

Balsall Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment

&

Habitat Regulations Assessment

Screening Report

December 2018

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Introduction

1.1.1 This screening report is designed to determine whether the contents of the Balsall Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan (hereafter referred to as Balsall Parish NDP) 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 Balsall Parish Council has commenced preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan and has provided a first draft for Solihull Council's informal comments. The Parish Council has recently embarked on pre-submission consultation and publicity of the Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with Regulation 14 of Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012. This pre-submission consultation draft version of the Plan has formed the basis of this screening opinion.

1.2. The Balsall Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan

1.2.1 The Neighbourhood Plan applies to the Parish of Balsall in the Borough of Solihull. The Parish includes most of the settlement of Balsall Common, the hamlets of Fen End, Meer End, Oakley and Temple Balsall, and agricultural land and scattered farms.

1.2.2 The Parish is mostly rural and designated as Green Belt, although Balsall Common is inset, with a railway station (outside the Parish) providing services to Birmingham, Coventry and London. Temple Balsall includes the Church of St. Mary, Lady Katherine Leveson school and housing and care facility, and is protected by Conservation Area designation. Development within the Parish has mostly been focussed within or on the edge of Balsall Common.

1.2.3 The Balsall Parish NDP will set out how the people of Balsall Parish wish to see their community develop in the future. Drawing on the evidence base and community feedback, it sets out what the area is like currently using a character appraisal, and establishes a long term vision and aspirations for the area.

1.2.4 The draft plan sets out five strategic objectives and topics to deliver the Vision, which are summarised as follows:

- **Future Housing Development** – Ensuring different open market and affordable housing for all, defining existing settlements and enhancing infrastructure, ensuring brownfield and rural exception sites are in keeping with the environment, and providing guidance for infilling.
- **Built Environment** – Ensuring well designed and high quality sustainable homes, enabling the conversion of rural buildings and replacement of dwellings, encouraging renewable and low carbon energy, ensuring adequate off street parking, improving road safety, enhancing Balsall Common centre and providing for a by-pass.

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- **Economy** – Improving transport and communications infrastructure, providing for employment and improving Balsall Common centre for employees and businesses.
- **Community**– Encouraging leisure facilities, public amenities and services, and opportunities for walking and cycling, and supporting improvements to public transport.
- **Natural Environment** – Protecting the countryside, landscape features and designated green spaces, encouraging biodiversity and minimising pollution.

1.2.5 These objectives provide the basis for 33 policies in the draft Plan. A further 7 areas of community aspirations are included. No site allocations are proposed in the draft Plan.

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1.2.6 The Neighbourhood Plan proposes policies on the following topics:

Future Housing Development	Built Environment	Economy	Community	Natural Environment
Built-up Area Boundary and Infilling	Conversion of Rural Buildings and Replacement Dwellings	Superfast Broadband	Leisure Facilities	Green Infrastructure
Site Allocations	Design, Responding to Local Character and Design Review	Home Working	Formal Educational Facilities	Blue Infrastructure
Use of Brownfield and Garden Land	Heritage Assets	Encouraging Local Business and Employment	Local Services	Designated Local Green Spaces
Affordable Housing	Renewable Energy	Rural Tourism	Walking and Cycling	Biodiversity
Housing Mix	Highway Safety and Local Parking Standards		Allotments	Minimising Pollution
Specialist Accommodation	Flooding and Surface Water Drainage			
Walking and Cycling Infrastructure				

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1.2.7 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 Balsall Parish 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 Balsall Parish NDP and the need for a HRA. Section 5 provides a summary and conclusions.

2. Legislative Background

2.1. Introduction

2.1.1 A Neighbourhood Plan must meet certain basic conditions¹. This includes demonstrating that the Neighbourhood Plan does not breach, and is otherwise compatible with, EU obligations. 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).

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 commonly referred to as a "screening" assessment and determines whether a full assessment is needed.

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

2.2.6 To fulfil the legal requirement to identify if the Balsall Parish 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 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.

2.3.3 To fulfil the legal requirements to identify if likely significant effects will occur with the implementation of the Balsall Parish NDP upon Natura 2000 sites, a screening assessment has been undertaken in Section 4 of this report.

3. Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening

3.1. Criteria for Assessing the Effects of the Balsall 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 waste-management 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

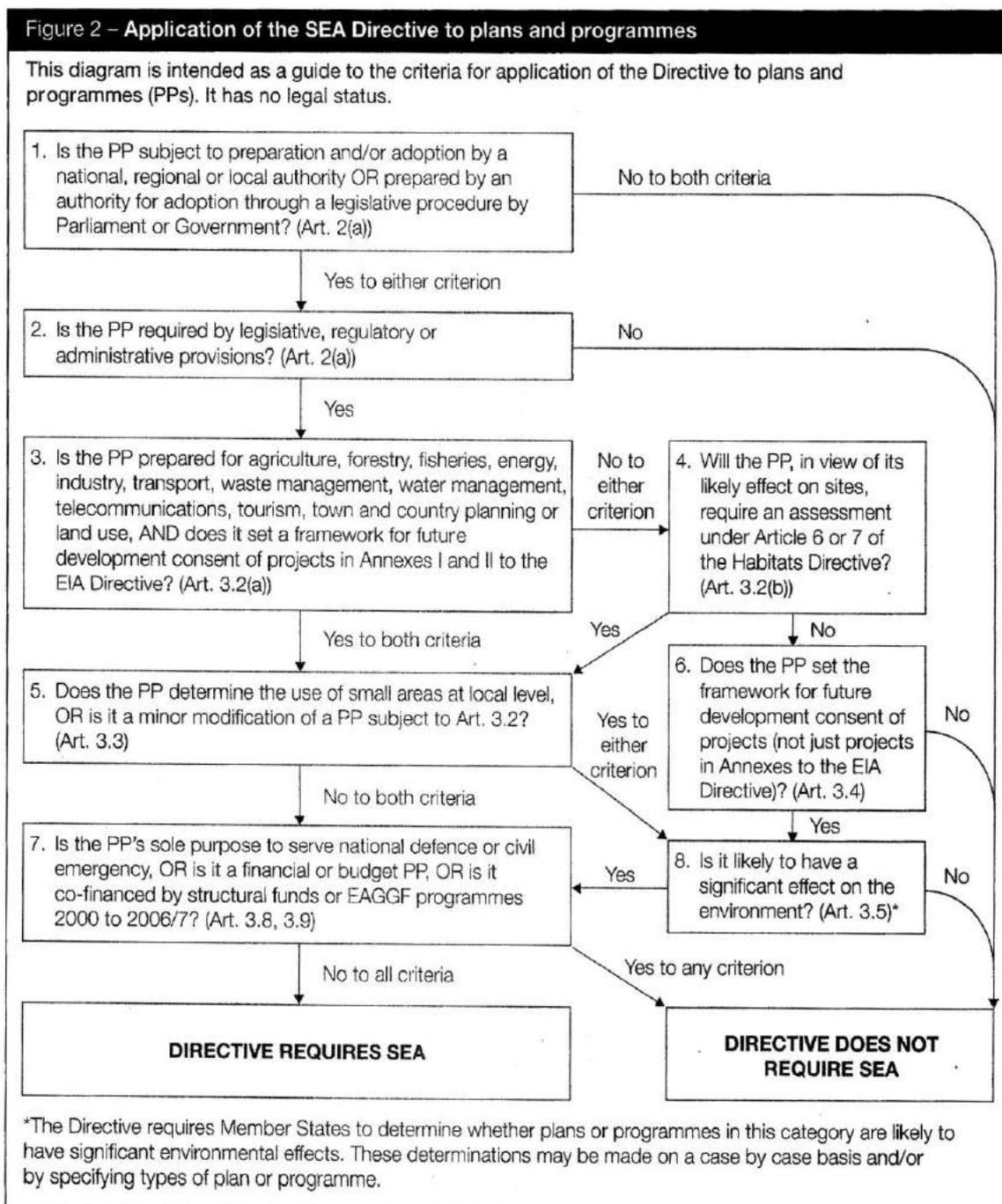
3.2.1 One of the basic conditions for Neighbourhood Plans is the requirement for them to be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority. The Solihull Local Plan was adopted in December 2013 and the Solihull Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan in December 2014, therefore the Balsall Parish NDP must be in general conformity with these documents. Both the Local Plan and Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan were subject to a full SA which included a SEA. This

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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.

3.2.2 An assessment of the proposed Balsall Parish 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 Balsall Parish NDP, and there are no significant changes introduced by the Balsall Parish NDP.

3.2.3 The diagram below illustrates the process for screening a document to ascertain whether a full SEA is required.



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3.2.4 The process above has been undertaken and the findings can be viewed in Table 1 below. This shows the assessment of whether the Balsall Parish NDP 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
1. 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 Balsall Parish 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 Balsall Parish 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 Balsall Parish 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 adopted Local Plan.
6. Does the PP set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Y	Once adopted, the Balsall Parish 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 co-financed 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	N	The Balsall Parish NDP is unlikely to

environment? (Art. 3.5)	have any significant effect on the environment.
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3.3. Screening Outcome

3.2.5 As a result of the assessment in Table 1 above, it is unlikely that there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Balsall Parish NDP that were not covered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the Solihull Local Plan and the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Document. The Balsall Parish NDP does not allocate sites for development, no sensitive natural heritage assets are affected by the proposals in the plan and as such, it is concluded that the Balsall Parish 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.

4.2. Relevant Natura 2000 Sites

4.2.1. No Natura 2000 sites fall within or adjacent to the Solihull MBC boundary. However, 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

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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

4.2.2. An initial screening exercise was 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. 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.

4.2.3. 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.

4.2.4. A further screening exercise² 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.

4.2.5. The screening matrix, which summarises the findings of the further screening exercise, is included at Appendix 2 of this report.

4.2.6. 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.

² A full copy of the report is available at [http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Portals/0/Planning/LDF/HRA -
Further Screening April 2012.pdf](http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Portals/0/Planning/LDF/HRA_-_Further_Screening_April_2012.pdf)

- 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.

4.2.7. The report was submitted to and approved by Natural England in July 2012.

4.2.8. Solihull Council also commissioned Middlemarch Environmental Ltd to undertake a screening exercise³ 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.

4.2.9. 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.

4.2.10. The report was submitted to and approved by Natural England in March 2013.

4.3. Screening Outcome

4.3.1. The sensitivities and vulnerabilities of the 12 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 Balsall Parish NDP is unlikely to significantly increase the quantum of development contained within the Solihull Local Plan or the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan and the Balsall Parish NDP should be in general conformity with the statutory Development Plan.

4.3.3. The screening assessment therefore concludes that the Balsall Parish NDP does not require a full HRA to be undertaken.

³ A full copy of the report is available at

http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Portals/0/Planning/Gypsy/DPD_024_HRA_Final_Report_Feb_2013.pdf

5. Summary and Conclusions of the Screening Assessments

5.1. Summary

- 5.1.1. Balsall Parish forms a large rural area within the Metropolitan Borough of Solihull. It is mainly designated as Green Belt, but includes most of the settlement of Balsall Common which is inset from the Green Belt. The Parish area includes the hamlet of Temple Balsall which is a Conservation Area and a number of smaller settlements and scattered farms.
- 5.1.2. The Balsall Parish NDP is unlikely to significantly increase the quantum of development proposed within the Solihull Local Plan or the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan and it is expected to be in general conformity with the statutory Development Plan. The draft policies that are proposed in the Balsall Parish NDP seek to provide a local interpretation, clarify and add detail to the strategic policies of the Local Plan. The Balsall Parish NDP does not therefore propose a significantly different policy direction to the adopted Development Plan in Solihull.

5.2. Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 5.2.1. The SEA screening assessment concluded that the policies in the Balsall Parish NDP 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 Balsall Parish NDP that were not covered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the Solihull Local Plan and the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan.
- 5.2.2. It is therefore concluded that the Balsall Parish NDP does not require a full SEA to be undertaken.

5.3. Habitat Regulations Assessment

- 5.3.1. The policies of the Solihull Local Plan and the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan have also been subject to HRA. 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.
- 5.3.2. For the reasons outlined above, it is also concluded that the Balsall Parish NDP does not require a full HRA to be undertaken.

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Appendix 1

Assessment of Balsall Parish NDP draft policies and their general conformity to the adopted Local Plan and Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan*

Policy Area: Future Housing Development		
Balsall Parish NDP Proposed Policy	Relevant Policies in adopted Solihull Local Plan (SLP)	Conformity / conflict between Balsall Parish NDP proposed policy and SLP policy and likely effects of the policy / proposal in regards to SEA criteria (paragraph 3.1.1)
<p>Policy H1: Built-up Area Boundary</p> <p>Provides for new housing development within the village boundaries of Balsall Common and Oakley, with all areas beyond the village boundaries considered as countryside, where development will be restricted to rural exceptions and other very special circumstances.</p>	<p>Policy P4 – Meeting Housing Needs</p> <p>Policy P5 – Provision of Land for Housing</p> <p>Policy P17 – Countryside and Green Belt</p>	<p>The Balsall Parish NDP conforms to the Solihull Local Plan which seeks an appropriate mix of house types to meet local needs, including affordable housing and specialist accommodation, in locations that are accessible. In accordance with the SLP, the Neighbourhood Plan emphasises that new residential development should maintain residential amenity and respect character and local distinctiveness.</p>
<p>Policy H2: Infill within the Village Boundary</p> <p>Provides for limited infilling whilst protecting character and amenity.</p>	<p>Policy P5 – Provision of Land for Housing</p> <p>Policy P14 – Amenity</p> <p>Policy P17 – Countryside and Green Belt</p>	<p>The Balsall Parish NDP encourages development within the built up areas of the Parish and provides complementary guidance on boundaries, which should take account of green belt boundaries, where relevant. It also emphasises brownfield land, in line with the NPPF, and provides complementary guidance on garden land development. It therefore conforms to the SLP in these respects.</p>
<p>Policy H3: Site Allocations</p> <p>Consideration of proposed site allocations in the Local Plan Review which will meet local housing needs, with phasing after construction of HS2.</p>	<p>Policy P4 – Meeting Housing Needs</p> <p>Policy P5 – Provision of Land for Housing</p> <p>Policy P17 – Countryside and Green Belt</p>	<p>Policies in the Balsall Parish NDP seek to provide more clarity and detail about future sites that may come forward. This is partly dependent on sites being brought forward through the</p>
<p>Policy H4: Use of Brownfield Land</p>	<p>Policy P5 – Provision of Land for Housing</p>	

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<p>Provides criteria for redevelopment of brownfield land, restricting it to the area occupied by permanent buildings and structures only.</p>	<p>Policy P17 – Countryside and Green Belt</p>	<p>current review of the Local Plan, which itself will be subject to a full SA incorporating SEA in any event.</p> <p>The Balsall Parish NDP itself does not seek to increase the quantum of development proposed in the adopted SLP and it does not identify any future site allocations.</p> <p>Therefore, as the SLP has been subject to a full SA which included SEA, it is unlikely that there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Balsall Parish NDP that were not covered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the Solihull Local Plan.</p>
<p>Policy H5: Use of Garden Land Provides criteria for development of garden land, to protect character and amenity.</p>	<p>Policy P5 – Provision of Land for Housing Policy P14 – Amenity</p>	
<p>Policy H6: Affordable Housing Supports small scale affordable housing to meet needs identified through a housing needs survey.</p>	<p>Policy P4 – Meeting Housing Needs Policy P17 – Countryside and Green Belt</p>	
<p>Policy H7: Housing Mix Provides for a variety of new housing to meet needs.</p>	<p>Policy P4 – Meeting Housing Needs Policy P5 – Provision of Land for Housing</p>	
<p>Policy H8: Specialist Accommodation and Preventing Isolation of the Elderly Provides for specialist accommodation for the elderly and infirm and seeks to reduce isolation by encouraging mixed tenures and housing types.</p>	<p>Policy P4 – Meeting Housing Needs Policy P5 – Provision of Land for Housing</p>	
<p>Policy H9: Walking and Cycling Infrastructure within Housing and Commercial Developments Provides for the needs of pedestrians and cyclists in new developments.</p>	<p>Policy P7 – Accessibility and Ease of Access Policy P8 – Managing Demand for Travel and Reducing Congestion</p>	
<p>Policy Area: Built Environment</p>		

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Balsall Parish NDP Proposed Policy	Relevant Policies in adopted Solihull Local Plan (SLP)	Conformity / conflict between Balsall Parish NDP proposed policy and SLP policy and likely effects of the policy / proposal in regards to SEA criteria (paragraph 3.1.1)
<p>Policy BE1: Conversion of Rural Buildings</p> <p>Provides criteria for consideration of proposals to convert rural buildings to alternative uses.</p>	<p>Policy P17 – Countryside and Green Belt</p>	<p>The rural area, design and landscape character policies in the Balsall Parish NDP are consistent with those in the Solihull Local Plan. However, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to go further by providing more detailed local requirements for future developments, including conversions of agricultural buildings, as well as providing for design review of significant or sensitive schemes. However, the policy covering Design Review Panels recognises that this will only happen where a panel is established.</p>
<p>Policy BE2: Replacement Dwellings</p> <p>Provides criteria for consideration of proposals for replacement dwellings.</p>	<p>Policy P17 – Countryside and Green Belt</p>	<p>The Balsall Parish NDP seeks to ensure development contributes positively to the local historic environment and heritage assets. The historic rural settlement of Temple Balsall is referred to specifically in the Local Plan policy on Conservation of Heritage Assets and Local Distinctiveness.</p>
<p>Policy BE3: Design</p> <p>Provides design criteria for consideration of new development so as to protect local character, amenity, health and community safety.</p>	<p>Policy P14 – Amenity Policy P15 Securing Design Quality Policy P18 – Health and Well Being</p>	<p>The policies in the Neighbourhood Plan covering renewable energy, highway safety and flood risk conform to the Solihull Local Plan. The SLP recognises the importance of walking, cycling and public transport and the Balsall Parish NDP supports the provision of this infrastructure. This policy is in conformity with the Local Plan and is likely to result in environmental benefits.</p>
<p>Policy BE4: Responding to Local Character</p> <p>Provides criteria for consideration of new development so as to protect local character, heritage assets, landscape, biodiversity, important views, tranquillity and to minimise flood risk.</p>	<p>Policy P10 – Natural Environment Policy P11 – Water Management Policy P14 – Amenity Policy P16 – Conservation of Heritage Assets and Local Distinctiveness</p>	<p>The Council considers that setting out the number of parking spaces relative to the number of bedrooms would be at odds with development plan policy to use an evidenced based, site</p>
<p>Policy BE5: Design Review Panels</p> <p>Provides for design review of significant or sensitive proposals where a panel is established.</p>	<p>Policy P15 Securing Design Quality</p>	<p>The Council considers that setting out the number of parking spaces relative to the number of bedrooms would be at odds with development plan policy to use an evidenced based, site</p>

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Policy BE6: Heritage Assets Provides criteria for consideration of proposals that affect Heritage Assets.	Policy P16 – Conservation of Heritage Assets and Local Distinctiveness	specific approach. Notwithstanding this, 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.
Policy BE7: Renewable Energy Supports proposals relating to the production of renewable and low carbon energy.	Policy P9 – Climate Change	
Policy BE8: Highway Safety Provides criteria to ensure safety of road users, particularly pedestrians and cyclists.	Policy P7 – Accessibility and Ease of Access Policy P8 – Managing Demand for Travel and Reducing Congestion	
Policy BE9: Local Parking Standards Sets a standard for off-road parking for all new development.	Policy P8 – Managing Demand for Travel and Reducing Congestion	
Policy BE10: Flooding and Surface Water Drainage Provides for development that is resilient and does not increase flood risk, with requirement for flood risk assessments where necessary, and for high levels of water efficiency.	Policy P11 – Water Management	
Policy Area: Economy		
Balsall Parish NDP Proposed Policy	Relevant Policies in adopted Solihull Local Plan (SLP)	Conformity / conflict between Balsall Parish NDP proposed policy and SLP policy and likely effects of the policy / proposal in regards to SEA criteria (paragraph 3.1.1)
Policy ECON1: Superfast Broadband Provides for the necessary	Policy P3 Provision of Land for General Business and Premises	

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infrastructure to allow future connectivity to high speed broadband.	Policy P14 – Amenity Policy P21 – Developer Contributions and Infrastructure Provision	<p>The policies in the Balsall Parish NDP relating to broadband and home working conform to the SLP. Similarly, encouraging business and employment is consistent with the approach in the Local Plan.</p> <p>The SLP recognises that proposals for leisure and tourism in the rural area will need to be consistent with national and local green belt policy. The policy in the Balsall Parish NDP may benefit from cross-referencing to green belt policies as well as the criteria included.</p> <p>Notwithstanding this, the Economy policies in the Balsall Parish NDP are unlikely to have any adverse significant effect on the environment such that SEA is required.</p>
Policy ECON2: Home Working Encourages provision of facilities to support home working.	Policy P3 Provision of Land for General Business and Premises	
Policy ECON3: Encouraging Local Business and Employment Supports the provision of new business and office space, providing developments do not conflict with other policies.	Policy P3 Provision of Land for General Business and Premises	
Policy ECON4: Rural Tourism Provides criteria for the provision of new and improved leisure and tourism facilities.	Policy P17 – Countryside and Green Belt	
Policy Area: Community		
Balsall Parish NDP Proposed Policy	Relevant Policies in adopted Solihull Local Plan (SLP)	Conformity / conflict between Balsall Parish NDP proposed policy and SLP policy and likely effects of the policy / proposal in regards to SEA criteria (paragraph 3.1.1)
Policy COM1: Leisure Facilities Seeks to protect and enhance existing facilities and encourages new facilities to meet requirements.	Policy P20 – Provision for Open Space, Children’s Play, Sport, Recreation and Leisure	<p>The Balsall Parish NDP supports the provision of leisure and community facilities and provides for opportunities for walking and cycling. This is consistent with the Solihull Local Plan which provides for the necessary infrastructure to support new development, including recreation, leisure and community facilities. The SLP also seeks to encourage more sustainable forms of</p>
Policy COM2: Formal Educational Facilities Seeks to ensure provision of	Policy P5 – Provision of Land for Housing Policy P21 – Developer Contributions and	

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educational capacity for new development and provides criteria for new facilities.	Infrastructure Provision	travel, such as walking and cycling. Given this general conformity, there are unlikely to be any significant environmental effects that have not already been considered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the Solihull Local Plan.
Policy COM3: Local Services Seeks to retain existing community facilities and supports their enhancement and improvement.	Policy P5 – Provision of Land for Housing Policy P19 – Range and Quality of Local Services Policy P21 – Developer Contributions and Infrastructure Provision	
Policy COM4: Walking and Cycling Seeks to protect and enhance public rights of way and requires new development to prioritise walking and cycling opportunities.	Policy P7 – Accessibility and Ease of Access Policy P8 – Managing Demand for Travel and Reducing Congestion	
Policy COM5: Allotments Seeks to protect existing allotments and provides criteria for the creation of new allotments.	Policy P20 – Provision for Open Space, Children's Play, Sport, Recreation and Leisure	
Policy Area: Natural Environment		
Balsall Parish NDP Proposed Policy	Relevant Policies in adopted Solihull Local Plan (SLP)	Conformity / conflict between Balsall Parish NDP proposed policy and SLP policy and likely effects of the policy / proposal in regards to SEA criteria (paragraph 3.1.1)
Policy NE1: Green Infrastructure Seeks to protect woodland, trees and hedgerows and provides a standard for new tree planting as part of new development.	Policy P10 – Natural Environment Policy P14 – Amenity	The natural environment policies in the Balsall Parish NDP are consistent with those in the Solihull Local Plan. The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to go further than the SLP by identifying locally important green spaces that should be protected.
Policy NE2: Blue Infrastructure	Policy P11 – Water Management	

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Seeks to safeguard existing rivers, streams, brooks and ponds.		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.
Policy NE3: Designated Local Green Spaces Designates locally important and valued green spaces in order to ensure their protection.	Policy P20 – Provision for Open Space, Children’s Play, Sport, Recreation and Leisure	
Policy NE4: Biodiversity Seeks to protect and enhance the natural environment by minimising impacts of new development on biodiversity.	Policy P10 – Natural Environment	
Policy NE5: Minimising Pollution Seeks to ensure that new development minimises its impact on air, noise or water pollution.	Policy P11 – Water Management Policy P14 – Amenity	

*The Balsall Parish 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.

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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)

SITE	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
	Bracken Invasion	There are no identified 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.	None anticipated.	NLSE
Key: NLSE – No Likely Significant Effect PSE – Possible Significant Effect LSE – Likely Significant Effect				

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

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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
Bredon Hill SAC	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
	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
Key: NLSE – No Likely Significant Effect PSE – Possible Significant Effect LSE – Likely Significant Effect				

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

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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	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.	None anticipated.	NLSE
Key: NLSE – No Likely Significant Effect PSE – Possible Significant Effect LSE – Likely Significant Effect				

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

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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	Air Pollution	<p>This effect is not considered to be a key vulnerability by JNCC.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Due to the large intervening distance the Core Strategy is not likely to have a significant effect of air pollution within the SAC.</p>	<p>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.</p>	NLSE
<p>Key: NLSE – No Likely Significant Effect PSE – Possible Significant Effect LSE – Likely Significant Effect</p>				

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

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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
Bredon Hill SAC	Lack of Replacement Deadwood	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	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.	NLSE
Key: NLSE – No Likely Significant Effect PSE – Possible Significant Effect LSE – Likely 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