

## **Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Statement for Lilleshall Neighbourhood Plan (LNP)**

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### **1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 This document is the Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) Screening Statement for the Lilleshall Neighbourhood Plan (LNP).
- 1.2 This HRA Screening Statement concludes that there is no likely significant effect on any European Site as a result of the policies contained within the Lilleshall Neighbourhood Plan and as such the LNP is 'screened out' of the HRA process and no further HRA assessments (including Appropriate Assessments) are deemed necessary.

### **2.0 Neighbourhood Planning**

- 2.1 Neighbourhood planning is a new community right introduced by the Localism Act 2011 and guidance on its implementation is provided in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 2.2 Neighbourhood Plans form part of the Statutory Land Use Plan and as such must be subject to HRA under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) [the Habitats Regulations].

### **3.0 Lilleshall Neighbourhood Plan**

- 3.1 The Lilleshall Neighbourhood Area was designated by Telford & Wrekin Council in June 2016. The Parish Council have subsequently prepared a draft Neighbourhood Plan and are proposing to run a public consultation on the draft plan during summer 2017 with a view to 'making' the Neighbourhood Plan later in 2017.
- 3.2 The Lilleshall Neighbourhood Plan is based upon six themes and includes 15 policies within those themes.

### **4.0 Habitat Regulation Assessment**

- 4.1 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) set out the process by which HRA of plans and projects must be undertaken. Further guidance has been provided by government and Natural England on the process.
- 4.2 Telford & Wrekin Council has undertaken several stages of HRA during the preparation of the new Local Plan and has, most recently, carried out a

Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Report (Submission Version)<sup>1</sup> .  
This HRA Screening Statement follows the process used in the latest  
HRA report and relies on the evidence gathered during that process.

- 4.3 Telford & Wrekin Council is the 'Competent Authority' in terms of HRA for the 'making' of the Lilleshall Neighbourhood Plan and has, therefore, produced this HRA Screening Statement to accompany the draft Neighbourhood Plan.
- 4.4 Natural England will be given an opportunity to formally comment on this HRA Screening Statement and Telford & Wrekin Council will have regard to the representations of Natural England prior to 'making' the Neighbourhood Plan as required under Regulation 61 (3).
- 4.5 The HRA process assesses the potential effects arising from a plan against the conservation objectives of any site designated for its nature conservation importance. The European Sites situated in close proximity to the borough of Telford & Wrekin are set out in the HRA Screening Report (Submission Version)<sup>2</sup> along with their conservation objectives and an assessment of potential effect pathways.
- 4.6 There are no European Sites within the Neighbourhood Area or, indeed, within the borough of Telford & Wrekin. Aqualate Mere is part of the Midland Meres & Mosses Ramsar Phase 2 site and is located in Staffordshire, close to the borough border with Telford & Wrekin. Aqualate Mere is approximately 4km from the Lilleshall Neighbourhood Area.

## **5.0 HRA Screening**

- 5.1 Each policy within the Neighbourhood Plan has been screened to determine whether it has potential to cause a Likely Significant Effect on any European Site.
- 5.2 Any policy with no Likely Significant Effect will be screened out of the HRA process. Any policy where potential for a Likely Significant Effect is identified will be subject to further, more detailed, assessment (sometimes called an 'Appropriate Assessment') in line with the Habitats Regulations and relevant guidance documents.
- 5.3 Table 1 below considers the potential impacts arising from each of the policies within the draft Lilleshall Neighbourhood Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Report (Submission Version) by Enfusion (July 2016).

<sup>2</sup> Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Report (Submission Version) by Enfusion (July 2016).

Policy	Assessment of potential impacts	Potential for Likely Significant Effect
POLICY DEV1: INFILL HOUSING	<p>This policy supports housing within Lilleshall where it meets national policy and is in line with Telford &amp; Wrekin Local Plan Policies particularly SP3: Rural Areas and HO10: Residential Development in the Rural Area.</p> <p>The Local Plan HRA Screening Report (Submission Version) assesses the potential impact of development in and around Newport on Aqualate Mere in detail and concludes that there is no Likely Significant Effect either alone or in-combination from any of the policies in the Local Plan on a European Designated Site.</p> <p>The evidence from that HRA Screening Report can be carried forward to LNP Policy DEV 1 which is in conformity with both SP3 and HO10.</p>	No
POLICY DEV2: MERGING OF SETTLEMENTS	<p>This policy restricts development in the Neighbourhood Area to sites which will not detrimentally affect the wider landscape quality – especially that of the Strategic Landscape Areas and those which would detrimentally affect the gap between the Telford urban area and Lilleshall. and as such is in line with SP3: Rural Areas and HO10: Residential Development in the Rural Area.</p> <p>The Local Plan HRA Screening Report (Submission Version) assesses the potential impact of development in and around Newport on Aqualate Mere in detail and concludes that there is no Likely Significant Effect either alone or in-combination from any of the policies in the Local Plan on a European Designated Site. The evidence from that HRA Screening Report can be carried forward to ENP Policy RES 2 which is in conformity with both SP3 and HO10.</p>	No
POLICY DEV3: LOCAL PLAN ALLOCATED SITE (H1)	<p>This policy seeks conditions to the development site allocated by the Telford &amp; Wrekin Local Plan – to help reduce its environmental impact.</p> <p>The Local Plan HRA Screening Report (Submission Version) assesses the potential</p>	No

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POLICY D1: SYMPATHETIC DESIGN	This policy seeks to improve the design quality of development and to protect and enhance heritage assets.	No
POLICY D2: SUSTAINABLE DESIGN	This policy seeks to improve the environmental quality and ecological footprint of new development.	No
POLICY D3: DESIGN OF RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	This policy requires development to positively respond to local character and to reduce the impact of the motor vehicle.	No
POLICY LE1: GREEN SPACES	This policy seeks to designate several areas as Local Green Spaces	No
POLICY LE2: ECOLOGY AND LANDSCAPE	This policy actively seeks to protect, improve and enhance the ecology and landscape of the area.	No
POLICY LE3: STRATEGIC LANDSCAPE AREAS	This policy seeks to protect the landscape quality of the Strategic Landscape Areas from development which would either detract from the quality and/or detrimentally affect a function of the Strategic Landscape Area to maintain a gap between the urban area of Telford and Lilleshall.	No
POLICY INF1: CONNECTING THE PARISH	The purpose of this policy is to achieve good internet access. This will potentially assist in helping to facilitate local employment and help reduce vehicle movements.	No
POLICY INF2: COMMUNITY FACILITIES	This policy recognises and seeks to improve local facilities including those which will encourage more sustainable movement	No
POLICY INF3: DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS	This policy seeks to obtain funding and improvements to local highway infrastructure to improve its function and	No

Policy	Assessment of potential impacts	Potential for Likely Significant Effect
	safety.	
POLICY TA1: LINKAGES AND CONNECTIONS	This policy seeks to improve the local footpath for enhanced accessibility and for recreation.	No
POLICY TA2: CAR PARKING IN LILLESHALL	This policy seeks to manage car parking so that it appropriately reflects local car ownership levels ( in a rural context) as well as reducing its visual impact	No
POLICY EC1: RURAL DIVERSIFICATION AND SMALL- SCALE EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT	This policy seeks encourage local employment but also in ways which are not detrimental to the character of the area or the existing environment and infrastructure.	No

## 6.0 Conclusion of the HRA Screening process for the Lilleshall Neighbourhood Plan

- 6.1 The policies within the draft Lilleshall Neighbourhood Plan have been screened under the Habitat Regulation Assessment process
- 6.2 The conclusion of the HRA Screening Process is that none of the proposed policies within the draft Lilleshall Neighbourhood Plan have potential to lead to a Likely Significant Effect on a European Site.
- 6.3 The draft Lilleshall Neighbourhood Plan can be ‘screened out’ of the Habitat Regulation Assessment process and an ‘Appropriate Assessment’ is not required.

## 7.0 Next Steps

- 7.1 Natural England will be given an opportunity to comment on this Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Statement in 2017 and Telford & Wrekin Council will have regard to the comments of Natural England as the appropriate nature conservation body under the Habitats Regulations prior to the ‘making’ of Lilleshall Neighbourhood Plan.
- 7.2 If, following the public consultation on the draft Lilleshall Neighbourhood Plan, changes are proposed to the policies contained within the Plan then an update to this HRA Screening Statement will be produced reflecting the changes made and, if significant changes are proposed, a further consultation with Natural England will be undertaken.

