

## 4.0 Next Steps

- 4.1 The possible environmental changes associated with the Phase 2 Revision and the housing options are set out in Table 3. These are the 'drivers' for LSEs on the sites identified in Tables 1 and 2 and will be considered in more detail in relation to each site's conservation objectives in Stage 2.

**Table 3**

| Environmental Change                                                                                                                      | European site                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Issues for further consideration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Local deposition of air pollutants caused by traffic emissions                                                                            | Cannock Chase SAC; Fenn's, Wixhall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses; Peak District Dales SAC                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Those parts of sites within 200m of a major road may be at risk from increased acidification and nitrogen deposition, causing changes in terrestrial plant communities for which the sites have been designated. This problem is worse on sites which already have acid soils and have little buffering capacity. Predicting whether traffic levels will increase and then establishing whether this will translate into increased levels of deposition on a site is difficult. |
| Air pollution effects on aquatic interests                                                                                                | Brown Moss SAC                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Generally dilution effects mean that air pollution has negligible influence on aquatic interests. Surface runoff and groundwater pollution is normally a far more significant factor affecting aquatic sites.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Diffuse air pollution                                                                                                                     | Cannock Chase SAC, Downton Gorge SAC, Fenns, Wixhall, Bettisfield, Wem and Cadney Mosses SAC, Peak District Dales SAC, South Pennine Moors SAC, The Stiperstones and the Holley SAC, West Midlands Mosses SAC, Wye valley woodlands SAC, Peak District Moors SPA, South Pennine Moors Phase II SPA | A number of sites are currently over their critical loads for acid and Nitrogen deposition. Any further increase in background levels of diffuse air pollution could have cumulative effects and exacerbate an adverse situation.<br><br>Measures need to be explored for reducing air emissions in the region to stabilise background levels of air pollution.                                                                                                                 |
| Water quality effects from a direct increase in run-off from hard standing and pollution from overloading water treatment infrastructure. | Cannock Extension Canal SAC; Midland Meres and Mosses Ramsar phase 1 & 2; Pasturefields Salt Marsh SAC; River Mease SAC; River Wye SAC; Severn cSAC & Ramsar                                                                                                                                       | Capacity of existing wastewater infrastructure to deal with additional homes needs to be considered, especially during flood events. Some sites require local/specific management solutions. However scope for SUDS should be considered for upstream housing and other developments.                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Induced development and land use change in or around site                                                                                 | Cannock Chase SAC; Fens Pool SAC;                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Growth in recreational use potentially requiring supporting infrastructure or facilities in future; other sites depend on supporting habitat outside protected area boundary.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

| Environmental Change                                            | European site                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Issues for further consideration                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Water abstraction resulting in lowered water tables/ levels     | Fenn's, Wixhall, Bettisfield, Wern and Cadney Mosses; River Clun SAC; River Dee and Bala Lake SAC, Severn Estuary cSAC, SPA and Ramsar, River Mease SAC, Cannock Chase SAC, River Wye SAC, Midlands Meres and Mosses Phase I & II Ramsar, Humber Estuary SAC and Ramsar, Humber Flats, Marshes and Coast (Phase II) SPA                | Increased abstraction arising from housing and economic development                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Disturbance, or damage/erosion caused by recreation/amenity use | Cannock Chase, SAC, Cannock Extension Canal SAC, Fenn's Wixhall, Bettisfield, Wern and Cadney Mosses SAC, River Wye SAC, South Pennine Moors SAC, Peak District Moors (South Pennine Moors Phase I) SPA, South Pennine Moors Phase II SPA Midlands Meres and Mosses Phase I Ramsar site Midlands Meres and Mosses Phase II Ramsar site | These sites are currently adversely affected to a degree by recreational pressure and are at risk from an increase in households and improved accessibility in the region. The pathways by which recreational pressure impacts each site needs to be examined to understand the mechanisms by which further risk can be avoided in the RSS. |

**Table 3: Issues affecting conservation objectives of European sites**