

# **Meriden Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan**

Strategic Environmental Assessment

&

Habitat Regulations Assessment

Screening Report

November 2019

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## **1. INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1. Introduction**

1.1.1 This screening report is designed to determine whether the contents of the Meriden Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan (hereafter referred to as Meriden 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 Meriden 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 Meriden Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan**

1.2.1 The Neighbourhood Plan applies to the Parish of Meriden in the Borough of Solihull. The Parish includes the village of Meriden and the areas of Millison's Wood, Eaves Green, Church Lane and Harvest Hill. The parish is broadly bounded by the A45 by-pass to the north, by a tributary of the river Blythe to the east, by another tributary of the Blythe to the south and the A452 by-pass to the west.

1.2.2 The area surrounding the village of Meriden is predominantly Green Belt. It is a mix of agricultural land and woodland (parts of the former Forest of Arden) with some large sand and gravel extraction quarries to the west. There are two conservation areas: Meriden Green Conservation Area (including the village green at the centre of the village of Meriden) and Meriden Hill Conservation Area with its cluster of listed buildings including the church of St Lawrence.

1.2.3 The Meriden Parish NDP will set out how the people of Meriden 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 six strategic objectives and topics to deliver the Vision, which are summarised as follows:

- **Housing** – To promote new high-quality homes in appropriate sustainable locations that meet the needs of the village and borough without compromising the distinctive and attractive setting of the village or the natural environment
- **Natural Environment** - To safeguard the natural environment and enhance biodiversity through sensitive development which protects and enriches the landscape

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- **Built Environment** – To promote high quality sustainable design whilst ensuring the historic environment is preserved and enhanced
- **Local Community** - To ensure that valued community facilities, local shops and services are maintained and where possible enhanced in order to promote sustainable living
- **Local Economy** – To contribute to building a strong, sustainable, responsive and competitive economy by ensuring that sufficient land of the appropriate type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements, including the provision of infrastructure
- **Traffic, Transport and Road Safety** - To seek on-going improvements to traffic management, transport and parking

1.2.5 These objectives provide the basis for 26 policies in the draft Meriden Parish NDP with an additional 4 'Projects' set out within the Traffic, Transport and Road Safety chapter. 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:

<b>Housing</b>	<b>Natural Environment</b>	<b>Built Environment</b>	<b>Local Community</b>	<b>Local Economy</b>	<b>Traffic, Transport and Road Safety</b>
Housing Growth	Valued Landscapes	Responding to Local Character	Designated Community Assets	Protecting and Enhancing Existing Employment Sites	Managing the Impact of Traffic
Local Needs Housing	Biodiversity	Use of Brownfield Land	Protecting and Enhancing Health Opportunities	Protecting and Enhancing the Village Centre	
Housing Design	Green Infrastructure	Designated Heritage Assets	Protecting and Enhancing Education and Library facilities	Promoting High Speed Broadband and Mobile Telecommunications	
	Woodland and Meadow Policy	Promoting Walking and Cycling	Designated Local Green Space	Agricultural Land and Farm Diversification	
	Flooding and Drainage	Advertisements	Allotments	Homeworking and Live-Work Units	
	Renewable and Low Carbon Energy			Leisure and Tourism	

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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 Meriden 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 Meriden 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 conditions<sup>1</sup>. 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.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 Meriden 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 Meriden 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 Meriden 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**

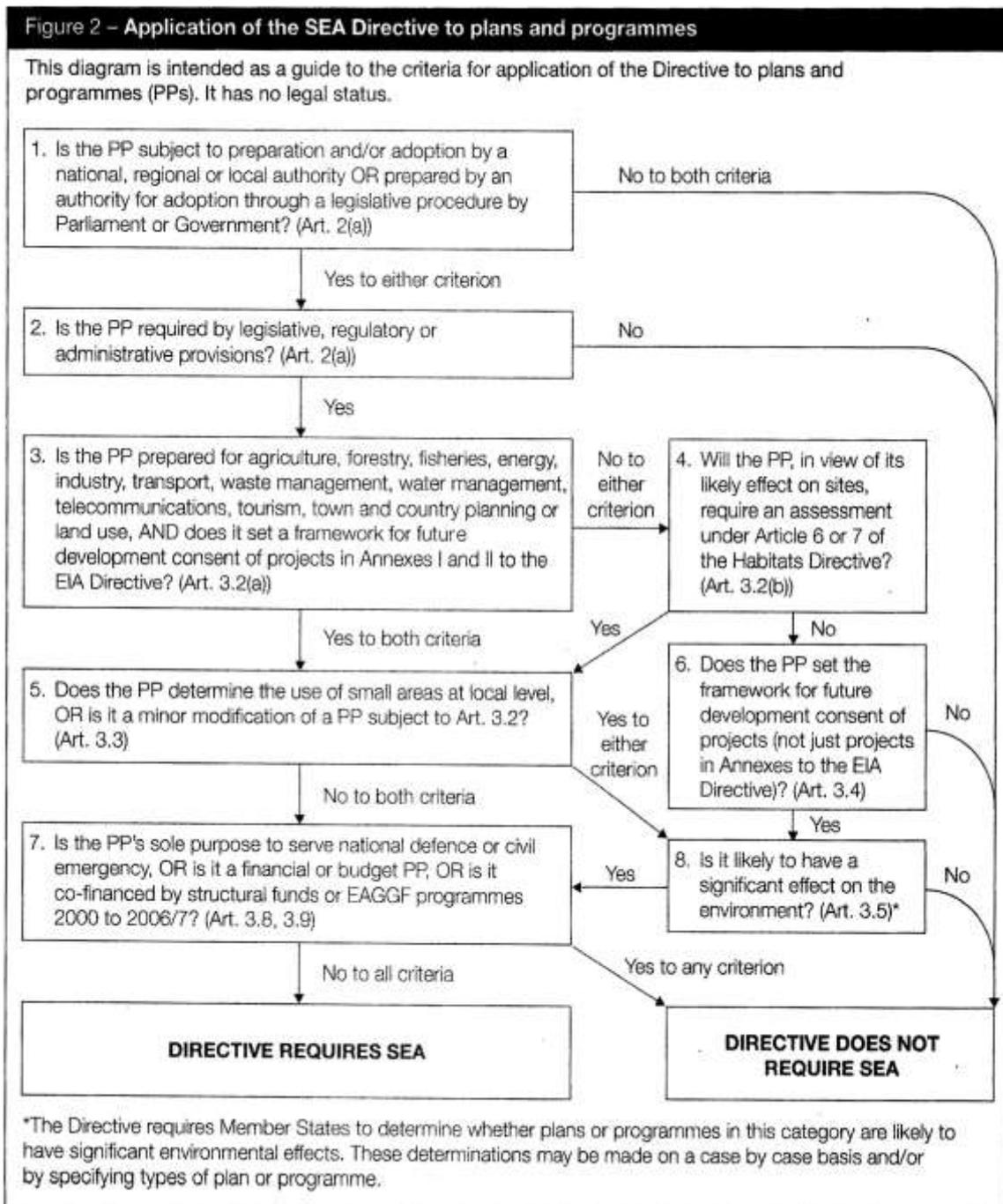
3.2.1 One of the basic conditions for Neighbourhood Plans is the requirement for them to be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority. The Solihull Local Plan was adopted in December 2013 and the Solihull Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan in December 2014, therefore the Meriden 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 Meriden 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 Meriden Parish NDP, and there are no significant changes introduced by the Meriden 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 Meriden 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.

<b>Table 1: Establishing the Need for SEA</b>		
<b>Stage</b>	<b>Y/N</b>	<b>Reason</b>
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 Meriden 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 Meriden 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 Meriden 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 Meriden 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 Meriden Parish NDP is unlikely

environment? (Art. 3.5)		to 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 Meriden 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 Meriden 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 Meriden 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.

<b>Natural 2000 site</b>	<b>Distance from Solihull MBC boundary</b>
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

4.2.2. 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 exercise<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> 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 exercise<sup>3</sup> 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 Meriden 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 Meriden Parish NDP should be in general conformity with the statutory Development Plan.

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

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<sup>3</sup> 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](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. Meriden Parish is a largely rural area within the Metropolitan Borough of Solihull. It is mainly designated as Green Belt, but includes the settlement of Meriden which is inset from the Green Belt. The Parish area also includes the smaller settlements of Millison's Wood and Eaves Green. The area surrounding the village of Meriden is a mix of agricultural land and woodland with some large sand and gravel extraction quarries to the west.
- 5.1.2. The Meriden 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 Meriden Parish NDP seek to provide a local interpretation, clarify and add detail to the strategic policies of the Local Plan. The Meriden 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 Meriden 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 Meriden 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 Meriden 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 Meriden Parish NDP does not require a full HRA to be undertaken.

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**Appendix 1**

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

Policy Area: Housing		
Meriden Parish NDP Proposed Policy	Relevant Policies in adopted Solihull Local Plan (SLP)	Conformity / conflict between Meriden Parish NDP proposed policy and SLP policy and likely effects of the policy / proposal in regards to SEA criteria (paragraph 3.1.1)
<p><b>Policy H1: Housing Growth</b></p> <p>Provides for new housing development within the Meriden Village Boundary, with all areas beyond the village boundary 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 Meriden 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><b>Policy H2: Local Needs Housing</b></p> <p>Affordable housing that meets local needs will be supported on small sites beyond but reasonably adjacent to the Meriden village boundary if no suitable sites within the village boundary. An element of market housing may be included within a rural exception scheme to ensure viability.</p>	<p>Policy P4 – Meeting Housing Needs</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 Meriden Parish NDP encourages development within the built up areas of the Parish taking account of green belt boundaries, where relevant. It also emphasises the re-use of brownfield land, in line with the NPPF, It therefore conforms to the SLP in these respects.</p> <p>There is reference at Policy H3 and throughout the Neighbourhood Plan to the Meriden Parish Design Statement. It should be noted that this predates the adopted Local Plan 2013 and the NPPF.</p>
<p><b>Policy H3: Housing Design</b></p> <p>All new housing developments should have regard to Meriden’s Parish Design Statement.</p>	<p>Policy P4 – Meeting Housing Needs</p> <p>Policy P5 – Provision of Land for Housing</p> <p>P15 – Securing Design Quality</p> <p>P16 – Conservation of Heritage Assets and</p>	<p>Consequently, guidance and policy within the NPPF and Solihull Local Plan will have precedence.</p> <p>The Council considers that setting out the number</p>

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	Local Distinctiveness	<p>of parking spaces relative to the number of bedrooms would be at odds with development plan policy to use an evidenced based, site specific approach. Also guidance in the NDP restricting building heights and preventing future back land development may prevent future positive development contrary to the SLP.</p> <p>Notwithstanding the above, 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.</p> <p>The Meriden 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 policies relating to Housing the Meriden Parish NDP that were not covered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the Solihull Local Plan.</p>
Policy Area: Natural Environment		
Meriden Parish NDP Proposed Policy	Relevant Policies in adopted Solihull Local Plan (SLP)	Conformity / conflict between Meriden 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 NE1: Valued Landscapes</p> <p>All new development must have regard to the valued landscapes, skylines and views shown in the Meriden parish NDP.</p>	<p>Policy 15 – Securing Design Quality</p> <p>Policy 16 – Conservation of Heritage Assets &amp; Local Distinctiveness</p> <p>Policy P17 – Countryside and Green Belt</p>	<p>The natural environment policies in the Meriden Parish NDP are consistent with those in the Solihull Local Plan.</p> <p>There are unlikely to be any significant environmental effects that have not already been considered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of</p>

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<p>Policy NE2: Biodiversity</p> <p>Development should protect and enhance the natural environment by minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity.</p>	<p>Policy P10 – Natural Environment</p>	<p>the adopted Solihull Local Plan.</p>
<p>Policy NE3: Green Infrastructure</p> <p>Development will be expected to contribute to the provision and/or improvement of Green Infrastructure. Developments will need to demonstrate they have been landscaped.</p>	<p>Policy P10 – Natural Environment Policy P14 – Amenity Policy P18 – Health and Well Being Policy P16 – Conservation of Heritage Assets and Local Distinctiveness</p>	
<p>Policy NE4: Woodlands and Meadows</p> <p>New developments should conserve and enhance the natural environment and countryside within the Neighbourhood Area. Proposals which result in the loss of or adversely affect meadows, veteran trees, woodland or coppices will not usually be supported.</p>	<p>Policy P10 – Natural Environment Policy P11 – Water Management Policy P14 – Amenity Policy P16 – Conservation of Heritage Assets and Local Distinctiveness</p>	
<p>Policy NE5: Flooding and Drainage</p> <p>Development should not increase flood risk. Planning applications should be accompanied by flood risk assessments and should demonstrate high levels of water efficiency. SUDs will be encouraged and any proposals to improve the existing drainage network in the village.</p>	<p>Policy P11 – Water Management Policy P12 – Resource management</p>	
<p>Policy NE6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy</p> <p>Development proposals relating to the production of renewable and low carbon</p>	<p>Policy P9 – Climate Change</p>	

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<p>energy will be supported in principle. Development should demonstrate how energy efficiency measures have been maximised.</p>		
<p><b>Policy Area: Built Environment</b></p>		
<p>Meriden Parish NDP Proposed Policy</p>	<p>Relevant Policies in adopted Solihull Local Plan (SLP)</p>	<p>Conformity / conflict between Meriden Parish NDP proposed policy and SLP policy and likely effects of the policy / proposal in regards to SEA criteria (paragraph 3.1.1)</p>
<p>Policy BE1: 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 minimise flood risk.</p>	<p>Policy P10 - Natural Environment Policy P14 – Amenity Policy P15 – Securing Design Quality</p>	<p>The Meriden Parish NDP seeks to ensure development protects and, where possible, enhances local character and designated heritage assets and also supports the re-use of brownfield land. These policies are consistent with those in the SLP.</p> <p>The SLP recognises the importance of walking, cycling and public transport and the Meriden Parish NDP supports the provision of this infrastructure.</p>
<p>Policy BE2: Use of Brownfield Land</p> <p>Supports redevelopment of brownfield land subject to certain criteria.</p>	<p>Policy P3 Provision of Land for General Business and Premises Policy P5 – Provision of land for Housing</p>	
<p>Policy BE3: Designated Heritage Assets</p> <p>Seeks to protect and enhance designated heritage assets, listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments and the Meriden Conservation Areas</p>	<p>Policy P16 – Conservation of Heritage Assets &amp; Local Distinctiveness</p>	
<p>Policy BE4: Promoting Walking and Cycling</p> <p>Seeks to protect and enhance public rights of way and requires new</p>	<p>Policy P7 – Accessibility and ease of Access Policy P8 – Managing Demand for Travel</p>	

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development to prioritise walking and cycling opportunities	and Reducing Congestion Policy P18 – Health and Well Being	
Policy BE5: Advertisements Seeks to improve existing and future advertisements, signage and their overall design	Policy P15 – Securing Design Quality	
<b>Policy Area: Local Community</b>		
Meriden Parish NDP Proposed Policy	Relevant Policies in adopted Solihull Local Plan (SLP)	Conformity / conflict between Meriden Parish NDP proposed policy and SLP policy and likely effects of the policy / proposal in regards to SEA criteria (paragraph 3.1.1)
Policy LC1: Designated Community Assets Policy lists 19 designated community assets of which the loss would be resisted and any improvements via CIL would be encouraged. Sets out criteria for new community assets	Policy P19 – Range and Quality of Local Services Policy P20 – Provision for Open Space, Children’s Play, Sport, Recreation and Leisure	The Meriden Parish NDP seeks to protect and enhance health opportunities, education and library facilities and allotments. This is consistent with the SLP.  The Neighbourhood Plan seeks to go further than the SLP and identifies designated community assets and designates locally important green spaces that should be protected. However, 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 LC2: Protecting and Enhancing Health Opportunities Encourages the enhancement and expansion of existing health care facilities at Meriden Surgery	Policy P18 – Health and Well Being	
Policy LC3: Protecting and Enhancing Education and Library Facilities Seeks to sustain and increase access to education through expansion of existing primary school and Meriden Library but	Policy P19 – Range and Quality of Local Services Policy P20 – Provision for Open Space, Children’s Play, Sport, Recreation and	

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not to detriment of any play/sports areas.	Leisure	
<p>Policy LC4: Designated Local Green Space</p> <p>The Plan designates 17 areas as Local Green Space to ensure their openness and special character is preserved and enhanced.</p>	<p>Policy P7 – Accessibility and Ease of Access</p> <p>Policy P16 – Conservation of Heritage Assets &amp; Local Distinctiveness</p>	
<p>Policy LC5: Allotments</p> <p>Seeks to protect existing allotments and provides criteria for creation of new allotments</p>	<p>Policy P18 – Health and Well Being</p> <p>Policy P20 – Provision for Open Space, Children’s Play, Sport, Recreation and Leisure</p>	
<b>Policy Area: Local Economy</b>		
<b>Meriden Parish NDP Proposed Policy</b>	<b>Relevant Policies in adopted Solihull Local Plan (SLP)</b>	<b>Conformity / conflict between Meriden Parish NDP proposed policy and SLP policy and likely effects of the policy / proposal in regards to SEA criteria (paragraph 3.1.1)</b>
<p>LE1 – Protecting and Enhancing Existing Employment Sites</p> <p>Seeks to protect land or premises identified for or currently in employment use</p>	<p>Policy P3 – Provision of Land for General Business &amp; Premises</p> <p>Policy P19 – Range and Quality of Local Services</p>	<p>The SLP seeks to protect existing employment sites and encourage the retention of and creation of small and medium sized enterprises provided that it is compatible with other Local Plan policies such as Green Belt Policy. It also states that development is expected to preserve or enhance heritage assets and conserve local character. The Meriden NDP is in conformity with the SLP.</p>
<p>LE2 – Protecting and Enhancing the Village Green</p> <p>Encourages new or enhanced retail, commercial and community uses within the Village Centre and resists any loss. Supports residential uses above shops</p>	<p>Policy P16 – Conservation of Heritage Assets and Local Distinctiveness</p> <p>Policy P19 – Range and Quality of Local Services</p>	<p>The policies in the Meriden Parish NDP relating to broadband, home working and encouraging new leisure and tourism based activities is consistent with the approach in the Local Plan.</p> <p>Policies regarding Farm Diversification in the NDP</p>

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but not conversion of whole unit to residential use.		is in conformity with the SLP. However, it does not make specific reference to Green Belt. However other policies within the NDP and other planning guidance should ensure protection of the Green Belt in such instances.
LE3 – Promoting High Speed Broadband and Mobile Telecommunications  Provides for the necessary infrastructure to allow future connectivity to high speed broadband	Policy P14 - Amenity	
LE4- Agricultural Land and Farm Diversification  Seeks to protect and encourage the use of the best and most versatile agricultural land. Encourages Farm Diversification with conditions for proposals.	Policy P3 – Provision of Land for General Business & Premises  Policy P10 – Natural Environment  Policy P12 – Resource management  Policy P14 - Amenity	The policies regarding the Local Economy in the Meriden Parish NDP are unlikely to have any adverse significant effect on the environment such that SEA is required.
LE5: Homeworking and Live-Work Units  Encourages home-working space in new residential developments and small scale live-work units (subject to certain criteria)	Policy P4 – Meeting Housing Needs  Policy P8 – Managing Demand for Travel and Reducing Congestion  Policy P14 – Amenity	
LE6: Leisure and Tourism  Encourages new and improved leisure and tourism based services within the Neighbourhood Area and the protection of existing uses	Policy P20 – Provision of Open Space, Children’s Play, Sport, Recreation and Leisure	
<b>Traffic, Transport and Road Safety</b>		
Meriden Parish NDP Proposed Policy	Relevant Policies in adopted Solihull Local Plan (SLP)	Conformity / conflict between Meriden Parish NDP proposed policy and SLP policy and likely effects of the policy / proposal in regards to SEA criteria

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		(paragraph 3.1.1)
T1: Managing the Impact of Traffic Seeks to mitigate and improve measures to manage the traffic associated with new development and improve safety for all road users and pedestrians	Policy P7 – Accessibility and Ease of Access  Policy P8 – Managing Demand for Travel and Reducing Congestion	The Meriden Parish NDP policy regarding transport and road safety is in conformity and helps reinforce the policies within the SLP.

\*The Meriden 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.	<b>NLSE</b>
	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.	<b>NLSE</b>
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.	<b>NLSE</b>
	Bracken Invasion	There are no identified pathways for Core Strategy policies to influence bracken invasion at this SAC.	None anticipated.	<b>NLSE</b>
	Hydrological Issues	Core Strategy policies will not lead to any abstraction from the aquifer underlying the SAC.	None anticipated.	<b>NLSE</b>
Key: <b>NLSE – No Likely Significant Effect</b> <b>PSE – Possible Significant Effect</b> <b>LSE – Likely Significant Effect</b>				

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.	<b>NLSE</b>
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.	<b>NLSE</b>
	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.	<b>NLSE</b>
	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.	<b>NLSE</b>
Peak District Dales SAC	Inappropriate Grazing Management	There are no identified pathways through which Core Strategy policies could impact upon grazing management.	None anticipated.	<b>NLSE</b>
	Drainage	There are no identified pathways through which Core Strategy policies could impact upon drainage patterns.	None anticipated.	<b>NLSE</b>
<b>Key: NLSE – No Likely Significant Effect    PSE – Possible Significant Effect    LSE – Likely Significant Effect</b>				

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.	<b>NLSE</b>
	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.	<b>NLSE</b>
	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.	<b>NLSE</b>
	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.	<b>NLSE</b>
	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.	<b>NLSE</b>
<b>Key: NLSE – No Likely Significant Effect    PSE – Possible Significant Effect    LSE – Likely Significant Effect</b>				

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>	<b>NLSE</b>
<p>Key: <b>NLSE – No Likely Significant Effect</b>    <b>PSE – Possible Significant Effect</b>    <b>LSE – Likely Significant Effect</b></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.	<b>NLSE</b>
	Loss of Water Quality	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	<b>NLSE</b>
Cannock Chase SAC	Recreational Pressure	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	<b>NLSE</b>
	Bracken Invasion	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	<b>NLSE</b>
	Hydrological Issues	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	<b>NLSE</b>
Cannock Chase SAC	Air Pollution	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	<b>NLSE</b>
Bredon Hill SAC	Lack of Replacement Deadwood	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	<b>NLSE</b>
	Air Pollution	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	<b>NLSE</b>
	Non-native / Invasive Species	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	<b>NLSE</b>
Peak District Dales SAC	Inappropriate Grazing Management	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	<b>NLSE</b>
	Drainage	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	<b>NLSE</b>
Peak District Dales SAC	Dust Arising from Nearby Quarrying	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	<b>NLSE</b>
	Impacts on Freshwater from Fishery Activities	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	<b>NLSE</b>
	Recreational Pressure	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	<b>NLSE</b>
	Impacts to Woodlands	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	<b>NLSE</b>
	Dominance and Regeneration of Sycamore	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	<b>NLSE</b>
	Air Pollution	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	<b>NLSE</b>
<b>Key: NLSE – No Likely Significant Effect PSE – Possible Significant Effect LSE – Likely Significant Effect</b>				

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