



Elmbridge
Borough Council
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**Strategic Environmental Assessment
and
Habitat Regulations Assessment
Screening Report**

for the

**Developer Contributions
Supplementary Planning Document**

and the

**Design and Character
Supplementary Planning Document**

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Elmbridge Borough Council is currently producing two Supplementary Planning Documents as part of its Local Development Framework (LDF). The Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and the Design and Character SPD.
- 1.2 The 2004 Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act and associated Regulations made all local development documents subject to sustainability appraisal, which met the requirements of the EU Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). However, the 2008 Planning Act removed the requirement for sustainability appraisal of supplementary planning documents. Therefore, in line with the current regulations, the Council will not carry out a Sustainability Appraisal for the SPDs.
- 1.3 However, the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 still requires local authorities to carry out an environmental assessment of their plans and programmes before adoption. There are exceptions to this and it is the responsibility of the Local Authority to assess whether the plan is likely to have significant effects of the environment and to make these conclusions public.
- 1.4 Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and Regulation 48 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 also states the need to determine if an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required for these documents.
- 1.5 This screening report provides an assessment of each document to ascertain whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required and a separate section covers the Habitats Regulations Assessment.

2 Scope of the Developer Contributions SPD

- 2.1 The Developer Contributions SPD will ensure that the appropriate amount of infrastructure and affordable housing is provided to meet the objectives of the Core Strategy. The document will be produced in three parts in order to meet the separate legislative requirements but will eventually be collated to form a single charging document. The three parts will comprise: Community Infrastructure Levy – Charging Schedule; Affordable Housing Delivery Guidance and Thames Basin Heaths Mitigation Strategy.
- 2.2 The Community Infrastructure Levy – Charging Schedule will set out a tariff for the collection of contributions from new development for items of infrastructure such as education, transport, play space etc. The document is required to go through an examination process. It will supplement Core Strategy Policies CS16: Social and Community Infrastructure, and CS28: Implementation, which are included on the Core Strategy webpage at <http://www.elmbridge.gov.uk/planning/policy/corestrategydpd.htm>

- 2.3 The Affordable Housing Delivery Guidance will support the delivery of affordable housing through the planning process, providing clarity and guidance to developers on the delivery of affordable housing through developer contributions including financial contributions and S106 agreements. The document will have the status of an SPD and will address the following issues:
- Local definition of affordable housing
 - What types of development the policy applies to
 - Where and how affordable housing should be provided
 - Calculation of financial contributions
 - Tenure size and mix
 - Financing and securing
 - Keeping affordable housing affordable
 - Viability and flexibility
 - What to include in an application
- 2.4 The SPD will support the implementation of Core Strategy Policy CS21: Affordable Housing.
- 2.5 The Thames Basin Heaths Mitigation Strategy will set the Council's approach to mitigating the adverse effects of new residential development on the Thames Basin Heaths through the provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace and Strategic Access Management and Monitoring on the SPA itself. This will be funded by a tariff which will be applied to all new dwellings within 5km of the Thames Basin Heaths. The document will have the status of an SPD and will replace the current Interim Mitigation Strategy for Elmbridge adopted in 2007 and support Core Strategy Policy CS13: Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area.

3 Scope of the Design and Character SPD

- 3.1 The Design and Character SPD is a practical tool guiding communities, developers and planning professions through the design process before designing proposals and submitting planning applications. The SPD will not contain new policies or proposals, or influence the spatial distribution of housing and/or employment sites. The objective of the SPD is to promote high quality design that contributes to sustainable development.
- 3.2 The SPD will provide further detail and guidance to supplement Core Strategy Policies CS17 – Local Character, Design and Density, CS19 – Housing type and size and CS27 – Sustainable Buildings and is aimed at all those involved in the submission and determination of planning applications where design is a key issue. The SPD will be structured to include the following:
- Area characterisation studies for each of the eight urban settlements in the Borough, which explore elements such as typology, types of buildings, materials, views etc.
 - A SWOT analysis highlighting examples of well-designed development, poorly designed development, opportunities for growth and potential threats

to sensitive areas in the Borough, with the use of accompanying case study examples.

- Local design guidance for each locality.
- A section that relates to the general principles of design. This will include place making and sustainable design including movement and accessibility.

- 3.3 None of the above documents will contain any new policies or proposals, or influence the delivery or spatial distribution of development.

4 Strategic Environment Assessment

- 4.1 Planning Authorities must conduct a Strategic Environment Assessment of all DPDs and SPDs in accordance with the SEA directive (2001/42/EC). But there are circumstances when a SEA is not required. The publication 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2005) OPDM' outlines plans should be 'screened' to determine whether exceptions may apply.
- 4.2 The SEA Directive requires SEA for plans which (i) "determine the use of small areas at a local level" or which are (ii) "minor modifications" to plans, only when these are determined to be likely to cause significant environmental effects.
- 4.3 The Council considers that the Developer Contributions SPD and the Design and Character SPD represent an exceptional case to which the EU directive refers. In coming to this conclusion the Council has reviewed the criteria for determining the likely significance of effects as listed in Schedule 1 Regulations 9(2)(a) and 10(4)(a) (See tables 1 and 2 overleaf)

Table 1: Screening Assessment for the Developer Contributions SPD

SCHEDULE 1 Regulations 9(2)(a) and 10(4)(a)

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to—

<p>(a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;</p>	<p>The Developer Contributions SPD does not set the framework for development with regard to its size, the activity nature or operating conditions. The plan will introduce a levy on all development where it has a negative impact on local infrastructure. It will highlight within the charging schedule the projects that will be required to meet the additional demands placed on it by development.</p>
<p>(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;</p>	<p>The SPD does not influence other plans or programmes in the LDF. It provides supplementary guidance on policies already outlined in the Core Strategy (Policy CS28), which have been subject to SA/SEA.</p>
<p>(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;</p>	<p>The SPD supports the integration of environmental considerations by supporting the implementation of the TBH mitigation strategy. The plan also ensures more sustainable development by ensuring that sufficient infrastructure is provided to meet the needs created by new development.</p>
<p>(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and</p>	<p>There is potentially an impact on policies in the Core Strategy aimed at improving environmental efficiency of residential properties. However, viability testing should ensure that environmental improvements and the necessary infrastructure improvements can be collected whilst ensuring that development remains viable.</p>

<p>(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).</p>	<p>The Plan will not impact on EC legislation on the environment as it does not seek to deliver additional development only ensure that development pays for the necessary infrastructure improvements required to support the population growth it creates.</p>
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2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to—

<p>(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;</p>	<p>The SPD will identify the impacts on infrastructure from development and the charge that will be levied to ensure that development pays for the costs of providing sufficient infrastructure. By ensuring funding is available for the delivery of Suitable Accessible Natural Greenspace (SANGs) the plan will have a positive effect on the local environment.</p>
<p>(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;</p>	<p>Funding SANG could reduce overall numbers visiting TBH SPA not just new development providing a cumulative beneficial effect.</p>
<p>(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;</p>	<p>Funding for the mitigation of the impacts of development on TBH will support the SPA outside of the Borough. There are no other transboundary effects.</p>
<p>(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);</p>	<p>The SPD presents no risks to human health or the environment.</p>
<p>(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the</p>	<p>The impacts of the SPD will potentially have a positive impact on the Thames Basin Heaths outside of the Borough by funding the</p>

<p>population likely to be affected);</p>	<p>delivery of alternative natural green space within Elmbridge.</p>
<p>(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to— (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use; and</p>	<p>The SPD will provide financial support to projects that protect and improve the natural characteristics and environmental quality.</p>
<p>(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.</p>	<p>The SPD will provide financial support to projects that protect and improve areas designated as Special Protection Areas.</p>

Table 2: Screening Assessment for the Design and Character SPD

SCHEDULE 1 Regulations 9(2)(a) and 10(4)(a)

CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS ON THE ENVIRONMENT

1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to—

(a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;	The Design and Character SPD will not set the framework for other activities either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources. It is a response to policy CS17 in the Core Strategy and will provide guidance to ensure new development responds to its local character and is designed to a high quality.
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	The Design and Character SPD provides the detail and expands on policy CS17 in the Core Strategy, the higher-level plan. It will not influence other plans or programmes.
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	The Design and Character SPD will include a section on sustainability principles and will promote sustainable development throughout the guidance.
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and	The Design and Character SPD seeks to ensure that development is locally responsive, sustainable and built to a high quality. There are no environmental problems relevant to the plan.
(e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).	The SPD has no relevance to the implementation of Community legislation on the environment

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to—

(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;	The SPD will not impact on the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects of the area.
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;	These will be positive in terms of improving the design of new development in the Borough.
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;	There are no transboundary issues
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);	The SPD presents no risks to human health or the environment.
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects is very small as the SPD seeks to improve the design quality of developments that are due to come forward.
(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to— (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use; and	The SPD seeks to encourage high quality designed development in the urban area and will not effect the value and vulnerability of the area in terms of i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use; and
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	The SPD will have no effects on areas or landscapes, which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

- 4.4 In reviewing these criteria the Council has been mindful of the following key characteristics,

Developer Contributions SPD

- The document's principle aim is to address the potential direct and indirect cumulative impacts of development by ensuring there is sufficient resource to support the social, environmental and economic infrastructure upon which the development will rely.
- It does not present new policies or proposals and serves only to expand on existing policies detailed within the Elmbridge Core Strategy, which have already been subject to SEA/SA.

Design and Character SPD

- It is a guidance document that seeks to improve the quality and sustainability of development proposals in relation to a range of design related issues.
- It does not present policies or proposals, and serves only to expand on existing policies detailed within the Elmbridge Core Strategy. These policies have already been subject to SEA/SA.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 Having reviewed the criteria in this manner, the Council concludes that the Developer Contributions and Design and Character SPDs are unlikely to have significant environmental effects, and therefore does not require a Strategic Environmental Assessment.

6. Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Statement

- 6.1 This part of the report seeks to determine whether the Council's policies and proposals set out in the Elmbridge Borough Council LDF Developer Contributions and Design and Character SPDs will have any significant adverse impacts on nearby Natura 2000 sites.
- 6.2 This screening statement has been developed with close reference to the Elmbridge Core Strategy Habitat's Regulations Assessment (HRA), as well as those of adjoining boroughs, particularly Mole Valley District Council (MVDC), Reigate and Banstead Borough Council (RBBC) and Spelthorne Borough Council (SBC). Natural England has been positively engaged in the HRA of the Elmbridge Local Development Framework and this document takes account of comments previously received, as well as ongoing discussions and consultation.

7. Background

- 7.1 The Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna – the 'Habitats Directive' provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance through the establishment and conservation of a network of sites known as 'Natura 2000' sites (European sites). European sites comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated under the Birds Directive (Directive 79/406/EEC on the conservation of wild birds). Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation includes an expectation that listed Ramsar sites receive the same protection as designated SPAs and SACs.
- 7.2 Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive require an 'appropriate assessment' (known as a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of plans and projects likely to have a significant effect on a European site. Following a European Court Judgement ruling in October 2005, the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) published draft amendments to the Habitats Regulations, which transpose the requirements of the Directive into UK legislation, to require UK land use plans, as well as projects, to be subject to 'HRA'.
- 7.3 The purpose of HRA is to assess the impacts of plans against the conservation objectives of a European site. The assessment must determine whether the plan would adversely affect the integrity of the site in terms of its conservation objectives. Where adverse effects are identified these effects should be mitigated and other options should be explored.
- 7.4 The Habitats Directive applies the precautionary principle. A plan should only be permitted if it can be demonstrated that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site. However, in exceptional circumstances and as an exception to the rule, where negative effects cannot be mitigated, a plan may still be permitted if there are 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest'. These cases are rare. In such cases, compensation will be necessary to ensure the overall integrity of the site network.

8. Methodology

8.1 The amended 2007 Habitats Regulations are currently only supported by draft guidance on “Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment” (Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG), 2006) although European guidance also exists. Regard has been had to both documents throughout the preparation of this HRA screening report. Guidance on HRA suggests a three-stage process:

1. **Screening** – Determining whether a plan in itself or ‘in combination’ is likely to have a significant effect on a European site. If “yes” then proceed to full AA.
2. **AA** – Determining whether, in view of the site’s conservation objectives, the plan, in itself or in combination’, would have an adverse effect (or risk of this) on a European site;
3. **Mitigation & Alternatives** - Assessment of mitigation and alternative solutions – where the plan is assessed as having an adverse effect (or risk of this) on the integrity of the site, there should be an examination of the alternatives. If it is not possible to identify mitigation or alternatives, it will be necessary to establish the ‘imperative reasons of overriding public interest’ (IROPI). This is not considered a standard part of the process and will only be carried out in exceptional circumstances.

9. Screening

9.1 Screening Overview

9.2 The principle aim of this chapter is to ‘screen’ the potential of the Developer Contributions and Design and Character SPD’s for any likely impact on the Natura 2000 sites within 15 kilometres of the Borough boundary.

9.3 This section does so via the following steps:

- Identifies European sites within 15km of the Borough boundary, setting out possible effects of both the Developer Contributions and Design and Character SPDs
- Sets out the scope of both SPDs
- Summarises what the possible effects of the SPDs on those sites could be
- Looks at plans and projects that may have potential “in combination” impacts

10. European sites and possible effects of the Developer Contributions and Design and Character SPDs

10.1 Table 1 below lists those European sites lying within 15km (linear) of the Borough boundary and Appendix 1 contains a map indicating their location. Only the Thames Basin Heaths SPA and South West London Waterbodies SPA are within the boundaries of Elmbridge, all other sites are located outside of the Borough.

Table 3: European sites within 15km of the Borough boundary

Site Name	Designation	Straight line distance from borough boundary (km)	Site area (ha)	Brief reason for designation
Mole Gap to Reigate Escarpment	SAC	4	887.68	Calcareous grassland important for its box scrub
Richmond Park	SAC	4.5	846.68	Important for Stag Beetle
South West London Waterbodies	SPA (RAMSAR)	Within and around	828.14	Important over wintering site for Gadwall and Shoveler
Thames Basin Heaths	SPA	Within and around	8274.74	Lowland heath with important populations of Nightjar, Dartford Warbler and Woodlark
Thursley, Ash, Pirbright & Chobham	SAC	8	5138	Lowland heaths
Wimbledon Common	SAC	5.9	348.31	Important for Stag Beetle
Windsor Forest & Great Park	SAC	10.5	1687.26	Veteran Oaks, violet click beetles

11. Scope of the Developer Contributions and Design and Character SPDs.

See section 2 and 3 of the report for overview.

12. Possible effects of the Developer Contributions and Design and Character SPDs

- 12.1 The proposed documents have similar scope in that they will provide additional detail and guidance to supplement policies in the Core Strategy and will not contain any new policies or proposals, or influence the delivery or spatial distribution of development. In view of this, a decision was made to take a collective approach to assessing the significance of possible effects from both documents. This assessment is outlined in Table 4.
- 12.2 The assessment has had regard to the Habitats Regulations Assessment undertaken for the Core Strategy and its conclusions in combination effects have been assessed within this higher-level plan.

Table 4: Significant effects matrix for the Developer Contributions and the Design and Character SPDs

Qualifying Features	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Comments on nature conservation importance and vulnerability	Possible impacts arising from the DC SPD and D&C SPD	Possible impacts from other plans, trends etc	Is there a significant risk of 'in combination' effects
South West London Waterbodies SPA & RAMSAR					
<p>Comprises a series of reservoirs and former gravel pits that support internationally important numbers of wintering gadwell and northern shoveler (828.14 ha)</p> <p>Also Great crested grebe, great cormorant, Tufted duck, Black-necked grebe, Smew</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of disturbance during winter months; • Areas of open water • Areas of shallow water (<300mm) for feeding; • Presence and abundance of aquatic plant and invertebrate food; • Adjacent banks for loafing; • Relevant nearby waterbodies used for feeding and as refuges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current research indicates that birds are using a range of waterbodies within the area but outside the SPA boundaries and that these sites are relevant to the integrity of the SPA. 	None	None	No

Qualifying Features	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Comments on nature conservation importance and vulnerability	Possible impacts arising from the DC SPD and D&C SPD	Possible impacts from other plans, trends etc	Is there a significant risk of 'in combination' effects
Thames Basin Heath SPA					
Nationally important breeding populations of nightjar, woodlark and Dartford warbler (8274.72 ha)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acid soils • Minimal air pollution • Unpolluted water • Unfragmented habitat • Minimal recreational pressure and low incidence of wild fires • Appropriate grazing pressure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dependent on active management. • Lack of grazing and other traditional management practices pose a threat. Traditional management is being implemented through schemes such as Countryside Stewardship and Wildlife Enhancement Scheme. • Development pressure on neighbouring land and the cumulative and indirect effects of 	None	Recreational pressure, general urbanisation effects as a result of increased recreational pressure from new development within 5km of SPA.	Yes – this has been subject to an appropriate assessment as part of the HRA for the Core Strategy. An avoidance and mitigation strategy is set out in Policy CS13 and the Thames Basin Heath Mitigation Strategy will support its delivery.

Qualifying Features	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Comments on nature conservation importance and vulnerability	Possible impacts arising from the DC SPD and D&C SPD	Possible impacts from other plans, trends etc	Is there a significant risk of 'in combination' effects

Qualifying Features	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Comments on nature conservation importance and vulnerability	Possible impacts arising from the DC SPD and D&C SPD	Possible impacts from other plans, trends etc	Is there a significant risk of 'in combination' effects
Thursley, Ash, Pirbright and Chobham SAC					
<p>Important for Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i>, European dry heaths and examples of depressions on peat substrates of the <i>Rhynchosporion</i> (5138 ha)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional management, including grazing, bracken control and shrub clearance; • Water quality (there can be problems with diffuse discharges from agricultural fertilisation causing eutrophication); • Water levels • Managed recreational disturbance; • Absence or management of urbanisation effects e.g. fires, fly-tipping, introduction of non-native species; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important site for invertebrates. • Mosaic of habitats largely dependent on active heathland management. • Insufficient gazing or other traditional practices, including bracken control and scrub clearance, is a serious potential threat, as is lowering of water tables as a result of abstraction or other reasons which could 	None	None	No

Qualifying Features	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Comments on nature conservation importance and vulnerability	Possible impacts arising from the DC SPD and D&C SPD	Possible impacts from other plans, trends etc	Is there a significant risk of 'in combination' effects

Qualifying Features	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Comments on nature conservation importance and vulnerability	Possible impacts arising from the DC SPD and D&C SPD	Possible impacts from other plans, trends etc	Is there a significant risk of 'in combination' effects
Mole Gap to Reigate Escarpment SAC					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural box scrub • Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone • Dry grasslands and scrublands on chalk or limestone, including important orchid sites • Yew-dominated woodland • Dry heaths • Beech forests on neutral to rich soils • Great crested newt • Bechstein's bat (887.68 ha) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriate management: grazing. • Absence of direct fertilization. • Minimal air pollution. • Low recreational pressure. • Absence of urbanization effects, e.g. introduction of invasive non-native species. • Suitable foraging and refuge habitat within 500m of the pond. • Relatively unpolluted water of roughly neutral pH. • Some ponds deep enough to retain water throughout February to August at least one year in every three. • In a wider context, great crested newts require good connectivity of landscape features (ponds, hedges etc) as they often live as a metapopulation. • In a wider context, bats require good connectivity of landscape features to allow foraging and commuting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supports the only area of stable box scrub in the UK (due to natural erosion on steep slope; • Also supports a wide range of calcareous grassland types and is particularly important for orchids including the nationally scarce musk orchid and man orchid; • Also significant in exhibiting transitions to scarce scrub, woodland and dry heath types, notably yew woods and chalk heath. 	None	None	No

Qualifying Features	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Comments on nature conservation importance and vulnerability	Possible impacts arising from the DC SPD and D&C SPD	Possible impacts from other plans, trends etc	Is there a significant risk of 'in combination' effects
Wimbledon Common SAC					
Important for Stag Beetle (<i>Lucanus Cervus</i>). North Atlantic dry wet heaths and European dry heaths (348.31 ha)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of old broad-leaved trees and state of decay; • Condition of old broad-leaved trees – state of decay; • Position and degree of exposure of old broad-leaved trees and stumps; • Quantity and size of broad-leaved dead wood; • Condition and position of available dead timber. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to urban area means it suffers heavy recreational pressure. • Habitat for Stag Beetle, for which this is only one of 4 known outstanding localities in the UK. • Site of national importance for the conservation of the fauna of invertebrates associated with the decaying timber of ancient trees. 	None	None	No

Qualifying Features	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Comments on nature conservation importance and vulnerability	Possible impacts arising from the DC SPD and D&C SPD	Possible impacts from other plans, trends etc	Is there a significant risk of 'in combination' effects
Richmond Park SAC					
Important for Stag Beetle (<i>Lucanus Cervus</i>) (846.68 ha)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of old broad-leaved trees and state of decay; • Condition of old broad-leaved trees – state of decay; • Position and degree of exposure of old broad-leaved trees and stumps; • Quantity and size of broad-leaved dead wood; • Condition and position of available dead timber. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to urban area means it suffers heavy recreational pressure. However this does not directly affect the European interest feature. • Habitat for Stag Beetle, for which this is only one of 4 known outstanding localities in the UK. 	None	None	No

Qualifying Features	Key environmental conditions to support site integrity	Comments on nature conservation importance and vulnerability	Possible impacts arising from the DC SPD and D&C SPD	Possible impacts from other plans, trends etc	Is there a significant risk of 'in combination' effects
Windsor Forest and Great Park SAC					
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry oak-dominated woodland • Beech forests on acid soils • Violet click beetle (1687.26 ha) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimal atmospheric pollution – may increase the susceptibility of beech trees to disease and alter epiphytic (lichen) communities. • Managed public access (site is already heavily accessed). • Appropriate management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site has the largest number of veteran oaks in Britain (and probably in Europe); • Identified as of potential international importance for its saproxylic (deadwood) invertebrate fauna. The site is thought to support the largest of the known populations of the violet click beetle in the UK. The special invertebrate interest is heavily dependent upon a continuous supply of very old decaying trees; • Trees are suffering, perhaps from a combination of drought, higher average temperatures and air quality issues. 	None	None	No

13. Conclusion

- 13.1 The proposed documents have similar scope in that they will provide additional detail and guidance to supplement policies in the Core Strategy and will not contain any new policies or proposals, or influence the delivery or spatial distribution of development. The principle aim of the documents is to address the potential direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of development by providing additional detail and guidance to support the principles set out within the Core Strategy. They will support the delivery of high quality development and ensure that appropriate account is taken of its impact on infrastructure and the environment. The Thames Basin Heaths Mitigation Strategy will include a tariff for contributions specifically for the management of recreational pressure on the Thames Basin Heaths, building on the principles set out in Core Strategy Policy CS13. In this respect an intended positive effect of the SPD is the provision of adequate resources for the coordinated delivery of efforts to ensure the protection of the Thames Basin Heaths.
- 13.2 On this basis, the Council feels that the Developer Contributions and Design and Character SPDs alone are not likely to have a significant adverse effect on any European site. In considering whether the document could work in combination with other plans and programmes, it is reasonable to conclude that the potential effects of the document 'in combination' have been considered through the Council's previous Habitats Regulations Assessment work for the Core Strategy. Any in combination effects identified were either screened out or appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures secured.
- 13.3 The Developer Contributions and Design and Character SPDs will have no significant impacts alone or in combination on the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites.

Appendix 1: European sites within 15km of Elmbridge Borough boundary

