



**Shropshire Local Development Framework
Core Strategy Development Plan Document**

Habitat Regulation Assessment

Screening Report

March 2009

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1. Background and Summary

- 1.1. It is a legal requirement for Local Authorities to prepare a Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) for plans and projects which have potential to impact habitats of European importance. This document represents the initial Screening Report for the Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) for the Shropshire Core Strategy Development Plan Document (DPD).
- 1.2. The Habitat Regulation Assessment (often referred to as 'Appropriate Assessment') plays an important role in protecting the Conservation Objectives of the Natura 2000 network of sites. These sites, often referred to as European Sites, consist of Special Areas of Conservation (SACs); Special Protection Areas (SPAs); and Offshore Marine Sites (OMS). Additionally, despite not being included in the Natura 2000 network of sites, Ramsar Sites are covered by the Directive, and are therefore also included in this Assessment. European Sites are designated to protect areas of important and valuable habitat, or species of flora, fauna and birds which are rare or threatened in a European context.
- 1.3. The purpose of this initial Screening Report is to establish the Conservation Objectives for each of Shropshire's European Sites, and to identify which of these sites could potentially be affected by the County's emerging Core Strategy. It should be noted that the Core Strategy is currently at a very early stage of preparation, and no firm decisions have been made on a number of important land use issues. In taking this into consideration a precautionary approach to identifying potential significant effects has been adopted.
- 1.4. In considering the potential impact on all of the identified European Sites, this Screening Report has concluded that all but two of these sites should be taken forward to the next stage of the Habitat Regulation Assessment. The two sites excluded from the full Appropriate Assessment stage are both outside Shropshire, and considered very unlikely to be affected by any of the proposals in the Core Strategy.
- 1.5. This Screening Report is open to consultation for six weeks between **Friday 27 March and Friday 8 May 2009**. Your comments are welcome.

2. Habitat Regulation Assessment – Screening Report

Legal Framework

- 2.1. The Habitats Directive¹ places specific requirements on the preparation of plans and projects to ensure the protection of the integrity of European Sites. This Directive was transposed into UK law in Schedule 1 of the Conservation Regulations 2006.
- 2.2. Guidance notes on preparing a Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) have been prepared by the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG)² and The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)³. Shropshire Council has used this guidance in the preparation of this Screening Report.
- 2.3. This report documents the methodology employed during this initial screening stage of the Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA), and records the evidence gathered and the process leading to any decisions made. This screening report should be viewed in conjunction with Shropshire Council's Core Strategy 'Issues and Options' produced in January 2009.

Shropshire Core Strategy

- 2.4. The Core Strategy DPD will be the principal document of the Shropshire Local Development Framework (LDF). It will set out Shropshire Council's vision, strategic objectives and the broad spatial strategy to guide future development and growth during the period to 2026.
- 2.5. The Core Strategy is currently at an early, and critical, stage of its preparation. An 'Issues and Options'⁴ document has been prepared and was subject to a public consultation between January and March 2009.
- 2.6. The 'Issues and Options' document presents a series of key 'Choices' facing Shropshire, and identifies a range of options that could be used for tackling them. By its nature, the Core Strategy will remain a strategic document and will **not** contain site specific allocations. However, it is the role of the Core Strategy to indicate the broad direction of growth for development opportunities. This will include broad locations for new housing and employment development, and may need to identify wider strategic infrastructure requirements.
- 2.7. The Core Strategy sets out specific growth options for the towns of Shrewsbury (Choice 3) and Oswestry (Choice 5), as well as for land

¹ Article 6(3) and (4) of the European Communities (1992) Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and wild fauna and flora.

² Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment, DCLG, August 2006.

³ The Appropriate Assessment of Spatial Plans in England: A Guide to Why, When, and How to do it, RSPB, August 2007.

⁴ Shropshire Core Strategy: Issues and Options – January 2009, Shropshire Council

within the footprint of the current Ironbridge Power Station site (Choice 16). In Shrewsbury's case, alternative options are also presented for nature and geographic reach of Shrewsbury's role as a sub-regional centre (Choice 4).

HRA Screening Process

- 2.8. The main purpose of this HRA Screening Process is to establish whether there is likely to be any significant effects from the emerging policies and proposals contained in the Shropshire Core Strategy on European Sites both within and outside the Local Authority boundary. In doing so, the effect of policies and proposals, either on their own or in-combination with other plans and projects, needs to be looked at.

- 2.9. It is important to remember that the HRA process is concerned solely with identifying significant effects on the Conservation Objectives of European Sites. The effects of plans and proposals on wider aspects of the European Sites will be taken into consideration as part of the Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment (SA/SEA) process.

- 2.10. Following this assessment, it may be possible to 'screen' out sites which are unlikely to be affected by the Core Strategy's proposals. If, however, significant effects cannot be ruled out, sites will be taken forward to the full Appropriate Assessment stage. Table 2.1 below shows how the Habitat Regulation Assessment Stages will interact with the Core Strategy's preparation.

Table 2.1: Sustainability Appraisal (SA) / Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) / Development Plan Document (DPD) interaction

| SA Stage | Habitat Regulation Assessment Stage | DPD Stage |
|---|--|---|
| 1. Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report | 1. Evidence Gathering on European Sites | 1. Evidence gathering for DPD |
| 2. Sustainability Appraisal of Alternative Options | 2. <i>Screening and scoping</i> of significant effects from DPD on European sites | 2. 'Issues and Alternative Options' Report |
| 3. Revised Interim Sustainability Appraisal Report | 3. Full Appropriate Assessment of emerging 'Preferred Options' | 3. Emerging 'Preferred Options' Report |
| 4. Final Sustainability Appraisal Report | 4. Full Habitat Regulations Assessment Report | 4. Pre-Submission consultation |
| 5. Revised Final Sustainability Appraisal Report | 5. Revised Habitat Regulations Assessment Report | 5. Submission of DPD to Secretary of State |

| Independent examination and Inspector's binding report | | |
|---|--|--|
| 6. SA Statement and Monitoring Procedures | | 6. DPD Adoption and Monitoring Procedures |

2.11. It is important to remember that the Core Strategy is still at a very early stage of preparation, and preferred options have yet to be defined. By following the precautionary principal, it is therefore difficult, and often not advisable, to rule out significant effects on European sites. However, by the same token, taking a site forward to the full Appropriate Assessment stage does not necessarily mean that a significant effect on a European Site is likely; it may just be too early to say.

Methodology

2.12. The Habitat Regulation Assessment, screening stage, has been carried out according to the European Habitats Directive. The Habitats Directive is relevant to the designation and protection of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC). The HRA screening stage has also been carried out according to the European Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) known as the Birds Directive under which Special Protection Areas (SPA) are designated. SPAs and SACs are collectively known as Natura 2000 sites.

2.13. A third group of sites, Ramsar sites, have been included in this HRA under the term 'European Sites' following guidance set out in Planning Policy Statement 9⁵. Sites designated as globally important wetlands under the Ramsar convention (1971) are not European Sites by law but the circular states that they should be treated the same during Habitat Regulation Assessment 'as a matter of policy'.

Evidence Gathering

2.14. Tables containing information on individual European Sites can be found in appendix 4.

2.15. During the screening process, Natural England has been contacted to provide Conservation Objectives for the European Sites. In some cases Conservation Objectives are not currently available. In these cases Natural England has advised that Favourable Condition Tables for SSSI units may be used in place of Conservation Objectives where the latter are not available. It is made clear in the site description tables which measure being used.

⁵ Planning Policy Statement 9 Circular 06/05: Biodiversity & Geological Conservation – Statutory Obligations and Their Impact Within the Planning System

Site identification

- 2.16. The first step in the scoping process was to identify all European Sites in Shropshire and within 15km of the county boundary. Appendix 2 lists the European Sites by the county/counties they are in. The map in appendix 3 shows Shropshire with a 15km buffer and the spread of European Sites across the area being considered in the HRA. Information on specific sites is included in appendix 4 & 5.
- 2.17. The precautionary principle has been applied throughout the screening stage of the HRA both by the use of a 15km buffer zone around the Shropshire boundary and further by including River Wye SAC in the screening. This site which falls just outside the 15km buffer but is a site on which plans in Shropshire could have a significant effect. The closest point of the River Wye SAC to the Shropshire boundary is 15.3km which sets it just outside the 15km buffer.

Site information

- 2.18. Information for this report has been compiled from a variety of sources, including:
- The Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) website www.jncc.gov.uk
 - Original Natura 2000 Standard Data forms
 - Conservation Objectives for European Sites where they are available (provided by Natural England)
 - Favourable Condition Tables for SSSI units provided by Natural England where Conservation Objectives are not available
 - HRA of Phase Two Revision of the West Midlands RSS – Screening note prepared for Government Office for the West Midlands by Treweek Environmental Consultants;
 - Background information on Ramsar designation www.ramsar.org/
 - Specific site descriptions and further information on Ramsar sites from www.ramsar.wetlands.org/

Identifying Possible Mechanisms for Significant Effects

- 2.19. At this stage it is not possible to look at the scale of effects on individual European Sites since the Shropshire Core Strategy 'Issues and Options' document does not give an appropriate level of detail about the growth options it outlines.
- 2.20. It is, however, possible to consider some broad mechanisms by which plans contained in the Shropshire Core Strategy might affect European Sites. These broad mechanisms include, but are not limited to:
- Alteration in water quality
 - Increased water abstraction
 - Increased run off from new roads and development
 - Air pollution from development work
 - Air pollution from increased traffic in the long term
 - Increased NOx gasses
 - Increased sulphur dioxide

- Increased Acid deposition
- Increased Nitrogen deposition
- Increased recreational use and disturbance including dog walking
- Increased fishing on open water sites
- Increased introduced and invasive species issues
- Alterations in site management
- Increased hunting pressure from domestic animals e.g. cats

In-Combination Effects

- 2.21. The Habitats Directive requires Local Authorities to assess 'in-combination' effects alongside direct effects. 'In-combination' effects occur when otherwise non-significant proposals combine, and can cumulatively lead to a significant effect. This interaction can occur from proposals within the Core Strategy or between the Core Strategy and other proposals and strategies.
- 2.22. In terms of the Core Strategy there are some obvious synergies with the Regional Spatial Strategy (see below) and adjoining authority Local Development Frameworks. Appendix 1 provides a breakdown of the plans considered to have potential to have 'In-combination' effects.

West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (WMRSS)

- 2.23. Despite presenting a range of choices for Shropshire, the Core Strategy does not start from a blank sheet. The West Midlands RSS sets the strategic direction for growth across the region and is therefore crucial to the development of Shropshire's Core Strategy. The WMRSS is currently going through a phased review, with draft targets for housing being set down to a district level and for Shrewsbury town specifically. Draft targets have also been set for employment provision, retail, office, waste and mineral development which need to be reflected in the Core Strategy. See the Shropshire Core Strategy Issues and Options Report for more information on these targets. The RSS will have local effect on the amount of growth Shropshire's settlements will be expected to accommodate over the next 20 years, and will have implications about the use and release of land within the County.
- 2.24. A Habitat Regulation Assessment has already been carried out by the West Midlands Regional Assembly (WMRA) for the broad distribution of these targets to the Shropshire level. In addition a specific HRA has also been carried out to assess the impact of regional housing targets on the region's water quality and water resources. It is the role of Shropshire's Core Strategy's HRA to test these targets at a more local level.

3. Summary of Findings

- 3.1. A total of 12 European Sites have been identified in this Screening Report. This has included all relevant sites within Shropshire's boundaries and sites within a 15km of the Shropshire boundary. The sites identified are ten Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and two Ramsar sites. Appendix 5 to this report maps each of these sites. Appendix 4 provides information each site, including their Conservation Objectives and site vulnerability where known.
- 3.2. The Core Strategy is at an early stage of preparation and it is still unclear as to the firm direction for growth on a number of important issues. Taking into account the fluidity of both the Core Strategy, and adopting a precautionary approach, it is felt that all but two European sites identified in appendix 4 could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by the Shropshire Core Strategy.
- 3.3. Two sites have been screened out at this stage, as it is considered the Core Strategy is unlikely, either directly or in-combination with other plans and proposals, to have a significant effect on their Conservation Objectives. These sites are Motte Meadows SAC and Fens Pools SAC. The remaining 10 sites will all be carried forward to the full Appropriate Assessment stage. The reasoning behind these decisions is explained below.

Sites not being taken forward to full Appropriate Assessment stage

Motte Meadows SAC

- 3.4. The Site description for Motte Meadows SAC is set out in appendix 4 and the site is shown on Map 5 in Appendix 5.
- 3.5. Motte Meadows SAC is a 43.87ha lowland meadow site in Staffordshire, England. Maintenance of the site is dependant on traditional management, hay cutting followed by grazing, and the site is owned and managed by Natural England. The site is vulnerable to nutrient run off from surrounding farm land and this issue is being addressed through the site management plan. The site is also dependant on high ground and surface water levels since the habitat depends on a high water table in autumn and winter.
- 3.6. It is considered unlikely that the Shropshire Core Strategy will have any additional, adverse or in combination effect on Motte Meadows SAC since plans in Shropshire will not alter site management nor change the management of farm land surrounding the site. Shropshire plans are also considered unlikely to have any effect on the ground or surface water levels on the site since the vast majority of Shropshire falls within the River Severn Catchment while Motte Meadows SAC does not fall within the catchment of the River Severn.

Fens Pools SAC

- 3.7. The site description for Fens Pools SAC is set out in appendix 4, and the site is shown in Table 4 in Appendix 5.
- 3.8. Fens Pools SAC is a 20.4ha mosaic of habitats including open water, inundation communities and grasslands in the Metropolitan Borough of Dudley, West Midlands. The site is located in an already developed, urban area 10km away from Shropshire and separated by a number of areas of development. The site was primarily designated for Great Crested Newt as part of an important amphibian assemblage and is vulnerable to fish introductions, human disturbance and alterations in water quality.
- 3.9. It is considered unlikely that the Shropshire Core Strategy could have a significant effect on Fens Pools SAC either alone or in combination. Plans in Shropshire will have no effect on human disturbance on this site which is already surrounded by development and easily accessed. The Core Strategy is unlikely to have any effect on fish introductions. Water quality is unlikely to be influenced by the Shropshire Core Strategy since the site is already surrounded by residential development and road networks.
- 3.10. Since it is considered that proposals likely to come forward through the Shropshire Core Strategy are unlikely to have a significant additional adverse or in combination effect on Fens Pools SAC or on Motte Meadows SAC, this site will be screened out at this stage and not carried forward to the full Appropriate Assessment.

Sites carried forward to the full Appropriate Assessment stage

- 3.11. **It is proposed to carry the ten remaining European Sites forward to the next stage of the HRA which is a full Appropriate Assessment.** These sites are listed below:
- Brown Moss SAC;
 - The Stiperstones & the Hollies SAC;
 - Downton Gorge SAC;
 - River Clun SAC;
 - River Wye SAC;
 - Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem & Cadney Mosses SAC;
 - West Midland Mosses SAC;
 - Midland Meres and Mosses Ramsar – Phase 1;
 - Midland Meres and Mosses Ramsar – Phase 2;
 - River Dee & Bala Lake SAC
- 3.12. The Appropriate Assessment for these sites will be carried out in parallel with the preparation of the Core Strategy 'Preferred Options' document. This stage of the Core Strategy will provide more clarity and greater detail about the plans and policies being proposed, and it

will therefore be easier to gauge how the Core Strategy may impact on each site.

- 3.13. This parallel preparation process will ensure that the results of the HRA will be fully considered in decisions on the Core Strategy. It will also ensure Shropshire Council meets its responsibility against the Habitats Regulations Assessment.
- 3.14. It is hoped that between production of this Screening Report and the full Appropriate Assessment stage, the remaining information on Conservation Objectives for European Sites will be provided by Natural England to complete the site information tables in Appendix 4.

Consultation

- 3.15. This Screening Report is open to consultation for six weeks between **Friday 27 March and Friday 8 May 2009**. Responses will be analysed and where appropriate fed into the future stages of the Habitat Regulation Assessment.

- 3.16. Please send your comments to Eddie West at the following address:

Shropshire Planning Policy Team
Shropshire Council
Shirehall
Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury
Shropshire
SY2 6ND

- 3.17. Alternatively, e-mail comments to planning.policy@shropshire.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Projects and Plans with potential ‘in-combination’ effects

This list is not exhaustive, but begins to pick out those plans with potential for in-combination effects with the Core Strategy. It does not take into account wider planning applications which may come forward. The list does not include national and international strategies as it is accepted that these are reflected in the strategies at the regional and local scale.

| Delivering Advantage: The West Midlands Economic Strategy and Action Plan 2004- 2010 (Advantage West Midlands, 2004) | |
|--|---|
| Main elements | Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and HRA |
| The West Midlands Economic Strategy for 2004–2010, sets out a vision for transforming the West Midlands into a world-class region by 2010. | The RES will influence plans and projects at a Regional and local level, in terms of encouraging appropriate economic development for different parts of the Region. This could have an impact on the type and location of development. |

| West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (Revised: Incorporating Phase 1 review) (West Midlands Local Government Association, 2008) | |
|---|---|
| Phase 2 Revision – Draft Preferred Option, December 2007 | |
| Main elements | Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and HRA |
| <p>The purpose of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy is to provide a strategy to guide the preparation of local authority Local Development Frameworks and Local Transport Plans so that they can deliver to a coherent framework for Regional development.</p> <p>The RSS identifies 4 major challenges for the region:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Urban Renaissance – developing major urban areas so to counter the unsustainable outward movement of people and jobs; - Rural Renaissance – addressing more effectively major changes which are challenging the traditional roles of rural areas and the countryside; - Diversifying and modernising the Region’s economy – ensuring that opportunities for growth are linked to meeting needs and that they help reduce social exclusion; and - Modernising the transport infrastructure of the West Midlands – supporting the sustainable development of the Region. <p>The RSS is undergoing three phased reviews although the 4 key priorities of the RSS remain the same. Phase 1 on the Black Country has been completed. Phase 2 is currently ongoing and will set new targets up</p> | <p>The current RSS Phase 2 review provides specific targets for a range of issues, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overall housing targets (district based); - Employment land provision (district based); - Retail provision (named settlements, which includes Shrewsbury); - Office development (named settlements, which includes Shrewsbury); - Waste development (diversion rates based on county / metropolitan boundaries) <p>These targets need to be transposed at the local level through individual Local Development Frameworks.</p> <p>Phase 2 is subject to an Examination in Public During May and June 2009, and targets are therefore subject to change.</p> <p>Phase 3 of the RSS Revision will include sub-regional apportionments for targets for Mineral provision.</p> <p>The Core Strategy will need to identify broad locations to meet these emerging RSS targets.</p> |

| | |
|---|--|
| to 2026 for housing numbers and employment land supply. | |
|---|--|

| Water Resources Strategy for the West Midlands (Environment Agency, Undated) | |
|--|---|
| Main elements | Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and HRA |
| The Water Resources Strategy for the West Midlands sets out a framework for the management of water resources throughout the region. The Strategy requires an integrated approach by organisations and individuals to achieve its objectives and should inform the production of plans and policies. | The Strategy states that water abstraction cut-backs are necessary in some areas to improve the environment and that water resource options that are flexible to the possible impacts of climate change are preferred. The Strategy requires savings of up to 140 MI/d compared to the highest growth scenario. |

| Draft River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) – Environment Agency 2008 | |
|---|---|
| Main elements | Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and HRA |
| <p>RBMPs are statutory management plans for the water environment, required by the EU Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>The key aim is to for all waters to achieve 'good' status by 2015.</p> <p>There are two RBMPs relevant to Shropshire: the River Dee (Upper Dee Catchment Division) and the River Severn (Severn Uplands, Shropshire Middle Severn and Teme catchment divisions)</p> <p>The objectives of the RBMP are for urban and rural waters to be more natural and to provide a range of services for people, the environment and the economy.</p> | <p>All public bodies must have regard to the RBMP when exercising their function, including spatial planning.</p> <p>The Core Strategy will include broad locations for future development. The HRA will consider a number of factors which could potentially have an impact on European Sites, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - alteration to water quality; - increased water abstraction; - increased run-off from new roads and development |

| River Severn Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP) | |
|--|---|
| Main elements | Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and HRA |
| The Severn CFMP covers a number of urban areas in both England and Wales including Shrewsbury and Bridgnorth within the Shropshire administrative area. The key purpose of the Severn CFMP is to assess the current and future risks to fluvial flooding within the Severn catchment. Catchment Objectives include Contributing towards BAP targets for wet grassland and wet woodland habitats. | <p>The Core Strategy will need to reflect local catchment objectives for reducing and managing flood risk to people, wildlife and habitats, particularly in defining broad locations for growth.</p> <p>The HRA will assess the potential implications of water abstraction and surface run-off on defined European habitats.</p> |

| Adjoining Authorities LDF / Local Plans | |
|---|---|
| Main elements | Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and HRA |
| <p>Adjoining Authorities cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Telford and Wrekin Council (Adopted Core Strategy, Site Allocations to follow); - South Staffordshire District Council (Core Strategy Preferred Options consultation in early 2009); | The plans and proposals from Shropshire's adjoining authorities could have an impact on European Sites within Shropshire. These in-combination effects could result from allocations or planning policies from existing Local Plans, or from emerging proposals coming forward as |

Shropshire Core Strategy
Habitat Regulation Assessment, Screening Report, March 2009

| | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Malvern Hills District Council; - Wyre Forest District Council; - Wrexham Borough Council; - Newcastle-under-Lyme (The Borough has two designated Ramsar sites at Betley Mere and Black Firs and Cranberry Bog); - Worcestershire County Council; - Staffordshire County Council; - Powys County Council; - Cheshire West and Chester Council (new Unitary); - Cheshire East Council (new Unitary); | <p>part of each authority's Local Development Frameworks.</p> <p>Each of Shropshire's adjoining authorities are at various stages of preparation for their LDF. As part of the preparation for Shropshire's recent Core Strategy 'Issues and Options' report, face-to-face meetings were held with a number of adjoining authorities. These meetings discussed a number of pertinent planning issues, including any potential in-combination impacts on European sites from cross boundary planning.</p> <p>As both the Shropshire Core Strategy and adjoining authority LDFs get further towards adoption issues identified will be kept under review and will be taken account of in the full Appropriate Assessment stage. The use of a 15 Km buffer zone around Shropshire in this Screening Report takes these potential cross boundary issues into account.</p> |
|--|---|

| Shropshire Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 (Shropshire County Council, 2006) | |
|---|---|
| Main elements | Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and HRA |
| <p>The Local Transport Plan (LTP) sets out the objectives for transport in Shropshire. It's vision is: <i>'An economically vibrant, healthy, inclusive and sustainable society where people meet many of their needs locally, served by an integrated transport system which allows people to have good and reliable access to jobs, services, learning and leisure opportunities, and which protects and enhances environmental quality and human health.'</i></p> | <p>The Core Strategy will need to reflect priorities and objectives set out in the LTP. This has potential to influence the type and location of development, and the need for associated infrastructure.</p> |

| Shropshire Futures: An Economic Development Strategy for Shropshire (Shropshire Economic Development Forum, December 2004) | |
|--|---|
| Main elements | Key objectives relevant to the Core Strategy and HRA |
| <p>Shropshire Futures is the economic development strategy for Shropshire. The Strategy aims to summarise the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing the county's economy by using the framework provided by the four "pillars" identified within the Regional Economic Strategy.</p> | <p>The Core Strategy will need to facilitate appropriate and sustainable economic growth in Shropshire. It will consider provisions currently made for business growth and the expansion there of, as well as considering the potential for new business start-ups.</p> <p>The HRA will need to assess any implications of these emerging proposals for economic development on European Sites.</p> |

Appendix 2: European Sites by County

Shropshire

Brown Moss SAC
The Stiperstones & the Hollies SAC

Staffordshire

Mottey Meadows SAC

Herefordshire

Downton Gorge SAC
River Clun SAC
River Wye SAC

Dudley Borough, West Midlands

Fens Pools SAC

Shropshire / Wrexham

Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem & Cadney Mosses SAC

Shropshire / Cheshire / Staffordshire

West Midland Mosses SAC

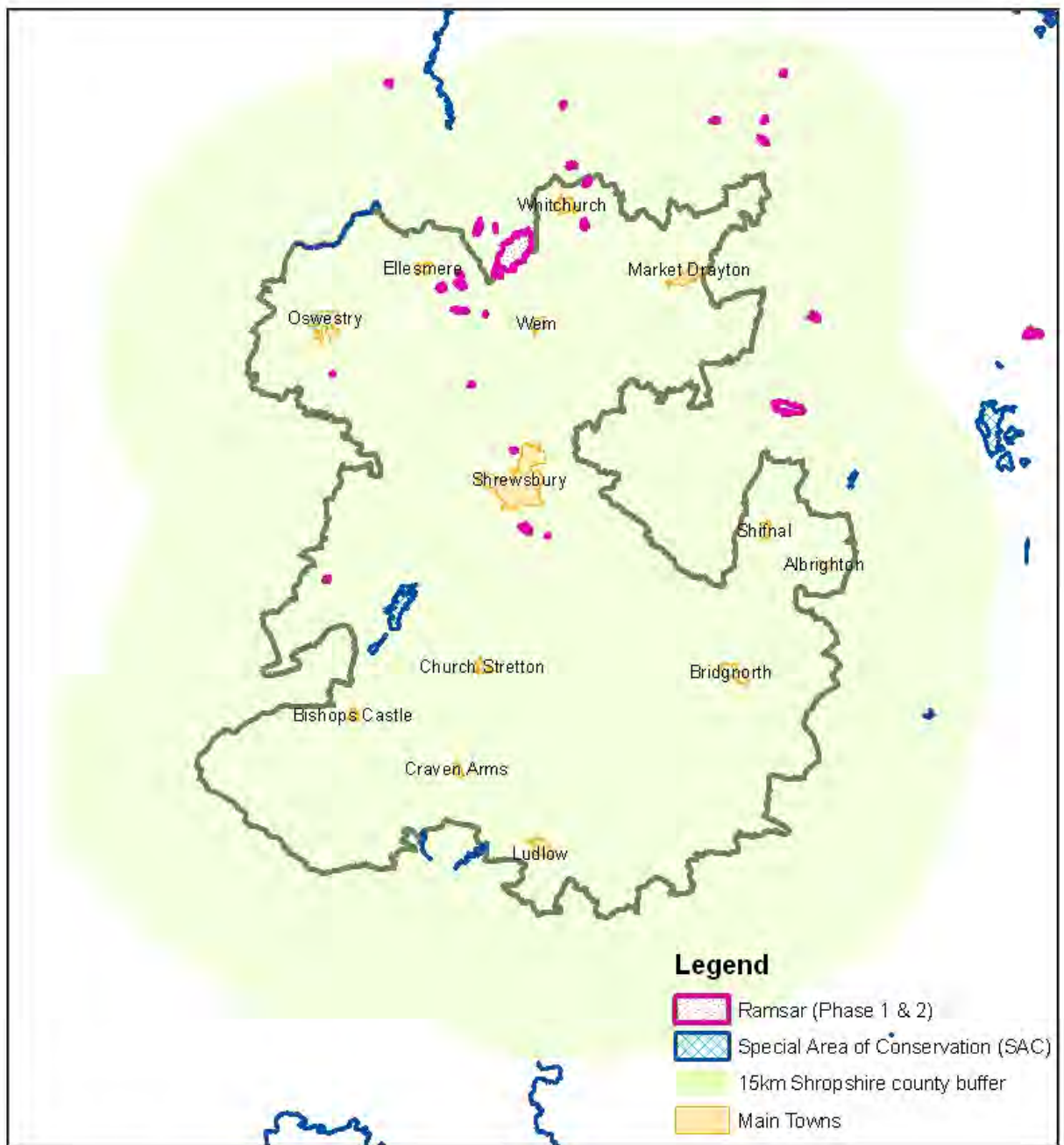
Shropshire / Clwyd / Cheshire / Staffordshire

Midland Meres & Mosses Ramsar – Phase 1
Midland Meres & Mosses Ramsar – Phase 2

Shropshire / Cheshire / Denbighshire / Gwynedd / Flintshire / Wrexham

River Dee & Bala Lake SAC

Appendix 3: Shropshire with 15km buffer



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Shropshire & 15km buffer Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas & Ramsar

Development Services
The Shirehall, Abbey Foregate
Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 8ND

Scale: 1:525,879



Appendix 4: European Site Information Tables

The HRA Screening process for the Shropshire Core Strategy: Issues and Options identified the following European Sites as being relevant to the plan. The following tables provide detailed information on each European Site including: site name, location, conservation objectives (where known), site vulnerabilities and reasons for designation.

Please note that in some cases conservation objectives for the European Site could not be supplied by Natural England and the Definition of Favourable Condition for the SSSI has been provided for information following advice from Natural England. Where this is the case it is made clear in the tables below. It is hoped that Conservation Objectives for all European Sites will be available from Natural England prior to the full Appropriate Assessment.

The information has been sourced from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) website and Natural England (NE) both NE website and through direct enquiries.

Table 1: Brown Moss

| | |
|--|--|
| Site Name: Brown Moss SAC, SJ561394, Shropshire, England | |
| Site Description: Brown Moss (32.02ha) is a series of pools set in heathland and woodland. The site is of special importance for the marsh, swamp and fen communities associated with the pools which occupy hollows in the sand and gravel substrate. | |
| Conservation Objectives for SAC: NE to supply | |
| Definition of Favourable Condition for Brown Moss SSSI: Subject to natural change, to maintain, in favourable condition, the habitat for the internationally important population of Floating Water Plantain (<i>Luronium natans</i>), with particular reference to the standing open water. (Maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition). | |
| Site Vulnerability: Colonisation by trees is being addressed but continues to be of concern due to the shading, nutrient and hydrological effects on the open water and heathland. The presence of <i>Crassula helmsii</i> is a threat to <i>Luronium natans</i> and various control mechanisms are being explored. | |
| Reason for Designation | Environmental Conditions Needed to Support Site Integrity |
| Annex II Species that are a primary reason for selection of site: Floating Water Plantain <i>Luronium natans</i> | Sensitive to tree colonisation. Shading, nutrient and hydrological impacts on open water & heathland. Threat from changes in grazing regime. |

Table 2: Downton Gorge

| | |
|---|--|
| Site Name: Downton Gorge SAC, SO443743, Herefordshire, England | |
| Site Description: Downton Gorge (69.3ha) lies on a stretch of the River Teme, it is an example of ancient semi-natural woodland with steep ravines and dingles occurring in side valleys. The site includes several nationally scarce types of woodland and is important for a range of species including ferns. | |
| Conservation Objectives for SAC: NE to supply | |
| Definition of Favourable Condition for Downton Gorge SSSI: To maintain, in favourable condition, the <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> ravine forest. (Maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition). | |
| Site Vulnerability: The site is potentially vulnerable to the effects of air- and water-borne pollution, particularly in respect of its significant lichenological interest. However these effects are not related to the management of the site. | |
| Reason for Designation | Environmental Conditions Needed to Support Site Integrity |
| Annex I Habitats that are a primary reason for selection of site: <i>Tilio-Acerion</i> forests of slopes, screes and ravines | Monitoring and control of air and water borne pollution. |

Table 3: Fenn`s, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses

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| Site Name: Fenn`s, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses SAC, SJ487364, Shropshire / Wrexham, England / Wales |
| Site Description: Fenn`s, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses (949.2ha) together form an outstanding example of lowland raised mire. The site as a whole supports a wide range of characteristic acid peat bog vegetation including thirteen species of <i>Sphagnum</i> moss, which represent successional stages in the development of a raised mire. |
| Conservation Objectives for SAC: NE to supply. |
| Definition of Favourable Condition for Fenn`s, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem & Cadney Mosses SSSI: To maintain, in favourable condition, the active raised bogs and degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration on the site. |
| Site Vulnerability: The lowland raised mire is dependent upon high water levels and a continuation of active peat-forming processes. Much of the site is subject to mineral planning consents for peat extractions which are currently being reviewed. The site has a history of peat-cutting and until recently, part of the site has been subject to large-scale commercial extraction, involving drainage over much of the peat body. Afforestation and agricultural improvement on marginal areas of the peat body have accelerated the lowering of water levels, resulting in encroachment by scrub and a decline in the extent of peat-forming communities. A greater part of the site is now owned, leased or managed under agreement by conservation organisations. Within these areas, mire rehabilitation management is taking place under the guidance of a management plan. |

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| It is intended to seek to increase the areas under positive conservation management by implementation of the joint Countryside Council for Wales/English Nature acquisition strategy. | |
| Reason for Designation | Environmental Conditions Needed to Support Site Integrity |
| Annex I Habitats that are a primary reason for selection of site: Active raised bog | Maintenance of high water levels. |
| Annex I Habitats present as a qualifying feature but not a primary reason for selection of site: Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration | Sensitive to afforestation and changing agricultural practices. |

Table 4: Fens Pools

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| Site Name: Fens Pools SAC, SO920888, Dudley, England | |
| Site Description: Fens Pools SAC (20.4ha) consists of a mosaic of habitats including inland open waterbodies, swamp, fen, inundation communities to unimproved neutral and acidic grassland and scrub. | |
| Conservation Objectives for SAC: NE to supply. | |
| Definition of Favourable Condition for Fens Pools SSSI: To maintain the extent of the amphibian habitat (terrestrial and aquatics) at Fens Pools. No loss of area or fragmentation of site (through significant barriers to amphibian dispersal) compared with status at designation. On this site favourable condition is defined in terms of the amphibian and Great Crested Newt attributes and targets. | |
| Site Vulnerability: The <i>Triturus cristatus</i> population at this site is dependant on the control of fish, maintenance of adequate water quality given an urban catchment, and the protection of surrounding terrestrial habitat from major ground disturbance. The vulnerability of the breeding ponds is being reduced through factors such as desiccation, human disturbance, fish introductions and pollution by expanding the number of pools in the current cluster. This action will also help mitigate the population's relative isolation resulting from its urban setting. The post-industrial origins of much of the site's surface material means that land contamination could be a possible future issue. | |
| Reason for Designation | Environmental Conditions Needed to Support Site Integrity |
| Annex II species that are the primary reason for selection of this site: This site comprises three feeder reservoirs and a series of smaller pools. They overlie Etruria marls and coal measures of the Carboniferous period. The site shows evidence of past industrial activities and includes a wide range of habitats from open water, swamp, fen and inundation communities to unimproved neutral and acidic grassland and scrub. Great Crested Newts <i>Triturus cristatus</i> occur as part of an important amphibian assemblage. | Maintenance of unshaded pools. Maintenance of water quality and level. Low introduced fish populations. |

Table 5: Mottey Meadows

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| Site Name: Mottey Meadows SAC, SJ840134, Staffordshire, England | |
| Site Description: Mottey Meadows (43.87ha) represents one of the best areas in England for Lowland Meadow with <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i> . It has been maintained through traditional agricultural practices and contains an extensive example of an alluvial flood meadow. | |
| Conservation Objectives for SAC: NE to supply. | |
| Definition of Favourable Condition for Mottey Meadows SSSI: To maintain, in favourable condition, the lowland hay Meadow. (Maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition). | |
| Site Vulnerability: The meadows are dependent upon traditional agricultural management - hay-cutting and aftermath grazing with no use of agrochemicals. The site is vulnerable to nutrient run-off from adjacent agricultural land. The site is owned and managed by Natural England with all the above issues addressed through the site's management plan. The site is also vulnerable to a lowering of both ground and surface water levels, because the floristic composition is dependent on a high water table in autumn and winter. This will be addressed through consultation with the Environment Agency, and any problems arising from licensed abstractions will be dealt with through the review process under the Habitats Regulations. | |
| Reason for Designation | Environmental Conditions Needed to Support Site Integrity |
| Annex I Habitats that are a primary reason for selection of site: Lowland hay meadows (<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> , <i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>) | Maintenance of autumn/winter high water levels. Maintenance of traditional management. Reduced nutrient input. |

Table 6: River Clun

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| Site Name: River Clun SAC, SO393754, Herefordshire, England |
| Site Description: River Clun (14.93ha) supports a significant population of Freshwater Pearl Mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> . |
| Conservation Objectives for SAC: NE to supply. |
| Definition of Favourable Condition for River Teme SSSI which contains the River Clun SAC: To maintain, in favourable condition, the habitats for the population of Pearl Mussel (<i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i>). (Maintenance implies restoration if the feature is not currently in favourable condition). |
| Site Vulnerability: <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> is dependent on low sediment and nitrate levels, fast flows of cool water and clean gravels. It also relies on the presence of trout for part of its breeding cycle. Intensification of agriculture across the catchment is a significant threat to the long-term survival of the isolated population at this site i.e. enhanced sedimentation through poor agricultural practice leading to smothering of adult and juvenile mussels; eutrophication of waters through fertiliser run-off from adjacent land. In addition upstream domestic sewage treatment works are believed to give a |

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| <p>significant nutrient loading. Recent increases in the occurrence of alder disease also poses a risk through loss of shading bankside tree cover. Some of these issues will be addressed by revised authorisation, Review of Consents /AMP 4 processes. Sustainable agricultural management is being promoted via production of Whole Farm Plans, Environmentally Sensitive Area Agreements and Countryside Stewardship Agreements for landowners within the catchment.</p> | |
| Reason for Designation | Environmental Conditions Needed to Support Site Integrity |
| <p>Annex II Species that are a primary reason for selection of site: Freshwater pearl mussel <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i></p> | <p>Maintain good water quality (limit pollution and sedimentation, particularly from agricultural run off). Maintain salmonid populations. Maintain riparian vegetation.</p> |

Table 7: River Dee and Bala Lake

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| <p>Site Name: River Dee and Bala Lake SAC, SJ423503, Cheshire / Denbighshire / Gwynedd / Shropshire / Flintshire / Wrexham, England / Wales</p> |
| <p>Site Description: River Dee and Bala Lake (1308.92) is an important example in England of water courses of plain to montane levels with <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation. It supports populations of Sea Lamprey and Floating Water Plantain which are important in England and significant populations of several fish species and otter <i>Lutra lutra</i>.</p> |
| <p>Conservation Objectives for SAC: NE to supply.</p> |
| <p>Definition of Favourable Condition for River Dee and Bala Lake SSSI: Maintain in a favourable condition the water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho- Batrachion</i> vegetation. Maintain, in favourable condition, habitats for the populations of Atlantic salmon, bullhead, brook lamprey, river lamprey, sea lamprey, otter and floating water-plantain.</p> |
| <p>Site Vulnerability: The habitats and species for which the site is designated are dependent on the maintenance of good water quality and suitable flow conditions. Fish species require suitable in-stream habitat and an unobstructed migration route. Otters also require suitable terrestrial habitat to provide cover and adequate populations of prey species. The site and its features are threatened by practices which have an adverse effect on the quality, quantity and pattern of water flows. In particular the following may threaten riverine ecosystems: inappropriate flow regulation; excessive abstraction (for industry, agriculture and domestic purposes); threats to water quality from direct and diffuse pollution; eutrophication and siltation. Degradation of riparian habitats due to engineering works, agricultural practices and invasive plant species may also have an adverse effect. The Atlantic salmon population is threatened by excessive exploitation by high sea, estuarine and recreational fisheries. Introduction of non-indigenous species could also threaten both fish and plant species.</p> |

These issues are being addressed by a variety of statutory bodies that are in a position to overcome these threats through regulatory powers and partnerships with landowners, industry and other interested parties.

| Reason for Designation | Environmental Conditions Needed to Support Site Integrity |
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| Annex I Habitats that are a primary reason for selection of site: Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation | Maintenance of water quality. Maintenance of flow. Resist degradation of riparian habitats. |
| Annex II Species that are a primary reason for selection of site: Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> , Floating Water Plantain <i>Luronium natans</i> | Control salmon exploitation at sea. Resist invasive species. |
| Annex II Species present as a qualifying feature but not a primary reason for selection of site: Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> , Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> , River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> , Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> , Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> | Avoid excessive water extraction (industry, domestic, agriculture). |

Table 8: River Wye

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| Site Name: River Wye SAC, SO109369, Monmouthshire / Gloucestershire / Herefordshire / Powys, England / Wales |
| Site Description: River Wye (2234.89ha) represents a high quality example of water courses of plain to montane levels with <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation and is also significant for Transition mire and quaking bog. The riverine habitat supports important and significant populations of many fish species and Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> . |
| Conservation Objectives for SAC: NE to supply. |
| Definition of Favourable Condition for River Wye SSSI: Maintain the river as a habitat for floating formations of water crowfoot (<i>Ranunculus</i>) of plain and submountainous rivers, populations of Atlantic salmon, allis shad, twaite shad, bullhead, lampreys, and whiteclawed crayfish, and the river and adjoining land as habitat for populations of otter. |

Site Vulnerability: Water quality impacts arising from changing agricultural land-use within the catchment are having direct and indirect effects on the SAC interests through effects of diffuse pollution such as nutrient run-off and increased siltation. English Nature and the Countryside Council for Wales are seeking to address such issues through improved targeting of existing and new agri-environment schemes and through improvements in compliance with agricultural Codes of Practice.

Water quality is also affected by synthetic pyrethroid sheep-dips and by point-source discharges within the catchment. The impact of sewage treatment works on the SAC is being addressed through the Asset Management Plan process and review under the Habitats Regulations. Loss of riparian habitat is occurring as a result of changes in agricultural land-use practices and other factors, including riverside development and the loss of alder tree-cover through disease. These impacts and concerns over water quality will be identified and actions recommended within the joint English Nature/Environment Agency/Countryside Council for Wales conservation strategy for the river.

Fishing activities are implicated in the decline of the salmon; initiatives such as the Wye Salmon Action Plan will help to address this issue.

There is increasing demand for abstraction from the river for agriculture and potable water. The impact of this is still being investigated by the Environment Agency, but maintenance of water levels and flow will be addressed under the review of consents under the Habitats Regulations.

Demand for increased recreational activities is a source of potential concern for the future. Regularisation of the functions of the competent authorities, currently being sought, should reduce the risk of damage to the SAC as a result of developments for such activities.

| Reason for Designation | Environmental Conditions Needed to Support Site Integrity |
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| Annex I Habitats that are a primary reason for selection of site: Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation | Maintain water quality & flow. Control recreational activities. Control water abstractions. Maintain water table level. |
| Annex I Habitats present as a qualifying feature but not a primary reason for selection of site: Transition mires and quaking bogs | Removal & prevention of barriers to fish migration. |
| Annex II Species that are a primary reason for selection of site: White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> , Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> , Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i> , River lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> , Twaite shad <i>Alosa fallax</i> , Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> , Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i> , Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i> | Control human activities and disturbance. Control of fishing level. |
| Annex II Species present as a qualifying feature but not a primary reason for selection of site: Allis Shad <i>Alosa alosa</i> | |

Table 9: The Stiperstones and the Hollies

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| Site Name: The Stiperstones and the Hollies SAC, SJ375006, Shropshire, England | |
| Site Description: The Stiperstones and the Hollies (601.46ha) represents a Nationally important area of dry heath and also hosts a significant presence of sessile oak woodlands with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> . | |
| Conservation Objectives for SAC: Subject to natural change, to maintain in favourable condition the dry heath communities with particular reference to the internationally important heathland communities (H8: <i>Calluna vulgaris-ulex hallii</i> heath, H10: <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Eric cinerea</i> heath, H12: <i>Calluna vulgaris</i> – <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> heath, H18: <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> – <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> heath). | |
| Site Vulnerability: The heathland is dependent on the continuation of traditional heather moorland management with rotational burning or cutting supplemented by light grazing. In the recent past, lack of management on parts of the site has resulted in scrub encroachment, and on other parts high stocking levels has caused overgrazing and a deterioration of the heathland interest. These issues are being addressed by an effective management programme on that part of the site which is managed as a National Nature Reserve and, on land in private ownership, by management agreements and ESA payments. The sessile oak woods have been traditionally managed either as high forest or as oak coppice. Neglect and grazing of coppiced woods in the past has led to deterioration in the woodland interest. Traditional management of these woods has been reinstated by effective management of the National Nature Reserve and by agreement of a site management statement with woodlands in private ownership. | |
| Reason for Designation | Environmental Conditions Needed to Support Site Integrity |
| Annex I Habitats that are a primary reason for selection of site: European dry heaths | Control of afforestation. Control of grazing pressure. |
| Annex I Habitats present as a qualifying feature but not a primary reason for selection of site: Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles | Maintain appropriate woodland management. |

Table 10: West Midland Mosses

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| Site Name: West Midland Mosses SAC, SK026282, Cheshire / Shropshire / Staffordshire, England |
| Site Description: West Midland Mosses (184.18ha) is a collection of sites which between them represent nationally important dystrophic water bodies, transition mires and quaking bogs. |
| Conservation Objectives for SAC: NE to supply. |

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| <p>Site Vulnerability: Colonisation of open schwingmoors or <i>Sphagnum</i> lawns and rafts in the West Midland Mosses by birch and pine is controlled by works under Management Agreement or by National Nature Reserve management, and in liaison with the local wildlife trust at Abbots Moss. Several sources of nutrient enrichment, including atmospheric deposition of nutrients, pose a potential threat at these sites. A Management Agreement controls agricultural run-off at Chartley Moss. Trees at this site trap airborne nutrients and provide roost areas for birds, but the enrichment effect of both is only localised. At Abbots Moss the threat of enrichment from atmospheric sources has been reduced by clear-felling of basin slopes adjacent to the mires. All parts of that site are vulnerable to recreational disturbance, particularly the northern portion which is a scout camp.</p> | |
| Reason for Designation | Environmental Conditions Needed to Support Site Integrity |
| Annex I Habitats that are a primary reason for selection of site: Natural dystrophic lakes and ponds, Transition mires and quaking bogs | Control of afforestation. Control of nutrient input. Control of recreational disturbance. |

Table 11: Midland Meres and Mosses (Ramsar – Phase 1).

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| <p>Site Name: Midland Meres and Mosses (Ramsar phase 1), Shropshire/ Clwyd/ Cheshire/ Staffordshire, England.</p> | |
| <p>Site Description: Phase 1 of the Ramsar designation covers 513.25ha and is entirely co-incident with the following 16 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). These are Bagmere, Berrington Pool, Betley Mere, Bomere, Shomere & Betton Pools, Brown Moss, Chartley Moss, Clarepool Moss, Fenemere, Flaxmere, Hatchmere, Marton Pool (Chirbury), Quoisley Meres, Tatton Mere, The Mere (Mere), White Mere and Wymbunbury Moss SSSI's.</p> | |
| <p>Conservation Objectives: NE to supply.</p> | |
| <p>Site Vulnerability: Invasive species: considered a major impact on this site. Water quality: eutrophication is considered a major impact on this site. Recreational pressure and disturbance: in line with other bog and mire habitats, trampling and erosion are likely to be a significant issue where public access occurs. Water quality: declines in water quality through nutrient enrichment and sediment. Land use in surrounding areas: agricultural practices and urban runoff are likely to affect the scattered sites through nutrient enrichment and sedimentation.</p> | |
| Reasons for Designation: | Environmental Conditions Needed to Support Site Integrity |
| <p>Criterion 1a. A particularly good example of a natural or near natural wetland, characteristic of this biogeographical region, The site comprises the full range of habitats from open water to raised bog.</p> | <p>Environmental Conditions needed to support site integrity will need to be considered at the full Appropriate Assessment stage since this range of sites is varied and needs consideration in relation to specific plans and policies.</p> |

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|---|--|
| <p>Criterion 2a. Supports a number of rare species of plants associated with wetlands. The site contains the nationally scarce six-stamened waterwort <i>Elatine hexandra</i>, needle spike-rush <i>Eleocharis acicularis</i>, cowbane <i>Cicuta virosa</i>, marsh fern <i>Thelypteris palustris</i> and elongated sedge <i>Carex elongate</i>.</p> | |
| <p>Criterion 2a. Contains an assemblage of invertebrates, including the following rare wetland species. 3 species considered to be endangered in Britain, the caddis fly <i>Hagenella clathrata</i>, the fly <i>Limnophila fasciata</i> and the spider <i>Cararita limnaea</i>. Other wetland Red Data Book species are; the beetles <i>Lathrobium rufipenne</i> and <i>Donacia aquatica</i>, the flies <i>Prionocera pubescens</i> and <i>Gonomyia abbreviata</i> and the spider <i>Sitticus floricola</i>.</p> | |

NB. Of the SSSI in the Ramsar phase 1 designation the following considered in this screening document: Berrington Pool, Brown Moss, Bomere, Shomere & Betton Pools, Clarepool Moss, Fenemere, Marton Pool (Chirbury), White Mere, Quoisley Mere, Wynbunbury Moss.

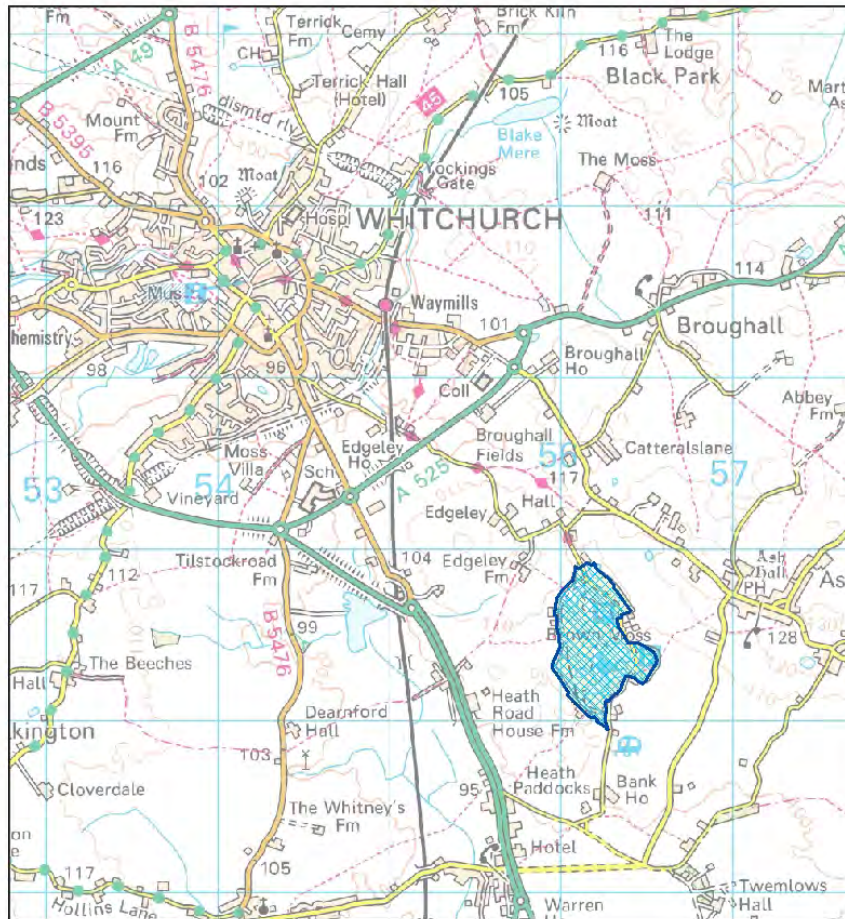
Table 12: Midland Meres and Mosses (Ramsar - Phase 2).

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| <p>Site Name: Midland Meres and Mosses (Ramsar phase 2), Shropshire/ Clwyd/ Cheshire/ Staffordshire, England.</p> |
| <p>Site Description: Phase 2 of the Ramsar sites covers 1740.3ha and is entirely co-incident with the following 19 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). These are: Abbots Moss, Aqualate Mere, Black Firs & Cranberry Bog, Brownheath Moss, Chapel Mere, Cole Mere, Cop Mere, Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem & Cadney Mosses, Hanmer Mere, Hencott Pool, Linmer Moss, Llyn Bedydd, Morton Pool & Pasture, Oak Mere, Oakhanger Moss, Oss Mere, Rostherne Mere, Sweat Mere & Crose Mere and Vicarage Moss.</p> |
| <p>Conservation Objectives: NE to supply.</p> |
| <p>Site Vulnerability: Invasive species: considered a major impact on this site. Water quality: eutrophication is considered a major impact on this site. Land take for development · Recreational pressure and disturbance: in line with other bog and mire habitats, trampling and erosion are likely to be a significant issue where public access occurs. Water quality: declines in water quality through nutrient enrichment and sediment. Land use in surrounding areas: agricultural practices and urban runoff are likely to affect the scattered sites through nutrient enrichment and sedimentation.</p> |

| Reason for Designation: | Environmental Conditions Needed to Support Site Integrity |
|---|--|
| <p>Criterion 1a. A particularly good example of a natural or near natural wetland, characteristic of this biogeographical region, The site comprises the full range of habitats from open water to raised bog.</p> | <p>Environmental Conditions needed to support site integrity will need to be considered at the full Appropriate Assessment stage since this range of sites is varied and needs consideration in relation to specific plans and policies.</p> |
| <p>Criterion 2a. Supports a number of rare plants associated with wetlands, including the nationally scarce cowbane <i>Cicuta virosa</i>, elongated sedge <i>Carex elongate</i> and bog rosemary <i>Andromeda polifolia</i>. Also present are the nationally scarce bryophytes <i>Dicranum undulatum</i>, <i>Dicranum affine</i> and <i>Sphagnum pulchrum</i>.</p> | |
| <p>Criterion 2a. Containing an assemblage of invertebrates, including several rare wetland species. There are 16 species of Red Data Book insect listed for the site including the following endangered species: the moth <i>Glyphipteryx lathamella</i>, the caddisfly <i>Hagenella clathrata</i> and the sawfly <i>Trichiosoma vitellinae</i>.</p> | |

NB. Of the SSSI in the Ramsar Phase 2 designation the following are considered in this screening document: Aqualate Mere, Brownheath Moss, Black Firs & Cranberry Bog. Chapel Mere, Cole Mere, Cop Mere, Fenn's, Whixhall, Bettisfield, Wem & Cadney Mosses. Hanmer Mere, Hencott Pool, Llyn Bedydd, Morton Pool & Pasture, Oss Mere, Sweat Mere & Crose Mere and Vicarage Moss.

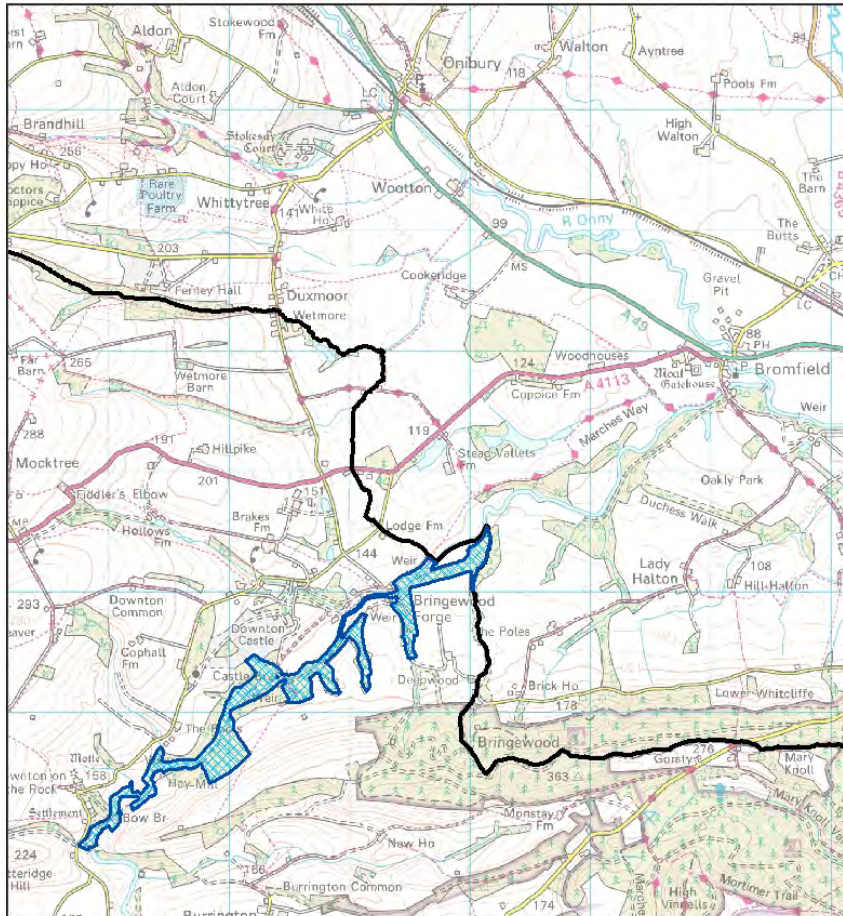
Appendix 5: Site Maps



| | | |
|---|---|--|
|  Shropshire Council | Brown Moss SAC |  |
| <small>(c) Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Shropshire CC 100019801. 2009</small> | <small>Development Services The Shirehall, Abbey Foregate Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND</small> | Scale: 1:23,796 |

Please refer to Table 1

Shropshire Core Strategy
Habitat Regulation Assessment, Screening Report, March 2009

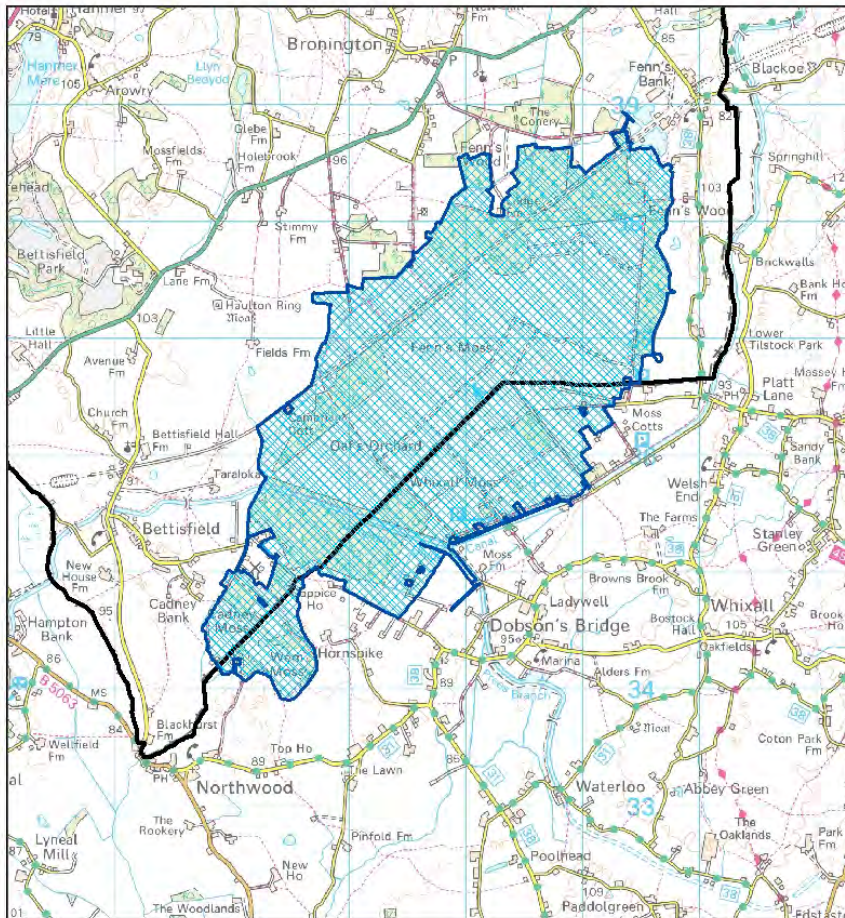


| | | |
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|  | Downton Gorge SAC |  |
| | Development Services The Shirehall, Abbey Foregate Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND Scale: 1:33,898 | |

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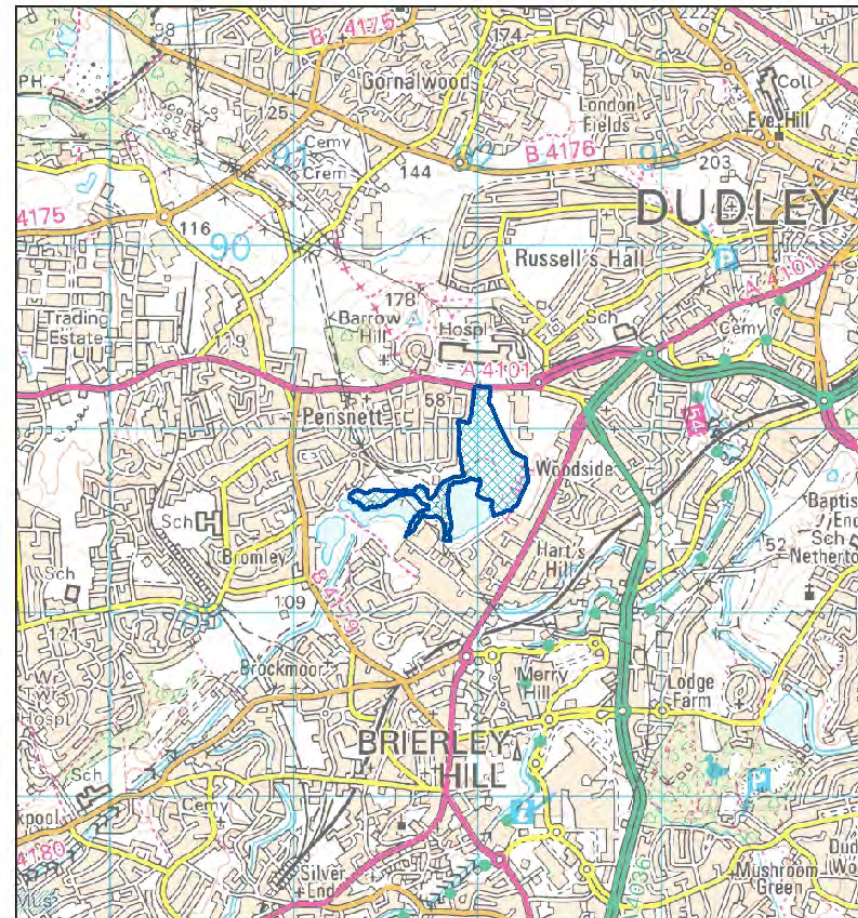
Please refer to Table 2

Shropshire Core Strategy
Habitat Regulation Assessment, Screening Report, March 2009




Shropshire Council
 Fenn's, Whixall, Bettisfield, Wem & Cadney Mosses SAC
 Development Services
 The Shirehall, Abbey Foregate
 Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND
 Scale: 1:34,925

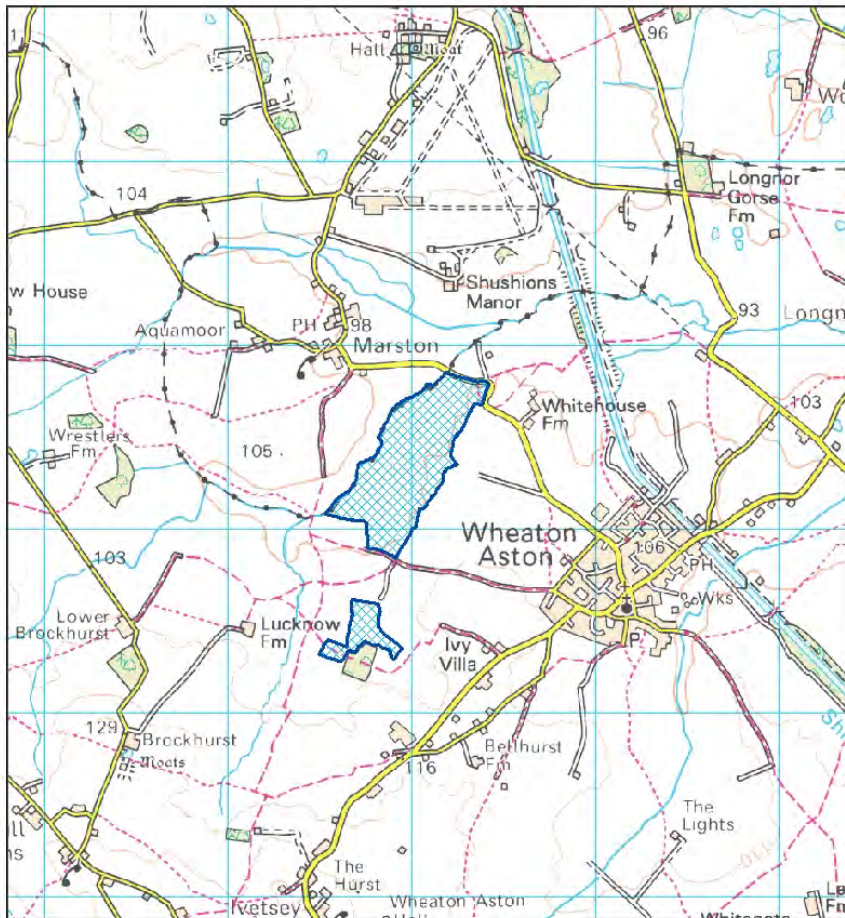
Please refer to Table 3






Shropshire Council
 Fens Pools SAC
 Development Services
 The Shirehall, Abbey Foregate
 Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND
 Scale: 1:22,233

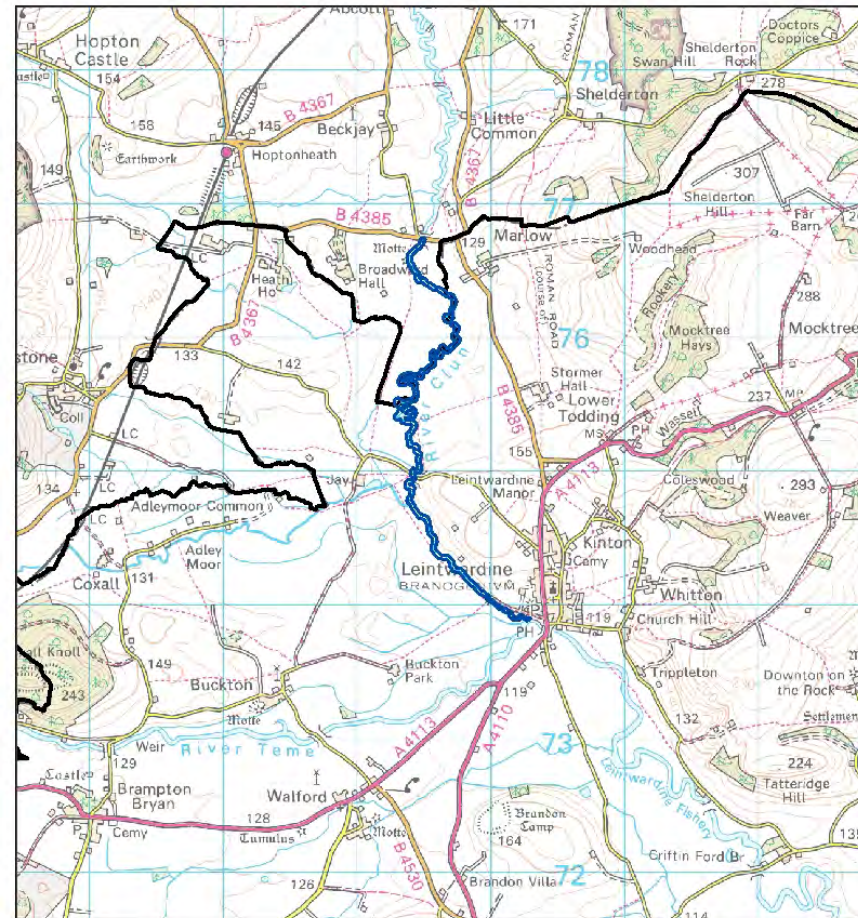
Please refer to Table 4

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| | | |
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|  <p>Shropshire Council</p> <p>(c) Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Shropshire CC 100019801. 2009</p> | <p>Motte Meadows SAC</p> <p>Development Services The Shirehall, Abbey Foregate Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND</p> |  |
| | <p>Scale: 1:22,233</p> | |

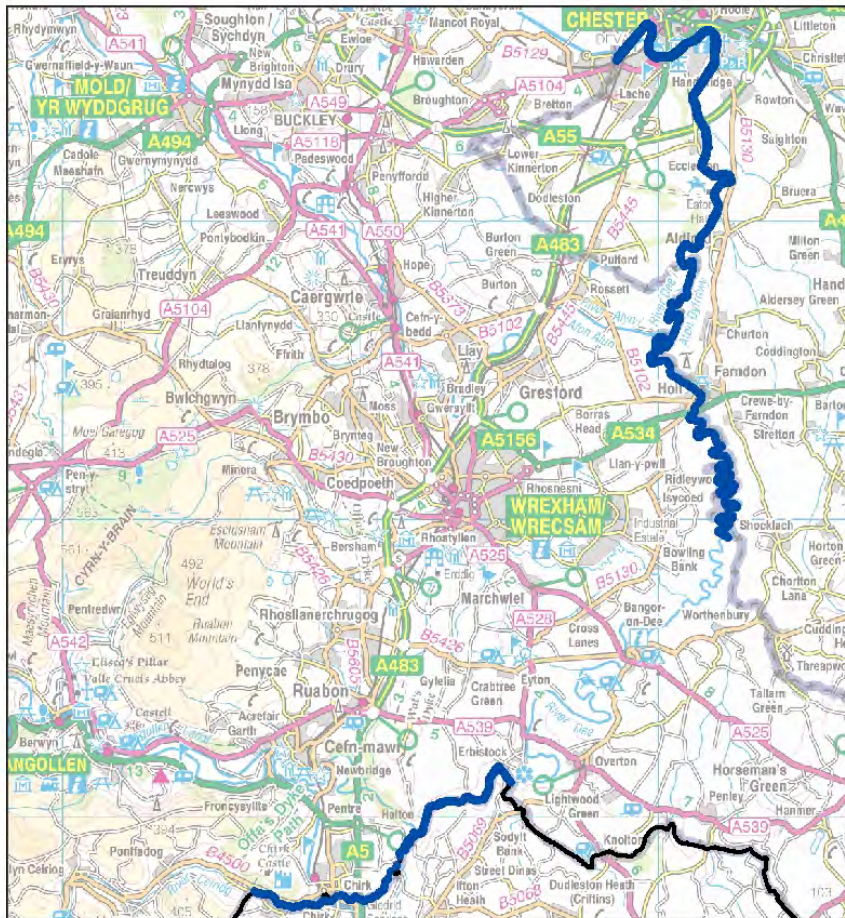
Please refer to Table 5



| | | |
|--|---|---|
|  <p>Shropshire Council</p> <p>(c) Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Shropshire CC 100019801. 2009</p> | <p>River Clun SAC</p> <p>Development Services The Shirehall, Abbey Foregate Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND</p> |  |
| | <p>Scale: 1:30,536</p> | |

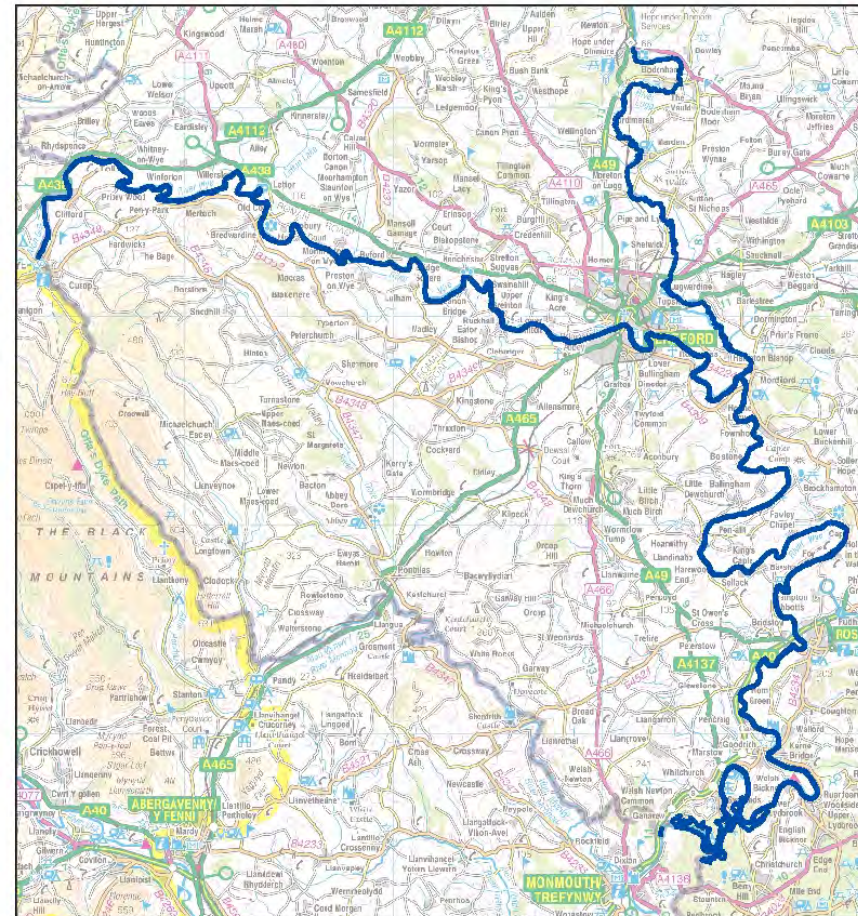
Please refer to Table 6

Shropshire Core Strategy
Habitat Regulation Assessment, Screening Report, March 2009



| | | |
|--|---|--|
|  <p>Shropshire Council</p> <p>(c) Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Shropshire CC 100019801. 2009</p> | <p>River Dee & Bala Lake SAC</p> <p>Development Services The Shirehall, Abbey Foregate Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND</p> |  |
| | <p>Scale: 1:136,986</p> | |

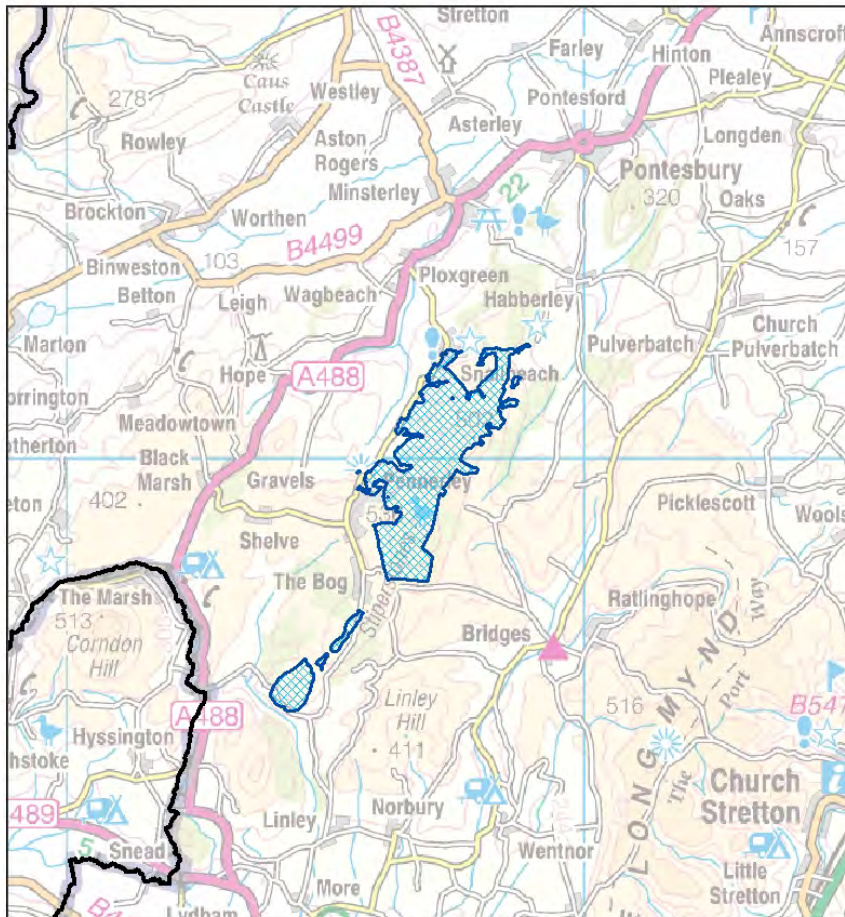
Please refer to Table 7




| | | |
|--|---|---|
|  <p>Shropshire Council</p> <p>(c) Crown copyright. All rights reserved. Shropshire CC 100019801. 2009</p> | <p>River Wye SAC</p> <p>Development Services The Shirehall, Abbey Foregate Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND</p> |  |
| | <p>Scale: 1:195,542</p> | |

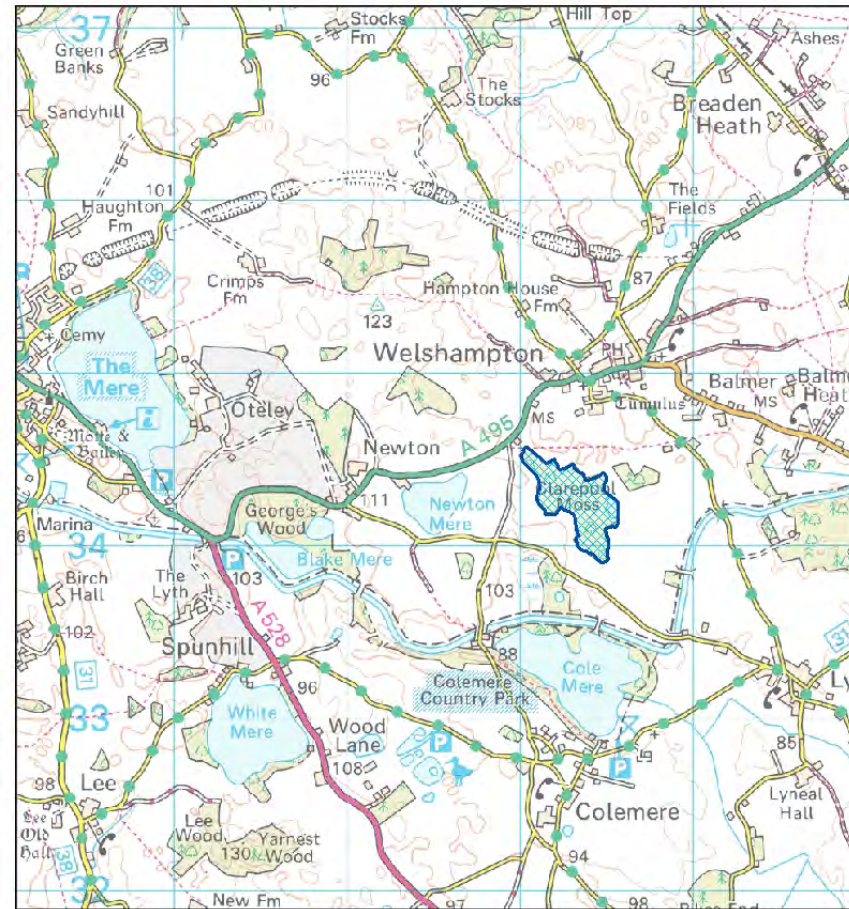
Please refer to Table 8

Shropshire Core Strategy
Habitat Regulation Assessment, Screening Report, March 2009



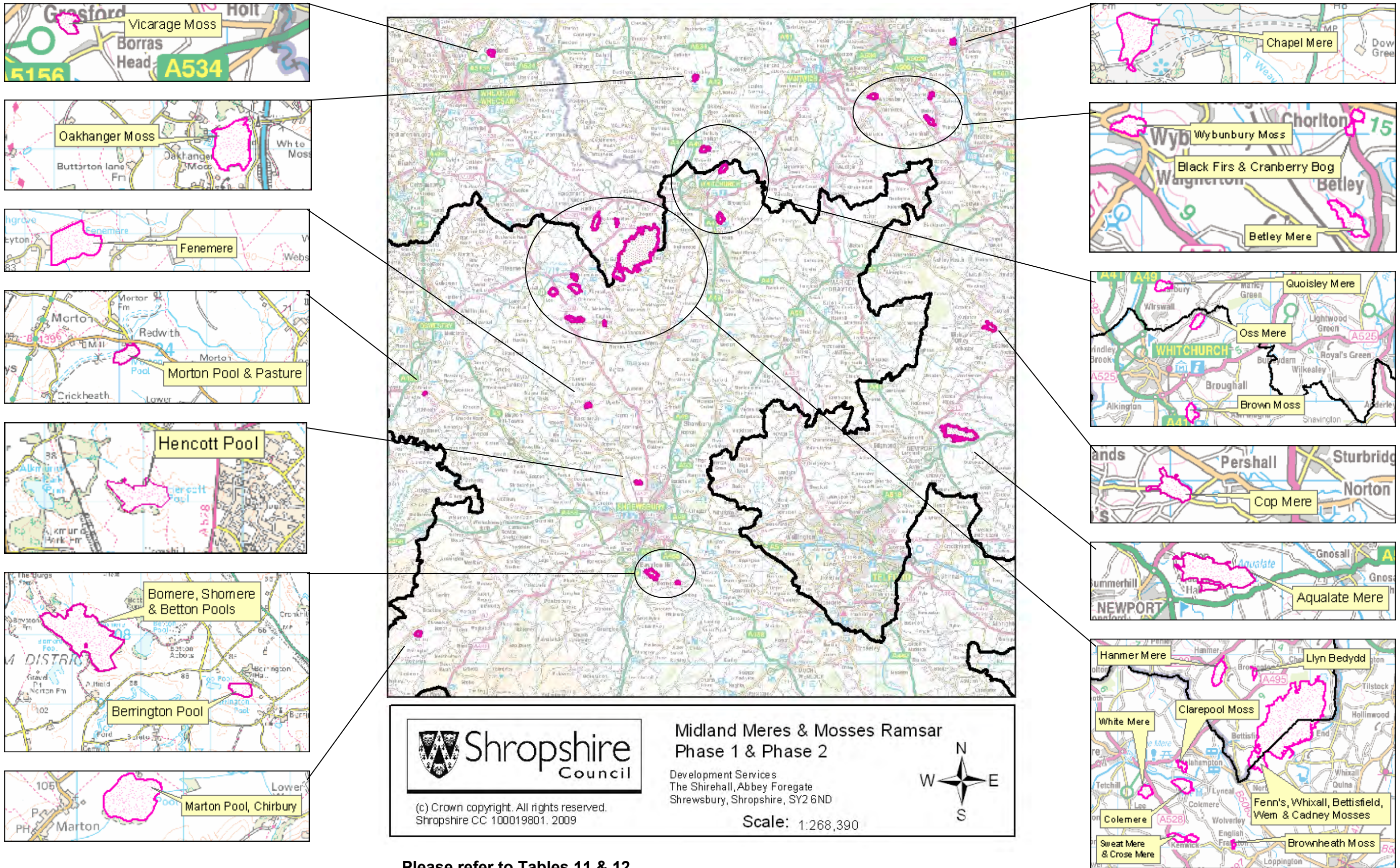
| | | |
|---|---|--|
|  | The Stiperstones & The Hollies SAC |  |
| | Development Services The Shirehall, Abbey Foregate Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND Scale: 1:78,883 | |
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Please refer to Table 9



| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  | West Midland Mosses SAC |  |
| | Development Services The Shirehall, Abbey Foregate Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY2 6ND Scale: 1:23,402 | |
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Please refer to Table 10



Please refer to Tables 11 & 12