

## 1. SCREENING METHODOLOGY

Each element of the draft Bremhill Parish Neighbourhood Plan (NP) *dated October 2015* has been categorised against the screening criteria developed by Natural England. This process is necessary to help provide a clear audit trail for the assessment and, if necessary, identify the need for the wording of policies to be amended or new policies added to be certain that the NP will not have a significant negative effect on a European Site / the Natura 2000 network.

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 and other relevant plans and projects.

## 2. WILTSHIRE CORE STRATEGY HRA

The Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA derived a set of parameters by which to determine the likelihood of potential impact on Natura 2000 sites. These parameters identified the following issues to be assessed.

- *Recreation – Natura 2000 sites within 5km of the plan area, or where Salisbury Plain SPA/SAC is within 15km of the plan area.*
  - Salisbury Plain SAC and SPA
  - River Avon SAC
- *Hydrology / Hydrogeology - Sites that fall wholly or partly within either the Thames Water (Swindon) and Oxford Water Resource Zone WRZ (SWOX WRZ), or the Wessex Water North WRZ, may be susceptible to impact.*
  - Salisbury Plain SAC and SPA

- River Avon SAC
- *Nitrogen Deposition – Natura 2000 sites within 200m of a main road*
  - River Avon SAC
  - Salisbury Plain SAC / SPA
- *Physical Damage / Interruption of Flight Lines*
  - Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC

### 3. SCREENING OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Draft policies within the emerging Bremhill Parish NP have been screened against each of the above potential impacts, for each Natura 2000 site (see Section 5 below).

#### a) Recreation

**Salisbury Plain SPA/SAC** – The Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA assessed that the issues relating to additional recreational pressure as a result of residential development growth are dealt with sufficiently in the council's '*Salisbury Plain SPA HRA and Mitigation Strategy*', which prescribes proportionate developer contributions for development sites within 4km of the western and central areas of the SPA or within 15km of the eastern part of the SPA, to deliver monitoring and adaptive management on the plains (which will be obtained through the Community Infrastructure Levy). Core Policy 50 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy implements this approach. Bremhill Parish is located over 23km from the western area and over 20km from the eastern area of Salisbury Plain, so no Likely Significant Effect (LSE) through recreational impacts is expected.

**River Avon SAC** - an increase in recreational pressure on the European site as a result of implementation of the NP is not expected due to the limited amount of development proposed and the distance from the river. The River Avon SAC is over 25km from the Bremhill Parish NP area, therefore no LSE through recreational impacts are expected. The nearest river is the Bristol Avon, which is a County Wildlife Site, which runs through Chippenham and meets with the River Marden.

#### b) Hydrology/Hydrogeology

**Water Resources** – The Bremhill Parish NP area is located within the Bristol Avon catchment and it is expected that any small residential or industrial developments will be accommodated within the existing abstraction license levels. The River Avon SAC is over 25km from the Bremhill Parish NP area, therefore no LSE through recreational impacts are expected.

**Water Quality** – Bremhill Parish NP area drains to the Bristol Avon River, therefore the NP is not hydrologically connected to any SAC catchments. Issues of water quality, including surface water drainage will be dealt with through Development Management as described in Core Policy 50. The use of SUDS and suitable pollution control measures will be required for most proposals.

#### c) Nitrogen Deposition

The Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA identified potential LSE upon a range of Natura 2000 sites through increased traffic, which would in turn increase atmospheric pollution and nitrogen deposition on sites with 200m of a main road, albeit such effects are considered to be very small and difficult to predict at the strategic level (WCS HRA Update February 2014). The housing objective in the draft

Bremhill Parish NP supports the provision of up to 30 new dwellings, which is considered to be a small number in relation to the total for the county. All the sites listed under this topic in Section 2 above are sufficiently far away from the NP area and therefore no LSE is expected.

*d) Physical Damage/Interruption of Flight Lines*

The Bath and Bradford on Avon Bat SAC and its associated core areas and buffer areas identified in the council's HRA guidance are sufficiently far away from the NP area (over 9km) and therefore no LSE is expected.

#### **4. SCREENING OF EMERGING BREMHILL PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN POLICIES**

The draft Bremhill Parish NP has several sections containing policies. These are:

1. A History of Bremhill Parish
2. Landscape Character and Setting
3. Bremhill Parish, Now and the Future
  - a. Our Environment / Wildlife
  - b. Housing
  - c. Local Economy
  - d. Getting Around / Transport
  - e. Wellbeing and Leisure
  - f. Renewable Energy

Section 4 contains the 'Summary of Vision and Objectives', which includes reference to the provision of up to 30 dwellings to meet local needs. This has also been included in the following screening section.

The following sections do not contain any policies and are not considered further within this HRA:

5. Monitoring the Neighbourhood Plan
6. Asset Register of Bremhill Parish

The first four sections of the draft plan have been screened for potential impacts upon the Natura 2000 network, which contain the plan policies or references to housing development, as set out in Section 5 below.

**5. INITIAL HABITATS REGULATIONS SCREENING ASSESSMENT OF THE DRAFT BREMHILL PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

**a) Screening assessment of individual policies**

Categories A / B (Green) – Screened out

Categories C / D (Red) – Screened in

<b>Policy Area</b>	<b>Policy</b>	<b>Categorisation in initial screening</b>	<b>Comments and recommendations</b>
1. A History of Bremhill Parish	Policy 1.15 (page 15): preserving, maintaining and enhancing local character and valuing the historic environment for the community, visitors and the future.	A1	No comments
2. Landscape character and setting	Policy 2.20 (page 39): River corridors, green field wedges and upland slopes of the north-eastern escarpment should be kept free of development. With the exception of individual buildings and homes, derelict agricultural buildings and low density housing of up to 10 homes. Designation of 25ha of Local Green Space south of the River Marden and maintaining a green corridor between Calne and Chippenham.	A1, A2, A3	No comments
3. Bremhill Now and the Future	Policy 3.6 (page 50): Two designated areas are proposed as Local Green Space under the NPPF, providing for wildlife, landscape and peace and tranquillity for recreation.	A3	No comments
(3a) Our Environment /Wildlife	Policy 3.17 (page 55): Future developments should preserve and sensitively enhance biodiversity. Policy aims to protect grasslands and expand and connect them by maintaining, extending and linking fragmented areas of species-rich calcareous and neutral grassland, and flood meadows in the river valleys. Supports the retention of hedgerows and other linear features.	A3	No comments

<b>Policy Area</b>	<b>Policy</b>	<b>Categorisation in initial screening</b>	<b>Comments and recommendations</b>
(3b) Housing	Policy 3.25 (page 70): Retention of character of villages and hamlets. Up to a maximum of 30 homes supported in line with Parish Survey, including low cost homes for young people and rural workers. Supports conversion of redundant farm buildings to residential or tourism with the use of materials reflecting the local area. Supports provision of a new village hall at East Tytherton. Promotes sustainable homes (level 4). Encourages small business start-ups.	A1	No comments
(3c) Local Economy	Policy 3.31 (page 82): Supports sustainable growth in business development appropriate to the rural nature of the Parish, including the expansion and diversification of agricultural buildings for enterprise, workshops, bed and breakfast, holiday cottages, etc. Identifies need for broadband provision to support businesses.	A1	No comments
(3d) Transport	Policy 3.39 (page 91): Parish Council will work with Wiltshire Council to implement warning signs for HGV/LGV vehicles approaching the parish and liaise with the council for works such as pothole repairs. Supports the neighbourhood speed watch. Promote "Education, Engineering and Enforcement" (The 3 E's – Association of Chief Police Officers guidance) on traffic issues in the Parish, including cyclists and horse riders.	A1	No comments
(3e) Well-being and Leisure	Policy 3.53 (Page 101): Maintain and expand the linked bridleway and footpath system. Work with Sustrans and the council to maintain and enhance national cycle routes and country lanes. Promote the rivers Avon and Marden as fishing venues. Support village halls and encourage other recreational activities.	A1	No comments
(3f) Renewable Energy	Policy 3.56 (page 104): Promote carbon reduction in the home and with businesses. Support standalone renewable energy projects that limit their impact on landscape, setting, visual amenity, biodiversity, historic environment and residential amenity.	A3	No comments
4. Vision and Objectives	4.2 Objectives (a) Housing (page 106): Supports the provision of up to 30 dwellings to meet local needs through small scale infill sites and conversions, the re-development of some brownfield sites to mixed uses and ensuring that developments include a mix of housing suited to local needs.	B	No comments

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

- The draft policies and objectives would not have any in combination effects.

**c) Assessment of the effects of the plan as a whole, in combination with Wiltshire Core Strategy and other plans or projects**

- The draft plan would not have any in combination effects with the Wiltshire Core Strategy or any other plans or projects.


**6. CONCLUSION**

The majority of the draft policies and objectives in the emerging Bremhill Parish NP do not allocate any new land for development and largely provide qualitative criteria for development focused on improving the parish for local people, businesses and visitors, including some environmental policies, suggestions for improving the network of rights of way and protecting and enhancing biodiversity, which would therefore have no LSE on Natura 2000 sites.

The housing objective in section 4 supports the provision of up to 30 new dwellings within the parish. This is a small number of houses that would be provided through infill, conversion or brownfield development. It is therefore concluded that no LSE would occur due to the distance from Natura 2000 sites.

It can therefore be concluded that the draft Bremhill Parish NP would have no LSE upon the Natura 2000 network alone or in combination, and no appropriate assessment is currently required.

**However, after the consultation of the draft plan has closed and a final version has been produced, which may result in alterations to the draft policies, this HRA must be reviewed.**

Assessment carried out by: 

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> January 2016

## Appendix A: HRA Screening Consultation

From: [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Bremhill Parish Neighbourhood Plan - HRA consultation

Date: 17 February 2016 14:12:42

Attachments: [Bremhill Parish Neighbourhood Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment FINAL 17.02.16.pdf](#)  
[image004.png](#)

Hi [REDACTED]

Please find attached the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for the Bremhill Parish Neighbourhood Plan and the comments from Natural England in the email from Kayleigh Cheese copied below. There are no recommendations in the HRA and therefore no specific requirements or changes to the NP due to distance from Natura 2000 (European) sites.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Follow Wiltshire Council

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 17 February 2016 14:00

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: FW: Bremhill Parish Neighbourhood Plan - HRA consultation

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for consulting Natural England on the Bremhill Parish Neighbourhood Plan HRA.

### **No objection**

Natural England notes that your authority, as competent authority under the provisions of the Habitats Regulations, has screened the Neighbourhood Plan to check for the likelihood of significant effects.

Your assessment concludes that the plan can be screened out from further stages of assessment because significant effects are unlikely to occur, either alone or in combination. On the basis of information provided, Natural England concurs with this view.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]

Sustainable Development Team  
Somerset, Avon and Wiltshire Area  
Natural England  
02080 260981

[www.gov.uk/natural-england](http://www.gov.uk/natural-england)

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