

Great Somerford (incorporating Startley) Neighbourhood Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening

1. Screening Methodology

Each element of the draft plan¹ has been categorised against the screening criteria developed on behalf of, and endorsed by Natural England². This approach is advised to help provide a clear audit trail for the assessment of local planning documents (which may be applied to neighbourhood plans), and if necessary identify the need for the policies to be removed / amended or new policies added to be certain that the plan will not have a significant negative effect on a European site.

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 adopted Wiltshire Core Strategy.

2. Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA

Wiltshire Core strategy HRA screened in the following potential effects of development at in the Malmesbury Community Area upon the Natura 2000 network³:

Recreation

- Clattinger Farm SAC

Hydrology / Hydrogeology

- Salisbury Plain SAC / SPA
- Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC

¹ Graet Somerford Neighbourhood (incorporating Startley) Plan (June 2015)

² David Tyldesley Associates (2009) *The Habitats Regulations Assessment of Local Development Documents* (Revised Draft Guidance)

³ Wiltshire Core Strategy: Assessment under the Habitats Regulations, Appendix A. (March 2013)

- Pewsey Downs SAC
- Clattinger Farm SAC
- River Avon SAC

Nitrogen Deposition

- Porton Down SPA
- Southampton Water SPA
- Clattinger Farm SAC
- River Avon SAC
- Rodborough Common SAC
- Cotswolds Beechwoods SAC

Draft policies within the emerging Great Somerford Neighbourhood Plan have been screened against each of the above potential impacts, for each Natura 2000 site.

3. Emerging Great Somerford Neighbourhood Plan

The Great Somerford Neighbourhood Plan includes draft policies to address the following policy objectives:

- Proposed new development (Section 7)
- Local Green Spaces (Section 8)

All parts of the plan have been screened for potential impacts upon the Natura 2000 network, as set out in Section 4 below.

4. Initial Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment of the Great Somerford Neighbourhood Plan

a. Screening assessment of individual policies

A / B (Green) – Screened out

C / D (Red) – Screened in

Policy Area	Policy	Categorisation in initial screening	Comments and recommendations
Proposed new development	GSNP1 - Proposed new development	B	
	GSNP2 – Affordable housing	A1	
	GSNP3 – Seagry Road	B	
	GSNP4 – Dauntsey Road	B	
	GSNP5 – Frog Lane	B	
	GSNP6 – Adj Brook Farm	B	
	GSNP7 – Land behind the Old Police House	B	
Local Green Spaces	GSNP7 – Local Green Spaces	A3	Please note that two policies are numbered GSNP7. Evidence will be required to demonstrate that these spaces meet the criteria specified in NPPF77.

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

5. Conclusion

The draft policies allocate only small sites for development, well within the quantum previously assessed by the Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA and at a considerable distance from designated sites, and would therefore have no likely significant effects upon the Natura 2000 network.

It can therefore be concluded that the Great Somerford Neighbourhood Plan would have no likely significant effects upon the Natura 2000 network alone or in combination, and no appropriate assessment is considered necessary by Wiltshire Council as competent authority.