

Warwick District Council

Local Plan

Habitat Regulations Appropriate Assessment

Screening Report

May 2013

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on behalf of Warwick District Council

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1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report presents the analysis and findings of the screening stage of an Appropriate Assessment for the emerging Warwick District Council Local Plan.
- 1.2. The Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna institutes a legislative framework for the protection of European important habitats and species through designation as Special Areas for Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Offshore Marine Sites¹ (OMS) and, within the UK, Ramsar sites. This network of sites is known collectively as Natura 2000.
- 1.3. The requirement for an Appropriate Assessment of strategic land use plans, policies and projects is outlined in article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive, and its stated purpose is to provide a critical examination of the likelihood of significant individual and in-combination impacts upon the nature conservation objectives of Natura 2000 sites arising from the land use plan.
- 1.4. It is important to identify potential adverse impacts at an early stage in the development of plans and policies in order that any alterations necessary to ameliorate or mitigate impacts can be made.

¹ It should be noted that at present there are no Offshore Marine Sites designated within the UK

2. Methodology

- 2.1 In undertaking the screening process best practise guidance produced by Scott Wilson *et al*² and Oxford Brookes University³ was followed in conjunction with the Department for Communities and Local Government publication “Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment”.
- 2.2 These guidance documents identify 4 discrete phases required to complete an Appropriate Assessment, with the outcome of each phase determining the need for progression to the subsequent phase.
- 2.3 This report is concerned with Phase 1, screening of Natura 2000 sites to identify and assess the likelihood and significance of impacts to these sites arising singularly from policies within the emerging Warwick District Council Local Plan, and in combination with other plans and policies. The process for screening involves the following 4 steps:
- **Site Identification** of Natura 2000 sites and an appraisal of their conservation objectives.
 - **Analysis** of the project or plan being considered
 - **Characteristics** of the Natura 2000 sites
 - **Assessment** of likelihood and significance of impacts to Natura 2000 sites occurring as a result of the policy or plan
- 2.4 If significant impacts are considered likely, progression to Phase 2, Appropriate Assessment, is triggered.

² [Scott Wilson, Levett-Therivel Sustainability Consultants, Treweek Environmental Consultants and Land Use Consultants \(2006\) “Appropriate Assessment of Plans”](#)

³ [Oxford Brookes University \(2001\) “Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites: methodological guidance on the provisions of article 6\(3\) and \(4\) of the Habitat Directive 92/43/EEC”](#)

3. Screening

3.1. *Site identification*

- 3.1.1. Natura 2000 sites have been identified using information supplied by Natural England⁴. In order to identify all sites where impacts could reasonably be considered possible, a mapping search was conducted at 20km from the Warwick District Council's boundary to identify all SPA, SAC and Ramsar sites. This distance of 20km followed the advice for Natural England and provides a contextual framework for consideration of impacts. This search area will consider all reasonable potential direct and indirect individual and in-combination impacts to Natura 2000 sites. However, there is a potential that the strategy's policies could result in impacts to more distant sites such as impacts include recreational pressure, diffuse air pollution, pressure on water quantity/quality
- 3.1.2. No RAMSAR sites or Special Protection Areas were identified within the 20km and only one Special Area of Conservation (SAC). This being Ensor's Pool SAC within Nuneaton. This is illustrated on Map 1: Special Area of Conservation Search 20km area from Warwick District Boundary.
- 3.1.3. The additional housing allocations present potential wider impacts in relation to water supply and consumption. Currently, this water is not obtained from Wales where there is concern on the future impacts on Natura 2000 sites in these water catchment areas.

ENSOR'S POOL

- 3.1.4. *Site History* - Ensor's Pool was formed from an abandoned clay pit around 50 years ago. It was notified as a SSSI in 1995, designated a Local Nature Reserve in 1997 and designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in April 2005. It is located on the south-west fringe of Nuneaton's urban area (grid reference SP348903) and covers an area of approximately 3.8ha. It is an elongated (220m by 50m) isolated water body with an average depth of 8m. The Pool is lined by an impervious layer of clay and is therefore reliant on rainwater as the predominant main supply of water.
- 3.1.5. Ensor's Pool's was designated a European site as it provides the habitat to one of the largest populations of healthy white clawed Crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*) in England. The white-clawed crayfish flourished in both Britain and Europe until the commercial introduction of the signal crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*) from America in the 1970s.

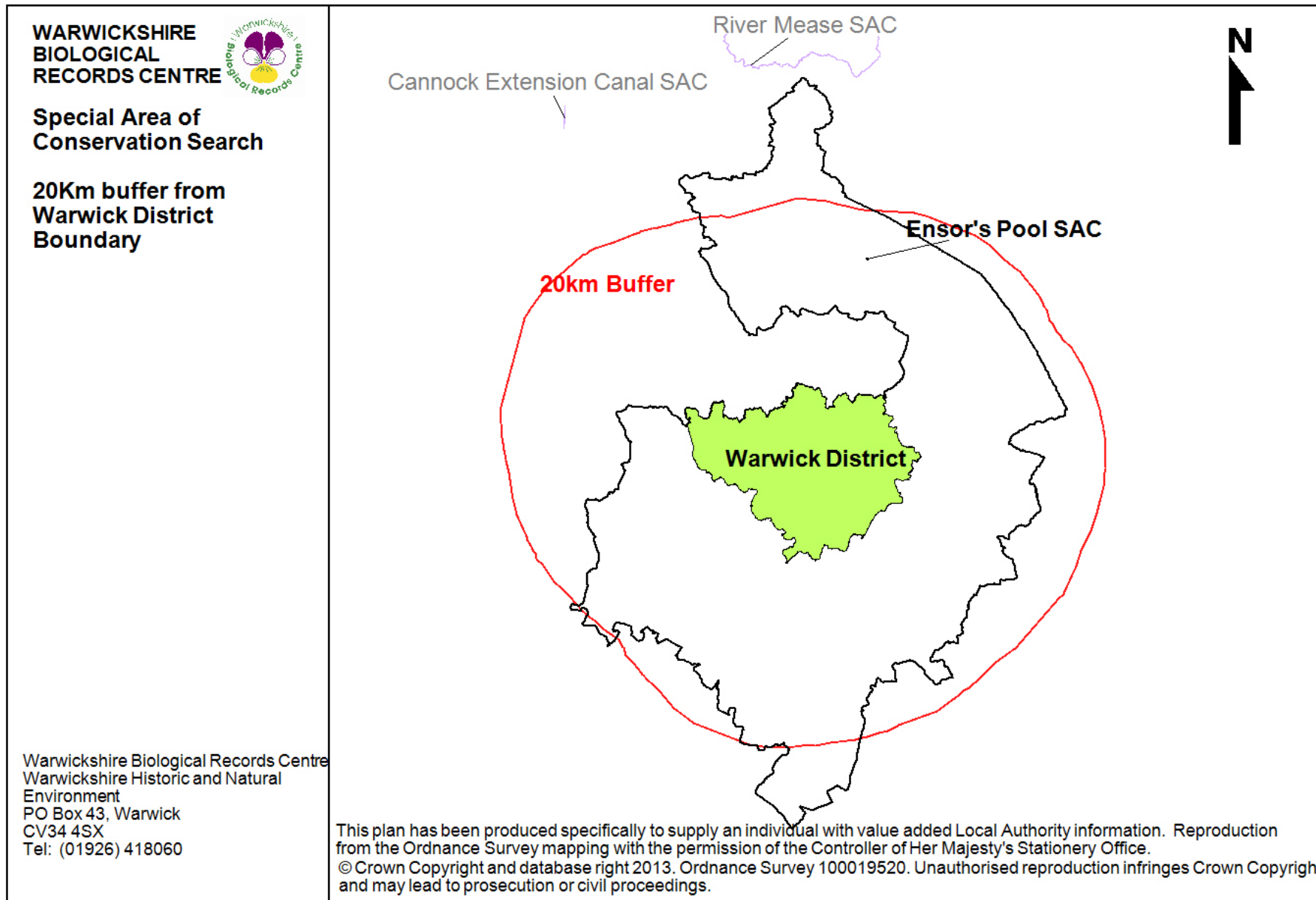
⁴ www.naturalengland.org.uk

- 3.1.6. As well as preying on its smaller cousin, the signal crayfish carries a fungal disease to which the white-clawed crayfish has no immunity. Unfortunately, the signal crayfish have since escaped the confines of the fisheries and entered the river systems of Britain and Europe, causing the dramatic decline of white-clawed crayfish.
- 3.1.7. For this reason, the isolation of Ensor's Pool's from rivers creates a refuge for the white-clawed crayfish to flourish and that is why it is of both national and European importance. *Conservation Objectives for the European interest on the SSSI*. The conservation objective for Ensor's Pool is: **to maintain, in favourable condition, the habitat for the population of White-clawed crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes*)**. Maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in a favourable condition
- 3.1.8. Details of Ensor's Pool Favourable Condition Table can be found in Appendix 1.

WELSH Natura 2000 Sites

- 3.1.9 The need for supplying water from Wales to growing Midland conurbations has a potential impact on hydrologically dependant Welsh SACs.

Map 1: Special Area of Conservation Search 20km area from Warwick District Boundary



3.2 Analysis of Local Plan policies

- 3.2.1 Natura 2000 sites support habitats and/or species that are considered to be of European importance. The variety of features that can qualify a site for designation will vary in their resilience and vulnerability to a range of impacts. Thus an important part of screening is to identify the qualifying features of interest at each Natura 2000 site, and to assess the type of impact that could impinge upon the maintenance of site integrity. An analysis of the designation features, conservation interests and specific vulnerabilities of each site is provided in table 1.
- 3.2.2 The issues, objectives and options identified to form a basis for policy areas in the Local Plan have undergone an initial Sustainability Appraisal, and subsequent revision. The revised policy areas and attendant objectives have been analysed individually to isolate possible pathways for direct and indirect impacts to Natura 2000 sites (see table 2). This process has been informed by consultation with Natural England, the Environment Agency and Warwickshire County Council's Ecology Unit.

3.3 Screening

- 3.3.1 The Local Plan details policies to enable a strategic and responsive approach to spatial development across the District together with site-specific allocations. As the Local Plan is in development, this assessment will report the Local Plan Preferred Options⁵ as of May 2012. A further addendum may need to be prepared should the Local Plan policies or site allocations be materially altered.

⁵ [WDC Local Plan Preferred Options link](#)

Table 2: Analysis and implications of broad policy area objectives of the Warwick District Council Local Plan

Policy Area	Policy objectives	Potential effects of policy objectives on Natura 2000 sites
PART 1: Setting the Scene and Summary		
4. Spatial Portrait, Issues and Objectives		
Objectives	<p><u>Providing sustainable levels of growth in the district.</u></p> <p>1 Provide a sustainable level of economic growth (and balance this with housing growth) to maintain high levels of employment, and to deal with pockets of unemployment in deprived areas. The Local Plan will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify and maintain a flexible and varied supply of accommodation and land for business that is the right type and in the right location • support the growth of knowledge-intensive industries, energy industries and the rural economy; and • improve the rates of business growth in the district to support the ‘organic’ growth of the local economy. <p>2 Provide a sustainable level of housing growth (and balance this with economic growth) to reduce the number of people who are currently homeless or living in unsatisfactory accommodation , to meet future housing needs, and to help deal with the issues of need for affordable housing. The Local Plan will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify and maintain a flexible supply of land for housing that is the right type, has the right tenure, and is in the right location; • make sure that the district can accommodate university students without harming the balance of existing communities; • allow providers to meet the special housing needs of the growing number of older people; and • make provision for gypsies and travellers in order to deal with local need and historic demand. <p>3 Provide a sustainable level of retail and leisure growth that will meet people’s existing and future needs, and will maintain and improve the vitality and viability of existing town and local centres as attractive and safe places to visit both by day and night. The Local Pan will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify the role of each of the town centres, and a plan for their future management and growth that will provide sustainable levels of retail and leisure growth 	<p>This is a generic policy that incorporates environment criteria plus reference to other Local Plan Policies so has no likely significant direct or indirect impact on Ensor’s Pool or any SAC or SPA downstream of the River Avon.</p>

Policy Area	Policy objectives	Potential effects of policy objectives on Natura 2000 sites
Objectives	<p><u>Providing well-designed new developments that are in the right location and address climate change</u></p> <p>4 Make sure that new developments are in places that will reduce the need for people to use their cars. This will improve air quality and help address climate change by reducing road congestion and carbon emissions, and will encourage people to live more healthy lifestyles by walking and cycling more.</p> <p>5 Make sure new developments are designed and built so they use water and energy efficiently and reduce the overall demand for natural resources (specifically by increasing the use of renewable and low carbon sources of energy to reduce carbon emissions).</p> <p>6 Make sure that new developments are located, designed and built so that they can deal with the expected effects of climate change, particularly flooding.</p> <p>7 Make sure new developments are appropriately distributed across the district and designed and located to maintain and improve the quality of the built and natural environments, particularly historic areas and buildings, sensitive wildlife habitats and areas of high landscape value. In addition new developments should respect the integrity of existing settlements.</p> <p>8 Make sure new developments are built to a high standard in terms of design, and provide inclusive, lively and attractive places where people feel safe and want to live, work or visit.</p> <p>9 Make sure new developments provide public and private open spaces where there is a choice of areas of shade, shelter and recreation which will benefit people and wildlife and provide flood storage and carbon management.</p> <p>10 Make sure that if buildings and spaces, particularly in historic areas, need to be adapted to meet the changing needs of the economy and to deal with environmental issues, they will be adapted in a sensitive way.</p>	<p>This is a generic policy that incorporates environment criteria plus reference to other Local Plan Policies so has no likely significant direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool or any SAC or SPA downstream of the River Avon.</p> <p>There are specific references to ecology and a high quality natural environment that could have a positive indirect impact on any SAC or SPA downstream of the River Avon.</p>

Policy Area	Policy objectives	Potential effects of policy objectives on Natura 2000 sites
Objectives	<p><u>Enabling the district's infrastructure to improve and support growth</u></p> <p>11 Enable organisations that provide community infrastructure, such as schools and the health service, to provide and maintain improved facilities and services in locations people can get to and that can meet people's current and future needs, and support sustainable economic growth in deprived areas.</p> <p>12 Enable energy, communications, water and waste organisations to improve their infrastructure and services so that they can meet people's current and future needs, protect the environment, and contribute towards dealing with the causes and mitigating the effects of climate change.</p> <p>13 Enable transport providers to provide improvements, particularly better and more integrated public transport, cycling and pedestrian facilities, to meet people's current and future needs, improve the safety and efficiency of the transport network, and support sustainable economic growth.</p> <p>14 Enable improvements to be made to the built and natural environments which will help to maintain and improve historic assets, improve habitats and their connectivity, help the public access and enjoy open spaces such as parks and allotments, reduce the risk of flooding, keep the effects of climate change (including the effects on habitats and wildlife) to a minimum, and support healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>15 Enable the maintenance and improvement of the quality of sporting and leisure facilities, including opportunities for culture and tourism. This will include maintaining a flexible supply of land and buildings for sport and recreation that is the right quality and in the right location, and can meet people's current and future needs and support healthy lifestyles</p>	<p>This policy specifically incorporates environment criteria including water resource protection so has no likely significant direct impact on Ensor's Pool. However, by its nature there is a potential for indirect significant impacts on Ensor's Pool through air pollution.</p> <p>There are specific references to ecology and a high quality natural environment that could have a positive indirect impact on any SAC or SPA downstream of the River Avon.</p>
5. Preferred Level of Growth		
PO1: Preferred Level of Growth	Our preferred option for the level of growth between 2011 and 2029 is 10,800 dwellings, an annual average of 600 new homes each year.	<p>This is a generic policy and has no likely significant direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool.</p> <p>Should the increase of dwellings require</p>

Policy Area	Policy objectives	Potential effects of policy objectives on Natura 2000 sites
		water to be obtained from Wales and associated SAC or SPAs then the impact will be considered at this time.
Community Infrastructure Levy		
PO2: Community Infrastructure Levy	Our preferred option is to develop a Community Infrastructure Levy Scheme alongside the development of the Local Plan	This is a generic policy and has no likely significant direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool. CIL contributions could be used to improve Green Infrastructure and have a positive indirect impact on any SAC or SPA downstream of the River Avon.
PART 2: Delivering Growth		
7. Housing		
PO3: Broad Location of Growth	It is the Council's Preferred Option to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • concentrate growth within, and on the edge of, the existing urban areas • avoid development in locations which could potentially lead to the coalescence of settlements • distribute growth across the District, including within and/or on the edge of some villages • allow for a hierarchy of growth in the rural area to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a higher level of growth in those villages with a broad range of services and public transport to the towns, and - a lower level of growth in some smaller villages in order to meet local need and help support existing services 	This is a generic policy and has no likely significant direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool.
PO4: Distribution of Sites for Housing	A. Allocated Sites The following sites will be allocated for housing or mixed use development. The Council will work with developers and the local community to bring forward sustainable developments in attractive surroundings under the principles of Garden Suburbs. Larger sites will include the full range of supporting uses including open space, schools, shops, community and health facilities and, in some cases, employment	This is a generic policy and has no likely significant direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool.

Policy Area	Policy objectives	Potential effects of policy objectives on Natura 2000 sites
	<u>Within Urban Areas:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Warwickshire College, Leamington Spa 300 3 Ho/OS - Ridgeway School, Montague Road, Warwick 80 1 Ho/OS - Leamington Fire Station, Leamington Spa 50 1 Ho/OS - Riverside House, Leamington Spa 	This allocated areas criteria plus reference to other Local Plan Policies so has no likely significant direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool.
	<u>On the Edge of Warwick, Leamington Spa & Whitnash</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Myton Garden Suburb (North of Gallows Hill/ West of Europa Way), Warwick 1,100 1 & 2 Ho/Emp/OS/Com - South of Gallows Hill/ West of Europa Way, Warwick 1,600 2 & 3 Ho/Emp/OS/Com - North of Milverton, Leamington Spa 810 2 & 3 Ho/Emp/OS/Com - Blackdown 1,170 2 & 3 Ho/Emp/OS/Com - Whitnash East (South of Sydenham) 650 2 & 3 Ho/OS/Com - Woodside Farm (South of Whitnash) 250 1 Ho/OS - Red House Farm (East of Lillington) 200 2 Ho/OS - Warwick Gates Employment Land (Junction of Harbury Lane/ Heathcote Lane) 200 1 Ho/OS - Loes Farm (North of Woodloes) 180 2 Ho/OS - Fieldgate Lane/ Golf Lane, Whitnash 90 1 Ho/OS 	This allocated areas criteria with adherence to other Local Plan Policies will have no likely significant direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool or any SAC or SPA downstream of the River Avon.
	<u>On the Edge of Kenilworth</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thickethorn 770 1 & 2 Ho/Emp/OS/Com 	This allocated area has no likely significant direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool.
	B. Category 1 and 2 Villages The Council will work with Parish Councils to define the boundaries of village envelopes. In the case of villages within the Green Belt, land within the village envelope will be removed from the Green Belt to enable development to take place.	This is a generic policy and has no likely significant direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool.
	Category 1 Villages Dwellings Phases 1,2 & 3 Barford 100 Bishop's Tachbrook 100 Hampton Magna 100 Lapworth 100 Radford Semele 100	These allocated areas have no likely significant direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool. Through adherence to other Local Plan policies these allocated sites should have no likely significant impact on any SAC or SPA downstream of the River Avon.

Policy Area	Policy objectives	Potential effects of policy objectives on Natura 2000 sites
	<p>Category 2 Villages Dwellings Phases 1,2 & 3 Cubbington 30-80 Hatton 30-80 Leek Wootton 30-80 Norton Lindsey 30-80 Rowington 30-80 Shrewley 30-80 Burton Green 30-80</p>	<p>This allocated areas criteria with adherence to other Local Plan Policies will have no likely significant direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool.</p> <p>Should other Local Plan policies be adhered to these allocation sites have no likely significant indirect impact on any SAC or SPA downstream of the River Avon.</p>
	<p>C. Development on Brownfield Land The Council's preferred option is that proposals for housing development and conversions to dwellings will normally be permitted on previously developed land in the following areas, subject to the proposals having no serious impact upon the amenity and environment of their surroundings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The built up areas of Warwick, Leamington Spa, Whitnash and Kenilworth • Within the village envelopes of the category 1 and 2 villages • Within the built up areas of the following Category 3 villages, subject to the need to protect the character and scale of the village: 	<p>This policy specifically incorporates environment criteria including water resource protection so has no likely significant direct impact on Ensor's Pool or on any SAC or SPA downstream of the River Avon.</p>
	<p>Category 3 Villages Ashow Baddesley Clinton Baginton Bubbenhall Eathorpe Hampton on the Hill Offchurch Stoneleigh</p>	<p>The future allocated areas have no likely significant direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool.</p> <p>Should other Local Plan policies be adhered to these allocation sites have no likely significant indirect impact on any SAC or SPA downstream of the River Avon.</p>
	<p>D. Development on Greenfield Land The Council's preferred option is that housing development on greenfield land, other than the sites allocated in the plan, will not normally be permitted unless</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • it is for affordable housing • it is a home for a rural worker where there is a clear functional need for the person to be readily available on the site at all times. 	<p>This is a generic policy and has no likely significant direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool.</p>

Policy Area	Policy objectives	Potential effects of policy objectives on Natura 2000 sites
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is the conversion of a rural building which is located within, or on the edge of a settlement with at least one community facility. • It is infill development within the existing built up areas of villages, to meet local housing need, and brought forward through Neighbourhood Plans or Community Right to Build Orders <p>Development on garden land will not normally be permitted unless the development reinforces, or harmonises with, the established character of the street and/or locality and respects surrounding buildings in terms of scale, height, form and massing.</p>	
<p>PO5: Affordable Housing</p>	<p>A. Affordable Housing on Housing Development Sites</p> <p>Our Preferred Option is to require that 40% of new homes on developments of 10 or more dwellings in the urban areas, and 5 or more dwellings in the rural areas, will meet the need for affordable housing as identified in the latest Strategic Housing Market Assessment or Local Housing Needs Assessment.</p> <p>The policy will apply to developments which contain self-contained units of accommodation including specialist homes for older people.</p> <p>In order to take into consideration the different nature of development sites and locations within the District, as well as changing market conditions, the Council may in exceptional circumstances take a flexible approach to the policy in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the number of affordable units, where there is clear and detailed evidence that the site has particular constraints, the costs of which, along with the full provision of affordable housing, would result in a development which is not viable • the practicality of providing the homes on-site (in some cases the Council may agree to off-site provision or a financial contribution in lieu) <p>The policy will also set out ways in which the Council will ensure that the affordable housing :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • meets the affordable housing needs of the District in terms of size, type and tenure • is genuinely affordable in relation to housing costs and local household incomes 	<p>This is a generic policy and has no likely significant direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool.</p>

Policy Area	Policy objectives	Potential effects of policy objectives on Natura 2000 sites
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is retained as affordable housing in perpetuity • is appropriately integrated into the whole site • meets certain standards of internal and external design 	
	<p>B. Affordable Housing on Rural Exception Sites Our preferred option is to allow the development of small schemes of affordable housing, to meet an identified local need, in village locations where housing development would not normally be permitted. This exception to housing policy will be dependent upon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the scheme being located within, or adjacent to, a settlement with a reasonable level of services • evidence of a local need for affordable housing which cannot be met in any other way • the number, sizes and types of homes reflecting local need as identified in an up to date local needs assessment • the housing being provided in perpetuity to households with a local connection <p>In circumstances where there is evidence that a rural exception scheme cannot be adequately funded, the Council will give consideration to the inclusion in the scheme of some market homes to cross-subsidise the affordable homes subject to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the market homes representing not more than 30% of the overall number of dwellings • the type and size of the market homes meeting the local need as evidenced in a local needs assessment • financial evidence of the need for market homes to cross subsidise the affordable homes 	This is a generic policy and has no likely significant direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool.
PO6: Mixed Communities & Wide Choice of Housing	<p>A. General Market Housing Policies for the mix of housing will ensure that house sizes and types meet the needs as identified in the latest Strategic Housing Market Assessment</p>	This is a generic policy and has no likely significant direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool.
	<p>B. Lifetime Homes At least 25% of homes, across all tenures, on sites of 50 or more dwellings should be built to Lifetime Home standards</p>	This is a generic policy and has no likely significant direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool.

Policy Area	Policy objectives	Potential effects of policy objectives on Natura 2000 sites
	<p>C. Homes for Older People All strategic sites will include Extra Care Housing schemes located close to local facilities.</p> <p>Proposals for Retirement Villages and Continuing Care Retirement Schemes will need to meet locational criteria and be accompanied by evidence that the homes/bed spaces meet the needs of the community</p>	This is a generic policy and has no likely significant direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool.
	<p>D. Student Accommodation & Houses in Multiple Occupation New student accommodation/ HMOs will be required to meet locational criteria to ensure they are not located in areas which already have a high concentration of such accommodation</p>	This is a generic policy and has no likely significant direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool.
PO7: Gypsies & Travellers	<p>The Council will bring forward site(s) under a Gypsy and Traveller Sites Allocation Development Plan Document, using the following policy criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convenient access to a GP surgery, school, and public transport; • Avoiding areas with a high risk of flooding; • Safe access to the road network and provision for parking, turning and servicing on site; • Avoiding areas where there is the potential for noise and other disturbance; • Provision of utilities (running water, toilet facilities, waste disposal, etc); • Avoiding areas where there could be adverse impact on important features of the natural and historic environment; and, • Sites which can be integrated into the landscape without harming the character of the area. <p>Site development will accord with national guidance on site design and facility provision.</p>	This policy specifically incorporates environment criteria including water resource protection so has no likely significant direct impact on Ensor's Pool any SAC or SPA downstream of the River Avon.
8. Economy		
PO8: Economy	<p>It is the Council's preferred option to ensure the availability of a wide range of employment land and buildings to meet the needs of businesses into the future by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting the delivery of priorities set out in the Council's emerging Economic Development and Regeneration Strategy • Supporting the continued growth of knowledge industries and the low carbon economy within the district whilst maintaining a diverse broad based economy to ensure all sectors of employment are provided for. 	This is a generic policy and has no likely significant direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool.

Policy Area	Policy objectives	Potential effects of policy objectives on Natura 2000 sites
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocating a proportion of land at the following strategic sites (See Map 4) for Employment uses: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Land at Thickthorn, between Kenilworth and the A46 o Land South of Warwick and Leamington to the west of Europa Way o Land North of Leamington at North Milverton and Blackdown • Protecting existing employment land and buildings from changes to other uses unless there is evidence that it is not suitable to accommodate projected needs. • Developing a policy framework to support appropriate development at identified Major Developed Sites in the Green Belt which may include site specific policies for Stoneleigh Park, the University of Warwick, Coventry Airport and the Former Honiley Airfield. • Enabling the regeneration and enhancement of existing employment areas through the potential identification of dedicated <i>Employment Regeneration Zones</i>. • Enabling the growth of appropriate rural businesses and diversification of the rural economy. • Working with partners in the Coventry and Warwickshire sub-region to explore the case for land within the District at the Coventry and Warwickshire Gateway Site (See Map 3) being identified as a site of regional importance for employment to serve the regeneration needs of the Coventry and Warwickshire sub region. 	
9. Retailing and Town Centres		
PO9: Retailing & Town Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Preferred Option is to incorporate retail and town centre policies to: • Identify a clearly defined local retail hierarchy, and strategies for the district's network of town and local centres (including rural shops); • Apply the 'town centres first' message at the heart of Government retail policy advice that will be central to promoting the vitality and viability of the district's town centres. Town centres will be the focus for retail development and the Council will plan positively for their growth and development in accordance with their particular role within the network of town and local centres; • In accordance with the identified need/evidence within the retail study, support the addition of a major retail –led development scheme in Leamington Town Centre; 	<p>This is a generic policy and has no likely significant direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool.</p> <p>Should other Local Plan policies be adhered to these allocation sites have no likely significant indirect impact on any SAC or SPA downstream of the River Avon.</p>

Policy Area	Policy objectives	Potential effects of policy objectives on Natura 2000 sites
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define the extent of town centres and primary shopping areas, based on a clear definition of primary and secondary retail frontages in designated centres, and set policies that make clear which uses will be permitted in such locations; • Strongly resist out-of-centre retail development unless it can be proven that there will be no adverse impacts on other town/ local centres in the catchment area; • Review the existing town centre opportunity sites to reconsider their potential regeneration potential; • Provide a framework for more detailed area action plans to be prepared with the local community and businesses in those centres where significant change or conservation is needed. These plans will identify the distribution of uses, and their inter-relationships, including specific allocations to meet the need for new retail, leisure and office floorspace within the town centres. • Protect rural shops and services, by allocating housing development in Category one villages and also by restricting the change of use of existing shops and services. This will help to support existing shops or may even lead to the creation of new outlets (see Policies for the Location of New Housing Preferred Options). 	
10. Built Environment		
PO10: Built Environment	<p>Our preferred Option is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and deliver high quality design through including policies to protect and enhance the built environment. This will include utilising the principles of sustainable Garden Towns, Suburbs and Villages and reference to the prospectus (see appendix 3) commissioned by the Council to guide developers and inform decisions on planning applications • Protect and enhance the historic environment, with particular reference to the principles of garden towns, suburbs and villages where appropriate (see also Historic Environment - section 11) • Promote and deliver inclusive communities (see Inclusive, Safe and Healthy Communities - section 13, Housing – section 7 and Economy – section 8) • Protect, enhance and link the natural environment through policies to 	<p>This is a generic policy and has no likely significant direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool.</p> <p>Should other Local Plan policies be adhered to, any allocated site will have no likely significant indirect impact on any SAC or SPA downstream of the River Avon.</p>

Policy Area	Policy objectives	Potential effects of policy objectives on Natura 2000 sites
	<p>encourage appropriate design of the built environment and set out a framework for subsequent more detailed design guidance to ensure physical access for all groups to the natural environment(See also Green Infrastructure – section 15)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide secure, safe and accessible places to promote community safety (see Inclusive, Safe and Healthy Communities – section 13) • Adapt for the effects of climate change (see Climate Change – section 12 and Water and Flooding – section 18) • Reduce energy use and other resource use, reduce emissions, design for adaptability and promote the development of renewable energy resources. • Encourage sustainable waste management by ensuring that the design of new development takes into account the need for bin/compost storage, access to recycling and kerbside collections. 	
11. The Historic Environment		
PO11: Historic Environment	<p>Our preferred option is to work with property owners and other stakeholders in the historic environment to both protect the historic environment and ensure its economic viability for future generations. This will be achieved in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the understanding of the significance of Heritage Assets, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o the provision of appropriate research for all applications relating to the historic environment. o submission of nationally important historic assets for listing. o reviewing Conservation Area o recognising other local assets through Local Lists. • All reviews should be done in consultation with the public in order to bring a shared understanding of why assets and areas are being designated. • Offer help and advice and seek to disseminate information about the historic environment by offering guidance to stakeholders, producing new leaflets and reviewing existing guidance leaflets, promoting events which make the historic environment accessible to all • Protect the historic environment from inappropriate development, by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Including policies which protect Scheduled Ancient Monuments, Listed Buildings, o Conservation Areas, Historic Parks and Gardens, and locally designated 	<p>This is a generic policy and has no likely significant direct or indirect impact on Ensor’s Pool.</p>

Policy Area	Policy objectives	Potential effects of policy objectives on Natura 2000 sites
	<p>Historic Assets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Developing guidance as to the interpretation of policies in line with the National Planning Policy Framework. o Agreeing Article 4 Directions which will be reviewed or introduced as appropriate o Using enforcement powers will to control inappropriate development or maintenance of Historic Assets. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage appropriate regeneration of the historic environment and high quality new buildings on appropriate sites within the historic environment by <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Developing policies which support sustainable development and high quality design o providing appropriate advice to stakeholders o Being flexible about new uses where they bring listed buildings back into use encouraging their survival and maintenance 	
12. Climate Change		
PO12: Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Preferred option is to develop a policy framework to support the reduction of carbon emissions within the District and ensure that buildings are resilient to the potential impacts of Climate Change in the following ways: Preferred Option: Achieving Sustainable Buildings • To support opportunities to reduce carbon emissions in the existing building stock. • To adopt a requirement that seeks a 20% reduction in carbon emissions from development to include a contribution from renewable and low carbon technologies. It is proposed that this requirement would be applied to residential developments of 1 dwelling or over and non residential developments of 100sqm or over. • In terms of achieving sustainable construction, to require new residential development to meet standards set out in the Code for Sustainable Homes and non residential developments to meet BREEAM standards. 	<p>This is a generic policy and has a positive direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool, any SAC or SPA downstream of the River Avon and reduce the potential to obtain water from Welsh SACs and SPAs.</p>

Policy Area	Policy objectives	Potential effects of policy objectives on Natura 2000 sites
	<p>Preferred Option: Planning for Renewable energy and Low Carbon Generation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop a policy framework to support proposals for the development of appropriate low carbon and renewable energy infrastructure. To ensure that opportunities for large scale renewables and district heating are considered as part of the master planning of strategic sites. <p>Preferred Option: Climate Change Adaptation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To include a policy on Climate Change Adaptation to require that new development is designed to be resilient to and adapt to the future impacts of Climate Change. 	
13. Inclusive, Safe and Healthy Communities		
PO13: Inclusive, Safe & Healthy Communities	<p>Our Preferred Option is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • deliver community safety and reduce crime and anti-social behaviour through the appropriate design and location of new development • where appropriate, undertake community safety measures at specific locations. and This may be best achieved by working with communities through the development of specific area action plans or supplementary planning documents • require new large scale housing development to provide levels of open space and provisions for sport to meet community needs and create inclusive communities. It will be important to maximise linkages and access to the wider countryside for recreational purposes for all • protect and improve the quality of existing open spaces in the District and to enhance both the quantity and quality of open space provision as the towns and villages grow over the plan period • contribute to the provision of facilities for sport to enable good levels of access for the public • provide/ require improvements to existing children's and young people's play areas as well as the provision of new facilities in conjunction with new developments. 	This is a generic policy and has a positive direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool.

Policy Area	Policy objectives	Potential effects of policy objectives on Natura 2000 sites
14. Transport		
PO14: Transport	<p>Access to services and facilities: Our Preferred Option is to enable access to services and facilities that people need through the right location of housing and employment sites and through the provision of effective transport infrastructure (see Maps 3,4 and 5)</p> <p>Preferred Option: Sustainable forms for transport: Our Preferred Option is to minimise the need to travel (see Maps 3,4 and 5) and to promote sustainable forms of transport (such as walking, cycling and public transport), by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensuring that new housing neighbourhoods have close access to a range of key facilities either within the development or within a short walk (e.g 15 minutes); • focusing the location of new housing neighbourhoods on the fringe of existing urban areas or within/adjacent to villages that have key services such as a shop, school and are served by public transport ensuring opportunities for people to work close to home are available by encouraging super-fast broadband across the District; • by locating new employment areas to enable inclusive and sustainable access to jobs from residential areas; • encouraging, through infrastructure levies on new development, the provision of improved public transport to existing employment areas. <p>Preferred Option: Provision of Transport infrastructure Our Preferred Option is to ensure mitigation against the negative transport impacts (such as additional congestion, impact on air quality) of new development by requiring developers to contribute to transport infrastructure improvements (for example road junction improvements, rail improvements, cycle networks, park & ride and bus services), ensuring this infrastructure improves safety, is convenient and affordable and minimise the impact of transport on climate change (e.g. supporting alternative fuels) and where relevant to prepare a Transport Impact Assessment and Travel Plan (see Map 5).</p> <p>We will safeguard land close to potential transport infrastructure improvement sites, as identified in the transport section of the Infrastructure Plan, to ensure</p>	<p>This is a generic policy and has no likely significant direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool.</p> <p>However, by its nature there is a potential for indirect significant impacts on Ensor's Pool through air pollution.</p>

Policy Area	Policy objectives	Potential effects of policy objectives on Natura 2000 sites
	<p>appropriate schemes can be brought forward. Whenever possible we will ensure new infrastructure brings local benefits, helps with integration of different transport modes, improves existing infrastructure and minimises impact on the environment.</p> <p>Preferred Option: Parking Our preferred option is to review the Vehicle Parking Standards supplementary planning document (2007) in light of the National Planning Policy Framework to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure that sufficient car parking is provided within new residential developments to allow for convenient and safe parking • maintain sufficient parking in town centres so as not to undermine their vitality, whilst ensuring that effective alternatives to the car for access to town centres are provided • ensure that the level of provision of other non-residential car parking limits the number of additional car journeys, whilst ensuring that such car parking is in appropriate and safe locations (for instance by providing and encouraging use of park and ride facilities) and • provide for high quality, convenient and secure cycle parking. <p>Preferred Option: Rural Transport Our Preferred Option is to support a choice of effective and affordable transport options for people who live in rural areas by locating new development in villages with an existing bus service (See Housing – section 7 - for details of which villages this applies to)</p> <p>Preferred Option: High Speed 2 Rail Line Our preferred option is for the transport infrastructure proposals to make no provision or support for the High Speed 2 rail line (see Map 5) and encourage the Government to invest in existing rail infrastructure.</p>	

Policy Area	Policy objectives	Potential effects of policy objectives on Natura 2000 sites
15. Green Infrastructure		
PO15: Green Infrastructure	<p>District Wide Strategic Green Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our preferred option in relation to Strategic GI is to protect, enhance and restore the strategic network and associated assets as identified in the Warwick District Green Infrastructure Study 2010 and any future updates to this study. Furthermore, the Council support the creation strategic green infrastructure through the promotion of Strategic GI opportunities as identified in the Warwick District GI Delivery Assessment and any future opportunities such as improvements to the River Avon corridor or Whitnash Brook and emerging opportunities such as the restoration of the Kenilworth Mere. <p>Local Green Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the local level Green Infrastructure requirements should be identified on an individual site basis, based on an understanding of the existing green infrastructure provision; requirements for open & green space as set out in the Inclusive, Safe & Healthy Communities section; and the opportunities for appropriate creation, enhancement and restoration of local and strategic GI assets (see Map 6). <p>Sub Regional Green Infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will continue to support the preparation of the emerging Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Green Infrastructure Strategy. This will ensure that biodiversity is planned at a landscape scale, enhancing linkages and restoring fragmented habitats, access to large scale natural green spaces and improvements to landscape character. <p>Development Proposals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development will only be permitted which protects and enhances important green infrastructure assets and positively contributes to the character and quality of its natural and historic environment through good habitat/landscape design and management. • Development proposals should take a positive, integrated approach to designing green infrastructure on site, particularly urban extensions, utilising the Council's preferred approach to new sustainable garden suburbs with enhancements to key landscape features and the wider GI network. <p>Biodiversity Offsetting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All development proposals will be expected to avoid negative impacts on existing biodiversity. Where this is not possible, mitigation measures should be 	<p>This is a generic policy and has a positive direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool.</p>

Policy Area	Policy objectives	Potential effects of policy objectives on Natura 2000 sites
	<p>identified, if these are not possible on site, then these should be offset elsewhere as compensation measure. An appropriate ecological assessment should be undertaken to demonstrate this based on the sub regional approach to biodiversity offsetting and the options for offsetting should be informed by the Coventry, Solihull & Warwickshire Green Infrastructure strategy. The result of this approach is to ensure development secures net gains in biodiversity.</p> <p>Green Wedges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will identify and protect a network of green wedges important for their ecological, landscape and/or access functions in the setting of differing urban areas and urban rural fringe. It is intended that this approach will revise and replace the existing policy of Areas of Restraint in the Local Plan 1996 – 2011 (see Map 6). 	
16. Green Belt		
PO16: Green Belt	<p>Our preferred option for the Green Belt is to</p> <p>A. Alter the existing boundary in the following locations in order to accommodate development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to the east of Kenilworth, • to the north of Warwick and Leamington Spa, • east of Lillington, and • around Cubbington <p>B. Remove the following villages from the Green Belt and draw new Green Belt boundaries around the settlements to allow for development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hampton Magna • Hatton • Lapworth • Leek Wootton • Norton Lindsey • Rowington • Shrewley • Burton Green <p>C. Protect the Green Belt from inappropriate development but allow for limited development in the following circumstances where the proposals do not conflict with the purposes of including the land within the Green Belt:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement buildings which are not materially larger than the ones they replace 	<p>This is a generic policy and has no likely significant direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool.</p>

Policy Area	Policy objectives	Potential effects of policy objectives on Natura 2000 sites
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural affordable housing or housing brought forward under a Community Right to Build Order • Housing, within the existing built up area of a village, to meet local housing needs and brought forward through a Neighbourhood Plan • Farm diversification schemes • Limited infilling, on previously-developed land, in Category 3 villages and in existing major developed sites in the Green Belt 	
17. Culture & Tourism		
PO17: Culture & Tourism	<p>The sustainable development of new visitor attractions and cultural assets will be supported where it can be demonstrated that there is a need and the location is appropriate.</p> <p>Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our preferred option in relation to tourism is to set out a strategic policy supporting the appropriate development of tourism and visitor accommodation. The Council's preferred option to support tourism is to protect existing visitor accommodation within or adjoining the District's three town centres unless it can be demonstrated that the use is no longer viable or suitable. Within the urban areas, new visitor accommodation will be directed to the town centres. • In the rural area, the development of new buildings for visitor accommodation will be considered favourably in locations which are accessible to visitors by means other than the private car and can be developed sensitively in the rural area. Outside of these locations, new visitor accommodation will not be permitted; however, the conversion of appropriate rural buildings will be permitted where they are of small scale or a low intensity and will not harm the character of the rural area. Extensions to visitor accommodation in the rural area will only be permitted where these do not significantly intensify the used of the site or establish new uses which are not ancillary to the normal business of the visitor accommodation. <p>Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our preferred option in relation to culture is to set out a strategic policy supporting the appropriate development of cultural facilities and attractions that positively shape places and the public realm. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Continuing to support the development of the cultural quarter in 	This is a generic policy and has no likely significant direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool.

Policy Area	Policy objectives	Potential effects of policy objectives on Natura 2000 sites
	<p>Leamington Spa as identified as Opportunity Site D in the Local Plan 1996 – 2011.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Seeking contributions towards cultural facilities in conjunction with new development where appropriate. o Seeking contributions towards the provision of new works of art as part of new development and ensuring it is integrated into development at an early stage. <p>• Furthermore, for the rural areas, the following Local Plan 1996 -2011 will be carried forward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o RAP13 Directing New Outdoor Sport and Recreation Development o RAP14 Golf Facilities o RAP15 Camping & Caravanning Sites 	
18. Flooding and Water		
PO18: Flooding & Water	<p>Preferred Option: Flooding New development will take place on sites outside flood risk zones as far as practicable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • controlling development within flood risk areas and the types of development which may be considered • assessing opportunities to facilitate the relocation of development, and • the incorporation of measures to address flood risk from all new developments, such as sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) <p>This accords with the NPPF and the Stage One Strategic Flood Risk Assessment</p> <p>Preferred Option: Water Supply Ensuring that suppliers are able to provide an adequate supply of water to meet demand and minimise water stress by developing a policy framework to reduce water use in new development.</p> <p>Preferred Option: Water Conservation and Efficiency To adopt standards for water conservation and efficiency set out in the Code for Sustainable Homes and require the inclusion of SUDS schemes as part of new development.</p> <p>The Draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan will include details of the required infrastructure to meet the above</p>	This is a generic policy and has a positive direct or indirect impact on Ensor's Pool.

4. Summary

- 4.1. There was only one Natural 2000 site within a 20Km area of the District Council boundary being Ensor's Pool SAC. The majority of the Local Plan Policies will have no likely significant impacts on Ensor's Pools, those policies that may have a significant impact on Ensor's Pool are through air pollution or increased recreational pressure
- 4.2. There is a potential that Welsh Natura 2000 sites will be impacted associated to water consumption from new residential and commercial developments.
- 4.3. If Warwick District Council adheres to the National Planning Policy Framework, seeks advice and guidance from Natural England and other specialists and authorities in relation to both air pollution and water consumption impact modelling plus adherence to accompanying policies such as for Flooding and Water and Green Infrastructure then the Warwick District Council Local Plan should have no likely significant direct or indirect impacts on Ensor's Pool or the Welsh SACs. However, with respect to the latter, we recommend that Warwick District Council continues to consult Natural England and the HRAA of Severn Trent Water's Water Resource Management Plan 2010 (which covers the next 25 years) to clarify any likely significant impacts on Welsh SACs.

5. Next steps

- 5.1. Warwick District Council should work in partnership with other Local Authorities within Warwickshire, Coventry and Solihull, the Environment Agency and Natural England on any site that may have an indirect air pollution impact on Ensor's Pool SAC.
- 5.2. In the life time of the Local Plan should there be a need to resource water from Wales, the Council should work in partnership with Welsh Authorities, Natural England and Severn Trent Water to ensure no likely significant effect occurs on hydrologically dependent Welsh SACs.

Appendix 1

JNCC Natura 2000 designation form – ENSORS POOL SAC

Natura 2000 Data Form Produced by JNCC. Version 2.1, 17/05/06 Page 1

NATURA 2000 - STANDARD DATA FORM

FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION AREAS (SPA)

FOR SITES ELIGIBLE FOR IDENTIFICATION AS SITES OF COMMUNITY IMPORTANCE (SCI) AND FOR SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION (SAC)

Site identification:

- **Type B**
- **Site code** UK0012646
- **Compilation date:** 1996, 01
- **Update:** 2001, 01
- **Relationship with other Natura 2000 sites**

Respondent(s) International Designations, JNCC, Peterborough

Site name: Ensor`s Pool

Site indication and designation classification dates:

- **date site proposed as eligible as SCI:** 1996, 01
- **date confirmed as SCI:** 2004, 12
- **date site classified as SPA:** N/A
- **date site designated as SAC:** April 2005

date site proposed as eligible as SC	1996, 01
date confirmed as SCI	2004, 12
date site classified as SPA	N/A
date site designated as SAC	April 2005

Site location:**Site centre location: longitude:** 01 29 11 W **latitude:** 52 20 33 N**Site area (ha)** 3.8**Site length (km):** approx 220m by approx 50m wide**Administrative region: NUTS code Region name % cover:** UK712 Warwickshire 100.00%**Biogeographic region:** Atlantic**3. Ecological information:****3.1 Annex I habitats****Habitat types present on the site and the site assessment for them:** N/A**3.2 Annex II species****Population Site assessment:****Species name Breed :** *Austropotamobius pallipes***Population:** 5000**Population:** C**Conservation:** A**Isolation:** C**Global:** A**4. Site description****4.1 General site character****Habitat classes % cover**

Marine areas. Sea inlets: N/A

Tidal rivers. Estuaries. Mud flats. Sand flats. Lagoons (including saltwork basins):

N/A

Salt marshes. Salt pastures. Salt steppes: N/A

Coastal sand dunes. Sand beaches. Machair: N/A

Shingle. Sea cliffs. Islets: N/A

Inland water bodies (standing water, running water): **70%**

Bogs. Marshes. Water fringed vegetation. Fens: N/A

Heath. Scrub. Maquis and garrigue. Phygrana: N/A

Dry grassland. Steppes: N/A

Humid grassland. Mesophile grassland: **30%**

Alpine and sub-alpine grassland: N/A
 Improved grassland: N/A
 Other arable land: N/A
 Broad-leaved deciduous woodland: N/A
 Coniferous woodland: N/A
 Evergreen woodland: N/A
 Mixed woodland: N/A
 Non-forest areas cultivated with woody plants (including orchards, groves, vineyards, dehesas): N/A
 Inland rocks. Screes. Sands. Permanent snow and ice: N/A
 Other land (including towns, villages, roads, waste places, mines, industrial sites):N/A
Total habitat cover 100%

4.1 Other site characteristics

Soil & geology: Clay, Neutral, Sandstone, Sedimentary

Geomorphology & landscape: Lowland

4.2 Quality and importance

Austropotamobius pallipes for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the United Kingdom.

4.3 Vulnerability

The crayfish population has developed in a flooded brick-pit that has been abandoned for fifty years. The area was unmanaged and was used as *de facto* public open space. The crayfish would be vulnerable to pollution and introduction of non-native crayfish, through uncontrolled access. To address this, since 1995 the area has been leased by Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council and is managed as a Local Nature Reserve.

5. Site protection status and relation with CORINE biotopes:

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level

Code: UK04 (SSSI/ASSI)

% cover : 100%