



Planning Committee

Wed 13 Dec
2017
7.00 pm

Council Chamber
Town Hall
Redditch

REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

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If you have any queries on this Agenda please contact

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REDDITCH BOROUGH COUNCIL

PLANNING COMMITTEE



GUIDANCE ON PUBLIC SPEAKING

The process approved by the Council for public speaking at meetings of the Planning Committee is (subject to the discretion and control of the Chair) as summarised below:

in accordance with the running order detailed in this agenda and updated by the separate Update report:

- 1) Introduction of application by Chair
- 2) Officer presentation of the report (as originally printed; updated in the later Update Report; and updated orally by the Planning Officers at the meeting).
- 3) Public Speaking - in the following order:-
 - a) Objectors to speak on the application;
 - b) Supporters to speak on the application;
 - c) Ward Councillors
 - d) Applicant (or representative) to speak on the application.

Speakers will be called in the order they have notified their interest in speaking to the Democratic Services Team (by 12 noon on the day of the meeting) and invited to the table or lectern.

- Each individual speaker will have up to a maximum of 3 minutes to speak, subject to the discretion of the Chair. (Please press button on “conference unit” to activate microphone.)
 - Each group of supporters or objectors with a common interest will have up to a maximum of 10 minutes to speak, subject to the discretion of the Chair.
 - After each of a), b) and c) above, Members may put relevant questions to the speaker, for clarification. (Please remain at the table in case of questions.)
- 4) Members’ questions to the Officers and formal debate / determination.

Notes:

- 1) It should be noted that, in coming to its decision, the Committee can only take into account planning issues, namely policies contained in the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No. 4 and other material considerations, which include Government Guidance and other relevant policies published since the adoption of the development plan and the “environmental factors” (in the broad sense) which affect the site.
- 2) Members of the public are now able to record all or part of this meeting either by making an audio recording, taking photographs, filming or making notes. The exception to this involves exempt / confidential information to be considered, when members of the public may be excluded from the meeting, the reason(s) for which will be defined in the Exclusion of the Public item on the Planning Committee Agenda.

An area of the Council Chamber has been set aside next to the Press for any members of the public who wish to do this. The Council asks that any recording of the meeting is done from this area to avoid disrupting the proceedings. Members of the public should now be aware that they may be filmed or recorded during the course of the meeting.

- 3) Once the formal meeting opens, members of the public are requested to remain within the Public Gallery and may only address Committee Members and Officers via the formal public speaking route.
- 4) Late circulation of additional papers is not advised and is subject to the Chair’s agreement. The submission of any significant new information might lead to a delay in reaching a decision. The deadline for papers to be received by Planning Officers is 4.00 p.m. on the Friday before the meeting.
- 5) Anyone wishing to address the Planning Committee on applications on this agenda must notify the Democratic Services Team on 01527 881411 Extn.1411 or email on: d.parkerjones@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk before 12 noon on the day of the meeting.

Further assistance:

If you require any further assistance prior to the meeting, please contact the Democratic Services Officer (indicated on the inside front cover), Head of Legal, Equalities and Democratic Services, or Planning Officers, at the same address.

At the meeting, these Officers will normally be seated either side of the Chair.

The Chair’s place is at the front left-hand corner of the Committee table as viewed from the Public Gallery.

Planning

COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 13th December,
2017

7.00 pm

Council Chamber Town Hall

Agenda

Membership:

Cllrs:	Andrew Fry (Chair)	Wanda King
	Yvonne Smith (Vice-Chair)	Gareth Prosser
	Roger Bennett	Jennifer Wheeler
	Michael Chalk	Nina Wood-Ford
	Matthew Dormer	

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of Interest

To invite Councillors to declare any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and / or Other Disclosable Interests they may have in items on the agenda, and to confirm the nature of those interests.

3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 15th November 2017

Minutes to follow.

4. Update Reports

To note Update Reports (if any) for the Planning Applications to be considered at the meeting (circulated prior to the commencement of the meeting)

5. Application 2017/00700/OUT - Redditch Gateway Land Adjacent to the A4023, Coventry Highway, Redditch (Pages 1 - 58)

Report attached / site plan under separate cover.

6. Application 2017/00831/REM - Land at Church Road, Church Road, Webheath, Redditch (Pages 59 - 72)

Report attached / site plan under separate cover.

7. Application 2017/01147/FUL - Old Worcester Building, 10 Birmingham Road, Enfield, Redditch B97 6DY (Pages 73 - 80)

Report attached / site plan under separate cover.

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Planning Application 17/00700/OUT

Hybrid application comprising: Outline planning application (with matters of appearance, landscaping, layout, scale and details of internal circulation routes reserved) for the development on a phased basis of 32ha of employment land for business/industrial uses (Use Classes B1, B2, B8). The development shall include: landscaping, parking, associated infrastructure, utilities, drainage (including SUDS) and ground engineering works; and Full planning application for Phase 1 Ground Engineering works, and details of means of access to the site from the A4023.

Redditch Gateway Land Adjacent To The A4023, Coventry Highway, Redditch, Worcestershire, ,

Applicant: Redditch Gateway Infrastructure Ltd
Ward: Church Hill Ward

(see additional papers for site plan)

The author of this report is Simon Jones, Planning Officer (DM), who can be contacted on Tel: 01527 548211 Email: simon.jones@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk for more information.

1.0 Consideration and Determination of Cross Boundary Application

- 1.1 Three identical applications have been submitted to Redditch Borough, Bromsgrove District and Stratford District Councils. The application site for each includes land within all three LPA boundaries.
- 1.2 The consideration of the impacts of a development proposal are not altered by political boundaries and cannot be considered in isolation. Members need to consider the application as a whole, (not just that part of the development within its own administrative boundary) and come to a decision based upon that consideration. However, Members will only be determining the application in so far as it relates to the administrative boundary of Redditch Borough. For reference this relates to land on the eastern edge of the borough between public footpath 800(C) and the Redditch town boundary with Stratford upon Avon District, and a small area of land forming part of the Coventry Highway.
- 1.3 The fact that the development proposal straddles three Local Planning Authority boundaries does however have a bearing upon each authorities responsibilities for enforcement of any planning conditions which may be imposed in the event that permission is granted by each Local Planning Authority. Whilst the purpose of some of the recommended conditions will be common to all three applications, others relating to specific areas of the development or issues which are confined or unique to particular parts of the site will only be imposed by the particular LPA within which those issues arise.

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2.0 Site Description

- 2.1 The site extends to approximately 31.5 ha (78 acres) and is within two main land parcels to the north and south of the A4023 Coventry Highway, a main dual carriageway arterial road linking from the A435 which forms the eastern boundary of both parcels.
- 2.2 The site lies on the edge of the built-up area of Redditch, approximately 2.5 miles from the town centre. The land is presently in agricultural use.
- 2.3 To the north of the A4023, the northern parcel (10.28ha) increases in level in a north/easterly direction and is formed from a series of fields, currently grazed and defined by semi/mature hedgerows. Trees are generally confined to the hedgerows except for a few isolated specimens. The Blacksoils Brook bisects the northern parcel along an approximately north-east / south-west alignment. A former chalk pit is evident within one of the fields.
- 2.4 To the south of the A4023, the southern parcel (21.24 ha) is relatively flat and in a broadly triangular shape. As with the northern parcel, it is formed by a series of fields defined by hedges.
- 2.5 Land both immediately north and south of the A4023 is set lower than the level of the road. The A435, part of the strategic highway network, linking Birmingham and Evesham (via the A46 and crossing the M42) forms the eastern boundary. It changes from a dual carriageway to single carriageway towards the southern boundary of the site as it approaches Mappleborough Green.
- 2.6 Two public rights of way, namely 585(C) and 588(D) cross the northern part of the application site, (within Bromsgrove's jurisdiction), and emerge on the northern side of the A4023 Coventry Highway, where they intersect with rights of way 799(C) [running north west towards Ravensbank Drive] , 800(C) [running south east along the western edge of the site], and 641(C) [which links to Far Moor Lane just south of the Blue Inn].
- 2.7 The site is neither within nor adjacent to a Conservation Area and does not include any statutorily or locally listed buildings. The site is not subject to any Tree Preservation Orders.
- 2.8 The majority of the land to the north of the northern land parcel is formed by agricultural land and mature woodland. The exception to this is Gorcott Hall, a Grade II* listed building and associated grounds (containing related listed structures) whose boundary with the site is formed by a mature hedge. The northern parcel is bounded to the west by existing employment developments including the Ravensbank Business Park. The southern boundary to the northern development land is formed by the A4023.

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2.9 The A4023 and A435 also form the respective northern and eastern boundaries to the southern, development land parcel. To the west lies existing commercial development (hotel and car showrooms) and established residential development off Far Moor Lane. A pedestrian footpath 800(C) runs along the western and southern site boundaries, south of which is Longhope Close, including Lower House, a Grade II listed building. A screen of mature trees and hedgerow also runs along the eastern boundary. To the southeast of the site and on the other (eastern) side of the A435 are the School and Yew Tree and Church Cottages and the School House (formerly 1 and 2 School Cottages), which are Grade II Listed.

3.0 Proposal

3.1 The application is a hybrid application through which:

- outline planning permission is sought for the whole site for the development of up to 90,000sqm of employment floorspace falling within Use Classes B1, B2 and B8. B1 use will be restricted to 10% of the total floorspace and will be a combination of ancillary floorspace within the B2/B8 buildings and freestanding smaller units
- full planning permission is sought for Phase 1 of the ground engineering works (This part of the site is confined to Stratford upon Avon District Council's administrative area)

Outline

3.2 A series of employment zones are proposed, accessed in the northern parcel from a central spine road that would run alongside a retained ecological and landscape corridor including the Blacksoils Brook. In the southern parcel, the development zones would be accessed from a new road that will run parallel to the western boundary. The proposed zones are identified on the Parameters Plan (ref 5372-205C), the Plot Area Plan (ref 2372-066E) and the Illustrative Masterplan (ref 5372-203 rev A).

3.3 Ground engineering works would be required to create the development plateau for each employment zone in the northern area. The precise levels changes would be dependent upon the size of the eventual buildings. The final ground levels are not therefore confirmed at this stage. Notwithstanding this, through the pre-application discussion with the three Councils there has been a requirement to ensure that the buildings do not exceed a certain height in order to ensure that the setting of Gorcott Hall is protected. The Parameters Plan therefore sets a maximum level above AOD beyond which the building heights will not be able to project.

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- 3.4 The Parameters Plan also identifies that the building heights would be restricted to between 9m and 21m above development plateau ground level. The lower buildings would be sited at sensitive locations in relation to existing surrounding development.
- 3.5 The Parameters Plan also identifies zones for landscaping, planting and new features to be created as part of the sustainable drainage as well as green corridors between development plots. Principal amongst these green zones will be the area retained to the south west of Gorcott Hall to retain the setting of this listed building. Boundary hedgerows and trees plus the Blacksoils Brook and associated vegetation will be retained and enhanced through additional tree and hedge planting. Trees and hedges within the proposed development plots would be required to be removed. Compensatory planting would be secured as part of the future detailed landscaping proposals.
- 3.6 The proposal would require a diversion of public right of way number 585(C) under section 257 of the Town and Country Planning Act.
- 3.7 Internal roads do not form part of the current application proposals. Detailed designs for these would come forward as part of the subsequent submissions for reserved matters, if this application is approved. An illustrative layout plan (not for determination at this stage) shows an example of how the quantum of development might appear, if constructed within the tolerances proposed on the parameters plan.

Full Planning Permission

- 3.8 Approval is sought for the access into the site and the initial length of carriageway within the site. Access is proposed from a new signal controlled crossroads junction on the Coventry Highway (drwgs BMT/2116/100-01 rev P9 and 100-02 rev P2). The new junction would provide for all movements and require modification to the exiting lanes of the A4023 to create relevant lanes to access/egress the site.
- 3.9 The engineering works are required to facilitate the access into both the northern and southern parcels and to undertake the works necessary to create the first development phase. The overall area of works is approximately 2.47ha. Drawing BWB-HGT-01-DR-D-612 rev P1 outlines the extent of the area of works required, notably for the development platform and identifies the resulting contour levels. These would result in banking being created around the edges of the development platform. The banking would be composed of soil with no requirement for retaining structures.
- 3.10 Drawing BWB-HGT-01-DR-D-637 rev P1 provides a north-south and east-west section through the proposed platform showing the existing and proposed profile. It is expected that 6336m³ of soil will be disturbed by the cut and fill. Surplus

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material from the operation would be used to create the support for the proposed access. There would be no requirement for soil to be disposed of off-site.

4.0 Relevant Policies :

4.1 Redditch Local Plan No.4 (2017)

- Policy 16 Natural Environment
- Policy 22 Road Hierarchy
- Policy 24 Development within Primarily Employment Areas

4.2 Bromsgrove District Plan

- BDP1 Sustainable Development Principles
- BDP5B Other Development Sites
- BDP6 Infrastructure Contributions
- BDP13 New Employment Development
- BDP14 Designated Employment
- BDP16 Sustainable Transport
- BDP19 High Quality Design
- BDP20 Managing the Historic Environment
- BDP21 Natural Environment
- BDP22 Climate Change
- BDP23 Water Management
- BDP24 Green Infrastructure
- BDP25 Health and Well Being

4.3 Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy (2016)

Relevant Policies in the Development Plan for this application are:

- CS.1 Sustainable Development
- CS.2 Climate Change and Sustainable Construction
- CS.3 Sustainable Energy
- CS.4 Water Environment and Flood Risk
- CS.5 Landscape
- CS.6 Natural Environment
- CS.7 Green Infrastructure
- CS.8 Historic Environment
- CS.9 Design and Distinctiveness
- CS.10 Green Belt
- CS.15 Distribution of Development
- CS.22 Economic Development
- REDD.1 Redditch

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- REDD.2 Redditch
- CS.25 Healthy Communities
- CS.26 Transport and Communications
- CS.27 Development Contributions

4.4 Others

- NPPF National Planning Policy Framework
- NPPG National Planning Practice Guidance
- Worcestershire County Council Local Transport Plan 3 (LTP3)
- Stratford on Avon District Design Guide (information guidance)
- Historic England Good Practice Notes 2105:
 - GPA 1 – The Historic Environment in Local Plans
 - GPA 2 – Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment
 - GPA 3 – The Setting of Heritage Assets
- Air Quality Action Plan for Alcester Road, Studley
- Warwickshire Local Transport Plan (2011-2026)
- Warwickshire Landscape Guidelines 1993
- Planning and Community Safety – Design and Crime Reduction 2006: Planning Advice Note (informal guidance)
- Green Infrastructure Study for Stratford on Avon District Council (2011)
- Stratford on Avon Employment Land Assessment 2011
- Corporate Strategy 2015-2019
- Stratford on Avon Business and Enterprise Strategy 2012-2015
- Stratford District Partnership 2026 Vision – Sustainable Community Strategy
- Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (GLVIA3)
- National Character Areas 17.07.2012
- Guidance on Transport Assessment published jointly by Department for Transport and Department for Communities and Local Government 2007

4.5 Redditch Borough Plan

- 4.5.1 The Redditch Borough Local Plan 4 was adopted on 30 January 2017 for the period 2011-2031
- 4.5.2 Only a small part of the site providing pedestrian access into the main area of development lies within Redditch borough. However, the justification for the allocation of Redditch Gateway with Bromsgrove and Stratford-on-Avon is derived from the objectively assessed needs of Redditch. Redditch Gateway is therefore identified on the plan's key diagram.

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- 4.5.3 BoRLPNo.4 Policy 23 identifies the employment land requirements for Redditch and notes that Redditch Gateway is “a key initiative for employment provision to meet Redditch related employment needs.” Around 10ha is therefore allocated with Bromsgrove District adjacent to the existing Ravensbank development and further land in Stratford-on-Avon at Gorcott (c 7ha) and Winyates Green (c 12ha).
- 4.5.4 The policy continues that the development will provide a significant enhancement to the employment land supply through the creation of a “high profile and highly accessible” employment scheme that will benefit from links to the M42/M40 corridor, able to help support existing business in Redditch and provide opportunity to diversify the employment base.
- 4.5.5 Development requirements include the need for a comprehensive development on the basis of a phased Masterplan that provides for high quality employment in a landscaped setting and have a co-ordinated, Masterplan approach to delivering a new primary access.

5.0 Relevant Planning History

This application has also been submitted to Bromsgrove District Council and Stratford District Council

5.1 Bromsgrove District

17/00701/OUT (Redditch) PENDING Consideration by Redditch Borough Council
Scheduled committee date: 4th December 2017

Note: at the time of preparing this report the application had not been considered by the Bromsgrove DC Planning Committee.

5.2 Stratford District

17/01847 (Stratford) Pending Consideration by Stratford District Council
Scheduled committee date: 6th December 2017

Note: at the time of preparing this report the application had not been considered by the Stratford Planning Committee

89/00702/FUL (northern parcel) A435 And A4023 Interchange Land to the north west of Adam Lane Mappleborough Green - Business And Science Park within Use Class B1 Withdrawn 07.02.1990

00/02173/OUT (southern parcel) Residential development (outline)
Withdrawn 12.03.2002

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5.3 Redditch Borough

There is no relevant planning history for that part of the proposed site within Redditch District.

6.0 Consultations**6.1 Beoley Parish Council**

No objection in principle

The residents of Beoley have suffered in recent years as a result of the development and expansion of Ravensbank Business Park, particularly as a result of increased heavy goods vehicle traffic in and around the village, light and noise pollution (which often occurs around the clock). The Parish Council is keen to ensure that if planning permission is granted for this development, similar issues do not arise. Our specific comments are therefore as follows:-

Traffic

Due to the size and scale of the proposed development, we feel it is inevitable there will be an increase in the amount of traffic (particularly heavy goods vehicles) in and around Beoley village. This will be the case both during construction and following completion of the development. End users of the development will inevitably use the route through the centre of Beoley (Beoley Lane, the B4101) as a cut through, to avoid the increased traffic on the A435 through the use of specific planning conditions. Any such restrictions should specifically prohibit the use of the B4101 by heavy goods vehicles. In addition, once the development is completed, we would suggest that the hours during which heavy goods vehicles can operate in connection with the development should be restricted between the hours of 11.00pm and 6.00am, again to limit the disturbance to residents living near to the proposed development.

Light Pollution

We note that the details of the external lighting at the development will form part of subsequent reserved matters approval. However, again we would wish to place on record the harm that light pollution from the Ravensbank development has caused to residents of Beoley. We therefore feel it is very important that Beoley Parish Council be specifically consulted on any external lighting proposals for the proposed development. This is to ensure that we can consider the impact of the specific proposals (once known) and ensure that any adverse impact from lighting is kept to an absolute minimum. In particular, external lighting which directly faces residential properties should be prohibited.

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6.2 Mappleborough Green Parish Council (Stratford)

Make the following comments:

- Insufficient time to consider the information submitted with the application
- Unable to provide consultation response until the end of October 2017
- Proposed scale was unknown until the public consultation organised by Stoford's
- Government describes site as 'regeneration' despite it being a greenfield site (23.08.2017)

Amended submission:

Object to the application for the following reasons:

- Significant impact
- Change character of area
- Increased traffic in both passenger and HGVs
- Removal of land from Green Belt would diminish open countryside and create an urban landscape
- Impossible to screen all buildings and associated structures – permanent loss of countryside
- Development would distract from nearby listed buildings
- Do not accept no significant change in number of trucks travelling through Mappleborough Green and Studley
- Traffic fundamental issue for various communities on the A435 corridor
- Local District and County Councillors do not support application
- People in Mappleborough Green generally against development
- Three Councils should commission long-term pollution and traffic volume measurements along the A435
- Question need – empty business units in Redditch. Brownfield sites should be developed first
- Low unemployment in Redditch – future employees would travel from outside the local area – increased pollution
- Referred to as 'Regeneration' but it is a greenfield site
- Great crested newts, bats and other species reside on the site
- Site and surroundings subject to flooding, and has a tendency to become waterlogged – associated impact on Ipsley Marsh SSSI
- Quote from North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration, Redditch Eastern Gateway – Economic Impact Study June 2013 (20.10.2017)

6.3 Studley Parish Council (Stratford)

Object to the application for the following reasons:

- Adverse impact on visual amenity due to prominent nature of site
- Lighting visible from all over the district – detracting from open countryside
- Detrimental impact on listed Gorcott Hall and its setting
- No identified users, no identifies employment opportunities and no need for development – no shortage of employment opportunities in Redditch and surrounding area

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- Isolated from residential areas in Redditch with no viable pedestrian or cycle access routes and no public transport links
- Redditch has ample brownfield sites within its boundaries which have existing infrastructure to facilitate construction
- Infrastructure not in place to support traffic from proposed development
- No public transport provision for the site
- No measures to reduce inevitable deterioration in air pollution that will impact on the Air Quality Management Area in Studley
- No proposal to alleviate HGV traffic along the A435 through Studley - measures should be put in place to deter HGV traffic along this route. Additional housing development in the area will mean workers travel along this route to the development (16.08.2017)

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6.4 Tanworth in Arden Parish Council (Stratford)

No representation (07.08.2017)

6.5 Sperrall Parish Council (Stratford)

None received

6.6 Morton Bagot Parish Council (Stratford)

None received

6.7 Ullenhall Parish Council (Stratford)

Object to the application for the following reasons:

- Infrastructure is not in place to support development
- Adverse impact on Ullenhall from excess traffic (04.08.2017)

6.8 Beaudesert Parish Council (Stratford)

None received

6.9 Henley in Arden Parish Council (Stratford)

None received

6.10 Oldberrow Parish Meeting (Stratford)

None received

6.11 Sambourne Parish Council

Object to the application for the following reasons:

- Strong environmental arguments against the development
- Detrimental visual effect on the area – what was Green Belt would disappear and Redditch would extend right up to the A435
- Increase in traffic, particularly of HGV movements along the A435 – increased level of congestion, noise and air pollution
- HGV routing plan is a vain hope – hauliers and carriers would use the most effective route. All discussions of alternative routing are ill-considered
- Minimal need – similar industrial units in Redditch lie empty

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- Brownfield sites should be developed first
- Low level of unemployment in Redditch – future workers will travel from further afield - unsustainable
- SDC appears to have 'handed over' land to Redditch for development – when was this decided, by whom and where are the details?
- Unnecessary
- Detrimental effect (22.08.2017)

6.12 Cllr George Atkinson (Stratford)

- No comment

6.13 Cllr Mike Gittus (Stratford)

- No comment

6.14 Cllr Justin Kerridge (Stratford)

- The principle of development for employment purposes has already been agreed by Stratford Council

6.15 Cllr Stephen Thirlwell (Stratford)

- All development traffic should be monitored to ensure that it does not use any of the country lanes surrounding the Warwickshire villages in that area such as Ullenhall. Such village roads and lanes were not designed for the use of large HGVs.

6.16 Cllr Hazel Wright (Adjacent Ward Member Studley with Sambourne, (Stratford) OBJECTION

- Not clear how good design will be secured
- The site has been derived through loss of green belt
- The claim that the development will create jobs for local people is not substantiated
- The development would harm the setting of listed buildings
- Landscaping cannot screen the development
- The A435 will be impacted during the construction phase
- The HGV routing plan will only be as effective as its enforcement and how it will be enforced is unclear

6.17 Worcestershire Highway Authority and Warwickshire Highway Authority

Have prepared a joint response as follows:

Both Highway Authorities have undertaken a full assessment this planning application. Based on the appraisal of the development proposals and the additional information which has been submitted, the Highway Authority has **no objection subject to conditions and financial obligations.**

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Worcestershire Highway Authority as no objection to the TA and confirms it accords with national planning policy and guidance.

The document concludes that various mitigation is required to enable modal choice and overcome issues on the highway network, which will be secured and implemented through suitable conditions and financial obligations., which is acceptable. Warwickshire Highway Authority has also identified a need for a Highway Safety Improvement Scheme at the junction of the A435 Southbound / A4023 Coventry Highway. This would be conditioned and delivered under a Section 278 Agreement.

Framework Travel Plan;

The applicants have submitted a Framework Travel Plan, which has been prepared on their behalf by BWB.

The Highway Authorities support the principal shown within the document and will require the measures and incentives to be implemented on first occupation of the development proposals as set out in Section 7 of the document. In addition the Highway Authorities will also require the submission of the first staff travel surveys within 12 months of first occupation of the development, suitable conditions will be worded to this effect. The Framework Travel Plan will be overseen and managed by Worcestershire County Council.

Heavy Goods Vehicle (HGV) Routing Strategy;

The applicants have submitted a potential HGV Routing Strategy as part of the Transport Assessment in Appendix H. The aim of this plan is to prevent HGVs routing south down the A435 impacting on Mappleborough Green and Studley, the latter which forms part of an Air Quality Management Area.

Both Highway Authorities support the principal shown within the document and will require a full HGV Routing Strategy to be submitted and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authorities and to be implemented on first occupation of the development. In addition, both Highway Authorities will also require the submission of the first HGV routing surveys within 12 months of first occupation of the development, suitable conditions will be worded to this effect.

In addition, the Highway Authorities require a contribution of £200,000.00 to be secured via a s106 agreement to be submitted prior to first occupation and held for a period of 15 years, to allow the mitigation of HGVs on each Highway Authorities networks should they be deemed necessary.

*Note: The TA has been independently reviewed by Transport Consultants Mott MacDonald commissioned by Bromsgrove District Council. The findings of Mott MacDonald are discussed in Section 17 of this report.

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The TA states that the impact of the proposed development is minimal. The review by MM finds no reason why this shouldn't be the case. MM note that Warwickshire County Council and Worcestershire County Council have been engaged throughout the process and has led to a well scoped assessment. MM agree with the findings of the Transport Assessment based on the information included within the TA. It should be noted that MM have not undertaken an independent review of the VISSIM or Paramics modelling; however, they understand that these models have been approved by Highways England and Warwickshire County Council respectively.

6.18 Highways England

NO OBJECTION. Following comments raised:

- Following a review of the submitted Transport Assessment, the traffic arising from the development would have limited implications for the operation of the Highways England network
- Improvements to Junction 3 of the M42 is being Government funded and are currently under development (11.08.2017)

6.19 Coal Authority

NO COMMENT. The site does not fall within the defined coalfield (08.08.2017)

6.20 CPRE (Warwickshire)

OBJECTION

- The development would ruin the setting and approach to the town of Redditch on the A4023
- The proposal conflicts with Policies CS1 and CS9 of the SDC Core Strategy
- The proposed development would have an adverse impact upon the residents of Winyates Green as industrial development is not compatible with residential development
- The northern part of the site should remain open countryside
- There is no shortage of employment land for Redditch, so the development is not required

6.21 CPRE (Worcestershire)

OBJECTION

- Loss of natural or semi-natural species rich meadow. No planted (or seeded) resource can ever properly replace a natural one. Any planted resource is inevitably artificial.
- Loss of hedgerows which are themselves an element of the historic environment
- Appropriate buffer zones will be needed along the edge of the wood to the northeast of the Ravensbank portion of the site to ensure that the wood (with protected species is not damaged)

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- The Ravensbank bridleway along the edge of the site should be preserved.
- The site is upstream of Ipsley Alders Marsh Nature Reserve and particular care will be needed to prevent pollution of Blacksoils Brook which passes through the site.
- The setting of Gorcott Hall which is a Grade II* listed building
- The northern part of the site is adjacent to the existing Ravensbank and Moons Moat industrial areas. If it is to be developed, industrial uses would be appropriate. This has long been acknowledged through the designation of the Bromsgrove part as an Industrial ADR. The northern part of the Winyates Triangle is a natural extension to this.
- Conversely the southern part of the Winyates triangle adjoins the Winyates Green housing area but could be developed for housing (provided the environmental and other constraints could be overcome)

6.22 Environment Agency

NO OBJECTION subject to conditions (summary of main comments below)

- Flood risk - Although EA Flood Maps indicate that the site falls in Flood Zone 1, detailed modelling indicates that parts of the site lie within Flood Zones 3a and 3b – through rerouting and redesigning channels and removing structures, vast majority of site would be in Flood Zone 1 post-development with no increase in flood risk downstream
- Biodiversity - Biodiversity information lacking – content that this could be secured by condition
- Construction Environmental Management Plan - No impact from development in terms of groundwater pollution or levels subject to Construction Environment Management Plan and surface water drainage scheme secured by condition
- Groundwater and connectivity with SSSI – unlikely that development would significantly impact groundwater levels within SSSI
- Water resource and efficiency – encourage careful consideration of water use and sustainable water consumption during construction (26.09.2017)

6.23 Forestry Commission

No objection (28.07.2017)

6.24 NWEDR (North Worcestershire Economic Development) SUPPORT

6.25 Ramblers Association

NO OBJECTION in principle. There will be matters of detail upon which we may wish to comment but that may be best left until the reserved matters stage.

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6.26 Historic England

Make the following comments:

- A number of heritage assets close to the site – the most important being the Grade II* listed Gorcott Hall which has historic fabric from the early 16th century onwards. There are also associated Grade II listed structures
- The Built Heritage Assessment provided as part of the application concludes that the development would cause less than substantial harm to the significance of the Grade II* listed building – the harm is described as ‘moderate’, which is a reasonable assessment and a conclusion that HE endorse
- Involved in discussions at pre-application stage – the scheme was considerably improved at that stage; mainly by moving new buildings further away from Gorcott Hall and ensuring that they are kept as low as possible within the landscape
- However, further scope to reduce the impact of the proposals on the setting of the listed buildings which would be desirable in lessening their impact on the significance of these buildings
- Harm needs to be balanced against public benefits (16.08.2017)

Amended submission:

Do not wish to offer any comments (26.10.2017)

6.27 Natural England

NO OBJECTION –

subject to appropriate mitigation being secured. Following comments raised:

- Without appropriate mitigation, the development would damage or destroy the interest features for which Ipsley Alders Marsh Site of Special Scientific Interest has been notified
- Water quality and quantity implications for Ipsley Alders Marsh should be taken into consideration which addressing site design, drainage and attenuation
- Construction Environmental Management Plan should be conditioned to avoid damage to SSSI
- Surface water drainage scheme should be conditioned
- Development should comply with CS.7
- Impact on public rights of way should be considered
- Agricultural Land Classification report submitted does not fully follow ALC Revised Guidelines and conclusion that the land is subgrade 3b and 4 is un-evidenced – new ALC survey should be submitted to include soil survey of the land (22.08.2017)

6.28 Warwickshire Fire and Rescue Service

NO OBJECTION

subject to a condition which secures provision of water supply and fire hydrants necessary for fire fighting purposes at the site. (16.08.2017)

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6.29 Worcestershire County Council Strategic Planning

Object to the application for the following reasons:

- Minerals and Waste – full justification and detail of any bunds will be required at reserved matters stage and visual impact considered in any LVIA. Full planning application for Phase 1 does not appear to include any details of the amount of material to be deposited or heights of bunds created, nor any justification for requirement. Any bunds proposed should be treated as a proposal for landfilling. Holding objection until such time as sufficient information is provided to enable the landscaping proposals to be assessed in more detail. Levels should be conditioned. Areas for waste collection should be incorporated at reserved matters stage
- Minerals – site is not in an area of identified mineral deposits. No formal comments to make.
- Public Rights of Way – no objection in general however some existing public rights of way do not appear to be shown on submitted plans on their definitive lines, or are missing. Proposals incorporate diversion of PROW – application should be made to LPA. Clarification required on how footpaths around new road junction works are to be incorporated – conflict with landscaping works (pond and retaining wall). If PROW are to be shared with cycles, would normally require a width of 5m provided.
- Ecology – clarification required prior to determination. Insufficient information to demonstrate no-net-loss of biodiversity. Biodiversity Impact Assessment required to demonstrate that offsetting is practical, deliverable and securable. The ‘Hydrology Review Report’/‘Eco-Hydrology Report’ which is referenced has not been submitted – cannot be confident in conclusions drawn. No reference to Worcestershire Green Infrastructure Partnership’s GI Concept Plan. Queries raised regarding author of ES Ecology chapter, reference to ‘over-mature’ trees, diversion of water channels, impacts on downstream SSSI, impacts on Ravensbrook Drive Bridle Track LWS, impacts on county boundary hedgerow, assertion that GCN unlikely to use grassland, creation of mammal pass.
- Water Environment – essential that mitigation specifications proposed by hydrological expert have been evaluated and are supported by appropriately qualified and experienced ecologist. No evidence to support assertion that SSSI is fed from local spring water. Disconnect between Water Environment and Ecology chapters of ES. Unclear what ‘moderate adverse impact’ on groundwater contamination of SSSI is based on. De-culverting of Blacksoils Brook is welcomed but opportunity missed in achieving ecological betterment.
- Draft Mitigation Enhancement Summary – provided in draft format which is inappropriate for a planning application. Queries raised regarding authors, specific mitigation measures, use of vague language, mitigation required for each bat species, implications of hedgerow clearance, 30 year habitat management plan. Lighting should be conditioned. Insufficient information to demonstrate ‘no significant impact’ on Alders Marsh SSSI or ‘no significant impact on retained and newly created habitats’.

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- Key recommendations, prior to determination:
 - Ecological Constraints and Opportunities Plan should be prepared and submitted
 - Biodiversity offsetting should be explicit
 - Suitably competent and experienced ecologist engaged which cohesively takes into account drainage recommendations
 - ES should be revised to address valuation of habitats (25.08.2017)

Additional comments:

- Satisfied that final detail of bunds could be considered at reserved matters stage
- Generally satisfied with proposals set out in outline element, subject to clarification on approach to screening of service yards for the Phase 1 part of development (12.09.2017)

6.30 Warwickshire Police (Crime Reduction and Community Safety)

NO OBJECTION

- Subsequent reserved matters should ensure the specification for openings, roller shutters, doors and windows, are designed to deter crime.
- Introduction of features within road layout to discourage car cruising events
- Security of site offices, plant and equipment during the construction phase.

Amended submission:

No further observations (16.10.2017)

6.31 Worcestershire Regulatory Services (Bromsgrove and Redditch)

Contaminated Land

Make the following comments:

- Contaminated land – assessment, which has been carried out in accordance with current guidance and best practice, considers site to be low risk in terms of risk from contaminated land. Agree with recommendation within submitted report that further investigation is required and this could be secured by condition
- Air quality – a number of shortcomings associated with submitted Air Quality Assessment (AQA). However, when considering the nature of the proposed development, its location and current air quality in the local area within Worcestershire, it is unlikely that refining the model further would result in different conclusions. The AQA concludes a “negligible” impact on air quality within Worcestershire which is considered to be reasonable. Conditions recommended (31.08.2017)

Amended submission:

Previous recommendations still apply (18.10.2017)

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6.32 Woodland Trust

OBJECTION to the application for the following reasons:

- Loss of two veteran oak trees T73 and T74 and proximity of development to two veteran oaks T46 and T92 whose root protection zones will be impacted
- All four veteran oaks are verified on the Ancient Tree Inventory
- Essential that no trees displaying ancient/veteran characteristics are lost as part of the development
- Intensification of recreational activity of humans
- Fragmentation as a result of separation of adjacent semi-natural habitats
- Noise and light pollution during both construction and operational phases
- Lopping/fellings where trees overhang public areas
- Safety issues threatening longer-term retention of trees
- Removal of T73 and T74
- Documentation incorrectly states that only one veteran oak tree is present on site (24.08.2017)

6.33 Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

OBJECTION for the following reasons:

- Detrimental impact on Ipsley Alders SSSI and nature reserve – direct groundwater links between development site and the SSSI. Concern that some of the assumptions about the effectiveness of drainage and SUDS in the ES are incorrect. Potential impact on the main water source to the SSSI. Actual groundwater strikes as a result of land forming would open a direct pathway for pollution of the SSSI. Further clarification required
- Alter hydrology of adjacent Ravensbank Drive Local Wildlife Site – loss of two small watercourses which currently feed the LWS and the impact this would have. Further clarification required
- Habitat losses and impacts do not appear to be mitigatable onsite given the indicative layout – insufficient information to evidence that biodiversity offsetting can be done effectively. Value of some habitat features including grassland and over-mature trees have been undervalued in the ES. Further clarification required
- Surveys have shortcomings leading to inaccurate results – for example, assessment of species rich grassland, treatment of over-mature trees, bat survey methodology and great crested newt mitigation strategy (24.08.2017)

Amended submission:

Continue to object to the application for the following reasons:

- Insufficient detail on biodiversity offsetting
- Insufficient detail on proposals to mitigate harm to protected species
- Insufficient detail to determine impacts on Ravensbrook Drive LWS
- Additional information addresses previous concerns relating to SSSI
- Pleased to note species rich grassland is being retained
- Robust Construction Environmental Management Plan required (31.10.2017)

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6.34 Warwickshire Flood Risk Management

NO OBJECTION subject to conditions
(29.08.2017)

Amended submission:
No additional comments (31.10.2017)

6.35 North Worcestershire Water Management (LLFA)

NO OBJECTION subject to conditions. Following comments raised:

- Flood risk
 - Site specific modelling indicates that the channels on site typically become overwhelmed readily
 - Modelling following mitigation indicates that overland flows across the site would be virtually eliminated, exception being the 1000 year storm would still see some inundation from the Brooksoils Brook channel just upstream from Coventry Highway embankment. At lower return periods almost no overland flow at all, and almost all water held within proposed water course network
 - Hydrograph provided within model indicates that overall discharge post development is reduced compared to pre-development rates
- Groundwater and hydrology
 - Addendum to ES requested to clarify location of trial pits to establish extent to which infiltration from site contributes to groundwater
- Sustainable drainage scheme
 - As outline, no specific detail on design and layout of SUDs, however indicated features considered to be acceptable (26.09.2017)

6.36 Worcestershire Water Officer

NO OBJECTION subject to condition (16.08.2017)

6.37 Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

OBJECTION

- Loss of priority habitat: lowland meadow – ecological survey of the grassland was carried out in September which is sub-optimal time of year given that many of the wildflowers have finished flowering and it can be very difficult to identify them. Survey still found relatively high diversity in wildflowers present. Warwickshire is lacking in lowland grassland
- Proposed mitigation for protected species: great crested newt and badger – developable area should be reduced to retain pond 3 and its surrounding habitat. Insufficient information to evidence that off-site mitigation can be achieved
- Mitigation and compensation for overall loss of biodiversity – Biodiversity Impact Assessment has not been submitted. EIA states that biodiversity offsetting will be required but no detail has been provided

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- Impact on nearby Ipsley Alders Marsh SSSI – development site linked to SSSI via groundwater rather than by direct flow from onsite watercourses. Any changes to groundwater levels may adversely affect SSSI
- Mitigation for the impacts on neighbouring Local Wildlife Site – Ravensbrook Drive Bridle Track is a LWS that runs along the western boundary of the southern site area. Negative impact through adjacent road and diversion of watercourses
- Survey effort regarding protected species – bat surveys have not followed best practice guidance. EIA fails to consider the impact of light spill from the site affecting off-site roosts (24.08.2017)

Amended submission:

Maintain objection. Following comments raised:

- Retention of meadow grassland to south of site addresses one of the reasons for objection
- Maintains that insufficient information submitted to evidence that off-site mitigation can be achieved
- Insufficient information on proposed biodiversity offsetting (19.10.2017)

6.38 Stratford on Avon District Council Conservation Officer

Make the following comments:

- Extensive pre-application discussions – the application now submitted is broadly in line with the end product of the pre-application discussions
- Historic England involved with pre-application discussions and agree entirely with the consultation response received from them – further mitigating measures could further reduce the level of harm, and there may be some cope for this as part of any subsequent reserved matters process
- Significant degree of success in achieving, through those discussions, a lower level of harm with regard to the setting of the Grade II* listed Gorcott Hall
- Main difference with last provisional plans discussed at pre-application stage is increase in height of units A and AA from 18m to 21m – they have an adverse impact on the setting of Gorcott Hall and increase in height exacerbates this adverse impact – slightly higher from a mid-point within the 'less than substantial harm' spectrum
- Agree with conclusions within the submitted Heritage Assessment – development will result in less than substantial harm to the significance of Gorcott Hall in the middle of the less than substantial threshold, low level of less than substantial harm to associated buildings and very low levels of less than substantial harm for other listed buildings
- Only building considered which is not focused on in the submitted Heritage Statement is the Grade II listed Church of the Holy Ascension – very low level of less than substantial harm
- Very significant public benefits required to outweigh less than substantial harm identified (25.08.2017)

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Amended submission:
Make the following comments:

- Amendments slightly positive in that they would increase the distances from
 - a) Designated heritage assets (within SDC remit) to the southeast of the southern part of the site
 - b) Built form within nearest part of development site
- Assuming that there would not be an associated increase in height of the realigned built form, removals of substantive built form in the very south of the site is helpful in terms of ameliorating any adverse impacts on the setting of nearby listed buildings (18.10.2017)

6.39 Bromsgrove District Council Conservation

Make the following comments:

- Gorcott Hall, a Grade II* listed building, comprises a small country house dating back to the 15th century, but with substantial additions and alterations taking place in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries
- The Heritage Statement submitted with the application concludes that the harm to the significance of Gorcott Hall is less than substantial, falling within the middle of that assessment, and would therefore be described as moderate
- Detailed pre-application discussions took place between Conservation Officers for Bromsgrove, Stratford upon Avon and Historic England
- The scheme largely mirror the draft scheme discussed in September 2016
- Development to the southwest of Gorcott Hall would be restricted to 9-12m in height and ground levels would be reduced to sink the units down into the landscape
- Combined with the landscape buffer visibility and impact on Gorcott Hall would be reduced
- Zone to the north of the brook has been increased to 21m from pre-app discussions at 18m which is disappointing
- Agree that harm to significance of Gorcott Hall would be less than substantial, and within that assessment, is at the very least moderate
- Imperative that at the reserved matters stage a great deal of thought is given to; materials and especially colour schemes, specifics of ground profiling, soft landscaping, hard landscaping, security, lighting, land management and photomontages from Gorcott Hall (25.08.2017)

6.40 Warwickshire Flood Risk Management

NO OBJECTION subject to conditions to control discharge of surface water and mitigate risk of its contamination.

6.41 SDC Governance and Community Safety

NO COMMENTS on the basis of the application being for industrial units (30.08.2017)

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6.42 Warwickshire County Council ECOLOGY

Initial response

Objects to the application unless concern about the nationally important habitat of UK Priority Lowland Meadow is resolved. All other ecological concerns can be resolved through conditions and/or obligations:

- Protected species
 - – Bat surveys do not conform to the Bat Conservation Trust Guidelines, however indicate that hedgerows and brook are important flight-lines. Essential to ensure unbroken and unlit commuting routes from woodland.
 - Badgers on site would have reduced foraging areas – acceptable subject to landscaping planted to maximise foraging potential and connectivity for mammals in road junction layout.
 - Barn owl, soldierfly and great crested newt can be resolved through landscaping reserved matters and conditions (constructional environmental management plan and lighting scheme)
- Protected habitat
 - Southernmost fields are Lowland Meadow UK Priority Habitat which is a rare and declining habitat that is of county importance where all remnant pastures need to be secured and enhanced. The retention and enhancement of these fields would reduce the ecological impact of the development
 - County important Ravensbrook Drive Bridle Track adjacent to the western boundary of the southern site and onsite Blacksoils Brook (both Local Wildlife Sites) would need to be buffered and secured from impacts from development including light spill
 - Veteran trees should be protected unless this cannot be avoided
- Biodiversity offsetting
 - Northern area has potential to provide a net biodiversity gain for habitats but a loss of linear features
 - Southern area would result in a significant loss of habitat and potential gain for linear features
 - Actual losses/gains unknown
 - Biodiversity impacts would need to be monitored throughout the build through biodiversity offsetting schedule within S106 legal agreement (25.08.2017)

List of recommended conditions and obligations provided (13.09.2017)

Amended submission:

OBJECTION REMOVED. Following comments raised:

- Conditions provided in initial response still applicable
- Suggested wording for legal agreement to secure biodiversity offsetting provided (31.10.2017)

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6.43 Worcestershire County Council ARCHAEOLOGY

NO OBJECTION subject to standard condition relating to scheme and programme of site investigation and recording

- Broadly concur with approach suggested in section 8 of Cultural Heritage chapter of the ES but recommends that the standard percentage-based sampling approach form the basic requirement for the field evaluation strategy and should include an appropriate programme of geoarchaeological works and environmental/palaeoenvironmental sampling (04.09.2017)

6.44 SDC Environmental Health

Makes the following comments:

- Contaminated land – site considered to be ‘low risk’ based on assessments carried out to date. Further site investigation recommended, but could be dealt with by conditions
- Air quality – conclusions of applicant’s transport consultant’s noted in that traffic generated by development would be dispersed across the network and impacts on air quality in Studley are unlikely to be significant. Recommends that a quantitative air quality assessment be carried out so as to have a robust understanding of the impacts of the development on the Studley AQMA. Concerned with the advisory status of the HGV Routing Strategy and practicalities of implementation. Recommended that a robust HGV Routing Strategy be submitted which includes the construction phase of development
- Noise – Worcestershire Regulatory Services will take lead on noise and vibration matters on behalf of three Authority areas affected (05.09.2017)

Makes the following comments:

- As Studley is an AQMA, appropriate for impact to be robustly assessed prior to determination
- Report should include an assessment of impact without the proposed mitigation as concerned about alternative route in the VRMP – could potentially impact on air quality in Studley if impractical and therefore should be considered prior to determination (28.09.2017)

Amended submission:

No objection. Following comments raised:

- Maintains previous response with regards to air quality (24.10.2017)

6.45 **Publicity**

541 letters sent on the 28th July 2017 (expired 24th August 2017)

18 site notices were posted on the 31st July 2017 (expired 24th August 2017)

Press adverts in the Bromsgrove Redditch Standard newspapers on 28th July 2017

541 re-consultation letters sent on the 13th October 2017 (expired 27th October)

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6.46 Public Consultation Response

466 representations were received from local residents in Objection.
The following issues have been raised:

- **Principle/Need**

No need for the development
Brownfield land and vacant premises should be utilised first
Development should be located adjacent a motorway
Site should be developed for housing in preference to employment uses
The end users are not identified

- **Loss of Green Belt/Greenfield**

The development would result in the loss of greenfields, green belt and trees

- **Ecology/Biodiversity**

The proposal would have a detrimental impact upon ecology / wildlife
Reports are out of date
Harm to Ipsley/Alders SSSI

- **Transport/Highways**

The proposal would result in traffic congestion on roads which are already heavily congested
The A4023 and A435 cannot cope with extra traffic
HGV's will use inappropriate roads
A bypass should be built for Studley
HGVs should be banned from Studley
Enforcement of HGV routing
No vehicular access should be allowed from Farm Moor Lane
The development would encourage 'rat running'
Insufficient parking is proposed
The development would lead to overspill parking in Far Moor Lane
There is a lack of connections to public transport
The new junction will cause traffic chaos
The development would prejudice road safety

- **Amenity/Pollution**

The development would result in noise nuisance and consequent loss of amenity during and following construction
The development would have an adverse impact upon air quality (especially in Studley)
The development would have an adverse impact upon the quality of life of the local community
The development would adversely affect health
The development would cause light pollution

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The development would be visually intrusive and detract from the outlook enjoyed by occupiers of the adjacent residential development

The development is too high and too close to Longhope Close

The development would result in litter

The buildings are too high

There is no timescale of the development

The hours of operation of the development should be restricted

- **Heritage**

The development would have an adverse impact upon the setting of listed buildings (particularly Gorcott Hall)

- **Flooding**

The development could cause or exacerbate local surface water flooding issues
Surface water drainage is inadequate

- **The other following issues have also been raised:**

The proposal would result in an influx of migrant workers

Precedent for further development

The development would have an adverse impact upon house prices

Petition with 35 signatures received. Grounds for objection:

- Lasting impact

- Development would inevitably bring:

- more heavy goods traffic
- more pollution
- more noise
- effect the hydrology of the area
- further development of green spaces

Petitions objecting to the application on the same grounds as above received for each of the following roads:

- Hollyberry Close – 101 signatures
- Illshaw Close – 73 signatures
- Kingham Close – 56 signatures
- Gateley Close – 21 signatures
- Flaxley Close – 47 signatures
- Furze Lane – 5 signatures
- Jays Close – 18 signatures
- Prestbury Close – 21 signatures
- Hindlip Close – 8 signatures
- Various – 140 signatures

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ASSESSMENT OF PROPOSAL**7.0 Main Issues**

The main issues for consideration in this case relate to the following:

- Principle of Development
- Economic Impact
- Design Principles and parameters
- Visual Impact
- Residential Amenity
- Light Pollution
- Noise and Vibration
- Ground Conditions
- Air Quality
- Traffic Impact
- Surface Water Drainage and Flood Risk
- Built Heritage
- Biodiversity
- Public Rights of Way / Accessibility
- Crime Prevention
- Loss of Agricultural Land

Each matter will be given consideration under a separate heading below along with any other material considerations.

8.0 Principle of Development

- 8.1 The site is allocated for employment use in the Bromsgrove District Local Plan (adopted January 2017), the Redditch Borough Plan (adopted January 2017) and the adopted Stratford District Core Strategy.
- 8.2 The need for the development has been established through the preparation and Examination of the Redditch Local Plan.
- 8.3 BDC and its neighbouring Local Planning Authorities are required to identify sites to meet the employment needs during their respective plan periods.
- 8.4 The objective is to assist in meeting the employment requirements of Redditch.
- 8.5 The BDP includes a site specific policy BDP5 – Strategic Site Allocations, in particular, BDP5B – Other development Sites, which identifies sites outside of the town of Bromsgrove that will contribute towards the development requirements. That part of the application site situated within Bromsgrove is described as Ravensbank expansion site (for Redditch's needs)

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8.6 The SADCCS and BDP are up-to-date adopted local plans and both allocate the site for employment development within classes B1, B2 and B8. The proposals therefore accord with the principal provisions of the land use allocation and SADCCS policies CS.22, REDD.1 and REDD.2 and BDP policy BDP5B

8.7 The site is allocated for employment uses within each of the three authorities' local plans, as follows:

Redditch Local Plan 4 (Adopted January 2017)

8.8 Only a small portion of the site providing pedestrian access to the development is contained within the administrative area of Redditch; however the justification for the allocation of the 'Gateway' is in order to meet the employment needs of Redditch.

8.9 BoRLP Policy 23 outlines the employment land requirements for Redditch and notes that the Redditch Gateway is a key initiative for employment provision to meet Redditch related employment needs.

8.10 The western edge of the site within Redditch Borough is a designated Special Wildlife Site to which BoRLP Policy 16 applies.

Bromsgrove District Plan (Adopted January 2017)

8.11 The Bromsgrove District Plan includes a site specific policy on the Redditch Gateway. Policy BDP5B, identifies that 10.3ha of employment land is allocated in order to meet Redditch's needs. The reasoned justification in Para 8.50 identifies that "This site is located to the South/East of the existing Ravensbank site and is approximately 10 hectares in area. The original employment site caters for Redditch Borough's needs and it is envisaged that this expansion site will provide additional capacity for Redditch's future needs on a similar basis."

Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy (Adopted July 2016)

8.12 The Core Strategy provides the strategic context for development with the District up until 2031 and includes two site specific policies pertaining to this particular site. The policies are REDD.1: Winyates Green and REDD.2: Gorcott Hill. These two policies reflect the areas of land to the north and south of the A4023 and comprise the balance of the 'Gateway' site. These site specific policies also seek the following from the development of the site:

- Provide for a minimum of 15% of total floorspace within Class B1(a) and Class B1(b) research and development uses;
- Vehicle access off A4023;
- Protect character and setting of Gorcott Hall
- Retain mature hedgerows and trees on the site

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- Traffic management and mitigation measures on A435 as appropriate
- Pedestrian and cycle links across A4023 to adjacent residential areas
- Protect and enhance the Pool and Blacksoils Brook
- Protect priority habitats within the site

8.13 Whilst the proposed application is considered to be in broad conformity with the adopted policies and designations of all three plans; one of the areas where there is considered to be some inconsistency is in relation to the amount of office space required by the policy within the Stratford Plan. It is worth noting that the allocations within the Redditch and Bromsgrove Plans are for developments within the use classes B1, B2 and B8 and there are not any further restrictions placed on the site in terms of thresholds.

8.14 The submitted proposals will provide for circa 10% of office floorspace to be for B1 use, and it is likely that this use will come forward as office space as a component of larger industrial manufacturing or warehouse buildings where typically at least 10% of the space is for office use.

8.15 Given the departure from the adopted policy position, the applicants have submitted further market evidence (undertaken by Savills) to identify why the 15% office requirement is not deliverable and this has been independently assessed by Stratford, via the report prepared by Cushman and Wakefield in March 2017. The conclusions of both reports are as follows:

Savills: *“The adopted policy requirement of 15% office floorspace is unlikely to deliver office floorspace due to the market conditions described. Areas of this important site may therefore not be developed and will not make a meaningful contribution to the employment land supply, precluding the development of B1c/B2/B8 floorspace for which there is a very strong demand and potential to generate high quality and varied employment opportunities.”*

Cushman and Wakefield : *“It is therefore our opinion that the information provided by Savills in their report is consistent with the market, and that stand-alone offices are very unlikely to be developed on Redditch Eastern Gateway. In our view, reserving land specifically for this use would sterilize the land so reserved, resulting in the creation of fewer jobs.*

8.17 *However, a significant amount of office space will be developed as part of a more B1c, B2 and B8 focussed scheme, with the proportional element of the building built as office increasing compared to historic levels. On this basis, the take up of the site will be quicker, with the consequent earlier creation of jobs.”*

8.18 I agree with the market assessments and subsequent conclusions provided within these documents. With this evidence in mind, it is considered appropriate to take a view that does not strictly accord with policies REDD.1 and REDD.2 of the adopted Core Strategy for Stratford. This would enable the site to come forward at

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an appropriate pace to meet market demand and will ensure that is not sterilized and left undeveloped.

- 8.19 As explained above, the site is allocated for development under Policies REDD.1 and REDD.2 of the Core Strategy. Prior to the adoption of the Core Strategy and associated allocation of this site, the northern development parcel (covered by REDD.2) was located within the Green Belt.
- 8.20 Policy CS.10 of the Core Strategy removed this section of land (which extended to approximately 9.8 hectares in area) from the Green Belt.
- 8.21 The Exceptional Circumstances for this (as outlined within the explanatory text to CS.10) being that, through joint working with RBC and BDC, land in Stratford on Avon District should be identified for employment uses to meet the needs of Redditch. The employment Land Review Update for Redditch identifies a shortfall of 27.5 hectares of land that cannot be accommodated within its boundaries.
- 8.22 A study commissioned by North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration identified land at Winyates Green (southern development parcel), and Gorcott Hill (northern development parcel), as the best option available to meet this shortfall. The southern development parcel is outside the Green Belt but is only 12 hectares in size. Furthermore, a new access of the A4023 Coventry Highway is required to gain access to both sites. The cost of this would not be viable unless both areas are made available for development.
- 8.23 In light of the above exceptional circumstances, the northern development parcel was removed from the Green Belt under Policy CS.10 of the Core Strategy.

9.0 Economic Impact

- 9.1 It is important to note the wider economic context in which this site is viewed. The site is identified within the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnerships' (LEP) Strategic Economic Plan, highlighted as one of four 'Game Changer' sites within Worcestershire. The focus for this site is to:

“Create a high quality business park to attract and safeguard investment and employment, with a target being advanced engineering businesses.”

- 9.2 The site is also referenced as a key economic growth and regeneration project in the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Strategic Economic Plan, as follows:

“Redditch Eastern Gateway is an identified employment site situated on the outskirts of Redditch. The Gateway’s strategic location takes full advantage of the M40/M42 motorways and just a 20 minute drive time to Birmingham International Airport and railway station, with the potential for 100,000 square metres of high-

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profile employment development, 2,000 jobs and an additional £90 million of GVA. GBSLEP is working closely with Worcestershire LEP on this opportunity.”

- 9.3 The site is, therefore, a key development opportunity for both Worcestershire and Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP's that will help to attract and safeguard investment within the Redditch area. There is strong support for these proposals from both Local Enterprise Partnerships recognising that the site will provide important space for new commercial development, which is in short supply within the area.

Economic Development Priorities for Redditch

- 9.4 Whilst the proposal lies substantially within Stratford upon Avon and Bromsgrove administrative areas, the site was primarily identified to meet the employment needs of Redditch. In this regard the proposal will contribute to the key aims and objectives identified in the adopted '*Economic Priorities for Redditch*'. Some of the key priorities identified within the Strategy that are pertinent to this proposal, include:

- Ensuring that sufficient land for employment is allocated;
- Provide support for growing businesses
- Keep employment land provision under review to ensure that we have an adequate supply to meet business growth requirements.

- 9.5 The current application would enable Redditch to meet some of its key economic aspirations for the Borough and this should be taken into account in the determination of this application.

10.0 Design Principles and Parameter Plans

- 10.1 The parameters plan provides land uses, building heights, indicative internal circulation routes, pedestrian/cycle access points and green infrastructure (to include perimeter planting, landscaping buffer zone adjacent to Gorcott Hall and retained grassland to the southern tip). Assessing each of these in turn:

Land use – the location and maximum extent of land proposed for development is shown. Being proposed for employment use only, the vast majority of the site is shown as employment zones to comprise buildings with associated car parking and servicing areas. An employment zone for parking only lies adjacent to its north boundary, with a landscaping buffer zone to its northeast boundary and retained grassland to its southern tip.

Building heights – the plan prescribes the maximum heights of buildings within the site, also providing a height as measured from AOD to ensure that the heights are complied with if any regarding occurs. The southern development parcel

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proposes a maximum height of 21m, not to exceed AOD 124.75. The western part of the northern development parcel also proposes a maximum height of 21m, not to exceed AOD 128.0. The middle section of the northern development parcel proposes a maximum height of 15m, not to exceed AOD 124.0, whilst the eastern section of the northern development parcel proposes a maximum height of 9m, not to exceed AOD 122.0 or 123.0 (depending on the specific location). In general the heights do not vary significantly across the site, with the exception of the north-easterly corner where lower heights are proposed to respond to the Grade II* listed Gorcott Hall and its associated Grade II listed structures/buildings.

Access and movement – the plan shows the primary access point off the A4023 Coventry Highway, as well as the initial length of carriageway within the site. Indicative internal circulation routes are shown, as are pedestrian and cycle access points. The access arrangements would allow for sufficient vehicular, pedestrian and cycle routes that link the development to surrounding routes and rights of way.

Green infrastructure – the plan shows the provision of perimeter planting to all boundaries of the site, with a landscaping buffer zone to its northeast and retained grassland to its southern tip. Potential areas for SUDS are also shown on the plan.

11.0 Visual Impact

- 11.1 Policy 40 of the BoRLP provides a set of principles to ensure developments are of a high quality.
- 11.2 The proposed development would inevitably and permanently change the existing character and appearance of the site, which is presently a series of fields interspersed with trees and hedgerows. The form and scale of development proposed means that buildings will be visible from some public vantage points, even if existing boundary vegetation is retained and augmented. This harm has to be balanced against the benefits of the development.
- 11.3 Ground engineering works would be focussed on the northern site. Existing ground levels do not enable the optimal development of the site and remodelling of contours is therefore necessary. This would be achieved through the creation of level development platforms that would create a series of development zones set into the wider landscape and require the creation of retaining structures around the north-eastern edges of the development zones. Those retaining structures would not be evident in views from Gorcott Hall as they would sit lower than the land to the north where the hall is situated. The new buildings would screen the retaining structures when viewed from the south. The Parameter Plan 5372-205C identifies the maximum building heights above AOD for each zone and have been defined to ensure that the visual impact of the development would be mitigated in short and longer views.

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- 11.4 The full planning permission element of the application seeks consent to undertake the first phase of the ground engineering works. The submitted drawings identify the areas of cut and fill in order to create a level development platform. The edges to the platform will be formed by contoured banks. The proposals (including the creation of the banks for the proposed access) will not require any soils to be removed from the site.
- 11.5 The main development proposals are in outline only. Consequently, matters of detailed design, layout and appearance (including proposed external facing materials for the buildings) would be subject to the approval of reserved matters and subject to conditions on any approved outline permission. The submitted Illustrative Masterplan identifies a potential layout and the subsequent detailed proposals may take a different form dependent upon the requirements of future occupiers.
- 11.6 Nevertheless, the Parameters Plan, clearly identifies areas for development and areas that will form new landscaped buffers and ecological opportunities. The zones have been identified to provide for the efficient use of the land whilst seeking to minimise impacts on surrounding land uses and establish the potential height and proximity of building to adjoining development.
- 11.7 If permission is granted for the development, I would wish to ensure that the key parameter plans and some of the details and principles of the DAS be “fixed” by way of conditions to guide future developments at the reserved matters stage. Given that this development is likely to be built over a 15 year period, greater flexibility is required to enable future developers to respond to changing standards, requirements and aspirations as the development progresses. On this basis, I consider that a condition could be imposed, requiring reserved matters applications to encompass the principles and parameters set out in the application and supporting documents, thereby providing greater clarity and certainty of the design and layout standards required, whilst acknowledging that national and local standards and requirements may vary over time and thus allow for the potential review of the approved documents.

12.0 Residential Amenity

- 12.1 One of the core planning principles set out at paragraph 17 of the NPPF is that planning should “*always seek to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings*”;
- 12.2 A number of existing residential properties are located within close proximity to the site, the closest being those on Longhope Close adjacent to the southwestern tip. The Winyates Green estate lies to the western side of Far Moor Lane with properties backing onto that road. There are a small number of residential properties dispersed along the opposite edge of the A435 which forms the eastern boundary.

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- 12.3 I have had regard to the height details on the submitted parameters plan in conjunction with the separation distances which would remain between residential properties and employment zones.
- 12.4 At its closest, the employment zone located within the southern development parcel would be located approximately 23m from the nearest residential property on Longhope Close, beyond an existing soft landscaped boundary to the application site. This soft landscaped boundary is proposed for retention and strengthening and, adjacent to Longhope Close, would extend to a minimum depth of 20m.
- 12.5 Buildings in this zone could be up to a maximum height of 21m, not to exceed AOD 124.75, however, matters of layout and scale which would determine the siting and massing of buildings are reserved. This means that a subsequent application for approval of those details would be required. Accordingly, subsequent consideration of detailed designs, would provide an opportunity for the Local Planning Authority to consider the proximity of proposed development to nearby residential properties. Consequently it would be possible to ensure that separation distances between dwellings and proposed buildings/associated service yards are sufficient to ensure there would be no unduly adverse impact in terms of overbearance, loss of light and loss of privacy.
- 12.6 The closest dwelling to the west side of Far Moor Lane is located approximately 40m from the development site. Again, development in the nearest employment zone would be 21m in height, not to exceed AOD 124.75. As above, subsequent applications for reserved matters would enable the Local Planning Authority to control matters of layout (including siting of buildings and servicing areas) in addition to scale and appearance which will enable careful consideration to be given to the impact of the detailed design of the development with regard to neighbouring residential development when those proposals come forward.
- 12.7 Subject to consideration of the detailed design of any forthcoming reserved matters submissions, I am satisfied that the proposed development would not have an unduly adverse impact on neighbouring residential amenity.
- 12.8 The application seeks 24 hour operation in order to meet potential occupier requirements. This is to ensure that the development remains competitive and suitable for the widest range of potential occupiers.
- 12.9 In terms of traffic noise impacts from within the development, the Environmental Statement concludes that noise generated will be below the ambient noise background of general traffic noise from surrounding roads. Mitigation measures are suggested in order to reduce noise disturbance arising from the service yards including orientation of buildings and appropriate yard boundary treatment. A condition to ensure these details are submitted as a component of any subsequent reserved matters applications is recommended.

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12.10 It is envisaged that noise arising during the construction phase would be mitigated through a Construction Environment Management Plan.

13.0 Light pollution

13.1 As the majority of this application is in outline form, specific lighting detail has not been provided at this stage. The Design and Access Statement confirms that lighting would be the subject of subsequent reserved matters submissions, the specific detail of which would be assessed and subject to LPA control at that stage.

13.2 Conditions could be imposed in order to reduce the impacts of lighting both during the construction phase and operational stage. Subject to this, and in conjunction with appropriate lighting design to be submitted at the reserved matters stage, I consider that an acceptable lighting solution would be secured.

13.3 I consider that appropriate conditions could control lighting design to mitigate the risk of harm to neighbouring residential amenity.

14.0 Noise and Vibration

14.1 Paragraph 109 of the NPPF states that *“The planning system should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by: preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability.”*

14.2 A Noise and Vibration assessment forms part of the ES (chapter 12) and refers to the results of noise and vibration assessments carried out on the basis of both the construction and occupation phases of development.

14.3 Baseline noise measurements have been taken at four receptor locations that represent the nearest noise sensitive properties to the development site.

14.4 The construction noise and vibration activities at the nearest noise sensitive properties vary from a negligible effect to a minor adverse effect during normal daytime operations. Construction works should be undertaken in accordance with ‘best practicable means’ to minimise the construction noise effects.

14.5 The vibration arising from the construction works would not be perceptible and no further noise mitigation measures are required to reduce the construction vibration effects.

14.6 The change in the daytime road traffic noise levels due to the development is negligible at all receptors with the exception of Gorcott Hall where there is predicted to be a minor adverse effect. The change in night-time level due to the development is less than 1 dB and provides a negligible effect.

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- 14.7 The traffic on internal circulation routes within the site is predicted to provide a negligible increase in the ambient noise levels at the nearest receptors. The existing night-time noise level at the nearest receptor indicates that with partially open windows the sleep disturbance criteria is already exceeded and windows would need to be closed to meet the internal target noise level. With open windows the development traffic noise would be below the sleep disturbance criteria within the nearest receptors.
- 14.8 To reduce the noise impact of site activity in the yard areas in the night-time period, a scheme of 3m high noise barriers is proposed around the perimeter of the yards. The barriers provide a small noise reduction such that there are only two receptor sites where the BS4142 assessment exceeds the WRS criteria in the night-time period. However, the highest absolute noise levels at night from site activities, with the scheme of barriers, is well below the threshold for sleep disturbance even with partially open windows. Taking both the BS4142 and sleep disturbance assessments into account the site activity noise level is considered to be a minor adverse effect with the scheme of noise barriers. I consider that this noise attenuation could be secured through conditions and consideration of detailed specifications at the reserved matters stage.
- 14.9 No objection has been raised by either SDC's Environmental Health Officer or Worcestershire Regulatory Services with respect to noise or vibration and on this basis, I am satisfied that the proposal would not have an unacceptable adverse impact upon neighbouring residential amenity in respect of these issues.

15.0 Ground conditions and land contamination

- 15.1 Chapter 6 of the ES addresses the effects of ground conditions on the proposal which is supported by a Geo-environmental Assessment Report and Agricultural Land Assessment.
- 15.2 The Geo-environmental Assessment Report considers the potential for effects relating to ground conditions and contamination surface as a result of the proposed development during both the construction and occupational phases of the development.
- 15.3 Both the northern and southern development parcels have been used for agriculture, and the contaminative risk is considered to be low.
- 15.4 WRS have considered the proposal and find the submitted Phase I desk study thorough, includes an appropriate site conceptual model and that the assessment has been carried out in accordance with current guidance and best practice. A preliminary intrusive investigation has also been undertaken comprising general site coverage through the excavation of 29 trial pits. To date the contaminated land risk assessment has not identified any significant risk to end-users of the site.

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15.5 Both SDC's Environmental Health Officer and Worcestershire Regulatory Services have raised no objection on the basis of the contamination information submitted with the application. WRS suggest that the above requirements, and any necessary associated remediation, can be successfully dealt with through appropriate planning conditions. I concur with this view.

16.0 Air Quality

16.1 Paragraph 19.3 of the BoRLP states "19.13 In accordance with the national Air Quality Strategy (DEFRA 2007) the Borough Council supports the objective of protecting and improving air quality. Proposals for development which would adversely impact upon air quality will be resisted. The maintenance of air quality will be required and, where possible, an improvement to air quality will be sought. Reducing the need to travel can contribute to a reduction in air pollution. Currently there are no Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) within the Borough; however, regard should be had for any impact which may be had on potential AQMA within the Borough and any current or potential AQMA in neighbouring areas.

16.2 Air quality in Bromsgrove District is predominantly good and the air is mainly clean and unpolluted. There are however a few locations where the combination of traffic, road layout, geography, emissions from plant and machinery such as boilers has resulted in exceedences of the annual average for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) and fine particulates (PM₁₀). Several areas in the District are closely monitored for their air quality level, and a few are designated as Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA).

16.3 Whilst the application site itself does not lie within an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA), there is one in place in Studley along the Alcester Road A435 (within Stratford-upon-Avon). This AQMA was declared on the 23rd February 2006 for exceedences of the nitrogen dioxide annual mean objective.

16.4 The Warwickshire Local Transport Plan (2011-2026) seeks to, amongst other things, improve air quality by improving congestion/reduce traffic and encourage people to use more sustainable modes of transport. This Plan identifies the impact of traffic on the A435 corridor as the most significant environmental problem in Western Warwickshire. It states that the A435 between Alcester was de-trunked in January 2008 between Gorcott Hill near the junction with the A4023 and the A46 near Alcester and that in those settlements lying along the section of the A435 to the north of Alcester, (i.e. Coughton, King's Coughton, Studley and Mappleborough Green), there are serious adverse effects on quality of life due to high traffic volumes containing a large number of HGVs. One of the key objectives of the strategy is to deliver improvements that reduce the environmental impact of traffic within the District and improve local air quality in existing AQMA.

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- 16.5 Chapter 13 of the ES relates to air quality and considers, amongst other things, the impact of the development on the Studley AQMA. It states that the AQMA is located approximately 4km south of the site and it is anticipated that traffic generated by the development would have largely dispersed across the network over this distance. It concludes that the development would not have a significant impact on the Studley AQMA as it is unlikely that the development would significantly affect pollutant concentrations within the AQMA.
- 16.6 The ES goes on to state that operational mitigation measures would be developed, with the aim of reducing traffic to and from the development through encouraging more sustainable transport options. These measures are:
- new signal controlled junction onto the Coventry Highway which would include pedestrian and cycle crossing facilities, located at the existing intersection of the existing public rights of way;
 - new footways and shared footways/cycleways throughout the development that would tie into the existing and new facilities surrounding the site;
 - improved bus service infrastructure comprising of bus stops and laybys on the Coventry Highway to allow the existing 150 bus service to serve the site;
 - the introduction of a HGV routing plan to manage the number of HGVs routing through sensitive areas, including the Studley AQMA
- 16.7 The above would be implemented in addition to a Travel Plan. The report concludes that the significance of air quality impacts would be negligible, and therefore there is no need for any specific and detailed air quality mitigation measures.
- 16.8 The applicants have submitted a potential HGV Routing Strategy at Appendix H of the TA. The aim of the plan is to prevent HGVs routing south down the A435 impacting on Mappleborough Green and the AQMA of Studley. The TA states that the advisory HGV routes would promote the use of the A435 (north) and the A4023 Coventry Highway to access the wider highway network. These links provide direct access to the M42, M40 and M5. The principle of this HGV Routing Strategy is accepted by both Warwickshire and Worcestershire Highway Authorities and I concur that this would be effective in preventing a significant increase in HGV traffic through the Studley AQMA.
- 16.9 A condition requiring the submission and approval of a full HGV Routing Strategy as well as the submission of the first HGV routing surveys within 12 months of occupation has been recommended by both Warwickshire and Worcestershire Highways Authorities. In conjunction with a financial contribution of £200,000.00 which would be paid and held for a period of 15 years to allow for HGV mitigation to be carried out where it is deemed necessary, I am satisfied that the impact on the Studley AQMA would be limited.

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- 16.10 Worcestershire County Council Regulatory Services has confirmed that due to the location of the site and the current air quality in the local area (specifically within Worcestershire), the air quality impacts of the development would be acceptable.
- 16.11 SDC's Environmental Health Officer has raised concern on the basis of the air quality impact of the development on the Studley AQMA. Although a HGV Routing Strategy is proposed to minimise additional HGV traffic through Studley, the EHO recommends that additional information is submitted prior to determination to ensure a robust understanding of the impacts of this HGV Routing Strategy on the Studley AQMA.
- 16.12 I am satisfied that the principle of a HGV Routing Strategy, in conjunction with a financial contribution of £200,000.00, would ensure that the impact of the development from HGVs on the highway network, specifically on the A435 through the Studley AQMA would be acceptable. On the basis of this, I do not consider that further investigation on this matter is required. The applicant concludes that, in conjunction with a Travel Plan these measures would lead to a negligible impact on air quality and this is anticipated to result from the few vehicles that would inevitably pass through the Studley AQMA. Subject to conditions, I am satisfied that the impact of the development on this AQMA would be acceptable.
- 16.13 Impacts from the development would arise as dust during the construction phase and traffic during operation. For dust, this would primarily result from the earthworks and construction activity. Impacts would generally decline with increased distance from the site with highest risk of impact being within 20m of the site declining to negligible risk at a distance of 350m. The Environmental Statement (Table 13.8) identifies sensitive receptors within these distances. The location of the site, to the north of the majority of existing development means that prevailing wind directions will help minimise risks to existing development and the SSSI from impact from dust.

17.0 Traffic Impact

- 17.1 Policy 20 of the BoRLP sets out Transport requirements for new developments. Whilst the development which would generate the traffic would lie outside the boundary of Redditch Borough it would utilise the local road
- 17.2 The application is accompanied by a Transport Assessment (TA). In addition to review by the respective County Highway Authorities, this has been reviewed by Mott MacDonald (MM) (Transport consultants acting on behalf of and commissioned by Bromsgrove District Council) The proposal would result in a change in existing traffic movements.
- 17.3 The Transport Assessment does not utilise the Bromsgrove and Redditch Highways Assignment Model (BARHAM). The TA instead utilises uses TRICS trip rate data to determine the projected trip generation. These trip rates have been

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accepted by both Highway Authorities. Despite some concerns about methodology, MM advise that they consider the trip rates satisfactory.

- 17.4 Census Journey to Work data from 2011 has been utilised to determine the assignment of development trips to the network. The assignment of these trips appears satisfactory. Currently, no trips are assigned into and out of the site from the west. It could be argued that some trips heading south may travel west when leaving the site and use the A435 via Studley, but the Census data indicates only a small proportion head in that direction and the difference would be negligible.
- 17.5 An HGV routing plan has also been devised following discussions with the HAs to reduce HGV routing through sensitive areas including the A435 through Studley.
- 17.6 MM have reviewed the proposed site access Linsig model and consider that the junction has been modelled correctly and would operate well within capacity. Whilst the VISSIM Model has not been reviewed, the results indicate that the proposed development has minimal impact in queues and journey times on the surrounding network.
- 17.7 Highways England raised concerns regarding the sensitivity of the M42 junction 3 to fluctuations in development traffic and requested a level of sensitivity testing. The sensitivity testing utilised a VISSIM model developed by JMP covering the M42/M5 corridor for the years 2023 and 2030. The test agreed upon routed an additional 20% of development traffic via the A435 and through Studley.
- 17.8 The modelling of the M42 junction 3 identified that proposed development traffic does not have a significant impact on the strategic highway approaches, but does slightly increase the queueing on the A435 approaches. Highways England have agreed with the conclusions of the modelling and Worcestershire County Council have requested a financial contribution towards a wider improvement scheme.
- 17.9 BDC's highway consultant's – MM, consider the results included within the TA appear to show low level impact.
- 17.10 Warwickshire County Council commissioned Vectos Microsim to undertake a sensitivity test assessment of the development traffic using the Studley area Paramics model. It appears that a significantly greater amount of traffic has been routed through Studley for this sensitivity test. Despite this, it appears that the development does not have a detrimental impact on the Barley Mow junction or through Studley. Warwickshire County Council agree with the conclusions and state that there are no requirements for capacity improvements on the network as a result. However, Warwickshire County Council has requested a financial contribution towards an HGV routing strategy and a wider HGV signage strategy to minimise impact on sensitive areas including Studley.

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17.11 BDC's highway consultant - MM consider that the results included within the TA appear to show that impact on Studley will be minimal. Concerns were raised during the public consultation exercise and during discussion with the Highway Authorities about the potential impacts of HGV traffic for the site using the A435 through Studley, the centre of which is a declared AQMA. The applicant has responded to these concerns by proposing a routing plan that aims to divert HGVs from the A435 to avoid Studley. This has been accepted in principle by both Highway Authorities, although the final routing plan is subject to the formal approval of the Local Planning Authority.

Opportunities for Sustainable Travel

17.12 The TA has examined opportunities for pedestrian, cycle and public transport journeys. The existing issue of a lack of pedestrian access is to be resolved with the installation of a shared cycle/footway connecting into the existing cycle routes to the west of the site.

Parking

17.13 Parking provision is a detailed design matter. However, the illustrative layout provides an indication to potential parking locations and has been designed with reference to the amount of potential car parking that could be achieved to accord with the Councils' parking guidance

17.14 Parking provision is governed by adopted standards. The illustrative master plan demonstrates that adequate off road parking could be accommodated to serve the quantum of development proposed.

17.15 Providing appropriate levels of parking will mean that all parking should take place within the site. During the consultation exercise, questions were raised about on-street parking and how off-site would be prevented. This is a matter of civil enforcement however, at present there are only limited restrictions on parking on adjoining roads. The applicant can do no more than provide the amount of parking that is permitted by the Council's adopted guidance. I consider that there is sufficient space within the site to accommodate the level of parking which would reasonably be required to service the development proposed.

17.16 A Framework Travel Plan has also been prepared to encourage sustainable travel choices. This will include promoting alternatives to the car (pedestrian and cycling) and use of public transport by improving access via the 150 bus route by providing new bus stops on the Coventry Highway. Two pedestrian / cycleway linkages onto Far Moor Lane would encourage and facilitate ease of access by those modes.

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18.0 Surface Water Drainage and Flood Risk

- 18.1 Policies 17 and 18 of the BoRLP seek to mitigate flood risk and encourage sustainable drainage systems.
- 18.2 The application site is located within Flood Zone 1 (lowest risk of flooding). Table 2 of the Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) classifies buildings used for financial, professional and other services, general industry and storage and distribution as 'less vulnerable'. Table 3 of the PPG identifies that a 'less vulnerable' development within Flood Zone 1 is 'appropriate'.
- 18.3 The applicant has also provided site specific modelling of the minor watercourses within the site. From this model, a series of site specific inundation maps have been produced showing the extent of the various flood zones across the site at the typical return periods. The model indicates that the channels on site typically become overwhelmed readily, some at even low return periods, resulting in large amounts of shallow sheet flows across the site, particularly across the northern development parcel. The Environment Agency confirm that on the basis of this modelling, part of the development site falls within Flood Zone 3.
- 18.4 The hydraulic model has defined the baseline flood risk from the Blacksoils Brook and minor watercourses and has been used to test the outline development layout and flood mitigation measures to offset the impacts of development in the floodplain.
- 18.5 A map of the proposed water course diversions are provided at Annex 5 of the model, and the same return periods have been simulated following these alterations. The model outputs indicate that overland flows across the site would be virtually eliminated. The exception to this is at the 1000 year storm which would still see some inundation from the Blacksoils Brook channel just upstream of the Coventry Highway embankment and where the diverted tributary 3 meets the Blacksoils Brook. At lower return periods there is almost no overland flow at all and almost all water is held within the proposed watercourse network. In addition, there is a predicted betterment downstream of the proposed development within Ravensbank Industrial Estate and nearby residential areas.
- 18.6 The impact of these alterations to the site's watercourses has also been considered downstream. The virtual elimination of surface water flow across the site naturally reduces the opportunity for losses through infiltration and pooling across the surface. The hydrograph provided within the model indicates that overall discharge post development is reduced compared to pre-development rates.
- 18.7 It is important that the development incorporates appropriate surface water drainage, not only to manage potential flood risk on site and to ensure that the risk of flooding is not increased off site, but also to ensure that the quality of the water

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entering the water course is of sufficient quality to avoid any adverse impact on the Ipsley Alders Marsh SSSI.

- 18.8 The development would be designed to ensure attenuated surface water storage to accommodate the 1 in 100 year storm event plus a 40% allowance for climate change. At present, existing water channels are undersized and therefore incapable of accommodating flows in storm events leading to temporary and short-lived localised areas of flooding within the site. A series of measures are identified in the FRA and the Water Management Strategy that would relieve the flooding within the site primarily through the:
- diversion and replacement of existing water channels which will the flow into the Blacksoils Brook
 - introduction of swales and permanently wet ponds that would filter and store water prior to release in to the brook at a controlled rate equivalent to green field run off; plus
 - attenuation tanks including filter traps under areas of permeable paving (storage volume up to 357m³)
- 18.9 The LLFAs have confirmed that the proposed features, as described within the hydrology chapter of the ES, are acceptable but have requested the attachment of conditions to ensure that the development is carried out in accordance with the submitted FRA, the provision of infiltration testing to ensure appropriate means of managing surface water run-off and the submission of a scheme detailing the management and maintenance of the ditch network during construction.
- 18.20 I note that a number of representations have been received on the grounds that the proposal would potentially exacerbate flooding in the area as well as impact on the Ipsley Alders Marsh SSSI which is located outside the application site. These concerns have been given careful consideration in the assessment of the planning application, but the responses from the statutory undertakers do not support these concerns.
- 18.21 The drainage and water efficiency proposals would be subject of further approval at reserved matters stage. However, based on the consultation responses from the Environment Agency and the Lead Local Flood Authorities (both Warwickshire and Worcestershire), I am satisfied that the final drainage scheme would be in accordance with the Policies of the Core Strategy, specifically Policies CS.4, REDD.1 and REDD.2.

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19.0 Built Heritage

- 19.1 Policy 36 of the BoRLP states that *“Applications for development affecting any heritage asset or its setting must be accompanied by a heritage statement. The level of detail should be proportionate to the significance of the heritage asset and the likely level of impact.”*
- 19.2 Section 66 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 requires that, *“In considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses.”*
- 19.3 The NPPF outlines various principles and measures to be considered when assessing proposals that have an effect on the historic environment. Para 128 states that local authorities should require applicants to provide a description of the significance of the assets affected at a level of detail sufficient to enable the potential impacts to be considered. The applicant has provided this assessment through Chapter 8 of the Environmental Statement submitted in support of this application and Appendix 8.2 of the ES provides a Built Heritage Statement. The Built Heritage Statement confirms that there are no listed buildings within the site itself, but that the development has the potential to affect eight listed buildings.
- 19.4 Where any development has an impact on the significance of a designated heritage asset great weight should be given to the assets conservation (para 132 of the NPPF). Substantial harm should generally be avoided. Where development will lead to less than substantial harm of a designated asset, the harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal including securing its optimum viable use.(Para 134).
- 19.5 In this instance, the key asset being considered is Gorcott Hall, a Grade II* listed Building and its setting. Gorcott Hall comprises a small country house dating back to the 15th century, but with substantial additions and alterations taking place in the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. The earlier ranges were originally constructed in timber framing, with a mix of brick noggin and lime render infill panels, although some of these elements have been replaced with brick, later additions and extensions have been constructed in brick. It represents a building of great interest, with its various phases of development.
- 19.6 The building is located within its own private and relatively extensive grounds, which themselves form a non-designated heritage asset, whilst a further five listed (Grade II) buildings are located within its grounds:
- Stable, Granary, Barn and attached Animal House
 - Right Gatepier and attached Garden Wall approximately 10m se of Gorcott Hall

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- Left Gatepier and attached Garden Wall approximately 10m sw of Gorcott Hall
- Right Gatepier and attached Garden Wall approximately 30m sw of Gorcott Hall
- Left Gatepier and attached Garden Wall approximately 30m sw of Gorcott Hall

- 19.7 The Heritage Statement document draws the conclusion that the harm to the significance of Gorcott Hall is less than substantial, falling within the middle of that assessment and would therefore be described as moderate.
- 19.8 Other assets that have been considered are Lower House on Longhope Close (to the south) and a listed church (Church of the Holy Ascension) and listed cottages (School House , Yew Tree and Church Cottages) in Mappleborough Green (to the east). In each case, the development proposals do not have a direct impact on the architectural quality or the historic importance or fabric of the building. The key issue for consideration is therefore whether the proposed development has an acceptable impact on the setting of the buildings.
- 19.9 The setting of the heritage assets has been subject to considerable discussion with the Planning and Conservation Officers for each local planning authority and Historic England during the evolution of the Masterplan proposals. This has resulted in the retention of the fields to the south-west of Gorcott Hall as part of the site wide landscape proposals and the proposed ground engineering and landscape works in the northern site to create development plateaus. This will enable buildings to be set into the wider landscape whilst retaining the existing setting of the building. Intervisibility between the development and the Hall will also be minimised by the creation of a naturalised, landscaped bund.
- 19.10 With the implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in the Built Heritage Statement, the ES and as shown on the parameter plans, I consider that the impact on the setting of Gorcott Hall is considered to be less than substantial.
- 19.11 A similar assessment is made with regard to Lower House and the listed properties in Mappleborough Green. For the latter, the distance of the proposed buildings, proposed landscaping and restriction on building height is considered to mitigate the limited impact on their setting to render the impact at a very low level of less than substantial harm.
- 19.20 For Lower House, the proposed development is not considered likely to affect the way the building is presently experienced. However, I consider that the proposals to restrict the height of the proposed building closest to Lower House and the proposed enhancement of existing landscape screening would render any impact from the development to being of less than substantial harm.
- 19.21 Where harm is less than substantial, this has to be weighed against the public benefits of the proposals (para 134 of the NPPF).

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- 19.22 The proposals are considered to have considerable public benefit through the extent of job creation and employment opportunity for Redditch Borough that will help meet the identified requirements of Redditch and contribute to the wider needs of Worcestershire. For this reason, the public benefits are considered to outweigh the less than substantial harm identified.
- 19.23 In terms of archaeology, the ES noted that the site has minimal archaeological importance with any potential likely to be limited to the Blacksoils Brook. Given the retention of the brook and its immediate environs, as part of the development, disturbance to these areas is likely to be limited. A condition is proposed.
- 19.24 The County and the District has a responsibility to protect, either by preservation or record, cultural remains within its jurisdiction, and this is emphasised by the National Planning Policy Framework section 12, paragraph 128:

"...Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation"; and paragraph 141, "...They should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted"

20.0 Biodiversity

- 20.1 The location of sites of regional (Local Wildlife Sites) wildlife importance are shown on the Policies Map. The western boundary of the southern parcel of the site is a local wildlife site Policy 16 of the BoRLP states that *"Applications for development should aim to conserve and enhance biodiversity by applying the principles of the NPPF. In determining applications affecting sites of wildlife importance, the Borough Council will apply the hierarchy of designated sites and appropriate weight will be given to their importance and contribution to wider ecological networks."*
- 20.2 The baseline information search and ecological studies commissioned by the applicant noted the following:
The majority of the site comprises semi-improved grassland. Two fields in the southernmost part of the site to the site of the A4023 are of greater value but still not considered to be of sufficient value to qualify as a priority habitat hedgerows are dominated by hawthorn and blackthorn with only sparse ground flora. A hedgerow assessment identifies the hedge along the Blacksoils Brook as being the key hedge in the northern site. For the southern site, hedges along the western boundary are considered the most important. The Blacksoils Brook and another stream are identified in the northern site along with two small streams in the

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southern site. One pond is identified in the northern site; a disused pit, it is mostly dry. In the southern site, there are two small ponds within or adjacent to the southernmost hedge. A small amount of woodland habitat is present around the northern pond. Common species of wetland flies and butterflies were identified as present. The identified ponds vary in value and suitability for amphibians. Newts have been identified in several of the ponds (There are no ponds on site within Bromsgrove). No records of reptiles have been found. There are no records of bats on site but the site does offer foraging and commuting value. Subsequent surveys noted foraging and commuting activity particularly along the hedgerow along the Blacksoils Brook and the site boundaries but no particular evidence of roosts except for the potential of one in a tree in the county boundary hedgerow. Roosting activity is considered to be more likely in off-site woodlands. There was no evidence of dormouse in recent surveys. There is badger activity on site.

- 20.3 There would be some loss of trees and hedgerows both within the site and in order to create the new access from the A4023. This will impact on species at a site level but there remains suitable habitat adjacent to the site. Similarly, loss of hedgerows may impact on foraging routes for bats but the retention boundary hedges and proposed additional planting is considered to off-set the negative impacts. The loss of the habitat and ponds will impact on amphibians. Badgers would be affected by the development.
- 20.4 Warwickshire Ecology has advised that the northern parcel of the site has the potential to provide a net biodiversity gain for habitats but a loss for linear features. With regards to the southern parcel, the development would result in a significant loss of habitat but potential gain for linear features. At this stage, the actual losses/gains are unknown. However, subject to the Biodiversity Impacts being monitored through a Biodiversity Offsetting Schedule secured by way of a legal agreement, Warwickshire Ecology have confirmed that sufficient biodiversity offsetting would be achieved.
- 20.5 The Environment Agency has raised concern on the basis of the ecological impacts of the proposed realignment of the small tributaries. Warwickshire Ecology has confirmed that this would be factored into the calculations for biodiversity offsetting and, on this basis, I am satisfied that this matter would be adequately addressed through this means.
- 20.6 In light of the above assessment, and as a result of amended plans being submitted through the course of the application, Warwickshire Ecology have raised no objection to the scheme subject to suitable conditions and the provision of biodiversity offsetting secured through a S106 legal agreement. I am therefore satisfied that the biodiversity impacts of the development are acceptable in accordance with Policy 16 of the BoRLP, BDP21 of the Bromsgrove District Plan and SDC Policy CS.6 and the NERC Act.

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21.0 Public Rights of Way / Connectivity

21.1 Policy 40 of the BoRLP states that :

“All development, including proposals for individual buildings, public and private spaces and wider development schemes will be expected to: v. aid movement by ensuring all developments benefit from accessibility, connectivity, permeability and legibility, particularly aiding sustainable modes of movement such as walking, cycling and access to public transport”

21.2 Two public rights of way, namely 585(C) and 588(D) cross the northern part of the application site, (within Bromsgrove’s jurisdiction) Whilst 588(D) which runs alongside Blacksoils Brook would be preserved alongside that feature within a proposed landscaped buffer, the proposal would require the diversion of public right of way number 585(C). The submitted plans show how 585(C) could be diverted to facilitate development which still providing a viable route and amenity for users of the right of way network.

21.3 Two proposed connections to the site from existing public footpath number 800(C) (within Redditch) would facilitate cycle and pedestrian access into the site and improve its connectivity with the surrounding area.

21.4 In light of the above, I consider that the proposal is considered to accord with the criterion v. of Policy 40 of the BoRLP.

22.0 Crime Prevention

22.1 Policy 40 of the BoRLP criterion vi. Requires that all development proposals *“encourage community safety and ‘design out’ vulnerability to crime by incorporating the principles, concepts and physical security standards of the ‘Secured by Design’ award scheme”;*

22.2 Policies BDP19 (19.1t) of the Bromsgrove District Plan and SDC Policy CS.9 also seeks to ensure high quality design, an element of which includes measures to help to reduce crime and the fear crime.

22.3 Warwickshire Police Crime Prevention Design Officer have raised a number of comments in respect of the detailed design of the development, to include boundary treatments, roller shutter doors, windows and road layout. I am satisfied that at reserved matters stage the crime prevention issues raised can be appropriately incorporated into the detailed design of the scheme.

23.0 Loss of Agricultural Land

23.1 Paragraph 112 of the NPPF states that *“Local planning authorities should take into account the economic and other benefits of the best and most versatile agricultural land. Where significant development of agricultural land is*

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demonstrated to be necessary, local planning authorities should seek to use areas of poorer quality land in preference to that of a higher quality.”

- 23.2 An Agricultural Land Classification (ALC) study has been submitted with the application and this was updated through the course of the application. This evidences that the 32.42% of the application site falls within 3a, whilst 67.58% falls within 3b.
- 23.4 It states that soil wetness is the most significant limitation to the agricultural use of the site, the key effect of which is a reduction in yield of arable crops caused by damage to roots by prolonged periods of saturation. In practical terms, saturated soils also disrupt access with machinery, particularly in autumn and winter. For pasture, soil wetness can restrict the length of the grazing season. Waterlogged soils are vulnerable to structural damage from vehicle traffic, cultivation and livestock, which can be costly and time consuming to remediate. This also further impedes drainage, increasing the risk of additional damage.
- 23.5 The development would involve the loss of 9.65 hectares of Grade 3a land. This land is interspersed between areas of Grade 3b, which is likely to result in agricultural management of the land under one system, which would be suited to the lower quality grade.
- 23.6 I acknowledge that some harm would arise through the loss of approximately 9.65 hectares of Grade 3a land and this harm needs to be weighed in the planning balance.
- 23.7 The loss of agricultural land is considered to be outweighed by the benefits to be derived to the local economy through development of the site for employment uses.

24.0 Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Regulations*Transitional provisions*

- 24.1 The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017 came into force on the 16 May 2017. Section 76 of these Regulations outline the revocation and transitional provisions and states:
- 24.2 “Notwithstanding the revocation in paragraph (1), the 2011 Regulations continue to apply where before the commencement of these Regulations-
- (a) an applicant, appellant or qualifying body, as the case may be, has submitted an environmental statement or requested a scoping opinion; or
 - (b) in respect of local development orders, the local planning authority has in connection with that order prepared an environmental statement or a scoping opinion or requested a scoping direction”

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24.3 The applicant submitted a Scoping Report to SDC in December 2015 and in response the Council issued a Scoping Opinion on the 22 February 2016 upon which Bromsgrove and Redditch Councils were consultees. In light of the above transitional provisions, I therefore consider it appropriate to continue to assess the application against the 2011 (as amended) Regulations.

Alternatives

24.4 The EIA Regulations require an ES to outline any alternatives that have been considered to the proposed development, and to provide an explanation for their choice. The applicant in Chapter 4 of the ES has undertaken this exercise in accordance with the regulations and considers alternative location, a 'do nothing' approach, a different design and different construction and operational practices.

24.5 No details of specific alternative sites considered by the applicant have been provided within the ES. However it does state that the application site is identified as the best employment site and that it has the greatest potential to attract significant inward investment, providing a major employment site opportunity which is both highly accessible and in an attractive environment.

24.6 The 'do nothing' alternative considers the future situation without the proposed development. The ES states that if the scheme does not come forward an opportunity to deliver the employment land needed in the region in a sustainable location would be lost. It states that evidence suggests that some businesses within Redditch are becoming constrained by the lack of new employment floorspace available, and current available sites lack the scale, profile and access to satisfy this employment need. In the applicant's view the 'do nothing' alternative is not a realistic alternative option.

24.7 The ES confirms that the layout of the development has responded to development requirements and an increasing understanding of the site and surroundings. Specifically it states that through design evolution, the site capacity was amended as was the location of development and proposed building heights. In addition, amendments were made to the road junction and provision of car parking area in the northern parcel.

24.8 The Parameters Plan submitted seeks to respond to key constraints which have evolved in resolved to baseline assessments undertaken for all disciplines.

25.0 Phasing

25.1 The Core Strategy anticipates that the development (REDD.1 and REDD.2) would be delivered by 2031, the end of the plan period.

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25.2 The Planning Statement submitted with the application states that, given the scale of the proposals, development would come forward on a phased basis and would primarily respond to market requirements as proposed to being a speculative development. On this basis, it states that the standard time limits for outline permission (3 year period in which to submit applications for reserved matters to be begun with 2 years of date of approval) is not appropriate.

The applicant instead requests the following timescales:

- a 10-year period within which to submit reserved matters
- a 2-year period within which to begin development following approval of the last such matter to be approved

25.3 I am satisfied with the principle of this phasing which could be secured by way of condition.

26.0 Community Engagement

26.1 Chapter 5 of the ES outlines the consultation which took place at a pre-application stage to ensure that statutory and non-statutory consultees, as well as the local community, had an influence over the evolution of the design of both the EIA proposals and planning application.

26.2 Public events were held at the Blue Inn, Far Moor Lane, Redditch on Friday 21 October 2016 and Saturday 22 October 2016. This involved the following:

- 1,300 invites sent to addresses within Redditch and Mappleborough Green a week before the events
- local MPs, District and County Councillors, Planning Committee Members and key portfolio holders were issued with letters advising them of the events and invited them to attend
- invites were sent to Beoley, Mappleborough Green, Studley and Tanworth in Arden Parish Councils
- information regarding the site and proposals were displayed on exhibition boards
- members of the project team were in attendance to answer any questions
- website created to enable those attending the events to send comments online
- advertisements were placed in local papers (Bromsgrove and Droitwich Standard, Redditch and Alcester Standard and Stratford Observer)
- press articles generated before events (Redditch Standard, Redditch Advertiser, Insider Media (West Midlands), posting of the new story on Twitter)
- one article appeared in the Redditch Standard following the consultation event

26.3 Articles in the local press have also been published since the submission of the application.

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26.4 In addition, all technical consultees for the applications were invited to a consultation event held at Redditch Borough Council offices to assist in the coordination of their responses in light of the cross-boundary nature of the submission. The case officers for the application, as well as the agent and applicant were in attendance.

26.5 I am satisfied that the above events, together with other meetings that have taken place, have given appropriate opportunity for third parties, Parish Councils and key stakeholders to engage with the Local Planning Authority and key parties on matters relating to the proposals. It is envisaged that community engagement and stakeholder meetings could continue throughout the reserved matters, construction and post construction stages of development.

27.0 Developer Contributions / Infrastructure Provision

27.1 Policy BDP6 (6.1) states that *“Financial contributions towards development and infrastructure provision will be coordinated to ensure that growth in the District is supported by the provision of infrastructure, (including Green Infrastructure) services and facilities needed to maintain and improve quality of life and respond to the needs of the local economy. This will be documented in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan.*

(6.2) Irrespective of size, development will provide, or contribute towards the provision of: Measures to directly mitigate its impact, either geographically or functionally, which will be secured through the use of planning obligations”

27.2 Policy CS.27 states that the Council will introduce a Community Infrastructure Level (CIL) to fund infrastructure and community facilities necessary to accommodate growth and to mitigate cumulative impacts.

27.3 There is not an equivalent generic policy for Redditch Borough within the BoRLP.

27.4 A multilateral s106 legal agreement is proposed to secure contributions towards off site highway improvements, HGV routing measures and ecological mitigation

27.5 The introduction of the CIL Regulations 2010 requires any planning obligations, including financial contributions, sought from developers to be assessed under Regulation 122 of the Regulations. This Regulation states that planning obligations may only constitute a reason for granting planning permission if they are:

1. necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;
2. directly related to the development; and
3. fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

27.6 The NPPF and PPF re-affirm the statutory tests set out within Regulation 122.

27.7 Requests for the following contributions/obligations have come forward:

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Highways

£200,000.00 to be paid on first occupation and held for a period of 15 years from its receipt in the form of a bond and management arrangement to support the HGV Routing Strategy and Annual HGV Surveys to be secured by way of condition.

Ecology

Biodiversity offset scheme for each phase of development and biodiversity monitoring contribution

28.0 Summary of identified Benefits and Harm

28.1 The proposal would result in the following benefits:

- Job Creation
- New landscaping and ecology enhancements
- Improved access to footpaths, cycleways, connectivity and access.

28.2 The proposal would cause the following harm:

- Loss of green field land
- Traffic
- Loss of ecology and biodiversity
- Setting of Heritage Assets
- Loss of Agricultural land

28.3 It is considered that the harm identified could be mitigated through the imposition of planning conditions and any remnant harm would not outweigh the benefits which the development would bring.

29.0 Conclusion

29.1 The NPPF defines sustainable development as having three mutually dependent components. The Framework is clear that there is a presumption in favour of sustainable development and that proposals, where they accord with the development plan, should be approved without delay.

29.2 The proposals are considered to contribute to the aims of sustainable development through the following:

Economic Role – the proposals have a significant economic role through job creation and helping to meet the identified needs of Redditch. In doing so it would contribute to the wider need of Worcestershire as recognised by Worcestershire County Council and the Worcestershire LEP through their designation of the site as one of the four “*game changer*” sites for the county. As an allocated site within up-to-date local plans it would provide land for sustainable economic development.

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Social role – the proposals would contribute to the social well being of the area through providing jobs for the local community. This would in turn create additional disposable income that has potential to support other local business and retail expenditure helping to contribute to a thriving local community.

Environmental Role – the proposals would create a business development within a landscaped setting that would enhance the local environments through the creation of new improved habitats, increased tree and hedgerow planting, ecological mitigation to protect species and respects the built heritage of the locality. The proposals will be designed to meet the requirements for the efficient use of resources and energy and water conservation.

- 29.3 The site presents a potential ‘Game Changer’ for the Redditch economy. The site will offer new employment opportunities and will help to facilitate growth of existing companies within Redditch that require expansion space, thus freeing up existing units for re-occupation. The site will also be attractive for inward investment bringing new companies and employment opportunities to Redditch.
- 29.4 The site is allocated for employment use within the three adopted Local Plans and there is in principle support for the proposed development.
- 29.5 The site will meet the aspirations set out in the local economic priorities adopted by Redditch, as well as ensuring that both Local Enterprise Partnerships meet their aspirations for new jobs and growth within the area.
- 29.6 The proposals would not result in significant environmental impacts on air quality, noise and vibration, risk of contamination, residential amenity, water resources and flood risk that could not be mitigated by the imposition of conditions and/or legal agreement obligations.
- 29.7 The planning application followed and was informed by extensive pre-application discussion with various stakeholders and consultees, and has been designed to ensure that potential impacts have been addressed or can be satisfactorily mitigated through the appropriate conditions imposed on a planning permission. I consider that the changes proposed through the submission of the amended plans have positively responded to the comments submitted and are considered to comply with the provisions of Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy (2016), Bromsgrove District Plan (2017) and Redditch Local Plan No.4 (2017).
- 29.8 The applicant has therefore shown that they are a responsible and considerate developer willing to make amendments where appropriate to ensure quality of development and management of any impacts.
- 29.9 As outlined in the main application, the development of the site has been identified as one of the key employment development opportunities in the area that will be bring both short and long term economic benefits.

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29.10 A review of the Transport Assessment by the Council's transport consultants - Mott MacDonald, concurs with the findings of that assessment that the impact of the proposed development would be minimal. This is consistent with the views of both Highway Authorities.

29.11 Given the potential economic benefits of the proposals and the general conformity with the local adopted planning policies and economic aspirations, it is considered that the application should be approved.

30.0 RECOMMENDATION:

That having regard to the development plan and to all other material considerations, authority be delegated to the Head of Planning and Regeneration to GRANT planning permission subject to:-

a) The satisfactory completion of a S106 planning obligation ensuring that:

£200,000.00 to be paid on first occupation and held for a period of 15 years from its receipt in the form of a bond and management arrangement to support HGV routing.

Biodiversity offset scheme for each phase of development and biodiversity monitoring contribution.

And

b) Conditions as summarised below:

Conditions:

Please Note:

- On this occasion the conditions are presented in a summarised form, to adjust the final wording to ensure compatibility across the three Local Authorities and to take into account phasing requirements of the scheme.
- Those conditions which are highlighted below do not apply to Redditch, but are proposed to be imposed in relation to Bromsgrove and Stratford

Permission definition conditions

1. Details of layout, scale, appearance, landscaping and any means of access that are not hereby approved (the reserved matters)

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2. Application for approval of all reserved matters to be made in accordance with set deadlines
3. Expiration deadlines for implementation of approved reserved matters
4. Approved plans and drawings

Pre-reserved matters submission conditions

5. Prior to reserved matters submission a Site Wide Phasing Strategy for:-
 - i. development phases of land the subject of separate reserved matters applications
 - ii. the type and general alignment/route/linking of carriageways, footpaths, cyclepaths for each phase and measures to ensure appropriate network connectivity between each phase
 - iii. the timing of provision of development and infrastructure and utilities (including 'super-fast' broadband) for each phase
 - iv. a site wide strategy for the implementation of SUDs infrastructure
 - v. a site wide strategy for management and maintenance of open spaces and green infrastructure
 - vi. a site wide strategy for mitigating and adapting to climate change including measures for:-
 - i. designing buildings to cope with more extreme temperatures
 - ii. reducing energy demand through efficiency
 - iii. the provision of energy from renewable or low carbon sources
 - iv. minimising water consumption and accommodating 'grey' water recycling
6. Written scheme of investigation (WSI) to be submitted to and approved
7. Final phase not occupied until site investigation and post investigation assessment completed in accordance with WSI

*Pre-commencement/occupation and other conditions**8. Samples/palette of all external materials for each phase**9. Details of parking for persons with mobility impairments/disabilities**10. Details of existing ground levels; proposed finished ground levels; building slab levels and building ridge heights**11. Scheme for provision of adequate water supplies to be submitted and approved*

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Highways and transport

12. Construction Environmental Management Plan to be submitted and approved (for reasons of Ecology and Drainage also)
13. Detailed design of the Traffic Signalled Access Junction on the A4023 Coventry Highway to be submitted and approved
14. Detailed design of pedestrian/cycleway connection to Far Moor Lane to be submitted and approved (north)
15. Detailed design of pedestrian/cycleway connection to Far Moor Lane to be submitted and approved (south)

16. Detailed design of A435 slip road mitigation to be submitted and approved

17. HGV Routing Strategy to be submitted and approved

18. Annual HGV Surveys to be submitted and approved (first submission 12 months from first occupation)

19. Employment Travel Plan to be submitted and approved

20. Details of secure cycle parking facilities to be incorporated in design of reserved matters submissions (for reason of residential amenity also)

21. Details of scheme of electric charging points to be incorporated in design of reserved matters submissions (for reason of residential amenity also)

Drainage and water

22. In accordance with Flood Risk Assessment submitted
23. Detailed flood mitigation scheme to be submitted and approved
24. Details of surface water drainage works to be submitted and approved (for reason of Ecology also)
25. Scheme to manage and maintain construction materials to prevent them entering or silting up the ditch network to be submitted and approved

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Protection of residential amenity

26. The carrying out, submission, and approval of the following related to contaminated land to include
- i. further site investigation
 - ii. detailed site investigation and risk assessment undertaken
 - iii. where site investigation identified remediation required, detailed remediation scheme to be submitted and approved
 - iv. remediation undertaken
 - v. validation report demonstrating effectiveness of remediation carried out
 - vi. any contamination not previously identified to be reporting to LPAs; investigation and risk assessment undertaken and remediation scheme prepared; validation report submitted and approved
27. Details of scheme of low emission boilers to be incorporated in design of reserved matters submissions

Ecology/protected species/landscape

28. *Scheme for new watercourse channels diverted around the north of the site to be submitted and approved*
29. Scheme for provision and management of buffer zone alongside watercourses on site to be submitted and approved
30. Details of all external light fittings and external light columns to be submitted and approved (for reasons of residential amenity also)
31. Landscape and ecological management plan to be submitted and approved
32. *Scheme for the provision of a wildlife tunnel under the A4023 to be submitted and approved*

Procedural matters

This application is being reported to the Planning Committee because :

- the application requires a S106 Agreement.
- the application is for major development (more than 1000 sq metres of new commercial / Industrial floorspace),
- two (or more) objections have been received.

As such the application falls outside the scheme of delegation to Officers.

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Planning Application 17/00831/REM**Reserved matters approval for 71 dwellings.****Land At Church Road, Church Road, Webheath, Redditch****Applicant: Miss Georgina Hallam**
Ward: West Ward**(see additional papers for site plan)**

The author of this report is Sarah Hazlewood, Planning Officer (DM), who can be contacted on Tel: 01527881720 Email: sarah.hazlewood@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk for more information.

Site Description

The site largely comprises agricultural land lying on the south west side of Church Road. Abutting and forming part of the south eastern site boundary are properties accessed from Hilltop, off Church Road. Hilltop also forms a public right of way which continues beyond the application site boundary in a westerly direction. Further to the west of the site is agricultural land and to the North West beyond the brook course is land which benefits from planning permission for 200 dwellings. Works on this scheme are well underway with some of the dwellings already occupied.

Proposal description

The application seeks approval of reserved matters relating to appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for 71 dwellings. This application follows outline planning permission granted for up to 80 dwellings dealt with under reference 2016/131/OUT and approved on 03.03.17.

Relevant Policies:

Policy 3 – Development Strategy
Policy 5 – Effective and Efficient Use of Land
Policy 39 – Built Environment
Policy 40 – High Quality design and Safer Communities
Policy 48 Webheath Strategic Site

NPPF – National Planning Policy Framework
NPPG – National Planning Practice Guidance

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Relevant Planning History

2016/131/OUT	Outline Planning Application for up to 80 residential units	Approved	03.03.2017
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Consultations

Highways Redditch

This is a Reserved Matters application for a site with historic outline permission. All the issues regarding the principle of the development and the necessary off site works were fully assessed at that time and have not therefore been considered here.

The applicant has submitted revised plans that have addressed the highway concerns raised in our original response.

It is therefore recommended that the application be approved subject to conditions.

Redditch Strategic Planning and Conservation

Initial comments received supported the principle of the development, that the development was proposed at an appropriate density and that affordable housing was being provided on site. Concerns were raised regarding the balance of the open market housing mix proposed, the lack of a highway shown continuing up to the boundary of the site and pedestrian connectivity.

In response to the amended plans submitted the continuity of the road line up to the redline boundary and the provision of pedestrian connectivity in the vicinity of the adjacent play area to the north of this proposal is noted. However, concerns remain regarding the mix of open market house types across the site.

Drainage Engineers Internal Planning Consultation

Confirmation received that the details submitted are acceptable from the perspective of the reserved matters application.

Arboricultural Officer

Initial comments received raised concerns regarding the loss of one tree proposed on the site and required further information regarding hard standing where it encroached in to the Root Protection Area of any tree. Conditions were recommended with respect to tree and hedge management, tree protection during the works and a specification for the makeup of the areas where the encroachment was proposed.

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Amended plans have been submitted which shows the retention of the tree formally shown as being removed. Whilst a specification of the hard standing has been submitted where it incurs in to the RPAs, this is not considered appropriate and a condition with respect to this matter is recommended, as well as those originally recommended.

Parks & Green Space Development Officer Martin Lewis

Initial comments received suggested amendments to the proposed landscaping scheme. No objections were raised to the habitat surveying subject to a condition securing bat and bird boxes on the site.

Following receipt of amended plans a condition is recommended with respect to the provision of bat and bird and bird boxes on the site.

Housing Strategy

Objections were raised which respect to the initial submission and the affordable housing mix proposed across the site.

Amended plans have been submitted in order to address this matter, in line with the Housing Officers comments, however formal confirmation regarding this matter is awaited.

WRS - Contaminated Land

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above application. It is not clear why WRS has been consulted on this reserved matters application in respect of contaminated land. I have reviewed the available application documents and our records, and note WRS provided recommendations for condition in this respect on the associated outline application 2016/131/OUT on 27th May 2016 - copy attached. Those recommendations remain valid and WRS has no further comments in this respect at this time.

Leisure Services Manager

No Comments Received To Date

Landscape & Countryside Manager

No Comments Received To Date

North Worcestershire Economic Development and Regeneration

No Comments Received To Date

Ramblers Association

No Comments Received To Date

Worcestershire County Council Countryside Service

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Thank you for consulting us regarding the above proposals. Redditch Parish bridleway RD-546 is adjacent to the application site and I have attached an illustrative plan for your information.

The proposal should have no detrimental effect on the public right of way provided that the applicant adheres to their obligations.

Sports and Leisure Services Manager

No Comments Received To Date

Worcestershire Archive and Archaeological Service

As no archaeological works can now be implemented we would have no comments to make regarding the reserved matters.

Waste Management

No Comments Received To Date

Severn Trent Water Ltd

Please add the following condition:

'No dwelling hereby approved shall be occupied until a restricted pumped rate for foul water flows has been agreed by Severn Trent Water Limited in writing to the Local Planning Authority.

Reason - To ensure that the development is provided with a satisfactory means of drainage until such a time when sewerage improvements have been fully implemented by Severn Trent Water Limited.

Fire Officer

No Comments Received To Date

Natural England

No Comments Received To Date

Worcestershire Wildlife Trust

No Comments Received To Date

Drainage Engineers Internal Planning Consultation

No Comments Received To Date

Public Consultation Response

A total of 58 letters were sent to neighbours and/or those who had previously commented on the associated outline planning application 2016/131/OUT.

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A total of three site notices were displayed on 28.07.17. Two were displayed on Church Road near to the application site and one was displayed on the Hilltop Public Right of Way.

The application was also advertised in the Redditch Standard on 04.08.17.

A total of 12 comments have been received in relation to the proposal, 10 of which are recorded as objections.

A summary of the comments received relate to:

- The impact of further development on the character and amenity of the Webheath area;
- Loss of green space/countryside/wildlife;
- Inadequate infrastructure in the area;
- Issues and impacts arising from the ongoing/existing development in the area;
- Land ownership
- Access: concerns whether Hilltop will be used, poor visibility and capacity of the road network/Church Road;
- Loss of view;
- Construction traffic;
- Access to private property;
- No need for the development
- Drainage/flooding
- Noise/pollution/impact of lighting

Assessment of Proposal

Principle of developing the site for housing

The site forms part of the wider Webheath Strategic Site, allocated under Policy 48 of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No. 4 adopted in January 2017. The strategic site as a whole is allocated to deliver 400-600 houses. To date, planning permission has been granted for 200 dwellings on land to the north west, with this current application seeking approval of details relating to a further 71 dwellings.

Furthermore, the site benefits from outline planning permission for up to 80 dwellings, granted in March 2017. The application established the principle of developing the site for residential purposes as well as establishing the positioning and technical matters relating to the access and visibility splays for the site.

Design

The dwellings proposed for the site are taken from the developers 'Heritage' range and adopt a 1930s style of dwelling. The dwellings are proposed to be finished in brick and render and include bay window features, corbelled eaves on gables, over sailing eaves

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detailing and porches. It is considered that the design of the dwellings is appropriate, particularly given the site location within a wider development area and due to Webheath itself not being characterised by one predominant house type/style.

Amenity

The proposed development abuts properties on Hilltop. In excess of 21 metres window to window relationship exists between the majority of the windows on the existing dwellings to the proposal dwellings. In addition to this the land levels drop between the properties on Hilltop and the proposed dwellings such that there is unlikely to be any overlooking impact arising from the proposed development. The distance and level differences between the proposed development and the properties on Hilltop also ensures that no harmful overbearing or overshadowing impact will arise through the development of the dwellings as proposed.

With respect to the two properties, The Coach House and Keepers Cottage, whose rear boundaries lie in close proximity to the application site, these properties are shown to look out on an access driveway and front garden arrangement within the proposed development. Given this arrangement and again the drop in land levels, it is considered that the proposed development will not result in any harmful overlooking, overshadowing or overbearing impact.

Furthermore, the layout of the proposed development ensures that all of the dwellings have adequate private amenity space.

Landscaping

With respect to landscaping, Your Officers note that neither the Arboricultural Officer or Parks and Green Space Officer raise objections to the proposals, subject to the imposition of conditions. With respect to the proposals, the layout is such that it retains all the protected trees on the site and any others of value.

A details has been provided to show how the boundaries with the properties on Hilltop will be constructed in order to provide a fences boundary and also retain the existing vegetation along this boundary.

In addition, amendments to the proposed landscaping have been made in line with the comments of the Parks and Green Space Officer such that the proposed landscaping will not overwhelm the dwellings on the site.

It is noted that some regrading of the site is indicated on the plans submitted. The applicant's agent has confirmed that there will be circa 200 cubic metres of soil which, as a result of these works, require removing from the site. This equates to approximately 170 lorry loads of soil. Your Officers consider that a condition is necessary to control that element of the proposal.

Layout

The layout of the proposed development is largely dictated by the positioning of the approved access in to the site, the need to maintain an access point in to the wider site

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allocation and the topography of the site. A main, broadly linear road is proposed in to the site running broadly east- west, with secondary cul de sac features. It is considered that this layout is appropriate for the site given the constraints, which also include root protection areas of protected trees.

Other matters

With respect to construction traffic, the outline planning application included a condition requiring the submission of a Construction Management Plan. This included the submission and agreement of details relating to the prevention of mud or other detritus being deposited on the highway, location of material storage and site operative parking.

In addition, the outline permission required the completion of a S106 agreement which secured affordable housing provision on site, a contribution towards open space and play facilities, a contribution towards education facilities, highway contribution and a town centre contribution.

Officers note the contents of the representations received in relation to the application. With respect to issues such as the loss of countryside to the development, any matters relating to highway safety and need for the development, these matters were addressed at the outline planning application stage. Members are referred to the earlier part of this report relating to the principle of the development of the site and the matters surrounding access which have previously been established. Particularly with respect to highway matters Members are reminded that the outline planning permission also secured a financial contribution to mitigate the impact on highway junctions affected by the development.

Your Officers note a number of the representations refer to matters surrounding the development of the site to the North West, however these matters are not material to the determination of this application which needs to be determined on its own merits.

RECOMMENDATION:

That having regard to the development plan and to all other material considerations, planning permission be GRANTED subject to the following conditions:

Conditions:

1. The development hereby permitted shall begin not later than two years from the date of approval of the last of the reserved matters to be approved.

Reason :- In accordance with the requirements of Section 91(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by Section 51 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

2. The development hereby approved shall be carried out in accordance with the following plans and drawings:

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1691-08-02-111 Rev E Materials Plan
1691-08-02-121 Rev D Enclosures Plan
1691-08-02-100 Rev E Site Plan
1691-08-02-118 Hilltop Boundary Section
1691-08-02-100 Plot 68 Coloured Plan
1691-08-02-134 Rev A Garden Area Plan
1691-08-02-122 Rev B Proposed Floor Levels
1691-08-02-116 Rev A Sections 1 of 2
1691-08-02-117 Rev A Sections 2 of 2
Arboricultural Impact Assessment Rev 1 CA17/034
Arboricultural Impact Assessment plan CA ref 17/034-04 Rev 1
Detailed Soft Landscaping Proposals CA ref 17/034-03 Rev 1
Tree Protection Plan CA ref 17/034-05 Rev 1
Double Garage Type 10 Heritage Collection
Single Garage Type 1 Heritage Collection
The Ludlow Heritage Collection EF Series Brick (B1) (elevations)
The Ludlow Heritage Collection EF Series Render (A1) (elevations)
The Ludlow Heritage Collection EF Series (floorplans)
The Stratford Heritage Collection EF Series Brick (B1)
The Stratford Heritage Collection EF Series Render (A1)
The Shrewsbury Heritage Collection EF Series Brick (B1)
The Shrewsbury Heritage Collection EF Series Render (A1)
The Marlow Heritage Collection EF Series Render (A1)
The Cambridge Heritage Collection EF Series Brick (B1)
The Cambridge Heritage Collection EF Series Render (A1)
The Shaftesbury Heritage Collection EF Series Brick (B1) (elevations)
The Shaftesbury Heritage Collection EF Series (floorplans)
The Sunningdale Heritage Collection EF Series Brick (B1) (elevations)
The Sunningdale Heritage Collection EF Series (floorplans)
Hadleigh Heritage Collection EF Series
The Tavy – Tavy 3 Heritage Collection EF Series (elevations)
The Tavy – Tavy 3 Heritage Collection EF Series (floorplans)
The Dart Heritage Collection EF Series (elevations)
The Dart Heritage Collection EF Series (floorplans)
The Tweed EF Series Heritage Collection Brick (B1)
The Maisonette Floor Plans
The Maisonette Brick (elevations)
The Maisonette Brick (side elevations)
The Stratford Only Plot 50 EF Series Render (A1)
The Sherbourne Heritage Collection EF Series Brick (B1)
The Sherbourne Heritage Collection EF Series Render (A1)
1691-08-02-120 Location Plan
Preliminary Ecological Appraisal 2690-CWA-01

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REASON: To provide certainty to the extent of the development hereby approved in the interests of proper planning.

3. Prior to the commencement of the development hereby approved, a Site Waste Management Plan shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. Thereafter, the development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: In order to adequately understand where the soil to be removed from the site will be removed to and that the works are undertaken in a manner which is acceptable to residential amenity and highway safety.

4. No part of the development hereby permitted shall be occupied until the access, turning area and parking facilities shown on the approved plan have been properly consolidated, surfaced, drained and otherwise constructed in accordance with the details approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and these areas shall thereafter be retained and kept available for those users at all times.

REASON: In the interests of Highway safety and to ensure the free flow of traffic using the adjoining Highway.

5. Before any part of the approved development is brought into use access from each dwelling to a suitable appropriate public highway shall be provided, constructed to at least Base Course level to the appropriate standards with appropriate drainage and that access shall be maintained as such thereafter.

Reason: To ensure that an appropriate vehicular and pedestrian access is provided to each dwelling.

6. Before any other works hereby approved are commenced, the construction of the vehicular access shall be carried out in accordance with a specification to be agreed in writing with the Local Planning Authority.

REASON: In the interests of highway safety.

7. Prior to the first occupation of any dwelling hereby approved secure parking for cycles to comply with the Council's standards shall be provided within the curtilage of each dwelling and these facilities shall thereafter be retained for the parking of cycles only.

REASON: To comply with the Council's parking standards

8. Prior to the commencement of the development hereby permitted engineering details of the off-site works shall be submitted and approved in writing by the Local

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Planning Authority, and the development shall not be occupied until the scheme has been constructed in accordance with the approved details.

REASON: To ensure the safe operation of the Highway.

9. The development shall not begin until parking for site operatives and visitors has been provided within the application site in accordance with details to be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority and such provision be retained and kept available during the construction of the development.

REASON: To prevent indiscriminate parking in the interests of Highways safety.

10. No dwelling hereby approved shall be occupied until a restricted pumped rate for foul water flows has been agreed by Severn Trent Water Limited and submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason - To ensure that the development is provided with a satisfactory means of drainage until such a time when sewerage improvements have been fully implemented by Severn Trent Water Limited.

11. All of the retained trees will need to be afforded full protection in accordance with BS5837:2012 recommendations and as recommended within the Corsican Associates Arboricultural Method Statement throughout any demolition, ground or development work on the site.

Reason: To secure the wellbeing of the trees to be retained.

12. A full specification for the construction method of any area of hard standing to be constructed within the BS5837:2012 recommended RPA of any tree to be retained should be submitted to include the use of a suitable quality and grade of cellular confinement material.

Reason: To secure the wellbeing of the trees to be retained.

13. All tree and hedge management pruning must comply with BS3998:2010 recommendations.

Reason: To secure the wellbeing of the trees to be retained.

14. 8 suitable Schwegler (or similar) bird boxes and 7 Schwegler (or similar) bat boxes shall be installed on site. The boxes shall be sited towards the top of walls away from windows and other potential light on and around the buildings/landscape proposed. In addition, boxes should be located in warm locations where they will receive full/partial sun in a variety of orientations to receive a range of climatic conditions. The boxes must be at least 3 metres above ground to prevent disturbance from people and/or predators. Exact locations and types should be

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determined and agreed with an ecologist. The details shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority and the boxes installed prior to first occupation of any dwelling on the site.

Reason: In order to ensure a net gain in biodiversity.

Informatives:

1. Whilst the submitted plans are such that they can be approved in planning terms there is a process of Technical Approval of the detailed road design that will be required be gone through to enable the roads to be adopted by the local highway authority. This approval for planning purposes will not be considered to in any way mitigate any technical shortcomings identified during the adoption process and this may lead to a requirement to submit further planning applications to regularise any necessary alterations to the design. Should the roads not be adopted and remain private it is likely that the owners of the dwellings will be responsible for the future maintenance of the road, snow clearing etc. and any liability that follows from not carrying out those duties to an appropriate level.
2. The attention of the applicant is drawn to the need to keep the Highway free from any mud or other material emanating from the application site of any works pertaining thereto.
3. If it is the Developer's intention to request the County Council, as Highway Authority, to adopt the proposed roadworks as maintainable at the public expense, then details of the layout and alignment, widths and levels of the proposed roadworks, which shall comply with any plans approved under this planning consent unless otherwise agreed in writing, together with all necessary drainage arrangements and run off calculations shall be submitted to the County Council's Network Control Manager, Worcestershire County Council, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NP. No works on the site of the development shall be commenced until these details have been approved and an Agreement under Section 38 of the Highways Act, 1980, entered into.
4. No work on the site should be commenced until engineering details of the improvements to the Public Highway have been submitted to and approved by the Highway Authority and an agreement under Section 278 of the Highways Act 1980 entered into.
5. The attention of the applicant is drawing to Section 59 of the Highways Act 1980 which allows the Highway Authority to recover additional costs of road maintenance due to damage by extraordinary traffic.
6. Before any work is commenced upon the development hereby approved representatives of Worcestershire County Council, as the Highway Authority and the applicant, shall carry out a joint road survey/inspection on the roads leading to

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this site. Any highlighted defects shall be rectified to the specification and satisfaction of the Highway Authority before work is commenced on the development hereby approved. A further joint survey/inspection shall be undertaken following completion of development hereby approved and any necessary remedial works shall be completed to the specification and satisfaction of the Highway Authority within 1 month or other agreed timescale

7. Any work involving the removal or disturbance of ground or structures supporting or abutting the publicly maintained highway should be carried out in accordance with details to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Highway Authority.
8. No disturbance of, or change to, the surface of the path or part thereof should be carried out without our written consent.
9. No diminution in the width of the right of way available for use by the public.
10. Buildings materials must not be stored on the right of way.
11. Vehicle movements and parking to be arranged so as not to unreasonably interfere with the public's use of the right of way.
12. No additional barriers are placed across the right of way. No stile, gate, fence or other structure should be created on, or across, a public right of way without written consent of the Highway Authority.
13. The safety of the public using the right of way is to be ensured at all times.
14. The applicant should note the National Planning Policy Framework published in March 2012 by the Department for Communities and Local Government, particularly paragraph 75 to ensure that planning policies protect and enhance public rights of way and access.
15. The developer should also be aware of the Department of Environment Circular 1/09 (part 7) which explains that the effect of development on a public right of way is a material consideration in the determination of applications for planning permission and that the grant of planning consent does not entitle developers to obstruct a public right of way.
16. The Definitive Map is a minimum record of public rights of way and does not preclude the possibility that unrecorded public rights may exist, nor that higher rights may exist than those shown.

Procedural matters

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This application is reported to Planning Committee for determination because the application is for major development, and as such the application falls outside the scheme of delegation to Officers.

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Planning Application 17/01147/FUL**Replacement of existing workshops and offices with modern purpose built structure (B2 use).****Old Worcester Building, 10 Birmingham Road, Enfield, Redditch, B97 6DY,****Applicant: Mr Mike Cockrell
Ward: Abbey Ward****(see additional papers for site plan)**

The author of this report is Andrew Fulford, Planning Officer (DM), who can be contacted on Tel: 01527 881323 Email: A.fulford@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk for more information.

Site Description

This application relates to an industrial premises occupied by a car repair business. The site is occupied by a single storey brick built building with a shallow pitched roof. The building is set back from Birmingham Road with a parking area at the front of the site. The site has two existing accesses off the Birmingham Road. The site is located on the edge of an employment area but has residential development opposite and is within a short walk of the town centre.

Proposed Development

This application seeks planning permission for the demolition of the existing buildings and erection of a purpose built building for the car repair business. The building would occupy a similar footprint to the existing building but would extend to 7.2m in height, which is 1.2m higher than the maximum height of the existing building. The increase in height has created room for a first floor in the building.

Relevant Policies:**Borough of Redditch Local Plan No. 4**

Policy 1: Presumption in Favour of Sustainable Development

Policy 16: Natural Environment

Policy 17: Flood Risk Management

Policy 19: Sustainable travel and Accessibility

Policy 20: Transport Requirements for New Developments

Policy 23: Employment Land Provision

Policy 24: Development within Primarily Employment Areas

Policy 36: Historic Environment

Policy 37: Historic Buildings and Structures

Policy 39: Built Environment

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Policy 40: High Quality Design and Safer Communities

Others

National Planning Policy Framework

Relevant Planning History

None

Consultations**Drainage Engineer**

No objection subject to conditions

Highways Engineer

No objection subject to conditions

WRS – Noise

No objection

WRS - Contaminated Land

No objection subject to conditions

Conservation Consultant

The building appears a bit tall, which combined with the length of frontage, creates a massing that increases the dominance of modern structures in relation to the view and reveal of the listed building as you walk south along Birmingham Road. The height of the building should be reduced.

Arboricultural Officer

No objection subject to conditions

Public Consultation Response

1 response has been received raising the following objections:

- Building is too high and impacts on setting of the listed Windsor Court; and
- Telephone pole which provides services to adjacent buildings is shown on existing plan but not on the proposed site plan

Assessment of Proposal

The main issues to be considered in assessing the application are the following:

- i) Principle of Development
- ii) Residential Amenity
- iii) Landscape Character
- iv) Highways
- v) Impact upon Character

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vi) Other Considerations

i) Principle of Development

The Policies Map indicates that the site is located within a designated Primarily Employment Area. In accordance with Policy 24 of the adopted Local Plan the redevelopment of an employment site for new employment development is considered to be acceptable in principle. A purpose built building for the owners would clearly be of benefit to this local business. In accordance with paragraph 19 of the NPPF Local Planning Authorities should be supporting sustainable economic growth.

Whilst the basic principle of the development is considered to be acceptable further consideration of detailed matters such highways, landscape and heritage will be required against Policies 16, 19, 20, 22, 36, 37, 39 and 40 of the Borough of Redditch Local Plan No.4.

ii) Residential Amenity

The nearest dwellings are No's 120, 122, 130 and 132 Worcester Road which are located on the opposite side of Worcester Road facing the proposed development. A minimum distance of 35m is retained between the proposed development and the front elevation of these dwellings. This distance is sufficient to ensure that the proposal does not appear overbearing. As the same use will continue it is not expected that there would be any notable increase in noise or disturbance and no concerns have been raised by Worcestershire Regulatory Services. The development therefore has an acceptable amenity impact.

iii) Landscape and Trees

There are 3 trees and the front of the site (1 silver birch and 2 cherry trees) and 2 sycamore trees adjacent to the rear boundary. These trees add to the visual appearance of the site. The Tree Officer has confirmed that the development can take place without any harm to these trees and consequently he raises no objection to the scheme. The proposal therefore accords with Policy 16 of the Local Plan.

iv) Highways Considerations

The proposal will utilise the existing accesses on site and there will be an increase in the number of parking spaces by 2 taking the total up to 29 spaces. Bearing in mind the same use as car repair business would continue on the site there is not expected to be any undue impact on the local highway network. No objections are raised by the County Council Highway Engineer and consequently the proposal accords with Policies 19 and 20 of the Local Plan.

v) Impact upon Character

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Windsor Mills (now known as Windsor Court) is a grade II listed property which is located directly to the south of the application site. The applicant has submitted a heritage statement that indicates that the setting of the listed building is experienced most from its dominant frontage onto Clive Road with only limited views available from Birmingham Road. The Council's Heritage Consultant acknowledges that the proposal will not physically impact upon the listed building but the key impact for assessment is the impact on its setting. The current building on the application site is set back from the road frontage meaning that there are views of the listed building from the Birmingham Road. The Heritage Consultant is concerned that the increased bulk of the proposal will materially impact upon the setting of the listed building. Although the proposed building is approximately 1.2m higher than the existing it is important to note that the building is 3.8m further away from the listed building than the existing building on site. Whilst the building may be taller and bulkier this is balanced out by the increased separation from the listed building. The increased separation will ensure views through to the listed building from the Birmingham Road would remain. It is important to note that Windsor Mills is a substantial industrial building and is not only taller than the proposed building but is also sited on higher ground ensuring that none of its prominence is lost. On balance, the proposal therefore does not harm the setting of the listed building in accordance with Policies 36 and 37 of the Local Plan.

The wider street scene consists of a wide variety of commercial properties and also 2 and 3 storey dwellings. The existing single storey building is of no architectural merit so its loss is acceptable. Despite the building being higher than the existing it would not appear unduly prominent. With the increase in land levels south of the site the development would sit comfortably below the ridge height of Brunswick House and Windsor Court. The building is also set back from the street maintaining a similar footprint to the existing building. Materials can be controlled by condition to ensure the materials blend into the local environment. It is considered that the proposal maintains the character and appearance of the locality in accordance with policies 39 and 40 of the adopted Plan.

vi) Other Considerations

Concerns have been raised over the telephone pole which is shown on the existing plans not on the proposed site layout. The applicant is currently discussing with the relevant utilities provider the possibility of relocating the telephone pole. The movement or otherwise of the pole is outside the scope of planning and it is a matter for the applicant to ensure that services received by neighbouring buildings are not interrupted.

Conclusion

The redevelopment of the employment site for employment purposes is supported. On balance the impact on character is considered to be acceptable. The development is also acceptable in terms of amenity, highway and landscape considerations and therefore is in accordance with the relevant policies of the Local Plan.

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RECOMMENDATION:

That having regard to the development plan and to all other material considerations, planning permission be GRANTED subject to the following conditions:

Conditions:

- 1) The development hereby approved shall be carried out in accordance with the following plans and drawings:

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114 Rev A

REASON: To provide certainty to the extent of the development hereby approved in the interests of proper planning.

- 2) The development to which this permission relates must be begun not later than the expiration of three years beginning with the date of the grant of this permission.

Reason: In accordance with the requirements of Section 91(1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by Section 51 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.

- 3) Prior to their first installation, details of the form, colour and finish of the materials to be used externally on the walls and roofs shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall then be carried out in accordance with the approved details.

Reason: To ensure that the development is satisfactory in appearance, to safeguard the visual amenities of the area

- 4) No works or development shall take place until a scheme for surface water drainage has been submitted to, and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The scheme shall include the results of an assessment into the potential of disposing of surface water by means of a sustainable drainage system (SuDS) and shall provide an appropriate level of runoff treatment. The approved scheme shall be completed prior to the first use of the development hereby approved.

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Reason: In order to ensure satisfactory drainage conditions that will not create or exacerbate flood risk on site or within the surrounding local area.

- 5) The development hereby permitted shall not be brought into use until the access, turning area and parking facilities shown on the approved plan have been properly consolidated, surfaced and drained and these areas shall thereafter be retained and kept available for those users at all times.

REASON: In the interests of Highway safety and to ensure the free flow of traffic using the adjoining Highway.

- 6) A total of 29 car parking spaces shall be provided on site and shall be reserved solely for that purpose and such spaces be made available for the use before the development hereby approved is occupied.

Reason: To comply with Parking Standards

- 7) All trees within and situated outside the boundary of the site must be afforded full protection through the demolition and construction phase in accordance with BS5837:2012.

Reason: To protect important landscape features

- 8) Any trees pruning shall be carried out in accordance with BS3998:2010 Tree Work - Recommendations.

Reason: To protect important landscape features

- 9) The development hereby approved shall be restricted to the operating hours of 08:00 – 18:00 Monday to Friday, 8:00 – 13:00 on Saturdays but not at all on Sundays and bank holidays.

Reason: To protect residential amenity

Informatives:

- 1) The attention of the applicant is drawn to the need to keep the Highway free from any mud or other material emanating from the application site of any works pertaining thereto.
- 2) This permission does not authorise the laying of private apparatus within the confines of the public highway. The applicant should apply to the Worcestershire County Council's Network Control Manager, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester WR5 2NP (telephone 01905 751651), for consent under the New Roads and Streetworks Act 1991 to install private apparatus within the confines of

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the public highway. Precise details of all works within the public highway must be agreed on site with the Highway Authority.

- 3) This permission does not authorise the applicant to carry out works within the publicly maintained highway since such works can only be carried out by the County Council's Approved Contractor, Ringway Infrastructure Service who can be contacted by email worcestershirevehicle.crossing@ringway.co.uk. The applicant is solely responsible for all costs associated with construction of the access.
- 4) Drainage arrangements shall be provided to ensure that surface water from the driveway and/or Vehicular turning area does not discharge onto the Public Highway. No drainage or effluent from the proposed development shall be allowed to discharge into any Highway drain or over any part of the Public Highway.

Procedural matters

This application is reported to Planning Committee for determination because the application is for major development (more than 1000 sq metres of new commercial / Industrial floorspace), and as such the application falls outside the scheme of delegation to Officers.

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