

1. SCREENING METHODOLOGY

Each policy of the post-consultation draft of the Warminster Neighbourhood Plan (NP) has been re-categorised against the screening criteria developed by Natural England to produce this revised version of the HRA, which was originally carried out on the consultation draft of the NP in April 2015.

The criteria used were as follows:

- Category A1: The policy will not itself lead to development e.g. because it relates to design or other qualitative criteria for development;
- Category A2: The policy is intended to protect the natural environment;
- Category A3: The policy is intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment;
- Category A4: The policy would positively steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas;
- Category A5: The policy would have no effect because no development could occur through the policy itself, the development being implemented through later policies in the same plan, which are more specific and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects on European Sites and associated sensitive areas.
- Category B: No significant effect;
- Category C: Likely significant effect alone; and
- Category D: Likely significant effects in combination

The effect of each draft policy has been considered both individually, and in combination. The effects of the whole plan have also been considered in combination with the Wiltshire Core Strategy.

2. WILTSHIRE CORE STRATEGY HRA

This section is not applicable to this revision of the HRA, so please refer to the previous HRA of the NP dated 17th April 2015 for more details.

3. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

This document is an update of the HRA of the NP following changes made after the consultation period. The 6-week consultation period ended in May 2015 and the NP has been re-drafted following analysis of the responses.

The post-consultation draft NP does not allocate any specific sites for housing development or any other types of development.

However, specific sites are allocated as Local Green Spaces (policy E14).

The information from the previous HRA has been removed from this section as no changes are required to the screening details.

4. SCREENING OF EMERGING WARMINSTER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN POLICIES

The post-consultation draft of the Warminster NP has three overarching themes, which are embedded in the vision, objectives and policies of the plan. These are:

- A Place to Live
- A Place to Work
- A Place to Enjoy

The policies have been changed and moved around following the consultation period, and some have been removed completely or amalgamated into others.

All parts of the draft plan have been screened for potential impacts upon the Natura 2000 network, as set out in Section 5 below.

**POST-CONSULTATION DRAFT WARMINSTER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
REVISED HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT (HRA) SCREENING**

Date: 04 November 2015

5. INITIAL HABITATS REGULATIONS SCREENING ASSESSMENT OF THE DRAFT WARMINSTER NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

a) Screening assessment of individual policies

Categories A / B (Green) – Screened out

Categories C / D (Red) – Screened in

Policy Area	Policy	Categorisation in initial screening	Comments and recommendations
A Place to Live	L1 Protection of Green Infrastructure (protection of key leisure, environment and high risk flooding areas)	A2	
	L2 Core Strategy Allocation (West Warminster Urban Extension shall not exceed 900 homes)	A1	
	L3 West Warminster Urban Extension (WWUE) Design (Building for Life 12 industry standard)	A1	
	L4 WWUE Community (facilities within the core strategy allocation)	A1	
	L5 Separate Housing and Employment (WWUE) (clear separation between employment and residential areas)	A1	
A Place to Work	W1 New employment sites (located on periphery of town [no specific sites allocated] and associated infrastructure adoption)	A1	
	W2 Existing Employment Sites (retain and enhance, support change of use)	A1 / A4	
A Place to Enjoy	E1 CIL / S 106 monies (contribute to expansion/modernisation of existing leisure and community facilities, and creation of new amenities)	A1 / A4	
	E2 Existing leisure facilities (retention and protection)	A1 / A4	
	E3 New leisure facilities (provision of play areas, green amenity spaces, sports facilities, allotments)	A1	
	E4 Youth-related amenities (enhancement, improvement and creation, e.g. BMX cycle track, cycle pump track, skate park)	A1	

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Policy Area	Policy	Categorisation in initial screening	Comments and recommendations
	E5 WWUE sports facilities (combine sports pitches to create enhanced sports amenity)	A1	
	E6 Athenaeum Centre (support integration with the youth centre to create enlarged amenity for arts and cultural activities)	A1 / A4	
	E7 Museum facilities (recognise need for and support the provision of enhanced, dedicated museum facilities)	A1	
	E8 Library facilities (recognise need for and support the provision of enhanced, dedicated library facilities)	A1	
	E9 Healthcare provision (enhanced health care provision)	A1	
	E10 Primary education (timing of construction of WWUE school)	A1	
	E11 Secondary education (options to expand shall include land on west side of town [no land specifically allocated])	A1	
	E12 Town centre environment (improve car parks and East St.)	A1	
	E13 Surrounding environment (no adverse impact on local environment – sight lines, green open spaces, conservation areas, improvements to the natural environment/biodiversity/wildlife)	A2	
	E14 Designation and Protection of Local Green Spaces (8 sites allocated, including Coldharbour Meadows County Wildlife Site)	A2 / A3	
Town Centre	TC1 Town centre regeneration (economic regeneration of town centre)	A1	
	TC2 Central car park environment (pedestrian walkways to improve access, remodel car parking areas, move bus stands, etc.)	A1	
	TC3 Weekly market (re-locate to more prominent position adjacent to existing retail provision)	A1	
	TC4 High Street/south of Market Place (re-development to accord with the Town Plan)	A1	
	TC5 Western car park/High Street (priority to be given to upgrading pedestrian link between these areas)	A1	
	TC6 East Street (improve traffic flow, access and appearance)	A1	

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Policy Area	Policy	Categorisation in initial screening	Comments and recommendations
Getting Around	GA1 Central car park (regeneration of car park and other significant development in town centre to be supported by traffic management plan)	A1	
	GA2 Cycle routes (creation of new routes)	A1	<i>Mostly within built-up/developed areas of the town; south-eastern edge of town shown as "Allow cycling?" in Appendix A.8 (potential link) – no HRA implications, but would need to be sensitive to ecological value of woodland/wetland area.</i>
	GA3 WWUE integration (create strong well-lit dual pedestrian and cycle paths from the WWUE to the surrounding road network, particularly Grovelands, Victoria Road and Bath Road)	A1	<i>Lighting needs to be designed sensitively at this location with regard to foraging/commuting bats, dormouse and other nocturnal wildlife. No HRA implications, but the words "strong well lit" should be changed to avoid light spillage into European protected species habitats. Comments from previous HRA do not appear to have been considered.</i>
	GA4 Pedestrian links (upgrade and improve pedestrian access and movement within the town centre)	A1	
	GA5 Signage (improve signage as per the approved Signage Plan 2012)	A1	
	GA6 Rights of Way (enhance the rights of way network around the town, and seek to retain and upgrade; improve pedestrian and cycle access to the wider countryside)	A1	<i>Opportunities to improve access to the wider countryside should be identified as part of a green infrastructure mapping exercise – work on this has started as a pilot project by the Council's Landscape and Design Team for Devizes. The aim is to expand this to other towns and villages.</i>

b) Assessment of all elements of the plan 'in combination'

- The draft policies would not have any in combination effects

c) Assessment of the effects of the plan as a whole, in combination with Wiltshire Core Strategy

- The draft plan would not have any in combination effects with the Wiltshire Core Strategy

6. CONCLUSION

The policies in the post-consultation draft of the Warminster NP do not allocate any new land for development and largely provide qualitative criteria for development focused on improving the town for people, businesses and visitors, including some environmental policies and suggestions for the design of development sites, and would therefore have no likely significant effects upon Natura 2000. The only sites that are allocated within the NP are Local Green Spaces, which are to be protected from development / inappropriate development.

It can therefore be concluded that the post-consultation draft Warminster NP dated October 2015 would have no likely significant effects upon the Natura 2000 network alone or in combination and no appropriate assessment is currently required.

If any further alterations to the policies are made, then this HRA must be reviewed.

Assessment carried out by: [REDACTED] Ecologist

Date: 4th November 2015