

# HABITAT REGULATION ASSESSMENT SCREENING STATEMENT FOR THE NEWPORT NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN (NNDP)

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

## 1.0 Neighbourhood Planning

1.1 Neighbourhood planning is a community right introduced under the Localism Act 2011 and guidance on its implementation is provided in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

1.2 Neighbourhood Plans form part of the local Development Plan and as such are subject to HRA under the **Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) [the Habitats Regulations]**.

## 2.0 Newport Neighbourhood Development Plan

2.1 The Newport Neighbourhood Area was designated by Telford & Wrekin Council in May 2013. The Town Council have subsequently prepared a Neighbourhood Development Plan and are proposing to hold **Regulation 14 Consultation** on the Plan during 2017 with the aim of Making the Neighbourhood Plan later in the year.

2.2 The Newport Neighbourhood Development Plan is based on a number of important local issues and includes 10 Policy Areas.

## 3.0 Habitat Regulation Assessment

3.1 The **Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended)** set out the process by which Habitat Regulation Assessments of plans and projects must be undertaken. Government and Natural England have provided further guidance on the process.

3.2 Telford & Wrekin Council has undertaken several stages of HRA during the preparation of the Telford & Wrekin Local Plan and has most recently carried out a Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Report (Submission Version).<sup>1</sup>

3.3 This HRA Screening Statement that seeks to assess whether any policy in the NNDP would result in a Likely Significant Effect on a European Site. The Assessment follows the process used in the latest Telford & Wrekin HRA Report

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

and relies on evidence gathered during that process. **Natural England** will be given an opportunity to comment on this HRA Screening Statement and Telford & Wrekin Council will have regard to the representations of Natural England prior to Making the Neighbourhood Plan as required under **Regulation 16(3)**.

3.4 The HRA process assesses the potential effects arising from a plan against the conservation objectives of any site designated for its nature conservation importance. The European Sites situated in close proximity to the Borough of Telford & Wrekin are set out in the HRA Screening Report (Submission Version),<sup>2</sup> along with their conservation objectives and an assessment of potential effect pathways.

3.5 There are no European Sites within the Neighbourhood Area or within Telford & Wrekin. Aqualate Mere, part of the **Midland Meres & Mosses Ramsar Phase 2 site**, is close to the Telford & Wrekin boundary but is located in Staffordshire. Aqualate Mere lies outside the Newport Neighbourhood Area and there are no proposals in the NNDP that would result in a Likely Significant Effect on the Mere.

#### **4.0 Habitat Regulation Screening**

4.1 Each policy within the Neighbourhood Development Plan has been Screened to determine whether it has potential to cause a Likely Significant Effect on any European Site.

4.2 Any policy with no Likely Significant Effect will be Screened-out of the HRA process. Any policy where potential for a Likely Significant Effect is identified will be subject to further, more detailed, assessment (called an Appropriate Assessment) as required by the **Habitat Regulations** and relevant guidance documents.

4.3 The Table below considers the potential impacts arising from each of the policies within the Newport Neighbourhood Development Plan.

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Assessment of potential impacts</b>	<b>Potential for Likely Significant Effect</b>
<b>Housing Policy H1, H2, H3</b>	These policies support housing within Newport to meet local need and where it meets National Planning Policy and Telford & Wrekin Local Plan Policy. The Housing Policies in the NNDP conform to Telford & Wrekin Local Plan Policy SP2, SP4, HO1, HO7, BE5, BE6, C3, C4, C5, NE1, and NE2.  The Local Plan HRA Screening Report	No

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

	(Submission Version) assesses the potential impact of development in and around Newport on Aqualate Mere in detail and concludes that there is no Likely Significant Effect either alone or in-combination from any of the policies in the Local Plan on a European Designated Site. The evidence from that HRA Screening Report can be carried forward to NNDP Policies that are in conformity with the Telford & Wrekin Local Plan.	
<b>Economy and Jobs</b>  <b>Policy E1 and E2</b>	<p>These Policies seek to retain existing employment sites and premises to protect them from changes to alternative uses in order to protect local jobs and businesses and to support new local job opportunities. These policies may result in new buildings or extensions for employment or business uses within Newport. These policies will help to deliver the Neighbourhood objectives and conform to Telford &amp; Wrekin Local Plan Policy SP2, C3 and C4.</p> <p>The Telford &amp; Wrekin Local Plan HRA Screening Report (Submission Version) assesses the potential impact of development in and around Newport on Aqualate Mere in detail and concludes that there is no Likely Significant Effect either alone or in-combination from any of the policies in the Local Plan on a European Designated Site. The evidence from the Telford &amp; Wrekin Local plan HRA Screening Report can be carried forward to the NNDP Policies that are in conformity with the Telford &amp; Wrekin Local Plan.</p>	No
<b>Green and Open Spaces</b>  <b>Policy GS1, GS2 and GS3</b>	<p>These policies do not result in development and are intended to protect, preserve and enhance the green and open spaces in Newport. These policies contribute to achieving sustainable development and conform to Telford &amp; Wrekin Local plan policies SP4, NE3, NE4 and NE6.</p> <p>There is no likely significant effect.</p>	No
<b>Water Lane</b>  <b>Policy WL 1</b>	This policy supports the redevelopment of previously used land at Water lane Newport. It is intended to promote development that will reflect the townscape character of the Newport Conservation Area. The policy includes qualitative criteria for the design of development. The development that could take	No

	<p>place as a result of this policy would be contained within the existing built up area of Newport. This policy helps to achieve Neighbourhood objectives and conforms to Telford &amp; Wrekin Local Plan Policy SP2, BE1, BE4, BE5, and BE6.</p> <p>No potential effect pathway has been identified by which such development could result in a Likely Significant effect on a European Site.</p>	
<p><b>Tourism and Leisure</b></p> <p><b>Policy TL1</b></p>	<p>This policy may result in improvements to visitor infrastructure and accommodation where this meets the requirements of the relevant Telford &amp; Wrekin Local Plan policies. This policy also includes the protection of the Shrewsbury and Newport canal, which contains a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). The policy is clear that any work undertaken in relation to the canal will be required to comply with the legal protection afforded by the SSSI designation. This policy conforms to Telford &amp; Wrekin Local Plan Policy SP2, EC4 and EC12.</p> <p>The Telford &amp; Wrekin Local Plan HRA Screening Report (Submission Version) assesses the potential impact of development in and around Newport on Aqualate Mere in detail and concludes that there is no Likely Significant Effect either alone or in combination from any of the policies in the Local plan on a European Designated Site. The evidence from that HRA Screening Report can be carried forward to the NNDP that is in conformity with the Telford &amp; Wrekin Local Plan policies.</p>	No
<p><b>Transport and Accessibility</b></p> <p><b>Policy TA 1</b></p>	<p>This policy may result in works to Public Rights of Way with possible improvements to existing routes and the creation of new footpaths, cycleways and wildlife corridors and planting being created. This policy conforms to Telford &amp; Wrekin Local Plan policy SP2, C1, C3, C3, C4 and B1. This policy will help to achieve Neighbourhood objectives as expressed through consultation. These measures are likely to be positive for the natural environment.</p> <p>No potential effect pathway has been identified by which such development could result in a Likely Significant Effect on a European Site.</p>	No

<p><b>Newport as a Retail and Service Centre</b></p> <p><b>Policy RS1</b></p>	<p>This policy may result in the conversion of existing buildings or the development of new buildings or extensions for retail or business uses within Newport. This policy conforms to Telford &amp; Wrekin Local Plan Policy SP2, BE1, BE5, EC4, and EC6.</p> <p>The Telford &amp; Wrekin Local Plan HRA Screening Report (Submission Version) assesses the potential impact of development in or around Newport on Aqualate Mere in detail and concludes that there is no Likely Significant Effect either alone or in combination from any of the policies in the Local plan on a European Designated Site. The evidence from that HRA Screening Report can be carried forward to the NNDP that is in conformity with the Telford &amp; Wrekin Local Plan policies.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Local Landscape and Wildlife</b></p> <p><b>Policy LW1</b></p>	<p>This policy does not result in development and is intended protect, preserve and enhance the natural environment. This policy conforms to Telford &amp; Wrekin Local Plan Policy NE1 and NE2. The policy will help to achieve Neighbourhood objectives as expressed through consultation.</p> <p>There is no Likely Significant Effect on a European Site.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p><b>Community Wellbeing</b></p> <p><b>Policy CW1 and CW</b></p>	<p>This policy may result in conversion of existing buildings or new buildings and extensions for community uses. Any development is likely to be small-scale and would be contained within the existing built up area of Newport. These policies conform to Telford &amp; Wrekin Local Plan Policy SP2 and COM1. These policies help to achieve Neighbourhood objectives as expressed through consultation.</p> <p>No potential effect pathway has been identified by which such small-scale development could result in a Likely Significant Effect on a European Site.</p>	<p>No</p>

<p><b>Sustainability and Climate Change</b></p>	<p>This Policy area is intended to protect the natural environment. Sustainable development is a principle that runs throughout the NNDP. The policies contained in the Plan will help to achieve a Neighbourhood objective as expressed through consultation. The NNDP policies for housing, economy and jobs, green and open spaces, Water Lane, tourism and leisure, transport and accessibility, Newport as a retail and service centre, landscape and wildlife and community wellbeing will promote sustainable development and help to reduce the impact of climate change locally. This conforms to Telford &amp; Wrekin Local Plan Policy SP2, ER1, ER2, ER10 and ER11.</p> <p>The Telford &amp; Wrekin Local Plan HRA Screening Report (Submission Version) assesses the potential impact of development in and around Newport on Aqualate Mere in detail and concludes that there is no Likely Significant Effect either alone or in-combination from any of the policies in the Local Plan on a European Designated Site. The evidence from that HRA Screening Report can be carried forward to the NNDP that is in conformity with the Telford &amp; Wrekin Local Plan Policies.</p>	<p>No</p>
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## 5.0 Conclusion

5.1 The policies within the Newport Neighbourhood Development Plan have been screened under the Habitat Regulation Assessment process. The conclusion of the HRA Screening Process is that none of the policies proposed within the Newport Neighbourhood Development Plan have the potential to lead to a Likely Significant Effect on a European Site. The Newport Neighbourhood Development Plan can therefore be screened-out of the Habitat Regulation Assessment process and an Appropriate Assessment is not required.

5.2 The statutory consultee **Natural England** will be given an opportunity to comment on this Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Statement and Telford & Wrekin Council will have regard to their comments prior to the Making of the Newport Neighbourhood Development Plan. Following Regulation 14 consultation on the Newport Neighbourhood Development Plan, if significant changes are proposed to the policies contained within the Plan then an update to this HRA Screening Statement will be produced reflecting the changes made and further consultation with **Natural England** will be undertaken.