987) – “Development which meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

Appendix 6 - References

Bracknell Forest Council (July 2009) Scoping Report Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment): Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Supplementary Planning Document

Bracknell Forest Council (Sept 2008) Bracknell Forest Borough Local Development Scheme

Bracknell Forest Council (Feb 2008) Core Strategy Development Plan Document

Bracknell Forest Council (January 2010) Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment) Revised Scoping Report: Bracknell Forest Borough Local Development Framework

Bracknell Forest Council (February 2005) Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment) Revised Scoping Report: Bracknell Borough Core Strategy and Site Allocations Development Plan Documents

CABE, DETR (2000) By Design - Urban Design in the Planning System: Towards Better Practice

CLG (2011) Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS3): Housing

Department for Transport and CLG (2007) Manual for Streets

DETR (1999) A Better Quality of Life: a Strategy for Sustainable Development in the United Kingdom

DTLR, CABE (2001) Better Places to Live by Design: A Companion Guide to PPG3

English Partnerships, Housing Corporation, Roger Evans Associates Ltd (2007) Urban Design Compendium 2: Delivering Quality Places

EU (2001) The SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment

HM Government (2005) Securing the Future: Delivering UK Sustainable Development Strategy

HM Government (2004) Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

ODPM (2005) Sustainability Appraisal of Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents

ODPM (1998) Places, Streets and Movement: A Companion Guide to Design Bulletin 32 - Residential Roads and Footpaths

Copies of this booklet may be obtained in large print, Braille, on audio cassette or in other languages. To obtain a copy in an alternative format please telephone 01344 352000

Nepali

यस प्रचारको सक्षेपं वा सार निचोड चाहिं दिइने छ ठूलो अक्षरमा, ब्रेल वा क्यासेट सून्नको लागी । अरु भाषाको नक्कल पनि हासिल गर्न सकिने छ । कृपया सम्पर्क गनुहोला ०१३४४ ३५२००० ।

Tagalog

Mga buod/ mga hango ng dokumentong ito ay makukuha sa malaking letra, limbag ng mga bulag o audio kasette. Mga kopya sa ibat-ibang wika ay inyo ring makakamtan. Makipag-alam sa 01344 352000

Urdu

اس دستاویز کے خلاصے یا مختصر متن جلی حروف، بریل لکھائی یا پھر آڈیو کیسٹ پر ریکارڈ شدہ صورت میں فراہم کئے جا سکتے ہیں۔ دیگر زبانوں میں اس کی کاپی بھی حاصل کی جا سکتی ہے۔ اس کے لیے براہ مہربانی ٹیلیفون نمبر 01344 352000 پر رابطہ کریں۔

Polish

Streszczenia lub fragmenty tego dokumentu mogą być dostępne w wersji napisanej dużym drukiem, pismem Brajla lub na kasecie audio. Można również otrzymać kopie w innych językach. Proszę skontaktować się z numerem 01344 352000.

Portuguese

Podemos disponibilizar resumos ou extractos deste documento em impressão grande, em Braille ou em audiocassete. Podem também ser obtidas cópias em outros idiomas. Por favor ligue para o 01344 352000.

Development Plan Team
Planning and Transport Policy
Environment, Culture and Communities
Bracknell Forest Council
Time Square
Market Street
Bracknell
RG12 1JD