

Template V2.0
2/4/15

Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)
Screening Guidance for Neighbourhood Plans
Ongar NDP Regulation 14 Consultation Version 2.5.1

14/09/20

HRA Screening Toolkit for Neighbourhood Plans

3.0 The Assessment ONGAR NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN Version 2.5.1

Table 3: Preliminary HRA stages 1-4

Stage 1: Deciding whether a Neighbourhood Plan should be subject to HRA	Y/N	Commentary
Is the whole of the plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site for nature conservation purposes?	N	A Neighbourhood Plan is part of the statutory development plan when made. By definition, it will have a broader scope than the management of a European “Natura 2000” site.
Is the plan a development plan document? Or part of the statutory development plan?	Y	<p>A Neighbourhood Plan is part of the statutory development plan when made.</p> <p><i>The Plan-making body (i.e. relevant Parish Council or Neighbourhood Forum) should proceed to identify the European sites that may potentially be affected, gather the information about them and ‘screen’ the plan for likelihood of significant effects on a European site. See below.</i></p>
Stage 2: Identifying the European sites that should be considered	Y/N	Commentary
<p>Which European (N2k sites) should be considered? European sites, subject to the Habitats Directive, will have one or more of the following designation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ramsar site • Special Area of Conservation (SAC) • Special Protection Area (SPA) <p>1. <i>Identify international sites in relative proximity to the NP or NDO or any buffer zone agreed with Natural England.</i></p>	Y	<p>The relevant sites to plans within the in Epping Forest District Council boundary are considered to be:</p> <p>Epping Forest SAC (1,605ha).</p> <p>Lee Valley SPA/ Ramsar Site (448ha);</p> <p>Wormley Hoddesdonpark Woods SAC (335ha).</p>

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<p>2. Go to Natural England's 'Nature on the Map' website: www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk to view the location of a SPA/SAC.</p>		
<p>Stage 3: Gathering information about Epping Forest SAC, Lee Valley SPA/ Ramsar site and Wormley Hoddesdon Park SAC.</p>	<p>Y/N</p>	<p>Commentary</p>
<p>Is there data or information already available/ published regarding the Epping Forest SAC/ Lee Valley SPA/ Ramsar and Wormley Hoddesdon Park SAC sites?</p>	<p>Y</p>	<p>The following documents provide detailed information as to the characteristics (Habitats Directive qualifying species and vulnerabilities) of the Epping Forest SAC and the Lee Valley SPA/Ramsar Site:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JNCC (2010) Epping Forest SAC [online] available at: http://www.jncc.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0012720 • JNCC (2010) Lee Valley SPA [online] available at: http://www.jncc.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=2047 • JNCC 2010 Wormley Hoddesdon Park SAC [online] available at : http://www.jncc.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0013696 • Nature on the Map (2010) [online] available at: http://www.natureonthemap.org.uk/identify.aspx <p>The information contained in the Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal and Habitats Regulation Scoping Report (2010) undertaken by Scott Wilson is found at Appendix 2. This sets out reasons for designation, historic trends and current pressures on the sites. It indicates the vulnerabilities of the sites for consideration of potential impacts.</p>
<p>Stage 4: Initial discussions on the method and scope of the appraisal</p>	<p>Y/N</p>	<p>Commentary</p>
<p>Have preliminary discussions taken place with relevant bodies regarding the HRA for the Neighbourhood Plan?</p>	<p>N</p>	<p>No, the Council is currently having the Epping Forest District Local Plan Submission Version examined and is in discussion with the relevant bodies in this regard. The NDP does not introduce additional matters. In respect of road traffic emissions, where proposed development would</p>

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		<p>result in a net increase in Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) on roads within 200m of the Epping Forest SAC then the Council is not able to grant planning permission unless it can ensure mitigation measures are in place that can be relied upon to avoid adverse effects on the SAC. A buffer Zone for the collection of contributions to the mitigation of recreational pressure on the Forest has been set at 6.2 km and the Ongar NDP area does not fall within this zone.</p>
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Table 4: Screening the plan for likely significant effects

Policy typology/ Policy references	Positive Impact	Significant Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Commentary – refer to Appendices 3 and 4 and other published information
Step 1- Screening out general policy statements				
Overarching Neighbourhood Plan vision and outcomes The aims of the NDP are outlined at Paragraph 4.1 of the plan.			X	The aims in themselves are unlikely to have any significant effect on the European Sites.
Vision (and objectives as relevant) As above, the aims can be viewed as outcomes sought see below			X	
Outcome 1 Rural and urban regeneration of the Parish				Due to the fact that the policies of the plan are all considered to be general policy statements that set general criteria which are almost wholly for the protection of the assets, and there are no allocations for development made, it is considered that there is no conceivable outcome likely to impact on the characteristics of the European Sites set out in Appendix 2 of this assessment.
Outcome 2 A more vibrant historic High Street in Chipping Ongar				As above
Outcome 3 Development that is sustainable, well-designed and creates a distinctive local identity				As above

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Policy typology/ Policy references	Positive Impact	Significant Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Commentary – refer to Appendices 3 and 4 and other published information
Outcome 4 Protecting or enhancing the historic, natural and rural environments of Ongar				As above
Outcome 5 Creating more sustainable live/work patterns				As above
Outcome 6 Maintaining and expanding the range of local community facilities and amenities				As above
Step 2 – Screening out projects referred to in, but not proposed by, the plan				
Emerging Local Plan policies and allocations. In particular the density of development ONG- RR3, and buffer Zone for West Ongar Concept framework plan area ONG-ED6 relate to these Local Plan policies.			X	These have been separately scoped and are currently being further assessed through Epping Local Plan SA/Habitat Regulations Assessment process. The Local Plan continues to emerge and the final assessment of the Local Plan is critical to the context of this assessment.
Step 3- Screening out aspects of a plan that could have not likely significant effect on a site, alone or in combination with other aspects of the same plan or with other plans and projects				
Development Management policies			X	

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Policy typology/ Policy references	Positive Impact	Significant Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Commentary – refer to Appendices 3 and 4 and other published information
Detailed design policies and criteria				These small-scale, development management policies are most relevant for householder or other minor application, or minor aspects of larger schemes. The detailed, localised nature of such policies enables these to be screened out, as not having any significant impact upon the SAC/ SPA/ Ramsar site
ONG- RR1, ONG-RR3, ONG ED-1, ONG ED-2, ONG-ED3, ONG-CT3, ONG-CT5				As above
Protection policies			X	Protection policies seek to maintain the 'status quo'. As such, by definition, any decision to retain existing land use types or operations at a particular location would not lead to any changes to 'baseline' circumstances. Therefore, these policies could not be expected to have a significant impact upon the European sites, so may be screened out at this stage.
'Protection of assets' policies and site specific designations ONG- ED2, ONG-ED4, ONG-ED5, ONG -CT1, ONG ED6, ONG-CT1				As above
Landscape/ protection of open space designations ONG- RR1, ONG ED-1, ONG ED4, ONG-CT1				As above
Employment protection areas				As above
Town centres and primary shopping frontages ONG -RR2				As above

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Policy typology/ Policy references	Positive Impact	Significant Negative Impact	Neutral Impact	Commentary – refer to Appendices 3 and 4 and other published information
Development land allocations There are no allocations in the NDP			X	
Transport/ connectivity policies ONG-RR4, ONG-CT3, ONG CT5			X	Policies relate to small-scale access proposals for active travel only
Green infrastructure/ tourism policies			X	
Potential green infrastructure connections to Epping Forest SAC/ Lee Valley SPA/Ramsar Sites NONE			X	Policies do not relate to connectivity with any European Site.
Proposals for tourist hubs or facilities			n/a	
Consideration of in combination effects				
Are there any cumulative effects of the whole plan – or the plan in combination with others that may be significant?				Due to its scale and proposals there are no identified likely significant effects and therefore no cumulative effects.

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Appendix 4: HRA Screening PRO-FORMA – *completed following consultation with Natural England.* Ongar Neighbourhood plan Regulation 14 Version 2.5.1

EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL	
Neighbourhood Plan HRA Pro-forma	
Name of Qualifying Body	Ongar Parish Council – assessment produced on their behalf by EFDC
Name of Neighbourhood Plan	Ongar Neighbourhood Plan Regulation 14 Version 2.5.1
Date	14 September 2020
<p>HRA Preliminary Stages 1-4</p> <p>The relevant European Sites are: Epping Forest SAC (1,605ha), Lee Valley SPA/Ramsar Site (448ha), and Wormley Hoddesdonpark Woods SAC (335ha).</p> <p>Due to the fact that the policies of the plan are all considered to be general policy statements that set general criteria which are almost wholly for the protection of the assets, and there are no allocations for development made, it is considered that there is no conceivable outcome likely to impact on the characteristics of the European Sites set out in this assessment.</p>	
HRA Stage 5 Have any potential Significant Likely Effects been identified?	No
<p>HRA Stage 6 If a potentially significant negative impact of an emerging NP or NDO proposal or policy has been identified upon Epping Forest SAC, Lee Valley SPA/Ramsar Sites or Wormley Hoddesdonpark Woods SAC, the following questions should be considered:</p>	
Is the policy or proposal essential to deliver the overall vision and objectives of the emerging neighbourhood Plan?	N/A
If YES, could the policy or proposal be deleted, amended or its scale reduced; so as to ensure that any potential harm is eliminated or minimised to the extent that it could not lead to any significant impact upon the SAC/SPA/Ramsar site?	N/A
Could the policy or proposal be redrafted or relocated i.e., community asset/ local community project, to ensure it is sufficiently well situated so as to remove any potential significant impacts?	N/A
Could the policy or proposal be developed in association with other policies or proposals being put forward through the emerging Local Plan?	N/A

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Conclusions on proposed mitigation measures:

N/A

In order to overcome any potentially significant Likely Effects, the following amendments to policies and proposals within the emerging Neighbourhood Plan are proposed: N/A

A view has been sought from Natural England, as to whether it will be necessary for the emerging Ongar Neighbourhood Plan to be accompanied by a full “appropriate assessment” (HRA)

Summary of Natural England Comments:

Natural England were contacted on 22nd November for consultation on this document. No response was received. EFDC contacted Natural England again on 24th February 2021 making it clear that if there was no response EFDC were to assume that there were no issues. No response was received, on this basis we can assume Natural England had no issues to raise.

On this basis this HRA Screening has concluded that it **will not** be necessary to undertake a full HRA/ Appropriate Assessment to accompany Version 2.5.1 of the Neighbourhood Plan.

PLEASE NOTE: should a Full HRA/ AA be deemed necessary, then it will also be necessary for a full Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken to accompany the Neighbourhood Plan.