

Wiltshire Council

**Lydiard Millicent Parish Draft Neighbourhood
Plan - Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)
Screening**

March 2018

Lydiard Millicent Parish Draft 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

The Wiltshire Core strategy HRA screened in the following potential effects of development in the Royal Wootton Bassett and Cricklade Community Area, within which the parish of Lydiard Millicent is situated, upon the Natura 2000 network³:

Hydrology / Hydrogeology

- Kennet and Lambourn Floodplain Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Hackpen Hill SAC
- Kennet Valley Alderwoods SAC
- River Lambourn SAC
- Cotswold Beechwoods SAC
- Rodborough Common SAC

¹ Lydiard Millicent Parish Neighbourhood Plan (December 2017)

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)

- North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC

Nitrogen Deposition

- Porton Down Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Salisbury Plain SAC and SPA
- Solent and Southampton Water SPA
- North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC
- River Avon SAC
- Rodborough Common SAC
- Cotswold Beechwoods SAC

Policies within the draft Lydiard Millicent Parish Neighbourhood Plan have been screened against each of the above potential impacts, for each Natura 2000 site.

3. Draft Purton Neighbourhood Plan

The draft Lydiard Millicent Parish Neighbourhood Plan includes policies to address the following policy objectives:

- Transport (Section 11)
- Environment (Section 12)
- Facilities (Section 13)
- Housing and Development (Section 14)

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

4. Initial Habitats Regulations Screening Assessment of the Draft Purton 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
Transport	<p>Policy 1A: Car parking</p> <p>The provision of additional car parking in the centre of Lydiard Millicent village to support the Parish Hall, the village school, the Parish Church and other community organisations will be supported subject to historic environment, road safety and residential amenity concerns being met. The quantity of car parking provided will be in accordance with the latest Wiltshire Council car parking standards</p> <p>Where change of use of existing publicly available car parking areas is suggested, equivalent and equally accessible parking must be provided as a replacement.</p> <p>Where possible, new development should seek to respond to opportunities to provide safe and convenient off street parking for community buildings.</p> <p>Any new, expanded, or change of use of commercial or any residential development must be completely self-sufficient in terms of off-road parking, which means—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development proposals will only be supported if they include the maximum level of off-road parking consistent with the standards set out in the Wiltshire Core Strategy, • Developments that reduce the amount of off-street parking currently available will only be supported if they make enforceable provision for off-street parking nearby, • Parking spaces will need to be made available in perpetuity. 	B	

Policy Area	Policy	Categorisation in initial screening	Comments and recommendations
	<p>Any development should be planned, designed and implemented to provide adequately for necessary access by service vehicles and cars but—</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Without encouraging use of cars in circumstances when walking, cycling or public transport would be a more environmentally responsible choice; and • Without hindering people using those modes of travel. <p>Where appropriate and practicable, developments should make provision for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • measures to improve public transport provision, make it more easily accessible and increase its use; • measures to improve the safety of pedestrians and cyclists and to make the use of those modes of travel more convenient; • suitable levels of off-street parking for the development proposed and off-street manoeuvring space for the vehicles likely to service the proposed use. 		
	<p>Policy 1B: Road safety and public rights of way</p> <p>Maintenance and improvements to pedestrian and cycle networks within Lydiard Millicent Parish and connecting Lydiard Millicent to other villages and settlements are a priority. New development must maintain and enhance existing pedestrian and cycle networks.</p> <p>Where possible, new development should seek to respond to opportunities to provide new and improved safe and convenient pedestrian and cycle routes.</p> <p>Any proposal for development must be accompanied by an assessment of the potential traffic and transport implications, and take steps to mitigate negative impacts, through improvements to roads and traffic management.</p>	A1	
Environment	<p>Lydiard Millicent Policy 2A: Development proposals should be sensitive to the Parish, settlement identity and defining characteristics of the local area, and demonstrate how they would maintain the quality of the local built and natural environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care taken to protect and enhance the historical environment. 	A3	

Policy Area	Policy	Categorisation in initial screening	Comments and recommendations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain and enhance existing open green spaces and pasture. • Retain existing hedgerows and outstanding trees • Encourage more safe play areas to be created. • Consider further footpaths to aid pedestrian access and movement. • Consider introduction of cycle paths where possible. • Maintain existing features of nature conservation and geological value. • Key local landscapes and recreational amenities to be protected and enhanced. 		
	<p>Lydiard Millicent Policy 2B: Maintain and enhance existing open green spaces and pastures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider introduction of cycle paths and further roadside footways where possible. • Maintain existing features of nature conservation and geological value. • The landscape setting of Lydiard Millicent Parish is to be protected by this policy to prevent the persistent erosion of the separation between the village and the Borough of Swindon. 	A3	
	<p>Lydiard Millicent Policy 2C: New development to retain and enhance existing green infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New development proposals to demonstrate how any development will protect and enhance features of nature conservation and geological value. • Landowners to maintain hedges, ditches and watercourses. 	A3	
Facilities	<p>Lydiard Millicent Policy 3A: Class A3 (restaurants and Cafes) and A4 (Drinking Establishments) uses should be protected from conversion to residential accommodation in order to protect the vitality and viability of Lydiard Millicent and increase its self-containment.</p> <p>The development of retail opportunities, either via new or existing premises, will be supported provided any traffic/transport effects are mitigated, the building is in keeping with the Lydiard Millicent street scene and residential amenity is</p>	A1	

Policy Area	Policy	Categorisation in initial screening	Comments and recommendations
	safeguarded. Any retail development should be located centrally to ensure pedestrian access and enhance commercial viability. Development within the Conservation Area will be required to be sympathetically designed and of a high quality.		
	<p>Lydiard Millicent Policy 3B: Lydiard Millicent Parish Hall and play areas are important community resources which will be protected from development. Residential development within the parish will be expected to contribute towards the ongoing maintenance and enhancement of the play areas. Specifically, the development of an outdoor multi-sports play area for older children at an appropriate location will be supported, provided the amenity of surrounding residents is taken into consideration. There is a suitable area on the parish sports field where a multi-sport facility could be constructed. Continued support for the Parish Hall which is well used as a community resource.</p>	A1	
Housing and Development	<p>Lydiard Millicent Policy 4: Development and Housing</p> <p>Limited residential development in Lydiard Millicent Parish should be of small scale and reflect the needs of the community as set out in both the Wiltshire Council and Parish Council Housing Needs Survey. It is essential that development makes provision for the needs of families and young people by providing a range of dwelling sizes and styles, in keeping with the character of the village.</p> <p>Proposals should be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • located within the existing built up area of the village, and • generally, comprise not more than a small group of house, that is generally infill. Sites larger than this would not be appropriate in scale to this rural location with limited facilities. • Within easy and safe walking distance of parish facilities such as the Parish hall, the school, the Church, the Sun Inn and main housing areas. • On a bus route (both to and from Swindon). • With a clear access on to a road with a good safety record and minimal 	A1	

Policy Area	Policy	Categorisation in initial screening	Comments and recommendations
	history of speeding; adequate off road parking or garaging. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Connected to main drainage and full pressure water supply.		

- 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 and the Swindon Core Strategy.

5. Conclusion

The draft policies provide criteria for the provision of limited small scale development to comprise mainly infill development within the built-up area of the village only, and do not specifically allocate any areas for development. The draft policies largely provide qualitative criteria for development focused on protecting the local natural, built and historic environment and guiding the design and quality of new housing. Therefore, the draft plan and policies contained therein would have no likely significant effects upon Natura 2000 sites.

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

Please note that HRA is an iterative process and future iterations of the plan should also be screened if the policies change significantly.

Assessment completed by [REDACTED]