

Berkswell Neighbourhood Development Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment

&

Habitat Regulations Assessment

Screening Report

May 2018

Contents

	Page
1. Introduction	1
Introduction	1
The Berkswell Neighbourhood Development Plan	1
2. Legislative Background	5
Introduction	5
The Requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment	5
The Requirement for Habitat Regulations Assessment	6
3. Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening	7
Criteria for Assessing the Effects of the Berkswell Neighbourhood Development Plan	7
Assessment	7
Screening Outcome	10
4. Habitat Regulations Assessment	11
Introduction	11
Relevant Natura 2000 Sites	11
Screening Outcome	13
5. Summary and Conclusions of the Screening Assessments	14
Summary	14
Strategic Environmental Assessment	14
Habitat Regulations Assessment	14

Appendices

1	Assessment of the Berkswell Neighbourhood Development Plan draft policies and general conformity to the adopted Solihull Local Plan and Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan
2	Extract from Solihull MBC Local Development Framework Core Strategy (now the Solihull Local Plan) Habitat Regulations Appropriate Assessment Stage 1: Further Screening Report
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

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Introduction

1.1.1 This screening report is designed to determine whether the contents of the Berkswell Neighbourhood Development Plan (hereafter referred to as Berkswell 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 Berkswell Parish Council has commenced preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan and has provided a number of policy iterations for Solihull Council's informal comments. The Parish Council has recently undertaken a non-statutory consultation, and having made changes to the Neighbourhood Plan, is about to embark 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 Berkswell Neighbourhood Development Plan

1.2.1 The Neighbourhood Plan applies to the Parish of Berkswell in the Borough of Solihull. The Parish includes part of the settlement of Balsall Common, the village of Berkswell, and a number of smaller settlements 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 providing services to Birmingham, Coventry and London. Berkswell village dates from Saxon times and includes the Church of St. John the Baptist. The village is protected by Conservation Area designation. Development within the Parish has mostly been focussed on the edge of Balsall Common.

1.2.3 The Berkswell NDP will set out how the people of Berkswell 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, identifies opportunities and key issues for the future, and establishes a long term Vision for the area.

1.2.4 The draft plan sets out twelve objectives under four main topics to deliver the Vision, which are summarised as follows:

- **Housing** – Providing for the needs of young people and older residents wishing to downsize, and promoting high quality design.
- **Landscape Character and Rural Area** – Ensuring high quality landscaping to integrate new development with existing, retaining wildlife habitats and rural areas, and conserving Berkswell village and other heritage assets.
- **Accessibility and Infrastructure** – Promoting improved and safe accessibility to public transport and for walking, cycling and horse riding, improving vehicular flows, providing adequate off-road parking, supporting improved community facilities, and

Berkswell Neighbourhood Development Plan
Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report

encouraging provision of infrastructure for health, wellbeing, leisure and community for all.

- **Business** – Supporting investment to meet the needs of local businesses including farming whilst avoiding adverse impact on rural roads, and working with Balsall Parish Council to improve Balsall Common shopping area.

1.2.5 These objectives provide the basis for ten policy areas in the draft Plan. No site allocations are proposed in the draft Plan.

**Berkswell Neighbourhood Development Plan
Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report**

1.2.6 The Neighbourhood Plan proposes policies on the following topics:

Housing in Balsall Common	Housing in the Rural Area	Rural Area and Landscape Character	Berkswell Conservation Area	Agricultural Buildings	Accessibility and Infrastructure	Business
General Principles	Affordable Housing in Berkswell	Landscape Character	Design	Reuse or Conversion	Extension of Rail Station Facilities	Development Guidelines
Layouts and Accessibility	Meeting Local Needs	Built Character	New Buildings	Materials	Standards for New Housing	Working from Home
Landscaping and Drainage	Impact on Character	Heritage Assets	Extensions	Extensions and New Buildings	Cycle Parking and Storage	Extensions to Residential properties
Building Design		Local Green Spaces	Conversions	Access and Landscaping	Links to Footpaths and Cycle Routes	
Housing Mix			Views and Open Spaces		Landscaping	
Natural Environment					Design and Lighting	

Berkswell Neighbourhood Development Plan
Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report

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 Berkswell 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 Berkswell 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 Berkswell 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 Berkswell 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 Berkswell 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

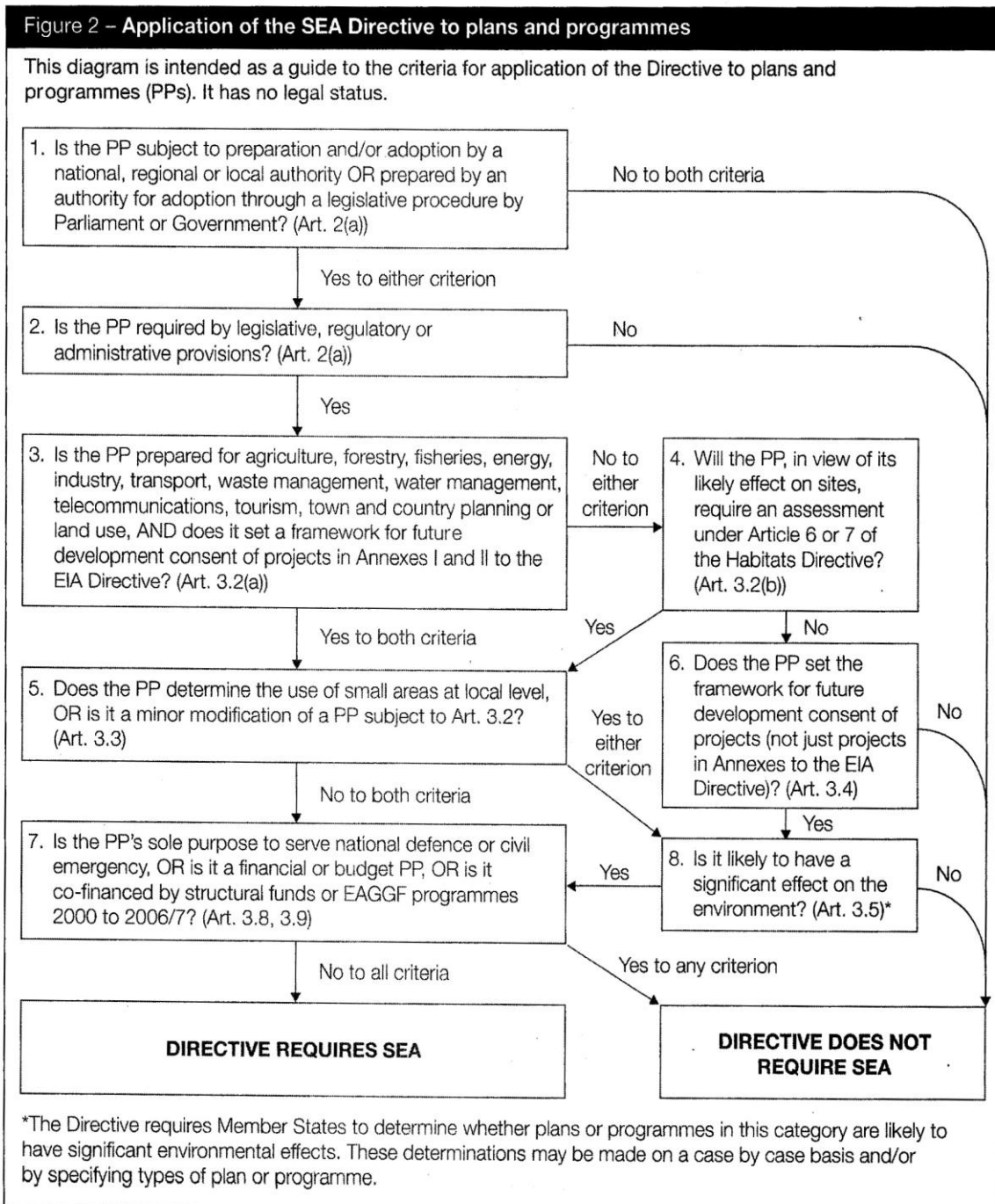
3.2.1 One of the basic conditions for Neighbourhood Plans is the requirement for them to be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area of the authority. The Solihull Local Plan was adopted in December 2013 and the Solihull Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan was adopted in December 2014, therefore the Berkswell 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

**Berkswell Neighbourhood Development Plan
Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report**

SEA. This ensured that there were no likely significant effects which would be produced from the implementation of the either Plan, and if so, ensured mitigation measures were in place.

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

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



Berkswell Neighbourhood Development Plan
Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report

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 Berkswell 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 Berkswell 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 Berkswell 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 Berkswell 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 Berkswell 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 Berkswell NDP is unlikely to

environment? (Art. 3.5)	have any significant effect on the environment.
-------------------------	---

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 Berkswell NDP that were not covered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the Solihull Local Plan and the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Document. The Berkswell 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 Berkswell 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

Berkswell Neighbourhood Development Plan
Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report

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 Berkswell 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 Berkswell NDP should be in general conformity with the statutory Development Plan.

4.3.3. The screening assessment therefore concludes that the Berkswell 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. Berkswell Parish forms a large rural area within the Metropolitan Borough of Solihull. It is mainly designated as Green Belt, but includes part of the settlement of Balsall Common which is inset from the Green Belt. The Parish area includes Berkswell village which is a Conservation Area and a number of smaller settlements and scattered farms.
- 5.1.2. The Berkswell 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 Berkswell NDP seek to provide a local interpretation, clarify and add detail to the strategic policies of the Local Plan. The Berkswell 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 Berkswell 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 Berkswell 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 Berkswell 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 Berkswell NDP does not require a full HRA to be undertaken.

Berkswell Neighbourhood Development Plan
Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report

Appendix 1

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

Policy Area: Housing		
Berkswell NDP Proposed Policy	Relevant Policies in adopted Solihull Local Plan (SLP)	Conformity / conflict between Berkswell NDP proposed policy and SLP policy and likely effects of the policy / proposal in regards to SEA criteria (paragraph 3.1.1)
<p>Policy B1: New Housing – General Principles</p> <p>Provides criteria for consideration of new housing development including sites identified in the Solihull Draft Local Plan, covering brownfield first, layout and accessibility, landscaping and drainage, building design principles, housing mix and the natural environment.</p>	<p>Policy P5 – Provision of Land for Housing</p> <p>Policy P7 – Accessibility and Ease of Access</p> <p>Policy P11 – Water Management</p> <p>Policy P10 – Natural Environment</p> <p>Policy P14 – Amenity</p> <p>Policy P15 – Securing Design Quality</p>	<p>The Berkswell NDP conforms to the SLP which seeks an appropriate mix of house types to meet local needs, including affordable housing, 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>The adopted SLP includes a site allocation in the Berkswell Parish area that has not been commenced, and depending on timing, the Neighbourhood Plan may be able to influence the development. Policies in the Berkswell 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 current review of the Local Plan, which itself will be subject to a full SA incorporating SEA in any event.</p>
<p>Policy B2: Rural Exception Local Needs Housing in Berkswell Village</p> <p>Provides for small scale affordable housing meeting a proven local need whilst protecting character and amenity.</p>	<p>Policy P4 – Meeting Housing Needs</p> <p>Policy P5 – Provision of Land for Housing</p> <p>Policy P14 – Amenity</p>	<p>The Berkswell 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>

Berkswell Neighbourhood Development Plan
Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report

		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 Berkswell NDP that were not covered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the Solihull Local Plan.
Policy Area: Landscape Character and Rural Area		
Berkswell NDP Proposed Policy	Relevant Policies in adopted Solihull Local Plan (SLP)	Conformity / conflict between Berkswell NDP proposed policy and SLP policy and likely effects of the policy / proposal in regards to SEA criteria (paragraph 3.1.1)
Policy B3: Protecting Local Landscape and Built Character Seeks to protect landscape and built character, and heritage assets from the impacts of new development.	Policy P10 – Natural Environment Policy P14 – Amenity Policy P16 – Conservation of Heritage and Local Distinctiveness	Assets The landscape character and rural area policies in the Berkswell 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 identifying local green spaces that should be protected. The Berkswell NDP seeks to ensure development contributes positively to the local historic environment and heritage assets. The historic rural settlement of Berkswell is referred to specifically in the Local Plan policy on Conservation of Heritage Assets and Local Distinctiveness. 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 B4: Local Green Spaces Allocation and protection of Local Green Space.	Policy P18 – Health and Well Being Policy P20 – Provision for Open Space, Children’s Play, Sport and Recreation.	
Policy B5: Berkswell Conservation Area Provides criteria for consideration of new development within or adjacent to the Conservation Area or affecting Listed Buildings, so as to protect these heritage assets.	Policy P16 – Conservation of Heritage and Local Distinctiveness	Assets
Policy B6: Conversions of Former Agricultural Buildings Supports the reuse or conversion of	Policy P17 – Countryside and Green Belt	

Berkswell Neighbourhood Development Plan
Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report

former farm buildings for business or residential use, subject to criteria relating to character, design, scale, access and traffic.		
Policy Area: Accessibility and Infrastructure		
Berkswell NDP Proposed Policy	Relevant Policies in adopted Solihull Local Plan (SLP)	Conformity / conflict between Berkswell NDP proposed policy and SLP policy and likely effects of the policy / proposal in regards to SEA criteria (paragraph 3.1.1)
<p>Policy B7: Improving Car Parking Facilities at Berkswell Station</p> <p>Encourages the provision of additional car and cycle parking, subject to appropriate landscaping and screening.</p>	<p>Policy P8 – Managing Demand for Travel and Reducing Congestion</p> <p>Policy P10 – Natural Environment</p> <p>Policy P14 – Amenity</p>	<p>The SLP recognises the importance of accessibility on a range of issues including the environment, health, the local economy and social inequality. As the Local Plan does not provide any specific detail for improvements in Berkswell Parish area, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to identify the local issues to be addressed. Moreover, support for local park and ride facilities is identified in both the SLP and the Neighbourhood Plan.</p>
<p>Policy B8: Car Parking and Cycle Storage</p> <p>Seeks provision for adequate off-street parking and high quality cycle parking and storage at new housing schemes.</p>	<p>Policy P8 – Managing Demand for Travel and Reducing Congestion</p>	<p>The Local Plan also recognises the importance of walking, cycling and public transport and the Berkswell 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 B9: Improving Accessibility for All.</p> <p>Seeks provision on new development sites for links to existing footpaths and cycle routes to improve connectivity.</p>	<p>Policy P7 – Accessibility and Ease of Access</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 specific approach. Notwithstanding this, overall, the accessibility and infrastructure policies in the Berkswell NDP are unlikely to have any adverse significant effect on the environment such that</p>

Berkswell Neighbourhood Development Plan
Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report

		SEA is required.
Policy Area: Business		
Berkswell NDP Proposed Policy	Relevant Policies in adopted Solihull Local Plan (SLP)	Conformity / conflict between Berkswell NDP proposed policy and SLP policy and likely effects of the policy / proposal in regards to SEA criteria (paragraph 3.1.1)
<p>Policy B10: Supporting Local Businesses</p> <p>Provides criteria for consideration of small scale business facilities, including homeworking, and diversification of the rural economy.</p>	<p>Policy P3 – Provision of Land for General Business and Premises</p> <p>Policy P17 – Countryside and Green Belt</p>	<p>The Berkswell NDP supports the provision of facilities for small scale business and proposals linked to diversification of the rural economy. It also supports home working. This is consistent with the Solihull Local Plan which seeks to encourage the creation of new enterprises to support employment locally, including home working, and farm based diversification.</p> <p>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.</p>

*The Berkswell 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.

Berkswell Neighbourhood Development Plan
Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report

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)

Berkswell Neighbourhood Development Plan
Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report

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)

Berkswell Neighbourhood Development Plan
Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report

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)

Berkswell Neighbourhood Development Plan
Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report

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

Berkswell Neighbourhood Development Plan
Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report

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