WYCHAVON DISTRICT COUNCIL

Contaminated Land Inspection Strategy September 2025

Executive Summary

The industrial history and development of the country has left a legacy of land where there is the potential for contamination to be present. Contamination may pose a risk to human health and the environment. Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 places a duty on local authorities to address these risks through the contaminated land regime. The presence of a harmful substance in, on or below a piece of land does not necessarily mean that land is "contaminated land". The source of contamination must present a significant possibility of significant harm to relevant receptors, for example a person, ecosystem, or controlled waters, through a viable pathway of exposure.

Enforcement action under this legislation should only be used when there is no other appropriate alternative with other mechanisms used in preference if possible. These mechanisms include the planning and development control process and voluntary action taken by landowners to minimise the unnecessary burdens placed on taxpayers, businesses, and individuals.

This strategy is a requirement under the contaminated land regime, as set out in the Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance 2012, for local authorities who are the primary regulator. Strategies should be reviewed every 5 years. Due to the withdrawal of the funding system from central Government for contaminated land work, the Council will focus on addressing sites where contamination may exist, predominantly through the planning and development control process. This document details how this is already achieved and how we continue to work to drive standards and improve consistency in regulation across the region and further afield.

To date, no sites have been declared as *'Contaminated Land'* by Wychavon District Council (WDC) since the first Contaminated Land Strategy was produced in 2001. Currently, there are approximately 2800 sites identified as potential sites of contaminated land concern within the district, largely relating to the historic land use.

WDC planning policies encourage the reuse of previously developed land subject to appropriate site investigation, risk assessment and remediation. Voluntary action is strongly encouraged to deal with potentially contaminated land, either on an individual site basis or as part of wider regeneration work. Regulatory action under Part 2A will only be used where no appropriate alternative regulatory solution exists.

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1. Introduction

Wychavon District Council, as with most local authorities, has a legacy of land contamination that has resulted from over 200 years of industrial development. In addition to historically contaminated sites, pollution incidents, such as spillages and accidents, can give rise to contamination of the land. Climate change also presents a risk in exacerbating contaminated land issues. In the minority of cases the contamination may be serious enough to present a hazard to human health or the environment.

In April 2000, the UK Government introduced a duty on each local authority to inspect the land within its area and identify any areas that could be defined as "contaminated land". Where a local authority finds such land, it must ensure it is remediated to reduce or remove risks to people and the environment. The government set out its requirements for dealing with contaminated land within Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 (“the Act”) and associated ‘Statutory Guidance’ documents.

Wychavon District Council (WDC) first published its Contaminated Land Strategy in May 2001 and updated it in November 2006. This document represents a revised strategy which updates and replaces the previous version. The document considers changes in the Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance 2012, national policy, council policy and sets out the Council’s strategic approach to contaminated land.

2. Legislative Context, National, and Local Policy

Section 57 of the Environment Act 1995 inserted Part 2A into the Act which establishes a legal framework for dealing with contaminated land. This came into force on 1st April 2000.

Part 2A provides a means of dealing with unacceptable risked posed by land contamination to human health and the environment.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) states the following in its guidance document Environmental Protection Act 1990: Part 2A - Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance (publishing.service.gov.uk) (2012)

1.4 The overarching objectives of the Government's policy on contaminated land and the Part 2A regime are:

(a) To identify and remove unacceptable risks to human health and the environment.
(b) To seek to ensure that contaminated land is made suitable for its current use.
(c) To ensure that the burdens faced by individuals, companies and society are proportionate, manageable and compatible with the principles of sustainable development.

Contaminated land is defined in Part 2A of the Act as any land, which appears to the local authority in whose area it is situated to be in such condition, by reason of substances in, on or under the land that:

(a) significant harm is being caused or there is a significant possibility of such harm being caused.

or

(b) significant pollution of controlled waters is being caused or there is a significant possibility of such pollution being caused.

78A(4) Environmental Protection Act 1990 defines harm as:

"*Harm to the health of living organisms or other interference with the ecological systems of which they form a part, and in the case of man includes harm to his property*."

The presence of a harmful substance in, on or below a piece of land does not necessarily mean that land is "contaminated land". The source of harm may be present but unless a possible route exists through which it is likely to cause harm to health, eco-systems or property, or to cause pollution of controlled waters, the land is not contaminated within the meaning of the Act.

Only land where unacceptable risk has been clearly identified after risk assessment should be considered as meeting the Part 2A definition of contaminated land. Land

should be considered 'uncontaminated land' as defined by Part 2A unless there is reason to consider otherwise.

Within this document "contaminated land" is used to mean land which meets the legal definition under Part 2A. Other terms, such as "land affected by contamination" or "land contamination" are used to describe land where contaminants are present but not at sufficient level of risk to be classified as contaminated land.

A site cannot be identified as contaminated land purely due to contaminative substances being present. There must be a relevant sensitive receptor, such as a human being, ecosystem, controlled waters, or property, at risk of significant harm from the source of contamination. There must also be a viable pathway of exposure linking them together. A pathway may be exposure from handling of soils, breathing in dust or vapours, consumption of produce grown in impacted soils, or other means by which a contaminant may reach the receptor. A complete source-pathway-receptor model of contamination is referred to as 'contamination linkage or pollutant linkage'.

The term *'significant contaminant linkage'* is used in the Statutory Guidance to mean a contaminant linkage which gives rise to a level of risk sufficient to justify a piece of land being determined as contaminated land.

2.1 Radioactive Contaminated Land

A legal framework for dealing with radioactive contaminated land in England under the Part 2A regime has been established by Radioactive Contaminated Land (Enabling Powers) (England) Regulations 2005 and the Radioactive Contaminated Land (Modification of Enactments) (England) Regulations 2006.

The radioactive contaminated land regime addresses harm attributable to radioactivity under Part 2A, where radioactivity is present because of a past activity or as a result of the after-effects of an emergency. The regulations do not apply to current practices or natural background radiation and are only concerned with potential effects on human health, excluding environmental receptors. The Radioactive Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance (June 2018) is legally binding on local authorities including Wychavon District Council.

Radioactive contaminated land: statutory guidance - June 2018 (publishing.service.gov.uk)

2.2 Duties of Local Authority

Under section 78B(1) of Part 2A of the Act the council has an inspection duty, which is set out below.

Every local authority shall cause its areas to be inspected from time to time for the purpose –

(a) of identifying contaminated land; and
(b) of enabling the authority to decide whether any such land is land which is required to be designated as a special site

The Statutory Guidance states there are two broad types of inspection likely to be carried out by local authorities. Firstly, strategic inspection, which comprises the collection of information to make a broad assessment of land within the area and then prioritisation of sites for further consideration. Secondly, detailed inspection of that particular land to obtain information on ground conditions and, where necessary, carrying out risk assessments in order to make decisions relevant to that land under the Part 2A regime. The Guidance refers to these as 'strategic inspection' and 'detailed inspection'. Further information is provided in Section 5 below.

2.3 Special Sites

Land required to be designated as a 'special site' is defined within regulation 2 of the Contaminated Land (England) Regulations 2006. Where a local authority inspects land considered to meet the definition of a Special Site, as outlined within the regulations, and determines it may constitute 'contaminated land', consultation with the Environment Agency would be undertaken. Subject to the Agency's advice and agreement, a joint approach to inspection of the land would be adopted. For special sites, regulation is transferred to the Environment Agency, however, the local authority retains the duty to formally determine land as contaminated land under Part 2A.

2.4 Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) published revised Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance in April 2012 (Statutory Guidance). The Statutory Guidance requires the Local Authority to take a strategic approach to

carrying out its inspection duty, set out in a written strategy which is periodically reviewed.

The strategy should include the following:

(a) Its aims, objectives and priorities, taking into account the characteristics of its area.
(b) A description of relevant aspects of its area.
(c) Its approach to strategic inspection of its area or parts of it.
(d) Its approach to the prioritisation of detailed inspection and remediation activity.
(e) How its approach under Part 2A fits with its broader approach to dealing with land contamination.
(f) *Broadly, how the authority will seek to minimise unnecessary burdens on the taxpayer, businesses and individuals.*

Environmental Protection Act 1990: Part 2A - Contaminated Land Statutory Guidance (publishing.service.gov.uk)

2.5 Wychavon District Council Policy

"We Are Wychavon District Plan" sets out the Council's strategic priorities. The core values relevant to this strategy are:

- People
- Place
- Environment

The Plan sets out the Council's ambitions for the area that they aim to deliver up until 2028.

We Are Wychavon Plan - Wychavon District Council

South Worcestershire Development Plan

Wychavon District Council have joined together with Malvern Hills District and Worcester City Councils to prepare a joint Development Plan covering the area of South Worcestershire. The aim of which was to ensure future development is well planned and managed effectively within the area and ensure a positive impact on the environment.

The South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) replaced the existing Local Plans of the three partner Councils when it was adopted in February 2016. The SWDP considers the long-term vision and objectives for South Worcestershire up to the year 2030, as well as containing the policies for delivering the objectives in a planned and cohesive manner.

The Councils started a review of the SWDP in late 2017 in response to changes by Government requiring Development Plans to be updated every five years, necessitating a revised SWDP by 2021.

The purpose of the review is to provide an update of the existing plan period to 2041 and where necessary, its vision, objectives, spatial strategy, and policies for the future development of the area. The second part of the plan includes site allocations, policies and policy designations that will provide for the development needs of the area up to 2041.

In September 2023, following further consultation in November and December 2022, the South Worcestershire Councils formally submitted the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review (SWDPR) and associated evidence base documents to the Secretary of State for independent examination.

A dedicated webpage with all relevant documents is available via the following link

South Worcestershire Development Plan Review | Local Plan Examination Services (localplanservices.co.uk)

Other information relating to Local Planning Policy is available at Planning Policy - Wychavon District Council

Wychavon Intelligently Green Plan

The council's Intelligently Green Plan is its strategy for tackling climate change. It has an overall vision to reduce the council's own organisational emissions, achieve net-zero emissions in the wider district, to increase and improve biodiversity and habitats, and to adapt to the changing climate.

The current version of the plan was adopted in 2020 and covers the period to 2030. However, a review of the plan is being undertaken in 2025 and will be published in early 2026.

The council is also developing a specific climate change risk assessment and adaptation plan to set out how they and partner organisations can best prepare communities for the future impacts of a changing climate. This will be published in early 2026.

The plan and its associated annual update report can be viewed here: https://www.wychavon.gov.uk/community-and-living/intelligently-green

In Wychavon, as with much of the UK, climate change is expected to bring warmer and wetter winters, hotter and drier summers, and greater incidents of extreme and unstable weather. A changing climate presents potential impacts for contaminated land in a number of ways. For example, changes in temperature that can affect properties of contaminants and therefore their behaviour, and extreme weather can increase the release, mobilisation and exposure to contaminates. This could also impact the suitability of different remediation strategies. There is therefore a need to ensure that measures to address contaminated land are resilient to future changes.

The impacts of climate change on the environmental conditions of a site will be considered further when any specific assessment of sites are undertaken. Reference will be made to the Environment Agency's Land Contamination Risk Management guidance document (2025) which provides further information in this regard.

2.6 Brownfield Land Register

The Government introduced a requirement for all Local Planning Authorities (LPAs) to publish a Brownfield Land Register (BLR) by 31st December 2017. The BLR is a comprehensive list of brownfield sites in a local authority area that are suitable for housing. The register aims to help house builders identify suitable sites quickly, speeding up the construction of new homes.

The Council will have the final say on which sites are on the register and which sites will have permission in principle. The BLR is compiled in two parts: -

Part 1 will include sites categorised as previously developed land which are suitable, available and achievable for residential development.

Part 2 will allow LPAs to select sites from Part 1 and grant permission in principle (PiP) for housing led development. There are currently no sites that have been put forward for Part 2.

All sites submitted must be Brownfield land, suitable to be developed for housing and meet the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) definition of previously developed land.

Further information relating to the BLR within Wychavon is available via the following link.

Brownfield Land Register - Wychavon District Council

3. Aims and Objectives

The aim of this document is to outline how the Council will implement the contaminated land regime within the district, in a proportionate and cost-effective manner. It is not intended to reiterate the specifics as defined by legislation or in statutory guidance or other best practice documents which cover the numerous and detailed aspects involved when assessing land for contamination. A brief outline of the regime is provided here Land affected by contamination - GOV.UK and on the WRS website Contaminated Land | Worcestershire Regulatory Services (worcsregservices.gov.uk) .

Aims

The council's aims in dealing with contaminated land are to:

- **Protect human health;**
- **Prevent damage to property, livestock, and crops;**
- **Protect designated ecosystems;**
- **Prevent any further contamination of land;**
- **Encourage voluntary remediation; and**
- **Encourage re-use of brownfield land.**

Objectives

The principal objectives of this strategy are to:

- Identify sites where historic or current use may have led to land contamination.
- Identify and remove unacceptable risks to human health and the environment resulting from contaminated land.
- Ensure sites are suitable for use utilising the planning system and voluntary remediation wherever possible.
- Encourage development and use of previously developed (brownfield) land.
- Ensure that the burdens faced by individuals, companies and society as a whole are proportionate, manageable and compatible with the principles of sustainable development.
- Ensure the strategy meets obligations under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 and fulfils statutory responsibility.

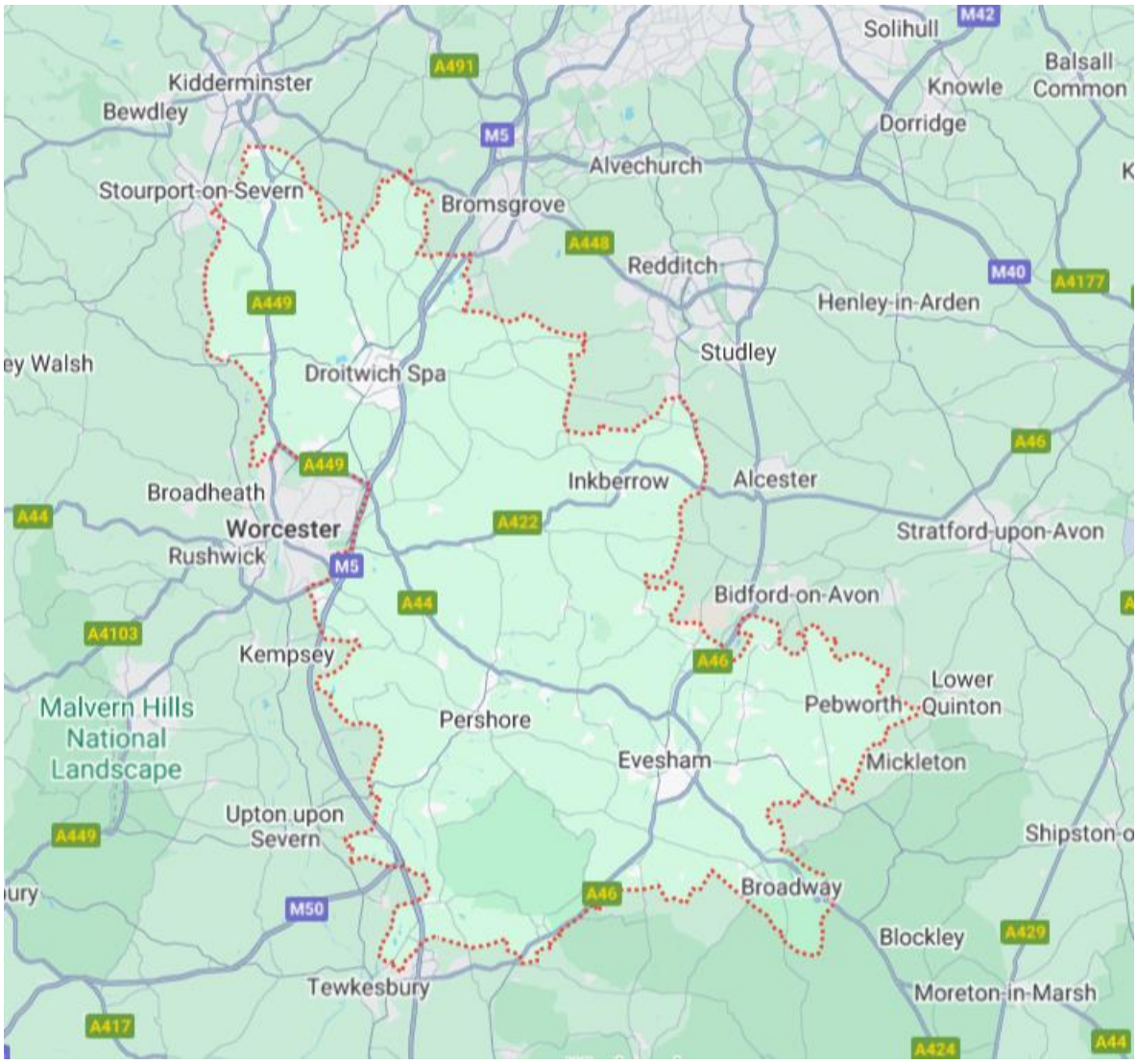
The objectives outline the 'suitable for use approach' with respect to the remediation of contaminated land and achieving sustainable development. This means that the risk is assessed in the context of a specific use with the aim of maintaining an acceptable level of risk at minimum cost, thereby "not disturbing social, economic and environmental priorities."

Priorities

The council, through WRS, undertakes to:

- **Maintain accurate information and records of potentially contaminative land uses.**
- **Undertake risk assessment and prioritisation of potentially contaminated land sites.**
- **Where land is considered to be contaminated, ensure appropriate remediation is undertaken, using Part 2A powers only when no alternative solution exists.**
- **Act as consultee through the planning process, ensuring appropriate investigation and remediation, protecting new developments from historic land contamination.**
- **Consulting with stakeholders, as necessary.**
- **Provide information and advice to developers.**
- **Provide information and advice in response to enquiries regarding property transactions.**
- **Adopt and publish a revised Contaminated Land Strategy (this document) which is rational, ordered, efficient and reflects local circumstances, in accordance with Statutory Guidance.**
- **Periodically review the Contaminated Land Strategy, at least every 5 years.**
- **Maintain a public register of contaminated land as required by Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.**

4. Characteristics of Wychavon District



The Wychavon District covers the Southwest part of the county of Worcestershire occupying approximately 67,340 hectares (260 square miles or 673.4 kilometres). The district shares a boundary with all 5 of the other district councils within Worcestershire, as well as Tewkesbury, Cotswold, and Stratford-on-Avon districts. Warwickshire lies to the east, Gloucestershire to the south and the River Severn and Worcester city to the west. The urban conurbation of Birmingham and the Black Country are situated over 30 miles to the north and along the southern boundary lie the Cotswolds.

The district has a population of approximately 135,000, mostly spread amongst the three towns of Droitwich Spa, Evesham and Pershore, and the nearly 100 villages and hamlets.

Droitwich

There is evidence of salt manufacture taking place here for more than 2000 years due to the presence of the natural brine springs. The brine was collected and evaporated to make salt. The Droitwich brine comprises approximately 25% salt by volume, compared to around 3.5% in standard sea water. The brine, therefore, represented a very valuable resource.

Archaeological evidence shows production from the Bronze Age (c. 600 BC) onwards, developing to an industrial scale in the Iron Age (c. 300 BC), with storage pits having a capacity of approximately 100,000 litres. The Romans reorganised production and distribution following their occupation in 47AD, with construction of the first timber lined brine well and development of roads for distribution.

The industry continued through the dark ages and into the early Saxon period when it is likely that permanent settlement developed at Droitwich. From the late Saxon period there is documentary evidence that the salt rights were owned by the Crown, Church, and other high-status individuals.

The town is called 'Wich' in the Domesday survey of 1086 and by 1215 King John's charter leased the rights back to the burgess of the town for a significant rent of £100 per year. This gave the burgess an effective monopoly on salt production and likely led to expansion of the town. The monopoly was finally broken in 1695 when a legal challenge from Robert Steynor was upheld and allowed for private ownership of brine wells on a person's land. This led to changes in ownership and redistribution of wealth within the salt industry.

A massive increase in salt production arose due to advances of steam pump technology and use of coal from the mid-18th century moving the industry from seasonal to year-round production. Large factories were built around the north and west sides of the town from the 1830s. The air was polluted by smoke and steam, and the increasing population of workers lived in poor conditions in cramped, substandard dwellings.

Brine began to be used for its medicinal benefits from the 1830s, initially to treat cholera, and then aid sufferers of rheumatic conditions. As the therapeutic benefits became recognised, Droitwich Spa was born, drawing large numbers of visitors for treatment at the Brine Baths. This in turn led to the establishment of a wide variety of hotels and guest houses. Brine continued to be used in hospital treatments from the late 1890s and throughout the 20th century.

Salt production in Droitwich gradually decreased and by 1922 the final producer ceased operations, largely with the industry being in decline due to the cheaper, and more readily available rock salt. Within a couple of decades, the enormous factories and tall chimneys had mostly disappeared. The Spa buildings however have largely remained into the late 20th century onwards.

Evesham

The town developed around the 8th-century abbey founded by Egwin, Bishop of Worcester, which was later to become Evesham Abbey, and one of the most important and wealthiest in the country. In 1265 the Battle of Evesham took place near the town during the Second Baron's War. The leader of the rebel baron's forces, Simon de Montfort, was trapped within a loop of the River Avon and his forces destroyed. Simon's remains were buried at the abbey at the foot of the altar. The victor, Prince Edward, went on to become King Edward I.

The Abbey thrived until the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the 16th century. It was plundered and largely demolished after being surrendered to the king in 1540, with only the bell tower and a few fragments of walls left standing. The stone from the building was reused in many local structures constructed at that time.

The town was granted a Royal Charter by James I in 1605 at the request of Prince Henry, James I's eldest son and heir. It is believed the young prince was influenced by his chaplain, the Reverend Dr Lewis Baylie, who was also serving as the vicar of Evesham at the time.

Evesham remained a relatively modest rural market town until the arrival of the railways in the 19th century. Prior to that, the road and river transport links were slow and therefore limited agricultural production largely to cereal crops with a long shelf life to allow for distribution. The arrival of the railway meant that cities such as Oxford, Worcester, Birmingham, Bristol, and even London were less than a day's travel away. The Vale of Evesham's fertile soils could be utilised to grow shorter lived, higher value crops that were in great demand in the growing, industrial cities. Fruits and vegetables replaced the cereal crops carried around the country via the developing railway. These changes brought new-found prosperity to the town with the occupation of 'Market Gardener' becoming one of the most common titles in the Victorian and Edwardian eras.

The River Avon largely stopped being used for transport following development of the railways, and by the 1930s had become impassable with the decline of the locks and weirs. Following the end of the second world war, restoration of the river was undertaken by the Lower Avon Navigation Trust and was operational as far as Evesham by 1962. This is understood to be the first ever successful restoration of a former waterway by a completely voluntary organisation. By 1974 the river had been opened all the way to Stratford-upon-Avon. Nowadays the river is the focus of much of Evesham's leisure industry, with boating and angling being important aspects of the local economy.

Evesham is still one of the country's major fruit and vegetable growing areas, although transport of the produce is via road rather than rail. Vale of Evesham Asparagus is now a legally defined food name with protected status. Although the business parks on the edge of town are still home to leading food production and packing companies, technology and online retail are now a key part of the mix.

Pershore

A settlement at Pershore has existed since at least the iron age and evidence has been identified of Roman occupation. The Abbey was founded by St Oswald, nephew of Ethelred, King of Mercia, in c. 689AD. It was re-founded in around 972 as a monastery for the Benedictine monks following a charter from King Edgar solidifying the status of the town with the Abbey playing a key role in the town's development. In 1086 the Domesday Book recorded a well-established monastic centre with a growing market at Pershore. The market was originally held on Sundays but changed to Tuesdays in 1219 with a fair granted in the early 1220s. The town's proximity to the River Avon and place on a major road to London added to its growth as a trading centre and market town.

The medieval market town had reached its peak of prosperity by the 13th century and by the 14th and 15th centuries was largely in decline. However, the town's most turbulent period would come in the 16th and 17th centuries. Following Dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry the VIII, starting in 1536, the abbey precinct became a private house and grounds. The Benedictine monks who had lived and worked there for 500 years had gone along, with the buildings that had housed them. In the 1640s the town was caught up in the struggles of the Civil War due its strategic position as a river crossing point and was regularly plundered by both sides and left impoverished.

The town developed through the 17th and 18th centuries becoming a fashionable coaching town with investment in turnpike roads and the River Avon transport links bringing new wealth as goods from the fertile region could be further distributed. Arrival of the railways led to a decrease in transport across road and river and although many towns prospered, Pershore did not, as the railway did not run through it. This led to some diversification into the manufacture of farm machinery, jam making, basket weaving, tanneries and associated trades, and cider production.

Other Areas

Elsewhere across the district Cotswold villages such as Broadway and Chilswickham in the south are known for their charm and character providing a focus for international tourism. At the opposite end in the very north, the district extends up to the outskirts of the towns of Kidderminster and Stourport-upon-Severn (both situated within Wyre Forest District) an area known traditionally for carpet manufacture.

Outside of the towns and villages the majority of the district is agricultural land, as it has been historically utilised for growing a wide range of crops and grazing of livestock. In the past larger scale industrial development was concentrated in the main towns with little elsewhere in the villages. Many sites previously used by industry have maintained a similar land usage. There is a greater number and acreage of industrial sites today, however most new developments have been concentrated within specifically designed industrial estates. There are also numerous small to medium sized industrial estates scattered across the district, such as Hartlebury Trading Estate which is one of the largest in the district with a very mixed

industrial usage. KeyTec7 Business Park, Pershore and Vale Park, Evesham are relatively new with a mix of industry types including light industry, food production and distribution. New developments also continue to come forward such as the new Worcester Six Business Park which is located within the edge of the district boundary, on the outskirts of Worcester. The older Hampton Lovett and Berry Hill Industrial Estates near Droitwich have a more manufacturing industrial use, including metal processing. There are also smaller industrial estates and businesses operating from more rural areas in and around the villages and rural areas such as at Weston Subedge and Long Marston.

There are a variety of specially designated areas highlighting the strategic importance of the Wychavon District in terms of its natural assets. The statutory guidance sets out those specific natural habitats which are identified as potential receptors under the contaminated land regime.

The following sites have been identified:-

- 32 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's)
- 64 conservation areas
- 72 Scheduled Monuments
- 2 sites are designated as National Nature Reserves and 3 as Local Nature Reserves.

Further details relating to the above can be found in Appendix B.

4.1 The Geological Setting

The northern tip of the district is characterised by the Permo-Triassic Sandstones. These are roughly located around the area of Hartlebury and Ombersley. The Sandstone is classified by the Environment Agency as a Principal Aquifer due to its high permeability and importance as a groundwater resource. Further information relating to the various aquifers is covered in the next section.

Further south the sandstone disappears beneath the Triassic Mercia Mudstone which covers most of the central areas to the west of Hanbury and the M5 corridor. This sequence of red clay is classified as a "non-aquifer" due to its low permeability and because it is not a significant source of groundwater.

Droitwich sits on Sidmouth and Branscombe mudstone formations and Droitwich Halite Member which contains significant rock salt deposits. These deposits are the source of Droitwich's famous natural brine springs.

Areas of Rugby Limestone Member comprising interbedded limestone and mudstone are present in the region of Grafton Flyford, Flyford Flavell, and Upton Snodsbury extending south to Peopleton.

Jurassic Lias are the dominant geological formation for a large proportion of the southern area of the district, extending from Church Lench more centrally, extending down around Evesham and Wickhamford and east to Honeybourne and beyond.

Charmouth Mudstone extends from Throckmorton, south to Pershore and great Comberton, and to the east around Aston Somerville out to Broadway. Birdlip Limestone Formation, Whitby Mudstone, Marlstone Rock Formation comprising interbedded limestone and sandstone, and Dryham Siltstone and Mudstone surround the area of Bredon Hill.

4.2 Hydrogeology and Hydrology

Hydrogeology

To help protect groundwater, the Environment Agency (EA) in England and Wales has identified different types of aquifer, underground layers of water-bearing, permeable rock from which groundwater can be extracted. The groundwater within the district largely comprise areas of Secondary B aquifer within the northern and some central areas and Secondary (Undifferentiated) aquifer within other central areas and the southern half of the district. There are two distinct areas of Principal aquifer within the district. The first located at the very northwesternmost boundary in the vicinity of Summerfield, Torton, Hartlebury, Chadwick, Dunhampton, extending down to Ombersley. The other main area is in the south around Bredon Hill and Overbury Park. A small part of a much larger Principal aquifer also falls just within the district boundary to the southeast of Broadway. Sporadic areas of Secondary A aquifer are present across the district such as around Wadborough, White Ladies Aston, Broughton Hackett, and Sedgeberrow. (MAGIC website, 2025). Further information can be accessed via the following website: –

Protect groundwater and prevent groundwater pollution - GOV.UK

The Private Water Supplies (England) Regulations 2016 and The Private Water Supplies (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 set out standards for the quality of the water and place a duty on the Council to sample and risk assess these private supplies. According to the available records there are currently 159 private water supplies identified within the district. These generally comprise of wells, spring water, or borehole abstractions from the underlying aquifer.

WRS, on behalf of Wychavon District Council, undertakes inspection and risk assessment of private drinking water supplies in the area. Further information in relation to private water supplies can be found on the WRS website via the following Private Water Supplies | Worcestershire Regulatory Services (worcsregservices.gov.uk) .

As part of the Environment Agency's duty to monitor and protect groundwater it has identified Groundwater Source Protection Zones. These identify the sensitivity of a source such as a spring, borehole or well and illustrate land use restrictions within

defined zones. Within Wychavon, source protection zones are located on the Sandstone areas around Lincomb, Ombersley and Sytchampton in the north of the district, highlighting the vulnerability of the groundwater in these areas.

Hydrology

The Wychavon District contains a number of major waterways including the River Avon in the south, and the River Severn which marks the western boundary of the district from Worcester to Stourport-on-Severn.

The River Avon is often known as the 'Warwickshire Avon' or 'Shakespeare's Avon', to distinguish it from several other rivers of the same name in the UK and generally flows to the southwest. The river arises from a spring near the village of Naseby, Northamptonshire, and flows through Rugby, Warwick, Stratford-upon-Avon, Evesham, Pershore and to Tewkesbury, where it joins the Severn.

A number of smaller rivers within the district act as tributaries to the River Avon, including the River Isbourne at Hinton on the Green and Sedgeberrow, the Piddle Brook at Wyre Piddle and the Bow Brook at Besford Bridge.

The River Salwarpe, which is approximately 20 miles long, begins near Bromsgrove and flows through Wychavon, passing through Stoke Prior, Upton Warren, Wychbold, and Droitwich before eventually meeting the River Severn at Hawford.

Two stretches of canal are present at Droitwich. These are known as the Droitwich Barge Canal and Droitwich Junction Canal and collectively as the Droitwich Canals and join the River Severn to the Worcester and Birmingham Canal. Historically these represented important waterways for the transport of salt from Droitwich Spa. The canals were abandoned in c.1939 but subject to restoration in the early 2000s with works completed in 2011.

The Worcester and Brimingham Canal passes through the district in a northeasterly direction from Worcester through the villages of Tibberton, Dunhamstead, Shernal Green and close to Wychbold before exiting the district near to Stoke Prior and onto Bromsgrove.

A myriad of small waterways comprising streams, brooks, ditches and pools are also present across the district. A few examples include the Seeley Brook near Hanbury, Shell Brook which runs close to Himbleton and Earls Croome, Elmbridge Brook and fishery, Pirton Pool, Mary Brook at Little Comberton, and Badsey Brook.

A number of the waterways throughout the district are designated fisheries which highlights the economic, recreational and ecological importance of these watercourses. Many surface water abstractions are located along the lengths of the rivers and tributaries, for use as spray irrigation, cooling purposes, and as a source of water for market gardening and agricultural industries in the area.

5. Strategic Inspection & Prioritisation

Worcestershire Regulatory Services (WRS) is the shared Environmental Health and Licensing functions of Wychavon District Council and the five other Worcestershire districts. In line with the service level agreement, the potential contaminated land sites of each district are maintained in a combined working dataset to provide a countywide prioritisation to tackle those sites in the county in order of priority.

Using a combination of historical maps supplemented with Council records and other relevant information sources, a dataset of sites is maintained, where past uses may have led to the presence of contamination. These sites are termed 'Sites of Potential Contaminated Land Concern' ("PCL").

At the time of writing this report, there are approximately 9500 site records held relating to potential sites of contaminated land concern within the dataset for Worcestershire as a whole. It should be noted that some of these may relate to multiple records for a site due to changes in land use or the time period over which uses have occurred. Approximately 2800 PCL sites are recorded within the Wychavon District Council area. New sites are being added to the records as and when they are identified, or further clarity of information is attained. These sites range from large industrial sites, such as former power stations, landfill sites, and gas works, to very small sites such as infilled ponds, electricity substations, and everything in between, such as petrol filling stations, warehouses, factories, and depots.

A manual method of prioritisation of these sites is being undertaken to rank the sites in order of priority for detailed inspection. Sites that have a greater risk will be classed as a higher priority, those with a lower risk will be allocated a lower priority. Where sites have been remediated as part of the planning process or through voluntary remediation this will be reflected within the prioritisation. The list will continue to be revised as further sites are redeveloped through the planning regime.

Most of these sites will not have been investigated, with only limited information available, and therefore have only been identified with a potential for contamination to be present due to the historical land use rather than a known history of contamination. The sites will be ranked by order of priority for possible detailed inspection in the future.

It is important to note that requirements under Part 2A of the Act addresses the risk based on the existing land use only and not future possible uses. Whilst sites may have been noted as remediated, or not requiring inspection, this does not preclude further work being required in the future should a more sensitive land use be proposed which may create a higher level of risk.

Part 2A adopts a precautionary approach in terms of the risks posed by contamination. The Statutory Guidance provides more detail on the specifics of risk assessment and the procedures for deciding whether land meets the legal definition of contaminated land resulting in determination. Any inspection carried out by the

Council would follow the requirements set out in the legislation and Statutory Guidance at that time.

6. Detailed Inspection

Sites of Potential Contaminated Land Concern (PCL) will be prioritised for further detailed inspection with the highest-ranking sites inspected first. These sites would be those with the highest associated risk. The risk is considered based on the likelihood of contamination being present (by former activity), the sensitivity of the current land use, and likelihood of harm being caused.

Detailed inspection should follow a phased approach, which is standard practice for investigating the presence of contamination. This may include intrusive investigation involving the collection of soil and water samples along with gas and groundwater monitoring, dependent on the nature and likelihood of contamination suspected. All inspections will follow the Statutory Guidance and Land Contamination Risk Management Guidance (Environment Agency, 2025) and other relevant best practice and guidance.

To date, Wychavon District Council have reviewed a number of sites under Part 2A of the Act. However, no sites have been determined as 'contaminated land' as a result at this time.

The detailed inspection of potentially contaminated land sites under the Part 2A regime is very resource intensive for the local authority, in terms of both time and money. Defra previously provided a grant system to local authorities via a bidding system, to finance the investigations. The grant system could also be used by local authorities to remediate sites, where no other responsible party could be identified. This scheme was withdrawn in 2013 and no replacement funding mechanism has been provided to enable local authorities to undertake this work since.

Intrusive investigation can be an expensive process normally requiring the services of specialist environmental consultants, often needing further rounds of investigation after initial results are received. Where remediation is required, the Council will seek to identify those persons responsible for the contamination and therefore liable for the costs of remediation.

Remediation costs can reach hundreds of thousands of pounds and where no other person is found to be liable for the costs, it would fall to Wychavon District Council to fund and ultimately the taxpayer.

The Statutory Guidance states that local authorities must seek to minimise unnecessary burdens on the taxpayer. As such, in the absence of any external funding mechanisms and the financial risk that this creates, Wychavon District Council at this time, will not proactively undertake Part 2A detailed inspections of Sites of Potential Concern (except where there is clear evidence that a problem exists).

The Council will continue to use the favoured mechanisms detailed in the Statutory Guidance, such as the planning process and voluntary remediation, to ensure that historical contamination is appropriately and proactively dealt with. These alternative arrangements are described in more detail below.

The Council will, however, use its powers under Part 2A of the Act to reactively deal with contaminated land where there is clear evidence that a problem exists or is likely to exist and there is no other regulatory approach available. Any potential funding streams will be assessed and pursued where appropriate should they become available.

7. Broader Approach

Contaminated land is considered within the Development Control and Building Control regimes to ensure sites are suitable for their current and intended use. Each system has its own requirements.

Development Control

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, 2025) sets out government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. Paragraphs 196 onwards detail the requirements for addressing potential contamination in the development control process to ensure the site is suitable for its proposed use and, after remediation (where required), ensure that the land is not capable of being determined as contaminated land.

NPPF Paragraph 196

Planning policies and decisions should ensure that:

a) a site is suitable for its proposed use taking account of ground conditions and any risks arising from land instability and contamination. This includes risks arising from natural hazards or former activities such as mining, and any proposals for mitigation including land remediation (as well as potential impacts on the natural environment arising from that remediation);

b) after remediation, as a minimum, land should not be capable of being determined as contaminated land under Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990; and

c) adequate site investigation information, prepared by a competent person, is available to inform these assessments.

NPPF Para 197

Where a site is affected by contamination or land stability issues, responsibility for securing a safe development rest with the developer and/or landowner.

WRS act as a consultee within the planning process and work closely with Planning Officers to ensure issues of potential contamination are investigated and dealt with as required. This is generally achieved by way of various conditions being applied to planning consent notices, as appropriate, to ensure the relevant issues are adequately addressed.

Involvement continues throughout a development up to the point it is demonstrated that no remedial measures are required on a site, or a final verification report is submitted and agreed to demonstrate remediation work has been successful. It is the responsibility of the developer and/or landowner to ensure the site is safe and suitable for use. The Council welcomes early communication on these matters so advice can be provided as to the requirements of addressing land contamination under the planning regime.

Addressing potential contamination through the development control regime is the best approach for addressing potentially contaminated sites. The high number of planning applications received per year in the district allows a much greater number of sites to be investigated than could be progressed under the Part 2A regime. The use of other mechanisms to address potential contamination is supported by the Statutory Guidance.

Building Control

Regulation 6 of the Building Regulations 2010 identifies resistance to contaminants as being a requirement to certain material changes of use.

WRS Officers would work with the Building Control Officers with regards to the requirements under the legislation and the subsequent remediation measures agreed for a site with the developer or landowner.

Building Regulations require measures to protect new buildings and the future occupants. Ground covered by any buildings and associated ground is required to be reasonably free of materials that might damage it or affect its stability. Reasonable precautions are required to avoid health and safety risks resulting from contamination.

Guidance has been issued in Approved Document C, *'Site preparation and Resistance to Contaminants and Moisture'*, (HM Government, 2013). A consolidated version of the individual Approved Documents has been published by the government, entitled *"The Building Regulations 2010 - The Merged Approved Documents - October 2024 compilation of individual approved documents*".

Environmental Permitting Regime

The Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016 and subsequent amendments provides a regime for the regulation of prescribed industrial and waste management activities.

Where significant harm or pollution of controlled waters comes from a process regulated under the above regimes, a remediation notice under Part 2A of the Act cannot be served if the powers are available under the relevant Environmental Permitting regime to address the harm or pollution of controlled waters.

Environmental Damage Regulations

The Environmental Damage (Prevention and Remediation) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2017 impose obligations and liabilities on certain commercial operations to prevent and remediate environmental damage caused by their activities based on the polluter pays principal.

The term "Environmental Damage" has a specific meaning under the regulations and is damage that adversely affects land, surface or groundwater, marine waters, protected species or natural habitats or a site of special scientific interest (SSSI). The Local Authority has enforcement responsibilities in relation to damage to land where this results in a *"significant risk of adverse effects on human health*". In relation to damage to water and natural habitats/protected species, the Environment Agency and Natural England are the enforcement authorities respectively.

There can be some overlap of Environmental Damage and Part 2A and sites may be investigated under both regimes. In general Part 2A covers historic contamination whereas the Environmental Damage Regulations are to provide a quicker response in relation to pollution incidents.

Voluntary Remediation

Discussions with landowners or occupiers who wish to address potential contamination on their land on a voluntary basis are welcomed. This sometimes occurs where a landowner wishes to sell land, use it as equity, reduce the risk of damage to the environment, or limit any future liability.

Regional Collaboration

WRS is a member of a number of regional contaminated land groups consisting of representatives from other Local Authorities and relevant bodies. These include the West Midlands Contaminated Land Group, Gloucestershire Contaminated Land Group, and Staffordshire Contaminated Land Group. These groups are voluntarily run organisations working to provide support to local authority officers, encouraging dialogue with the wider industry and helping deliver consistency in the regulation of

environmental pollution matters. WRS are also a member of the National Contaminated Land Officer Group (NCLOG) which offers a coordinated approach across the country to topical matters as they evolve. NCLOG is now being hosted and supported by the Institution for Environmental Sciences (IES). NCLOG was established in 2019 to enable the contaminated land officer voice to be heard nationally at government and industry level, and to promote consistency across the sector. NCLOG has over 200 members across the UK and maintains close links with existing regional officer groups and those working in the devolved administrations. It is a voluntary organisation and is governed by an elected Committee.

WRS have produced the Technical Guidance Note for Planning (May 2025) which sets out the requirements for how land affected by contamination should be dealt with as part of the planning process. The document also provides a specification as to the technical standards expected for contaminated land reports submitted in support of planning applications and discharge of condition requests. Environmental consultants and developers are directed to this document. It is hoped that this helps to improve the quality of information submitted and to raise awareness of the requirements particularly within the planning process. The document has been made available to other local authorities for information.

wrs-technical-guidance-document-for-planning-v-5-9.pdf

The Office for Environmental Protection

The Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) was legally created in November 2021, under the Environment Act 2021. Their remit is to protect and improve the environment by holding government and other public authorities to account. The OEP have powers to enforce against failures to comply with environmental law.

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Appendix A – Prioritisation Methodology

Preliminary prioritisation will continue in order to assess sites for future inspection. The sites will be scored utilsing a risk ranking scoring system within the contaminated land database. The aim is to score all potential sites of concern to establish a hierarchy system with the higher risk sites at the top of the list. The site categorisation methodology is based upon the Source-Pathway- Receptor linkage, taking into account;

- Likely presence of Contaminant and severity of harm
- Likelihood of a Pathway for contaminant cause harm
- Receptor Sensitivity

The first step is to identify former potentially contaminative land uses or activities, such as “Gas Works”, and apply the corresponding score. If a site has had mutiple different land uses it will be assigned the relevant scores for each of the major land uses. The risk assessment tool allows for up to six separate land use scores to be assigned. If a case arises where there are more than six relevant land uses for the site, the highest category scores will be included. A generic score according to the risk class is appointed depending on the use from the following rankings; Very High, High, Medium, Low, or Very Low.

The next stage is to assign a further score based on the pathway efficiency taking account of geology, soil classification, services pathways, and whether any remediation or barriers have been put in place. If no data is held a conversative approach is adopted by applying the same score as for high risk. The other values are medium or low.

A third score is applied in relation to the receptor sensitivity with the highest sensitive uses accruing a higher score. The most sensitive end uses are classed as residential with gardens, schools, and children’s nurseries. The receptor sensitivity takes account of exposure pathways that are likely to be present and the vulnerability of those receptors. A residential property with garden is likely to have more exposure pathways because of the potential for residents to interact with bare soils. Home grown produce may take up contaminants whilst growing that can then be ingested when consumed. Soils may also be ingested by young children during play, inhaled as dust, and tracked into residential properties. Children are at a higher risk from contaminants due to a number of factors including their smaller size (and therefore exposure to proportionally larger doses of toxins), closer proximity to the ground, dirt and indoor dust. When compared to an adult, children also breathe more and consume more food and water in terms of per kg of bodyweight (Hauptman, M, / Woolf, A, 2020).

A further score can be applied for other considerations where relevant. These include controlled waters sensitivity and whether there are other ecological

receptors, or protected property or buildings. These may include national nature reserves and Sites of Special Scientific Interest, ancient monuments, crops, owned or domesticated animals, and wild animals subject to shooting or fishing rights.

The scoring matrices that are to be utilised within the prioritisation process are set out below.

SCORING MATRIXES

SOURCE		CODE	RISK	SCORE
Asbestos manufacture, abrasives, and related products		ML	Very High	50
Chemical works (organic and inorganic)	Manufacture of cosmetics, bleaches, manure, fertilisers and pesticides, detergents, oil organic based pharmaceuticals, other chemical products, including glues, gelatines, recording tapes, photographic film	CH		
	Sheep dips	SD		
	Dyes, pigments	DY		
	Paint, varnishes, printing inks, mastics, sealants, and creosote	PA		
Radioactive materials processing and disposal		NA		
Gas works, coke works, coal carbonisation and similar sites. Production of gas from coal, lignite, oil, or other carbonaceous material other than waste		GA		
Refuse and waste disposal sites, including hazardous wastes, incinerators, sanitary depots, drum and tank cleaning, solvent recovery		RF		
Oil refining and bulk storage of oil and petrol & Gasometers which are not gas works		LL		
LANDFILL SITE - KNOWN TO BE ACTIVELY PRODUCING GAS		LA		
Abattoirs and animal slaughtering:		AB	High	40
Animal products processing into animal by-products e.g. soap, candles, and bone works.		AN		
Tannery, leather goods and skinnery		TY		
Engineering (heavy and general)	Manufacturing of distribution, telecoms, medical, navigation, metering, and lighting.	HE		
	Manufacture and repair including ships, aerospace, rail engines and rolling stock	HT		
	Heavy products manufacture - rolling and drawing of iron, steel, and ferroalloys - includes tube works	HM		
	Manufacturing of electrical and electronic domestic appliances.	HS		
	Manufacture of cars, lorries, buses, motorcycles, bicycles	LT		
	Manufacturing of engines, buildings and general industrial machinery, including nuts and bolts, gas fitting as, wire rope/cable	MA		

	and ordnance accessories. Including metal workshops and canneries			
Metal smelting and refining	Includes furnaces and forges, electroplating, galvanising, and anodising	FY		
	Ferro and aluminium alloys-manganese works, slag works	PL		
Civilian manufacture and storage of weapons, ammunition, explosives, and rockets including ordnance.		MG		
All military establishments including firing ranges (if not specified as civilian).		MD		
Recycling of metal waste including scrapyards and car breakers		SP		
Natural and synthetic rubber products including tyres and rubber products. Tar bitumen, linoleum, vinyl, and asphalt works		RB		
Paper, card etc products (packaging).		PD		
Pulp, paper, and cardboard manufacture		PR		
UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS ON SITE and above ground fuel storage tanks (except domestic)		US		
LANDFILL SITE - STRONGLY SUSPECTED TO BE PRODUCING GAS, based on available information on age and content of fill		LB		
Manufacture of clay bricks and tiles, including associated activities eg brick fields, also solitary kilns (other than lime kilns)		BK		
Extraction of alluvial sediments (sand, stone, clay, peat, marl and gravel)		PT		
Quarrying of all stone (including limestone, gypsum, chalk and slate) and ores, includes all opencast mining and slant workings - also slate/slab works, flint works, stone yards		QU		
Airports and similar (air and space transport)		AP	**Medium**	**30**
Concrete, ceramics, cement and plaster works.	Concrete, cement, lime and plaster products, also including solitary lime kilns.	CE		
	Tableware and other ceramics.	CR		
Dry-cleaning and laundries (larger scale, not usually "High Street")		LY		

Flat glass products manufacture		GL		
Photographic processing		PP		
Coal storage/depot.	Coal mining (and the manufacturing of coke and charcoal) -	CC		
	areas include associated surface activities in area and coal mine shafts.	CY		
	Areas of mining and single or groups of shafts other than coal, or not specified - including levels, adits, etc also areas associated with mineral railways.	MN		
Electricity generation and distribution, including large transfer stations, power stations (excluding nuclear power stations).		PW		
Batteries, accumulators, primary cells, electrical motors, generators, and transformers		BT		
Printing of newspaper		NW		
Printing works other than newsprint and bookbinding (usually excludes "High Street" printers)		PN		
Railway land, including yards and tracks.		RW		
(Railway tracks - up to 4 tracks wide or 30 m)		RL		
Sale of automotive fuel. Road vehicle fuelling, transport depots, road haulage and commercial vehicle fuelling, local authority yards and depots.		FU		
Repair and sale of cars and bikes, parts and motorway services.		GG		
Transport depots - road haulage corporation yards		DP		
Sewage treatment works. Sewerage, septic tanks, effluent - including all filter beds.		SW		
Textiles manufacturing - natural and manmade textile manufacture and products including hemp rope and linoleum.		TX		
Timber treatment works and manufacturing. Sawmills, planning and impregnation (ie treatment of timber), wood products, telegraph works, timber yard, eg veneer		WD		
Computers, office machinery, business/industrial electrical goods.		LE		
Insulated wire and cable for electrical/tel/purposes.		WR		
LANDFILL SITE - GAS PRODUCTION IS POSSIBLE, based on historical map evidence of infilled quarry, water body or other void		LC		
Plastic products manufacture, moulding and extrusion; building materials; fibre glass, fibre glass resins and products. Manufacturing of Tar, Bitumen and Asphalt.		PS	**Low**	**20**

Dockyards and wharves. Boatbuilding, wharf and quays, cargo/transport handling facilities - marine or inland	DK		
Brewing and malting	BW		
spirit distilling and compounding.	DL		
Major food processing includes large dairies. Exceptionally large-scale corn/flour milling	FD		
Constructional steelwork, metal structures and products and building materials (Including Building Yards and smithy's)	MP		
Cemetery, modern burial ground, and graveyard	GV		
All hospitals including sanatoriums but not lunatic asylums (also includes laboratories)	HL		
LANDFILL SITE - GAS PRODUCTION UNLIKELY, based on available information on age and content of fill	LD		
Light Industry	LI	**Very Low**	**10**
Pollution incident (historic)	PI		
Area prone to repeated flooding	FL		
Radioactive Substances Act Registrations	RS		
Allotments and agricultural areas subject to repeated sewage spreading or excessive treatment	AL		

PATHWAYS		**SCORE**
Geological risk pathway	No data held or High Risk	5
	Medium Risk	3
	Low Risk	1
Soil Classification risk pathway	No data held or High Risk (No info or soils of high leaching potential)	5
	Medium Risk (Soils of intermediate leaching potential)	3
	Low Risk (Soils of low leaching potential)	1
Services pathway risk	No data or Drainage services (including culverted rivers) or wells known	5
	Possible drainage services	3
	No drainage services on site	1
Remediation pathway risk	No knowledge	5
	Likely that some remedial scheme would have been employed	4
	Partial remedial scheme believed to be in place	3
	Remedial scheme believed to be in place and effective	1

	Full appropriate remedial scheme in place and full details held	0
Barrier pathway risk	Uncertain/No knowledge of any barrier	1
	Physical or effective management barrier in place	0

RECEPTORS	**SCORE**
Residential with Gardens	20
Schools and Children's Nurseries	20
Private Water Supply abstraction for domestic consumption	18
Residential without Gardens	16
Playing fields and Public Open Space	9
Allotments and Cemeteries	8
Leisure/Hospitals/Commercial	7
Industrial	6
Agricultural	5
Other	1
No Risk Recorded	0

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS		**SCORE**
Controlled Waters	Abstraction Point for Domestic Consumption	10
	River Water Classification A, B or C	
	Source Protection Zone 1	
	Major Aquifer (vulnerability risk = High)	
	Source Protection Zone 2	8
	Major Aquifer (vulnerability risk = Medium)	
	Minor Aquifer (vulnerability risk = High)	
	Source Protection Zone 3	6
	Major Aquifer (vulnerability risk = Low)	
	Minor Aquifer (vulnerability risk = Medium)	
	River Water Classification D, E or F	5
	Pond, Lake or other unclassified water feature	
	Minor Aquifer (vulnerability risk - Low)	4

	Abstraction Point for Commercial or Industrial use	3
	Non-Aquifer	2
Ecological Receptor, Property or Buildings	Owned or Domesticated animals	5
	Crops	
	Wild Animals subject to shooting or fishing rights	4
	National Nature Reserves & Sites of Special Scientific Interest	3
	Ancient Monuments	2
	Other Property	1

Appendix B – Ecological and Sensitive Sites

There are a variety of specially designated areas highlighting the strategic importance of the Wychavon District in terms of its natural assets.

The following sites have been identified:-

- Thirty two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's)
- Sixty four conservation areas
- Seventy two Scheduled Monuments
- Two sites are designated as National Nature Reserves and three as Local Nature Reserves.

According to available information sources there are 32 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) within the Wychavon District area (Search for planning data / Magic Map Application / Site Search)	
Hartlebury Common and Hillditch Coppice 1000046	Long Meadow, Thorn 1000925
Bredon Hill 1001495	Beckford Gravel Pit 1001600
Oakley Pool 1001802	Pipershill Common 1001952
Rabbit Wood 1001984	Salt Meadow, Earl's Common 1002202
Tiddesley Wood 1003066	Tunnel Hill Meadow 1003092
Upton Warren Pools 1003130	Westwood Great Pool 1003218
Windmill Hill 1003250	Trench Wood 1004181

Broadway Hill 1004245	Foster's Green Meadows 1004455
Grafton Wood 1004480	Eckington Railway Cutting 1005769
Cooksholme Meadows 1005946	Cropthorne New Inn Section 1005982
Portway Farm Meadow 1006624	Yellow House Meadow 1006625
Baynhall Meadow 1006626	Great Blaythorn Meadow 1007249
Rectory Farm Meadows 1007250	Dean Brook Valley Pastures 1007251
Naunton Court Meadows 1007252	Dormston Church Meadow 1007253
Stock Wood Meadows 1007255	Highclere 1007257
Lower Saleway Farm Meadows 2000258	Lazy Meadow 2000861

There are 64 Conservation Areas within Wychavon District		
Bredon Hill	Abberton	Abbots Moreton
Aldington	Ashton under Hill	Atch Lench
Badsey	Beckford	Bevere
Birlingham	Bredon	Bredon's Norton
Bretforton	Broad Marston	Broadway

Childswickham	Church Lench	Cleeve Prior
Conderton	Cropthorne	Crowle
Droitwich Spa	Droitwich Canal	Droitwich Link Canal
Eckington	Elmley Castle	Evesham
Fladbury	Great Comberton	Hadzor
Hartlebury	Harvington	Himbleton
Honeybourne	Huddington	Inkberrow
Kemerton	Kinsham	Little Comberton
Lower Moor	Martin Hussingtree	Middle Littleton
Naunton Beauchamp	Norton Littleton	Northampton
Norton and Lenchwick	Offenham	Ombersley
Overbury	Pebworth	Peopleton
Pershore	Rous Lench	South Littleton
Stoulton	Uphampton	Upton Snodsbury
Upton Warren	Westmancote	Whittington

Wick	Wickhamford	Worcester and Birmingham Canal
Wyre Piddle		

There are 72 Scheduled Monuments (England) recorded within the Wychavon District area.		
Prehistoric enclosures 3/4 mile (1200m) E of Norton Church 1003538	Tithe barn 1003539	Dovecote at Hawford Grange 1005261
Eckington Bridge 1005264	Pershore Bridge 1005266	Wyre Bridge 1005269
Elmley Castle 1005279	Enclosures NE of Fernhill Farm 1005286	Settlement site NNE of Fernhill Farm 1005287
Deserted village of Poden 1005288	Sheriff's Naunton deserted village NE of Naunton Court 1005289	The Tithe Barn 1005291
Hawford Roman camp 1005295	Evesham Abbey (remains of) 1005297	Abbot Reginald's Gateway and Old Vicarage 1005298
West porch of Bengeworth Old Church 1005299	Cookshill Nunnery 1005300	Netherton Chapel 1005302
Pershore Abbey (site of) 1005303	Double ditched enclosure NE of Wick village 1005310	Double ditched enclosure N of Oakeys 1005311

Settlement site SE of Wyre Piddle 1005312	Settlement site NE of Kinsham 1005314	Enclosures and ring ditches W of Crashmore Lane 1005316
Settlement site NE of Wick village 1005317	Cursus and trackway NW of Oakland Farm 1005318	Double ditched enclosures S of Robin Mill 1005321
Conderton Camp 1005327	Ditched enclosures SE of Eckington Field Farm 1005328	Kemerton Camp 1005331
Ditched enclosures 1/4 mile (400m) N of Chapel Farm 1005333	Deserted medieval village 1005351	Settlement site north of Spring Hill Farm 1005352
Roman settlement NW of Ryden Farm 1005353	Castle Hill Camp 1005354	Abbot Chyryton Wall, Boat Lane 1005501
Ditched enclosures 1/2 mile (800m) N of Woollashall Farm 1005502	St John the Baptist Church 1005507	Churchyard cross, St Michael's Church 1015683
Village cross at junction of Worcester Road and Church Street 1015685	Moated site and medieval settlement remains at Throckmorton 1016938	Moated site and Civil War defences at Strensham Castle 1016939
Moated site immediately adjacent to St Peter's Church 1016940	Motte castle, moated site, and medieval agricultural remains at Crookbarrow Farm 1014900	Elmley Castle village cross 1015287
Village cross 170m north west of St Mary's Church 1015288	Roman settlement at Bays Meadow 1020620	Roman fort, Saxon church and medieval hospital at Dodderhill 1020621
Roman camp 430m east of Dodderhill Court Farm 1020622	Village cross 80m east of St Barbara's Church 1015967	Churchyard cross in St Kenelm's churchyard 1016131
Churchyard cross 40m north west of St Mary's Church 1016337	Moated site immediately east of the Church of St Peter 1016477	Moated site immediately west of the Church of St Mary 1016479

Moated site and fishponds 300m south west and 470m north of Durrance Farm 1016480	Moated site at Moat Farm 1017242	Medieval settlement at Ullington 1017246
Medieval settlement immediately surrounding St Michael's Church 1017254	Moated site 120m south east of Huntingdrop Farm 1017311	Moated site immediately south west of St Mary's Church 1017312
Moated site 150m north east of Inkberrow Church 1018543	Moated site immediately east of Gannow Farm 1018544	Moated site at Churchill Court 1015845
Moated site at Huddington Court 1018546	Moated site 450m west of Parkhall Farm 1018580	Moated site and monastic retreat at Crowle Court 1018894
Standing cross at the junction of School Road and Astwood Lane 1019497	Icehouse and ponds at Hanbury Hall 1019500	Moated site 680m west of Manor Farm, Kersoe 1019852
Multi-period salt production remains in Droitwich 1020256	Romano-British settlement remains 300m and 750m north east of Narrow Meadow Farm 1020257	Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Bennett's Hill 1020258

Two sites are designated as National Nature Reserves and three as Local Nature Reserves within the district.	
National Nature Reserve	**Local Nature Reserve**
Foster's Green Meadows SO978649	Cleeve Prior Bank SP075490
Bredon Hill SO942398	Hartlebury Common/Hillditch Pool SO823707
	Avon Meadows SO952465