

Bridgnorth Draft SCI: Comments

1. The Shropshire Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) should be included in the first box (statutory consultees) on page 44 (Appendix 5). At present the AONB is included in Appendix 5 under the heading of 'Groups and Organisations Representing Community Interests.'

The responsibility for AONBs lies with the local authorities whose area they cover. The five local authorities for the Shropshire Hills AONB (Shropshire County Council, Shrewsbury and Atcham Borough Council, Bridgnorth District Council, South Shropshire District Council and the Borough of Telford and Wrekin) have formed a Joint Advisory Committee to fulfil this responsibility. Borough and District Councils are included in the first box on page 44 and I suggest that this would also be the most appropriate location for the Shropshire Hills AONB.

2. Text in italics on page 18 states that a sustainability appraisal will be carried out on the preferred option. This suggests that the other options formulated earlier in the process will not go through a sustainability appraisal. This severely limits the effectiveness of the sustainability appraisal process. A large part of the value of sustainability appraisal is derived from the information it gives on the relative costs and benefits of different options. I would prefer to see the sustainability appraisal process extended to cover the alternative issues and options stage of development plan document preparation.

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