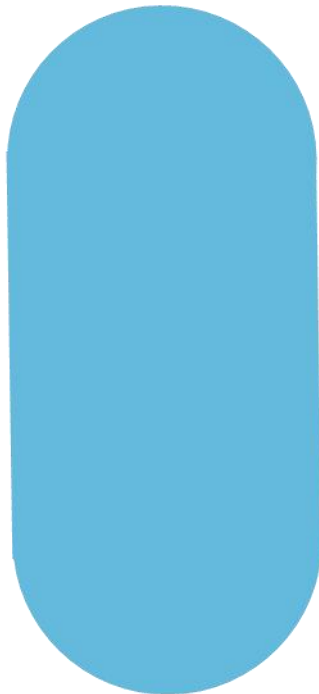


Representations

South Warwickshire Local Plan Part 1 –
Issues and Options Consultation

Rosconn Strategic Land Limited – Land east of Manor Farm,
Stockton Road, Long Itchington

March 2023





1. The following representations are made in response to the South Warwickshire Local Plan (SWLP) Part 1 Issues and Options Consultation (January 2023) on behalf of Rosconn Strategic Land Limited, in respect of their land interest east of Manor Farm, Stockton Road, Long Itchington (the site). The site was submitted through the initial Call for Sites process and has been recorded as Site 467 on the Interactive Map.
2. A summary of this representation has also been submitted to the SWLP Online Consultation Portal, and should be read alongside the Development Framework Plan (FPCR, September 2020, drawing ref. 9702-L-01-A), Landscape Statement (FPCR, October 2020) and Transport Technical Note (Savoy Consulting, December 2020).
3. The accompanying Development Framework has been prepared to demonstrate how a sensitive development of approximately 100 dwellings, land for on-site biodiversity enhancement, and additional land for a potential school expansion can be accommodated within the site. This also includes providing appropriate green buffers and landscape mitigation, as well as demonstrating how the site can be accessed via Collingham Lane to the West of the site.

Chapter 3 - Vision and Strategic Objectives

Q-V3.1: Vision for the Local Plan

4. Rosconn Strategic Land consider that the proposed Vision is appropriate in general terms. However, the proposed Vision makes reference to meeting unmet need from neighbouring authorities, and Rosconn Strategic Land consider it would be more appropriate to reference meeting unmet need from the wider Housing Market Areas.
5. Whilst Birmingham and the Black Country authorities are not neighbouring authorities of South Warwickshire, they do form part of the same Housing Market Area and therefore should not be excluded. South Warwickshire falls within both the Coventry and Warwickshire Housing Market Area and the Birmingham and Black Country Housing Market Area it is therefore imperative that the SWLP adequately considers accommodating unmet housing needs which are arising from outside of South Warwickshire.



Chapter 4 - Meeting South Warwickshire's Sustainable Development Needs

Q-11: Sustainability Appraisal

6. The following comments are made in respect of the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) for Long Itchington.
7. The Small Settlement Location (SSLs) for Long Itchington includes Rosconn Strategic Land interest east of Manor Farm, Stockton Road, with the site abutting the built up area boundary on its western and southern boundaries.
8. The SSL for Long Itchington covers a large area of land around all sides of the edge of the village and partly overlaps the site. It is clear that certain parts of Long Itchington are more sensitive than others. For example, land to the west is more constrained by flood plain. Assessing the settlement edge as a whole does not allow for any distinction to be made between different areas for growth. It is difficult therefore to draw conclusions as to the appropriateness of the settlement to accommodate growth from this exercise alone.
9. It is clear from Table 5.1 that the only major adverse impacts identified for Long Itchington relate to landscape sensitivity and agricultural land classification. With respect to landscape sensitivity, this site lies within the least sensitive part of the settlement, within parcel 'LI01' as identified in Stratford District Council's Landscape Sensitivity Assessment (2012). For Parcel LI01 the landscape sensitivity to housing development is considered 'Medium' whereas the rest of the settlement is more sensitive ('High/Medium' and 'High'). This is further explained in the enclosed Landscape Statement (FPCR, October 2020).
10. In landscape terms, the aligns with the Council's own decision-making in this part of Long Itchington, with the adjoining David Wilson Homes scheme to the south at Keepers Meadow considered to have capacity to accommodate change.



11. Furthermore, as demonstrated in the enclosed Landscape Statement and shown on the Development Framework Plan, mitigation can be incorporated within the scheme to enhance the existing strong landscaped and hedgerow boundaries to the north and the east. This will further reinforce the site's visual containment and its clear alignment with the existing built up area as part of a sensitively designed scheme where landscape impacts are minimised.
12. On the basis of the above, it is clear that landscape sensitivity to accommodate change will not be an overriding factor to future growth at Long Itchington, with the 2012 Landscape Sensitivity Assessment and subsequent Council decision-making showing the areas of lower sensitivity and with capacity to change.
13. Agricultural land classification will of course be a factor that needs to be taken into consideration, but is not an overriding constraint upon the development of a site.
14. The SA demonstrates therefore that there are no in principle impediments to growth at Long Itchington and that it is considered as a suitable location for growth, with a good range of facilities available. The Councils will also be mindful that this is only one piece of evidence at a strategic level, and the HELAA and other evidence will need to inform the selection of allocations in due course.

Option S2-C: Intensification

15. Intensification is a way to optimise brownfield land and realise its effectiveness. However, Rosconn Strategic Land consider that this matter should be dealt with by the SWLP Part 2 Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plans if relevant, so that the implications of applying an intensification policy to a particular area can be assessed in terms of character and deliverability, which are key factors to consider.
16. Intensification is challenging and requires evidence around viability and deliverability before it can be considered to form part of the supply, and as such any intensification potential in the windfall allowance should be avoided.



Q-S3.1: Urban Capacity Study

17. The production of an Urban Capacity Study (UCS, October 2022) to support identification of brownfield land to help deliver the growth needs of South Warwickshire is in accordance with the NPPF¹. The following points are made in relation to how the UCS considers housing supply in the urban areas. However, it should be noted that the UCS also discusses the SWLP housing requirement and representations are made on those points under Q-H1-1 & 2.
18. In relation to housing allocations from the adopted Local Plans, Rosconn Strategic Land consider that a comprehensive review of all outstanding allocations without planning permission is required to ensure that such sites still meet the definition of developable as set out in the NPPF². In particular, evidence will be required to demonstrate why the UCS suggests the capacity of some of the allocations will increase beyond what is included within the adopted Local Plan. That review and evidence must be published prior to the next iteration of the Plan to demonstrate the capacity from the allocations can be relied upon to meet the housing need.
19. The UCS also includes within the supply 795 dwellings on sites which have been submitted to the SWLP Call for Sites process in the urban areas, and are considered to be potentially suitable. As no formal assessment of these submissions has taken place, their inclusion will need to be reviewed once the Housing and Economic Land Availability Assessment (HELAA) is published. Any allowance for such sites must be deducted from the windfall allowance.
20. The UCS identifies an additional five sites on vacant land in the urban areas which have not yet been submitted to the Call for Sites process, but are considered potentially suitable for 328 dwellings. There is no certainty around the availability and deliverability of these sites to include them at this stage. Further, on assessment of these sites there are some serious concerns around their suitability in any case. The UCS also identifies two additional sites on brownfield land within the urban areas, at Talisman Square, Kenilworth (65 dwellings) and Westgate House, Warwick (39

¹ Paragraph 119 of the National Planning Policy Framework (July 2021)

² Glossary of the National Planning Policy Framework (July 2021)



dwellings). As above, these sites have not yet been submitted to the Call for Sites process and so there is no certainty around delivery.

21. Finally, the UCS includes an assessment of the potential windfall supply with reference to the level of windfall delivery across South Warwickshire in the period 2011/12 to 2020/21. However, it is considered that this assessment is limited as it does not detail the sources of windfall supply, nor consider how the planning policy landscape in South Warwickshire may impact future windfall delivery. Whilst a windfall allowance is likely to be acceptable in principle in the SWLP, it should be calculated on the basis of compelling evidence as required by the NPPF³.

Q-S4.1: Growth of Existing Settlements

22. Yes, growth of existing settlements in South Warwickshire is imperative to deliver the overall growth targets, and achieve the Vision and overarching principles. The need for housing, affordable and specialist housing, green infrastructure, improved facilities and infrastructure is within the towns and villages. Those needs are best met sustainably adjacent to the settlements.

Q-S4.2: Settlement Analysis

23. The following comments are made in respect of Rosconn Strategic Land Site at Manor Farm, Long Itchington (467) which falls within Area 12.
24. Area 12 is given a 'C' grade in terms of connectivity, defined as with barriers that may be overcome. The commentary in the Analysis states that Collingham Lane narrows to a single track after first sharp bend. This bend is beyond the edge of the village and would not be a barrier to development within Area 12. Reference is also made to the school playing fields to the south, but these are not a barrier to connectivity to the village. The accompanying Development Framework Plan illustrates how a suitable access can be provided to this site from Collingham Lane.

³ Paragraph 71 of the National Planning Policy Framework (July 2021)



25. As Collingham Lane, is capable of accommodating all modes of transport, there are no barriers to connectivity to the settlement and this should be rectified in the next iteration of the Analysis to a score of (A).
26. In the analysis of landform, there are no constraints, unlike the majority of the western side of Long Itchington which is covered by a flood plain. Therefore growth to the north of the village is supported in flood risk policy terms, with the area being sequentially preferable.
27. In respect of local facilities within 800m, Area 12 scores very well with the site scoring 4 out of 5, only marked down for healthcare due to no facilities within the village at present. Areas 14 and 15 have been scored as 5 out of 5, however these sites appear to have been incorrectly scored as they are not within 800m of healthcare facilities either. The analysis should therefore be updated to reflect this.
28. Area 12 is therefore considered a suitable location to accommodate development as there are no barriers to connectivity to the village, and the site is within 800m of a good range of local facilities.
29. It is noted that Stratford-on-Avon District Council scored the site (LONG.06) negatively within the SHLAA 2021 update. The assessment concluded that access through the existing housing development to the south would not be suitable according to the Highway Authority. However, Rosconn Strategic Land have undertaken their own assessment which concludes that access can be provided from Collingham Lane. The supporting Transport Note from Savoy Consulting states that a satisfactory means of access can be provided for the development, and all potential capacity issues on the local highway network can be addressed through the installation of traffic signals at the A423 Southam Road/Stockton Road junction.
30. The SHLAA update 2021 also noted that the site forms part of an extensive open landscape to the north of the village which cannot be mitigated effectively. However FPCR have prepared a Landscape Statement which demonstrates that the site is well contained, relates well to the existing settlement, and is not particularly sensitive in landscape and visual terms. It is well contained by the existing settlement to the south



and west including the recent residential development off Stockton Road, Long Itchington Primary School and properties off Collingham Lane. The boundary between the site and existing development is generally defined by a combination of hedgerows and trees. Established vegetation along the site's boundary to the north and east helps visually contain the site. The Landscape Statement concludes the site is capable of accepting residential development reflective of the scale and size that exists within the settlement.

31. The supporting Development Framework Plan shows how development of the site could be brought forward in a way which respects the local context. This demonstrates the retention and reinforcement of existing landscape features alongside additional planting to the site's boundaries which will help to further visually contain the site. Retention of the existing field boundary within the site will maintain the existing field pattern. The Development Framework Plan also shows the potential developable area set back from the north east of the site relating to the existing settlement pattern. The positioning of the proposed Public Open Space (POS) would ensure a strong buffer between any future development on this site and the wider countryside to the north and east.
32. In addition, the Development Framework Plan also demonstrates the location of a potential Habitat Creation Area (3.06ha). This land is within the landowner's ownership which can be provided to deliver biodiversity enhancement as part of this scheme. The scheme can also provide further benefits with 0.8 ha of land available for a potential expansion to the existing Primary School.
33. Paragraph 141 of the NPPF states that before changes are made to Green Belt boundaries, the LPA will need to demonstrate that they have considered all other reasonable options for meeting its identified need for development. LPA's must therefore demonstrate that they have made use of suitable and underutilised land before Green Belt land is released. Land east of Manor Farm, Long Itchington, should therefore be given priority as this land is outside of the Green Belt and is considered to be a deliverable site to help deliver homes within the plan period.



Q-S7.2: Refined Spatial Growth Options

34. Rosconn Strategic Land consider a mixture of options will be required to best deliver the growth needs of South Warwickshire for the reasons as set out below.
35. Firstly, the results of the high level testing of the five growth options in the supporting Sustainability Appraisal demonstrates that the options perform differently in different areas, with no one option standing out as the best performing option across all areas.
36. Secondly, it is important to remember that the assessment set out in the SA is provided at a high level, subject to several caveats, and without consideration of mitigation or deliverability. Options which score less favourably in the SA could therefore actually deliver more sustainable growth on closer examination.
37. Finally, given the significant level of growth the SWLP will need to accommodate (see response to Issues H1 and H4 below) this is unlikely to be able to be met sustainably through a single growth strategy.
38. Rosconn Strategic Land support the inclusion of Long Itchington within the Economy (Option 3), Sustainable Travel and Economy (Option 4), and Dispersed (Option 5) as a settlement that is suitable to accommodate development.
39. The Dispersed Option best meets the needs of rural communities. This will enable positive planning in response to the requirements of NPPF79 and NPPG009:

*“79. To promote sustainable development in rural areas, housing should be located where it will enhance or maintain the vitality of rural communities. **Planning policies should identify opportunities for villages to grow and thrive, especially where this will support local services.** Where there are groups of smaller settlements, development in one village may support services in a village nearby.”*

(2021 NPPF, emphasis added)



40. In addition, provision of a mix of sites which includes smaller-medium site allocations in rural communities reflects the objectives of NPPF60, 68 and 69.

Q-S8.1: For settlements falling outside the chosen growth strategy, do you think a threshold approach is appropriate, to allow more small-scale developments to come forward?

41. Without knowing the chosen strategy, it is difficult to answer this question. However, yes, Rosconn Strategic Land agree that a threshold approach would be appropriate for any settlement listed not within the chosen strategy. This would ensure those settlements are able to plan for growth to meet their needs, particularly those settlements within designated neighbourhood areas in accordance with NPPF66.

Q-S8.2: For sites coming forward as part of this threshold approach, what do you think would be an appropriate size limit for individual sites?

42. Any limit on the size of site should have regard to the factors set out in NPPF67, namely local housing need, population of the area, and the strategy for the area. Other factors should also be taken into account such as the size and availability of suitable land identified.

Q-E7.1: Core Opportunity Areas

43. Rosconn Strategic Land support option E7.1a and directing employment growth to the Core Opportunity Area.

Chapter 6 - Delivering Homes that meet the needs of all our Communities

Q-H1-1 & 2: Providing the Right Number of New Homes

44. Yes, the HEDNA provides a reasonable basis for identifying future levels of housing need across South Warwickshire. However, Rosconn Strategic Land reserve its position in respect of whether this approach is reasonable for other authorities in Coventry and Warwickshire.



45. The NPPF sets out that “to determine the minimum number of homes needed, strategic policies should be informed by a local housing need assessment, conducted using the Standard Method in national planning guidance – unless exceptional circumstances justify an alternative approach which also reflects current and future demographic trends and market signals”⁴. National policy is therefore supportive of the approach that South Warwickshire Councils are seeking to implement, and as such utilising the HEDNA to inform the local housing need for South Warwickshire is supported.
46. It is important, however, to remember that the local housing need is not the same as the housing requirement within the Plan.
47. The UCS suggests that the SWLP housing need equates to 30,750 dwellings, however this figure does not reflect the latest evidence within the HEDNA and needs updating. In addition, the UCS assumes a Plan period which commences in 2025, however this does not align with the base date of the HEDNA and as such a Plan period from 2022 is considered more appropriate to align with the evidence base.
48. On the basis of the above, we consider a more appropriate local housing need for the SWLP is 47,012 dwellings over a 28 year plan period.
49. In line with the NPPF⁵, it is considered that this figure represents the minimum number of homes needed, and that the Councils should consider whether it is appropriate to set a higher housing requirement in line with national guidance⁶; for example in order to address a significant affordable housing shortfall, support economic development, or address strategic infrastructure requirements which are likely to increase the number of homes needed.
50. Further consideration will also need to be given to unmet needs within the Housing Market Area in line with the Duty to Cooperate and the positively prepared test of soundness⁷, which is explored in further detail in response to Issue H4 below.

⁴ Paragraph 61 of the National Planning Policy Framework (July 2021)

⁵ Paragraph 61 of the National Planning Policy Framework (July 2021)

⁶ Paragraph 010 Reference ID 2a-010-20201216 of National Guidance

⁷ Paragraph 35 a) of the National Planning Policy Framework (July 2021)



51. Bringing together comments on the UCS and Unmet Needs under Q-H4.2, Rosconn Strategic Land consider that the SWLP will need to plan for a level of housing growth as set out in the below Table in the order of at least 43,000 dwellings.



Table – SWLP Housing Requirement and Supply Calculation

<u>Housing Requirement</u>	
South Warwickshire Minimum Housing Need Derived from the HEDNA (1,679 x 28 Years)	47,012 dwellings
Uplift to Minimum Housing Need	TBC – further work required to determine whether an uplift is appropriate
Contribution Towards Unmet Needs of Coventry and Birmingham & Black Country	TBC – engagement with Birmingham/Black Country and Coventry required but suggest increase of at least 21,000 dwellings possible (circa 11,000 towards Coventry and at least 10,000 towards Birmingham)
Total Housing Requirement	68,000 dwellings +
<u>Housing Supply</u>	
Sites with Planning Permission at 1 st April 2022 (with 5% lapse rate applied)	14,360 dwellings
Outstanding Local Plan Allocations at 1 st April 2022	5,579 dwellings
Windfall Allowance	TBC – 4,840 dwellings assumed in line with UCS however this requires further justification / compelling evidence
Total Housing Supply	24,779 dwellings
Indicative Housing Requirement to be found by the Plan	43,000 dwellings +

Q-H4.2: Accommodating Housing Needs Arising from outside of South Warwickshire

52. It is imperative that that SWLP adequately considers accommodating unmet housing needs which are arising from outside of South Warwickshire, to ensure compliance



with the Duty to Cooperate and so the SWLP can demonstrate adherence with the positively prepared test of soundness set out in the NPPF⁸. It is recognised that national planning policy and law has the potential to change during the course of the preparation of the SWLP, including in relation to the Duty to Cooperate and replacement with an ‘alignment policy’, however there is no suggestion the requirement for local authorities to address unmet needs arising from within their Housing Market Areas will be removed.

53. We consider that there are two likely sources of unmet housing needs which require consideration in the development of the SWLP: Birmingham and Black Country and Coventry and Warwickshire.

Birmingham and Black Country

54. There are clearly significant unmet housing needs arising from the Birmingham and Black Country Housing Market Area which require addressing by this Plan.
55. Birmingham published a New Local Plan Issues and Options consultation document in October 2022. This identifies an overall housing need in Birmingham to 2042 (derived from the Standard Method) of some 149,286 dwellings, with total housing supply equating to just 70,871 – leaving a shortfall of some 78,415 dwellings.
56. There are significant limitations to the potential for such substantial unmet needs to be met by Birmingham’s neighbouring authorities due to lack of available land in the Black Country and significant Green Belt coverage in the Black Country and elsewhere (Bromsgrove, Solihull, North Warwickshire, and Lichfield). This was evident in the work undertaken in the now abandoned Black Country Local Plan Review, which was subject to Regulation 18 consultation in 2021 and identified a shortfall in supply across the Black Country of some 28,239 dwellings to 2039.
57. There are strong functional relationships between Birmingham and South Warwickshire, in terms of transport connections and commuting patterns, and development in South Warwickshire can contribute towards meeting unmet needs.

⁸ Paragraph 35 a) of the National Planning Policy Framework (July 2021)



58. The Councils clearly need to engage with Birmingham and the Black Country authorities and others to determine an appropriate level of unmet needs to be directed to South Warwickshire. That process needs to be transparent in accordance with paragraph 27 of the NPPF, and effective in accordance with paragraph 35 c) of the NPPF. The lack of any published Statement of Common Ground showing progress made so far by the Councils is a concern that needs to be addressed before the next round of consultation. The Councils need to properly grapple with this issue, and not allow the failings of the last round of Local Plans to be repeated.
59. It is noted that the SA has tested the effects of an additional 5,000 to 10,000 dwellings to accommodate Birmingham's unmet needs, however given the numbers discussed above Rosconn Strategic Land consider 5,000 dwellings to be at the lower end of what could be expected to be accommodated in South Warwickshire. At this stage of the process and in advance of those discussions, as a working assumption for the level of unmet need to be accommodated, the figure should be an additional 10,000 dwellings.

Coventry and Warwickshire

60. Although the question does not address Coventry's unmet needs, this cannot be ignored. Coventry has by far the greatest level of housing need across Coventry and Warwickshire as set out in the HEDNA, with a housing need calculation derived from the Standard Method of some 3,188 dwellings per annum, adjusted in the HEDNA trend-based approach to 1,964 dwellings per annum. Applying the housing need calculated in the HEDNA to the proposed SWLP Plan period suggested from 2022 to 2050 equates to some 54,992 dwellings to be accommodated to meet Coventry's needs, as a minimum.
61. Coventry is highly constrained by a tightly drawn administrative boundary, with potential for brownfield redevelopment but limited opportunity for greenfield development. This was reflected in the adopted Coventry Local Plan (December 2017), where the local housing need in Coventry in the period 2011 to 2031 was calculated at 42,400. The Coventry Local Plan set a housing requirement of just



24,600 (some 60% of its local housing need), leaving a shortfall of some 17,800 dwellings to be met elsewhere.

62. It is therefore highly unlikely that Coventry will be able to meet its local housing need identified in the HEDNA of 54,992 dwellings to 2050. Even assuming that Coventry can accommodate a proportion of its local housing need consistent with that set out in the adopted Coventry Local Plan (i.e. 60%), which is itself a challenge, Coventry could only accommodate 33,000 dwellings to 2050 leaving a shortfall of some 22,000 dwellings to be met elsewhere.

63. Given South Warwickshire's functional relationship with Coventry, and as South Warwickshire makes up around half of the population of Warwickshire according to the 2021 Census data early releases⁹, an assumption that around 50% of this shortfall will be directed to South Warwickshire is considered appropriate. This equates to approximately 11,000 dwellings and should be taken into consideration at this stage of the process as a working assumption for the level of unmet need to be accommodated.

Q-P1.1: Do you agree with the proposed broad content of the Part 1 plan?

64. Yes, Rosconn Strategic Land support the allocation of other sites as necessary for short-term development.

⁹ [How the population changed where you live, Census 2021 - ONS](#)