

Statement on Appropriate Assessment Screening for Enfield's Local Plan

May 2013

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1. Enfield Council is continuing work to develop its Local Plan and associated Supplementary Planning Documents. The following three documents have recently been prepared:
 - North Circular Area Action Plan (NCAAP)
 - Development Management Document (DMD)
 - Edmonton EcoPark Planning Brief Supplementary Planning Document (EcoPark SPD)
- 1.2 The purpose of this Statement is to:
 - determine whether the 2009 Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening prepared for Enfield's adopted Core Strategy is still relevant and appropriate to the three emerging planning policy documents: NCAAP, DMD and the EcoPark SPD; and
 - determine whether an Appropriate Assessment is required, for any of these documents, in line with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (The Habitats Regulations),

2.0 Background

- 2.1. There are 3 European Sites (Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation) within 15 km of the London Borough of Enfield (Figure 1 and Table 1) which have the potential to be affected by emerging Local Plan documents.
- 2.2. The legal requirement to "screen" land use plans for the need for an AA, a detailed assessment of the impact of policies or plans on European Sites, is set out in the Schedule 1 of the Habitat Regulations. "Screening" is the first stage of the AA process, and requires an examination of the likely effects of the policy or plan. If it can be objectively concluded that the effects of the land use plans on a European site, either in isolation or in combination with other plans, will not be significant then the need for an AA can be "screened" out.
- 2.3. An AA screening was carried out for Enfield's Core Strategy in 2009. This concluded that adoption of the Core Strategy would have no impact upon European sites and that an AA was not required. It concluded that an AA may be required for the Central Leaside and North East Enfield Area Action Plans.
- 2.4. Following advice from Natural England, the Council has undertaken a review of the 2009 AA screening carried out for the adopted Core Strategy to determine whether the 2009 AA is still relevant and appropriate to the emerging documents outlined in paragraph 1.1.

3.0 Screening of emerging Local Plan Documents

- 3.1. Having adopted the Core Strategy in November 2010, the Council is now making progress on a number of Local Plan and Supplementary Planning Documents that seek to deliver the Core Strategy's spatial vision. They provide a combination of policies and more detailed guidance on the implementation of higher tier or "parent" policies in the adopted Core Strategy. The three emerging Local Plan documents that are being screened are summarised below:

North Circular Area Action Plan

- 3.2. Enfield's Core Strategy identifies the North Circular area as a strategic housing growth and regeneration area. The Area Action Plan details site specific policies for 19 sites and provides the planning principles by which development proposals will be assessed. The NCAAP document articulates a clear vision for the North Circular Road corridor of how sustainable communities can be delivered alongside one of London's principal distributor roads with careful design and environmental measures.

Edmonton Eco-Park Planning Brief Supplementary Planning Document

- 3.3. The purpose of the planning brief is to provide guidance on the future development of the EcoPark for sustainable waste management, to support the delivery of objectives set out in the Core Strategy, London Plan and emerging Central Leaside Area Action Plan. The Planning brief does not create new policy.

Development Management Document Development Plan Document

- 3.4. The Development Management Document (DMD) sets out planning policies against which planning applications will be determined and covers a wide range of topics including: housing; community services; the economy and town centres; transport and parking; sustainability and tackling climate change; environmental protection; green infrastructure; and design and heritage.

4.0 Review Conclusions

- 4.1. The 2009 AA screening for the Core Strategy assessed the in-combination effects of implementing the Core Strategy in conjunction with the London Plan. It also assessed individual policies in the Core Strategy and their cumulative impact, including Core Policies for strategic growth areas, housing growth and sustainable waste management.
- 4.2. A review of the 2009 AA has found that this baseline is still relevant and appropriate.
- 4.3. The emerging local plan documents are subsidiary documents to the Core Strategy, and therefore, do not introduce any significant changes to the Core Strategy policies.
- 4.4. The 2009 AA screening undertaken for the Core Strategy concluded that none of the policies were likely to have any significant discernible adverse impact on European sites.

Stage 2 (Appropriate Assessment and ascertaining the effect on site integrity) and Stage 3 (mitigation and alternative solutions) of the AA process were not, therefore, considered necessary.

- 4.5. There are no significant policy changes between the Core Strategy and the emerging local plan documents and therefore there is no policy change which could have an environmental impact beyond those considered in the 2009 AA Screening Report.

Map 1 – European sites within 15km of The London Borough of Enfield

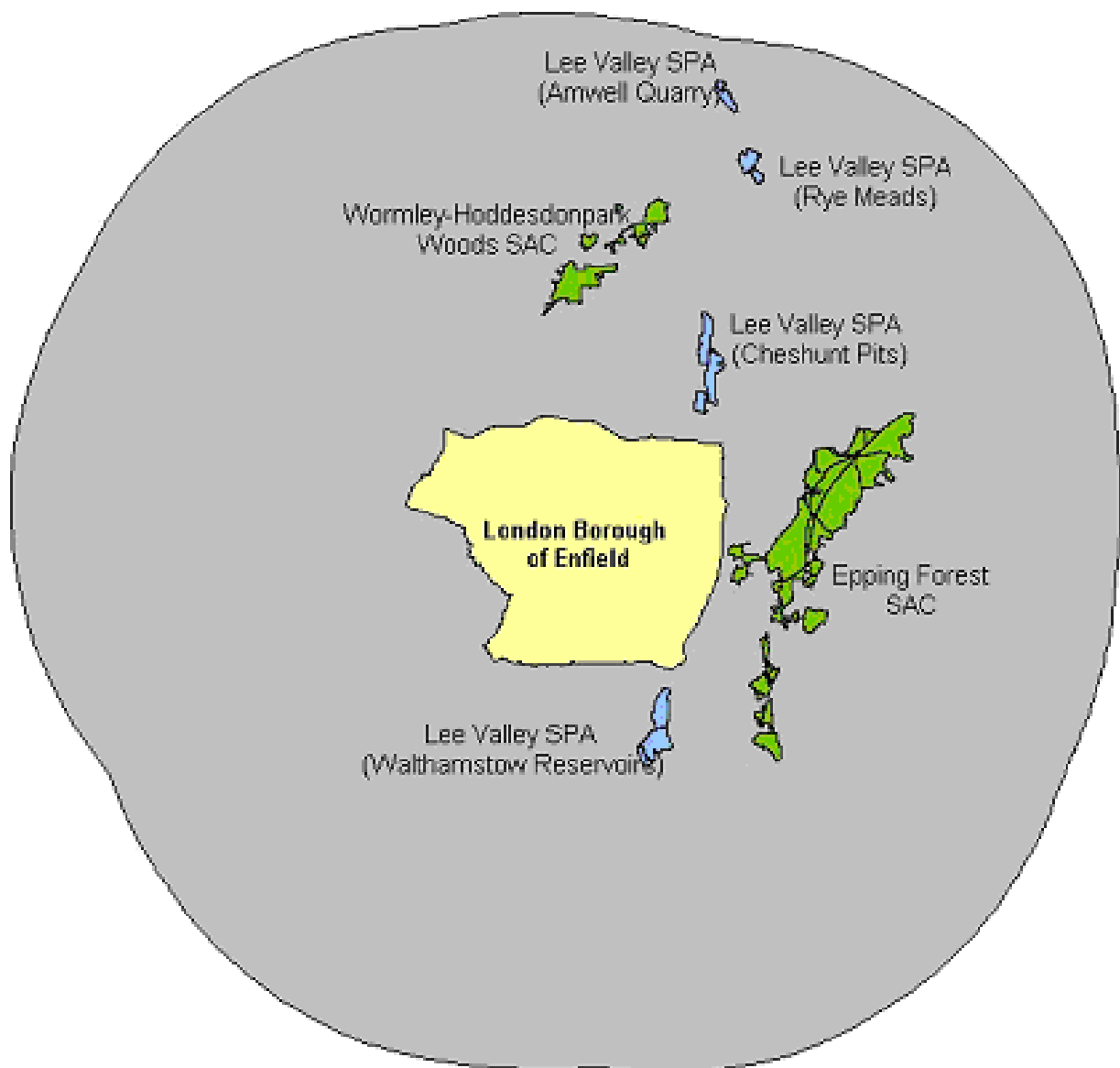


Table 1 - European sites within 15km of The London Borough of Enfield

Site	Qualifying Features (Reasons for Designation)
Epping Forest (Special Area of Conservation)	Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrub layer (Quercion robori-petraeae or Ilici- Fagenion), European dry heaths, Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix and Stag beetle.
Lee Valley (Special Protection Area and Ramsar site)	Open water/Standing waters/canals and surrounding marginal habitats supporting, Fen, marsh and swamp supporting wintering bittern, Phragmites australis swamp, Carex acutiformis swamp and Phragmites australis-Eupatorium canabinum tall-herb fen; Lowland neutral grassland. whorled water-milfoil and water-boatman; Gadwall, Northern Shoveler
Wormley-Hoddesdonpark woods	Sub Atlantic and medio-European oak or oak hornbeam forests of Carpinion betuli