

Appendix 1: Plans, Programmes and Policies examined

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The following plans, programmes and policies were examined as part of the AA screening process. Plans that were considered to have an in-combination effect with the Core Strategy Issues and Options are repeated and described in the main body of this screening report.

International

Bern Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (1979)	
<p>The convention aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conserve wild flora, fauna and natural habitats To promote co-operation between states To give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species, including endangered and vulnerable migratory species <p>Appendices provide detailed information on species and habitats protected under the convention.</p>	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Obligations for contracting parties: conservation of wild flora and fauna and all natural habitats in general, by Promoting national conservation policies Taking conservation into account in regional planning policies and pollution abatement Promoting education and information 	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans. Possible positive impacts on the SAC from this plan.
The Convention on Biological Diversity, Rio de Janeiro (1992)	
<p>The convention is designed to conserve biological diversity, ensure the sustainable use of this diversity and share the benefits generated by the use of genetic resources.</p>	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each contracting party should (article 6a) Develop national strategies for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity Integrate the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral plans, programmes and policies 	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans. Possible positive impacts on the SAC from this plan.
Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change (UN, 1997)	
<p>The Kyoto Protocol supports the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change which sets an overall framework for intergovernmental efforts to tackle the challenge posed by climate change.</p>	

Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
<p>Under the Kyoto Protocol, the 15 core EU member countries have agreed to set emission reduction targets. The targets cover emissions of the six main greenhouse gases, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon dioxide (CO₂); • Methane (CH₄); • Nitrous oxide (N₂O); • Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs); • Perfluorocarbons (PFCs); and • Sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆) <p>The EU countries have committed themselves to reducing their collective emissions of six key greenhouse gases by at least 5% (from 1990 levels) by the period 2008-2012.</p>	<p>No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans. The Core Strategy needs to contain measures that will reduce emissions of these gases, to reflect with (and exceed) the targets of the Kyoto Protocol, e.g. maximising public transport and minimising private transport.</p>
The UN Millennium Declaration and Millennium Development Goals (2002)	
<p>All 191 UN member states set out eight millennium development goals which should be met by 2015.</p>	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
<p>‘We must tackle, issues of climate change, preserving biodiversity, managing our forests and water resources, and reducing the impacts of natural and man-made disasters.’</p>	<p>No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans. Possible positive impacts on the SAC from this plan.</p>
World Summit on Sustainable Development - Earth Summit (2002)	
<p>The Johannesburg Summit 2002 – the World Summit on Sustainable Development – aimed to address difficult challenges, including improving people's lives and conserving our natural resources in a world that is growing in population, with ever-increasing demands for food, water, shelter, sanitation, energy, health services and economic security.</p>	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
<p>Greater resource efficiency Waste reduction Promotion of renewable energy Significantly reduce loss of biodiversity by 2010</p>	<p>No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans. Possible positive impacts on the SAC from this plan.</p>

European

EU Habitats Directive (1992- amended 1997)	
The aim of this Directive is to contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora in the European territory of the Member States to which the Treaty applies. Measures taken pursuant to this Directive are designed to maintain or restore, at favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of Community interest.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
<p>Article 3.1: Maintain or restore in a favourable condition designated natural habitat types, and habitats of designated species listed in Annexes I and II respectively of the Directive.</p> <p>Article 6.2: Take appropriate steps to avoid degrading or destroying natural habitats within SACs, and avoid disturbance of designated species insofar as this would result in further decline in numbers or the loss of habitat that maintains the species.</p> <p>Article 6.3: Any plan or project not directly concerned with the management of a designated site (SAC/SPA), but which is likely to have a significant impact on it (individually or in combination with other projects), should undergo assessment of its implications for the conservation objectives of the site.</p> <p>Article 6.4: If the project must proceed in the public interest and in spite of negative conservation impacts, including social or economic reasons, compensatory measures must be provided for. The Article provides limited scope for development in designated areas. It is only acceptable on grounds of human health and safety (but not economic development) if it affects habitats supporting protected species.</p> <p>Article 10: Linear structures such as rivers/streams, hedgerows, field boundaries, ponds, etc., that enable movement and migration of species should be preserved.</p>	As the key piece of legislation that requires the Appropriate Assessment process to take place, the Habitats Directive is a fundamental part in ensuring that the Issues and Options will have no negative impacts on the integrity of the SAC.
EU Directive on Ambient Air Quality and Management (1996/62/EC)	
Introduces new air quality standards for previously unregulated pollutants, setting the timetable for the development of daughter directives on a range of pollutants. The list of atmospheric pollutants to be considered includes sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, lead and ozone – pollutants governed by already existing ambient air quality objectives- and benzene, carbon monoxide, poly-aromatic hydrocarbons, cadmium, arsenic, nickel and mercury.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
Establishes mandatory standards for air quality and sets limits and guides values for sulphur and nitrogen dioxide, suspended particulates and lead in air.	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans. Possible positive

	impacts on the SAC from this plan.
EU Directive Establishing a Framework for the Community Action in the Field of Water Policy (2000/60/EC) – The Water Framework Directive	
Requires all Member States to achieve ‘good ecological status’ of inland water bodies by 2015, and limits the quantity of groundwater abstraction to that portion of overall recharge not needed by ecology.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
To achieve ‘good ecological status’ of inland water bodies by 2015	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans. Possible positive impacts on the SAC from this plan.
EU Sustainable Development Strategy (2001)	
In June 2001, the European Council at Göteborg discussed a strategy for Sustainable Development proposed by the European Commission (“A sustainable Europe for a better world: A European strategy for Sustainable Development”) This strategy proposed measures to deal with important threats to our well being, such as climate change, poverty, and emerging health risks, which had been identified in a consultation paper in March 2001.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
Combating poverty and social exclusion Dealing with the economic and social implications of an ageing society Limit climate change and increase the use of clean energy Address threats to public health Manage natural resources responsibly Improve the transport system and land use management	Provides European context for the promotion of sustainable development.
Environment 2010: Our Future, Our Choice - EU Sixth Environment Action Programme (2002)	
The latest Environment Action Programme gives a strategic direction to the Commission’s environmental policy over the next decade, as the Community prepares to expand its boundaries. The new programme identifies four environmental areas to be tackled for improvements: Climate Change Nature and Biodiversity Environment and Health and Quality of Life Natural Resources and Waste	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
Recognises that land use planning and management decisions in the Member States can have a	No significant in-combination effects with Issues

<p>major influence on the environment, leading to fragmentation of the countryside and pressures in urban areas and the coast. Also includes objectives on stabilising greenhouse gases, halting biodiversity loss, reducing pollution and resource use. Under the EAP framework, Thematic Strategies are being developed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air quality Soil Protection Sustainable use of Pesticides Marine Environment Waste Prevention and Recycling Sustainable Use of Natural Resources Urban Environment 	<p>and Options or other plans. Possible positive impacts on the SAC from this plan.</p>
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National

PPS1: Delivering Sustainable Development	
The document sets out the key policies and principles and the Government's vision for planning. It includes high level objectives and sets out the framework for specific policies further developed in the thematic Planning Policy Statements which will substitute the current PPG documents.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
Sustainable development is the purpose of planning. Communities need to be actively involved in the planning process, which is not simply regulations and control but must become a proactive management of development. These overarching objectives inform specific objectives such as promotion of urban and rural regeneration, of local economies, of inclusive, healthy and safe communities.	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans. Possible positive impacts on the SAC from this plan..
PPG 2 – Green Belts	
The Guidance indicates the underpinning aims of the Green Belt policy and its contribution to sustainable development objectives.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
There should be a general presumption against inappropriate development in the Green Belt. When any large scale development or redevelopment occurs within the Green Belt, it should contribute towards the objectives provided in para. 1.6 of the guidance note.	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans. Possible positive impacts on the SAC from this plan.
PPS 7 – Sustainable Development in Rural Areas	
Quality of life and the environment in rural areas need to be enhanced through the sustainable development of communities and their environment.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
Requires that development within and outside existing villages should be permitted where it meets local economic and community needs, where it maintains or enhances the environment and does not conflict with other policies.	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans. Possible positive impacts on the SAC from this plan.
PPS 9 – Biodiversity and Geological Conservation	
This guidance note replaced PPG9 and sets out a series of key principles which need to be taken into consideration when preparing local development documents and regional spatial strategies: Decisions should be based upon up-to-date information about the environmental characteristics of the area. Decisions should seek to maintain, or enhance, or add to biodiversity and geological conservation interests. A strategic approach to the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and geology should be taken. Developments seeking to conserve or enhance the biodiversity and geological conservation interests of the area should be encouraged.	

<p>LPA should consider whether proposed developments can be accommodated without causing harm to biodiversity and geological conservation interests.</p> <p>Where development will result in unavoidable and significant adverse impacts, planning permission for it should only be granted where adequate mitigation measures are put in place.</p> <p>Development policies should promote opportunities for the incorporation of beneficial biodiversity and geological features within the design of development.</p>	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
<p>Points specific to LDDs are:</p> <p>When identifying designated sites of importance for biodiversity and geodiversity on the proposals map, clear distinctions should be made between the hierarchy of international, national, regional, and locally designated sites.</p> <p>Biodiversity objectives that reflect both national and local priorities, including those which have been agreed by local biodiversity partnerships, should be reflected in policies in local development documents and proposals. Local planning authorities should ensure that all policies in local development documents and proposals are consistent with those biodiversity objectives.</p> <p>Other areas covered by the guidance are:</p> <p>Biodiversity interest of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International sites, SSSIs, regional and local sites Ancient woodlands Networks of natural habitats Previously developed sites Biodiversity within developments Species protection <p>PPS 9 includes no targets or indicators.</p>	<p>No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans. Possible positive impacts on the SAC from this plan.</p>
PPG 13 – Transport	
<p>The objectives of this guidance are to integrate planning and transport at the national, regional, strategic and local level to promote more sustainable transport choices for both people and for moving freight, so to enhance accessibility by public transport and reduce the need to travel, especially by car.</p>	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC

<p>Actively manage the pattern of urban growth and the location of major travel generating development to make the fullest use of public transport, and to encourage walking and cycling. Land use planning should facilitate a shift in transport of freight from road to rail and water. Attention should be paid to the value of disused transport sites and effort made to prevent their loss to different land uses.</p> <p>Traffic management measures to should be designed to reduce environmental/social impacts, whilst fiscal measures should be used for tackling congestion.</p>	<p>No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans and only positive impacts on the SAC from this plan.</p>
<p>PPG 21 – Tourism</p>	
<p>This PPG outlines the economic significance of tourism and its environmental impact, and therefore its importance in land-use planning. It explains how the needs of tourism should be dealt with in development plans and in development control.</p>	
<p>Objectives, Targets, Indicators</p>	<p>Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC</p>
<p>Ensure land use is distributed and managed in such a way that it supports the qualities that underpin the tourism industry.</p>	<p>No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans.</p>
<p>Good Practice Guide on Planning for Tourism</p>	
<p>The guide is designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that planners understand the importance of tourism and take this fully into account when preparing development plans and taking planning decisions; • ensure that those involved in the tourism industry understand the principles of national planning policy as they apply to tourism and how these can be applied when preparing individual planning applications; • ensure that planners and the tourism industry work together effectively to facilitate, promote and deliver new tourism developments in a sustainable way. 	
<p>Objectives, Targets, Indicators</p>	<p>Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC</p>
<p>Guidance to developers includes advice to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protect and improve biodiversity. New development should not only protect nature conservation interests (whether it is a statutory requirement or not), but can provide an opportunity to improve biodiversity in an area, for example through the creation of new features of wildlife interest. Such initiatives can complement the wider objectives of tourism developments by increasing the attractiveness of the development to visitors; 	<p>No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans.</p>

Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	
The act implements the Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats (the 'Bern Convention') and the European Union Directives on the Conservation of Wild Birds and Natural Habitats. The Act is concerned with the protection of wildlife and their habitat (countryside, national parks and designated protected areas).	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
Addresses the problem of species protection and habitat loss by setting out the protection that is afforded to wild animals and plants in Britain.	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans. Possible positive impacts on the SAC from this plan.
UK Biodiversity Action Plan - UK BAP (Defra, 1994)	
The UK BAP is the UK Government's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) signed in 1992, describes the UK's biological resources, and commits a detailed plan for the protection of these resources. It contains of 391 Species Action Plans, 45 Habitat Action Plans and 162 Local Biodiversity Action Plans with targeted actions.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
To maintain, promote and enhance biodiversity	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans. Possible positive impacts on the SAC from this plan.
England Forestry Strategy: A strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests (2007)	
The Strategy sets out the Government's vision for England's tree and woodland resource, in both rural and urban areas, over the next fifty years. Our priorities are to make sure that trees and woodlands play their part in meeting Government's goals for natural resources, climate change, improved urban environments and a better quality of life for all.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
The EFS has five aims for government intervention in trees, woods and forests: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to secure trees and woodlands for future generations; • to ensure resilience to climate change; • to protect and enhance natural resources; • to increase the contribution that trees, woods and forests make to our quality of life; and; • to improve the competitiveness of woodland businesses and products. 	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans. Possible positive impacts on the SAC from this plan.
UK Air Quality Strategy (ODPM, 2000)	
This Strategy describes the plans drawn up by the Government and the devolved administrations to improve and protect ambient air quality in the	

UK in the medium-term. The plan sets a number of air quality objectives for pollutants including sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter, lead and ozone.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
Some of the aims of the air quality strategy are to: To provide the best practicable protection to human health by setting health based objectives for eight main air pollutants (objectives are maximum recommended exposure levels) To contribute to the protection of the natural environment by setting objectives for two pollutants (nitrogen and sulphur dioxide) for the protection of vegetation and ecosystems	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans. Issues and Options should aim to comply with the UK Air Quality Strategy.
Countryside and Rights of Way Act – CRoW (ODPM, 2000)	
CRoW extends the public's ability to enjoy the countryside whilst also providing safeguards for landowners and occupiers. It creates a new statutory right of access to open country and registered common land, modernise the rights of way system, give greater protection to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), provide better management for Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs), and strengthen wildlife enforcement legislation. Emphasises the public's right of access to open country and common land.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
Part I of the Act creates a new right of access to open country and registered common land Part II of the Act modernises the law on public rights of way Part III of the Act gives greater protection to sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs), and strengthens wildlife protection Part IV of the Act provides new powers to set up Conservation Boards for the better management of areas of outstanding natural beauty (AONBs), and requires certain bodies to have regard for AONBs when doing anything which would affect the land in those areas	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans.
Government Rural White Paper: Our Countryside, the future – A deal for rural England (DETR, 2000)	
To maintain and protect a living and vibrant countryside, the government has identified a number of key actions, all informed by the principles of sustainable development.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
There are five objectives, which will be transposed into the Service Delivery Agreements: Facilitate sustainable economies Maintain and stimulate communities ensuring fair access to services Conserve rural landscape and wildlife Increase opportunities to enjoy the countryside Promote collaboration amongst all Government tiers to ensure responsiveness to local	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans.

communities' requests.	
'Working with the Grain of Nature': A Biodiversity Strategy for England (2002)	
The Strategy seeks to ensure biodiversity considerations become embedded in all main sectors of public policy and sets out a programme for the next five years to make the changes necessary to conserve, enhance and work with the grain of nature and ecosystems rather than against them.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
Ensures biodiversity considerations are embedded in all main sectors of economic activity. (It is the principal means by which the government will comply with duties under section 74 of the CRoW Act).	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans. Possible positive impacts on the SAC from this plan.
The Future of Transport – UK white paper on transport (2004)	
Sets out a long term strategy for a modern, efficient and sustainable transport system over the next 8 years (to 2015) and provides a vision for UK transport in 2030.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
<p>Environmental objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the road network providing a more reliable and freer-flowing service for both personal travel and freight, with people able to make informed choices about how and when they travel; the rail network providing a fast, reliable and efficient service, particularly for interurban journeys and commuting into large urban areas; bus services that are reliable, flexible, convenient and tailored to local needs; making walking and cycling a real alternative for local trips; and ports and airports providing improved international and domestic links. 	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans although the White Paper does allow for new road capacity 'where it is needed, assuming that any environmental and social costs are justified.' Chilterns Beechwoods may be affected by future increases in road capacity but at this stage impacts are not considered to be significant.
England Rural Strategy (2004)	
The Rural Strategy 2004 sets out the Government's new approach to policy and delivery of the rural white paper.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
It identifies three key priorities for rural policy. Economic and Social Regeneration – supporting enterprise across rural England, but targeting greater resources at areas of greatest need Social Justice for All – tackling rural social exclusion wherever it occurs and providing fair access to services and opportunities for all rural people	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans. Possible positive impacts on the SAC from this plan.

Enhancing the Value of our countryside - protecting the natural environment for this and future generations	
Securing the Future – UK Government Sustainable Development Strategy (2005)	
<p>This strategy aims to promote sustainable development. It contains</p> <p>Five principles (with a more explicit focus on environmental limits)</p> <p>Four agreed priorities (sustainable consumption and production, climate change, natural resource production and sustainable communities)</p> <p>A new indicator set with new indicators such as on well being</p>	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
<p>The new objectives included within the strategy are:</p> <p>Living within environmental limits</p> <p>Promoting good governance</p> <p>Using sound science responsibly</p>	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans. Possible positive impacts on the SAC from this plan.
UK Biodiversity Action Plan: Habitat Action Plan: Lowland Beech and Yew Woodland	
Sets out a series of objectives to conserve these habitats, as listed below.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the total current extent (c. 30,000 ha) of lowland beech and yew woodland. • Establish by colonisation or planting a further 1,500ha of lowland beech and yew woodland on unwooded sites or by conversion of non-native plantations by 2015 • Maintain the existing area of ancient semi-natural lowland beech and yew woodland (estimated to be between 15000 and 20000ha). • Initiate by 2004 measures intended to achieve favourable condition in 100% of lowland beech and yew woodland within the SSSI/ASSIs and Special Areas of Conservation • Initiate by 2004 measures intended to achieve favourable condition in 80% of the total resource of lowland beech and yew woodland • Achieve favourable condition over 70% of the designated sites by 2010. • Achieve favourable condition over 50% of the total resource by 2010. • Restore to site-native species at least 750 ha of former lowland beech woodland which has been converted to non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites, by 2010. 	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans. Possible positive impacts on the SAC from this plan.

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Restore to site-native species at least a further 750 ha of former lowland beech woodland which has been converted to non-native plantations on ancient woodland sites, by 2015.• Establish by colonisation or planting 1,500 ha of lowland beech and yew woodland on unwooded sites or by conversion of non-native plantations by 2010. | |
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Regional

The Integrated Regional Framework (IRF) (SE)	
The IRF replaces a previous Sustainable Development Framework. The IRF includes separate sections on the range of strategies in the region, on data and trends for each objective. A Sustainability Appraisal Guide was published as a supplement to the IRF in 2005. The Guide aims to encourage organisations, businesses and community groups to review their own plans and strategies against the region's 25 key objectives to see how each organisation can contribute to improving quality of life and sustainability in the region.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
The IRF comprises a set of 25 objectives for the region. These are split into four categories: Social progress that recognises the needs of everyone – 9 objectives Effective protection of the environment – 6 objectives Prudent use of natural resources – 4 objectives Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth – 6 objectives	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans.
Our Environment, Our Future – The Regional Environmental Strategy for the East of England (2003)	
The document sets out the Environment Strategy for the East of England and provides a description of the current state of the following topics: landscape and natural environment, biodiversity, historic environment, built environment.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
It identifies 5 key environmental challenges for the region and suggests strategic aims for each of those: Delivering sustainable patterns and forms of development Meeting the challenges and opportunities of climate change Ensuring environmental sustainability in the economy Enhancing environmental capital Achieving sustainable lifestyles The strategy does not contain quantified targets, but does suggest an indicator for each key action within each strategic aim.	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans and only positive impacts on the SAC from this plan.
Sustainable Development Framework for the East of England (2001)	
The Sustainable Development Framework sets out a vision for sustainable development in the region, and identifies the region's contribution to sustainable development at the national level. As a high level document, the Framework is not an action plan, but should inform and guide regional	

and local strategies and action plans. Accordingly, the SDF should influence the way in which decisions are taken, so that they reflect the principles of sustainable development. Decision-makers in regional and local government, business, and all walks of life should use the Framework as a reference point to consider the contribution they can make to a more sustainable region. The Framework will be regularly updated to reflect changing circumstances, new information, and progress towards sustainable development.

Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
<p>The SDF aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promulgate a high-level vision for sustainable development in the East of England to which key partners can subscribe, distinctive to the region although linked to the UK strategy for sustainable development. • Set out agreed sustainable development objectives for the region, and set priorities with the help of regional indicators. • Provide a basis for monitoring whether progress is being made towards greater sustainability, and a benchmark for appraisal of regional strategies and plans. • Influence and direct other regional and local strategies and contribute to the development of an integrated <p>SDF Natural Environment Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure appropriate planning policies are in place and implemented to minimise adverse environmental impacts, recognise and support environmental limits, and provide the highest level of protection for irreplaceable natural features (e.g. traditional species rich grassland, ancient woodlands, tranquil areas), aiming for no net environmental loss. • To support standards, regulations, and economic instruments to safeguard and enhance environmental quality. • To ensure the region is covered by local BAPs that are actively being implemented. • To restore the full range of characteristic habitats and species to achieve BAP targets, and maintain or enhance other natural assets (e.g. reedbeds) to secure the regional stock above viable levels. • To create or re-create habitats to ensure sustainable and linked species populations (e.g. 	<p>The SDF aims to support BAPs and restore habitats and species to help achieve BAP targets. Other elements of the SDF are unlikely to negatively impact on the SACs as they describe best practice sustainability measures. For example, the transport section aims to increase use of public transport and walking and cycling.</p>

<p>Breckland and Suffolk Sandlings heaths).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage people to come into contact with, understand, and enjoy nature. • To raise awareness of the link between use of natural resources and environmental impacts. • To support farming and countryside practices that enhance biodiversity and landscape quality by economically and socially valuable activity (e.g. grazing, coppicing, nature reserves). • To encourage coastal management in accordance with natural processes. • To manage water quality and water resources to maximise value to people and wildlife. 	
<p>Draft East of England Plan (2004)</p>	
<p>The plan provides the statutory framework for local development plans for at least the next 20 years. Its overall aims are ensuring economic growth while promoting sustainable development and renewable energy. Its examination in public will take place this year.</p>	
<p>Objectives, Targets, Indicators</p>	<p>Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC</p>
<p>Increase prosperity and employment growth Improve social inclusion and access to employment and services Maintain and enhance cultural diversity Increase the regeneration and renewal of disadvantaged areas Deliver more integrated patterns of land use Sustain and enhance the vitality of town centres Make more use of previously developed land Meet the region's identified housing needs, and in particular provide sufficient affordable housing Protect and enhance the built and historic environment and encourage good quality design and use of sustainable construction methods for all new development Protect and enhance the natural environment, including its biodiversity and landscape character Minimise the demand for use of resources, particularly water, energy supplies, minerals, aggregates, and other natural resources, whether finite or renewable, by encouraging efficient use, re-use, or use of recycled alternatives, and trying to meet needs with minimum impact Minimise the environmental impact of travel, by reducing the need to travel, encouraging the</p>	<p>Discussed in main body of report</p>

use of more environmentally friendly modes of transport, and widening choice of modes Minimise the risk of flooding The plan sets targets for most of its key objectives (e.g. renewable energy target of 17% by 2020). The plan proposes 61 indicators relating to both specific targets and regional context.	
Draft Revision to Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England: Secretary of State's Further Proposed Changes with Report of the Habitats Directive Assessment (under the Habitats Regulations) (October 2007)	
To determine likely effects of the Plan on Natura 2000 sites within the region. The AA report focuses on avoiding and mitigating for impacts associated with the East of England Plan, whilst recommending that AAs are carried out separately for more local-level plans and projects.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
To determine likely effects of the Plan on Natura 2000 sites within the region.	No significant effects were predicted for Chilterns Beechwoods SAC.
A Shared Vision: The Regional Economic Strategy for the East of England (2004)	
The RES is the framework within which many different organisations can work with businesses, communities and individuals to improve the region's economic performance and the quality of life of those who live and work here.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
The RES has the following goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a skills base that can support a world-class economy • growing competitiveness, productivity and entrepreneurship • global leadership in developing and realising innovation in science, technology and research • high quality places to live, work and visit • social inclusion and broad participation in the regional economy • making the most from the development of international gateways and national and regional transport corridors • a leading information society • an exemplar for the efficient use of resources. 	No direct relevance to the SAC.
Sustainable Communities in the East of England – Building for the Future (2004)	
This regional programme of action sets out proposals for maintaining and creating sustainable communities in the East of England. The programme of action does not attempt to cover all the issues of importance to communities. It highlights actions to address housing, planning and neighbourhood renewal issues.	

Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
<p>Key issues for the region highlighted in the report are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing problems of high and rapidly rising house prices and their impact on the recruitment and retention of staff, particularly close to London and around Cambridge but spreading deeper into the region. • Improving transport infrastructure – railways, roads, airports and ports to meet the needs of economic growth. • Ensuring that the benefits of economic growth are spread across the region, particularly to those urban and rural communities facing problems of deprivation and peripherality. • Addressing the development consequences of scarce water resources throughout the region and an increasing sea level 	<p>Policies in ‘Sustainable Communities in the East of England’ which promote housing, employment and infrastructure development have the potential for a range of effects on the Natura 2000 sites in and around South Hertfordshire in a similar way to the (Draft) East of England Plan. These potential effects could be mitigated against by other policies which seek to protect and enhance nature conservation sites in the region.</p>
Regional Transport Strategy for the East of England (Chapter 8, Draft East of England Plan)	
<p>The Regional Transport Strategy investigates the current state of the transport network in the East of England and sets out a strategy up to and beyond 2016. The strategy acknowledges that biodiversity (designated areas), landscape, flood risk, air quality and natural heritage can impose environmental constraints on the transport system.</p>	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
<p>These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the need to travel • Reduce the transport intensity of economic activity, including freight • Minimise the environmental impact of transport provision and travel, protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment <p>The RTP also seeks to increase and promote non-private car transport and the carriage of freight by rail and water as well as stimulating the ‘efficient use of the existing transport infrastructure’</p>	<p>No significant in-combination effects with the Issues and Options or other plans.</p>
Woodland for Life Regional Woodland Strategy for East of England (2004)	
<p>The Regional Woodland Strategy for the East of England provides a number of strategies for the enhancement, over the next 20 years, of the benefits that trees and woodlands bring to the people who live and work in the region. Six broad themes are identified that have a bearing on the woodland and trees of the region: quality of life, spatial planning, economic development, renewable energy, education and learning and natural</p>	

environment.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
<p>The strategy is comprised of various key strategic initiatives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Education and Learning: Opportunities for lifelong learning 2. Natural Environment: climate change adaptation, soil and water safeguards, integrated biodiversity, protecting ancient assets 3. Spatial Planning: 'green' planning, woodland protection, greener road corridors 4. Quality of life: access provision, promoting health benefits, landscape enhancement, community engagement 5. Economic development: woodland tourism, sustainable timber, business competitiveness, improved timber quality 6. Renewable energy: wood for heat. 	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans and only positive impacts on the SAC from this plan.
The London Plan (2004)	
Although Hertfordshire is located in the East of England region, parts of it adjoin both the South East and the London Regions. The London Plan forms the spatial development strategy for Greater London.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
Amongst others the London Plan aims to accommodate London's growth within its boundaries.	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans.
South East Plan (2006)	
Although Hertfordshire is located in the East of England region, parts of it adjoin both the South East and the London Regions. The South East Regional Plan provides the statutory framework for local development frameworks in the South East and addresses issues such as housing, transport, economy and the environment.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Transport Strategy • Renewable Energy • Tourism • Minerals and Waste • Milton Keynes Growth Area 	The proposed housing and economic growth, as well as infrastructure projects (e.g. expansion of Heathrow airport and widening of M25) could have direct and indirect impacts on Hertfordshire, although no significant effects are anticipated for the SAC.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ashford Growth Area 	
Appropriate Assessment of the Draft South East Plan, October 2006	
To determine likely effects of the Plan on Natura 2000 sites within the region. The AA report focuses on avoiding and mitigating for impacts associated with the South East Plan, whilst recommending that AAs are carried out separately for more local-level plans and projects.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
To determine likely effects of the Plan on Natura 2000 sites within the region.	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans.
Sustainable Futures: The Integrated Regional Strategy for the East of England (2005)	
The Integrated Regional Strategy (IRS) is an EERA led strategic initiative, the vision for which is: 'to improve the quality of life for everyone who lives or works in the East of England'. It aims to promote greater regional integration.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
<p>Amongst others the strategy states the following outcomes:</p> <p>Strong, inclusive, healthy and culturally rich communities</p> <p>A high quality and diverse natural and built environment</p> <p>A more resource-efficient region</p> <p>Some priorities are identified for the region:</p> <p>Achieve high quality and sustainable solutions in growth and other areas</p> <p>Address the causes and implications of persistent deprivation and social exclusion</p> <p>Increase efficiency of resource use and the management of the region's distinctive natural and built environmental assets</p> <p>The IRS includes no specific targets.</p>	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans.
Milton Keynes & South Midlands Sub-Regional Strategy, March 2005	
Comprises an overarching strategy and key spatial diagram for the whole of the sub-region and a set of separate statements providing more specific guidance for all of the growth towns.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
<p>The Strategy aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide strategic guidance on the scale, location and timing of development and associated employment, transport, and other infrastructure to 2021 and the necessary delivery mechanisms; and 	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a longer-term perspective for the sub-region to 2031 in the form of uncommitted planning assumptions subject to later review 	
Chilterns AONB Management Strategy: The Framework for Action 2002-2007	
Management and policy framework for protecting and enhancing the Chilterns AONB. Contains policies and actions which need to be reflected in LDFs.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
Measures to safeguard, protect and enhance the Chilterns.	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans and only positive impacts on the SAC from this plan.
Chilterns Landscape Forest Design Plan	
Sets out the medium to long term management objectives for the Forestry Commission woodlands that are situated between Dunstable, in Bedfordshire, Beaconsfield in South Buckinghamshire and Henley in Berkshire. All except three of these woodlands are situated within the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
To deliver the vision set out in the Chilterns AONB Management Plan. Key aspects of this vision include the provision of a special place for local people and visitors, a beautiful and rich landscape of national importance, a place of living, vibrant communities and a place that is valued and understood by the people who live in, work in or visit the Chilterns.	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans and only positive impacts on Chilterns Beechwoods SAC from this plan.
A Housing Strategy for the London Commuter Belt Sub-Region 2005-2008	
The London Commuter Belt Sub- Region (LCBSR) is the largest of the nine sub-regions in the East region, and includes parts of Hertfordshire.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
This sub regional housing strategy sets out the following vision To enable growth, to provide for the needs of homeless people and those who require affordable housing, whilst protecting the environment To create and maintain sustainable communities and achieve social inclusion	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans.

Local (County)

Hertfordshire Structure Plan 1991-2011	
The Hertfordshire Structure Plan sets out the broad directions in which Hertfordshire should change and develop in the future. It covers the period to 2011.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
<p>Some of the general aims of the plan are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage economic growth consistent with environmental constraints • Make provision for the housing and social needs of people in ways which minimise the need to travel • Improve people's quality of life • Avoid pollution in all its forms, in particular pollution of ground and surface water resources • Contain road traffic growth and encourage walking, cycling and greater use of passenger transport • Conserve the County's critical capital and other important environmental assets, including its landscape, ecological, built and archaeological heritage, and safeguard the County's area of Green Belt • Conserve natural resources, in particular the County's best and most versatile agricultural land • Minimise resource depletion and make the most efficient use of land, minerals, buildings, energy, water and waste 	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans.
A 50- year Vision for the Wildlife and Natural Habitats of Hertfordshire (1998, as revised 2006)	
The Hertfordshire BAP was drawn up in response to the UK Biodiversity Action Plan which sets out detailed action plans for threatened habitats and species nationwide. It evaluates the status of habitats and species in the county and identifies key habitats and species of national and local significance and High Biodiversity Areas.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
<p>Amongst others the following objectives are set out:</p> <p>To produce an overview of the present knowledge of the biodiversity resource in the county</p>	Gives extra justification for adherence to the conservation objectives of the SAC.

<p>To prepare a series of prioritised habitat action plans To prepare a series of prioritised species action plans</p>	
<p>The Hertfordshire Environmental Strategy (2001)</p>	
<p>This document demonstrates what the principles are that underpin the term sustainability development in Hertfordshire and the process through which these principles are arrived at. It also demonstrates how these principles relate to the everyday actions, practices, and management of public sector organisations within the County.</p>	
<p>Objectives, Targets, Indicators</p>	<p>Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC</p>
<p>The strategy sets out six generic sustainability principles which a supplemented with more specific objectives A better quality of life Social progress which recognises the needs of everyone Effective protection of the environment Prudent use of natural resources Maintenance of high levels of economic growth and employment so that everyone can share in high living standards and greater job opportunities Effective communication of ideas and information</p>	<p>By advocating the effective protection of the environment and the prudent use of natural resources, the strategy gives extra justification for adherence to the conservation objectives of the SAC. However, the aim of maintaining high levels of economic growth may eventually lead to increased pressure on natural resources, for example, via increased road building or improvements or increased recreational pressure.</p>
<p>Hertfordshire LTP 2006/07 – 2010/11</p>	
<p>The LTP sets out a transport strategy for Hertfordshire for the next 5 years. It is currently undergoing public consultation.</p>	
<p>Objectives, Targets, Indicators</p>	<p>Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC</p>
<p>The key objectives of the LTP are: To improve safety for all To obtain the best use of the existing network To manage the growth of transport To develop an efficient, safe, affordable and enhanced transport system which is attractive, reliable, integrated and makes best use of resources To develop a transport system that provides access to employment, shopping, education, leisure and health facilities for all, including those without a car and those with impaired mobility To ensure that the transport system contributes towards sustainable economic development To mitigate the effect of the transport system on the built and natural environment and on personal health</p>	<p>By encouraging the use of sustainable modes of transport the plan aims towards an improvement in air quality, thus reducing the effects of atmospheric pollution on the SAC.</p>

<p>To raise awareness and encourage use of more sustainable modes of transport To reduce the need for the movement of people and goods through integrated land use planning</p>	
<p>Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Review, 2002-2016 (adopted march 2007)</p>	
<p>The Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan interprets national and regional policy and carries forward and develops in detail the broad mineral policies in the Hertfordshire Structure Plan. The Plan sets out the development planning framework for future minerals extraction and associated development whilst providing for environmental protection. It will eventually be replaced by the Hertfordshire Minerals and Waste Development Framework.</p>	
<p>Objectives, Targets, Indicators</p>	<p>Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC</p>
<p>Guided by national aims and objectives for minerals, together with those of the Hertfordshire Structure Plan, the following aims are identified in the Minerals Local Plan Review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim 1: to encourage the efficient use of materials, particularly maximising the use of recycled and secondary aggregates and reducing the use of primary aggregates, thereby reducing reliance on land won sources of material. • Aim 2: to identify and safeguard mineral resources to ensure that there are sufficient environmentally acceptable sources to maintain an appropriate level of current and future supply in accordance with Government guidance and to prevent the unnecessary sterilisation of mineral resources. • Aim 3: to ensure that the adverse impacts on the environment and people caused by mineral operations and the transport of minerals are kept, as far as possible, to an acceptable minimum. • Aim 4: to ensure sensitive working, reclamation and aftercare practices so as to preserve or enhance the overall quality of the environment and promote biodiversity where appropriate. • Aim 5: to enable stakeholders to contribute to planning for minerals supply in Hertfordshire 	<p>Discussed in main body of AA screening report in conjunction with the Appropriate Assessment screening report on the Minerals Local Plan.</p>

Hertfordshire Minerals Local Plan Review Appropriate Assessment Draft Screening Report, July 2006	
Aims to identify relevant Natura 2000 sites and determine likely effects of the Minerals Local Plan upon them, either alone or in combination with other plans and programmes.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
n/a	Impacts on Chilterns Beechwoods SAC include 'possible increased mineral extraction and recycling/ re-use of aggregates' and air pollution: discussed in main body of AA screening report.
Hertfordshire Waste Local Plan, 1995-2005 (adopted January 1999, currently under revision)	
Plan contains detailed policies in respect of development which involves the depositing of refuse or waste materials other than mineral waste, i.e. policies concerned with development required for waste minimisation, re-use, recycling, composting, processing and transfer, recovery of energy from waste, and disposal on land. In this context, waste includes household or domestic waste, industrial and commercial waste, demolition and construction waste, agricultural and forestry wastes, clinical, difficult and special wastes, waste water (sewage) and scrap vehicles or other scrap metal.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
<p>The aims and objectives of this Waste Local Plan are:-</p> <p>“To reduce the amount of waste and its environmental impact”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To facilitate the provision of sufficient waste management facilities in Hertfordshire to accommodate the equivalent of the County’s own arisings; • To recognise that waste management generates employment and is part of the infrastructure which supports business in general; • To locate waste recycling, handling and reduction facilities as close as practicable to the origin of waste; • To promote the development of waste management facilities which increase the proportion of waste managed further up the waste hierarchy; • To minimise the traffic generating effects of waste management development; • To mitigate against the possible effects of greenhouse gases; • To reduce the overall demand for resources (including land); • To involve the wider community in the waste management debate; • To facilitate the increased use of recycled waste materials as aggregate in Hertfordshire; 	No significant effects on the SAC

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To facilitate a shift away from road transport as the principal means of transporting waste; • To minimise the impact of waste management development on the natural and built environment; • To maximise the recovery of value (including energy) from waste, where this represents the Best Practicable Environmental Option; • To adopt the Best Practicable Environmental Option when considering alternative forms of waste management development. (Best Practicable Environmental Option is defined as the option, for a given set of objectives, that provides the most benefits or least damage to the environment as a whole at acceptable cost, in the long term as well as the short term). 	
Appropriate Assessment Screening for the Hertfordshire Waste Development Plan Documents: Draft report for consultation	
The Appropriate Assessment was undertaken in order to determine whether the Hertfordshire Waste Development options were likely to cause significant adverse effects on any of the Natura 2000 sites in the region.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
To determine likely significant effects on various Natura 2000 sites	Discussed in main body of AA screening report
Natura 2000 sites, Stage 1 Appropriate Assessment Screening: Report on the likely significant effects of proposed waste sites on SACs/SPAs in Buckinghamshire and surrounding area	
The Appropriate Assessment was undertaken in order to determine whether Buckinghamshire's proposed waste sites were likely to cause significant adverse effects on any of the Natura 2000 sites in the vicinity.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
To determine likely significant effects on various Natura 2000 sites	Discussed in main body of AA screening report
Buckinghamshire Habitat Action Plan (Woodland)	
This Habitat Action Plan is one of many National Key Habitat Action Plans in the UK.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure all ancient semi-natural woodland is in agreed management schemes, with management plans in place by 2010. • To increase the area of native woodland by 10% by 2010. • To ensure that future management of woodland takes into account the need to maintain levels of dead wood, veteran trees, and other habitats such as ponds, rides and glades. 	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans and only positive impacts on the SAC from this plan.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To ensure that new woodland planting respects the character of archaeological sites and those sites with competing biodiversity interest. • To increase the knowledge and understanding of woodland management and ecology and promote the involvement of communities in the management of their local woodlands, where appropriate. • To ensure that all woodlands are in sustainable management by 2015. 	
South Bucks District Council Core Strategy Preferred Options Document, May 2007	
The Preferred Options DPD is part of the Local Development Framework which will guide future development in the District to at least 2021.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
<p>The spatial vision for the district comprises 17 Objectives:</p> <p>A To improve accessibility for all to essential services and facilities by providing opportunities to obtain good access to high quality health, education, recreation, shopping , employment and other community services and facilities.</p> <p>B To strive, through the Statement of Community Involvement, to achieve an appropriate balance of community involvement and engagement in the planning process, especially with ‘hard to reach’ groups.</p> <p>C To provide everyone living in South Bucks with the opportunity to live in a decent home.</p> <p>D To improve the efficiency of land use, for example through the re-use of existing buildings and previously developed land, where this is the most sustainable option.</p> <p>E To protect and enhance important open spaces within urban areas, and provide linkages to important open spaces beyond the urban fringe.</p> <p>F To increase the level of affordable, elderly persons’ and key worker housing in South Bucks District within the overall level of planned housing development for the District.</p> <p>G To ensure that housing development is of an appropriate size and type to meet local needs.</p> <p>H To preserve and enhance the Green Belt, including improving damaged land.</p> <p>I To promote a sustainable and balanced local economy that provides encouragement to existing businesses and small start up businesses, including those working from home.</p> <p>J To conserve and enhance both the landscape and townscape character of the District, including a ‘sense of place’, especially in those areas of designated importance, and promote good design.</p>	Discussed in main body of AA screening report.

<p>K To reduce anti-social activity, crime and accidents through the creation of safer places to live and work.</p> <p>L To reduce the risk of fluvial, tidal and surface water flooding to people and property.</p> <p>M To reduce pollution of the air, soil and water.</p> <p>N To reduce energy consumption and waste and encourage the use of recycled, renewable and locally available resources.</p> <p>O To encourage the use of sustainable methods of transport, cycling and walking to reduce negative effects on the environment, congestion and the need to travel.</p> <p>P To protect scarce surface and groundwater through promotion of water conservation and recycling in both new and existing development, and the use of sustainable drainage systems.</p> <p>Q To maintain and enhance biodiversity.</p>	
Appropriate Assessment South Bucks Core Strategy Preferred Options Document, April 2007	
The Preferred Options Document is subject to the AA process under EC Directive (92/43/EEC)	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
n/a	Informed this AA screening report
Luton and South Bedfordshire Core Strategy Issues and Options Paper, 2007	
The 'Issues and Options Paper' is the first consultation document prepared as part of the process of adopting a 'Core Strategy and Key Diagram' for the Luton and South Bedfordshire Growth Area.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
To provide a vision for development in the region and consult on the various Issues and Options in order to determine preferred options.	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans.
South Bedfordshire District Council: Preparing for Change and Growth, Draft Housing Strategy, July 2007 (2008-2013)	
The strategy sets out how South Bedfordshire District Council and its partners aim to address housing need across the district and is currently being consulted upon.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
<p>The strategy covers the following six main themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shaping the Conurbation • Supplying Housing • Providing Realistic Choice 	No significant in-combination effects with Issues and Options or other plans.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decent Homes - Options for Vulnerable People • Managing our Assets • Delivering Quality Services in Partnership 	
South Oxfordshire Local Development Framework Site Allocation Development Plan Document	
<p>The main purpose of this DPD is to allocate sufficient land for housing to meet the needs of South Oxfordshire to 2026, but the Council will also consider allocating land for other uses such as employment. The final plan is likely to include maps showing specific locations for development to 2019 and indicate broad locations for further development to 2026.</p>	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
<p>To determine preferred options for site allocations</p>	<p>AA screening of the South Oxfordshire Site Allocations DPD included examining the effects of the DPD on Chilterns Beechwoods SAC. It was concluded that there would be ‘no significant effects arising out of the population growth at Didcot.’</p>

Local (District level)

Dacorum Borough Nature Conservation Strategy (1999)	
The Local Biodiversity Action Plan for Dacorum, organised through UKBAP.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
Comprising of 29 Species Action Plans and 7 Habitat Action Plans.	Gives extra justification for adherence to the conservation objectives of the SACs, particularly the 'Broadleaved, mixed and yew woodland' Habitat Action Plan.
Dacorum Borough Local Agenda 21 Strategy (2002 – but updated online regularly)	
This strategy is run of the Council's website and also details of current relevant projects and initiatives within the Borough. The LA21 Strategy aims to help the community work together to protect the environment for future generations and produce a record of the projects and initiatives carried out by local people in pursuit of environmental wellbeing.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
<p>The Strategy is based on 12 priority areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> State of the Environment Report and Indicators Air Quality and Noise Energy Sustainable Transport Nature Conservation Water Land Use and Building Waste and Recycling Environmental Management Sustainable Economic Development Sharing Ideas and Expertise Community Awareness and Participation 	Gives extra justification for adherence to the conservation objectives of the SACs.
Three Rivers Core Strategy Issues and Options DPD	
<p>The DPD gives the following vision:</p> <p><i>'In essence, future development in Three Rivers must secure balanced development for homes and jobs which safeguards the environment,</i></p>	

<i>maintains the green belt, secures good services, and facilities for all and achieves a sustainable transport system’.</i>	
The Issues and Options fall under the following principal topics:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad locations for new housing, employment and retail development (Spatial Options) • Policies to control development (Generic Development Control Policies) • Delivery of development (Implementation and Monitoring Framework) 	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
Various options are provided that fall under the three main categories listed above.	No impacts expected on Chilterns Beechwoods SAC
St Albans Core Strategy Issues and Options DPD	
This document provides a variety of development options for the district under the following overarching vision: <i>'We want to continue to be a progressive, unique and vibrant district, which values its heritage and cares for its future: an outstanding place to live where everyone can flourish.'</i>	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
<p>The following objectives have been identified in the Core Strategy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Conserve and enhance the natural beauty and amenity of the countryside. b. Protect the Metropolitan Green Belt. c. Focus future growth within those parts of the District where sustainability of settlements can be maintained or improved and where residents can benefit from a better quality of life d. Provide sufficient land to accommodate future housing and employment growth, in line with the requirements of the Regional Spatial Strategy for the East of England. e. Address the need for more affordable homes across the District and support a diverse housing market, which provides access to good quality housing for all the District’s residents. f. Reduce the need to travel by steering development to locations that are within easy walking or cycling distance of a wide range of facilities and/or are well served by public transport. g. Secure an improved and better integrated transport system, which will encourage modal shift away from the private car and reduce the adverse environmental effects of high road usage and congestion. h. Promote a high standard of sustainable design and layout for new development that 	Only one option was considered to have potential (indirect) consequences for the Chilterns Beechwoods SAC in terms of increased air pollution from traffic. This is discussed in the main body of this AA screening report.

respects local character, seeks to protect residential amenity and encourages higher density development in the more accessible areas within St Albans City Centre and Harpenden Town Centre.

- i. Provide sufficient land and floorspace to support a prosperous and diverse economy, which fosters enterprise and entrepreneurship.
- j. Maintain and improve the vibrancy and prosperity of St Albans City Centre and Harpenden Town Centre, to support their function as the major service centres within the District and protect the vitality and viability of the smaller District, village and local centres, which provide for the day to day needs of the community.
- k. Protect and enhance the District's historical heritage, especially in relation to conservation areas, listed buildings, historic landscapes and important archaeological sites.
- l. Meet local needs and improve accessibility to good job opportunities and key services such as education, healthcare, leisure and other community facilities for all the District's residents.
- m. Protect and enhance the landscape quality and green spaces of the District.
- n. Conserve and enhance the District's biodiversity, particularly those habitats and species of recognised nature conservation importance.
- o. Reduce the impact of future development on the District's environmental footprint, through more prudent use of natural resources, reducing pollution and energy consumption, promoting the use of renewable energy and maximising opportunities for recycling. Where appropriate, new development also needs to adapt to the impacts and consequences of climate change.
- p. Support the provision of new and improved arts and cultural facilities, which recognise and support the artistic talents of the local community and establish the District as a premier location for culture and the arts.
- q. Support the development of diverse, safer and healthier communities and address the causes and consequences of relative deprivation and social exclusion in certain parts of the District.
- r. Protect and promote the local distinctiveness of each of the District's settlements.

Appropriate Assessment of the Wycombe Development Framework Site Allocations Preferred Options, February 2007	
AA report to determine likely significant impacts of site allocations on the SACs within Wycombe's boundary; Aston Rowant and Chilterns Beechwoods.	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
AA report to determine likely significant impacts on the SACs within Wycombe's boundary; Aston Rowant and Chilterns Beechwoods	No in-combination effects on Chilterns Beechwoods SAC. No impacts on the SAC were predicted in the Wycombe Site Allocations AA but the Wycombe Site Allocations AA informed the development of the buffer zone in the Dacorum AA Screening.
Appropriate Assessment of the Wycombe Development Framework Core Strategy	
AA report to determine likely significant impacts on the SACs within Wycombe's boundary; Aston Rowant and Chilterns Beechwoods	
Objectives, Targets, Indicators	Implications for Issues and Options/ SAC
AA report to determine likely significant impacts on the SACs within Wycombe's boundary; Aston Rowant and Chilterns Beechwoods	No in-combination effects on Chilterns Beechwoods SAC. No impacts on the SAC were predicted in the Wycombe Core Strategy AA.