

STANTON ST QUINTIN NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT (HRA)

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been undertaken to inform a Regulation 16 consultation response from Wiltshire Council to the Stanton St Quintin Neighbourhood Development Plan For the period 2021 – 2036 (Final), hereafter referred to as the NDP, submitted to Wiltshire Council in June 2022.
- 1.2. The HRA has been carried out to comply with Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019¹, hereafter referred to as the Habitats Regulations. Under these Regulations, a competent authority must consider whether a relevant plan is likely to have a significant effect on any European sites (formerly also referred to as Natura 2000 sites and now known as the national site network²) before deciding to give any consent, permission or other authorisation. If the screening exercise demonstrates significant effects are likely, whether or not these are addressed through mitigation measures³, the competent authority must undertake an appropriate assessment to examine the effects of the plan on the conservation objectives of the European Sites in question, consult the appropriate nature conservation body and have regard to its representations. Both the screening, and any subsequent appropriate assessment, must consider the impacts of the plan alone and in combination with other plans or projects.
- 1.3. It is usually the case that a plan of this nature does not go into the detailed aspects of development proposals and therefore the full effects of potential development cannot be accurately assessed at the plan making stage. Those details will typically be identified through a planning application which would be subject to further, more detailed HRA. The principle that a HRA need only consider the effects of a proposal or policy in as much detail as is specified by the plan was explained by Advocate General Kokott in a judgement brought against the UK government in 2005:

“Many details are regularly not settled until the time of the final permission. It would also hardly be proper to require a greater level of detail in preceding plans or the abolition of multi-stage planning and approval procedures so that the assessment of implications can be concentrated on one point in the procedure. Rather, adverse effects on areas of conservation must be assessed at every relevant stage of the procedure to the extent possible on the basis

¹ On 1st January 2021 the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) were amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. Most of these changes involved transferring functions from the European Commission to the appropriate authorities in England and Wales. All other processes or terms in the 2017 Regulations remain unchanged and existing guidance is still relevant. The obligations of a competent authority in the 2017 Regulations for the protection of sites or species do not change [Changes to the Habitats Regulations 2017 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/531212/Changes_to_the_Habitats_Regulations_2017_-_GOV.UK_(www.gov.uk).pdf)

² Due to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) being amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 on 1st January 2021.

³ Court of Justice of the European Union, Case C 323/17 “People Over Wind”/P. Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta

of the precision of the plan. This assessment is to be updated with increasing specificity in subsequent stages of the procedure.”⁴

- 1.4. Where appropriate assessment is undertaken, the competent authority may go on to authorise the plan or project provided that it will not adversely affect the integrity of any European sites. Where an **adverse effect on the integrity (AEoI)** of any European sites cannot be ruled out, and where there are no alternative solutions, the plan can only be authorised and proceed if there are **imperative reasons of over-riding public interest (IROPI)** and if the necessary compensatory measures can be secured.
- 1.5. Wiltshire Council has conducted the following HRA as competent authority for the Stanton St Quintin NDP. Where risks to European Sites are identified, changes are recommended to remove or reduce the risks, and these should be incorporated into the plan before it is made. Likewise, if the policies or planning context change after the HRA is completed, the HRA process must be repeated before the final plan is considered by a referendum and adopted.

2. Screening Methodology

- 2.1. Each element of the plan has been categorised against screening criteria developed by Natural England to provide a clear audit trail for the screening assessment.
- 2.2. The screening criteria used are 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.
- 2.3. The effect of each policy has been considered both individually and in combination with other plans and projects (see table in section 4 below). Where potential for likely significant effects have been identified, an appropriate assessment is undertaken in subsequent sections.

⁴ Commission of the European Communities v UK and NI, opinion of Advocate General KoKott, 9 June 2005, Case C-6/04

3. Higher Level HRAs

Wiltshire Core Strategy

3.1 The Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA (October 2009, February 2012⁵, March 2013⁶, February 2014⁷ and April 2014⁸) identified general parameters to determine the likelihood of potential impacts on European sites. The following potential impact pathways and associated parameters were identified and assessed for the Natura 2000 sites stipulated below.

- *Recreation – European sites within 5km of the plan area, or where the New Forest Special Protection Area (SPA)/Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is within 13.8km (extended to 15km where HRA indicates this is necessary) of the plan area or where Salisbury Plain SPA/SAC is within 15km of the plan area (it should be noted that the relevant parameter for the latter has since been revised on the basis of data obtained by means of visitor surveys and is now 6.4km):*
 - Salisbury Plain SPA / SAC
 - River Avon SAC
 - New Forest SAC / SPA
 - Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC (added post adoption of Wiltshire Core Strategy)
- *Hydrology / Hydrogeology - Sites that fall wholly or partly within the Wessex Water Resource Zone may be susceptible to impact:*
 - Salisbury Plain SAC / SPA
 - Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC
 - Pewsey Downs SAC
 - North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC
 - River Avon SAC
 - River Lambourn SAC
 - Kennet & Lambourn Floodplain SAC
- *Air Pollution / Nitrogen Deposition – European sites within 200m of a main road*
 - Porton Down SPA
 - Salisbury Plain SAC / SPA
 - Southampton Water SPA
 - North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC

⁵ Wiltshire Core Strategy Submission Draft – Assessment under the Habitats Regulations, Wiltshire Council, February 2012

⁶ Wiltshire Core Strategy – Assessment under the Habitats Regulations, Wiltshire Council, March 2013

⁷ Update to the Wiltshire Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment, February 2014 (Exam/89)

⁸ Wiltshire Core Strategy Updated Habitats Regulations Assessment, April 2014

- River Avon SAC
- Rodborough Common SAC
- Cotswolds Beechwoods SAC
- *Physical Damage / Interruption of Flight Lines / Disturbance*
 - Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC
 - Porton Down SPA
 - Chilmark Quarries SAC (added post adoption of Core Strategy)
 - Mottisfont Bats SAC (added post adoption of Core Strategy)

Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan

- 3.2 Since the Core Strategy was adopted, the Council published a pre-submission draft of the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan (WHSAP) together with a HRA dated 21 June 2017. A schedule of proposed changes was considered by Cabinet supported by an Addendum to the HRA dated May 2018. A schedule of changes and an Addendum to the HRA incorporating minor factual changes were published in September 2018 for public consultation. Subsequently, the WHSAP (Council Version, February 2020) was adopted by Full Council on 25th February 2020 and this was accompanied by the final WHSAP Assessment under the Habitats Regulations (Wiltshire Council, February 2020).
- 3.3 The screening criteria for the adopted WHSAP and final HRA were modified for some European sites from those used for the Core Strategy subsequent to the acquisition of results from new surveys, and in light of advice from Natural England. The following screening applies the most up to date criteria available from the WHSAP and HRA.
- 3.4 Furthermore, since the Core Strategy was adopted, Natural England (NE) has advised Wiltshire Council of its concerns regarding the growing number of visitors to the North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC in recent years which has led to an increase in trampling. NE has advised that this is particularly evident at North Meadow (which is also a National Nature Reserve (NNR)) during April and May when visitors come to see the Snake's-head fritillaries in flower. NE considers that the increase in recreational pressure upon the SAC is primarily as a result of increases in the local population, and that major new housing developments within a short travel distance of North Meadow are likely to add to the existing visitor pressure and trampling effects. An interim ZoI of 8km around the North Meadow element of the SAC is being used by Wiltshire Council as this is consistent with the approach being applied by Swindon Borough Council. The ZoI will be refined once bespoke visitor surveys have been undertaken.
- 3.5 Impacts of development in Wiltshire on the New Forest SPA were considered in the HRA for the South Wiltshire Core Strategy (SWCS) adopted in 2012⁹. The assessment used data from the Tourism South East PROGRESS survey for 2004/05 and census data from 2001 for the former Salisbury District to examine patterns of visitors to the New Forest from across south Wiltshire. That HRA concluded that the development in south Wiltshire would increase visitor pressure by

⁹ South Wiltshire Proposed Submission Core Strategy HRA Report, Appendix 13. NPA for Wiltshire Council, July 2009

less than 1% and 89% of this would be through additional local day visits from within 8 km of the National Park. The WCS addressed the New Forest's mitigation requirements through Core Policy 50, identifying that a New Forest Mitigation Strategy would be prepared to address recreational impacts. Since the WCS was adopted, the council has joined a partnership of local authorities seeking to develop a strategic approach to address the impacts of recreational pressure on the New Forest SPA. A Government grant through the Planning Delivery Fund enabled visitor surveys to be conducted across the New Forest in 2018/19. This work was recently published, and the Council is now part of a steering group working to agree a common approach to mitigation including the extent of the ZoI and how to fairly reflect different visit rates within it. This evidence has informed the preparation of an Interim Recreation Mitigation Strategy by Wiltshire Council¹⁰.

3.6 The WCS adopted the 8km zone of influence, however, as discussed in the Interim Recreation Mitigation Strategy, from 1st September 2021 this has been revised to 13.8 km. Before this date, the mitigation scheme only applied to permitted dwellings lying within 8km of the New Forest designated sites whereas thereafter the scheme has been extended to apply to new residential and tourism development within 13.8 km of any of the New Forest designated sites and may be extended to include applications within 15km, where demonstrated to be necessary through a bespoke appropriate assessment.

3.7 Since the WCS was adopted and on the advice of NE, any plan or project that will lead to development within the catchment of the River Avon SAC must be phosphorous neutral and be subject to appropriate assessment which concludes no adverse effect on the SAC alone or in combination with other plans or projects in order to be authorised.

Emerging Evidence and Advice from Natural England Subsequent to Adoption of WHSAP

3.8 Similarly, it came to light in spring 2020 that any plan or project that will lead to development within the catchment of the River Test must be nitrogen neutral as the Test drains into the Solent and this region is protected by a number of European and international designations including the Solent Maritime SAC, Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA, Portsmouth Harbour SPA and Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site. In 2018 and 2019 NE undertook a number of condition assessments of the features of these designated sites around the Solent. These assessments identified that high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus are entering this water environment and that there is sound evidence that nitrogen in particular is causing eutrophication at the aforementioned designated sites and that the resulting excessive growth of green algae and plants, which reduces oxygen and light levels, is leading to negative effects on the special features for which the European sites are designated. These nutrient inputs currently mostly come either from agricultural sources or from wastewater from existing housing and other development. These findings were published by NE in June 2020 in *Advice on Achieving Nutrient Neutrality for New Development in the Solent Region*. This advice also stipulates that:

“There is uncertainty as to whether new growth will further deteriorate designated sites. This issue has been subject to detailed work commissioned by local planning authorities (LPAs) in association with Natural England, Environment Agency and water companies. This strategic

¹⁰ The Interim Recreation Mitigation Strategy has not been reviewed by Natural England at the time of writing.

work, which updates early studies, is on-going. Until this work is complete, the uncertainty remains and the potential for future housing developments across the Solent region to exacerbate these impacts creates a risk to their potential future conservation status.

One way to address this uncertainty is for new development to achieve nutrient neutrality. Nutrient neutrality is a means of ensuring that development does not add to existing nutrient burdens and this provides certainty that the whole of the scheme is deliverable in line with the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

This report sets out a practical methodology to calculating how nutrient neutrality can be achieved. This methodology is based on best available scientific knowledge, and will be subject to revision as further evidence is obtained. It is our advice to local planning authorities to take a precautionary approach in line with existing legislation and case-law when addressing uncertainty and calculating nutrient budgets.”

- 3.9 In accordance with NE’s advice, any plan or project which will lead to development within the catchment of the River Test cannot be approved unless nitrogen neutrality has been demonstrated via quantitative means, and an appropriate assessment conducted by the competent authority has concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that there would be no adverse effects on the integrity of any of the Solent region European sites.

Screening of Stanton St Quintin NDP Area

Recreation

- 3.10 The Clattinger Farm element of the North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC is located approximately 13.4km to the north east of the NDP Area at its closest point. Recreational pressures on the SAC have been identified, as set out in paragraph 3.4, and a mitigation strategy is being developed. An interim ZOI of 8km around the North Meadow element of the SAC is being used by Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council until bespoke visitor surveys are undertaken, subsequent to which the ZOI will be refined. The 8km ZOI is located approximately 12km to the north east at the closest point, therefore appropriate assessment with respect to this SAC is not required.
- 3.11 The NDP area lies well beyond the 13.8km radius around the New Forest SAC/SPA within which the majority of day visitors to the New Forest originate¹¹.
- 3.12 Recreational pressure on the River Avon SAC is recognised to occur in limited circumstances predominately where significant development lies in close proximity to the SAC, and this will not occur as a result of this NDP.
- 3.13 In relation to Salisbury Plain, the SAC habitat features were screened out of appropriate assessment for the Core Strategy on the advice of Natural England. The Salisbury Plain SPA can also be screened out of appropriate assessment with respect of this NDP as the whole plan area is beyond the 6.4km zone around the SPA within which the majority (75%) of visitors to the Plain are expected to live. This is based on the data collated by means of a visitor survey commissioned by the Council in 2015.

¹¹ Wiltshire Core Strategy Updated Habitats Regulations Assessment, April 2014

Hydrology / Hydrogeology

3.14 In terms of hydrology/hydrogeology, the NDP area lies within the Bristol Avon catchment and as such there is no pathway for a likely significant effect on the River Avon SAC as a result of the NDP.

3.15 No water resource issues have been identified for the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC which is the only SAC to lie fully within the Bristol Avon catchment. The Bristol Avon is also not identified as a cause of water resource issues for the Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA.

Air Pollution / Nitrogen Deposition

3.16 The Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA identified that increased traffic would lead to potential effects through an increase in atmospheric pollution and nitrogen deposition upon a range of European sites within 200m of a main road. Such effects were considered to be very small and difficult to predict at the strategic level¹². Although the Stanton St Quintin NDP does identify aspirational sites for residential development, the number of dwellings proposed is small in relation to the total for the county. Furthermore, all of the European sites listed above are a considerable distance from the NDP area and as such it is concluded that the NDP will not result in significant effects on European sites as a result of nitrogen or particulate matter deposition.

Physical Damage / Interruption of Flight Lines / Disturbance

3.17 In terms of the potential to cause physical damage to features which provide habitat for bats, such as breeding, roosting and foraging habitat, and the potential to interrupt or fragment bat flight lines, or to cause disturbance to such features, it is deemed that the NDP area is sufficiently remote from the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC, Chilmark Quarries SAC and the Mottisfont Bats SAC that there is not a pathway for a likely significant effect upon the bats associated with these SACs.

3.18 The NDP area is also beyond the potential zone of influence with respect of stone curlews breeding at Porton Down SPA and Salisbury Plain SPA and will not result in physical damage to the habitats within or functionally linked to the aforementioned European sites, nor will it result in the interruption of flight lines or disturbance to breeding stone curlew, such as by means of the introduction of visual stimuli or noise.

4. Screening of Policies in Stanton St Quintin Neighbourhood Development Plan For the period 2021 – 2036 (Final)

4.1 The Stanton St Quintin NDP comprises 16 policies and 4 descriptions of ‘aspirational sites’ for development but which don’t strictly constitute site allocations. These are detailed and assessed in Table 1 below.

4.2 All parts of the NDP have been screened for potential impacts which may arise from the plan alone or in combination with other plans and projects. None of the policies within the NDP would lead directly to development, nor would any of the policies result in a likely significant effect on any European Sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects. This is due to the nature, scope and scale of the proposals set out in the NDP, and on account of the

¹² Update to the Wiltshire Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment, February 2014 (Exam/89)

distance of the NDP area from any European Sites and the absence of a potential pathway for effect.

- 4.3 Any further drafts of the NDP and/or changes made to the NDP as a result of the examination in public should be subject to a rescreening exercise before plan is adopted.

TABLE 1: Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening of the Stanton St Quintin NDP

A / B (Green) – Screened out		
C / D (Red) – Screened in		
Policy	Screening Category	Policy Summary and Assessment under Habitats Regulations
Policy 1: Village Boundaries	A1	<p>This policy re-establishes the settlement boundary which was removed in 2011, in accordance with the community’s aim to maintain ‘the rural feel’. It stipulates that proposals for small-scale development on sites not allocated for development will be supported providing that the structure and form of the existing settlement is not adversely affected, and that the landscape setting and undeveloped nature of the surrounding area is respected.</p> <p>The policy itself will not lead to development or result in a likely significant effect to any European sites.</p>
Policy 2: Development outside the boundaries of the Villages	A1	<p>This policy stipulates: <i>‘Development outside the settlement boundaries will be strictly controlled and proposals will only be supported for development which require a countryside location, such as agriculture, horticulture or forestry; or are related to community, leisure or recreation.’</i></p> <p>The policy itself will not lead to development and as such will not result in a likely significant effect upon any European sites. Details of any development(s) would be considered at the planning application stage to ensure acceptability in respect of other Development Plan policies of the Wiltshire Core Strategy and the NPPF.</p>
Policy 3: Small Scale Housing Development	A1	<p>This policy states: <i>‘Proposals for high-quality small-scale housing development consistent with the Design Guide, on infill sites within the built-up area of Stanton St Quintin will be supported provided they do not contribute towards the loss of locally important green space as set out in Policy 4: Green Spaces. Proposals for the re use of brownfield sites which enhance the character and appearance of the villages, and for the provision of affordable housing are especially encouraged.</i></p> <p><i>New developments should integrate with the current green infrastructure network and provide access to public and community transport, to connect with the social, community, linkage, and retail facilities of the villages.’</i></p> <p>The policy itself will not lead to development, however, it does support small-scale infill development. Nonetheless, the policy will not result in a likely significant effect upon any European sites. Furthermore, details of any development(s) would be considered at the planning application stage to ensure acceptability in respect of other Development Plan policies of the Wiltshire Core Strategy and the NPPF.</p>
‘Aspirational Brownfield Site’ detailed in non-policy text underneath Policy 3:	B	<p>The support for proposed development at this ‘aspirational site’ is not covered by a policy and it does not strictly comprise a site allocation. A planning application for the site has been submitted to Wiltshire Council. Site 1 is located approximately 14.3km, at the closest point, from the 8km Zol around the North Meadow element of the</p>

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Policy	Screening Category	Policy Summary and Assessment under Habitats Regulations
Site 1 - Site to the south of the existing petrol station		North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC and as such development at this site would not lead to a likely significant effect upon the SAC, and as such does not trigger appropriate assessment.
Policy 4: Affordable Housing	B	<p>This proposal sets out a requirement for affordable housing to be provided if any proposals for development would result in a net gain of 11 dwellings, or more than a gross residential floor space of 1,000m².</p> <p>The policy itself will not result in a likely significant effect upon any European sites. Details of any development(s) would be considered at the planning application stage to ensure acceptability in respect of other Development Plan policies of the Wiltshire Core Strategy and the NPPF.</p>
'Aspirational Brownfield Site' detailed in non-policy text underneath Policy 4: Site 2 Valetta Gardens, an area designed for the MoD	B	The support for proposed development at this 'aspirational site' is not covered by a policy and it does not strictly comprise a site allocation. Site 2 is located approximately 15km, at the closest point, from the 8km ZoI around the North Meadow element of the North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC and as such development at this site would not lead to a likely significant effect upon the SAC, and as such does not trigger appropriate assessment.
'Aspirational Greenfield Site' detailed in non-policy text underneath Policy 4: Site 3 Orchard House	B	The support for proposed development at this 'aspirational site' is not covered by a policy and it does not strictly comprise a site allocation. Site 3 is located more than 15km from the 8km ZoI around the North Meadow element of the North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC and as such development at this site would not lead to a likely significant effect upon the SAC, and as such does not trigger appropriate assessment.
'Aspirational Greenfield Site' detailed in non-policy text underneath Policy 4: Site 4 East of Stanton St Quintin	B	The support for proposed development at this 'aspirational site' is not covered by a policy and it does not strictly comprise a site allocation. Site 4 is located approximately 15km, at the closest point, from the 8km ZoI around the North Meadow element of the North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC and as such development at this site would not lead to a likely significant effect upon the SAC, and as such does not trigger appropriate assessment.
Policy 5: Green Space	B	<p>This policy designates eight Local Green Spaces which are also shown on the corresponding figure (Figure 6), it includes a sports field and play area. A reason for designation is provided and the policy goes on to state <i>'Development will be expected to identify, retain and enhance biodiversity and wildlife habitats, wildlife corridors and other aspects of green infrastructure.'</i></p> <p>The policy will not result in a likely significant effect upon any European sites.</p>
Policy 6: Design Guide	A1	<p>This policy states that <i>'New developments will be consistent with the Stanton St Quintin Design Guide.'</i></p> <p>The policy will not result in a likely significant effect upon any European sites.</p>
Policy 7: Brownfield Business and Retail Development	A1	This policy states: <i>'Proposals for the redevelopment of previously used land for small scale employment and retail uses will be supported provided they fall within the established built-up areas of the parish. They should not create high levels of additional traffic movements, especially heavy goods vehicles and must conform with the 2018 Stanton St Quintin Design Guide.'</i>

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Policy	Screening Category	Policy Summary and Assessment under Habitats Regulations
		The policy will not result in a likely significant effect to any European sites. Details of any development(s) would be considered at the planning application stage to ensure acceptability in respect of other Development Plan policies of the Wiltshire Core Strategy and the NPPF.
Policy 8: Diversification of Farm Enterprises	B	<p>This policy support planning applications for new uses of redundant traditional farm buildings and states that such uses <i>'might include small-scale development of farm shops selling produce created locally, guest accommodation and cafes and agri-tourism.'</i></p> <p>The policy itself will not lead to development and the NDP Area is located approximately 12km from the 8km Zol around the North Meadow element of the North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC and as such any development that comes forward as a result of Policy 8 would not lead to a likely significant effect upon the SAC and does not therefore trigger appropriate assessment. Any proposals for such development would be considered at the planning application stage and may require project specific appropriate assessment.</p>
Policy 9: Live/Work Units	B	<p>This policy specifies that it will support the introduction of Work/Live Units (Sui generis Use Class) wherever possible if it can be determined that there is local need and that the development will be consistent with the Design Guide, and that this includes the extension of existing residential properties where they are in accordance with policies elsewhere in this Plan. The policy goes on to state: <i>'Where proposals for such units are to be located near to existing housing, any proposals that will give rise to any of the following without the ability to provide enough mitigation, will be refused in the interests of protecting residential amenity:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Excessive noise associated with the general operation of the premises, including visits by the general public</i> • <i>Light pollution</i> • <i>Reduced air quality</i> • <i>Disturbance caused by excessive traffic movement to and from the premises and/or the likelihood of instances of illegal or unsafe parking.'</i> <p>The policy itself will not lead to development and the NDP Area is located approximately 12km from the 8km Zol around the North Meadow element of the North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC and as such any development that comes forward as a result of Policy 9 would not lead to a likely significant effect upon the SAC and does not therefore trigger appropriate assessment. Any proposals for such development would be considered at the planning application stage and may require project specific appropriate assessment.</p>
Policy 10: Environmental impact of Business development	A1	This policy requires that all new business developments should be subject to the appropriate level of environmental assessment <i>'including a full EIA either Schedule 1 or Schedule 2 and consider the impact of</i>

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Policy	Screening Category	Policy Summary and Assessment under Habitats Regulations
		<p><i>pollution emissions, noise and light so that no additional pollution is introduced into the community by a business development scheme.'</i></p> <p>The policy itself will not result in a likely significant effect to any European sites and instead sets out requirements for any proposals for business development in the NDP Area. Details of any development(s) would be considered at the planning application stage to ensure acceptability in respect of other Development Plan policies of the Wiltshire Core Strategy and the NPPF.</p>
Policy 11: Cemetery	B	<p>This policy stipulates: <i>'The provision of additional cemetery space in Stanton St Quintin will be supported and opportunities sought for developer contributions to assist in bringing this forward within the timescale of the Neighbourhood Plan.'</i></p> <p>The policy will not result in a likely significant effect to any European sites. Details of any development(s) would be considered at the planning application stage to ensure acceptability in respect of other Development Plan policies of the Wiltshire Core Strategy and the NPPF.</p>
Policy 12: Play Space	B	<p>This policy supports increased play provision, especially where this would be accompanied by improvements to public rights of way and pavements.</p> <p>The policy will not result in a likely significant effect to any European sites. Details of any development(s) would be considered at the planning application stage to ensure acceptability in respect of other Development Plan policies of the Wiltshire Core Strategy and the NPPF.</p>
Policy 13: Public House and Village Shops	B	<p>This policy supports proposals for a public house and additional retail facilities within the built-up area of the parish provided there would be no detrimental impacts on residential amenity, car parking and road safety.</p> <p>The policy will not result in a likely significant effect to any European sites. Details of any development(s) would be considered at the planning application stage to ensure acceptability in respect of other Development Plan policies of the Wiltshire Core Strategy and the NPPF.</p>
Policy 14: Transport Impacts and safety	A1	<p>This policy requires that any proposals for development likely to generate traffic, over 2 additional houses, must be accompanied by traffic impact assessments and should be accompanied by a Transport Assessment in line with guidance produced by Wiltshire Council. The policy states that it is important that 'the safety of roads without pavements is maintained and enhanced to allow for a safe and attractive walking environment.' It also requires that where new development negatively impacts on the highway network, appropriate mitigation will be provided.</p>

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Policy	Screening Category	Policy Summary and Assessment under Habitats Regulations
		The policy will not result in a likely significant effect to any European sites. Details of any development(s) would be considered at the planning application stage to ensure acceptability in respect of other Development Plan policies of the Wiltshire Core Strategy and the NPPF.
Policy 15: Walking and Cycling	A1	<p>This policy states: <i>'Support will be given to proposals which increase or improve the network of cycle ways, footways and footpaths, especially to enable a safe footway the entire length of Church Road, encouraging pedestrian access to Stanton St Quintin Parish Hall.'</i></p> <p>The policy goes on to stipulate that proposals which would harm a number of specified characteristics of public rights of way will be resisted. It also states: <i>'Proposals should seek, where possible, to create cycle paths to provide safe and attractive routes across the parish. Developer or CIL contributions will be sought from all new developments to fund improvements to the existing cycle and footpath networks as well as supporting the provision of new connections, where these have been identified and can be delivered.'</i></p> <p>The policy will not result in a likely significant effect to any European sites. Details of any development(s) would be considered at the planning application stage to ensure acceptability in respect of other Development Plan policies of the Wiltshire Core Strategy and the NPPF.</p>
Policy 16: Parking	A1	<p>This policy sets out requirements with respect of car parking.</p> <p>The policy will not result in a likely significant effect upon any European sites and as such does not trigger appropriate assessment.</p>

5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The HRA screening exercise presented in this document has concluded that the current draft of the Stanton St Quintin NDP will not result in a likely significant effect on any European Sites or their qualifying features either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects. Therefore, it has not been necessary to subject the NDP to an appropriate assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.
- 5.2 It should be noted that if any changes are made to the NDP or the policies contained therein, it will be necessary for the amended NDP to be subject to a repeat HRA screening exercise before it can be 'made'.

V1.0 prepared by [REDACTED] Ecologist, Wiltshire Council, 18th November 2020.

V2.0 prepared by [REDACTED] Ecologist, Wiltshire Council, 27 June 2022.

V2.0 27/06/2022