

## HRA Screening Toolkit for Neighbourhood Plans

### 3.0 The Assessment ONGAR NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN Submission Version August 2021

Table 3: Preliminary HRA stages 1-4

Stage 1: Deciding whether a Neighbourhood Plan should be subject to HRA	Y/N	Commentary
<p><b>Is the whole of the plan directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site for nature conservation purposes?</b></p>	<b>N</b>	<p>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.</p>
<p><b>Is the plan a development plan document? Or part of the statutory development plan?</b></p>	<b>Y</b>	<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><b>Which European (N2k sites) should be considered? European sites, subject to the Habitats Directive, will have one or more of the following designation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ramsar site</li> <li>• Special Area of Conservation (SAC)</li> <li>• Special Protection Area (SPA)</li> </ul> <p><i>1. Identify international sites in relative proximity to the NP or NDO or any buffer zone agreed with Natural England.</i></p>	<b>Y</b>	<p>The relevant sites to plans within the in Epping Forest District Council boundary are considered to be:</p> <p><b>Epping Forest SAC (1,605ha).</b></p> <p><b>Lee Valley SPA/ Ramsar Site (448ha);</b></p> <p><b>Wormley Hoddesdonpark Woods SAC (335ha).</b></p>

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<p>2. Go to Natural England's 'Nature on the Map' website:  <a href="http://www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk">www.natureonthemap.naturalengland.org.uk</a> to view the location of a SPA/SAC.</p>		
<p><b>Stage 3: Gathering information about Epping Forest SAC, Lee Valley SPA/ Ramsar site and Wormley Hoddesdon Park SAC.</b></p>	<p><b>Y/N</b></p>	<p><b>Commentary</b></p>
<p><b>Is there data or information already available/ published regarding the Epping Forest SAC/ Lee Valley SPA/ Ramsar and Wormley Hoddesdon Park SAC sites?</b></p>	<p><b>Y</b></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"> <li>• JNCC (2010) Epping Forest SAC [online] available at:  <a href="http://www.jncc.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0012720">http://www.jncc.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0012720</a></li> <li>• JNCC (2010) Lee Valley SPA [online] available at:  <a href="http://www.jncc.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=2047">http://www.jncc.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=2047</a></li> <li>• JNCC 2010 Wormley Hoddesdon Park SAC [online] available at :  <a href="http://www.jncc.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0013696">http://www.jncc.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0013696</a></li> </ul> <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 together with the more recent Epping Forest District Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment June 2021 completed by AECOM. This sets out reasons for designation, historic trends and current pressures and conservation objectives on the sites. It indicates the vulnerabilities of the sites for consideration of potential impacts.</p>
<p><b>Stage 4: Initial discussions on the method and scope of the appraisal</b></p>	<p><b>Y/N</b></p>	<p><b>Commentary</b></p>
<p><b>Have preliminary discussions taken place with relevant bodies regarding the HRA for the Neighbourhood Plan?</b></p>	<p><b>N</b></p>	<p>No, the Council is currently having the Epping Forest District Local Plan Submission Version examined and is in discussion with the relevant organisations in this regard. The NDP does not introduce additional</p>

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		<p>matters.</p> <p>In respect of road traffic emissions, where proposed development would result in a net increase in Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) on roads within 200m of the Epping Forest SAC the Council has adopted an Interim Air Pollution Mitigation Strategy and an Interim Approach to Managing Recreational Pressure to 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
<b>Step 1- Screening out general policy statements</b>				
<b>Overarching Neighbourhood Plan vision and outcomes</b> The aims of the NDP are outlined at Paragraph 4.1 of the plan.			<b>X</b>	The aims in themselves are unlikely to have any significant effect on the European Sites.
<b>Vision (and objectives as relevant)</b> As above, the aims can be viewed as outcomes sought see below			<b>X</b>	
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

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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 3 Development that is sustainable, well-designed and creates a distinctive local identity				As above
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
<b>Step 2 – Screening out projects referred to in, but not proposed by, the plan</b>				
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.			<b>X</b>	These have been separately scoped and have been 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.
<b>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</b>				

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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
<b>Development Management policies</b>			<b>X</b>	
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-ED5, ONG-CT3, ONG-CT5			<b>x</b>	As above
<b>Protection policies</b>			<b>X</b>	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-ED3, ONG-ED4, ONG -CT1, ONG ED6,			<b>x</b>	As above
Landscape/ protection of open space designations ONG- RR1, ONG ED-1, ONG ED5, ONG-CT1			<b>x</b>	As above
Employment protection areas			<b>x</b>	As above
Town centres and primary shopping frontages ONG -RR2			<b>x</b>	As above

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<b>Development land allocations</b> There are no allocations in the NDP			<b>X</b>	
<b>Transport/ connectivity policies</b> ONG-RR4, ONG-CT3, ONG CT5			<b>X</b>	Policies relate to small-scale access proposals for active travel only
<b>Green infrastructure/ tourism policies</b>			<b>X</b>	
Potential green infrastructure connections to Epping Forest SAC/ Lee Valley SPA/Ramsar Sites  NONE			<b>X</b>	Policies do not relate to connectivity with any European Site.
<b>Proposals for tourist hubs or facilities</b>			<b>n/a</b>	
<b>Consideration of in combination effects</b>				
<b>Are there any cumulative effects of the whole plan – or the plan in combination with others that may be significant?</b>				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 Submission Version August 2021

<b>EPPING FOREST DISTRICT COUNCIL</b>	
<b>Neighbourhood Plan HRA Pro-forma</b>	
Name of Qualifying Body	Ongar Parish Council – assessment produced on their behalf by EFDC
Name of Neighbourhood Plan	Ongar Neighbourhood Plan Submission Version August 2021
Date	12 October 2021
<p>HRA Preliminary Stages 1-4</p> <p>The relevant European Sites are: <b>Epping Forest SAC (1,605ha)</b>, <b>Lee Valley SPA/Ramsar Site (448ha)</b>, and <b>Wormley Hoddesdonpark Woods SAC (335ha)</b>.</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?	<b>No</b>
<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?	<b>N/A</b>
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?	<b>N/A</b>
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?	<b>N/A</b>
Could the policy or proposal be developed in association with other policies or proposals being put forward through the emerging Local Plan?	<b>N/A</b>



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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:

Epping Forest District Council consulted on the HRA screening with Natural England from 15 December 2021 – 26 January 2022. Natural England responded on 14 January 2022 and confirmed that there are unlikely to be significant environmental effects from the proposed plan.

On this basis this HRA Screening has concluded that it **will not** be necessary to undertake a full HRA/ Appropriate Assessment to accompany the August 2021 Submission Version 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.**