

APPENDIX 3

Education Capacity Overview Statement

EDUCATION CAPACITY OVERVIEW STATEMENT

Springhill Lane, Wolverhampton

Prepared for: Jay Farm Homes and Lawnswood
Homes

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1.0 Introduction

This Education Capacity Overview Statement has been prepared by SLR Consulting Limited (SLR) on behalf of Jay Farm Homes Limited and Lawnswood Homes Limited (the Client).

Our Client has an active interest within South Staffordshire District Council (SSDC) area in terms of their land ownership at Springhill Lane, Wolverhampton which is being actively promoted for residential development. Our Client(s) have previously submitted representations to South Staffordshire District Council (SSDC). These representations have consisted of the following:

- SSDC – SAD Modifications Consultation; submitted March 2018;
- SSDC – ‘Call for Sites’ submission; submitted October 2018;
- SSDC – Issues and Options Consultation; submitted November 2018; and
- SSDC – Spatial Housing Options and Infrastructure Delivery, submitted December 2019.

This education assessment is required as a response to the SSDC Local Plan Preferred Options (November 2021), which is currently open for comments. The Preferred Options report has discounted the Springhill Lane site (Sites 494a and 494b within the Local Plan Preferred Options) in favour for another site known as ‘Land off Langley Road’ (Site 582 within the Local Plan Preferred Options).

One of the reasons that Land off Langley Road has performed higher than the Springhill Lane sites is with regards to education provision. SSDC consider that Site 582 is preferential because of its proximity to Bhylls Acre Primary School. The purpose of this report is therefore to provide an overview of the education provision within the relevant school catchment area and the impact that residential development from both sites could have on existing education provision within the area.

The proposed residential development capacity is yet to be fully confirmed through detailed design, however, an indicative site layout has been prepared provides for approximately 120 No. houses, likely to be a mix of 2, 3 and 4 bedroom houses in line with housing density policy.

2.0 Site Selection Evidence Base

As discussed in Section 1, the Springhill Lane site has been discounted in the SSDC Preferred Options in favour of the Land off Langley Road site. The SSDC Sustainability Appraisal (2021) has formed part of the evidence base for the site selection and has scored the Land off Langley Road as a major positive and the Springhill Lane site as a minor positive. The criteria are shown in Table 1 below.

The Land off Langley Road site was scored as having a major positive impact on new residents’ since it had access to both primary and secondary education. The Springhill site scored a minor positive as the Sustainability Appraisal considered that it did not have sufficient access to a primary school.

It is noted that this assessment has been undertaken in line with Barton et al.’s sustainable distances where 800m is assumed to be the target distance for travelling to a primary school and 1.5km to a secondary school. Whilst it is agreed that Land off Langley Road lies within a closer distance to a primary school, we wish to dispute the distance used for the ‘target distance’. It is felt that Barton et al.’s sustainable distances is a conflict with the Governments statutory walking distance as defined by S 444(5) of the Education Act 1996.

The statutory walking distance is the distance between home and school that the Government thinks a child should be able to walk. This is:

- two miles for children under eight years of age
- three miles for pupils aged 8–16 years.

The Sustainability Appraisal notes in paragraph 3.11.4 that “at this stage, there is not sufficient information available to be able to accurately predict the effect of new development on the capacity of local schools”. This is evident by the fact that Bhylls Acre School has a capacity of 208 pupils, with an intake on 207. As such, the development of the adjacent site for residential would push the school well past its capacity. It is therefore imperative that SSDC does not rely on Bhylls Acre School for education provision and to consider the capacity of other primary schools.

Table 1: Sustainability Assessment Education Criteria

Residential-led development proposals which would locate new residential sites partially or wholly outside of the target distance to both a primary and secondary school would be likely to have a major negative impact on the education objective.	--
Residential-led development sites located partially or wholly outside of the target distances for a primary or secondary school would be expected to have a minor negative impact for this objective.	-
Development proposals which are for employment end use have been assessed as negligible under the education objective.	0
Residential-led development sites located wholly within the target distances of a primary school or secondary school would be expected to have a minor positive impact for this objective.	+
Residential-led development sites located wholly within the target distances to both a primary and secondary school would be expected to have a major positive impact on the education objective.	++

3.0 Method and Approach

The assessment aims to provide up to date information on schools within two and three miles walking distance of each site to ensure that SSDC can accurately assess and compare both sites in terms of education provision. Due to the sites location, schools have been considered that fall under the responsibility of both Wolverhampton City Council (WCC) and Staffordshire County Council (SCC).

This assessment utilises information relating to school rolls and capacity contained within ‘school capacity: academic year 2018 to 2019 (published on 26 March 2020). Planning area forecasts are prepared in the Summer as part of an annual return that the authority is required to complete and submit to the Department for Education (DfE) known as the School Capacity Collection. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the DfE changed its data gathering and release practices for 2020, focusing efforts on priority analysis and statistics and reducing the burden on local authorities. As such the School Capacity Collection 2020 was cancelled. The next update is due in March 2022.

In addition, the assessment has used information from WCC and SCC’s ‘Find a School’ database, which is a comparison tool that shows the nearest and catchment schools. It should be noted that this database shows distances that are the shortest distance possible (as the crow flies). Distances may be further by foot and this has therefore been factored into the assessment.

In particular, the following key points have been examined:-

- primary and secondary schools within the sites target area
- confirmation of the pupil capacities, current school rolls and spare capacity of each school
- indication of pupil places generated by the proposed housing, utilising the Council's average child per house ratio

For comparative purposes a table and plan are included in Section 5 to help assess how the Springhill Lane Site performs against the preferred site in terms of education provision.

As discussed in Section 2, an assessment of school distances has been used in accordance with S 444(5) of the Education Act 1996. These distances are at two miles for under-eights and three miles for those who have attained eight years. For ease, this has been named the “target area”. Due to the site’s location, schools have been considered that fall under the responsibility of both SDCC and WCC.

Tables 3 and 5 below identify all primary and secondary schools within the target area of the Springhill Lane site and Land at Langley Road site. All schools that are considered to not have capacity have been highlighted in red in tables 3 and 5. All schools considered to have capacity remaining have been coloured green. The School’s capacity has been based on the pupil places likely to be generated as calculated in Section 4 below.

It is important to note that at this stage, the assessment is not meant to be a full education capacity assessment. Its purpose is to highlight whether there is education provision beyond the target area set by the Sustainability Appraisal.

4.0 Generation of Pupil Places

The assessment has used pupil places generated by the proposed housing, utilising the SCC average child per 100 house ratios. This information has been obtained from the Staffordshire Education Infrastructure Contributions Policy (SEICP, March 2021).

The table below calculates the total number of pupils generated for each phase of education per 100 dwellings and proposed scheme dwellings using the standard PPR (0.03 pupils per dwelling). Pupils have been rounded up or down to the nearest number. It should be noted that in line with the SEICPO, nursery children have not been included.

Table 2: Pupils Generated for Each Phase of Education per 100 dwellings and Proposed Scheme

Phase of Education	Pupil Ages	Number of year groups	Standard PPR per dwelling of 0.03	PPR for Springhill Site (based on 120 dwellings) – Site 494a	PPR for Springhill Site (based on 450 dwellings) – Site 494a and 494b	PPR for Langley Site (based on 390 dwellings).
Primary Schools	4-11	7	21	25	94	81
Infant Schools	4-7	3	9	11	40	35
Junior Schools	7-11	4	12	14	54	47
Secondary schools (no sixth form)	11-16	5	15	17	67	58
*Secondary schools (with sixth form)	11-18	6	18	20	81	70
First Schools	4-9	5	15	17	67	58
Middle Schools	9-13	4	12	14	54	47
High schools (no sixth form)	13-16	3	9	11	40	35
*Secondary schools (with sixth form)	13-18	4	12	14	54	47

* There are at least 2-year groups in Sixth Forms, but the total number of pupils generated is based on 1 year group, as average staying-on rates are around 50%.

5.0 Assessment

Tables 3 and 5 below identify all primary and secondary schools within the target area of the Springhill Lane Site and Land at Langley Road Site. It should be noted that in line with the SEICPO, nursery children have not been included. For the purpose of the assessment, the Springhill Lane Site 494a has been considered both individually and combined with Site 494b to show both capacity scenarios for the site. All schools that are considered to not have capacity have been highlighted in red in tables 3 and 5. The schools considered to have capacity remaining have been coloured green. The school's capacity has been based on the pupil places likely to be generated as calculated in Section 4 below.

Education Provision at Springhill Lane Sites (Sites 494a and 494b)

Table 3: Springhill Site Target Area Schools

No.	Local Authority	Name	Distance from site	Walking Distance	Establishment Type	Phase	Age from	Age to	Existing Capacity	Pupils	Pupil Dwelling @ 0.03 for Site 494a	Per Dwelling @ 0.03 for Site 494a and 494b	Street	Locality	Postcode
1	Staffordshire	Bhylls Acre Primary School	1.25 miles	1.9 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Primary	4	11	208	207	25	94	Bhylls Lane	Castlecroft	WV3 8DZ
2	Staffordshire	St Benedict Biscop CofE Primary School	1.35 miles	1.7 miles	Academies	Primary	4	11	236	192	25	94	School Road	Wombourne	WV5 9DZ
3	Staffordshire	Westfield Primary School	1.61 miles	2.3 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Primary	4	11	420	400	25	94	Ounsdale Road	Wombourne	WV5 8BH
4	Staffordshire	St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School	1.82 miles	2.6 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Primary	4	11	105	105	25	94	Lindale Drive	Wombourne	WV5 8DZ
5	Staffordshire	Blakeley Heath Primary School	2.13 miles	2.8 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Primary	4	11	350	327	25	94	Sytch Lane	Wombourne	WV5 0JR
6	Staffordshire	Cherry Trees School	2 miles	2.8 miles	Academies	Primary	4	11	48	52	25	94	Giggetty Lane	Wombourne	WV5 0AX
7	Staffordshire	All Saints' CofE Primary School	2.06 miles	2.8 miles	Academies	Primary	4	11	105	102	25	94	School Road	Trysull	WV5 7HR
8	Staffordshire	Wombourne High School	1.6 miles	2.4 miles	Academies	Secondary	11	18	1106	942	20	81	Ounsdale Road	Wombourne	WV5 8BJ
9	Staffordshire	Wightwick Hall School	2.1 miles	3 miles	Academies	Secondary	11	19	90	77	20	81	Tinacre Hill	Compton	WV6 8DA
No.	Local Authority	Name	Distance from site	Walking Distance	Establishment Type	Phase	Age from	Age to	Capacity	Pupils			Street	Locality	Postcode
10	Wolverhampton	Springdale Primary School	0.6 miles	0.8 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Primary	4	11	568	467	25	94	Warstones Drive	Penn	WV4 4NJ

11	Wolverhampton	Warstones Primary School	1 mile	1.1 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Primary	4	11	470	466	25	94	Warstones Road	Penn	WV4 4LU
12	Wolverhampton	St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School	0.9 miles	1.2 miles	Academies	Primary	4	11	296	298	25	94	Sedgley Road	Penn	WV4 5LG
13	Wolverhampton	St Michael's Catholic Primary Academy and Nursery	1.1 miles	1.6 miles	Academies	Primary	4	11	243	232	25	94	Telford Gardens	Merry Hill	WV3 7LE
14	Wolverhampton	Woodfield Primary School	1.4 miles	1.7 miles	Academies	Primary	4	11	630	605	25	94	Woodfield Avenue		WV4 4AG
15	Wolverhampton	Castlecroft Primary School	1.5 miles	2.3 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Primary	4	11	280	254	25	94	Windmill Crescent	Castlecroft	WV3 8HS
16	Wolverhampton	Uplands Junior School	1.6 miles	2.3 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Primary	7	11	384	380	14	54	Finchfield Road West	Finchfield	WV3 8BA
17	Wolverhampton	Merridale Primary School	2.2 miles	2.4 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Primary	4	11	210	236	25	94	Aspen Way		WV3 0UP
18	Wolverhampton	Bantock Primary School	2.02 miles	2.5 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Primary	4	11	430	370	25	94	Aston Street	Penn Fields	WV3 0HY
19	Wolverhampton	Graiseley Primary School	2.35 miles	2.6 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Primary	4	11	204	217	25	94	Pool Street	Graiseley Hill	WV2 4NE
20	Wolverhampton	St Luke's Church of England Aided Primary School	2.3 miles	2.7 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Primary	4	11	480	468	25	94	Park Street South	Blakenhall	WV2 3AE
21	Wolverhampton	Goldthorn Park Primary School	2.3 miles	3 miles	Academies	Primary	4	11	420	423	25	94	Ward Road		WV4 5ET
22	Wolverhampton	Highfields School	0.6	1.1 miles	Academies	Secondary	11	18	1592	1604	20	81	Boundary Way	Penn	WV4 4NT
23	Wolverhampton	Colton Hills Community School	1.8 miles	2.6 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Secondary	11	18	980	1004	20	81	Jeremy Road	Goldthorn Park	WV4 5DG
24	Wolverhampton	Smestow School	1.6 miles	2.7 miles	Academies	Secondary	11	18	1010	722	20	81	Windmill Crescent	Castlecroft	WV3 8HU
25	Wolverhampton	St Peter's Collegiate Academy	2.17 miles	2.9 miles	Academies	Secondary	11	18	1214	1291	20	81	Compton Park	Compton Road West	WV3 9DU
26	Wolverhampton	St Edmunds Catholic Academy	2.4 miles	2.9 miles	Academies	Secondary	11	18	896	999	20	81	Compton Park	Compton Road West	WV3 9DU

Table 4: Key

Staffordshire District Council - Primary schools under 2 miles walking
Staffordshire District Council - Primary schools under 3 miles walking
Staffordshire District Council - Secondary schools under 3 miles walking
Wolverhampton City Council - Primary schools under 2 miles walking
Wolverhampton City Council - Primary schools under 2 miles walking
Wolverhampton City Council - Secondary schools under 3 miles walking

Figures 1 and 2 below show the capacity details for all primary and secondary schools within the target area of the Springhill Lane site (494a) and Springhill Lane Site (494a and 494b).

Figure 1: Springhill Site (494a) Target Area Schools and Capacity

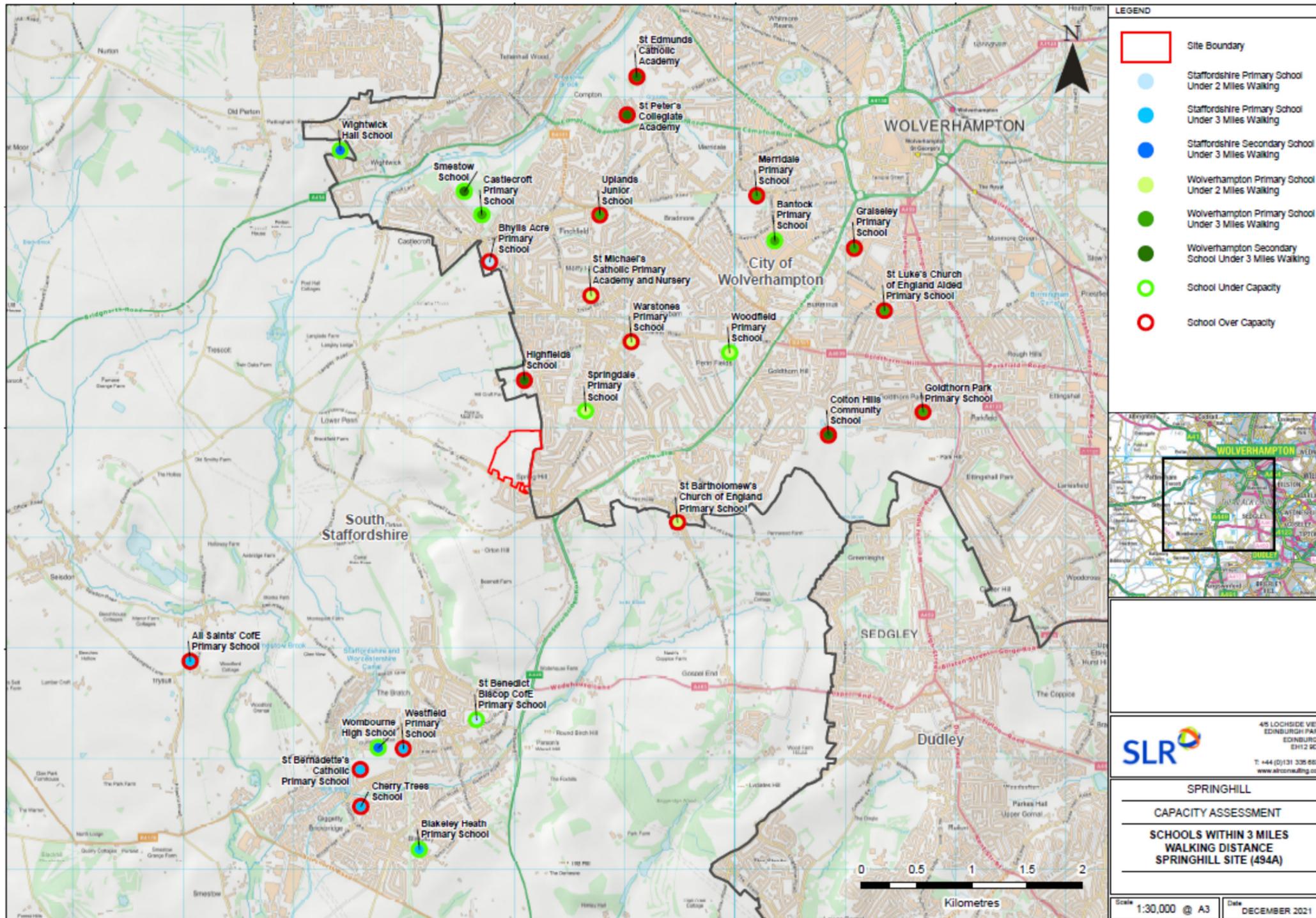
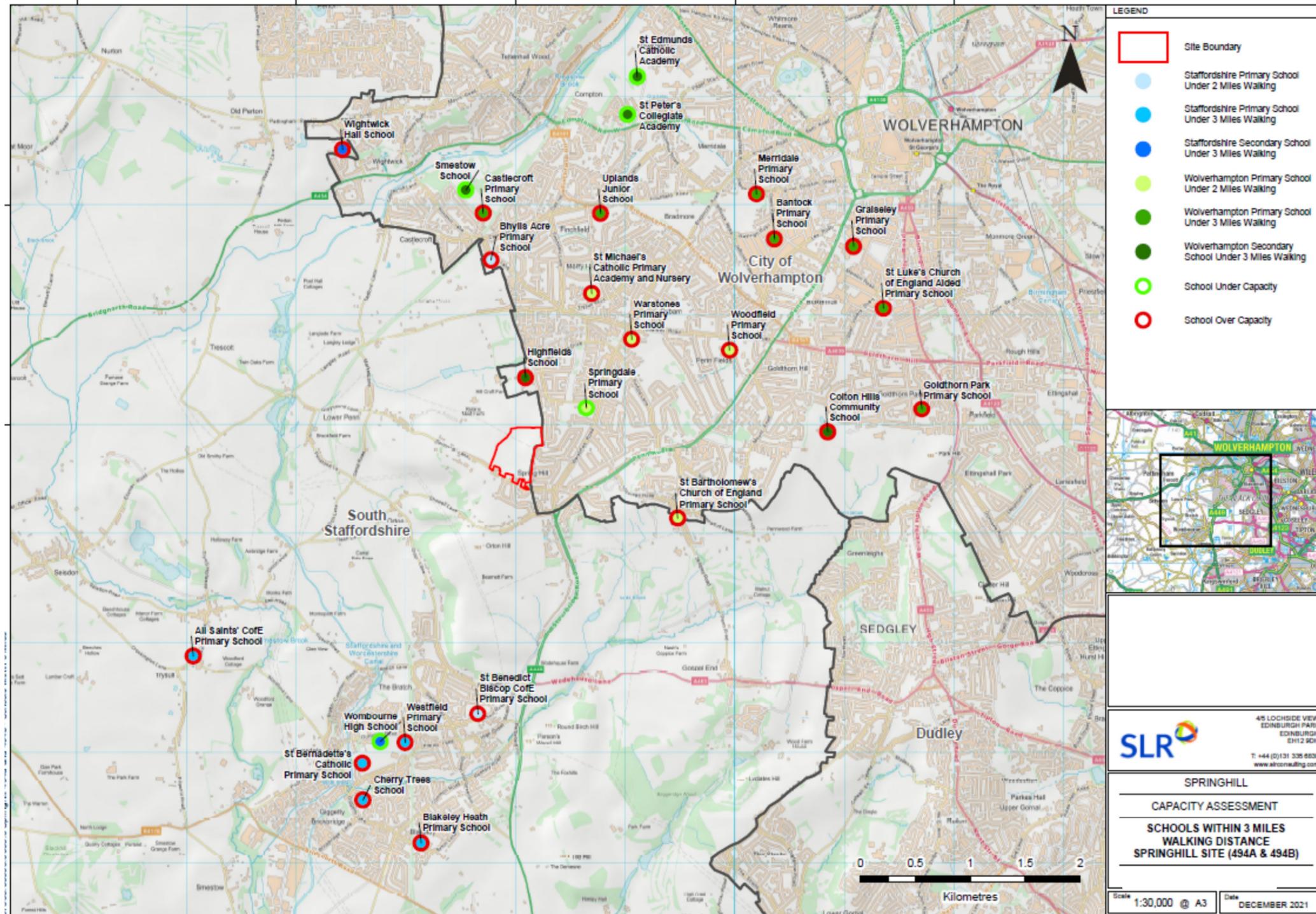


Figure 2: Springhill Site (494a and 494b) Target Area Schools and Capacity



Education Provision at Land of Langley Road (Site 582)

Table 5: Land off Langley Road Target Area Schools

No.	Local Authority	Name	Distance from Site	Walking Distance	Establishment Type	Phase	Age from	Age to	Existing Capacity	Pupils	Pupil Per Dwelling @ 0.03	Street	Locality	Postcode
1	Staffordshire	Bhylls Acre Primary School	0.12 miles	0.12 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Primary	4	11	208	207	81	Bhylls Lane	Castlecroft	WV3 8DZ
2	Staffordshire	Perton Primary Academy	1.7 miles	1.9 miles	Academies	Primary	4	9	225	228	81	Sandown Drive	Perton	WV6 7PS
3	Staffordshire	Perton First School	1.96 miles	2.3 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Primary	4	9	300	294	81	Manston Drive	Perton	WV6 7LX
4	Staffordshire	Perton Middle School	1.6 miles	2 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Middle deemed secondary	9	13	480	428	47	Gainsborough Drive	Perton	WV6 7NR
5	Staffordshire	Wightwick Hall School	1.2 miles	1.2 miles	Academies	Secondary	11	19	90	77	70	Tinacre Hill	Compton	WV6 8DA
No.	Local Authority	Name	Distance from Site	Walking Distance	Establishment Type	Phase	Age from	Age to	Capacity	Pupils		Street	Locality	Postcode
6	Wolverhampton	St Michael's Catholic Primary Academy and Nursery	0.5 miles	0.7 miles	Academies	Primary	4	11	243	232	81	Telford Gardens	Merry Hill	WV3 7LE
7	Wolverhampton	Castlecroft Primary School	0.3 miles	0.3 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Primary	4	11	280	254	81	Windmill Crescent	Castlecroft	WV3 8HS
8	Wolverhampton	Westacre Infant School	0.6 miles	0.8 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Primary	4	7	330	319	81	Finchfield Hill	Finchfield	WV3 9EP
9	Wolverhampton	Uplands Junior School	0.6 miles	0.9 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Primary	7	11	384	380	47	Finchfield Road West	Finchfield	WV3 8BA
10	Wolverhampton	Warstones Primary School	0.8 miles	1.1 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Primary	4	11	470	466	81	Warstones Road	Penn	WV4 4LU

11	Wolverhampton	Springdale Primary School	0.9 miles	1.3 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Primary	4	11	568	467	81	Warstones Drive	Penn	WV4 4NJ
12	Wolverhampton	Christ Church (Church of England) Infant and Nursery School	1.1 miles	1.5 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Primary	4	7	180	217	81	Shaw Lane	Tettenhall Wood	WV6 8EL
13	Wolverhampton	Woodfield Primary School	1.3 miles	1.6 miles	Academies	Primary	4	11	630	608	81	Woodfield Avenue		WV4 4AG
14	Wolverhampton	Merridale Primary School	1.5 miles	1.7 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Primary	4	11	210	236	81	Aspen Way		WV3 0UP
15	Wolverhampton	Woodthorne Primary School	1.6 miles	1.9 miles	Academies	Primary	4	11	420	431	81	Woodthorne Road South	Tettenhall	WV6 8XL
16	Wolverhampton	Christ Church (Church of England) Junior School	1.4 miles	1.9 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Primary	7	11	256	232	47	Woodcote Road	Tettenhall Wood	WV6 8LG
17	Wolverhampton	St Jude's Church of England Primary Academy	1.4 miles	1.9 miles	Academies	Primary	4	11	420	481	81	Paget Road		WV6 0DT
18	Wolverhampton	Bantock Primary School	1.5 miles	2.1 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Primary	4	11	430	370	81	Aston Street	Penn Fields	WV3 0HY
19	Wolverhampton	St Michael's Church of England Aided Primary School	1.9 miles	2.1 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Primary	5	11	210	205	70	Lower Street	Tettenhall	WV6 9AF
20	Wolverhampton	St Bartholomew's Church of England Primary School	1.7 miles	2.2 miles	Academies	Primary	4	11	296	398	81	Sedgley Road	Penn	WV4 5LG
21	Wolverhampton	St Andrew's Church of England Primary School	1.9 miles	2.4 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Primary	4	11	420	443	81	Coleman Street	Whitmore Reans	WV6 0RH
22	Wolverhampton	SS Peter and Paul Catholic Primary Academy & Nursery	2.4 miles	2.4 miles	Academies	Primary	4	11	210	225	81	Hordern Close	Hordern Road	WV6 0HR
23	Wolverhampton	Graiseley Primary School	1.9 miles	2.5 miles	Local authority	Primary	4	11	204	217	81	Pool Street	Graiseley Hill	WV2 4NE

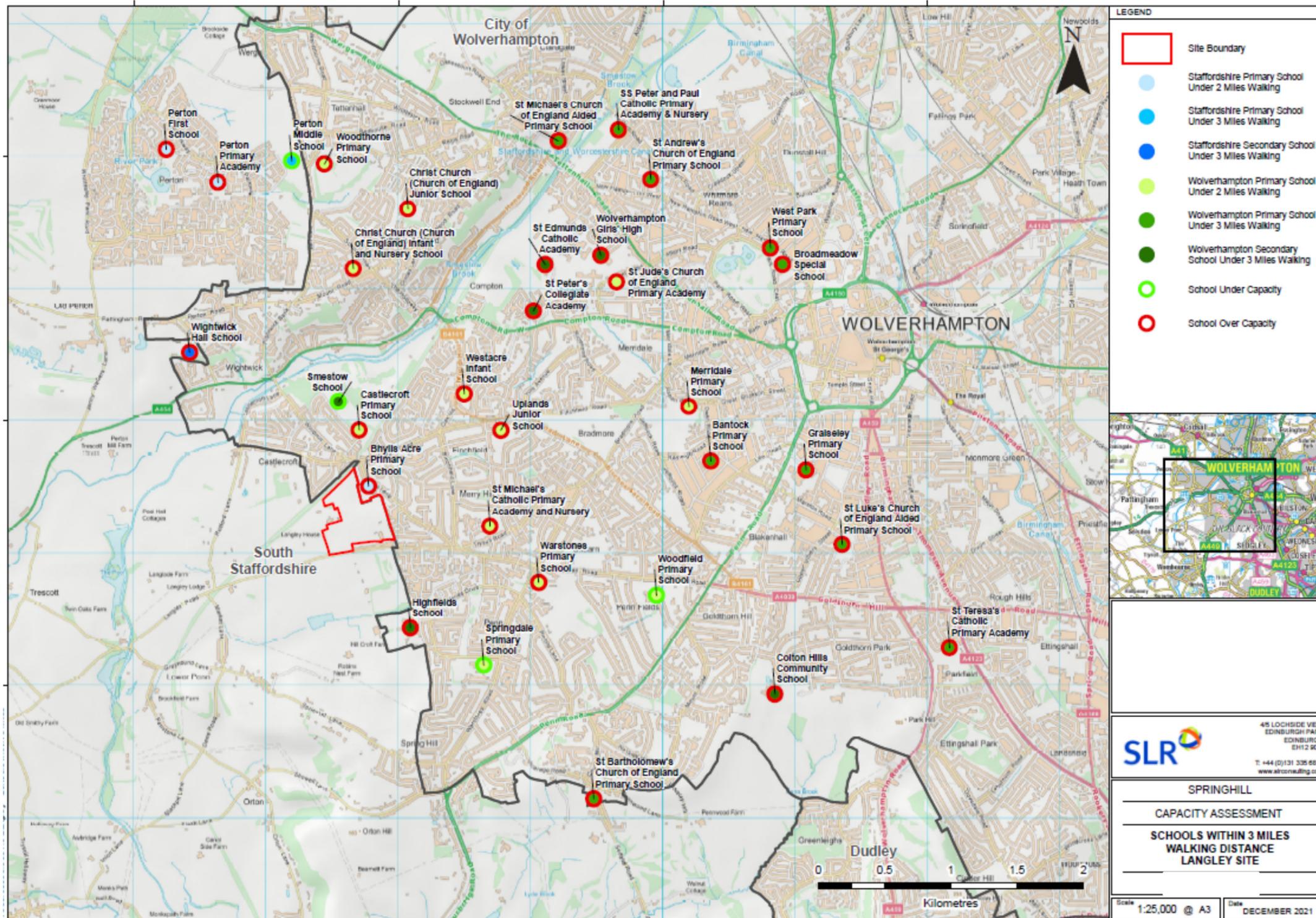
					maintained schools									
24	Wolverhampton	Broadmeadow Special School	2.1 miles	2.5 miles	Academies	Primary	4	11	75	56	81	Lansdowne Road	Whitmore Reans	WV1 4AL
25	Wolverhampton	St Luke's Church of England Aided Primary School	2.2 miles	2.6 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Primary	4	11	480	468	81	Park Street South	Blakenhall	WV2 3AE
26	Wolverhampton	West Park Primary School	2.1 miles	2.6 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Primary	4	11	358	335	81	Devon Road	Whitmore Reans	WV1 4BE
27	Wolverhampton	St Teresa's Catholic Primary Academy	2.7 miles	2.9 miles	Academies	Primary	5	11	210	175	70	Malins Road	Parkfields	WV4 6AW
28	Wolverhampton	Smestow School	0.5 miles	0.7 miles	Academies	Secondary	11	18	1010	722	70	Windmill Crescent	Castlecroft	WV3 8HU
29	Wolverhampton	Highfields School	0.6 miles	0.9 miles	Academies	Secondary	11	18	1592	1604	70	Boundary Way	Penn	WV4 4NT
30	Wolverhampton	St Edmunds Catholic Academy	1.1 miles	1.5 miles	Academies	Secondary	11	18	896	999	70	Compton Park	Compton Road West	WV3 9DU
31	Wolverhampton	St Peter's Collegiate Academy	1.12 miles	1.5 miles	Academies	Secondary	11	18	1214	1291	70	Compton Park	Compton Road West	WV3 9DU
32	Wolverhampton	Wolverhampton Girls' High School	1.5 miles	2.3 miles	Academies	Secondary	11	18	950	1069	70	Tettenhall Road	Tettenhall	WV6 0BY
33	Wolverhampton	Colton Hills Community School	2 miles	2.9 miles	Local authority maintained schools	Secondary	11	18	980	1004	70	Jeremy Road	Goldthorn Park	WV4 5DG

Table 6: Key

Staffordshire District Council - Primary schools under 2 miles walking
Staffordshire District Council - Primary schools under 3 miles walking
Staffordshire District Council - Secondary schools under 3 miles walking
Wolverhampton City Council - Primary schools under 2 miles walking
Wolverhampton City Council - Primary schools under 2 miles walking
Wolverhampton City Council - Secondary schools under 3 miles walking

Figure 3 below shows the capacity details for all primary and secondary schools within the target area of the Land off Langley Road site (582).

Figure 3: Land off Langley Road site (582) Target Area Schools and Capacity



6.0 Conclusion

This Education Capacity Overview Statement has been prepared as a response to the SSDC Preferred Options, which has discounted the Springhill Lane site in favour of 'Land off Langley Road'. One of the reasons that Land off Langley Road site performed higher than the Springhill Lane site is because of its proximity to Bhylls Acre Primary School. However, in utilising an arbitrary 800m search criterion, the evidence base utilised has failed to give consideration to the catchment of other schools and the capacities currently contained therein. As highlighted in Section 3 of this report, the assessment was not intended to undertake a full education capacity assessment. Its purpose is to highlight whether there is education provision beyond the 800m target area set by the Sustainability Appraisal.

The assessment has demonstrated that although the preferred site is closer to a primary school, there is no current capacity at Bhylls Acre Primary School to accommodate a significant increase in pupils generated by a housing development. In addition, the only secondary school within South Staffordshire is Wightwick Hall School. The housing development at Land of Langley Road would push the secondary school well past its capacity meaning that there would be no available secondary school within South Staffordshire within a 3 mile walking distance.

The assessment has highlighted that both primary and secondary schools within South Staffordshire can accommodate the increase for both the Springhill 494a and 494b sites. The assessment has shown that despite Bhylls Acre Primary School not having capacity for additional pupils, there are plenty of schools that are within walking distance to both sites. However, the minimum capacity of 390 dwellings proposed by the Land off Langley Road would push many of the surrounding schools well past their capacity.

It could be argued that the Land at Langley Road scheme would be phased, Developer Contributions would be sought, or the pupils generated could use a combination of schools to reduce the impact. However, it can be concluded that the release of the smaller parcel of the Springhill Site (site 494a) would put far less pressure on the schools. In any case, the Springhill Site should not be scored any lower in terms of education provision than the Land off Langley Road site. Even if the wider Springhill Site were to be released (494a and 494b), the same mechanisms for upgrading schools provision would be necessary (i.e developer contributions) for both sites and the scoring should again be comparable to those given to site 582.

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