



# WARWICK DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN

Public Local Inquiry 2006

## Core Topic Paper 4 Natural Environment



1996 - 2011

February 2006



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# Warwick District Local Plan - Public Local Inquiry Core Topic Paper

## Natural Environment

### 1. Introduction

1.1 This core topic paper gives information on natural environment issues addressed within the Warwick District Local Plan. This is one of 12 core topic papers that have been prepared for the Public Inquiry into the Local Plan. These core topic papers do not seek to respond to individual objections to the local plan, but to provide background information on various key topics. The Council is also preparing detailed proofs of evidence and written statements that will respond to the detailed comments of objectors to the Local Plan. These will refer back to these core topic papers as necessary.

1.2 This core topic paper is structured to provide background information on the following key areas :-

- The Natural Environment of Warwick District
- Context
  - National
  - Regional and sub Regional
  - Local
- The Policies of the Local Plan.
  - Protecting the natural environment from development
  - Protecting the character and local identity of the District
  - Maintaining an attractive and diverse natural environment

### 2. The Natural Environment.

2.1 Warwick District possesses an environment that is regarded as being of a particularly high quality. This applies not only to the built environment of the four towns and surrounding villages, but also to the particular landscape characteristics and natural assets that contribute to the quality of life enjoyed by both residents and visitors alike.

2.2 Broadly speaking there are two types of natural asset that combine to give Warwick District its distinct natural environment. They are:-

- particular landscape characteristics familiar to the locality and
- specific environmental assets including nature conservation/ biodiversity interests, and features of historic value (geologically / geomorphologically important features).

**(a) Landscape Characteristics**

2.3 Within Warwick District there are key landscape characteristics that have been identified as being of particular value and worthy of continued maintenance in order to preserve the quality of life for those living in, or visiting the District. They are the product of the land's historical development including patterns of settlement, land use and fields. Ecological associations such as the particular flora and fauna that are prevalent are also important in forming the natural environment and its local identity, as well as the influence of soils, and the area's underlying topography and geology.

2.4 Although Warwick District may be most often associated with its four urban centres, much of the District beyond lies beyond the main urban areas. The rural area is a resource of great importance to the District for environmental, agricultural and recreational reasons. Much of this rural area is located within the West Midlands Green Belt. The primary purpose of this designation is to protect the open nature and rural character of the landscape, and in doing so it affords a high level of protection to many of the District's natural assets.

2.5 Generally speaking the Green Belt is located to the north and west of the A46 (excluding the urban centre of Kenilworth) and to the north and east of the urban limit of Warwick and Leamington Spa. Approximately 81% of the rural area of Warwick District (20,545 hectares) lies within the West Midlands Green Belt.

2.6 Of similar importance to the quality of the environment in Warwick District are characteristics that define the relationship between the urban and rural areas. The setting of the area's historic towns, located at the heart of a considerable

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rural area, are of particular importance in defining the identity and character of the district. The District's main urban areas have been the subject of considerable growth in the past consequently urban expansion has been identified as a possible threat to the immediately surrounding villages. Particular care has been taken to ensure that urban development is controlled in order to preserve the identity of the villages of Bishops Tachbrook and Radford Semele.

- 2.7 In Warwick District, there is also a unique relationship between the towns of Leamington and Warwick. These towns are both very distinct in terms of their physical form, history, character and development pattern and now almost conjoin. To preserve their identity it is important to ensure that a degree of separation is maintained.
- 2.8 Important open spaces within the District's historic towns are also of value in maintaining their structure, and protecting their historic character. Of particular value is land within the River Avon and Leam valleys, much of which is floodplain and utilised as public parkland. In Warwick this includes St Nicholas Park, and in Leamington Spa, Victoria Park as well as The Pump Room and Jephson Gardens. In Kenilworth land adjacent to the Finham Brook watercourse and the Abbey Fields parkland is similarly important to the towns identity/character.
- 2.9 In order to maintain the integrity of these predominantly urban features/areas and their contribution to the structure of the District's towns, the Adopted Local Plan designated Areas of Restraint (policy DW ENV2). This designation has been maintained in the Local Plan review within policy DAP2.
- 2.10 The majority of the open countryside within the District is in agricultural use. In terms of landscape character, the Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines were prepared by The Countryside Commission and Warwickshire County Council and published between 1990 and 1993 (CD/907).<sup>1</sup>
- 2.11 These guidelines divide the District into four broad character areas. These are:-

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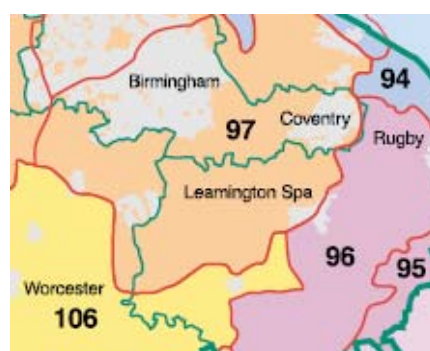
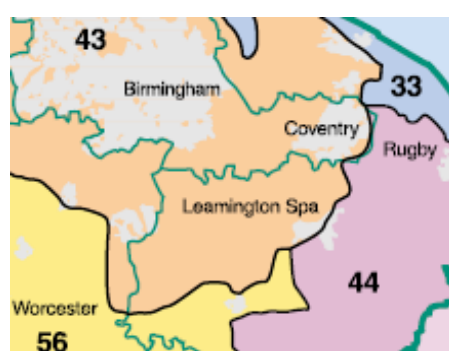
<sup>1</sup> Throughout this and the other topic papers, documents contained in the core document library for the Local Plan Inquiry are given their reference number, for example CD/18.

- 2.12 **Arden Landscape** is the largest character area within the District. It includes all of the land to the west of the A46 and extends eastwards to the north of Warwick and Leamington as far as Stoneleigh village and Cubbington. It is characterised by a wide range of historical and ecological features, and relates to an area believed to have consisted of dense broadleaved woodland, dominated by oak on the light sandy soils and lime on the heavier clays and loams. Woodland clearance, from earliest times, resulted in the development of grassland and wood pasture over much of the area with heathland on the poorer leached soils. The area remains a wooded landscape with mature hedgerow oaks, ancient woodlands and historic parklands. The Arden landscape is also typified by its dispersed settlement pattern of scattered farmsteads and hamlets.
- 2.13 **Dunsmore.** This area includes an area to the north and east of Leamington and includes much of the upper reaches of the River Leam valley. This area extends as far north as Baginton and Bubbenhall, and south to include Radford Semele. The Dunsmore landscape is characterised by a range of historical and ecological associations which are strongly influenced by the underlying geology of the region. The widespread occurrence of glacial sands and gravels is reflected in the strong association with common and heath. The Dunsmore landscape has a well-wooded appearance characterised by mature hedgerow oaks, ancient woodlands and historic parklands.
- 2.14 **Avon Valley.** This area relates to land that is adjacent to the River Avon running south west of Warwick through Barford and Wasperton and south out of Warwick District towards Stratford. With the favourable climate and the proximity of light, easily worked soils, the Avon valley has developed as an agricultural and horticultural region. Physically distinguished by its riverine topography, it is typified by agricultural and market gardening activities. In settlement terms it is characterised by historic market towns and nucleated villages and orchards.
- 2.15 **Feldon.** This landscape incorporates the remainder of the District's rural area including land to the south of Warwick (excluding the Avon area as set out above), Leamington and Whitnash and Radford Semele. The character of the Feldon landscape is strongly influenced by the historical development of the
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region. This is reflected in the pattern of large geometric fields resulting from deliberate planning, the nucleated settlement pattern of small rural villages typically linked by few direct roads, and the strong impression of emptiness in many areas. The farmed landscape retains many historic features, in particular ridge and furrow and deserted village sites. Together, these features make Feldon an historic agricultural region with a strong rural character.

- 2.16 More recently, the Regional Spatial Strategy assigned Natural and Character Areas to the whole West Midlands Region. These are shown in figure 1. The Regional Spatial Strategy contains policies that recognise the importance of protecting and enhancing the distinctive character of different parts of the Region as recognised by the natural and character areas and associated local landscape character assessments, and through historic landscape characterisation.

**Fig 1: Natural and Character Areas identified in West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy** (Source: West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy Figure 4 page 77)



#### Natural Areas

- 43 Midland Plateau
- 44 Midland Clay Pastures
- 56 Severn and Avon Vales

#### Character Areas

- 96 Dunsmore and Feldon
- 97 Arden
- 106 Forest of Dean and Lower Wye

- 2.17 Much of Warwick District (about 80%) is in agricultural use, and a large part of this extensive rural area is afforded protection by both the West Midlands Green Belt and landscape designations. The District's agricultural land is generally above - average quality and is particularly fertile along the valleys of the Rivers Avon and Leam (source: Warwickshire Agricultural Land

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Classification Maps – MAFF 1990). Specific protection is afforded to the **best and most versatile** categories of agricultural land by the Local Plan in accordance with guidance the Department for Environment Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

**(b) Specific Environmental Assets.**

- 2.18 The District contains a large number of environmental assets in the wider landscape, including features of historic interest, geological/geomorphological significance and particular habitats of nature conservation interest. Many of these features are irreplaceable, and accordingly, their protection should have a high priority.
- 2.19 The District contains seven designated sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's), they are afforded a high level of protection from development in accordance with Government Guidance within PPS9. There are also nine Local Nature Reserves in Warwick District that together with the SSSI's make a significant contribution to the District in terms of nature conservation, geological/geomorphological science and education. The District's SSSI's and Local Nature Reserves are listed in Appendix 3 of the Revised Local Plan.
- 2.20 The District is also the home of significant areas of woodland deemed to be of ancient origin. These ancient woodlands mainly originate from before 1600 and it is intended that no further reduction in their areas should be allowed. They are afforded protection by Policy DAP4 of the Local Plan and the main records are listed in Appendix 3 and shown on the Proposals Map.
- 2.21 There are also many other sites and features within the District that are subject to non-statutory designations that reflect their particular local contribution to biodiversity.
- 2.22 These sites include existing locally important habitat, and geological and geomorphological features that have been identified to date as well as Sites of Important Nature Conservation Value (SINCs) that are continuing to be identified through the ongoing Habitat Biodiversity Audit. The Habitat Biodiversity Audit/SINC study is an ongoing project involving a

comprehensive audit/survey of natural habitat encompassing Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull.

### **3. Context**

- 3.1 There is an important national, regional and local context that has informed the development of policy in the Local Plan towards the District's natural environment.

#### **National Context**

- 3.2 The main source of Government Guidance on planning policy in relation to the natural environment comes from PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation, PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas and PPG2: Green Belts.

#### **PPS9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation** (CD/1109)

- 3.3 This sets out Government policy for the conservation of our national heritage. It embodies the Government's commitment to sustainable development and to conserving the diversity of natural heritage. It sets out the key role of planning and advises on the treatment of nature conservation issues in development plans, including planning policies on the protection of biodiversity and geological conservation.
- 3.4 The key objectives therefore are:-
- To promote sustainable development by ensuring that biological and geological diversity are conserved and enhanced as an integral part of social, environmental and economic development, so that policies and decisions about the development and use of land integrate biodiversity and geological diversity with other considerations.
  - To conserve, enhance and restore the diversity of England's wildlife and geology by sustaining, and where possible improving, the quality and extent of natural habitat and geological and geomorphological sites; the natural and physical processes on which they depend; and the population of naturally occurring species which they support.
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- To contribute to rural renewal and urban renaissance by:
  - enhancing biodiversity in green spaces and among development so that they are used by wildlife and valued by people, recognising that healthy functional ecosystems can contribute to a better quality of life and to people's sense of well being
  - ensuring that developments take account of the role and value of biodiversity in supporting economic diversification and contributing to a high quality environment.

PPS7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (CD/1107)

3.5 This document gives guidance on a wide range of issues (see Core Topic Paper 10 Rural Areas - CD/24 ). It also gives considerable regard to the natural environment, in this respect the following key principles apply:-

- Development in the rural areas should be based on sustainable development principles. PPS7 promotes quality, sustainable development that respects, and where possible enhances local distinctiveness and the intrinsic qualities of the countryside.
- Continued protection should be given to all of the open countryside for the benefit of all, with the highest level of protection for our most valued landscapes and environmental resources.
- Sustainable, diverse and adaptable agriculture sectors should be provided where farming achieves high environmental standards, minimising impact on natural resources, and manages valued landscapes and biodiversity.
- Specific features and assets of landscape, wildlife and historic or architectural value should be conserved in accordance with statutory designations.

PPG2: Green Belts (CD/1102)

3.6 This sets Government policy for the designation of areas of Green Belt and for the control of development within them. It sets out the criteria for including land within the Green Belt, the uses of land within the Green Belt and what may be considered appropriate development within Green Belt areas.

3.7 Key objectives of including land in the Green Belt include:-

- To retain attractive landscapes, and enhance landscapes near to where people live;
- To secure nature conservation interests;and
- To retain land in agricultural, forestry and related uses.

### **Regional and Sub Regional Context**

#### Regional Spatial Strategy (CD/1002)

- 3.8 The Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) issued by the Secretary of State in 2004 identifies the need to conserve the quality of the region's environment and promotes the prudent use of natural resources as a key element in achieving sustainable development.
- 3.9 The Regional Spatial Strategy also stipulates the importance of protecting the regions countryside character, natural areas, and historic landscapes that have been defined by the Countryside Agency, Natural England and English Heritage.
- 3.10 The RSS reinforces the importance of the Green Belt and supports the conservation and enhancement of the environment (**policy QE1**). **Policy QE1** also states the importance of protecting natural assets that have statutory recognition and other irreplaceable assets and those of a limited or declining quantity which are of fundamental importance to the region's overall environmental quality, such as specific wildlife habitats and historic landscape features.
- 3.11 The RSS regards the Region's "countryside character", "natural areas" and "historic landscapes" as an important context for its Spatial Strategy. **Policy QE6** ensures that a consistent approach is taken to their conservation and, where necessary, restoration.
- 3.12 **Policy QE7** encourages the maintenance of the region's wider biodiversity resources, giving priority to the protection and enhancement of specific species and habitats in respect of their relevant importance.

#### Warwickshire Structure Plan (1996 -2011) (CD/908)

3.14 The Structure Plan, which was adopted in 2001, sets a clear context within which the Local Plan policies have been formulated. It includes a number of important principles in relation to the natural environment, including the following:-

- Continued protection is given to the West Midlands Green Belt (**policy GD.6**) and a broad area for this is defined.
- Local Plans should protect and enhance landscape character in all areas of Warwickshire's countryside. Continued protection is given to a number of Special Landscape Areas (**policy ER.4**) and a broad area for these is defined.
- Policy to protect open space that contributes to the character and distinctiveness of urban areas is provided for by the maintenance of "Areas of Restraint" in (**policy ER.6**).
- The value of protecting key landscape and natural assets is also recognised by **policies ER1** and **ER5**.

### **Local Context**

3.15 The policies in the Local Plan have also been informed by a number of local policies, priorities and initiatives.

3.16 The Warwick District Community Plan ("Warwick 2020"– CD/103), identifies priorities and key actions that apply throughout the District in relation to the natural environment. There is identified support for the local implementation of the Warwickshire Biodiversity Action Plan, seeking to protect key species and habitats in the District.

3.17 The Council's Corporate Strategy (CD/101) sets out a vision for the District. Central to this vision is the protection of the natural environment and our heritage to "*ensure that future generations will not be prevented from enjoying it by our actions today*".

3.18 Warwick District Council is responsible for the management of an extensive range of greenspaces that include assets ranging from parkland (often with associated sports facilities) to local nature reserves (managed in partnership with Warwickshire Wildlife Trust). The District Council is constantly striving to

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improve the quality of these resources by ensuring that they are managed in a sustainable way, and ensuring that at all times the health and safety of users and visitors is assured. The Council's maintenance of the natural environment contributes significantly to the visual attractiveness of the District. The Council is also working to protect and expand habitats of importance to nature conservation within its area as they provide a valuable educational resource for residents and visitors and are important in helping to promote environmental awareness.

- 3.19 The Habitat Biodiversity Audit / SINC study is an ongoing project involving a comprehensive audit/survey of natural habitat for Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull. In joining with the other Authorities and Agencies to finance this work Warwick District Council has demonstrated its commitment to this project as a long term initiative that will inform the Council's planning function, as well as assisting the with the management of its open spaces. It is envisaged that the project data will also be used in a wide variety of applications including Environmental Impact Assessments, education and research, the production of Local Biodiversity Action Plans, Parish Plans, hedgerow surveys as well as land use surveys.
- 3.20 The study commenced in 1995 and has involved partnership working with all of the District Councils in Warwickshire, Warwickshire County Council, Coventry City Council, Solihull MBC as well as Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and Natural England. A Stage 1 Habitat Biodiversity Audit has been undertaken that has resulted in the production of a comprehensive ecological data set covering the study area, (covering an area of over 2250 square kilometres, including almost 13000 habitat descriptions, containing an estimated 200,000 species records).
- 3.21 This survey has been transferred to a GIS system to form the bedrock of the project. It is envisaged that the stage 1 data will be subjected to a rolling programme of continuous re-survey/ evaluation in order to maintain the integrity of the information over time. In its base form this information provides a record of the form and distribution of particular habitat and species found within the study area. The provision of this base data is essential in informing the identification of the District's most valuable ecological resources. This
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study has been used to identify approximately 300 potential SINC's (Sites of Important Nature Conservation Value) within Warwick District.

- 3.22 The Wildlife Sites/SINC project is also ongoing and involves the detailed evaluation of each potential SINC (pSINC) by a panel of experts utilising agreed criteria. If a site meets the requirements of this detailed analysis (having attained SINC status) the relevant Authority and landowner is notified, and the site is identified on a plan with a statement of its particular relevance/importance. The designation of this sub-set of important sites is done to provide certainty within the planning system as to the relative value of areas of land/ecological resources (a requirement of PPS9).
- 3.23 The Local Plan Review has endorsed this approach, and refers to the importance of the preservation of important local ecological resources including existing site features of nature conservation value. **Policy DAP4** of the Revised Deposit Plan states that acknowledged nature conservation interests such as those identified in the HBA/SINC study will be taken into account when assessing the impact of development proposals.

## **4. The Policies of the Local Plan**

- 4.1 In light of the policy context set out above, the policies within the Local Plan address the following key issues:-
- A. Protecting the natural environment from development by preserving the quality of both landscapes and townscapes.
  - B. Protecting the character and local identity of the District by maintaining areas of particular landscape quality.
  - C. Maintaining an attractive and diverse natural environment (by providing appropriate protection for habitat and species of value as well as features of geological and geomorphological importance).

### **A. Protecting the natural environment from development.**

4.2 In controlling the nature and scale of development that can affect the natural environment, the Local Plan contains key designations that offer widespread protection to both open countryside and key locations within and on the periphery of the District's urban areas.

4.3 The Green Belt

**Policy DAP1** of the Revised Deposit Plan continues the protection given to the Green Belt within the district. The strategic context for this has been reaffirmed through both the RSS and the Warwickshire Structure Plan and there is a policy in the adopted Local Plan. **Policy DAP1** sets the framework within the Local Plan for proposals within the Green Belt to be considered in accordance with current strategic policy and PPG2.

4.4 In terms of the boundary of the Green Belt, the broad extent of this is established through strategic policy. The broad area covered by the Green Belt in Warwick District did not alter between the publication of the previous strategic policy (the Warwickshire Structure Plan Alterations –1989 -2001) against which the adopted Local Plan was prepared, and the adoption of the current Warwickshire Structure Plan. The adopted Local Plan shows a boundary for the Green Belt and includes an area totalling 20,545 hectares within it.

4.5 The Local Plan has sought to rationalise the detailed Green Belt boundary, and several minor changes to it have been proposed. These are fully addressed in Core Topic Paper 10 (Rural Areas) (CD/24).

Areas of Restraint

4.6 The Local Plan Review continues to recognise the important contribution made to Warwick District by the Areas of Restraint. The Revised Deposit Plan includes policy **DAP2** to protect these areas. Their particular value / purpose is set out in paras 2.6 -2.9 of this paper.

Since their designation in the Adopted Local Plan, Areas of Restraint have proven to be successful in preventing development from undermining the open spaces/areas of value that this policy approach seeks to preserve.

- 4.7 It is important to note that Areas of Restraint are not local landscape designations as identified in the context of PPS7 ( refer to Rural Areas Core Topic Paper 10) (CD/24). Areas of Restraint cover both rural and urban areas. They have a clearly defined role in preserving a wide range of different open spaces in different uses (including formal parks, river corridors, historically important sites, local nature reserves, farm land and school playing fields). Although these areas are very different, their common theme is their open character and the important functions they play in contributing to the character and attractiveness of urban areas in accordance with **policy ER.6** of the Structure Plan.
- 4.8 In light of the District's current growth requirements and government policy that focuses development on brown field sites, it is considered all the more important to continue to protect the existing Areas of Restraint to support this approach.
- 4.9 The Revised Deposit of the Local Plan has, however, proposed one minor modification to the Area of Restraint Boundary at Warwick Racecourse. At this location it is intended to rationalise the boundary adjacent to Hampton Road in order to exclude a series of buildings that are currently within the Area of Restraint. It is considered that this group of buildings does not contribute towards the purpose of the designation and can therefore be deleted. These buildings are notably different from the rest of the racecourse which is open in character.
- 4.10 It is also relevant to note that in the Deposit Draft Local Plan a site was allocated for a park and ride scheme to be located in the Area of Restraint at land west of Europa Way. This allocation was considered appropriate in recognition of the fact that it was considered at the time to be the most suitable location in transport terms (refer to Transport Core Topic Paper 9 - CD/23) and could be developed with minimal impact upon the open character of the landscape. It was always intended that the site would remain in the Area of Restraint. A different location (area of search) for this facility is now proposed at Greys Mallory in the Revised Deposit Plan.

## **B. Protecting The Character and Local Identity of the District.**

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- 4.11 The Local Plan has sought to protect the District's natural environment by protecting areas of particular landscape character. The Adopted Local Plan has put in place **policy (DWC8)** to protect the Special Landscape Areas identified in the Warwickshire Structure Plan.
- 4.12 The Special Landscape Areas that are still recognised by the Structure Plan refer to two particular areas of landscape character,
- Arden Landscape (The areas covered by the former Forest of Arden) and
  - an area typified by Dunsmore landscape characteristics to the east of Warwick District, that relate to land in the proximity of the upper reaches of the River Leam valley.
- 4.13 In the First Deposit Version of this Local Plan, **policy DAP3** referred explicitly to the Special Landscape Areas and the need to protect them, the first draft also indicated the extent of the Special Landscape Areas on the proposals map.
- 4.14 However, in light of the revised PPS7:Rural Areas (CD/1107) the Council decided to delete the Special Landscape Areas (SLA) policy from the Local Plan. The reasons for this are set out in detail in Core Topic Paper 10 Rural Areas (CD/24) – (paras 4.29 – 4.31). The Council considers that the relevant criteria based policies of the Revised Deposit Local Plan, when read together do provide the necessary protection previously provided by the former SLA policy. The relevant policies are:
- policy **DP1** which requires that the layout and design of development contributes to the character and quality of the environment,
  - policy **DP3** which requires that development protects important natural features and positively contributes to the character and quality of the natural and historic environment. In this policy, development is required to protect features of significance and protect and enhance landscape character.
  - Other policies which offer protection to the Districts landscape character by requiring development to consider the visual impact of proposals on the environment. They include **RAP3** (extensions to dwellings), **RAP4** (replacement dwellings), **RAP8** (converting rural buildings), **RAP8a** (replacement of rural buildings), **RAP9** (farm
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diversification), **RAP13** (directing new outdoor sport and recreation development), **RAP15** (camping and caravanning sites) and **RAP16** (directing new visitor accommodation).

- 4.15 The alternative approach taken by the Revised Deposit seeks to defend landscape character throughout the entire District (encompassing the Special Landscape Areas as well as other recognised landscape types).
- 4.16 The reasoned justification of **policy DP3** of the Revised Deposit Version of the Local Plan also makes a specific reference to the existing Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines (paragraph 4.19A) and makes it clear that this advice should be considered with regard to landscape character/ development proposals.
- 4.17 The District Council is exploring the possibility of a re-evaluation of landscape character in Warwick District in conjunction with Natural England and Warwickshire County Council. It is envisaged that any outcomes from such undertakings will be used to advise future decisions regarding development.

### **C. Maintaining an attractive and Diverse Natural Environment.**

- 4.18 The Local Plan has recognised our responsibility to protect important assets of the natural environment, for current and future generations. It has responded by putting in place **policy DP3**. As well as affording protection for the natural and historic environment it seeks to ensure that development is only permitted where it protects and/or enhances existing sites/features of nature conservation, geological or geomorphological significance.
- 4.19 **Policy DAP 4** elaborates on the requirements of **policy DP3** by setting out the level of protection to be afforded to specific features with regard to their relative importance to the natural environment.
- 4.20 **Policy DAP4** also stipulates the appropriate circumstances where the provisions of mitigation and compensatory procedures may be considered relevant.

- 4.21 It must be noted that the First Deposit Draft of the Local Plan contained a specific policy (the original draft of the policy DAP4) relating to trees, woodlands and hedgerows. During the production of the Revised Deposit Plan it was considered that a specific Local Plan policy was unnecessary because adequate provisions are made for the protection of trees and hedgerows in other Government guidance (see The Town and Country Planning - Trees Regulations 1999/The Hedgerow Regulations 1997- A Guide to the Law and Good Practice ).
- 4.22 The decision to delete the original draft of policy DAP4 was also assisted by the fact that the details of **policies DP1, DP3, DAP4 and DAP10** within the plan require the appropriate consideration of trees, woodlands and hedgerows in relation to the development process.