

KNOWLE, DORRIDGE AND BENTLEY HEATH

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

2018 – 2033

BASIC CONDITIONS STATEMENT

BACKGROUND

Where a qualifying body (in this case the Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Forum) submits a proposal for a neighbourhood development plan to the local planning authority, it must include a number of documents. One of these is "a statement explaining how the proposed development plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B to the 1990 Act".¹ This is known as a "Basic Conditions Statement". The information provided in the following statement sets out how the requirements are met.

The Forum's Basic Conditions Statement is accompanied by a "Consultation Statement" which, amongst other things, comments on representation concerning the basic conditions as made at the initial formal consultation stage.

The legislation means that, to meet the Basic Conditions, a Neighbourhood Plan must:

- have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State;
- contribute to the achievement of sustainable development;
- be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan for the area;
- be compatible with and not breach European Union (EU) obligations; and
- meet prescribed conditions and comply with prescribed matters.

Each of these requirements is considered in turn. The statement accompanies submission of the Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Plan 2018 – 2033 (the Neighbourhood Plan) to Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council.

REGARD TO NATIONAL POLICIES AND ADVICE

The first requirement is that the Neighbourhood Plan must have regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State. In this respect, the main source of national policy is the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG). The main source of additional advice is Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) also published by MHCLG.

Regard to national policies is examined in Appendix 1 where the Neighbourhood Plan is assessed in the context of the overarching core land-use planning principles (NPPF, Para 17). In terms of PPG, the most relevant guidance is the section on Neighbourhood Planning. The Neighbourhood Plan had been prepared in accordance with this guidance. There are no conflicts. It is concluded that

¹ The requirement is imposed under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (the 2012 Regulations). The "1990 Act" is the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

the Neighbourhood Plan has regard to national policies and advice contained in guidance issued by the Secretary of State.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The second requirement is that the Neighbourhood Plan must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. In this regard, the NPPF identifies three dimensions to sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. The contribution of the Neighbourhood Plan to the achievement of sustainable development in each of these areas is examined in Appendix 2.

The NPPF also contains a presumption in favour of sustainable development (Para 14). This involves positively seeking opportunities to meet the development needs of the area; also, for the most part, meeting objectively assessed needs with sufficient flexibility to adapt to rapid change. Needs within the neighbourhood area have been identified through public participation,² surveys³ and studies.⁴ They have been objectively assessed and, where justified, addressed in the provisions of the Neighbourhood Plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan aims to meet the key identified needs through positively expressed policies, policies that would provide an appropriate context for decision making even in changed circumstance. Taking all the foregoing matters into consideration, it is concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan would contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.

GENERAL CONFORMITY WITH STRATEGIC POLICIES

The next requirement is that the Neighbourhood Plan must be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan for the area. In this regard, the relevant development plan is the Solihull Local Plan as adopted by the Council on 3 December 2013. The Council regards all policies in the Local Plan as being strategic policies.

General conformity with the strategic policies contained in the adopted Solihull Local Plan is examined in Appendix 3. It is concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan policies are in general conformity with the strategic policies of the development plan for the area.

It should also be noted that the Council is in the process of preparing a replacement Local Plan. Planning Policy Guidance makes clear that whilst a draft Neighbourhood Plan is not tested against the policies in an emerging Local Plan, the reasoning and evidence informing the Local Plan process is likely to be relevant to the consideration of the Basic Conditions against which a Neighbourhood Plan is tested. As such, the emerging policies are also

² See the formal Consultation Statement

³ Such as the Residents' Survey and the Business Survey

⁴ Such as the Local Housing Needs Assessment

examined in Appendix 3. It is concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan policies are in general conformity with the draft strategic policies of the emerging development plan for the area.

The submission Neighbourhood Plan, accompanying this Basic Conditions statement, has been amended so as to address conformity matters raised by Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, at the Regulation 14 consultation stage.

COMPATIBILITY WITH EUROPEAN UNION OBLIGATIONS

The main European Union obligations of relevance stem from the Strategic Environment Assessment Directive and the European Convention on Human Rights. Of additional relevance is the Habitats Directive but this is discussed below under the heading of meeting prescribed conditions.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Screening Report has been prepared by Solihull Council (Appendix 4). Responses from statutory consultees are included in Appendix 5. The report confirms that the plan proposal is unlikely to have significant environmental effects and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment. In this regard, the draft Neighbourhood Plan would be compatible with and not breach European Union obligations.

In respect of human rights, the draft Neighbourhood Plan has regard to the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights. It also complies with the Human Rights Act 1998.

The Neighbourhood Plan raises no issues with regard to EU directives such as the Wild Birds Directive, the Waste Framework Directive, the Air Quality Directive or the Water Framework Directive.

PRESCRIBED CONDITIONS AND MATTERS

Prescribed Conditions

A relevant prescribed condition is identified through Regulation 32 of the 2012 Regulations. The regulation and related schedule (Schedule 2) make provisions in relation to the Habitats Directive.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Regulations Screening Report has been prepared by Solihull Council (Appendix 4). Responses from statutory consultees are included in Appendix 5. The report confirms that the making of the Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have a significant effect on a European Site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012) or a European Offshore Marine Site (as defined in the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 2007) either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. The prescribed condition is met.

Prescribed Matters

Matters concerning the content of Neighbourhood Plans are not specifically prescribed in the regulations. However, relevant requirements are identified in Sections 38A and 38B of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. These are that the Neighbourhood Plan:

- has been prepared and submitted for examination by a qualifying body, for an area that has been properly designated by the Local Planning Authority;
- sets out policies in relation to the development and use of land;
- specifies the period for which it is to have effect;
- does not include provision about development that is “excluded development”; and
- it does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area.

In respect of the above, the plan had been prepared and submitted by a qualifying body, the Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Forum. It relates to an area designated as a neighbourhood area by Solihull Council on 1 October 2015. The plan sets out policies in relation to the development and use of land. It specifies the period for which it has effect (2018-2033) and does not include provision about development that is excluded development. Finally, it does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area.

APPENDIX 1

REGARD TO NATIONAL POLICIES AND ADVICE

CORE PLANNING PRINCIPLES	SUMMARY OF REGARD
<p>Be genuinely plan-led, empowering local people to shape their surroundings, with succinct local and Neighbourhood Plans setting out a positive vision for the future of the area. Plans should be kept up-to-date, and be based on joint working and co-operation to address larger than local issues. They should provide a practical framework within which decisions on planning applications can be made with a high degree of predictability and efficiency.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan will form part of the plan-led development planning system. Its provisions have been driven by local people and their desire to develop a shared vision for the area. It is succinctly written and has a positive vision covering the next fifteen years. It will be up-dated as necessary. The Neighbourhood Forum has cooperated with Solihull Council in its formulation. The policies are clear and unambiguous such that they can be applied with confidence.</p>
<p>Not simply be about scrutiny, but instead be a creative exercise in finding ways to enhance and improve the places in which people live their lives.</p>	<p>As a result of a transparent preparation process and compliance with all statutory provisions, the plan has been subject to careful scrutiny. Various creative measures have been employed in gaining the views of residents and testing draft proposals such that the Plan incorporates ways of enhancing and improving their environment.</p>
<p>Proactively drive and support sustainable economic development to deliver the homes, business and industrial units, infrastructure and thriving local places that the country needs. Every effort should be made objectively to identify and then meet the housing, business and other development needs of an area, and respond positively to wider opportunities for growth. Plans should take account of market signals, such as land prices and housing affordability, and set out a clear strategy for allocating sufficient land which is suitable for development in their area, taking account of the needs of the residential and business communities.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan makes a proportionate and positive response to the Borough's economic needs through policies to support the sort of housing, employment, shopping and infrastructure that will be central to the continuation of the villages' vitality. Local needs have been identified in surveys of residents and businesses; also, in specialist studies. A local Housing Needs Assessment, used to help inform the provisions in the Neighbourhood Plan, takes account of market signals, housing demand and tenure considerations. Further provisions reflect the views of residents and the business community. The Plan quantifies the number of houses to be provided. However, as surrounding land is in the Green Belt, no allocations are made.</p>
<p>Always seek to secure high quality design and a good standard of amenity for all existing and future occupants of land and buildings.</p>	<p>Improving the standard of design of new developments is a high priority of the Neighbourhood Plan. Policies are directed at achieving high standards of design in development reflective of the character and appearance of the area. The quality of existing property would be safeguarded as would residents' living conditions.</p>
<p>Take account of the different roles and character of different areas, promoting the vitality of our main urban areas, protecting</p>	<p>The desire to preserve and enhance local distinctiveness and safeguard the vitality and feel of the villages is at the heart of</p>

the Green Belts around them, recognising the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and supporting thriving rural communities within it.	the Neighbourhood Plan. Specific policies are designed to protect important aspect of the remaining Green Belt, landscape and surrounding countryside.
Support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change, and encourage the reuse of existing resources, including conversion of existing buildings, and encourage the use of renewable resources (for example, by the development of renewable energy).	In the main, policies recognising climate change and supporting a low carbon future are to be found in the Local Plan and emerging Local Plan. However, the Neighbourhood Plan has “future proofing” as one of its drivers. This is reflected, for example, in the local requirement for charging points in future car parking areas.
Contribute to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and reducing pollution. Allocations of land for development should prefer land of lesser environmental value, where consistent with other policies in this Framework [the National Planning Policy Framework].	Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any land for future development, it contains policies directed at minimising pollution; protecting trees, hedgerows and woodland; and promoting the preservation and restoration of key local habitats and biodiversity.
Encourage the effective use of land by reusing land that has been previously developed (brownfield land), provided that it is not of high environmental value.	Use of previously development land has been a consideration in plan formulation. For example, the contribution of windfall sites, including brownfield land, is recognised and supported in principle.
Promote mixed use developments, and encourage multiple benefits from the use of land in urban and rural areas, recognising that some open land can perform many functions (such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, carbon storage, or food production).	Although the Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate land for development, its provisions would not preclude or inhibit implementation of the matters identified in this core planning principle.
Conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations.	The plan recognises that heritage assets are to be protected in a manner appropriate to their significance and that pursuing sustainable development involves seeking positive improvements in the quality of the historic environment. Specific policies address conservation areas, heritage assets and related design matters.
Actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest possible use of public transport, walking and cycling, and focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable.	All these matters are addressed in the Neighbourhood Plan. There are policies that encourage provision for public transport, walking and cycling. In addition, the plan seeks sustainable locations for new development.
Take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs.	A complete section of the Neighbourhood Plan is devoted to the healthcare, leisure, sport and leisure needs of existing and future residents addressing also delivery and future management issues.

APPENDIX 2

CONTRIBUTING TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

DIMENSIONS AND ROLES	CONTRIBUTION FROM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN
<p>Economic role Contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right 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.</p>	<p>Whilst allocations of land for economic purposes are dealt with in the Local Plan, the Neighbourhood Plan contains policies supportive of working from home, the retention of shops and services, the establishment of a business centre and proposals for new shops, services and business uses. These policies are directed at securing plenty of local employment opportunities. Supporting the digital economy through appropriate infrastructure provision is also a policy consideration.</p>
<p>Social role Supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being.</p>	<p>Housing allocations will be made by Solihull Council through the emerging Local Plan Review. However, the Neighbourhood Plan policy on housing allocations supports high quality housing on such sites as may be allocated. High quality design elsewhere is also promoted together with support for windfall and specialist housing. Other policies, including those on education and community facilities, will ensure that existing and future residents live in strong, vibrant and healthy communities.</p>
<p>Environmental role Contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan contains policies directed at minimising pollution; protecting trees, hedgerows and woodland; and promoting the preservation and restoration of key local habitats and biodiversity. The Plan also recognises that heritage assets are to be protected and that pursuing sustainable development involves seeking positive improvements in the quality of the historic environment. Specific policies address conservation areas, heritage assets and related design matters.</p>

APPENDIX 3

GENERAL CONFORMITY WITH STRATEGIC POLICIES

1. ADOPTED SOLIHULL LOCAL PLAN DECEMBER 2013

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RELEVANT PROVISIONS	CONFORMITY MATTERS
<p>P1 - Support Economic Success Identification of key economic assets. Improved access to employment</p>	<p>None of the key economic assets (to which improved access to employment also refers) are located within the Neighbourhood Area.</p>
<p>P2 - Maintain Strong, Competitive Town Centres Maintaining strong and competitive town centres</p>	<p>None of the town centres the subject of the policy and located with the Neighbourhood Area.</p>
<p>P3 - Provision of Land for General Business & Premises Allocation of general business sites</p>	<p>None of the allocated general business sites are located with the Neighbourhood Plan Area.</p>
<p>P4 - Meeting Housing Needs Meeting housing need through affordable housing, rural exception sites and market housing. Likely profile of household types. Considerations in assessing housing mix. Density of new housing</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan draws on its own up-to-date local housing needs assessment. This has helped informed provisions with regard to the type of affordable housing required and the size and mix of market housing appropriate to Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath. No housing on rural exceptions sites is envisaged under the Neighbourhood Plan. On density, the emphasis is on respecting the existing character and appearance of the area but with a recognition that higher density housing (including smaller dwellings and dementia homes) has its place.</p>
<p>P5 - Provision of Land for Housing Ensuring sufficient housing supply through allocating land for housing. Support for housing on unidentified sites</p>	<p>The three sites (321 houses) within the Neighbourhood Area, allocated under Policy P5, have already been developed for housing purposes. Regarding unallocated sites, the Neighbourhood Plan has a policy supportive of windfall housing Policy H7).</p>
<p>P6 - Provision of Sites for Gypsies and Travellers Meeting the identified need</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not deal with gypsy and traveller issues.</p>
<p>P7 - Accessibility and Ease of Access Focussing development in the most accessible locations. Enhancing accessibility. Promoting ease of access</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not include any land use allocations. The majority of locational issues are determined under the Local Plan. However, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to influence location and access where relevant, for example in the location of new schools (Policy ECF2).</p>
<p>P8 - Managing Demand for Travel and Reducing Congestion Having regard to transport efficiency and highway safety</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan has a section (Section 9) devoted to traffic and transport matters which includes regard to transport efficiency and highway safety.</p>
<p>P9 - Climate Change</p>	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan does not directly</p>

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Increasing the generation of energy from renewable and low carbon sources	address climate change. However, “future proofing” is one of the drivers. This is reflected, for example, in the local requirement for charging points in future car parking areas (Policy T3) and in Policy U1.
P10 - Natural Environment Promoting a healthy natural environment in its own right and for the economic and social benefits that it brings	The Neighbourhood Plan contains policies directed at protecting trees, hedgerows and woodland as well as promoting the preservation and restoration of key local habitats and biodiversity (for example, Policies NE1 and NE2).
P11 - Water Management Seeking appropriate sewerage infrastructure, water efficiency and sustainable drainage systems. Minimising flood risk	Water management issues are covered effectively in the Local Plan and are not repeated in the Neighbourhood Plan.
P12 - Resource Management Making provision for the management of waste	Waste development is “excluded development” and is not dealt with in the Neighbourhood Plan.
P13 - Minerals Minerals safeguarding. Promoting alternative materials. Extraction of primary minerals	Minerals development is “excluded development” and is not dealt with in the Neighbourhood Plan.
P14 - Amenity Protecting and enhancing the amenity of existing and potential occupiers of houses, businesses and other uses	Protecting residents’ living conditions is an important consideration in several policies that address both housing and employment development. Examples include Policies H2, H6, H7, H8, ECF5, E1, E2, E3 and E4.
P15 - Securing Design Quality Achieving good quality and inclusive development of sustainable design	Securing design quality is an important factor in several of the Neighbourhood Plan policies. See Policies H2, H6, H7, D1 and D2 for example.
P16 - Conservation of Heritage Assets & Local Distinctiveness Recognising the importance of the historic environment of the Borough	The Neighbourhood Plan recognises that heritage assets are to be protected. Specific policies address conservation areas, heritage assets and related design matters (for example, Policies VC2 and VC3).
P17 - Countryside and Green Belt Safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land. Protecting the Green Belt	Specific Neighbourhood Plan policies are designed to protect important aspect of the Green Belt, landscape and surrounding countryside (see Policies VC1 and H2).
P18 - Health and Well Being Achieving positive health outcomes	The Neighbourhood Plan contains several policies that will give support, and lead to the enhancement of, physical and mental health. These include policies in Section 10 together with policies promoting walking and cycling (T6 and T7), those supporting Local Green Spaces (VC4) and Policy H2.
P19 - Range and Quality of Local Services Developing local centres in an appropriate way and ensuring their continued sustainability and economic success.	In the employment section, the Neighbourhood Plan contains policies that support the retention of shops and services as well as new provision (for example, Policies E1 and E2).

Sustaining local shops and parades	
P20 - Provision for Open Space, Children’s Play, Sport, Recreation and Leisure Supporting the enhancement of existing facilities. Encouraging new provision	Section 10 of the Neighbourhood Plan is devoted to education and community facilities including sport, recreation and leisure. Policy H2 is also relevant. The policies address the needs of existing and future residents as well as delivery and future management.
P21 – Developer Contributions and Infrastructure Provision Providing for developer contributions and infrastructure provision	The Neighbourhood Plan identifies several instances where developers would be expected to address mitigation or provide infrastructure. This would be secured through planning obligations.

2. EMERGING LOCAL PLAN – DRAFT LOCAL PLAN REVIEW

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RELEVANT PROVISIONS	CONFORMITY MATTERS
P1 – UK Central Hub Area Supporting future aspirations in a holistic, well connected way, together with the development of the HS2 Interchange Station	No part of the growth area is located within the neighbourhood area.
P1A – Blythe Valley Business Park Supporting and encouraging the development of the business park	No part of the business park lies within the neighbourhood area
P2 - Maintain Strong, Competitive Town Centres Maintaining strong and competitive town centres	None of the town centres the subject of the policy and located with the neighbourhood area.
P3 - Provision of Land for General Business and Premises Allocation of employment land	None of the allocated employment sites are located with the Neighbourhood Plan area.
P4 – Meeting Housing Needs Meeting housing need through affordable housing, rural exception sites, market housing and self and custom housing.	The Neighbourhood Plan draws on its own up-to-date local housing needs assessment. This has helped informed provisions with regard to the type of affordable housing required and the size and mix of market housing appropriate to Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath. No housing on rural exceptions sites is envisaged under the Neighbourhood Plan.
P5 - Provision of Land for Housing Ensuring sufficient housing supply through allocating land for housing. Support for housing on unidentified sites. Making efficient use of land. Phasing designations.	The Neighbourhood Plan does not allocate any housing sites or have any phasing designations. Regarding unallocated sites, there is a policy supportive of windfall housing (Policy H7). On density, the emphasis is on respecting the existing character and appearance of the area but with a recognition that higher density housing (including smaller dwellings and dementia homes) has its place.
P6 - Provision of Sites for Gypsies and	The Neighbourhood Plan does not deal with

Travellers Meeting the identified need	gypsy and traveller issues.
P7 - Accessibility and Ease of Access Focussing development in the most accessible locations. Enhancing accessibility. Promoting ease of access	The Neighbourhood Plan does not include any land use allocations. The majority of locational issues are determined under the Local Plan. However, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to influence location and access where relevant, for example in the location of new schools (Policy ECF2).
P8 - Managing Demand for Travel and Reducing Congestion Reducing the need to travel. Promoting sustainable forms of transport and linked trips. Evidenced-based parking. Avoiding increased delays and reductions in safety. Support for Park and Ride. Requirements for Transport Assessments and Travel Plans.	The Neighbourhood Plan has a section devoted to traffic and transport matters (Section 9) which includes regard to transport efficiency and highway safety.
P8A – Rapid Transit Supporting proposals for the delivery of METRO and SPRINT	No part of these rapid-transit lines crosses the Neighbourhood Plan area.
P9 – Mitigating and Adapting to Climate Change Seeking measure that mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change	The Neighbourhood Plan does not directly address climate change. However, “future proofing” is one of the drivers. This is reflected, for example, in the local requirement for charging points in future car parking areas (Policy T3) and in Policy U1.
P10 - Natural Environment Promoting a healthy natural environment in its own right and for the economic and social benefits that it brings. Seeking to protect, enhance and restore the Arden landscape	The Neighbourhood Plan emphasises the importance of the Arden landscape. It contains policies directed at protecting trees, hedgerows and woodland as well as promoting the preservation and restoration of key local habitats and biodiversity (for example, Policies NE1 and NE2).
P11 - Water Management Seeking appropriate water quality, water efficiency and disposal, recycling / reuse, infiltration and sustainable drainage systems. Flood risk reduction	Water management issues are covered effectively in the Local Plan and are not repeated in the Neighbourhood Plan.
P12 - Resource Management Making provision for the management of waste	Waste development is “excluded development” and is not dealt with in the Neighbourhood Plan.
P13 – Minerals Minerals safeguarding. Promoting alternative materials. Extraction of primary minerals. Restoration and after-use	Minerals development is “excluded development” and is not dealt with in the Neighbourhood Plan.
P14 – Amenity Seeking good standards of amenity for all types of existing and future occupiers	Protecting residents’ living conditions is an important consideration in several policies that address both housing and employment development. Examples include Policies H2, H6, H7, H8, ECF5, E1, E2, E3 and E4.
P15 - Securing Design Quality Contributing to, or creating, high quality places and spaces. Having regard to local	Securing design quality is an important factor in several of the Neighbourhood Plan policies. Local distinctiveness is at the

distinctiveness	heart of the Plan's policies. See Policies H2, H6, H7, D1 and D2 for example.
<p>P16 - Conservation of Heritage Assets and Local Distinctiveness Recognising the importance of the historic environment of the Borough</p>	The Neighbourhood Plan recognises that heritage assets are to be protected. Specific policies address conservation areas, heritage assets and related design matters (for example, Policies VC2 and VC3).
<p>P17 - Countryside and Green Belt Safeguarding the best and most versatile agricultural land. Protecting the Green Belt</p>	Specific Neighbourhood Plan policies are designed to protect important aspect of the Green Belt, landscape and surrounding countryside (see Policies VC1 and H2).
<p>P18 - Health and Well Being Supporting positive health outcomes and reducing inequality</p>	The Neighbourhood Plan contains several policies that will give support, and lead to the enhancement of, physical and mental health. These include policies in Section 10 together with policies promoting walking and cycling (T6 and T7), those supporting Local Green Spaces (VC4) and Policy H2.
<p>P19 - Range and Quality of Local Services Supporting appropriate proposals. Resisting the loss of local shops / community and social infrastructure.</p>	Compatible policies are to be found in the Neighbourhood Plan (see Section 11).
<p>P20 - Provision for Open Space, Children's Play, Sport, Recreation and Leisure Supporting the enhancement of existing facilities. Encouraging new provision</p>	Section 10 of the Neighbourhood Plan is devoted to education and community facilities including sport, recreation and leisure. Policy H2 is also relevant. The policies address the needs of existing and future residents as well as delivery and future management.
<p>P21 - Developer Contributions and Infrastructure Provision Providing for developer contributions and infrastructure provision</p>	The Neighbourhood Plan identifies several instances where developers would be expected to address mitigation or provide infrastructure. This would be secured through planning obligations.

APPENDIX 4

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Plan

Strategic Environmental Assessment

&

Habitat Regulations Assessment

Screening Report

January 2018

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1	Assessment of the Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood 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 Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Plan (hereafter referred to as KDBHNP) 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 The Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Forum has commenced preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan and have provided a number of policy iterations for Solihull Council's informal comments. The Neighbourhood Forum has recently undertaken 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 Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Plan

1.2.1 The Neighbourhood Plan applies to the villages of Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath in the Borough of Solihull. Whilst having separate, individual village identities, they share many local community facilities and services. There are strong links between each community and they face similar pressures. There is no obvious settlement boundary between Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath and as such the area as a whole forms a large rural settlement.

1.2.2 The settlement is inset in the Green Belt and is located around 3 miles to the south east of Solihull Town Centre. The historic medieval core of Knowle is centred on the High Street and the church of St. John the Baptist, St. Lawrence and St. Anne, at the junction of two historic routes, and is protected by Conservation Area designation. Similarly, development from the later Victorian and Edwardian periods around and near to Dorridge railway station also benefit from Conservation Area status. The area experienced significant post-war development and the dated shopping parade at Dorridge has recently been redeveloped to provide up-dated modern facilities and a new public realm.

1.2.3 The KDBHNP will set out how the people of Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath 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, it 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 seven objectives to deliver the Vision, which are summarised as follows:

- **Village Character and Natural Environment** - Prioritising local distinctiveness, safeguarding the natural environment and protecting and enhancing heritage and open spaces.

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Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report

- **Housing** - Planning for proportionate growth without over provision and without compromising what makes the villages distinctive. Planning for new homes to be well integrated with the existing community and environment and planning for an aging population.
- **Design** - Improving the quality of new developments and requiring the production of concept masterplans for new developments of over 20 houses.
- **Traffic and Transport** - Ensuring adequate parking in new housing developments, improvements to roads and parking and reducing reliance on the private car.
- **Education and Community Facilities** - Ensuring sufficient capacity in schools and community facilities to meet the needs of the community.
- **Employment, including Retail and Other Commercial Uses** - Recognising the importance of local shops and businesses, supporting their retention and promoting new opportunities.
- **Communications, Infrastructure and Utilities** - Seeking on-going improvements to the utility infrastructure and digital connectivity.

1.2.5 These objectives provide the basis for seven policy areas in the draft Plan. 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:

Village Character and Natural Environment	Housing	Design	Traffic and Transport	Education and Community Facilities	Employment, including Retail and Other Commercial Uses	Communications, Infrastructure and Utilities
Green Belt and Landscape	Scale of New Housing	Character and Appearance	Parking for Residents	Formal Education – Places for Local Pupils	Retention of Shops and Services	Mobile Phone and Broadband Infrastructure
Conservation Areas	Housing on Allocated and Larger Sites	Design in Conservation Areas	Parking for Non-Residential Premises	Formal Education – Location of New Schools	New Development in Village Centres	
Heritage Assets	Affordable Housing		Parking for Village Centres and for Rail Users	Protection of Community Facilities and Services	Business Centre	
Green Space	House Types		Contributions to Additional Parking or Road Improvements	New Housing Development – Investment in Community Facilities	Working from Home	
Green Streets	House Size		Transport Assessments and Travel Plans	Recreation, Leisure and Sport		
Trees, Hedgerows and Woodland	Apartments		Walking Infrastructure	Community Access and Management		
Habitats and Biodiversity	Windfall Housing		Cycling Infrastructure			
	Extensions and Alterations		Road Infrastructure			
			Public Transport Infrastructure			
			Infrastructure for Cleaner Transport			

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 KDBHNP and the need for a full SEA. Section 4 provides a screening assessment of the likely significant effects of the implementation of the KDBHNP 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 KDBHNP 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 KDBHNP 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 Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood 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

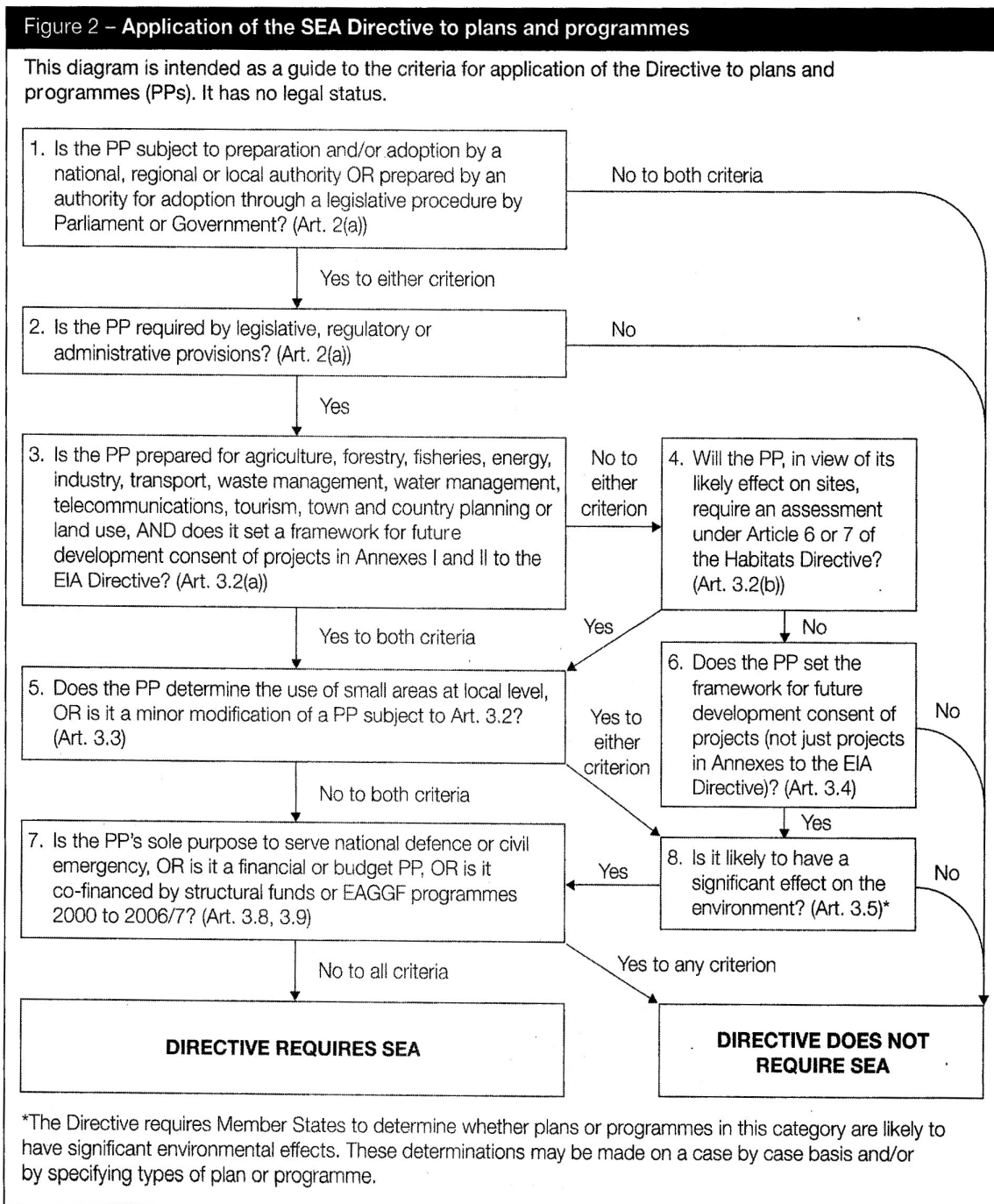
3.2. Assessment

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 KDBHNP 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 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 KDBHNP 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 KDBHNP, and there are no significant changes introduced by the KDBHNP.

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 KDBHNP 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 KDBHNP 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 KDBHNP 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 KDBHNP will include policies which will influence the use of small areas and sites at a local level. However, it does not proposed 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 KDBHNP 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 environment? (Art. 3.5)	N	The KDBHNP is unlikely to 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 KDBHNP that were not covered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the Solihull Local Plan and the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Document. The KDBHNP 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 KDBHNP 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 integrity of the Natura 2000 network is undertaken. This assessment is based on a detailed review of the project or plan in conjunction with the structure, function and conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 site. This stage may also include a preliminary assessment regarding the potential for the identified impacts to be mitigated.

- **Stage 3: Assessment of Alternative Solutions and Mitigation Measures**

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

4.1.2. This report focuses of Stage 1 of the process.

4.2. Relevant Natura 2000 Sites

4.2.1. No Natura 2000 sites fall within or adjacent to the Solihull MBC boundary. However, 11 Natura 2000 sites are within a 50km radius of Solihull Borough (as identified in the Table below), as well as the Peak District Dales SAC, which forms part of the most visited National Park in the united Kingdom, which is within 75km.

Natural 2000 site	Distance from Solihull MBC boundary
Ensor's Pool SAC	8.9 km
Cannock Extension Canal SAC	19.1 km
River Mease SAC	21.4 km
Fens Pool SAC;	21.6 km
Lyppard Grange Ponds SAC	28.1 km

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Cannock Chase SAC	28.3 km
Bredon Hill SAC	35.2 km
Pasturefields Salt Marsh	36.2 km
Mottey Meadows SAC	37.5 km
West Midlands Mosses SAC	39.2 km
Midlands Meres and Mosses Phase I Ramsar	Various locations across Cheshire, Shropshire and Staffordshire
Peak District Dales SAC	75 km

4.2.2. An initial screening exercise was undertaken in 2008 by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust, when the Core Strategy (now the Solihull Local Plan) was at the 'Issues and Options' stage of development. This exercise assessed the potential for the Local Plan to impact upon the integrity of the 12 Natura 2000 sites identified in the table above. Potential significant effects at 8 of these sites were screened out, and further screening of 4 sites was recommended when Local Plan policies were further refined. The 4 sites put forward for further screening were:

- Cannock Extension Canal SAC;
- Cannock Chase SAC;
- Bredon Hill SAC; and,
- Peak District Dales SAC.

4.2.3. Further screening of the above sites was recommended in accordance with the precautionary principle, as the Local Plan policies were not sufficiently detailed at the time to allow potential significant effects arising from increased recreational pressure and air pollution to be fully assessed.

4.2.4. A further screening exercise² was undertaken in 2012 by Middlemarch Environmental Ltd, based upon specific policies outlined in the Pre-Submission Draft version of the Local Plan. Prior to the assessment commencing, the scope of work proposed was agreed in consultation with Natural England.

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

4.2.6. The further screening exercise concluded the following:

- Local Plan policies will not directly impact upon any of the Natura 2000 sites put forward for further screening. All sites are located well outside of the borough boundary.
- No significant effects are considered likely on any of the Natura 2000 sites put forward for further screening, either alone or in combination with other plans.

² A full copy of the report is available at http://www.solihull.gov.uk/Portals/0/Planning/LDF/HRA_-_Further_Screening_April_2012.pdf

- 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 KDBHNP 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 KDBHNP should be in general conformity with the statutory Development Plan.

4.3.3. The screening assessment therefore concludes that the KDBHNP 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. The Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath area forms a large rural settlement within the Metropolitan Borough of Solihull. It is inset in the Green Belt and includes a range of community services and facilities as well as a number of historic assets including 3 Conservation Areas and listed buildings.
- 5.1.2. The KDBHNP 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 KDBHNP seek to provide a local interpretation, clarify and add detail to the strategic policies of the Local Plan. The KDBHNP 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 KDBHNP 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 KDBHNP 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 KDBHNP 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 KDBHNP does not require a full HRA to be undertaken.

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Appendix 1

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

Policy Area: Village Character and Natural Environment		
KDBHNP Proposed Policy	Relevant Policies in adopted Solihull Local Plan (SLP)	Conformity / conflict between KDBHNP proposed policy and SLP policy and likely effects of the policy / proposal in regards to SEA criteria (Fig.1)
Policy VC1: Green Belt and Landscape Seeks to apply national and local Green Belt policies to the area beyond the built up area of KDBH and requires development to sit well in the landscape.	Policy P17 – Countryside and Green Belt	The village character and natural environment policies in the KDBHNP 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, as well as identifying local green spaces that should be protected. The KDBHNP seeks to ensure development contributes positively to the local historic environment and heritage assets. The local character of Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath is also referred to specifically in the Local Plan policy on Conservation of Heritage Assets and Local Distinctiveness. There is 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 VC2: Conservation Areas Seeks to ensure that development contributes positively to the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and conserves heritage assets.	Policy P16 – Conservation of Heritage Assets and Local Distinctiveness	
Policy VC3: Heritage Assets Seeks positive improvements to the quality of the historic environment.	Policy P16 – Conservation of Heritage Assets and Local Distinctiveness	
Policy VC4: Green Space 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 VC5: Green Streets Development must respect, maintain and where possible enhance the green	Policy P14 – Amenity Policy P15 – Securing Design Quality	

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character of residential roads.		
Policy NE1: Trees Hedgerows and Woodlands Proposals for development should promote the protection of important trees, hedgerows or woodland on sites.	Policy P10 – Natural Environment Policy P14 – Amenity	
Policy NE2: Habitats and Biodiversity Developments should promote the preservation and restoration of key local habitats and biodiversity	Policy P10 – Natural Environment Policy P15 - Design	
Policy Area: Housing		
KDBHNP Proposed Policy	Relevant Policies in adopted Solihull Local Plan (SLP)	Conformity / conflict between KDBHNP proposed policy and SLP policy and likely effects of the policy / proposal in regards to SEA criteria (Fig.1)
Policy H1: Scale of New Housing Determines that the number of new houses will be provided on allocated sites identified in the Solihull Draft Local Plan.	Policy P5 – Provision of Land for Housing	The KDBHNP conforms to the SLP which seeks an appropriate mix of house types to meet local needs, 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. However, whilst the KDBHNP states that lower density development is a key characteristic of the area, it is important to note that the density of new housing should also make the most efficient use of land. Whilst the adopted SLP includes site allocations in the KDBH area, these allocations have been completed or are under construction. Although policies in the KDBHNP seek to provide more clarity
Policy H2: Housing on Allocated Sites and Larger Sites. Outlines the more detailed matters to be addressed on allocated sites in adopted and emerging development plans and on larger windfall sites.	Policy P5 – Provision of Land for Housing Policy P7 – Accessibility and Ease of Access Policy P8 – Managing Demand for Travel and Reducing Congestion Policy P14 – Amenity Policy P15 – Securing Design Quality Policy P18 – Health and Well Being	

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<p>Policy H3: Affordable Housing</p> <p>Sets out the criteria that will be applied to ensure that those with a local connection are able to access affordable housing.</p>	<p>Policy P4 – Meeting Housing Needs</p>	<p>and detail about future sites that may come forward, this is partially dependent on sites being brought forward through the current review of the Local Plan which itself will be subject to a full SA and will incorporate SEA in any event.</p> <p>The KDBHNP itself does not seek to increase the quantum of development proposed in the adopted SLP and it does not identify any future site allocations.</p> <p>Therefore, as the SLP has been subject to a full SA which included SEA, it is unlikely that there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the KDBHNP that were not covered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the Solihull Local Plan.</p>	
<p>Policy H4: House Types</p> <p>Outlines the house types that will be expected to be provided on sites allocated in the Local Plan Review.</p>	<p>Policy P4 – Meeting Housing Needs</p>		
<p>Policy H5: House Size</p> <p>Sets out what proportion of dwellings on sites should have 2, 3, 4 or 5 or more bedrooms.</p>	<p>Policy P4 – Meeting Housing Needs</p>		
<p>Policy H6: Apartments</p> <p>Outlines the circumstances under which apartment development would be acceptable.</p>	<p>Policy P4 – Meeting Housing Needs</p>		
<p>Policy H7: Windfall Housing</p> <p>Sets out where residential development on windfall sites would be considered acceptable.</p>	<p>Policy P5 – Provision of Land for Housing</p>		
<p>Policy H8: Extensions and Alterations</p> <p>Outlines the circumstances where development would be acceptable.</p>	<p>Policy P14 – Amenity</p> <p>Policy P15 – Securing Design Quality</p>		
<p>Policy Area – Design</p>			
<p>KDBHNP Proposed Policy</p>	<p>Relevant Policies in adopted Solihull Local Plan (SLP)</p>		<p>Conformity / conflict between KDBHNP proposed policy and SLP policy and likely effects of the policy / proposal in regards to SEA criteria (Fig.1)</p>

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Policy D1: Character and Appearance Outlines criteria for the design of new developments.	Policy P14 – Amenity Policy P15 – Securing Design Quality Policy P20 – Provision for Open Space, Children’s Play, Sport, Recreation and Leisure	As with the Local Plan, the Neighbourhood Plan recognises the importance of good design and the need to respect the character and appearance of the area and local residential amenity. The local character of Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath is also referred to specifically in the Local Plan policy on Conservation of Heritage Assets and Local Distinctiveness.
Policy D2: Design in Conservation Areas Outlines criteria for the design of new developments, specifically in Conservation Areas.	Policy P15 – Securing Design Quality Policy P16 – Conservation of Heritage Assets and Local Distinctiveness	Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to provide a more specific local interpretation of local plan policies, there is 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 Area: Traffic and Transport		
KDBHNP Proposed Policy	Relevant Policies in adopted Solihull Local Plan (SLP)	Conformity / conflict between KDBHNP proposed policy and SLP policy and likely effects of the policy / proposal in regards to SEA criteria (Fig.1)
Policy T1 – Parking for Residents Sets out the number of spaces required for residential development based on the number of bedrooms and seeks to minimise on-street parking.	Policy P8 – Managing Demand for Travel and Reducing Congestion	The Solihull Local Plan recognises the importance of transport 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 the Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath area, the Neighbourhood Plan seeks to identify the local issues to be addressed. Moreover, the requirement for Travel Plans and Transport Assessments are identified in both the Neighbourhood Plan and the Solihull Local Plan. The Local Plan also recognises the importance of walking, cycling and public transport and the KDBHNP supports the provision this infrastructure.
Policy T2 – Parking for Non-Residential Premises Seeks to secure appropriate parking arrangements for non-residential development.	Policy P8 – Managing Demand for Travel and Reducing Congestion	
Policy T3 – Parking at the Village Centres and for Rail Users	Policy P8 – Managing Demand for Travel and Reducing Congestion	

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<p>Support for the provision of appropriate off-street parking in the villages centres and at Dorridge railway station.</p>		<p>This is in conformity with the Local Plan and there is likely to be environmental benefits associated with this policy.</p>
<p>Policy T4 – Contributions to Additional Parking or Road Improvements Sets out when contributions to additional parking or road improvements will be required.</p>	<p>Policy P7 – Accessibility and Ease of Access Policy P8 – Managing Demand for Travel and Reducing Congestion</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 transport policies in the KDBHNP are unlikely to have any adverse significant effect on the environment such that SEA is required.</p>
<p>Policy T5 – Transport Assessments and Travel Plans Sets out when Transport Assessments and Travel Plans should accompany planning applications and provides details on the matters to be addressed.</p>	<p>Policy P8 – Managing Demand for Travel and Reducing Congestion</p>	
<p>Policy T6 – Walking Infrastructure Seeks to ensure the provision of appropriate walking infrastructure.</p>	<p>Policy P7 – Accessibility and Ease of Access Policy P8 – Managing Demand for Travel and Reducing Congestion Policy P15 – Securing Design Quality Policy P18 – Health and Well-Being</p>	
<p>Policy T7 – Cycling Infrastructure Seeks to ensure the provision of appropriate cycling infrastructure.</p>	<p>Policy P7 – Accessibility and Ease of Access Policy P8 – Managing Demand for Travel and Reducing Congestion Policy P15 – Securing Design Quality Policy P18 – Health and Well-Being</p>	
<p>Policy T8 – Road Infrastructure Sets out the roads / junctions where</p>	<p>Policy P7 – Accessibility and Ease of Access</p>	

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proposals for improvements will be supported and seeks appropriate measures to ensure the safety and free-flow of traffic.	Policy P8 – Managing Demand for Travel and Reducing Congestion	
Policy T9: Public Transport Infrastructure Supports improvements to public transport infrastructure.	Policy P7 – Accessibility and Ease of Access Policy P8 – Managing Demand for Travel and Reducing Congestion	
Policy T10: Infrastructure for Cleaner Transport Supports the provision of charging facilities for electric vehicles.	Policy P8 – Managing Demand for Travel and Reducing Congestion	
Policy Area – Education and Community Facilities (including Healthcare, Sport, Recreation and Leisure)		
KDBHNP Proposed Policy	Relevant Policies in adopted Solihull Local Plan (SLP)	Conformity / conflict between KDBHNP proposed policy and SLP policy and likely effects of the policy / proposal in regards to SEA criteria (Fig.1)
Policy ECF1: Formal Education – Places for Local Pupils Seeks to ensure that new education infrastructure provides sufficient on-going capacity to accommodate increased demand for places, without adversely impacting on existing provision for local pupils.	Policy P21 – Developer Contributions and Infrastructure Provision	The Local Plan requires development to provide or contribute towards the provision of measures to directly mitigate its impact or infrastructure to support the needs associated with the development. It also supports the provision and retention of community and social infrastructure. The Neighbourhood Plan conforms to these elements of the Solihull Local Plan and puts local emphasis on the provision of suitable and appropriate facilities for recreation leisure and sport.
Policy ECF2: Formal Education – Local of New Schools Sets out the conditions under which the provision of new or expanded schools will be supported where need for additional	Policy P8 – Managing Demand for Travel and Reducing Congestion Policy P21 – Developer Contributions and Infrastructure Provision	Given their general conformity to relevant policies in the Local Plan, KDBHNP policies on Education and Community Facilities are therefore unlikely to have

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pupil capacity has been demonstrated.		any significant environmental effect that has not already been considered in the SEA of the Solihull Local Plan.
Policy ECF3: Protection of Community Facilities and Services Seeks to protect community facilities and services from being lost or reduced.	Policy P18 – Health and Well-Being Policy P19 – Range and Quality of Local Services	
Policy ECF4: New Housing Development – Investment in Community Facilities Seeks to ensure that new housing developments contribute to enhancing local community facilities to meet the needs of new residents.	Policy P21 – Developer Contributions and Infrastructure Provision	
Policy ECF5: Recreation, Leisure and Sport Supports the provision and extension of indoor and outdoor venues for recreation leisure and sport to benefit members of the community.	Policy P8 – Managing Demand for Travel and Reducing Congestion Policy P14 – Amenity Policy P18 – Health and Well Being Policy P20 – Provision for Open Space, Children’s Play, Sport, Recreation and Leisure	
Policy ECF6: Community Access and Management Requires the provision of a Community Access Statement to demonstrate how new community facilities will be delivered and made available to local residents.	Policy P18 – Health and Well-Being Policy P21 – Developer Contributions and Infrastructure Provision	
Policy Area – Employment, including Retail and Other Commercial Uses		
KDBHNP Proposed Policy	Relevant Policies in adopted Solihull Local Plan (SLP)	Conformity / conflict between KDBHNP proposed policy and SLP policy and likely effects of the policy /

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		proposal in regards to SEA criteria (Fig.1)
<p>Policy E1: Retention of Shops and Services</p> <p>Seeks to maintain and improve local shopping facilities and services</p>	<p>Policy P18 – Health and Well-Being</p> <p>Policy P19 – Range and Quality of Local Services</p>	<p>The adopted local plan seeks to ensure that local centres are developed and sustained in a way which ensures their continued sustainability and economic success. The KDBHNP proposes similar policies that are specific to Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath.</p>
<p>Policy E2: New Development in Village Centres</p> <p>Provides the policy framework for new developments appropriate to Village centres to support their vitality and roles as employment centres.</p>	<p>Policy P8 – Managing Demand for Travel and Reducing Congestion</p> <p>Policy P14 – Amenity</p> <p>Policy P15 – Securing Design Quality</p> <p>Policy P16 – Conservation of Heritage Assets and Local Distinctiveness</p> <p>Policy P19 – Range and Quality of Local Services</p>	<p>The KDBHNP supports home working and the provision of a business centre which could include services for local start-ups and small enterprises. This is consistent with the Solihull Local Plan which seeks to encourage the creation of new enterprises to support employment locally.</p> <p>Given this general conformity, there is unlikely to be any significant environmental effects that have not already been considered in the Sustainability Appraisal / SEA of the Solihull Local Plan.</p>
<p>Policy E3: Business Centre</p> <p>Policy support for the provision of a business centre to provide facilities for local enterprises.</p>	<p>Policy P3 – Provision of Land for General Business and Premises</p> <p>Policy P8 – Managing Demand for Travel and Reducing Congestion</p> <p>Policy P14 – Amenity</p> <p>Policy P15 – Securing Design Quality</p> <p>Policy P16 – Conservation of Heritage Assets and Local Distinctiveness</p>	
<p>Policy E4: Working from Home</p> <p>Supports working from home where residential amenity and character and appearance of the area are not materially harmed.</p>	<p>Policy P3 – Provision of Land for General Business and Premises</p> <p>Policy P14 – Amenity</p>	

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Policy Area – Communications Infrastructure and Utilities		
KDBHNP Proposed Policy	Relevant Policies in adopted Solihull Local Plan (SLP)	Conformity / conflict between KDBHNP proposed policy and SLP policy and likely effects of the policy / proposal in regards to SEA criteria (Fig.1)
<p>Policy U1: Mobile Phone and Broadband Infrastructure</p> <p>Seeks to secure improved provision mobile phone and broadband services, whilst ensuring that the character and appearance of the area is not materially harmed.</p>	<p>Policy P14 – Amenity</p>	<p>There is no conflict with the Solihull Local Plan, which recognises the importance of digital connectivity, whilst also respecting amenity and sensitive environments.</p> <p>Consequently, there is 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 Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Plan makes no reference to Gypsies and Travellers or Gypsy and Traveller related development. Therefore, there is considered to be no conflict between policies in the Neighbourhood Plan and the Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations Plan.

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Appendix 2

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Knowle, Dorrige and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Plan
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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>	<p align="center">NLSE</p>
<p>Key: NLSE – No Likely Significant Effect PSE – Possible Significant Effect LSE – Likely Significant Effect</p>				

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

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Appendix 3

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

Site	Factor Affecting Site Integrity	Potential Effects Arising From Gypsy and Traveller Site Allocations DPD Preferred Options	Potential Effects in Combination with Other Plans	Significance of Effects
Cannock Extension Canal SAC	Balance of Recreational Use	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Loss of Water Quality	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
Cannock Chase SAC	Recreational Pressure	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Bracken Invasion	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Hydrological Issues	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
Cannock Chase SAC	Air Pollution	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
Bredon Hill SAC	Lack of Replacement Deadwood	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Air Pollution	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Non-native / Invasive Species	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
Peak District Dales SAC	Inappropriate Grazing Management	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Drainage	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
Peak District Dales SAC	Dust Arising from Nearby Quarrying	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Impacts on Freshwater from Fishery Activities	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Recreational Pressure	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Impacts to Woodlands	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Dominance and Regeneration of Sycamore	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
	Air Pollution	None anticipated.	None anticipated.	NLSE
Key: NLSE – No Likely Significant Effect PSE – Possible Significant Effect LSE – Likely Significant Effect				

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

APPENDIX 5

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT – RESPONSES FROM THE STATUTORY CONSULTEES

Emma Tinsley-Evans
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Development Control
PO Box 11652
Solihull
West Midlands
B91 9YA

Our ref: UT/2009/105658/SE-
01/FS1-L01
Your ref:
Date: 08 February 2018

Dear Emma

**STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT & HABITAT REGULATIONS
ASSESSMENT – SCREENING REPORT**

Thank you for your email which was received on the 06 February 2018.

As requested we have reviewed the screening assessment prepared in support of the Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Plan. We do not consider further work on the SEA and HRA necessary for the plan to progress as it is unlikely to have any significant environmental impacts.

Yours sincerely

Ms Noreen Nargas
Senior Planning Advisor

Direct dial 020 8474 5004

Direct fax

Direct e-mail swwmplanning@environment-agency.gov.uk



Historic England

WEST MIDLANDS OFFICE

Ms Emma Tinsley-Evans
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Policy & Delivery, Managed Growth Directorate
Council House, Manor Square
Solihull
B91 3QB

Direct Dial: 0121 625 6887

Our ref: PL00333922

8 March 2018

Dear Ms Tinsley-Evans

KNOWLE, DORRIDGE AND BENTLEY HEATH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN- SEA AND HRA SCREENING

Thank you for your consultation and the invitation to comment on the SEA/HRA Screening Document for the above Neighbourhood Plan.

For the purposes of consultations on SEA Screening Opinions, Historic England confines its advice to the question, "Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment?" in respect of our area of concern, cultural heritage.

Our comments are based on the information supplied with the screening request. On the basis of the information supplied and in the context of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment Regulations [Annex II of the 'SEA' Directive], Historic England concurs with your view that the preparation of a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required. Regarding HRA Historic England does not disagree with your conclusions but would defer to the opinions of the other statutory consultees.

The views of the other statutory consultation bodies should be taken into account before the overall decision on the need for a SEA is made. If a decision is made to undertake a SEA, please note that Historic England has published guidance on Sustainability Appraisal / Strategic Environmental Assessment and the Historic Environment that is relevant to both local and neighbourhood planning and available at: <https://www.historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/sustainability-appraisal-and-strategic-environmental-assessment-advice-note-8/>

I trust the above comments will be of help in taking forward the Neighbourhood Plan.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Boland
Historic Places Advisor
peter.boland@HistoricEngland.org.uk



THE AXIS 10 HOLLIDAY STREET BIRMINGHAM B1 1TG

Telephone 0121 625 6870
HistoricEngland.org.uk



Date: 07 February 2018
Our ref: 237953
Your ref: Knowle Dorridge & Bentley Heath NDP



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Solihul MBC

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CW1 6GJ

BY EMAIL ONLY

T 0300 060 3900

Dear Ms Tinsley-Evans,

Planning consultation: Knowle, Dorridge and Bentley Heath Neighbourhood Plan.

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 31/01/2018 .

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening

We welcome the production of this SEA Screening report. Natural England notes and concurs with the screening outcome i.e. that no SEA is required.

Further guidance on deciding whether the proposals are likely to have significant environmental effects and the requirements for consulting Natural England on SEA are set out in the [National Planning Practice Guidance](#).

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening

Natural England notes the screening process applied to this Neighbourhood plan. We agree with the Council's conclusion of no likely significant effect upon the named European designated sites at page 11 and 12 of the submitted report.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Tom Amos on 02080 260961. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk.

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service

Yours Choose salutation

Tom Amos
Planning for a Better Environment
West Midlands Team