

Appendix 10

Glossary of Terms

Affordable Housing: Social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing, provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market. Eligibility is determined with regard to local incomes and local house prices. Affordable housing should include provisions to remain at an affordable price for future eligible households or for the subsidy to be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision (NPPF, March 2012).

AONB: Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. An area of countryside considered to have significant landscape value that has been specially designated by Natural England on behalf of the United Kingdom Government.

Background documents: These documents provide the link between evidence studies and South Worcestershire Local Plan policies. They are based on topic areas and provide further information on the formation of Local Plan policy.

Brownfield land/site: Also known as “previously developed” land or site. This refers to land that is or was occupied by a permanent structure (excluding agricultural or forestry buildings) and associated fixed surface infrastructure. It now includes the curtilages of the development such as gardens in relation to residential development.

Commitments: Development proposals that already have planning permission or are allocated in adopted development plans.

Community Infrastructure Levy: The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a charge that local authorities in England and Wales are empowered, but not required, to charge on most types of new development in their area. CIL charges are based on simple formulae that relate the size of the charge to the size and character of the development paying for it. This allows Local Authorities to raise funds from developers undertaking new building projects in their area. It can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure (i.e. transport schemes, schools, etc.) that are needed to support the development of the local area.

Conservation Area: An area of special architectural and / or historical interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. It is statutory recognition of the value of a group of buildings and their surroundings and of the need to protect not just individual buildings, but the character of the area as a whole.

Development Strategy: The Development Strategy is based upon the vision within the South Worcestershire Development Plan and brings together land uses, development and transport considerations and reflects the various environmental, economic and social characteristics of the area.

Development Plan: A statutory document within the local development framework folder. All English local planning authorities are required to produce such a plan. This document set out the local authority's policies and proposals for the development and use of land in their area. The development plan guides and informs day-to-day decisions as to whether or not planning permission should be granted, under the system known as development management.

Development Plan Documents (DPD): Spatial planning documents that are subject to independent examination. They can include a Core Strategy, site specific allocations of land, and Area Action Plans (where needed). Individual Development Plan Documents or part of a document can be reviewed independently from other Development Plan Documents. Each authority must set out the programme for preparing its Development Plan Documents in their Local Development Scheme.

Employment land: Land that is used to provide for office, commercial, industrial, research and development and warehousing development that generates or safeguards job-related activities.

English Heritage: The Government's statutory adviser on the historic environment. Officially known as the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England, English Heritage is an executive non-departmental Public Body sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. English Heritage works in partnership with the central government departments, local authorities, voluntary bodies and the private sector to a) conserve and enhance the historic environment; b) broaden public access to the heritage; c) increase people's understanding of the past.

Employment Land Review: This is a study that looks at existing employment land and future employment needs in an area. Amongst other things it examines future employment trends and whether certain sites should be kept in employment use.

Flood Zones 1, 2 and 3: Flood zones are areas defined by the Environment Agency that relate to past levels of river or coastal flooding and are related to future potential risk of flooding. Flood zone 3 relates to areas of land that are most often flooded, such as existing flood plains, whereas flood zone 1 relates to areas of low flood risk.

Green Belt: Green Belt is a national designation of land to protect certain areas around settlements from merging with other nearby settlements. The Green Belt that relates to South Worcestershire is the West Midlands Green Belt. Its main role is to contain urban areas and prevent urban sprawl.

Green infrastructure: A network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities.

Greenfield land/site: Land that has not been developed previously. Applies to most sites outside built-up areas and excludes protected open spaces e.g. land in built-up areas such as private residential gardens, parks, recreation grounds and allotments.

Historic Environment Sensitivity: Historic Environment refers to listed buildings, (and historic ones that are not listed), monuments, archaeological features and historic landscapes (e.g. field patterns, hill forts etc) which are considered to be of importance to the local area (and in many cases, of regional and national importance). It is considered that some such areas are more sensitive to land use/development changes than others and that this sensitivity can be measured.

Listed Building: A listed building is a building or structure that is considered to be of special national architectural or historic interest; it is protected by law from unauthorised alterations or demolition. In addition, any development that might affect its setting will generally require permission and will be scrutinised very closely.

Land Registry: This is a national organisation that registers title/ ownership to land in England and Wales. It also records dealings (for example, sales and mortgages) with registered land.

Local Development Framework (LDF): The LDF is not a statutory term; it sets out, in the form of a 'portfolio / folder', the Local Development Documents that collectively deliver the spatial planning strategy for the local planning authority's area. The LDF will be comprised of Local Development Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents. It will also include the Statement of Community Involvement, the Local Development Scheme and the Annual Monitoring Report.

Local Development Scheme: This is a public statement of a local authority's programme for the production of Local Development Documents. The scheme will be revised when necessary. This may be either as a result of the Annual Monitoring Report, which should identify whether the local authority has achieved the timetable set out in the original scheme, or if there is a need to revise and / or prepare new local development documents.

Local Wildlife Importance: This refers to land /sites that are recognised as being locally important in terms of the value of their wildlife. This is recognised by local designations, such as Local Nature Reserve.

Open Space: All open space of public value, including not just land, but also areas of water (such as rivers, canals, lakes and reservoirs), which offer important opportunities for sport and recreation and can act as a visual amenity.

Planning Advisory Service: The Planning Advisory Service (PAS) is a Government funded service that aims to help Local planning Authorities understand the new planning system and provide a more efficient planning service. It also provides background information on planning legislation for others, such as the public, developers etc.

Pre – Submission Document: The final draft version of a Development Plan Document upon which the public, developers and landowners are consulted.

Previously Developed Land: See definition for Brownfield land.

Proposals Map: The adopted proposals map illustrates on a base map (reproduced from, or based upon a map to a registered scale) all the spatial policies contained in the Development Plan Documents, together with any saved policies. It must be revised each time a new Development Plan Document is adopted and it should always reflect the up-to-date planning strategy for the area. Proposals for changes to the adopted map accompany submitted Development Plan Documents in the form of a submission proposals map.

Regional Spatial Strategy: (abbreviated to RSS). This is a Government planning policy document for the administrative regions of England. In the West Midlands, the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy is part of the Development Plan for areas within Malvern Hills District Council, Wychavon District Council and Worcester City Council (please refer to amendments in main report).

Scheduled Ancient Monument: This is a nationally important archaeological site or historic building, given legal protection against unauthorised change. The protection is offered under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

Settlement boundary: This is a line on a map in an adopted local plan that defines and encloses a settlement and to which area planning policies are related.

Settlement hierarchy: In the SWLP, settlements are categorised as part of a hierarchy based on the services and facilities available to that settlement:

- Category 1 settlements are towns and villages with a good range of services and facilities, as well as some access to public transport.
- Category 2 villages have a more limited level of services.
- Category 3 settlements are locations where only limited development to address local housing need is acceptable.
- Other settlements that have few facilities and services are felt to be unsustainable locations for any growth and are not given a settlement hierarchy category.

Site Allocations Development Plan Document: This is a Development Plan Document that defines on a plan where certain land uses are proposed to be located, for example, it may define new housing and employment sites.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest: Sites or areas designated as being of national importance because of their wildlife, plants or flowering species and / or their unusual or typical geological features. SSSIs are identified by Natural England and have protected status under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981

Strategic Gap: A local planning designation intended to protect the setting and separate identity of settlements by:

- helping to avoid coalescence;
- retaining the existing settlement pattern by maintaining the openness of the land; and
- Securing the quality of life benefits of having open land close to where people live.

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment: These are studies that examine the risk that sites in a defined area (such as a Local Authority area) have to flood in the future. They are required when development plans are prepared so that inappropriate development in areas of flood risk can be avoided, or flood management planned for.

Strategic Housing Market Area Housing Needs Assessment: The purpose of this study was to analyse data and trends relating to local housing markets and issues of affordability of housing within the sub-regions of the West Midlands.

Strategic sites: These sites are considered to be vital to the delivery of the South Worcestershire Local Plan objectives of economic-led growth. They are allocated for housing, employment and infrastructure development and represent significant opportunities for sustainable growth.

SWJCS Issues and Options Stage: This refers to a public consultation document for the South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy, which gave background information on the Joint Core Strategy to stimulate discussion on what people think is important in South Worcestershire, and ideas for distributing development growth.

SWDP: This refers to the South Worcestershire Development Plan which is a combined document - South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy (SWJCS) and the Site Allocations Plan Development Plan.

Urban Capacity Studies: These are studies to establish how much additional housing might be accommodated within urban areas and therefore how much green-field land might be needed for development.

Urban Greenspace: These are green areas of open space within an urban area that contribute to the character of an area and may provide opportunities for recreation, sport, walking and provide homes and routes for wildlife.

Village Facilities and Rural Transport Survey: An assessment of the facilities and public transport services that is available in each of South Worcestershire's rural settlements.

Windfall: Windfall sites are those that have not been specifically identified through the development plan process. They comprise previously developed sites that have unexpectedly become available and that may (in some cases) be suitable for certain forms of redevelopment.