

Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Plan Review

Strategic Environmental Assessment &

Habitat Regulations Assessment

Draft Screening Report

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Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Development Plan
Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Introduction

- 1.1.1 This screening report has been undertaken to determine whether the content of the Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004; and / or a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) in accordance with Article 6(3) and (4) of the EU Habitats Directive.
- 1.1.2 Section 1 sets out the background to the Neighbourhood Plan. Section 2 of this document sets out the legislative background to SEA and HRA and outlines the regulations that require the need for this screening exercise. Section 3 provides a screening assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of the Hampton in Arden NDP and whether there is a need for a full SEA. Section 4 provides a screening assessment of the likely significant effects of the implementation of the Hampton in Arden NDP and the need for an HRA. Section 5 provides a summary and conclusion.
- 1.1.3 The Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Plan was adopted in 2017. The Parish Council is undertaking a review of this Neighbourhood Plan and has consulted on the Pre Submission Draft of the Neighbourhood Plan according to Regulation 14 of the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012. .
- 1.1.4 Since the adoption of the original Neighbourhood Plan, a boundary review was undertaken and on 1st April 2019 the Parish area was extended to include a wider area incorporating Catherine de Barnes village. The Parish Council decided to prepare a new Neighbourhood Plan to reflect the boundary change and the work being undertaken at that time on the Solihull Local Plan Review.
- 1.1.5 Stage one of the Neighbourhood Plan Review involved an application for a new area designation which was approved in April 2021. The Parish Council has since undertaken a significant amount of work to identify the issues and priorities for the community and prepared a Draft Submission Plan to reflect these.
- 1.1.6 The Parish Council embarked on Pre-submission consultation and publicity of the Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with Regulation 14 of Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. This was subject to a six week period of consultation between Wednesday 1st February 2023 and Wednesday 22nd March 2023
- 1.1.7 The pre submission draft was prepared to reflect the position set out in the Adopted 2013 Solihull Local Plan and the Submission Draft Local Plan prepared as part of the emerging Local Plan Review. The Submission Draft Local Plan had been subject to examination and was at the time of the Regulation 14 consultation being considered by Inspectors. The Neighbourhood Plan sought to reflect the up to date position in relation to emerging policy and in particular emerging development sites proposed within the Parish.
- 1.1.8 Since the Pre submission draft Neighbourhood Plan was published the Local Plan Review process has been withdrawn (October 2024) and SMBC have committed to the preparation

- and delivery of a new Local Plan. In December 2024 a new NPPF was published which changed the national approach to housing delivery.
- 1.1.9 To reflect the updated position the Parish Council have prepared a version of the Neighbourhood Plan which seeks to be in conformity with the Adopted 2013 Solihull Local Plan so the Neighbourhood Plan can proceed. It is this version that now forms the basis of this screening opinion.

1.2. The Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Development Plan

- 1.2.1 The Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Plan area covers the parishes of Hampton in Arden and Catherine de Barnes, and is adjacent to significant areas of proposed growth through the UK Central proposals as well as major economic assets including the NEC, HS2 interchange station. The M42 is a significant road link within the Parish, and planning consent has been approved for a proposed motor service station area on Solihull Road. The West Coast mainline is a feature through the Parish.
- 1.2.2 The Draft Neighbourhood Plan sets out a ten year vision from 2025 for the Parish. This vision seeks to 'protect the strong local identity and distinctiveness of the Parish, maintaining and enhancing its historic character, distinctiveness and rural setting whilst ensuring that the community benefits from quality sustainable improvements that will help to at least maintain, and ideally improve, the Parish as a thriving and sustainable place to live and work'
- 1.2.3 Section 2 of the Neighbourhood Plan identifies the following list of planning constraints identified through a 2020 consultation with Local Residents. Each of these are considered in more detail in this section to set a framework / context for assessing planning proposals
 - Green Belt
 - Valued Views
 - Tree Cover
 - Biodiversity
 - Local Heritage
 - Separateness
- 1.2.4 Statutory protection afforded by listed building status, Conservation Area designation, the green belt and due to flood risk are also identified. Policies in section 3 are set out to align with the 6 policy areas identified in the Adopted Solihull Local Plan 2013. Each policy area starts with a Parish profile and community feedback received as part of the consultation and policies for each area to guide development. The policy areas are identified as Sustainable Economic Development, Housing Provision, Sustainable Travel, Protection of the Environment, Quality of Place and Community Services and are summarised below

Sustainable Economic Development

- 1.2.5 The plan acknowledges the significant employment opportunities adjacent to the Parish at JLR, Arden Cross, the Airport and the NEC. The Plan does not propose any additional employment land
 - Policy B1 sets out the circumstances through which the Neighbourhood Plan will support employment growth including expansion of existing business in the Green Belt and the creation of small-scale business accommodation on brownfield sites
 - Policy B2 seeks to minimise the loss of existing local shops and businesses
 - Policy B3 seeks to support opportunities for home working
 - Policy B4 supports improvement to digital communications

Housing Provision

- 1.2.6 The plan acknowledges that since the Adopted 2013 Local Plan was published potential development sites have been identified which fall within the Parish boundary. These are:
 - Land off Lugtrout Lane
 - South of Meriden Road
 - Oak Farm

The Plan does not seek to identify any housing allocations.

- 1.2.7 The Plan will seek to resist ribbon development (linear development along the road) on both sides of Hampton Lane and Lugtrout Lane.
 - Policy H1 sets out the Plans intentions for the scope of potential development and the infrastructure required to support this.
 - Policy H2 sets out standards for the delivery of acceptable new housing types and designs
 - Policy H3 sets out the amenity standards the Parish Council would like to see in new housing, relating to sustainability, refuse and recycling provision, broadband, lighting, light pollution and EV charging.
 - Policy H4 sets out the approach to flood risk
 - Policy H5 details requirements for conversions and extensions
 - Policy H6 sets out the approach to back garden development

Sustainable Travel

1.2.8 The Plan acknowledges the area is well served by rail links and access to Birmingham Airport; however, this proximity results in air, noise and traffic pollution. The issues of the lack of pedestrian and cycling routes particularly between the two settlements of Hampton-inArden and Catherine de Barnes and of narrow pavements within the settlement resulting in the need for new traffic calming measures are raised.

- Policy TR1 supports the provision of safe walking and cycling routes
- Policy TR2 supports the provision of adequate parking in new developments
- Policy TR3 supports new developments which consider and mitigate the impacts on traffic flow

Protection of the Environment

- 1.2.9 The Parish Council has identified 10 important green spaces that are open and accessible to the public and require protection. The plan identifies some of the landscape and biodiversity features of the area and its green belt location including woodland areas and the presence of the River Blythe and water meadows which are designated as a SSSI. Two valued views are identified, the view looking South towards Barston and Eastcote from Fenthall Hall and the view looking East from Fentham Road near to George Fentham School
 - Policy E1 seeks to ensure the protection of trees and green habitat and that the landscaping in new developments retains existing mature trees
 - Policy E2 seeks to protect biodiversity and protect significant habitats including SSSI and expects any developments to result in a net biodiversity gainPolicy E3 seeks to address climate change being supportive of developments that are highly sustainable, include energy efficiency measures, and aim for net zero carbon
 - Policy E4 sets out how renewable energy and energy security schemes will be considered.
 It supports well-designed small-scale energy installations utilising technologies such as
 solar panels, biomass heating, battery storage, and wind turbines on previously developed
 land. It does not support developments on grade 1 or 2 agricultural land or within the green
 belt. Policy E5 sets out recommendations for light and noise pollution and will only support
 lighting schemes in new developments which reflect the local character of the area

Quality of Place

- 1.2.10 The Plan sets out considerations for the design of new developments and protection of the historic environment.
 - Policy Q1 deals with the conservation of heritage assets supporting the principles set out in the Local Plan, Historic England Guidance and relevant sections of the NPPF
 - Policy Q2 supports new developments which are in keeping with local plan design standards and those in the Neighbourhood Plan. Design and Access Statements will be expected to demonstrate how the local character of the area has been considered. Proposals should relate to adjacent local character in terms of massing, scale and use of landscaping
 - Policy Q3 seeks to preserve valued views within the Parish and will not support developments which will damage the view looking South from towards Barston and Eastcote from Fentham Hall and the view looking East from Fentham Road near George Fentham School.

Community Facilities

- 1.2.11 The plan aims to work with the representative bodies within the Parish to help the retention and improvement of key local community facilities
 - Policy L1 seeks to enhance community services supporting proposals that propose the retention and improvement of key facilities.
 - Policy L2 seeks to ensure that new development mitigates any impact on existing infrastructure from higher usage

2. Legislative Background

2.1. Introduction

2.1.1 A Neighbourhood Plan must meet certain basic conditions¹. This includes demonstrating that the Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared in accordance with the most relevant and up to date environmental regulations. Draft Neighbourhood Plan proposals should therefore be assessed to determine whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects or a significant effect on a European important habitat.

2.2. The Requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 2.2.1 The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessments and Sustainability Appraisal legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC and was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or SEA Regulations. Detailed Guidance of these regulations can be found in the Government publication 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' (ODPM 2005). These requirements are still in place.
- 2.2.2 Where a Neighbourhood Plan could have significant environmental effects, it may require SEA. Guidance states that the requirement for SEA and the level of detail needed will depend on what is proposed. SEA may be required, for example, where:
 - a Neighbourhood Plan allocates sites for development;
 - the Neighbourhood Area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan;
 - the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.
- 2.2.3 The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 required Local Authorities to produce Sustainability Appraisals (SA) for all local development documents to meet the requirement of the EU Directive on SEA. It is considered best practice to incorporate requirements of the SEA Directive into an SA.
- 2.2.4 However, the 2008 Planning Act amended the requirement to undertake SA for Development Plan Documents (DPDs) only, but did not remove the requirement to produce SEA. Neighbourhood Plans are not DPDs meaning there is no legal requirement to have SA undertaken on them; however, Neighbourhood Plans may still require SEA.
- 2.2.5 In accordance with Regulation 9 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, Draft Neighbourhood Plan proposals should therefore be assessed to determine whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. This process is

¹ The basic conditions are set out in 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990

- commonly referred to as a "screening" assessment and determines whether a full assessment is needed.
- 2.2.6 To fulfil the legal requirement to identify if the Hampton in Arden NDP requires SEA, a screening for SEA and the criteria for establishing whether a full assessment is needed, is undertaken in Section 3 of this report.

2.3. The Requirement for Habitat Regulations Assessment

- 2.3.1 Articles 6(3) and 6 (4) of the European Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna state that an Appropriate Assessment is required for strategic land use plans that are considered likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects. Natura 2000 sites are those sites designated under the Habitats Directive to ensure the protection of European important habitats, and include Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Offshore Marine Sites (OMS) and, within the UK, Ramsar sites.
- 2.3.2 Government guidance on Habitat Regulation Assessment states that 'All plans and projects (including planning applications) which are not directly connected with, or necessary for, the conservation management of a habitat site, require consideration of whether the plan or project is likely to have significant effects on that site. This consideration typically referred to as the 'Habitats Regulations Assessment screening' should take into account the potential effects both of the plan/project itself and in combination with other plans or projects'.
- 2.3.3 A HRA is required when it is deemed that likely negative significant effects may occur on Natura 2000 sites as a result of the implementation of a plan / project.
- 2.3.4 A screening assessment has been undertaken to fulfil the legal requirements to identify if likely significant effects will occur with the implementation of Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Plan upon Natura 2000 sites.

3. Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening

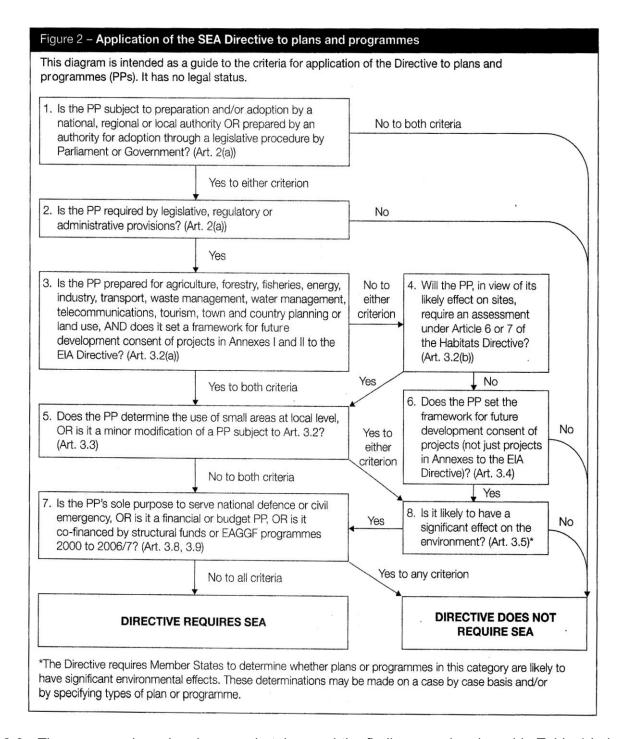
3.1. Criteria for Assessing the Effects of the Hampton in Arden Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan

- 3.1.1 Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC are set out below:
 - 1. The characteristics of plans and programmes, having regard, in particular, to
 - the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources,
 - the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy,
 - the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,
 - environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme,
 - the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to wastemanagement or water protection).
 - 2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to
 - the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,
 - the cumulative nature of the effects,
 - the transboundary nature of the effects,
 - the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),
 - the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),
 - the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:
 - special natural characteristics or cultural heritage,
 - exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,
 - intensive land-use,
 - the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.

Source: Annex II of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC

3.2. Assessment

- 3.2.1 The Hampton in Arden NDP must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority.
- 3.2.2 The Solihull Local Plan was adopted in December 2013 and the Solihull Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan in December 2014.
- 3.2.3 Both the Local Plan and Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan were subject to a full SA which included a SEA. This ensured that there were no likely significant effects which would be produced from the implementation of the either Plan, and if so, ensured mitigation measures were in place.
- 3.2.4 An assessment of the proposed Hampton in Arden NDP policies and their conformity / conflict with the adopted Solihull Local Plan and Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan is provided in Appendix 1. This confirms that there is general conformity and limited conflict between the Solihull Local Plan, the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan and the Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Plan , and there are no significant changes introduced by the Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Plan.
- 3.2.5 The diagram below illustrates the process for screening a document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required.



3.2.6 The process above has been undertaken and the findings can be viewed in Table 1 below. This shows the assessment of whether the Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Plan will require a full SEA. The questions in Table 1 are drawn from the diagram above which sets out how the SEA Directive should be applied.

Table 1: Establishing the Need for SEA					
Stage	Y/N	Reason			
Is the PP (plan or programme) subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Y	The Hampton in Arden NDP is not a DPD, however, if the document receives 50% or more votes in support at referendum, it will be adopted by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council.			
2. Is the PP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	N	Communities have the right to produce a Neighbourhood Plan if they so wish. There is no legislative, regulatory or administrative requirement to produce a Neighbourhood Plan. However, if adopted, the Plan would form part of the statutory development plan and it is therefore considered necessary to answer the following questions to determine if SEA is required.			
3. Is the PP prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	Y	The Hampton in Arden NDP is prepared for Town and Country Planning and land use. It therefore sets out a framework of future development in the Neighbourhood Area to which it applies.			
4. Will the PP, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))	N	See screening assessment for HRA in Section 5 of this report.			
5. Does the PP Determine the use of small areas at local level, OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)	Y	The Hampton in Arden NDP will include policies which will influence the use of small areas and sites at a local level. However, it does not propose to significantly increase the quantum of development already planned for in the Local Plan.			
 Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4) 	Υ	Once adopted, the Hampton in Arden NDP will form part of the statutory development plan and will be used in the determination of planning applications.			
7. Is the PP's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it cofinanced by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)	N	N/A			
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	N	The Hampton in Arden NDP is unlikely to have any significant effect on the environment.			

3.3. Screening Outcome

3.3.1 It is unlikely that there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Hampton in Arden NDP that were not covered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the Solihull Local Plan and the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Document. As set out earlier in the report the Hampton in Arden NDP does not allocate sites for development. It does not affect any sensitive natural heritage sites or assets. It is concluded that the Hampton in Arden NDP does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.

4. Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening

4.1. Introduction

4.1.1. The HRA process is broadly divisible into three distinct stages, with the need to complete each stage determined by the results of the previous stage. In summary these are:

Stage 1: Evidence Gathering and Screening

This stage is associated with collecting evidence regarding those parts of the Natura 2000 network that have the potential to be impacted by the strategic land-use plan, either alone, or in combination with other projects or plans. Where no significant effects are perceived, sites may be screened out of the need for further assessment during Stage 2.

Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment of Significant Impacts

Where it is considered a Natura 2000 site may experience significant effects from a project or strategic land-use plan, either alone or in combination, a detailed assessment of likelihood and severity of the impact on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network is undertaken. This assessment is based on a detailed review of the project or plan in conjunction with the structure, function and conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 site. This stage may also include a preliminary assessment regarding the potential for the identified impacts to be mitigated.

Stage 3: Assessment of Alternative Solutions and Mitigation Measures

Where impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network are perceived, this stage examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or strategic land-use plan in order to avoid these impacts. Where potential for adverse impacts remains, and where it is deemed that a project or land-use plan should proceed for Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest, (IROPI), an investigation of appropriate mitigation and compensatory measures is undertaken.

- 4.1.2. This report focuses of Stage 1 of the process.
- 4.1.3. Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening exercises have previously been carried out for the Adopted Solihull Local Plan in 2008 and 2012 by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust and Middlemarch Environmental Ltd. During these screening exercises, no significant adverse effects were identified on any European Sites either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.
- 4.1.4. The Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared to be in general conformity with the 2013 Adopted Solihull Local Plan.
- 4.1.5. As part of the Local Plan Review a Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Reports were prepared in 2018 and 2020 to determine if any of the proposals and policies in the Local Plan Review would have any likely significant effect on any European Sites. Although the Local Plan Review has been withdrawn this work is still relevant in determining the relevant natura 2000 sites and the extent to which proposals in this area are likely to have an impact.

4.2. Relevant Natura 2000 Sites

- 4.2.1. The following assessment is based on the Screening reports prepared for the Adopted Local Plan.
- 4.2.2. No Natura 2000 sites fall within or adjacent to the Solihull MBC boundary. There are Natura 2000 sites within a 50km radius of the Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Plan boundary.
- 4.2.3. 11 Natura 2000 sites are within a 50km radius of Solihull Borough (as identified in the Table below), as well as the Peak District Dales SAC, which forms part of the most visited National Park in the united Kingdom, which is within 75km.

Natural 2000 site	Distance from Solihull MBC boundary
Ensor's Pool SAC	8.9 km
Cannock Extension Canal SAC	19.1 km
River Mease SAC	21.4 km
Fens Pool SAC;	21.6 km
Lyppard Grange Ponds SAC	28.1 km
Cannock Chase SAC	28.3 km
Bredon Hill SAC	35.2 km
Pasturefields Salt Marsh	36.2 km
Mottey Meadows SAC	37.5 km
West Midlands Mosses SAC	39.2 km
Midlands Meres and Mosses Phase I Ramsar	Various locations across Cheshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire
Peak District Dales SAC	75 km

- 4.2.4. The initial screening exercise undertaken in 2008 by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, when the Core Strategy (now the Solihull Local Plan) was at the 'Issues and Options' stage of development assessed the potential for the Local Plan
- 4.2.5. This exercise assessed the potential for the Local Plan to impact upon the integrity of the 12 Natura 2000 sites identified in the table above. Potential significant effects at 8 of these sites were screened out, and further screening of 4 sites was recommended when Local Plan policies were further refined. The 4 sites put forward for further screening were:
 - Cannock Extension Canal SAC;
 - Cannock Chase SAC;
 - Bredon Hill SAC; and,
 - Peak District Dales SAC.
- 4.2.6. Further screening of the above sites was recommended in accordance with the precautionary principle, as the Local Plan policies were not sufficiently detailed at the time to allow potential significant effects arising from increased recreational pressure and air pollution to be fully assessed.

- 4.2.7. A further screening exercise was undertaken in 2012 by Middlemarch Environmental Ltd, based upon specific policies outlined in the Pre-Submission Draft version of the Local Plan. Prior to the assessment commencing, the scope of work proposed was agreed in consultation with Natural England.
- 4.2.8. The screening matrix, which summarises the findings of the further screening exercise, is included at Appendix 2 of this report.
- 4.2.9. The further screening exercise concluded the following:
 - Local Plan policies will not directly impact upon any of the Natura 2000 sites put forward for further screening. All sites are located well outside of the borough boundary.
 - No significant effects are considered likely on any of the Natura 2000 sites put forward for further screening, either alone or in combination with other plans.
 - No further screening is recommended. It is not considered necessary for the current iteration of the Local Plan to proceed through any further stages of the Appropriate Assessment process.
- 4.2.10. The report was submitted to and approved by Natural England in July 2012.
- 4.2.11. Solihull Council also commissioned Middlemarch Environmental Ltd to undertake a screening exercise for the Solihull Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan, based on the same four Natura 2000 sites identified above. The screening matrix, which summarises the findings of the screening exercise, is included at Appendix 3.
- 4.2.12. This screening assessment concluded that:
 - None of the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations policies will result in a significant effect on the Natura 2000 network, either alone or in combination with other local plans.
 - None of the four Natura 2000 sites should be subject to further stages of Appropriate Assessment.
- 4.2.13. The report was submitted to and approved by Natural England in March 2013.
- 4.2.14. In 2018 a Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report was prepared by Middlemarch Environmental Ltd on behalf of SMBC as part of the evidence base for the Local Plan Review. The Local Plan Review HRA Screening Report 2018 identified the relevant Natura 2000 sites based on the HRA screening process. The exercise to determine the impact of policies within the plan was informed by consultation response from Natural England
- 4.2.15. The screening exercise identified ten European Sites with potential linkages to the Solihull Metropolitan Borough area. These were - Ensor's Pool SAC; - Cannock Extension Canal SAC; - Cannock Chase SAC; - River Wye SAC; - Elan Valley Woodlands SAC; - Elenydd-Mallaen SPA; - Elenydd SAC; - Humber Estuary SAC; - Humber Estuary SPA; and, - Humber Estuary Ramsar
- 4.2.16. In March 2020, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council instructed Middlemarch Environmental Ltd to undertake an updated Habitats Regulations Assessment (Stage 1 Screening) as part of the evidence base for the Submission Draft of the Solihull Local Plan Review. This update to the previous Habitats Regulations Assessment took account of all the changes to the

policies and proposals within the Submission Draft of the Local Plan Review which occurred since April 2018. The Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared to ensure conformity with the Adopted Solihull Local Plan therefore it is considered that the Screening opinion prepared for the Adopted Local Plan is valid.

4.3. Screening Outcome

- 4.3.1. The sensitivities and vulnerabilities of the Natura 2000 sites outlined above have already been identified in the HRA for the Solihull Local Plan and the Solihull Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations plan. The screening assessment concluded that there would be no likely significant effect on the Natura 2000 network, either alone or in combination with other local plans.
- 4.3.2. The Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to significantly increase the quantum of development contained within the Solihull Local Plan or the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan and should be in general conformity with the statutory Development Plan.
- 4.3.3. The screening assessment therefore concludes that the Hampton in Arden NP does not require a full HRA to be undertaken.

5. Summary and Conclusions of the Screening Assessments

5.1. Summary

- 5.1.1. Hampton in Arden Parish is a largely rural area within the Metropolitan Borough of Solihull with a rural character defined by the Arden Landscape. It is designated as within the Green Belt with Inset areas for Hampton in Arden and Catherine de Barnes villages. Hampton in Arden has a number of listed buildings and a designated Conservation Area which protects the historic character of the settlement.
- 5.1.2. The Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Plan has been prepared to be in conformity with the statutory development plan, the Adopted Solihull Local Plan 2013. The Neighbourhood Plan policies whilst seeking to reflect the Local and National policy context are unlikely to significantly increase the quantum of development. They do not allocate land for housing or employment. The policies seek to reinforce or provide a local perspective to adopted plan policies. In some areas where the policy position has progressed in National policy through the NPPF the Neighbourhood Plan policies seek to reinforce these objectives. In identifying valued views and open spaces of importance, biodiversity and climate change policies it seeks to provide further environmental and amenity protection.
- 5.1.3. The Plan highlights the existence of sites within the Parish previously proposed for development through the Local Plan Review however it does not endorse these or seek to allocate as sites. The Plan does not introduce new policy requirements. The SEA screening assessment concluded that the policies in the Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Plan are likely to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted Development Plan. It is therefore unlikely that there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Plan that were not covered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the Solihull Local Plan and the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan.
- 5.1.4. It is therefore concluded that the Hampton in Arden NP does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.

5.2. Habitat Regulations Assessment

- 5.2.1. The policies of the Solihull Local Plan and the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan have also been subject to HRA Screening. The screening assessment for both documents concluded that there would be no likely significant effect on the Natura 2000 network, either alone or in combination with other local plans.
- 5.2.2. For the reasons outlined above, it is also concluded that the Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Plan does not require a full HRA to be undertaken.

Appendix 1

Assessment of Hampton in Parish NDP draft policies and their general conformity to the adopted Solihull Local Plan and Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan

Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Plan Policy Reference	Relevant Solihull Adopted Lo Plan 2013 policy	Cal Conformity / conflict between Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Plan Proposed policy and SLP policy and likely effects of the policy / proposal in regards to SEA criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5) of Directive 2001/42/EC . This is set out in Paragraph 3.1.1)
	•	Solihull Local Plan 2013, it does not introduce policy requirements
chapters in the Adopted Solihull Local Pla		nts locally and nationally. The Plan is structured to reflect the six
Sustainable Economic Growth	11 20 10.	
B1 Employment		for The Hampton in Arden NP does not identify any new
B2 Protection of Local Businesses	General Business and Premises	employment land allocations or seek to increase the
B3 Working from Homes		quantum of employment land development within the Borough.
B4 Digital Communications		20.049
		The Sustainable Economic Growth policies in the Plan direct new small scale business development to brown field sites providing it can be demonstrated that the impact on the neighbouring area has been considered and is acceptable. The policy also states that it <i>may</i> allow for reasonable expansion of existing businesses into the green belt. Whilst this is not specifically referred to in the Local Plan policy the NP states it may rather than will allow. Any such proposals would be considered against green belt policy and the test of inappropriate development in the Green Belt (a caveat could be added to reinforce this). It would therefore not have any adverse impacts in terms of the SEA criteria
		It supports the Local Plan policy in relation to home working ensuring it is not detrimental to the local character of the area.

		In line with the Adopted Local Plan policy it supports the provision of necessary infrastructure to accommodate high speed digital communication. There are unlikely to be any significant environmental effects that have not already been considered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the adopted Solihull Local Plan
Housing Provision		
H1 Scope and Infrastructure for new developments H2 New housing types and designs H3 Amenity Standards in New Developments H4 Flood risk H5 Conversions and Extensions	Policy P5 Provision of Land fo housing	The Plan highlights the existence of three potential ydevelopment sites which were identified as part of the now withdrawn Local Plan Review process. The plan does not seek
H6 Back Garden Development	Policy P11 Flood Risk	to allocate these. The plan opposes any development in the Green Belt along Lugtrout Lane and Hampton Lane.
		The Plan refers to the introduction of grey belt classification in the NPPF and indicates that it will strongly resist the reclassification of land parcels considered as being moderate or high conformity to green belt objectives. It does not introduce a policy requirement.
		The plan supports housing provision that preserves and enhances the character of the parish. It supports a range in the mix and type of housing highlighting bungalows and starter homes and resist the creation of significant numbers of larger dwellings, such as those with five or more bedrooms, on developments of more than ten houses. Local Plan policy supports a mix of housing. Evidence prepared since the

		Adoption of the Local Plan in the HEDNA identifies the need for a mix of housing types.
		Policy H3 expects residential development to be highly sustainable and in line with the delivery of net zero carbon including the provision of EV charging. It highlights adequate bin storage and lighting as part of ensuring amenity standards are met. The policy does not introduce any further standards for achieving these relying on the current requirements in national policy and the adopted Local Plan.
		Policy H4 expects developments to provide risk assessments of surface and ground water. Information accompanying planning applications should set out how any flood mitigation measures will be incorporated into development. This is in line with national policy and the adopted plan.
Cuetain able Treval		There are unlikely to be any significant environmental effects that have not already been considered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the adopted Solihull Local Plan
Sustainable Travel		
T1 Safe Cycling and Pedestrian routes		of The transport policies set out general support for the provision
T2 Parking	Access	of walking and cycling opportunities in line with local and national policy. It specifically supports development which links
T3 Traffic Management	Policy P8 Managing Demand for	orto attractive walking and cycling opportunities. Whilst this
	Travel and Reducing Congestion	doesn't reflect the wording of the adopted policy, it is in the spirit of the policy approach.
		Supports parking provision in line with adopted local standards.

		There are unlikely to be any significant environmental effects that have not already been considered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the adopted Solihull Local Plan
Protection of the Environment		
E1 Trees and green habitat	P9 - Climate Change	These policies are unlikely to have any adverse significant
E2 Biodiversity		effect on the environment but instead could contribute towards
E3 Climate Change	P10 - Natural Environment	meeting environmental objectives.
E4 Renewable Energy and Energy Security Systems	P11 - Water Management	
	P12 - Resource Management	Policy E2 supports development which protect and where possible enhance existing habitats and the established
	P13 - Minerals	biodiversity.
	P14 – Amenity	
E5 Light and Noise pollution		The Plan expects any development to result in a net biodiversity gain, does not specify a specific requirement so assuming this is in line with national requirement.
		The Plan is supportive of developments that are highly sustainable, include energy efficiency measures, and aim for net zero carbon. This is in line with adopted Local Plan policy.
		The Plan also sets out support for the provision of renewable energy technologies. The adopted Local Plan or National Policy does not specifically protect grade 1 and 2 agricultural land from renewable energy development. This would need to be justified however, this provision would be unlikely to significantly affect any SEA criteria.

		The plan seeks to limit the impacts of noise and light pollution There are unlikely to be any significant environmental effects that have not already been considered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the adopted Solihull Local Plan
Quality of Place		
Q1 Heritage Assets Q2 Design standards Q3 Valued Views		The design standards policy covers a wide range of criteria intended to ensure the local character of the villages are reflected and to protect amenity. This is worded differently to the policies in the adopted Local Plan but it does not add any significantly different policy requirements. Policy Q3 identifies two valued views, these are unique to Hampton in Arden Parish and have not been tested in the Adopted Local Plan. However they did form part of the Adopted Neighbourhood Plan and were considered to not require SEA assessment when that plan was made
		Given these are intended to protect environmental features it is unlikely the policy outcome would affect any SEA criteria.
	1	There are unlikely to be any significant environmental effects that have not already been considered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the adopted Solihull Local Plan

Community Services		
L1 Community Services L2 Appropriate Infrastructure	Services P20 - Provision for Open Spa	Supports proposals that ensure the retention and improvement of key local community facilities. Redevelopment will only be ocal supported if it is replaced by an equivalent or better provision in an equally suitable and accessible location or where it is evidenced that the facility is no longer viable. ace, ation This is a stronger policy position than in the Adopted Local Plan. It would need to be evidenced how this will be implemented however it is unlikely to have an effect on SEA
	P21 – Developer Contributions infrastructure Provision	and criteria. Policy identifies the need to ensure infrastructure requirements are met but does not introduce specific requirements
		There are unlikely to be any significant environmental effects that have not already been considered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the adopted Solihull Local Plan

The Hampton in Arden Neighbourhood Development Plan makes no reference to Gypsies and Travellers or Gypsy and Traveller related development. Therefore, there is considered to be no conflict between policies in the Neighbourhood Plan and the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan.

Appendix 2

Extract from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council Local Development Framework Core Strategy (now the Solihull Local Plan) Habitat Regulations Appropriate Assessment Stage 1: Further Screening report (Middlemarch Environmental Ltd – March 2012)

S ITE	FACTOR AFFECTING SITE INTEGRITY	POTENTIAL EFFECTS ARISING FROM CORE STRATEGY POLICIES	POTENTIAL EFFECTS IN COMBINATION WITH OTHER PLANS	SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS
Cannock Extension Canal SAC	Balance of Recreational Use	Potential increased use of SAC to be offset by policies enhancing recreational sites within Solihull Borough, inc. the river and canal network.	None anticipated, assuming Black Country Core Strategy policies regarding protecting and enhancement the canal network are implemented and adhered to.	NLSE
	Loss of Water Quality	No direct impacts considered likely. Information from Natural England indicates majority of pollution to canal originates from Wyrley Common and is being addressed.	None provided that the key source of pollution of the canal (Wyrley Common) is addressed.	NLSE
Cannock Chase SAC	Recreational Pressure	Some increased use of the site is perceived, but numbers of visitors from within the borough are not considered likely to be significant. 2005 Visitor Survey indicates that around 75% of visitors to the SAC come from within a radius of 12 miles. Solihull Borough is 28.3 km from the SAC boundary.	Footprint Ecology has produced a Visitor Impact Mitigation Strategy for the site which provides avoidance and mitigation measures for the four local authorities that overlap the SAC. Provided these recommendations are implemented and adhered to, no in combination effects are anticipated.	NLSE
Key: NLSE – No Likely Si	Bracken Invasion	There are no indentified pathways for Core Strategy policies to influence bracken invasion at this SAC.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Hydrological Issues	Core Strategy policies will not lead to any abstraction from the aquifer underlying the SAC. ble Significant Effect LSE – Likely	None anticipated.	NLSE

Table 11.1: Assessment of Individual and In Combination Effects of Core Strategy Policies on Natura 2000 Sites (continues)

SITE	FACTOR AFFECTING SITE INTEGRITY	POTENTIAL EFFECTS ARISING FROM CORE STRATEGY POLICIES	POTENTIAL EFFECTS IN COMBINATION WITH OTHER PLANS	SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS
Cannock Chase SAC	Air Pollution	APIS data predicts that NOx deposition will decrease to below the maximum critical load by 2020, and identifies agriculture as being the principal source of NOx. Providing Core Strategy Policies target towards sustainable transport and reductions in greenhouse emissions are implemented, no significant effects are perceived.	Provided local authorities surrounding the SAC implement suggested avoidance and mitigation measures, no in combination effects are perceived.	NLSE
	Lack of Replacement Deadwood	There are no identified pathways through which Core Strategy policies could impact upon the availability of deadwood habitat within the SAC.	None anticipated.	NLSE
Bredon Hill SAC	Air Pollution	Neither the Annex I species or its favoured habitat are particularly vulnerable to air pollution, therefore no significant effects are anticipated as a result of any Core Strategy policies.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Non-native / Invasive Species	There are no identified pathways through which Core Strategy policies could impact upon the spread of non-native/invasive species.	None anticipated.	NLSE
Peak District Dales SAC	Inappropriate Grazing Management	There are no identified pathways through which Core Strategy policies could impact upon grazing management.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Drainage	There are no identified pathways through which Core Strategy policies could impact upon drainage patterns.	None anticipated.	NLSE

Table 11.1 (cont): Assessment of Individual and In Combination Effects of Core Strategy Policies on Natura 2000 Sites (continues)

S ITE	FACTOR AFFECTING SITE INTEGRITY	POTENTIAL EFFECTS ARISING FROM CORE STRATEGY POLICIES	POTENTIAL EFFECTS IN COMBINATION WITH OTHER PLANS	SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS
Peak District Dales SAC Key: NLSE – No Likely S	Dust Arising from Nearby Quarrying	There are no identified pathways through which Core Strategy policies could impact upon quarrying in proximity to the SAC.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Impacts on Freshwater from Fishery Activities	There are no identified pathways through which Core Strategy policies could impact upon fishery management within the SAC.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Recreational Pressure	This effect is not considered to be a key vulnerability by JNCC. The majority of component SSSIs are publically accessible, however given the large distance between the site and Solihull Borough and the proportion of daily visitors likely to emanate from the borough, no significant effects are perceived.	Provided avoidance and mitigation proposals suggested for those boroughs in proximity to the SAC are implemented, no in combination effects are perceived.	NLSE
	Impacts to Woodlands	The woodlands within the SAC are vulnerable to factors including mineral extraction, neglect and invasion by invasive species. There are no identified pathways through which Core Strategy policies could impact upon any of these factors.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Dominance and Regeneration of Sycamore	There are no identified pathways through which Core Strategy policies could impact upon sycamore regeneration within the SAC. le Significant Effect LSE – Likely	None anticipated. V Significant Effect	NLSE

Table 11.1 (cont): Assessment of Individual and In Combination Effects of Core Strategy Policies on Natura 2000 Sites (continues)

SITE	FACTOR AFFECTING SITE INTEGRITY	POTENTIAL EFFECTS ARISING FROM CORE STRATEGY POLICIES	POTENTIAL EFFECTS IN COMBINATION WITH OTHER PLANS	SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS
Peak District Dales SAC Key: NLSE - No Likely S	Air Pollution	This effect is not considered to be a key vulnerability by JNCC. NOx deposition levels throughout the SAC are already significantly above maximum critical loads, however data provided by APIS indicates that agriculture is by far the largest source. The Core Strategy policies will not contribute to emissions arising from agriculture in proximity to the SAC. The key zone of influence for pollution arising from road traffic is a corridor of 200 m either side of a roadway. As such the majority of pollution arising from increased car use will be concentrated within the borough, and will be offset to some extent by policies targeted towards sustainable transport and greenhouse gas reduction. Due to the large intervening distance the Core Strategy is not likely to have a significant effect of air pollution within the SAC.	Provided that monitoring, avoidance and mitigation proposals recommended in the Derbyshire Dales and High Peak Core Strategy Appropriate Assessment are adhered to, not in combinations effects are perceived.	NLSE
Rey. NESE - NO LIKELY S	significant Effect PSE - Possii	ble Significant Effect LSE - Likely	y Significant Effect	

Table 11.1 (cont): Assessment of Individual and In Combination Effects of Core Strategy Policies on Natura 2000 Site

Appendix 3

Extract from Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council Local Development Framework Core Strategy (now the Solihull Local Plan) Habitat Regulations Appropriate Assessment Stage 1: Additional Screening to consider Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Development Plan Document (Middlemarch Environmental Ltd – February 2013)

Site	Factor Affecting Site Integrity	Potential Effects Arising From Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD Preferred Options	Potential Effects in Combination with Other Plans	Significance of Effects
Cannock Extension Canal SAC	Balance of Recreational Use	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Loss of Water Quality	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
Cannock Chase SAC	Recreational Pressure	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Bracken Invasion	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Hydrological Issues	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
Cannock Chase SAC	Air Pollution	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Lack of Replacement Deadwood	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
Bredon Hill SAC	Air Pollution	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Non-native / Invasive Species	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
Peak District Dales SAC	Inappropriate Grazing Management	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Drainage	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
Peak District Dales SAC	Dust Arising from Nearby Quarrying	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Impacts on Freshwater from Fishery Activities	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Recreational Pressure	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Impacts to Woodlands	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Dominance and Regeneration of Sycamore	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Air Pollution	None anticipated.	None anticipated. Significant Effect LS	NLSE

Significant Effect

Table 11.1: Assessment of Individual and In Combination Effects of Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD Preferred Options on Natura 2000 Sites