

Appendix 7

**Note prepared by North West Leicestershire Council officers setting out capacity at Waste Water
Treatment works and proposed growth levels at Ashby and Measham**

RIVER MEASE AN EXPLANATION OF OUR APPROACH

Housing provision

Our approach to the distribution of housing in the Core Strategy is partly governed by issues associated with the River Mease SAC. Whilst the detailed Water Cycle Study has identified some potential ways forward (i.e. maintenance of load and improved treatment mechanisms at WwTW) we cannot be sure that these approaches could be achieved in the short term or if such approaches would be Habitat Regulations compliant, as these potential ways forward have not been subject to Habitat Regulations Assessment.

Therefore, we are proposing an approach which restricts the amount of new housing development in Ashby and Measham to that which would not exceed the current agreed headroom at the respective WwTW (1,218 Ashby (i.e. Packington) and 1,163 Measham).

As the Core Strategy covers the period 2006 to 2031 we will need to identify what the overall number of dwellings will be for each settlement for the whole period. We are proposing the following:

- Ashby – 1,400 dwellings
- Measham – 550 dwellings

However, we need to take account of what development has taken place since 2006 as such developments will (it is understood) have a connection to the appropriate WwTW and so will not come off the current headroom. The respective figures for 2006 to 31 March 2011 are:

- Ashby – 384 dwellings
- Measham – 42 dwellings

If these new dwellings are taken off the suggested settlement figures set out above this reduces the residual figure for the period 2011 to 2031 to:

- Ashby – 1,016 dwellings
- Measham – 508 dwellings

These last figures are within the headroom capacity for the respective WwTW (substantially in respect of Measham) and also allow for a reasonable buffer in the event that recorded P levels (for whatever reason) increase such that the headroom would be reduced.

We believe that this approach is Habitats Regulations compliant as the amount of development would be within the current headroom which is itself compliant with the Habitats Regulations by virtue of the fact that it is in accordance with the existing consent which has (retrospectively) been assessed as Habitats Regulations compliant (subject to the provisions of the water Quality Management Plan).

Consultation responses

The above note was consulted upon with the Environment Agency and Natural England on the 14th March 2012. The following responses were received:

Natural England (response dated 20th March 2012)

Hi Ian,

I have looked at your proposals for the Core Strategy and think that the explanations and the proposed text are all fine. From Natural England's point of view we are happy that this will enable your HRA to conclude that the housing levels proposed are in accordance with the requirements of the Habs Regs.

Rachel Hoskin

Lead Adviser

Land Use Operations Team

Natural England

Environment Agency (responses dated 20th March 2012)

Hello Ian,

Thank you for your e-mail and enclosure dated 14th March 2012.

Housing Provision

We agree with the maintenance of load approach and staying within the headroom of the WWTW, both of which you propose. Therefore I would say we agree with the view taken. The monitoring of available headroom and development approved and carried out is a task that will be undertaken by yourselves in consultation with Severn Trent Water Ltd.

Regards

Geoff Platts

Planning Liaison Officer

Environment Agency

Strategy approach

In view of the above considerations we are suggesting the following policy be included in the Core Strategy in terms of setting out what our approach is in respect of the River Mease SAC (note this is revised slightly from the earlier version following consultation with Natural England and the Environment Agency):

The Council will work with Natural England, the Environment Agency, Severn Trent Water and the development industry to improve the water quality of the River Mease Special Area of Conservation.

In order to achieve this, our strategy will be to only allow new development within the River Mease catchment where:

- a) There is sufficient headroom capacity available at the Wastewater Treatment Works to which it is proposed that flows from the development will go and;**
- b) The proposed development is in accordance with the provisions of the Water Quality Management Plan including, where appropriate, the provision of infrastructure or water quality improvements proposed in a Developer Contributions Strategy.**

In the event that there is no headroom capacity available, development will only be allowed where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development will not have an adverse impact upon the River Mease Special Area of Conservation.