

Draft SEA Scoping Report Consultation Response Form

Please use this Response Form to provide feedback on Shropshire Council's draft SEA Scoping Report.

Personal Details

	Personal Details	Agent's Details (if applicable)*
First Name	Parish	
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**Where this form is completed by an agent, please ensure a client Name and Organisation (if applicable) is provided.*

Please Note: We cannot accept anonymous responses. Please ensure you provide name and contact details. Personal data is processed in line with our [Planning Policy Privacy Notice](#).

Feedback

- Are there any other relevant policies, plans and programmes which should be reviewed as part of this SEA scoping report?

Uffington Parish Council recommends inclusion of the following additional policies and programmes:

- The **Local Nature Recovery Strategy (April 2026)** should be explicitly listed within the A1 review summary due to its statutory weight and direct relevance to SEA objectives.
- The **Shropshire Council Drainage and Flood Risk Management Strategy**, given the SEA's emphasis on water, soil, climatic factors and infrastructure constraints.
- The **National Infrastructure Strategy (2020, updated 2024)**, which is relevant to BESS, solar development and grid capacity pressures affecting rural parishes.

- Are there any other sources or types of baseline data which should be assessed?

The Council requests the following additions:

- Localised drainage and sewage capacity data** for rural settlements experiencing chronic unresolved issues.
- Traffic flow and rural rat-running data**, particularly in parishes surrounding Shrewsbury and the Severn corridor.
- Cumulative impact mapping** for energy infrastructure (BESS, solar, grid upgrades), which is not currently captured in the baseline despite being a growing environmental pressure.

3. Do you agree with the identified SEA objectives?

Broadly yes. However, the Council recommends:

- Strengthening the objective relating to **water quality and hydrological resilience**, noting that only *6.42% of rivers and canals in Shropshire are in good ecological condition*.
- Explicit reference to **irreplaceable habitats**, including lowland raised bogs, ancient woodland and species-rich grassland, which the report identifies as “often irreplaceable and vulnerable to habitat loss and fragmentation”.
- Inclusion of an objective addressing **cumulative infrastructure pressures** from energy storage and generation schemes.

4. Do you agree with the identification of supporting questions to add detail to the wider SEA objectives and the decision to distinguish between those questions related to the assessment of the environmental effects of strategy & policy options and those questions related to the assessment of the environmental effects of site options?

Yes. The distinction between strategy/policy questions and site-specific questions is appropriate.

The Council recommends:

- Adding a site-specific question relating to **local drainage and sewage network capacity**.
- Adding a strategy-level question on **cumulative energy infrastructure impacts**, including landscape, safety and grid capacity considerations.

5. Do you agree with the approach to identifying likely significant effects of strategy and policy options?

Yes, with the following observations:

- The SEA should explicitly recognise the potential for **significant negative effects** arising from development in or adjacent to the **Severn flood plain**, given climate change projections and baseline water data.
- The SEA should consider **long-term landscape change** associated with quarrying activity on Haughmond Hill.

6. Do you agree with the approach to identifying likely significant effects of site options?

Yes, but the Council requests:

- More detailed consideration of **transport impacts on rural lanes**, including rat-running and congestion from cumulative development.
- A requirement for site assessments to consider **local ecological network connectivity**, as highlighted in the SEA baseline.

7. Any other comments on the scoping report.

Please specify which part(s) of the document you comment on:

Chapter(s):	• Chapter 3 – SEA Baseline Data • Chapter 4 – SEA Environmental Issues • Chapter 5 – SEA Objectives
Paragraph(s):	• Biodiversity, flora and fauna (pp.10–17) • Water (pp.26–30) • Air (pp.31–33) • Material Assets (pp.38–43)

Please detail your feedback below (if required please continue on a separate page):

Uffington Parish Council wishes to highlight several environmental considerations relevant to Uffington and neighbouring Tern parishes. These include the long-term ecological, landscape and transport impacts associated with quarrying on Haughmond Hill; the cumulative environmental effects, safety considerations and landscape sensitivity arising from increasing BESS and solar development pressures; and the need for the SEA to clearly state that development within high-risk flood zones on the Severn flood plain is inappropriate unless exceptional circumstances apply. The Council also notes that existing drainage and sewage infrastructure deficits continue to constrain sustainable development and must be fully recognised within the SEA. In addition, the environmental consequences of traffic congestion and rural rat-running—including impacts on air quality, tranquillity and road safety—should be explicitly assessed. These matters directly relate to SEA themes including water, air, population and human health, material assets, landscape and biodiversity.

The Council emphasises that future development must be genuinely **infrastructure-led**, rather than infrastructure following development. The parish has experienced longstanding issues where growth has outpaced the capacity of drainage, sewage, transport and other essential services. Sustainable development requires infrastructure to be planned, funded and delivered ahead of or alongside growth, not retrospectively. This principle is critical to protecting environmental quality, public health and the long-term resilience of rural communities.

The Council also wishes to highlight the importance of maintaining a clear distinction between the parish's rural setting and nearby built-up areas, in order to protect Shropshire's defining landscape characteristics. Protecting key vistas from public viewpoints, including those from Haughmond Hill, is essential to preserving the parish's visual amenity and sense of place. Furthermore, the Council notes the critical role of local arable land in supporting food security. Large fields adjacent to the River Severn and surrounding Uffington are irrigated directly from the river and contribute significant tonnage of food production. Given increasing risks of drought during growing seasons, these acres should remain in agricultural use to safeguard long-term food resilience.

Completed Responses Forms can be submitted by:

Email: Planningpolicy@Shropshire.gov.uk

Post: Planning Policy, Shropshire Council, PO BOX 4826, Shrewsbury, SY1 9LJ.

Responses must be submitted by Wednesday 21 October 2026.

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