

Rugeley Power Station Development Brief Supplementary Planning Document

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) &
Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Screening Report

Cannock Chase District Council & Lichfield District Council

June 2017

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Section 1: Introduction

This screening report looks at determining whether the emerging Rugeley Power Station Development Brief (to be adopted as supplementary planning document) requires a Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) in accordance with requirements set out in the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

This report will also screen to determine whether the Development Brief requires a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) in accordance with Article 6(3) and (4) of the EU Habitats Directive and with Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).

Description of the Plan or Programme (Purpose of the Development Brief)

The former Rugeley Power Station is situated within the administrative boundary of both Cannock Chase District Council (CCDC) and Lichfield District Council (LDC). It was announced in February 2016 that due to a deterioration in market conditions the Station would cease operating and it closed in June 2016. The Station and its supporting infrastructure is currently being decommissioned with demolition to follow. It is anticipated demolition will commence in 2018 and take up to two years. The draft Development Brief prepared in June 2017 which is submitted along with this screening report, sets out the joint aspirations of CCDC and LDC for the redevelopment of the Power Station site.

The Development Brief aims to assist with the delivery of Lichfield District Council's Local Plan Strategy Core Policy 1, particularly delivery of 10,030 dwellings over the plan period to 2029 and with Cannock Chase Council's Local Plan Part 1, particularly Core policies 1 (Strategy) and 3 (Design); and provide guidance to landowners, developers and the local community about expectations with regards to layout, form and quality of development on the site.

Structure

The legislative background set out section 2 outlines the regulations that require the need for this screening exercise. Section 3 provides a screening assessment of both the likely significant environmental effects of the Development Brief and the need for SEA. Section 4, provides a screening assessment of both the likely significant effects of the implementation of the Rugeley Power Station Development Brief and the need for a Habitats Regulation Assessment.

This report will be split into two parts. The first will cover the screening for the SEA (see section 3) and the second will cover the screening process for the HRA (see Section 4). A summary of findings and conclusions for both screening processes can be found in Section 5.

Section 2: Legislative Background

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessments and Sustainability Appraisal (SA) legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC and was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or SEA Regulations. Detailed Guidance of these regulations can be found in the Government publication 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (ODPM 2005).

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 contained the requirement for Local Authorities to produce Sustainability Appraisals for all local development documents to meet the requirement of the EU Directive on SEA. It is considered to be of best practice to incorporate requirements of the SEA Directive into an SA as discussed within the NPPF at paragraph 165. The Planning Act 2008 removed the obligation of carrying out Sustainability Appraisal for Supplementary Planning Guidance, but did not remove the requirement to produce a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Whilst the Development Brief supplements policies from both Cannock Chase Council's Local Plan Part 1 and Lichfield District Council's Local Plan Strategy, both of which have been subject to a full Sustainability Appraisal (including SEA), it is essential to determine whether this Development Brief is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency as statutory consultation bodies, will be consulted on this document to establish whether they agree with CCDC and LDC conclusions.

Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA)

It is required by article 6 (3) of the EU Habitats Directive and by regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) that an appropriate assessment is carried out with regard to the Conservation Objectives of the European Sites and with reference to other plans and projects to identify if any significant effect is likely for any European Site.

To fulfil the legal requirements to identify if likely significant effects will occur with the implementation of the Development Brief upon European Sites (Natura 2000 sites) a screening assessment has been undertaken and is set out in section 4 of this report.

The legislation requires where there is a "risk" of a significant effect on a European Site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects then there will be requirement for the plan to progress from HRA screening to an Appropriate Assessment. This is known as the precautionary principle as discussed in Section 4.

Section 3: SEA Screening

Criteria for Assessing the Effects of the Rugeley Power Station Development Brief SPD

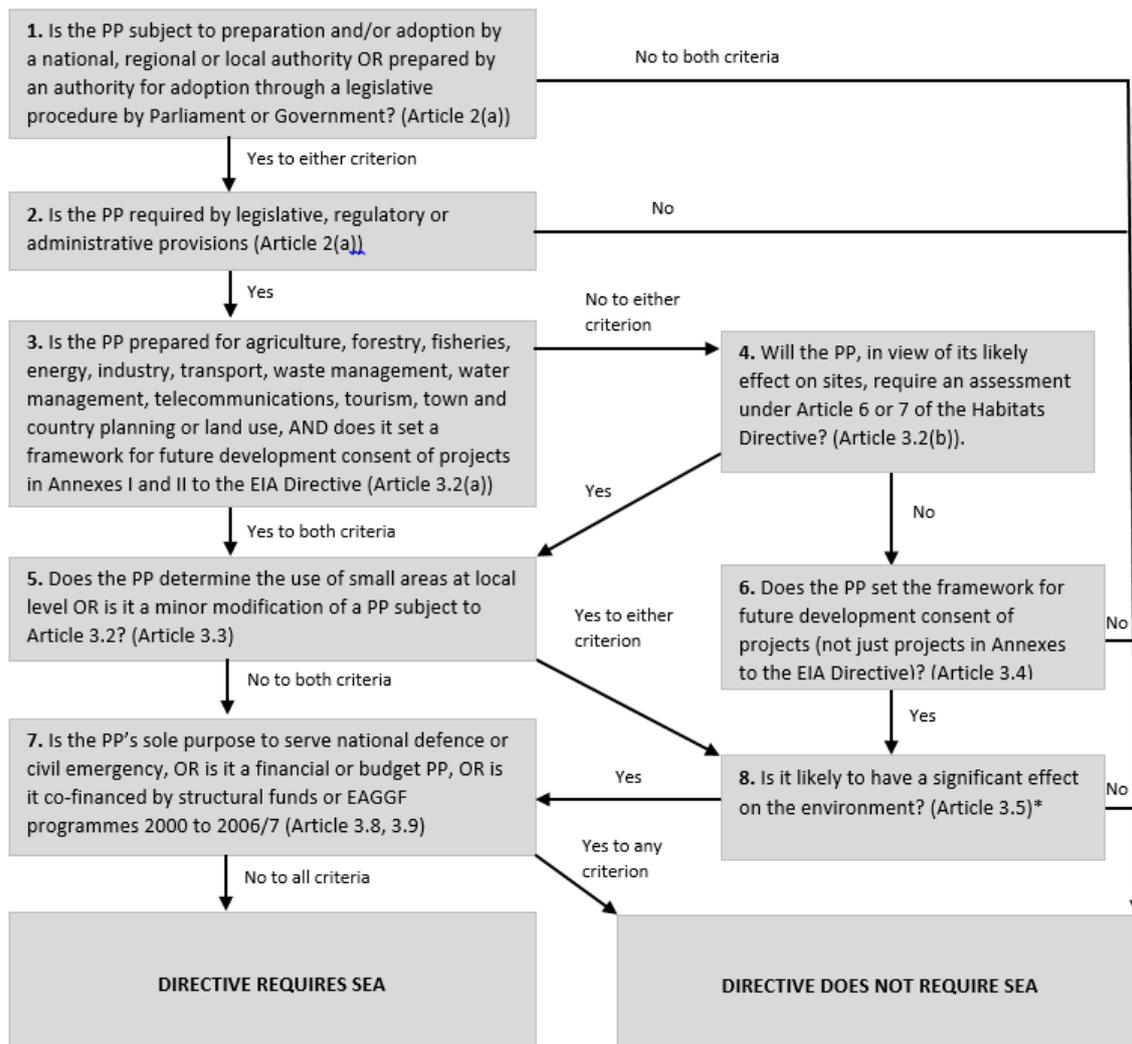
Criteria for determining the likely significant effects referred to in Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC are set out below.

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to:
 - the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources,
 - the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy,
 - the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,
 - environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme,
 - the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:
 - the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,
 - the cumulative nature of the effects,
 - the transboundary nature of the effects,
 - the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),
 - the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),
 - the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
 - i. special natural characteristics or cultural heritage
 - ii. exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values
 - iii. intensive land-use
 - the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.

Source: Annex II of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC

Figure 1 overleaf, is a flow chart published as Government Guidance for screening a planning document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required.

Figure 1: Application of the SEA Directive to plans and programmes (PPs)



*The Directive Member States to determine whether plans or programmes in this category are likely to have significant environmental effects. These determinations may be made on a case by case basis and / or by specifying types of plan or programme.

The process outlined above in Figure 1 has been undertaken and the findings of whether the Rugeley Power Station Development Brief SPD will require a full SEA the can be viewed in Table 1.

Table 1: Screening the need for an SEA

Stage	Yes/No	Reason	Next step
1. Is the PP subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Article 2(a))	Yes	The SPD has been prepared jointly by Cannock Chase District Council and Lichfield District Council, and is likely to be adopted by both Councils.	Proceed to Q2
2. Is the PP required, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Article 2(a))	Yes	The SPD is not required by legislative provision but supports the delivery of Cannock Chase District Council's Local Plan Part 1 Core Policy 1 (Strategy) and Core Policy 3 (Design) and Lichfield District Council's Local Plan Strategy Core Policy 1 (Strategy) and once adopted will become a material consideration in determining planning applications.	Proceed to Q3
3. Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, and does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive (Article 3.2(a))	Yes No	The SPD was prepared for town and country planning purposes and may guide future land use if adopted. The SPD provides guidance but does not set the framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive	Proceed to Q4
4. Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Article 3.2(b)).	Yes	The SPD could potentially have an impact on internationally designated wildlife sites covered by the Habitats Regulations. Please refer to Section 4 for the screening assessment for HRA.	Proceed to Q5
5. Does the PP determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Article 3.2? (Article 3.3)	Yes	The SPD will be used to guide development of the former Rugeley Power Station at a local level. The SPD supports policies contained within CCDC Local Plan Part 1 and LDC Local Plan Strategy, both of which were subject to a full SEA as part of the Plan process.	Proceed to Q8
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Article 3.5)	No	The purpose of the SPD is to provide guidance to assist with the with the delivery of Cannock Chase Council's Local Plan Part 1, particularly Core policies 1 (Strategy) and 3 (Design) and Lichfield District Council's Local Plan Strategy Core Policy 1, particularly delivery of 10,030 dwellings over the plan period to 2029, as well as Policy E1 of the emerging Lichfield Local Plan Allocations Document which identifies the site for mixed use development. The policies to which the SPD relates were subject to SEA (incorporated within the both Councils SA) through the Local Plan preparation process. Therefore the SPD as a guidance document will not itself have any significant effects on the environment. Please refer to Table 2 overleaf which determines the likely significance of effects.	Directive does not require SEA.

Table 2: Assessment if likelihood of significant effects on the environment

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (Annex II SEA Directive)	Summary of Significant effects
The characteristics of the plans, having regard to:	
The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	The SPD will not set a framework for other projects or activities as it is providing additional guidance on policies that have been subject to SEA. Once adopted, the SPD will become a material consideration in determining any planning application on the former Rugeley Power Station site.
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans or programmes including those in a hierarchy.	The SPD aims to assist with the delivery of CCDC Local Plan Part 1 and LDC Local Plan Strategy. The SPD will have less material weight than the existing CCDC Local Plan Part 1 and LDC Local Plan Strategy which have been subject to SEA. It sits below these 'higher tier' documents.
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development.	The SPD provides guidance of the future development of the Rugeley Power Station site and seeks to promote high quality design and sustainable development.
Environmental problems relevant to the plan.	The SPD seeks to achieve environmental improvements to the site through high quality, sustainable design. The SPD seeks to mitigate potential environmental issues such as guiding development away from areas at flood risk.
The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection)	The SPD identifies aspirations for the site but does not contain or impose specific measures. Further detailed information related to the development of the site is expected to be discussed as part of any future planning application on the site.
Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular to:	
The probability, duration and frequency and reversibility of the effects	The aim of the SPD is to redevelop the former Rugeley Power Station site for the long-term future and therefore an element of environmental change will occur.
The cumulative nature of the effects.	The redevelopment of the site will occur over a number of years and when considered as whole, the cumulative effects of the SPD if adopted, will be on a local scale.
The transboundary nature of effects.	The site traverses both Lichfield District and Cannock Chase District. The SPD has been prepared jointly by both Cannock Chase District Council and Lichfield District Council to set out the aspirations for the redevelopment of the site.
The risks to human health or the environment (eg due to accidents)	The SPD does not present any risk to human health or the environment. The redevelopment of the site will incorporate the provision of quality housing, including a proportion of affordable housing will be beneficial to human health.
The magnitude spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of population likely to be affected).	The SPD relates specifically to the Rugeley Power Station site. There may be positive localised effects of redevelopment of the site for the local community, for example the provision of new housing and employment opportunities.
The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage - exceeded environmental quality standards - intensive land use 	The SPD is unlikely to significantly affect the value and vulnerability of the area in relation to the special natural characteristics or cultural heritage although localised change may occur. The SPD is providing guidance on the redevelopment of a brownfield site and supports the delivery of Cannock Chase District Council's Local Plan Part 1 policies and Lichfield District Council's Local Plan Strategy, both of which have been subject to SEA.
The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.	The Cannock Chase SAC and AONB lie within 8km of the SPD boundary. Developments within the Cannock Chase SAC 8km zone of influence will in combination have an effect on the integrity of the SAC. Any development proposals on the former Power Station site in accordance with local policy must demonstrate that it will not have an adverse effect, whether direct or indirect, upon the integrity of the SAC having regard to avoidance or mitigation measures.

Screening Outcome

The Rugeley Power Station Development Brief SPD is focused on a significant brownfield site on the edge of Rugeley. The SPD does not propose more development than is set out within CCDC Local Plan Part 1 or LDC Local Plan Strategy. It is considered that the SPD will not give rise to any significant environmental effects and therefore it is considered that an SEA is not required for the purpose of the Rugeley Power Station Development Brief SPD.

Before this conclusion can be confirmed the Council awaits response from statutory consultation bodies: Natural England, Historic England and Environment Agency.

Section 4: HRA Screening

The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) refers to the assessment required for any plan or project to assess the potential impacts against the conservation objectives of European sites (Special Areas of Conservation / Special Protection Areas, also referred to as “Natura 2000 sites”). The assessment must determine whether the plans would adversely affect, or would be likely to affect, the integrity of a site(s) in terms of its nature conservation objectives. Where negative effects are identified other options should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects.

There are four stages to the Habitats Regulation Assessment process as outlined below:

- Stage 1: Screening – the process which identifies the likely impacts upon Natura 2000 or Ramsar site(s), either alone or in combination with other projects or plans and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant;
- Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment – the consideration of the impact on the integrity of the site(s), either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site’s structure and function and its conservation objectives. Additionally, where there are adverse impacts, an assessment of the potential mitigation of those impacts should be provided.
- Stage 3: Assessment of alternative solutions – the process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 and Ramsar site(s); and
- Stage 4: Compensatory Measures – an assessment of the compensatory measures where, in light of an assessment of imperative reasons of overriding public interest, it is deemed that the plan should proceed. The adopted Cannock Chase Local Plan Part 1 was subject to HRA during its production. This assessment looked at all internationally designated sites which could be impacted by development within Cannock Chase District. The Habitat Regulations Reports 2012 was updated by the Habitats Regulations Addendum Report 2013 which concluded that the Local Plan Part 1 would have no likely significant effects upon European Sites,

The adopted Cannock Chase Local Plan Part 1 was subject to HRA during its production. This assessment looked at all internationally designated sites which could be impacted by development within Cannock Chase District. The Habitat Regulations Reports 2012 was updated by the Habitats Regulations Addendum Report 2013 which concluded that the Local Plan Part 1 would have no likely significant effects upon European Sites.

The adopted Lichfield Local Plan Strategy was subject to HRA during its production. This assessment looked at all internationally designated sites which could be impacted by development within Lichfield District. The Habitat Regulations Assessment: Lichfield District & Tamworth Borough (May 2012) was updated by the Addendum to Habitat Regulations Assessment (January 2014) which concluded that the Local Plan Strategy would have no likely significant effects upon European sites.

This section of the report provides a screening assessment for the Rugeley Power Station Development Brief SPD. It looks at the potential impacts of the plan’s proposals on European Sites within 15km of the Development Brief area. The following screening assessment will determine if the Development Brief will have any likely significant effects to determine whether the subsequent stages will be required.

Relevant Natura 2000 sites

The relevant Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the Development Brief boundary are:

- Cannock Chase SAC
- Cannock Extension Canal
- River Mease SAC
- Pasturefields Salt Marsh SAC
- West Midland Mosses and Chartley Moss SAC
- Humber Estuary SAC

The sites listed above are within a 15km radius of the Development Brief boundary and therefore the HRA screening assessment needs to identify if any likely significant effects on the reasons for these sites to be designated will be caused by the implementation of the plan. This assessment has been undertaken having regard to the results and information in the HRA and HRA addendum prepared for CCDC Local Plan Part 1 and LDC Local Plan Strategy as set out in Table 3.

Table 3: Natura 2000 Sites within 15km of Rugeley Power Station Development Brief Boundary

Name of Site	Qualifying Features	Site characteristics and vulnerability / conservation objectives	Potential for Likely Significant Effects (LSE)
Cannock Chase SAC	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European dry heaths Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site • Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> • Wet heathland with cross leaved heath 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and, • The supporting processes on which the qualifying natural habitats rely 	<p>Visitor pressures include dog walking, horse riding, mountain biking and off-track activities such as orienteering, all of which cause disturbance and result in erosion, new track creation and vegetation damage. Bracken invasion is significant, but is being controlled. Birch and pine scrub, much of the latter from surrounding commercial plantations, is continually invading the site and has to be controlled. High visitor usage and the fact that a significant proportion of the site is Common Land, requiring Secretary of State approval before fencing can take place, means that the reintroduction of sustainable management in the form of livestock grazing has many problems. Cannock Chase overlies coal measures which have been deep-mined. Mining fissures continue to appear across the site even though mining has ceased and this is thought to detrimentally affect site hydrology. Furthermore the underlying Sherwood Sandstone is a major aquifer with water abstracted for public and industrial uses and the effects of this on the wetland features of the Chase are not fully understood.</p>
Cannock Extension Canal SAC	<p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floating water – plantain <i>Luronium natans</i> 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on the habitats of qualifying species rely 	<p>The population of <i>Luronium natans</i> in this cul-de-sac canal is dependent upon a balanced level of boat traffic. If the canal is not used, the abundant growth of other aquatic macrophytes may shade-out the <i>Luronium natans</i> unless routinely controlled by cutting. An increase in recreational activity would be to the detriment of <i>Luronium natans</i>. Existing discharges of surface water run-off, principally from roads, cause some reduction in water quality.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The populations of qualifying species, and The distribution of qualifying species within the site 	
River Mease SAC	<p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation; Rivers with floating vegetation often dominated by water-crowfoot <p>Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spined loach <i>Cobitis taenia</i> Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> <p>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for the site selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> Otter <i>Lutra</i> 	<p>The site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent and distribution of habitats of qualifying species The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats of qualifying species rely The population of qualifying species, and, The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	<p>The River Mease is an unusually semi-natural system in a largely rural landscape, dominated by intensive agriculture. Water quality and quantity are vital to the European interests, whilst competition for water resource is high. Diffuse pollution and excessive sedimentation are catchment-wide issues which have the potential to affect the site. The SSSI assessment report undertaken in 2007 notes the site's adverse condition and identifies the following issues: drainage, invasive freshwater species, water pollution – agriculture/run-off, water pollution – discharge. Significant new development could take place within the catchment as a result of new housing and employment development in North-West Leicestershire, South Derbyshire and East Staffs which may impact upon water quality and quantity. The continuing creation of the National Forest will lead to further catchment wide changes in land use.</p>
Pasturefields Salt Marsh SAC	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inland salt meadows; inland saltmarshes *Priority feature 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely 	<p>This inland saltmarsh is dependent upon traditional agricultural management, with livestock grazing and no, or minimal use, of agricultural chemicals. It is also dependent upon the brine source being maintained and whilst the hydrogeology of the site is not fully understood, it would be likely to be vulnerable to any abstractions of water from the underground aquifer. The site is managed by Staffordshire Wildlife Trust with support from Natural England's Reserve Enhancement Scheme.</p>
West Midlands Mosses & Chartley Moss SAC	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds; Acid peatstained lakes and ponds Transition mires and quaking bogs; very wet mires often identified by unstable 'quaking' surface 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extent and distribution of the qualifying natural habitats The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and 	<p>Site threatened by nutrient enrichment, including atmospheric deposition of nutrients. A Management Agreement controls agricultural run-off at Chartley Moss. Trees at this site trap airborne nutrients and provide roost areas for birds, but the enrichment effect of both is only localised. All parts of that site are vulnerable to recreational disturbance, particularly the northern portion which is a scout camp.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely 	
Humber Estuary	<p>Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; intertidal mudflats and sandflats <p>Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; Subtidal sandbanks • Coastal lagoons *Priority feature • Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand • Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco- Puccinellietalia maritima) • Embryonic shifting dunes • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria ('white dunes'); shifting dunes with marram • Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('grey dunes') *Priority feature; dune grassland • Dunes with Hippophae rhamnoides; dunes with sea-buckthorn <p>Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> • River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> • Grey seal <i>Halichoerus grypus</i> 	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on the habitats of qualifying species rely • The distribution of qualifying species within the site 	<p>The Humber Estuary is subject to the impacts of human activities (past and present) as well as ongoing processes such as sea level rise and climate change. Management intervention is therefore necessary to enable the estuary to recover and to secure the ecological resilience required to respond to both natural and anthropogenic change. Key issues include coastal squeeze, impacts on the sediment budget, and geomorphological structure and function of the estuary (due to sea level rise, flood defence works, dredging, and the construction, operation and maintenance of ports, pipelines and other infrastructure), changes in water quality and flows, pressure from additional built development, and damage and disturbance arising from access, recreation and other activities. Coastal squeeze is being addressed through the development and implementation of the Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy. All proposals for flood defence, development, dredging, abstractions and discharges which require consent from any statutory body, and land use plans which may have impacts upon the site are subject to assessment under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 (the "Habitats Regulations"). Diffuse pollution will be addressed through a range of measures including implementation of the Waste Water Framework Directive and Catchment Sensitive Farming initiatives.</p> <p>Other issues are addressed via a range of measures including regulation of on-site land management activities and implementation of the Humber Management Scheme, developed by all relevant statutory bodies to assist in the delivery of their duties under the Habitats Regulations.</p>

The likelihood of significant effects have been assessed in relation to specific features and environment conditions of the protected sites, as could be effected by the Rugeley Power Station Development Brief SPD, or in combination with other known plans, taking particular account of the sites conservation objectives. As part of establishing what effects are significant, the probability of impact, duration of the impact, frequency of any impact and reversibility of impact have been considered.

Tables 4-9 set out the assessment based on the effects of the Rugeley Power Station Development Brief SPD on six sites detailed above.

Table 4: Cannock Chase SAC

	Direct Habitat loss	Impact on protected species	Air Quality	Water Quality	Recreational Pressures	Water Quantity	Change in Surrounding Land Use	Invasive Species
Is SPD likely to impact upon this site	Potential	Potential	No	No	Yes	No	No	No
Possible effects in combination with other plans	The site is influenced by traffic and visitors from a wide area. Evidence has been produced which demonstrates that any new development within 15km of the SAC will, alone or in combination, have an impact upon the integrity of the SAC due to the potential for increasing visitors to the SAC.							
Assessment of effects and why not considered significant	Evidence has highlighted there are vulnerabilities from recreational pressures caused predominantly by increased use from new residential development but also from other forms of development within a 15km radius of the SAC. The SPD does not propose greater development than is set out within the Lichfield District Local Plan Strategy or Cannock Chase Local Plan Part 1. The Local Plan Strategy includes policy NR7 (Cannock Chase Special Area of Conservation) which requires development to demonstrate that alone or in combination with other developments it will not have an adverse effect whether direct or indirect upon the integrity of the Cannock Chase SAC. Local Plan Policy NR7 ensures that any development within the neighbourhood area will need to demonstrate that it will not have adverse effects upon the SAC. Similarly Cannock Chase Local Plan Part 1 includes Policy CP13 which identifies mitigation measures for recreation impacts on the Cannock Chase SAC. Both councils have also published further Guidance to Mitigate.							
Conclusion: Potential Significant Effects								

Table 5: Cannock Extension Canal SAC

	Direct Habitat loss	Impact on protected species	Air Quality	Water Quality	Recreational Pressures	Water Quantity	Change in Surrounding Land Use	Invasive Species
Is SPD likely to impact upon this site	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Possible effects in combination with other plans	None							
Assessment of effects and why not considered significant	Development within the Rugeley Power Station Development Brief area would not have a direct impact upon the habitat, any protected species, air quality and water quality of this site.							
Conclusion: No significant effects								

Table 6: River Mease SAC

	Direct Habitat loss	Impact on protected species	Air Quality	Water Quality	Recreational Pressures	Water Quantity	Change in Surrounding Land Use	Invasive Species
Is SPD likely to impact upon this site	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Possible effects in combination with other plans	None							
Assessment of effects and why not considered significant	Whilst the Rugeley Power Station Development Brief area is within 15km of the River Mease SAC, it is outside of the River Mease SAC Water catchment area and as such no significant effects are likely.							
Conclusion: No significant effects								

Table 7: Pasturefields Salt March SAC

	Direct Habitat loss	Impact on protected species	Air Quality	Water Quality	Recreational Pressures	Water Quantity	Change in Surrounding Land Use	Invasive Species
Is SPD likely to impact upon this site	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Possible effects in combination with other plans	None							
Assessment of effects and why not considered significant	The vulnerabilities of the site are to changes in water quality and water quantity. The Rugeley Power Station Development Brief SPD proposals are localised therefore it is considered no likely significant effects will occur.							
Conclusion: No significant effects								

Table 8: West Midland Mosses and Charley Moss SAC

	Direct Habitat loss	Impact on protected species	Air Quality	Water Quality	Recreational Pressures	Water Quantity	Change in Surrounding Land Use	Invasive Species
Is SPD likely to impact upon this site	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Possible effects in combination with other plans	None							
Assessment of effects and why not considered significant	The vulnerability of the site arises from localised agricultural run-off, water quantity and recreational disturbance. The Rugeley Power Station SPD builds on policies within CCDC Local Plan Part 1 and LDC Local Plan Strategy at a local level and therefore it is considered no Likely Significant Effects will occur.							
Conclusion: No significant effects								

Table 9: Humber Estuary SAC

	Direct Habitat loss	Impact on protected species	Air Quality	Water Quality	Recreational Pressures	Water Quantity	Change in Surrounding Land Use	Invasive Species
Is SPD likely to impact upon this site	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No
Possible effects in combination with other plans	None. The site is currently managed as a National Nature Reserve. It would be vulnerable to on site physical alterations to the water quality and quantity. There are many plans still being developed along the length of the River system.							
Assessment of effects and why not considered significant	The SPD will not affect the site physically as any effects will be through discharges into the River Tame and Trent as this eventually flows to the Humber. The local water providers and foul waste company have been contacted regarding the emerging Local Plan Strategy and have up to date plans agreed with EA with regards to the impact upon the River Tame and River Trent. They have advised that no additional treatment works or changes to any of their existing consents would be necessary to accommodate the proposed levels of growth within the emerging Local Plan Strategy. As the SPD does not propose more growth than the Local Plan it is unlikely this position would change							
Conclusion: No significant effects								

Screening Outcome

Table 4 identifies significant effects could arise upon the Cannock Chase SAC as a result of the Rugeley Power Station Development Brief SPD. However, the presence of Cannock Chase District Local Plan Part 1 Policy CP13 and Lichfield District Local Plan Strategy Policy NR7 and associated Guidance to Mitigate ensure that development will only be permitted where it has demonstrated that it will not have a significant effect on the integrity of the Cannock Chase SAC. Tables 5-9 do not identify any significant effects upon the identified European sites as a result of the SPD.

The conclusions of the screening assessment indicate that the further stages of Appropriate Assessment are not required for the Rugeley Power Station Development Brief SPD as currently drafted.

Section 5: Conclusions

This report contains the detail of the assessment of the need for the Rugeley Power Station Development Brief SPD to be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment as required by the SEA Directive and Appropriate Assessment as required by the Habitats Directive.

The assessment of both of these requirements has been undertaken on the Rugeley Power Station Development Brief SPD dated June 2017. As such if the content of the SPD is significantly changed there may be the need for a further screening exercise to be undertaken on any modified version.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

In relation to the requirements for the Rugeley Power Station SPD to be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment, the assessment detailed in Section 3 of this report concludes that the plan in its current form is not likely to have significant environmental effects and therefore an SEA is not required.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

In relation to the requirement for the Rugeley Power Station SPD to be subject to Habitat Regulations Assessment, the assessment detailed in Section 4 of this report concludes that whilst there are potential significant effects upon the Cannock Chase SAC the adoption of the Lichfield Local Plan Strategy and policy NR7 and Cannock Local Plan Part 1 and policy CP13 along with the associated Guidance to Mitigate ensures that development will only be permitted where it is demonstrated it will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of the SAC. The report concludes that there will be no potential significant effects upon the identified designated European sites and as such no further work as part of the compliance with Habitat Regulations will be required.