

**OUTLINE OF A RECORD FOR A PLAN WHICH WOULD NOT BE LIKELY TO HAVE A SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON ANY EUROPEAN SITE, EITHER ALONE OR IN COMBINATION WITH ANY OTHER PLAN OR PROJECT**

**Introduction and conclusion of the assessment**

**The Worcestershire Minerals Local Plan (Publication Version)** was considered in light of the assessment requirements of regulation 63 / 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 by Worcestershire County Council which is the plan-making / competent authority responsible for adopting the plan and any assessment of it required by the Regulations.

Having carried out a 'screening' assessment of the plan, the plan-making / competent authority has concluded that the plan would not be likely to have a significant effect on any European site, either alone or in combination with any other plans or projects (in light of the definition of these terms in the 'Waddenzee' ruling of the European Court of Justice Case C – 127/02) and an appropriate assessment is not therefore required.

Natural England was consulted on this conclusion and has agreed with it. Consultation responses to the Fourth Stage MLP Consultation which were provided by Natural England on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2019 have been appended to the Publication Version's Habitats Regulation Assessment Screening Assessment at Appendix 6.

**Information used for the assessment**

A copy of the list used to scan for and select European sites potentially affected by the plan is given below.

**A Summary of International Sites considered within the HRA Screening Assessment**

<b>International Site</b>	<b>Location in relation to Worcestershire County</b>	<b>Qualifying Feature</b>
<b>Lyppard Grange Ponds SAC (1.09 ha)</b>	Central	Great crested newt population
<b>Bredon Hill SAC (359.86 ha)</b>	South central	Violet click beetle population
<b>Dixton Wood SAC (13.14 ha)</b>	2 km from the central southern boundary	Violet click beetle population
<b>Fens Pools SAC (20.4 ha)</b>	7 km from the central northern boundary	Great crested newt population
<b>River Wye / Afon Gwy SAC (2234.89 ha)</b>	10 km from western boundary	Habitats: Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation; rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot.  Transition mires and quaking bogs; very wet mires often identified by an unstable 'quaking' surface.  Species: White-clawed crayfish ( <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> ) Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ) Brook lamprey ( <i>Lampetra planeri</i> ) River lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ) Twaite shad ( <i>Alosa fallax</i> ) Allis shad ( <i>Alosa alosa</i> ) Atlantic salmon ( <i>Salmo salar</i> ) Bullhead ( <i>Cottus gobio</i> ) Otter ( <i>Lutra lutra</i> )
<b>Downton Gorge SAC (69.3 ha)</b>	12km from northwest boundary	Habitats: <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines; mixed

International Site	Location in relation to Worcestershire County	Qualifying Feature
<b>Walmore Common SPA (52.85 ha)</b>	15 km from southern boundary	woodland on base-rich soils associated with rocky slopes. Supports overwintering (non-breeding) population of Bewick's swan ( <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> )
<b>Walmore Common Ramsar (52.85 ha)</b>	As above	Internationally important population of overwintering (non-breeding) <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>
<b>River Clun SAC (14.64 ha)</b>	16km north-west of the county boundary	Species: Freshwater pearl mussel ( <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> )
<b>Severn Estuary SAC (73,715.4 ha)</b>	20 km from the southern boundary	Habitats: Estuaries Mudflats and sandflats Saltmarsh  Species: Sea lamprey ( <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> ) River lamprey ( <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> ) Twaite shad ( <i>Alosa fallax</i> )
<b>Severn Estuary SPA (24,700.01 ha)</b>	As above	Supports overwintering populations of:  <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> Curlew ( <i>Numenius arquata</i> ) Dunlin ( <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> ) Pintail ( <i>Anas acuta</i> ) Redshank ( <i>Tringa totanus</i> ) Shelduck ( <i>Tadorna tadorna</i> )  Supports Ringed plover ( <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i> ) on passage.
<b>Severn Estuary Ramsar (24,662.98 ha)</b>	As above	Regularly supports an assemblage of at least 20,000 waterfowl

A summary of the information gathered for the assessment is presented in the Information Required for Assessment table below.

### A Summary of the International Sites with Pertinent information for Site Scanning and Selection

International Site	Conservation Objectives & Supplemental Evidence used	Site Condition <sup>1</sup>
Lyppard Grange Ponds SAC	SAC SITE CODE UK0030198 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Conservation Objectives (27 November 2018)</li><li>The Site's Supplemental Advice document (24<sup>th</sup> June 2016)</li><li>The Site Improvement Plan (V3.0, October 2014).</li></ul>	Favourable 92.03%  Unfavourable – Recovering 7.97%
Bredon Hill SAC	SAC SITE CODE UK0012587 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Conservation Objectives (27 November 2018)</li><li>Site Improvement Plan (v1.0, February 2015)</li></ul>	Favourable 95.45%  Unfavourable – recovering 4.55%
Dixton Wood SAC	SAC SITE CODE UK0030135 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Conservation Objectives (27 November 2018)</li><li>Site Improvement Plan (v1.0, January 2015)</li></ul>	Unfavourable – Recovering 100%
Fens Pools SAC	SAC SITE CODE UK0030150 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Conservation Objectives (27 November 2018)</li></ul>	Favourable 100%

<sup>1</sup> Summary condition of legally underpinning SSSI units have been identified using Natural England website <https://designatedsites.naturalengland.org.uk/>, as accessed August 2018.

International Site	Conservation Objectives & Supplemental Evidence used	Site Condition <sup>1</sup>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supplemental Advice document (March 2017)</li> <li>Site Improvement Plan (v1.0, October 2014)</li> </ul>	
River Wye / Afon Gwy SAC	SAC SITE CODE UK0012642 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conservation Objectives (27 November 2018)</li> <li>Site Improvement Plan (v1.0, November 2014)</li> </ul>	Favourable 12.69% Unfavourable – Recovering 87.31%
Downton Gorge SAC	SAC SITE CODE UK0012735 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conservation Objectives (27 November 2018)</li> <li>Supplementary Advice document (October 2016)</li> <li>Site Improvement Plan (v0.5, December 2014)</li> </ul>	Unfavourable – Declining 100%
Walmore Common SPA and RAMSAR	SPA SITE CODE UK9007051 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conservation Objectives (27 November 2018)</li> <li>Site Improvement Plan (November 2014)</li> </ul>	Unfavourable – No change 100%
River Clun SAC	SAC SITE CODE UK0030250 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conservation Objectives (27 November 2018)</li> <li>Site Improvement Plan (October 2014)</li> </ul>	Unfavourable – No change 96.61% Unfavourable – Declining 3.39%
Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and RAMSAR	SAC SITE CODE UK0013030 SPA SITE CODE UK9015022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conservation Objectives (27 November 2018)</li> <li>Site Improvement Plan (v1.0, March 2016)</li> </ul>	Favourable 85.85% Unfavourable – Recovering 3.31% Unfavourable – Declining 10.84%

### The formal screening decision

The HRA has identified no Likely Significant Effects arising 'alone' from the Minerals Local Plan upon any of the list of scanned International Sites. No cumulative effects (likely to cause a Likely Significant Effect 'in-combination' with effects arising from another plan or project) upon any of the list of scanned International Sites has been identified.

The Screening Assessment conclusions do not take into account any mitigation measures intended to avoid or reduce harmful effects on an International Site.

### The pre-screening schedules, tables or matrices

The following pre-screening outputs are attached as supporting evidence for the formal screening decision and record.

### A Summary of the Screening Assessment of Chapters and Policies constituting the Publication Version MLP

Element of the plan (MLP Publication Version assessed May 2019)	Assessment and rationale	Screening Category	Screening conclusion
Chapter One "Introduction"	Administrative text Establishing document purpose, preparation processes and links to other plans and policies	-	Screened out
Chapter Two "Portrait of Worcestershire"	General description of County including its geology, its strategic infrastructure including transport, economic condition and environmental assets	-	Screened out
Chapter Three "Vision and objectives"	General statements of overall objectives	-	Screened out

Element of the plan (MLP Publication Version assessed May 2019)	Assessment and rationale	Screening Category	Screening conclusion
Chapter Four "Spatial Strategy and associated policies"	A framework articulating strategic development within the county.		Each part of the Spatial Strategy is considered in further detail, below.
Key Diagram	No Strategic Corridor overlays either in whole or part any International Site. Each part of the Spatial Strategy is considered in further detail, below.	A	Screened out  <b>Rationale</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Statement of policy / general aspiration</li> </ul>
POLICY MLP1 Strategic location of Development	Establishes a principle of mineral development within strategic corridors. Subsequent policies relating to individual strategic corridors are considered in turn and in more detail below. MLP1 (and MLP2) provides direction on proposals for mineral developments which arise outside of a Strategic Corridor, and may therefore emerge in greater proximity to (or potentially within the boundaries of) an International Site.	B	Screened out  <b>Rationale:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy MLP1 lists general criteria for testing the acceptability of proposals.</li> <li>• in line with section F.6.2.3 of the HRA Handbook (May 2019), policy MLP1 can be screened-out subject to implications arising from the Strategic Corridors being assessed under Policies MLP4-MLP8.</li> </ul>
POLICY MLP2 Borrow Pits	As per Policy MLP1, there are no specific proposals for borrow pits (within or outside of strategic corridors) which are capable of being assessed. The effects of this overarching policy will therefore be better assessed through the screening of Policies MLP4 - 8 (strategic corridors).	B	Screened out  <b>Rationale:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A policy listing the general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals</li> <li>• There are no specific proposals outside of strategic corridors capable of being assessed.</li> </ul>
POLICY MLP3 Green Infrastructure	Requires applications to undertake sufficient technical assessment so as to demonstrate that development(s) will, amongst other Green Infrastructure objectives, conserve and enhance ecological assets and networks and deliver net gains for biodiversity.	A	Screened out  <b>Rationale:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• General Statement of policy / general aspiration</li> </ul>
POLICY MLP4 Avon and Carrant Brook Strategic Corridor	The Avon and Carrant Brook (MLP4) Strategic Corridor is located beyond the geographical thresholds articulated within Section 5 (Table 5) of the HRA. No Likely Significant Effect on an International site is predicted through pathways including physical modification, hydrological modification, hydrological or airborne pollution or dust and other non-toxic contaminants. Additionally, while there are no specific proposals within the strategic corridors which are currently capable of being assessed, Policy MLP21 will ensure that	H	Screened out  <b>Rationale:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A policy or proposal the (actual or theoretical) effects of which cannot undermine the conservation</li> </ul>

Element of the plan (MLP Publication Version assessed May 2019)	Assessment and rationale	Screening Category	Screening conclusion
POLICY MLP5 Lower Severn Strategic Corridor	<p>any risks from development are identified and addressed at project level. Policy MLP21 can therefore be relied upon to ensure that proposals coming forward under MLP4 will not undermine the Conservation Objectives' of any International Sites.</p> <p>Furthermore, any site-specific proposals considered in the development of the proposed Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document will legally require Habitats Regulation Assessment to assess any effect on an International Site.</p>		objectives (either alone or in combination with other aspects of this or other plans or projects)
	<p>The Lower Severn Strategic Corridor is more than 30km upstream of the otherwise hydrologically linked Severn Estuary SAC/SPA/RAMSAR. No pathways are foreseen through which a Likely Significant Effect would occur upon this or any other International Site.</p>	H	<p>Screened out</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A policy or proposal the (actual or theoretical) effects of which cannot undermine the conservation objectives (either alone or in combination with other aspects of this or other plans or projects)</li> </ul>
POLICY MLP6 North East Worcestershire Strategic Corridor	<p>At its closest point this Strategic Corridor is more than 60km from the hydrologically linked Severn Estuary SAC/SPA/RAMSAR; No Likely Significant Effect on this or any other International Site is predicted. A Likely Significant Effect upon the International Site is not predicted.</p>	G	<p>Screened out</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A spatial strategy establishing mineral development in an area which is not perceived to have any conceivable effect on a site</li> </ul>
POLICY MLP7 North West Worcestershire Strategic Corridor	<p>At its closest point this Strategic Corridor is more than 60km from the hydrologically linked Severn Estuary SAC/SPA/RAMSAR. At its closest geographical point to the most proximate International Site, the North West Worcestershire Strategic Corridor is located downstream and approximately 9km due South of Fens Pools SAC. A Likely Significant Effect is not predicted upon this or any other International Site.</p>	G	<p>Screened out</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A spatial strategy establishing mineral development in an area which is not perceived to have any conceivable effect on a site</li> </ul>
POLICY MLP8 Salwarpe Tributaries Strategic Corridor	<p>At its closest point this Strategic Corridor is more than 50km from the hydrologically linked Severn Estuary SAC/SPA/RAMSAR. At its closest geographical point to the most proximate International Site, the Salwarpe Tributaries Strategic Corridor is located approximately 5.5km due North of Lyppard Grange SAC and is not hydrologically connected. A Likely Significant Effect is not predicted upon this or any other International Site.</p>	G	<p>Screened out</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A spatial strategy establishing mineral development in an area which is not perceived to have any conceivable effect on a site</li> </ul>
Chapter Five "Steady and Adequate	<p>This Chapter establishes general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals. No specific</p>	B	Screened out

Element of the plan (MLP Publication Version assessed May 2019)	Assessment and rationale	Screening Category	Screening conclusion
<p>Supply"</p> <p>POLICY MLP9 Contribution of substitute, Secondary and recycled Materials and Mineral Waste to Overall Minerals Supply</p> <p>POLICY MLP10 Steady and Adequate Supply of Sand and Gravel</p> <p>POLICY MLP11 Steady Supply of Crushed Rock</p> <p>POLICY MLP12 Supply of Brick Clay and Clay Products</p> <p>POLICY MLP13 Steady and Adequate Supply of Silica Sand</p> <p>POLICY MLP14 Adequate and Diverse Supply of Building Stone</p> <p>POLICY MLP15 Supply of Other Locally and Nationally Important Industrial Minerals</p> <p>POLICY MLP16 Supply of Energy Minerals</p>	<p>proposals are brought forward through Policies MLP9 to MLP16 and therefore any minerals developments supported by these policies are more appropriately assessed through Policies MLP1 and MLP4 to MLP8</p>		<p><b>Rationale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chapter Six</b> Development Management policies</p>	<p>This Chapter establish terms and framework of use of the proceeding Development Management policies. As such they list the general mechanisms for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals, planning conditions, community engagement and Review of Minerals Permissions (ROMPs).</p>	B	<p>Screened out</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Text which establishes the general criteria used for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals</li> </ul>
<p>POLICY MLP17 Prudent use of Resources</p>	<p>This policy requires schemes to demonstrate, through provision of a technical assessment, that prudent use of resources will be realised.</p>	B	<p>Screened out</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy listing</li> </ul>

Element of the plan (MLP Publication Version assessed May 2019)	Assessment and rationale	Screening Category	Screening conclusion
POLICY MLP18 Green Belt	The policy sets out technical requirements for mineral developments arising within the green belt. None of the Scanned International sites within the county occur within land designated as green belt and therefore no interaction between this policy and an International site is anticipated.	B	<p>general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals</p> <p>Screened out</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals</li> </ul>
POLICY MLP19 Amenity	This policy establishes requirements to control air quality, noise, dust, vibration, light, land instability and contamination.	B	<p>Screened out</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental protection / site safeguard policy</li> </ul>
POLICY MLP20 Access and Recreation	This policy requires schemes to be supported by adequate technical assessments demonstrating the protection and enhancement of rights of way and public access provision.	B	<p>Screened out</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals</li> </ul>
POLICY MLP21 Biodiversity	<p>This policy establishes the requirement for schemes to protect, conserve and enhance biodiversity. By its nature MLP21 cannot pose an adverse impact upon an International Site.</p> <p>MLP21 requires that:</p> <p><i>"A level of technical assessment appropriate to the proposed development and its potential impacts on biodiversity will be required to demonstrate that, throughout its lifetime, the proposed development will:</i></p> <p>...</p> <p><i>c) not adversely affect the integrity of a European site, or clearly demonstrate that there are no alternative solutions and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest which justify the likely effects (where adverse effects are justified, appropriate compensatory measures will be required to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected)"</i></p> <p>The Reasoned Justification supporting MLP21 goes on to state that:</p> <p>6.73 <i>In the case of a European designation, if it cannot be concluded that the development will not be likely to have a significant effect on the interest features of the site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, then an 'Appropriate Assessment' under the Habitat Regulations will be required. The</i></p>	D	<p>Screened out</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental protection / site safeguard policy</li> </ul>

Element of the plan (MLP Publication Version assessed May 2019)	Assessment and rationale	Screening Category	Screening conclusion
	<p><i>applicant should provide sufficient information to enable the competent authority to undertake an Appropriate Assessment which will determine whether the development will have an adverse effect on the integrity of the site or the Natura 2000 network. The presumption in favour of sustainable development does not apply where development is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, unless an Appropriate Assessment has concluded that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site. If an Appropriate Assessment concludes that the proposal would have a significant effect on a European site, then the proposal could only be agreed to where it is demonstrated that there are no alternative solutions and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest. Where such development is agreed to, all compensatory measures necessary must be taken to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. Applicants will be expected to provide sufficient detail of the necessary compensation measures and how they will be delivered.</i></p>		
POLICY MLP22 Historic Environment	Policy MLP22 establishes the requirement for schemes to protect, conserve and enhance the historic environment. No interaction with an International Site is predicted from implementation of this Policy.	D	Screened out  <b>Rationale:</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental protection / site safeguard policy</li> </ul>
POLICY MLP23 Landscape	Policy MLP23 establishes the requirement for a technical assessment to demonstrate schemes will protect, conserve and enhance the character and distinctiveness of the landscape.	D	Screened out  <b>Rationale:</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental protection / site safeguard policy</li> </ul>
POLICY MLP24 Soils	Policy MLP24 establishes the requirement for a technical assessment to demonstrate schemes will protect and conserve soil resources and their quality. No interaction with an International Site is predicted from implementation of this Policy.	D	Screened out  <b>Rationale:</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental protection / site safeguard policy</li> </ul>
POLICY MLP25 Best and Most Versatile Agricultural Land	Policy MLP25 establishes requirements to undertake a technical assessment to identify developmental impacts upon land of best and most versatile agricultural value. No interaction with an International Site is predicted from implementation of this Policy.	D	Screened out  <b>Rationale:</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental protection / site safeguard policy</li> </ul>
POLICY MLP26 Geodiversity	Policy MLP26 establishes the requirement for schemes to protect, conserve and enhance geodiversity.	D	Screened out  <b>Rationale:</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental protection / site safeguard policy</li> </ul>
POLICY MLP27 Water Quality and	MLP27 establishes the requirement for applications to demonstrate that schemes will protect and enhance the quality, quantity and flow of surface water and groundwater	D	Screened out  <b>Rationale:</b>



Element of the plan (MLP Publication Version assessed May 2019)	Assessment and rationale	Screening Category	Screening conclusion
Quantity	resources.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental protection / site safeguard policy</li> </ul>
POLICY MLP28 Flooding	Policy MLP28 establishes the need for mineral developments to undertake a technical assessment to identify 'potential impacts of the proposed development on flood risk', including demonstrating that the proposed development will not increase flood risk elsewhere.	D	<p>Screened out</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental protection / site safeguard policy</li> </ul>
POLICY MLP29 Transport	Policy MLP29 establishes expectations for sustainable transport options for employees, visitors and the movement of minerals and materials throughout the full diversity of modal options available and which minimise harm to environmental and amenity assets. No interaction with an International Site is predicted from implementation of this Policy.	B	<p>Screened out</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals</li> </ul>
POLICY MLP30 Obligations	Policy MLP30 establishes how restoration and aftercare will be secured through mechanisms including planning obligations.	B	<p>Screened out</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chapter Seven</b> Safeguarding</p> <p>POLICY MLP31 Safeguarding Locally &amp; Nationally Important Mineral Resources</p> <p>POLICY MLP32 Safeguarding Permitted Mineral Sites and Supporting Infrastructure</p>	Safeguarding policies are designed to prevent unnecessary sterilisation of mineral resources and associated infrastructure by non-mineral developments permitted under other plans or regulatory systems outside of the remit of the MLP.	D	<p>Screened out</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental protection / site safeguard policy</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chapter Eight</b> Implementation and monitoring framework</p>	This section sets out arrangements for monitoring the effectiveness of the Minerals Local Plan in a set of Monitoring Schedules structured by reference to the Plan's objectives.	G	<p>Screened out</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A proposal which could not have any conceivable effect on an International Site</li> </ul>
<p>Appendices &amp; annexes</p> <p>Appendix 1 Superseded policies</p>	Principally administrative text.	G	<p>Screened out</p> <p><b>Rationale:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A proposal which</li> </ul>

Element of the plan (MLP Publication Version assessed May 2019)	Assessment and rationale	Screening Category	Screening conclusion
Appendix 2 Identifying and defining the strategic corridors		-	could not have any conceivable effect on an International Site  Screened out
Appendix 3 Glossary		-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rationale:</b> General statement of policy/general aspiration</li> </ul>
Appendix 4 Acronyms		-	Screened out  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rationale:</b> Administrative text</li> </ul> Screened out  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Rationale:</b> Administrative text</li> </ul>

### Assumptions and limitations

The screening conclusion necessarily relies on some assumptions and it was inevitably subject to some limitations. Most of the assumptions and limitations would not affect the conclusion but the following points are recorded in order to ensure that the basis of the assessment is clear.

- The Publication Version MLP is a high-level strategic document. While the plan identifies 'areas of search' within strategic corridors (each corridor being several thousand hectares in size) and provides policy direction for individual applications which will consequently come forwards (at a later date) within these corridors, the MLP itself does not include specific site or preferred area allocations, as these will be the subject of a separate Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document (as per the Local Development Scheme, July 2018). The future Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document will also require evaluation through the HRA process. It is therefore not possible on the basis of the precision of the Minerals Local Plan to anticipate where within an overall corridor mineral development sites may ultimately come forwards. To assume that proposals will come forward across the entire corridor is considered unrealistic and excessively precautionary.
- Where applicable, distance buffers have been used based upon existing good practice guidance (as detailed within Section 5 of the Screening Assessment). However there are no standard distances capable of being used to help define risks of impacts at receptors caused by a variety of effects known to arise from certain quarrying activities. These include effects such as sedimentation/siltation, habitat severance, erosion and settlement of ground surface. In these scenarios it is assumed that reliance on a source-pathway-receptor model for prediction and assessment of Likely Significant Effects is appropriate.
- Through consultation responses Natural England have drawn attention to the emerging High Tide Roost Counts within the Severn Estuary SPA (RP02262) and implications arising through the Minerals Local Plan upon Functionally Linked Land. In this regard, it is assumed that application of appropriate distance buffers to assess likely Significant Effects on Functionally Linked Land can only be implemented once a specific site with Functional Linkage to the Severn Estuary SPA has been identified. Report RP02966 highlights that a Functionally Linked Land map is in preparation by

Natural England to identify key foraging/supporting fields around the estuary. It is anticipated that this evidence base will assist with the future Mineral Site Allocations Development Plan Document together with lower-tier plan and project-level HRA's.

### References and reports

In addition to the aforementioned Conservation Objectives, Supplemental Advice Documents, Site Improvement Plans and associated addendums and updates, in reaching the conclusions of the assessment, the competent authority has taken the following documents into account:

Advocate General's Opinion to CJEU in Case C-258/11 Sweetman and others v An Bord Pleanala 22nd Nov 2012

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty: A guide for AONB Partnership members, Countryside Commission, CA24, November 2001, p.6.

Case C-323/17, 12th April 2018, <https://pinslibrary.org.uk/vufind/Record/22537/Holdings#tabnav> accessed August 2018.

Chapman, c. & Tyldesley, D. 2016. Functional linkage: How areas that are functionally linked to European sites have been considered when they may be affected by plans and projects - a review of authoritative decisions. Natural England Commissioned Reports, Number207.

Defra, July 2012, Habitats Directive Guidance on competent authority coordination under the Habitats Regulations.

DMRB, Volume 11 Section 3, Air Quality, February 2003.

ECJ Case C-127/02 "Waddenzee" 7th September 2004.

Environment Agency (2010) Horizontal Guidance Note H1- annex F "Air Emissions

Extant government policy and guidance is contained within the National Planning Policy Framework and Planning Practice Guidance. However, the former policy statements and guidance documents contain useful technical information.

Farmer, A M, (1993) The effects of dust on vegetation – a review. Environmental Pollution 79, 63-75 (cited in Guidance on the Assessment of Mineral Dust Impacts for Planning, IAQM, 2016

Guidance on the Assessment of Mineral Dust Impacts for Planning, Institute of Air Quality Management, May 2016 (v1.1)

Habitat Regulations Assessment Main Report for the Gloucestershire Minerals Local plan, March 2018. V.1.4.

Holdaway, E., Origins and intentions of 1949 Act: Natural Beauty. Bangor: Countryside Council for Wales 2007; Selman, P. and C. Swanwick, "On the Meaning of Natural Beauty in Landscape Legislation ". Landscape Research. 35 (1): p. 3-26 2010.

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