



# Appendix C Geographical Information Systems RAG Criteria

## South Derbyshire Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal

### South Derbyshire District Council

Civic Offices, Civic Way, Swadlincote, DE11 0AH

SLR Project No.: 430.000116.00001

Client Reference No: C0428

5 May 2026

## 1.0 Introduction

This appendix presents the RAG Criteria used within the assessment of strategic site options. These criteria were generated through reference to existing guidance / good practice; the sources of this guidance and good practice are included within Table C1-1. Some criteria were identified using professional judgement. The RAG ratings helped to inform the assessment of all site options against the SA Framework.



**Table C1-1: RAG Criteria**

Sustainability Topic	Sustainability Objective	Indicator	RAG Criteria	Justification
Biodiversity, Geodiversity, Flora and Fauna	<b>S01 Biodiversity</b> To safeguard and enhance biodiversity (including BAP habitats and species) and geodiversity through biodiversity net gain and improve connectivity between, and access to, green spaces and functional habitats.	Proximity to River Mease SAC	Outside of River Mease SAC catchment Within River Mease SAC catchment	Professional judgement
		Proximity to SSSI	>800m 200-800m <200m	RTPI Strategic Env. Assessment Practice Advice 2018.  It is recognised that distance is not a definitive guide to the likelihood or significance of effects on a SSSI.
		Within SSSI impact risk zone	No residential limits/under residential limit Within 10 dwellings of residential limits Exceeds residential limits	Natural England's Impact Risk zones for Sites of Special Scientific Interest <sup>1</sup>
		Proximity to parks and informal open space	>800m 400-800m <400m	CIHT Planning for Walking Guidelines, 2015
		Proximity to Local Wildlife Sites & potential LWS	>100m from LWS <100m from LWS Site intersects LWS	Withdrawn LP
		Proximity to Tree Preservation orders	No TPOs on site TPO within 10m of the site TPO included within site	NPPF

<sup>1</sup> [https://magic.defra.gov.uk/Metadata\\_for\\_magic/SSSI%20IRZ%20User%20Guidance%20MAGIC.pdf](https://magic.defra.gov.uk/Metadata_for_magic/SSSI%20IRZ%20User%20Guidance%20MAGIC.pdf)



Sustainability Topic	Sustainability Objective	Indicator	RAG Criteria	Justification
		Proximity to LIGS	>50m <50m Intersects or is adjacent	Professional Judgement
Population and Human Health	<b>S02 Housing</b> To ensure everyone has access to sustainable housing, which is affordable, and meets the needs of all residents including the elderly and other vulnerable groups and will support the vitality of existing communities and settlements.	Provision of Affordable housing	>40% affordable housing provision < 40% affordable housing provision No affordable housing provision	In line with withdrawn LP policies
Population and Human Health	<b>S03 Accessibility and Health</b> To improve local accessibility to healthcare, education, employment, retail facilities and recreational resources (including open spaces and sports facilities) and enhance wellbeing, promoting healthy and sustainable lifestyles.	Proximity to GP Practice	<400m 400-800m >800m	CIHT Planning for Walking Guidelines, 2015
		Primary and secondary school capacity	Capacity available At 90% capacity Running at 95%+ capacity	Professional judgement
		Proximity to existing or planned primary school	<1km <3.2km >3.2km	Home to School Transport and Travel Guidance, 2014 <sup>2</sup>
		Proximity to existing or planned secondary school	<1km <4.8km >4.8km	Home to School Transport and Travel Guidance, 2014

<sup>2</sup> Department for Education, Home to School Travel and Transport Guidance, Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities, July 2014



Sustainability Topic	Sustainability Objective	Indicator	RAG Criteria	Justification
		Proximity to existing and planned employment sites via active travel	<400m 400-800m >800m	CIHT Planning for Walking Guidelines, 2015
		Proximity to formal recreation e.g., sport centre, play parks	<400m 400-800m >800m	CIHT Planning for Walking Guidelines, 2015
		Proximity to informal recreation space i.e., open space	<400m 400-800m >800m	CIHT Planning for Walking Guidelines, 2015
		Proximity to retail facilities	<400m 400-800m >800m	CIHT Planning for Walking Guidelines, 2015
Population and Human Health	<b>S04 Quality of Life</b> To create safe and attractive places which contribute towards quality of life and community cohesion.			
Population and Human Health	<b>S05 Inequalities</b> Ensure all residents have equitable access to employment, education, community services and facilities irrespective of race, religion, sex, age, sexual orientation, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership or pregnancy/maternity.	IMD deprivation scores	Lowest income/employment deprivation Medium income/employment deprivation Highest income/employment deprivation	Professional judgement



Sustainability Topic	Sustainability Objective	Indicator	RAG Criteria	Justification
Population and Human Health	<b>S06 Economy</b> To deliver growth in key employment sectors and support the creation of new and retention of existing businesses in urban and rural areas.	IMD deprivation scores	Lowest income/employment deprivation Medium income/employment deprivation Highest income/employment deprivation	Professional judgement
		Provision of retail and town centre uses	Site does not provide retail or town centre uses Site provides retails or other town centre uses which will be lost through development	Professional judgement
Population and Human Health	<b>S07 Employment</b> To create greater employment opportunities and higher value jobs across the whole District	Provision of employment space	Provides employment space Does not provide employment space	Professional judgement
		Proximity to existing and planned employment areas	<1.2km <5km >5km	Professional judgement
Material Assets	<b>S08 Infrastructure</b> To deliver improved infrastructure to support growth and economic competitiveness of urban and rural businesses and communities.	Proximity to GP Practice	<400m 400-800m >800m	CIHT Planning for Walking Guidelines, 2015
		Proximity to existing or planned primary school	<1km <3.2km >3.2km	Home to School Transport and Travel Guidance, 2014 <sup>3</sup>
		Proximity to existing or planned secondary school	<1km <4.8km >4.8km	Home to School Transport and Travel Guidance, 2014

<sup>3</sup> Department for Education, Home to School Travel and Transport Guidance, Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities, July 2014



Sustainability Topic	Sustainability Objective	Indicator	RAG Criteria	Justification
		Proximity to existing and planned employment areas via active travel	<400m 400-800m >800m	CIHT Planning for Walking Guidelines, 2015
		Proximity to town/ village centre	<400m 400-800m >800m	CIHT Planning for Walking Guidelines, 2015
Material Assets	<b>S09 Sustainable Travel</b> To promote sustainable travel habits including walking, cycling and public transport (bus and rail) usage.	Proximity to train station	<800m >800m	CIHT Planning for Walking Guidelines, 2015
		Proximity to bus stop	<400m >400m	CIHT Planning for Walking Guidelines, 2015
		Proximity to existing cycle routes	<400m 400-800m >800m	Professional judgement & MAGIC mapping
Material Assets	<b>S010 Town and Village Centres</b> To ensure that town and village centres are vibrant and viable.	Proximity to town/ village centre via active travel	<400m 400-800m >800m	CIHT Planning for Walking Guidelines, 2015
Soil, Water and Air	<b>S011 Resources</b> To minimise waste and ensure the sustainable use and protection of natural resources including greenfield land, soil and minerals resources.	Agricultural Land Classifications	Grade 5, non-agricultural land, and urban land Grades 3 & 4 Grades 1 & 2	Natural England: Guide to assessing development proposals on agricultural land <sup>4</sup>
		Mineral source protection zone (sand and gravel, grit, and coal)	No Partial Yes	Professional judgement

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/agricultural-land-assess-proposals-for-development/guide-to-assessing-development-proposals-on-agricultural-land>



Sustainability Topic	Sustainability Objective	Indicator	RAG Criteria	Justification
		Historic Landfill Sites	No Partial Yes	Professional judgement
		Brownfield land	Yes Partial No	Professional judgement & SDDC brownfield map
		Contaminated land	No Partial Yes	
Soil, Water and Air	<b>S012 Pollution</b> To minimise water, air, light and noise pollution and ensure that future growth does not lead to the further deterioration of environmental conditions.	Distance to groundwater protection zones	Outside of groundwater protection zone Within groundwater protection zone	Professional judgement & MAGIC mapping
		Distance to River Mease SAC nutrient neutrality zone	Outside of River Mease SAC nutrient neutrality zone Within River Mease SAC nutrient neutrality zone	Professional judgement
		Noise pollution	Site not affected by existing noise pollution Site affected by existing noise pollution	Professional judgement & Extrium – England Noise Map Viewer
		Night blight map	8->32 Nanowatts 1-7 Nanowatts <0.25-0.99 Nanowatts	Professional judgement & CPRE Light Pollution Map
Climatic Factors	<b>S013 Contributions to Climate Change</b> To reduce the District's contribution towards the	Distance to EV charging points	Within 200m of the site Within 600m of public one More than 600m from an EV charging points	Professional judgement & ZAP mapping



Sustainability Topic	Sustainability Objective	Indicator	RAG Criteria	Justification
	emission of climate change gases.			
Climatic Factors	<b>S014 Adaptation to Climate Change</b> To manage the effects of climate change including flood risk, reduced water availability and overheating.	Flood risk	Zone 1 Zone 2 Zone 3a and 3b	Environment Agency Guidance <sup>5</sup>
		Proximity to watercourse	>1000m 10-1000m <10m	Cirra Environmental Good Practice on Site (Third Edition), 2010
Cultural Heritage (including Architectural and Archaeological Heritage)	<b>S015 Townscape and Historic Environment.</b> To conserve and enhance the townscape, historic environment, heritage assets (including known and unknown archaeological sites) and their settings.	Ancient Monuments & Buffer	>25m <25m <10m	RTPI Practice Advice, 2018
		Conservation Areas	>50m <50m Intersects or is adjacent	It is appropriate to 'flag' a site red where a site is within, intersects or is adjacent to a Conservation Area. It is also appropriate to flag sites that might more widely impact on the setting of a conservation area and a 50m threshold has been assumed. It is recognised that distance is not a definitive guide to the likelihood or significance of effects in a heritage asset.
		Listed Buildings	>50m <50m	RTPI Practice Advice, 2019

<sup>5</sup> Environment Agency, Flood Risk Assessment: Local Planning Authorities Guidance



Sustainability Topic	Sustainability Objective	Indicator	RAG Criteria	Justification
			Intersects or is adjacent	
		Historic parks and gardens	>25m <25m <10m	RTPI Practice Advice, 2019
Landscape	<b>S016 Landscape</b> To conserve and enhance the District's landscape character.	Green Belt	Not within Green Belt Partly within Green Belt Within Green Belt	NPPF (2023)
		AMES sensitivity regions	None Secondary Primary	Derbyshire County Council Technical Report 2013 Areas of Multiple Environmental Sensitivity





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