



# **Warfield Neighbourhood Plan**

## **Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Decision**

**October 2016**

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## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 This statement sets out the Council's determination as to whether Appropriate Assessment is required under Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).

### ***Habitats Regulations Assessment***

- 1.2 A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is required to determine whether a plan or project would have significant adverse effects upon the integrity of internationally designated sites of nature conservation importance, or Natura 2000 sites. The need for HRA is set out within the EC Habitats Directive 92/43/EC and transposed into British Law by Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) as amended, the 'Habitats Regulations'. In accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations, the Borough Council must determine if a plan requires Appropriate Assessment. Section 4 of this report deals with the need for a Habitats Regulation Assessment.

## **2.0 Scope of the Warfield Neighbourhood Plan**

2.1 Bracknell Forest Council designated the Warfield Neighbourhood Area on 23 July 2014. The Warfield Neighbourhood Plan (WNP) is being prepared by the Warfield Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Further information can be found at <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/warfieldneighbourhoodarea>

2.2 This HRA Screening has been requested by Warfield Parish Council<sup>1</sup> and is based on the following:

- WNP HRA Screening Note dated 16 September 2016 outlining the Haley Green Policy and Masterplan Concept
- WNP Masterplan Concept Version 4 (29 June 2016)
- Draft Policy List and Evidence Base (revised 15 and 22 September 2016)

2.3 At this time the proposed scope includes policies relating to:

- Spatial Plan
- Allocation of one site at Haley Green for a comprehensive mixed use development including approximately 235 dwellings.
- Settlement Policies
- Local gaps
- Green Infrastructure Network
- Local Green Space Designations
- Rural Exception Housing
- Community Facilities
- Rural Diversification
- Protect and Enhance the Countryside
- Dark skies Policy
- Utility Infrastructure
- Car parking standards

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<sup>1</sup> The Council received a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and HRA Screening Opinion request letter from Warfield Parish Council to Bracknell Forest Council dated 16 September 2016.

### **3.0 Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening**

- 3.1 The Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) refers to the assessment required for any plan or project to assess the potential implications for European wildlife sites. The HRA therefore looks at whether the implementation of the plan or project would harm the habitats or species for which European wildlife sites are designated. European wildlife sites relevant to the WNP are:
- Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated under the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)
  - Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated under the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)
- 3.2 In addition to SPAs and SACs, Ramsar sites are designated under the Ramsar Convention. Although they are not covered by the Habitats Regulations, as a matter of Government policy, Ramsar sites should be treated in the same way as European wildlife sites. European wildlife sites and Ramsar sites are collectively known as internationally designated wildlife sites.
- 3.3 The legislation sets out a process to assess the potential implications of a plan on internationally designated sites. The first stage of this process is a 'screening' exercise where the details of nearby internationally designated sites are assessed to see if there is the potential for the implementation of the Plan to have an impact on the site.
- 3.4 The WNP once adopted will form part of the Development Plan for Bracknell Forest, and will be in conformity with the strategic policies in adopted Local Plans for the Borough. The Core Strategy and Site Allocations Local Plan have been subject to Habitat Regulations Assessment<sup>2</sup>.
- 3.5 During 2006 - 2007, Bracknell Forest Council undertook a Habitats Regulations Screening Exercise<sup>3</sup> to examine the likely effects of the Core Strategy and the (former) Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPDs) on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA and the Windsor Forest and Great Park Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The screening opinion concluded that:
- The DPDs were likely to have a significant effect on the Thames Basin Heaths SPA.
  - No significant effect was identified on the integrity of the Windsor Forest and Great Park SAC as none of the policies proposed development within 2km of the SAC boundary.
  - No significant effect was identified on the integrity of any other Natura 2000 sites.
- 3.6 The WNP intends to allocate sites and provide general policies to guide the impact of development. Land at Hayley Green is proposed to be allocated for housing development. Also the Rural Exception Housing Policy and the Rural Diversification Policy may lead to a net increase in housing. Both the WNP area and the Hayley Green site are located within the 400m – 5km and 5-7km SPA buffers zones. The parish boundary lies at least 2.4km from the boundary

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<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/developmentplan>

<sup>3</sup> See Thames Basin Heaths SPA Technical Background Document to the Core Strategy DPD (June 2007).

of the SAC; the Hayley Green site is at least 4km from the boundary of the SAC.

- 3.7 A HRA Screening is therefore deemed necessary, focusing on the effects of the WNP on the integrity of both the Thames Basin Heaths SPA and the Windsor Forest and Great Park SAC.

### ***Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area***

- 3.8 The Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (TBHSPA) was designated in March 2005 for its lowland heathland, supporting significant populations of three ground-nesting birds (Nightjar, Woodlark and Dartford Warbler). The regulations covering this designation require that any plan or proposal should have regard to whether it will adversely affect the integrity of the Special Protection Area (SPA). The two areas of the SPA that lie within Bracknell Forest are the Broadmoor to Bagshot Heaths SSSI and the Sandhurst to Owlsmoor Bogs and Heaths (also known as Wildmoor Heath) SSSI.
- 3.9 Residential development within three buffer zones around the SPA is considered to have the potential to affect the integrity of the SPA. The location of the SPA and its associated buffers are illustrated in the map in Appendix A.
- 3.10 The map in Appendix B shows the extent of the SPA buffer zones in the Warfield Neighbourhood Area. In summary:
- No part of Warfield Neighbourhood Area lies within the 400m SPA buffer zone.
  - The southern part of the Warfield Neighbourhood area lies between 400m - 5km of the TBHSPA. Within this buffer zone any net increase in residential development is considered to have the potential to affect the integrity of the SPA, through for example, potential additional recreational pressure.
  - The middle part of the Warfield Neighbourhood area lies 5 – 7km from the TBHSPA within which residential developments over 50 net dwellings are also considered to have a potential impact.
- 3.11 Any residential development proposals which come forward within the 400m to 5km catchment (and within 5-7km for larger developments) will be subject to the retained Policy NRM6 of the South East Plan and Policy CS14 of the Bracknell Forest Core Strategy<sup>4</sup> which requires any residential development likely to have a significant effect on the purpose and integrity of the SPA to demonstrate that adequate mitigation measures are put in place to avoid any potential adverse effects. These measures require the provision of (or contribution towards) Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) and contributions towards Strategic Access Management and Monitoring Measures (SAMM) as set out in more detail in the Council's Thames Basin Heaths SPA Avoidance and Mitigation Supplementary Planning Document.<sup>5</sup> The level of mitigation required in the 5 – 7km zone is likely to be lower than in the 400m – 5km SPA buffer zone.

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<sup>4</sup> Available at <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/core-strategy-development-plan-document-february-2008.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> Available at <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/thames-basin-heaths-spa-avoidance-and-mitigation-spd.pdf>

- 3.12 The southern part of the Hayley Green site (the area to be allocated for housing development) is located in the 400m – 5km SPA buffer zone and the northern part within the 5km – 7km SPA buffer zone. This is shown in Appendix C.
- 3.13 Allocations for employment development will be considered on case by case basis.
- 3.14 Appendix D sets out the Conservation Objectives of the TBHSPA. Having regard to these and the potential effects, Table 3 below sets out a HRA Screening for the emerging WNP:

**Table 1: Screening of Emerging Warfield Neighbourhood Plan Policies for the TBHSPA**

<b>WNP emerging Policy/issue</b>	<b>Detail of Policy/issue to be screened</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Significant effect likely?</b>
Spatial Plan	To define the functional and visual relationships between the Green Belt, countryside, village settlements and urban area.	The policy itself will not lead to development	No likely significant effect
Hayley Green	Allocates land at Haley Green (as shown in Appendix C) for a comprehensive mixed use allocation for approximately 235 dwellings. Includes a requirement to provide measures to mitigate the significant likely effect on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA).	The policy will lead to residential development. The requirement to provide measures to mitigate the likely significant effect on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA) is in accordance with the Development Plan.	No likely significant effect
Settlement Policies and Design Principles	To define the essential character of each of the following settlements, to establish the key design principles, to identify community assets (facilities, shops etc.) to protect from unnecessary loss and to identify any local infrastructure needs.	The policy will not lead to development.	No likely significant effect
Local Gaps	Hayley Green / Winkfield	The policy itself will not lead to development but seeks to protect important local gaps.	No likely significant effect
Green Infrastructure Network	Identifies a Green Infrastructure network comprising a variety of open spaces, playing fields, woodlands,	The policy will not lead to development but seeks to protect and enhance local green infrastructure.	No likely significant effect

<b>WNP emerging Policy/issue</b>	<b>Detail of Policy/issue to be screened</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Significant effect likely?</b>
	assets of biodiversity value, children's play areas, footpaths, bridleways and cycleways.		
Local Green Space Designations	Designates Local Green Spaces. Proposals for development on the land that will undermine its essential, permanent open character will be resisted unless very special circumstances can be demonstrated.	The policy will not lead to development but seeks to protect local green space designations.	No likely significant effect
Rural Exception Housing	Proposals for rural exception affordable housing schemes, on sites that would not normally be acceptable for general housing development will be supported, subject to specific criteria. Includes a requirement to provide measures to mitigate the significant likely effect on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA).	The policy may lead to residential development, the location and size of which are currently unknown. The requirement to provide measures to mitigate the likely significant effect on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA) is in accordance with the Development Plan.	No likely significant effect
Community Facilities	Proposals that will result in the unnecessary loss of a specified community facility will be resisted unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the use of the building and ancillary land is no longer viable or that the use can be satisfactorily re-located for the ongoing benefit of the local community.	The policy will not lead to residential development but seeks to protect community facilities.	No likely significant effect
Rural Diversification	The re-use of an existing building in the countryside will be supported subject to certain provisions.  Proposals for housing development in the countryside will only be granted in exceptional	The policy may lead to residential development, the location and size of which are currently unknown. The requirement to provide measures to mitigate the significant likely	No likely significant effect

WNP emerging Policy/issue	Detail of Policy/issue to be screened	Comment	Significant effect likely?
	<p>circumstances. Any new dwelling required to serve the essential uses of agriculture, forestry or some other special need shall be sited within or immediately adjacent to an existing group of dwellings or on a previously developed site suitably located to serve the purpose, unless it can be shown that there are overriding reasons why it must be built elsewhere.</p> <p>Includes a requirement to provide measures to mitigate the significant likely effect on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA).</p>	effect on the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA) is in accordance with the Development Plan.	
Protect and Enhance the Countryside	Development proposals must seek to avoid having any significant effects on designated environmental and landscape assets and must contribute to and enhance the natural environment by ensuring the protection of local assets	The policy will not lead to development but seeks to protect local environmental and landscape assets	No likely significant effect
Dark Skies Policy	All proposals for development will be expected to demonstrate how they contribute to minimising light pollution and light spill into areas of landscape value and the open countryside	The policy will not lead to development	No likely significant effect
Utility Infrastructure	New and improved utility infrastructure will be encouraged and supported in order to meet the identified needs of the community, subject to other policies in the development plan.	The policy may lead to the development of utility infrastructure but no residential development.	No likely significant effect

WNP emerging Policy/issue	Detail of Policy/issue to be screened	Comment	Significant effect likely?
Car Parking Standards	All new development in Warfield must make adequate provision for off-road parking for the numbers and types of vehicles likely to be attracted by the development. Parking for new development in the countryside should be appropriately located or screened to minimise landscape impact.	The policy will not lead to development.	No likely significant effect

### **Windsor Forest and Great Park Special Area of Conservation**

3.15 The Windsor Forest and Great Park Special Area of Conservation (SAC) was designated in April 2005 for its old acidophilous oak woods with *Quercus robur* on sandy plains and the Violet click beetle (*Limoniscus violaceus*). The location of the SAC is shown in Appendix A; its characteristics and a description are provided in Appendix E. The regulations covering this designation require that any plan or proposal should have regard to whether it will adversely affect the integrity of the SAC.

3.16 The identification of potential effects must include:

- Direct effects upon the species or habitat for which the site is designated.
- Indirect effects which could impact on parts of the sites quite remote from the application area, for example through changes to water quantity or quality.
- In-combination effects such as incremental damage to European sites as a result of cumulative plans, the effects of which individually are inconsequential, but when combined, do amount to a level of damage that threatens the integrity of the sites.

3.17 The Natura 2000 Standard Data Form for the SAC (dated 25 January 2016)<sup>6</sup> identifies the potential threats, pressures and activities which may have a negative impact on the site as:

- Air pollution, air-borne pollutants (from inside and outside the SAC)
- Invasive non-native species (from inside and outside the SAC)
- Forest and Plantation management and use (inside the SAC)
- Interspecific floral relations (inside the SAC)

3.18 In order to consider the potential effect on the SAC resulting from air pollution, Natural England has advised that the road network within 200m of the forest needs to be taken into account. If the housing allocation is unlikely to generate more than 1000 visits per day on these roads then it can be screened out.

3.19 A screening of the emerging WNP for the potential significant effects on the integrity of the Windsor Forest and Great Park SAC is provided in Table 2.

<sup>6</sup> Available at <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/n2kforms/UK0012586.pdf>

**Table 2: Screening of Emerging Warfield Neighbourhood Plan Policies for the SAC**

<b>WNP emerging Policy/issue</b>	<b>Detail of Policy/issue to be screened</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to air quality?</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to invasive non-native species?</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to forest and Plantation management and use?</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to interspecific floral relations?</b>
Spatial Plan	To define the functional and visual relationships between the Green Belt, countryside, village settlements and urban area.	The policy itself will not lead to development	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect
Hayley Green	Allocates land at Haley Green (as shown in Appendix C) for a comprehensive mixed use allocation for approximately 235 dwellings.	The policy will lead to development in excess of 4km from the boundary of the SAC.	No likely significant effect. The policy proposes a development of approximately 235 dwellings in excess of 4km from the boundary of the SAC. The housing allocation is unlikely to generate more than 1000 visits per day on the road network within 200m of the forest.	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect
Settlement Policies and	To define the essential character	The policy will not lead to	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect

<b>WNP emerging Policy/issue</b>	<b>Detail of Policy/issue to be screened</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to air quality?</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to invasive non-native species?</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to forest and Plantation management and use?</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to interspecific floral relations?</b>
Design Principles	of specific settlements, to establish the key design principles, to identify community assets (facilities, shops etc.) to protect from unnecessary loss and to identify any local infrastructure needs.	development.				
Local Gaps	Hayley Green / Winkfield	The policy itself will not lead to development but seeks to protect important local gaps.	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect
Green Infrastructure Network	Identifies a Green Infrastructure network comprising a variety of open spaces, playing fields, woodlands, assets of biodiversity value, children's play areas, footpaths,	The policy will not lead to development but seeks to protect and enhance local green infrastructure.	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect

<b>WNP emerging Policy/issue</b>	<b>Detail of Policy/issue to be screened</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to air quality?</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to invasive non-native species?</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to forest and Plantation management and use?</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to interspecific floral relations?</b>
	bridleways and cycleways.					
Local Green Space Designations	Designates Local Green Spaces. Proposals for development on the land that will undermine its essential, permanent open character will be resisted unless very special circumstances can be demonstrated.	The policy will not lead to development but seeks to protect local green space designations.	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect
Rural Exception Housing	Proposals for rural exception affordable housing schemes, on sites that would not normally be acceptable for general housing development will be supported, subject to specific criteria.	The policy may lead to small residential developments, the location and size of which are currently unknown. The development will however be in excess of 2.4km away from the SAC (the distance of the boundary of the WNP area from the boundary	No likely significant effect.  The policy may lead to small residential developments, the location and size of which are currently unknown. However these will be located at least 2.4km from the boundary of the SAC (the distance	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect

<b>WNP emerging Policy/issue</b>	<b>Detail of Policy/issue to be screened</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to air quality?</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to invasive non-native species?</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to forest and Plantation management and use?</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to interspecific floral relations?</b>
		of the SAC).	of the boundary of the WNP area from the boundary of the SAC). Such small scale residential development is unlikely to generate more than 1000 visits per day on the road network within 200m of the forest.			
Community Facilities	Proposals that will result in the unnecessary loss of a specified community facility will be resisted unless it can be clearly demonstrated that the use of the building and ancillary land is no longer viable or that the use can be satisfactorily re-located for the	The policy will not lead to development but seeks to protect community facilities.	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect

<b>WNP emerging Policy/issue</b>	<b>Detail of Policy/issue to be screened</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to air quality?</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to invasive non-native species?</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to forest and Plantation management and use?</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to interspecific floral relations?</b>
	ongoing benefit of the local community.					
Rural Diversification	The re-use of an existing building in the countryside will be supported subject to certain provisions. Proposals for housing development in the countryside will only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Any new dwelling required to serve the essential uses of agriculture, forestry or some other special need shall be sited within or immediately adjacent to an existing group of dwellings or on a previously developed site	The policy may lead to small residential developments, the location and size of which are currently unknown. The development will however be in excess of 2.4km away from the SAC (the distance of the boundary of the WNP area from the boundary of the SAC).	No likely significant effect.  The policy may lead to small residential developments, the location and size of which are currently unknown. However these will be located at least 2.4km from the boundary of the SAC (the distance of the boundary of the WNP area from the boundary of the SAC). Such residential development is unlikely to generate more than 1000 visits per day on the road network within 200m of the	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect

<b>WNP emerging Policy/issue</b>	<b>Detail of Policy/issue to be screened</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to air quality?</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to invasive non-native species?</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to forest and Plantation management and use?</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to interspecific floral relations?</b>
	suitably located to serve the purpose, unless it can be shown that there are overriding reasons why it must be built elsewhere.		forest.			
Protect and Enhance the Countryside	Development proposals must seek to avoid having any significant effects on designated environmental and landscape assets and must contribute to and enhance the natural environment by ensuring the protection of local assets.	The policy will not lead to development but seeks to protect local environmental and landscape assets	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect
Dark Skies Policy	All proposals for development will be expected to demonstrate how they contribute to minimising light	The policy will not lead to development	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect

<b>WNP emerging Policy/issue</b>	<b>Detail of Policy/issue to be screened</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to air quality?</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to invasive non-native species?</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to forest and Plantation management and use?</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to interspecific floral relations?</b>
	pollution and light spill into areas of landscape value and the open countryside.					
Utility Infrastructure	New and improved utility infrastructure will be encouraged and supported in order to meet the identified needs of the community, subject to other policies in the development plan.	The policy may lead to the development of utility infrastructure. This will be located at least 2.4km from the SAC (relating to boundary of WNP area)	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect
Car Parking Standards	All new development in Warfield must make adequate provision for off-road parking for the numbers and types of vehicles likely to be attracted by the development. Parking for new development in the countryside should be appropriately	The policy will not lead to development	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect	No likely significant effect

<b>WNP emerging Policy/issue</b>	<b>Detail of Policy/issue to be screened</b>	<b>Comment</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to air quality?</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to invasive non-native species?</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to forest and Plantation management and use?</b>	<b>Significant effect likely to interspecific floral relations?</b>
	located or screened to minimise landscape impact.					

### ***In Combination Effects***

- 3.20 Existing plans and proposals must be considered when assessing new plans or programmes for likely significant effects as they may create 'in combination' effects. The Warfield Neighbourhood Plan is proposing to allocate sites and contains policies which would lead to development. Thames Basin Heaths SPA mitigation measures are taken into account in the policies and these are in accordance with the Development Plan and comply with the Habitats Regulations. As stated above, no likely significant effect on the SAC has been identified due to the low level of development proposed and the distance of this development from the SAC. It is therefore concluded that significant in-combination likely effects will not occur due to its implementation.

## **4.0 Conclusions**

### ***Habitats Regulations Assessment***

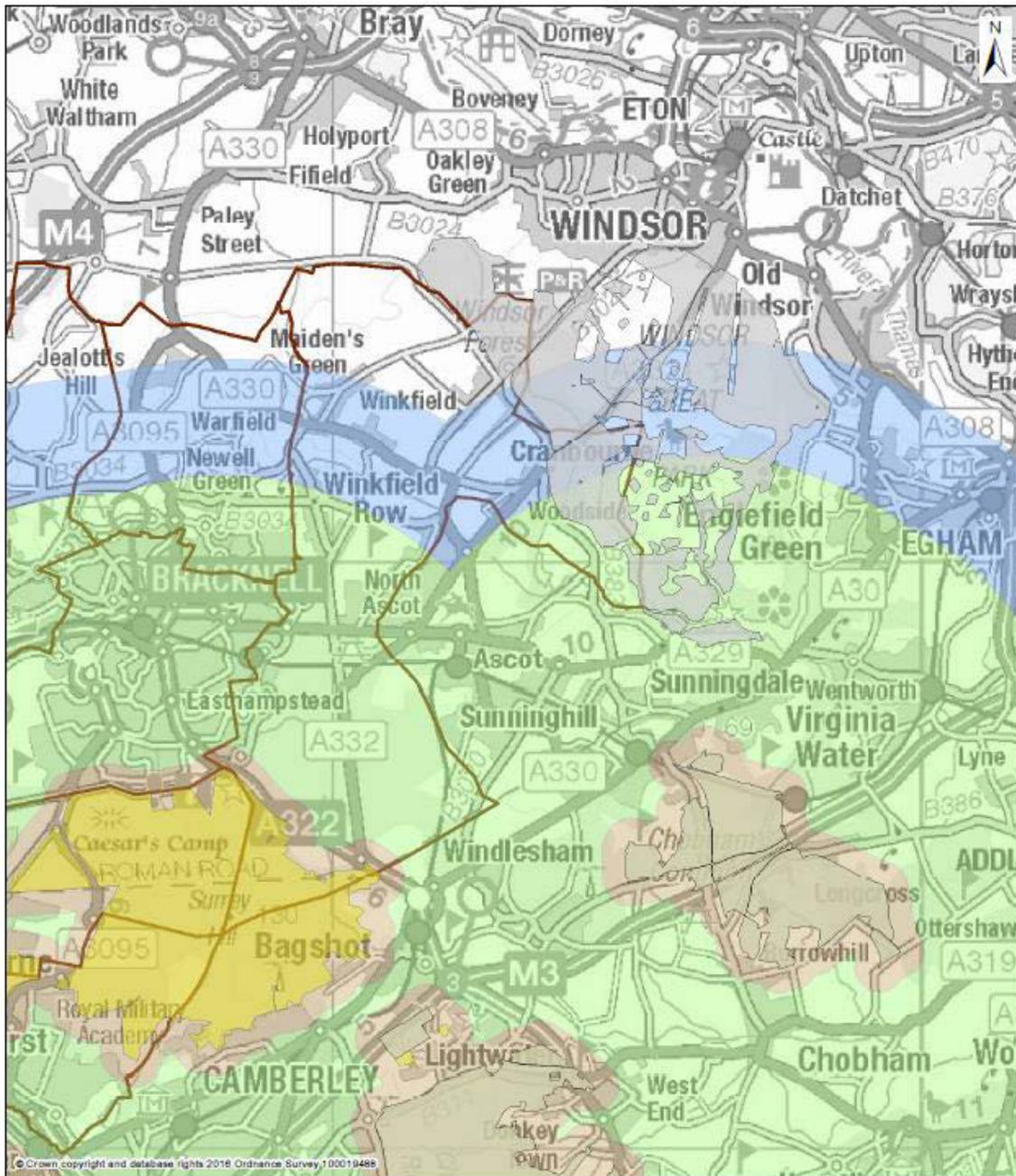
- 4.1 The screening assessment concludes that significant effects are not likely to occur with regards to the integrity of the European sites within and around Bracknell Forest Borough, due to the implementation of the WNP. As such there is no requirement for an Appropriate Assessment of the WNP.
- 4.2 In terms of Thames Basin Heaths SPA mitigation, any net gain in residential development that takes place within the Neighbourhood Area will need to comply with the retained Policy NRM6 of the South East Plan, Policy CS14 of the Core Strategy and related guidance. The wording in the relevant policies of the WNP reflects these higher tier policies.
- 4.3 The WNP policies propose development at Hayley Green which lies at least 4km from the boundary of the SAC. Smaller residential developments may arise from the Rural Exception Housing and Rural Diversification policies. These smaller developments will be located at least 2.4km from the boundary of the SAC. Such residential development is unlikely to generate more than 1000 visits per day on the road network within 200m of the forest. Therefore no significant effect is likely.

### ***Consultation Responses***

- 4.4 From 28 September to 27 October 2016 a consultation was undertaken on this screening report with Natural England. A consultation response was received and is shown in Appendix F.

**APPENDIX A**

**Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and SPA Buffers**

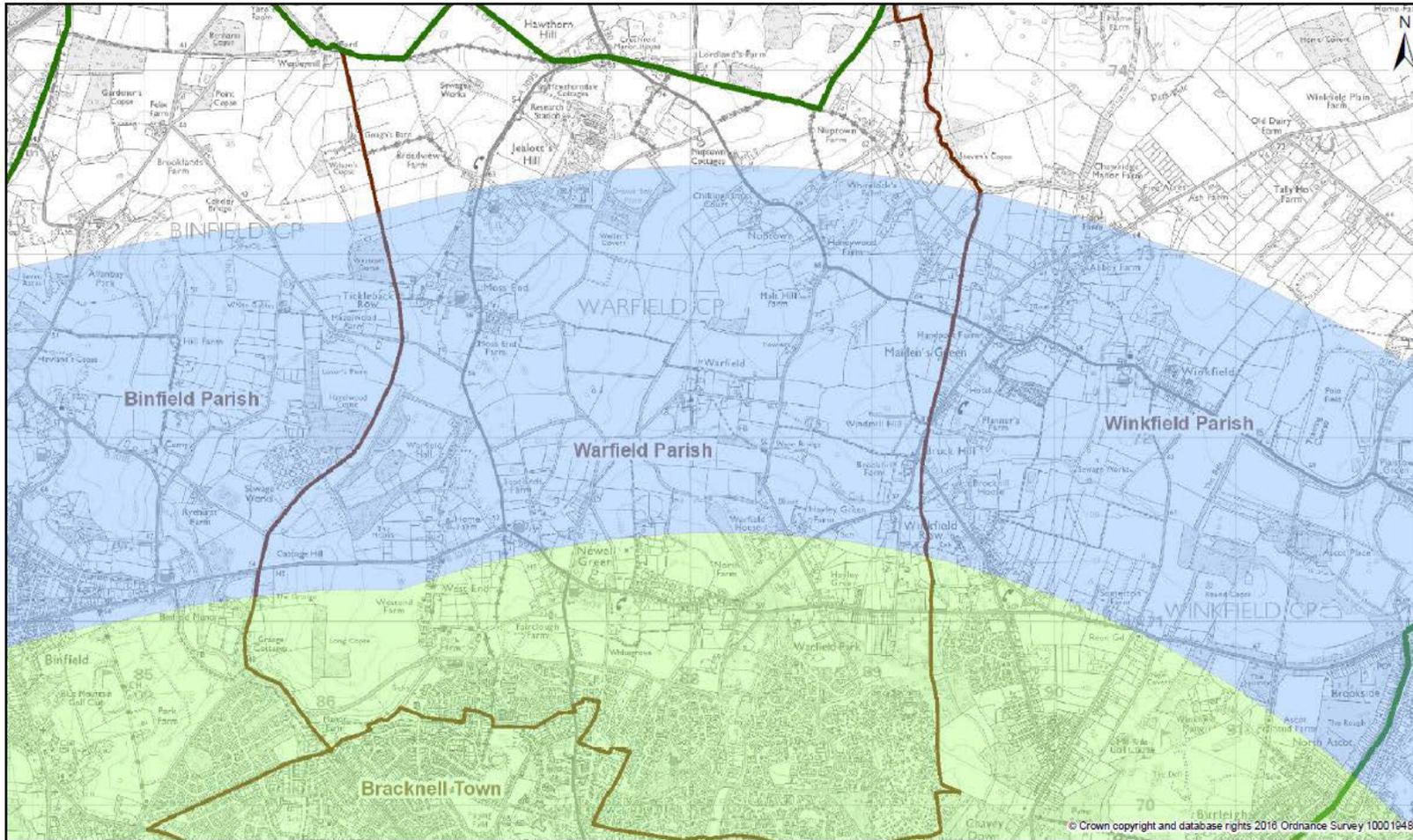


SAC, SPA and SPA Buffers Date: 20/05/2016  
 Scale: 1:87,336 (when printed on A4)

Legend	
	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
	SPA
	400 metres
	500 metres
	700 metres
	Parish Boundaries

© Crown copyright and database rights 2014 Ordnance Survey 100019488 (Map not to scale).

## APPENDIX B SPA Buffer Zones in Warfield Neighbourhood Area



SPA Buffer Zones in Warfield Neighbourhood Area

Date: 26/09/2016

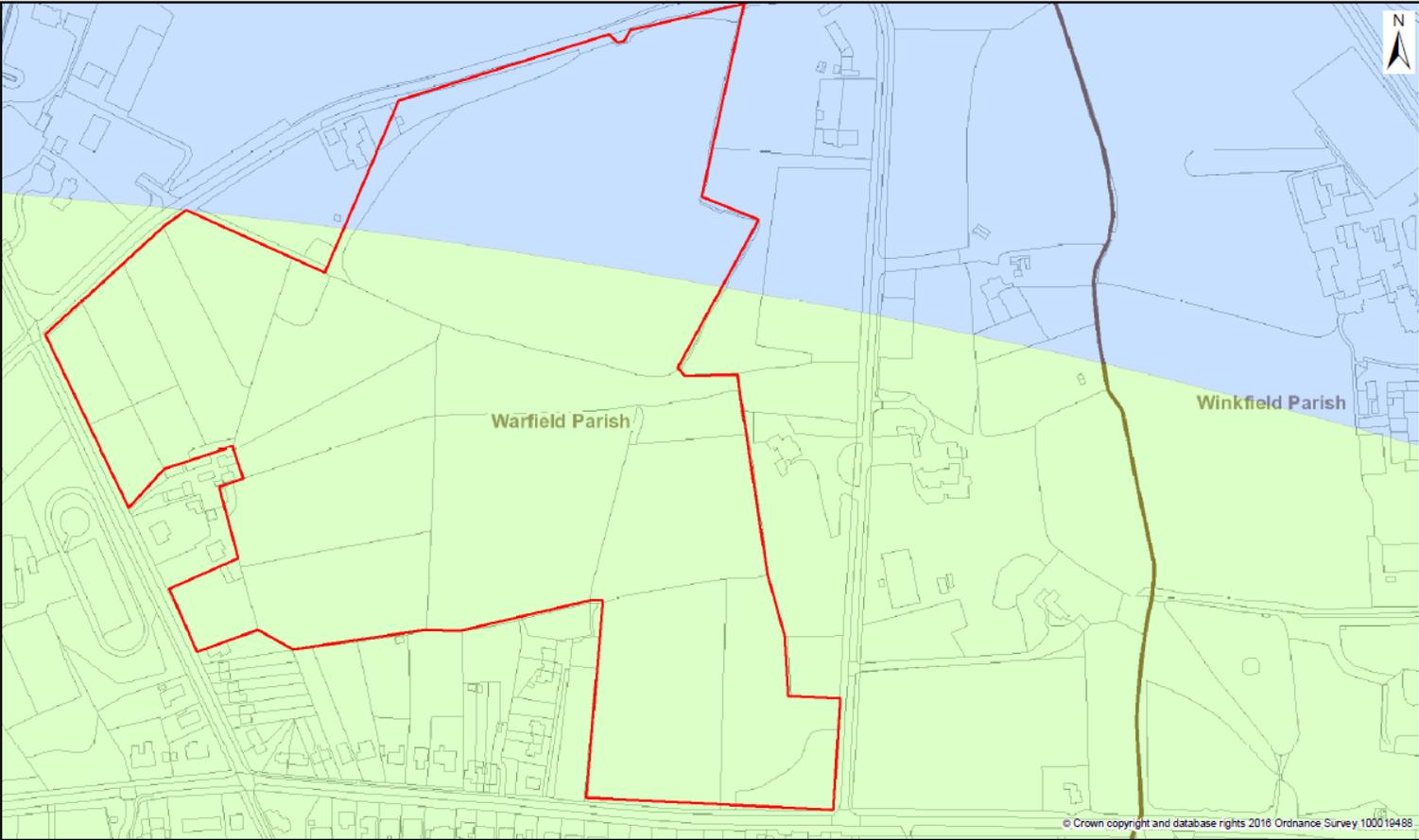
Scale: 1:27,383

(when printed on A4)

### Legend

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
|  400 metres  |  7000 metres          |  Parish Boundaries |
|  5000 metres |  BFC Borough Boundary |   |

**APPENDIX C Hayley Green SPA Buffer Zones**



SPA Buffer Zones in Hayley Green

Date: 26/09/2016 Scale: 1:3,300 (when printed on A4)

**Legend**

 400 metres	 7000 metres	 O/S MasterMap
 5000 metres	 Parish Boundaries	

## APPENDIX D

### Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area: Conservation Objectives, Qualifying Features and Ecological Indicators

Conservation Objectives	Qualifying Features	Indicators
<p>Avoid the deterioration of the habitats of the qualifying features and the significant disturbance of the qualifying features, ensuring the integrity of the site is maintained and the site makes a full contribution to achieving the aims of the Birds Directive.</p> <p>Subject to natural change, to maintain or restore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features;</li> <li>• The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features;</li> <li>• The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely;</li> <li>• The populations of the qualifying features;</li> <li>• The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.</li> <li>• Biodiversity Strategy 2020: Meet or support Biodiversity 2020 actions for SPA habitats and species present on SPA areas that were part of the reason for its designation as an internationally important site.</li> </ul>	<p>A224 <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> European nightjar (breeding)</p> <p>A246 <i>Lullula arborea</i> Woodlark (breeding)</p> <p>A302 <i>Sylvia undata</i> Dartford Warbler (breeding)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reported levels of damage to designated sites</li> <li>• Conclusions of relevant specialist assessments</li> <li>• Reported condition of SPA sites</li> <li>• Published reports from relevant lead partner/agencies delivering Biodiversity 2020 Strategy</li> <li>• Available information regarding species population/habitat extent and condition from Natural England, local Wildlife Trusts, RSPB etc.</li> </ul>

Source: European Site Conservation Objectives for Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area Site Code: UK9012141 (Natural England) <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4952859267301376>

## APPENDIX E

### Characteristics and Description of the Windsor Forest and Great Park SAC

Windsor Forest and Great Park SAC is a large area of continuous woodland. The SAC covers a total area of 1,687.26 hectares. The predominant habitat is mixed woodland (95%). There are also areas of dry grasslands (4.5%) and inland water bodies (0.5%). The soil and geology is a mix of acidic, clay, neutral and sand. The geomorphology and landscape is classified as lowland. The SAC represents old acidophilous oak woods (H9190) in the south-eastern part of its UK range. It has the largest number of veteran oaks *Quercus* spp. in Britain (and possibly in Europe), a consequence of its long continuity of management. Windsor Forest is listed as the most important site in the UK for fauna associated with decaying timber on ancient trees (oak spp, beech, and other species of tree). It is of importance for its range and diversity of saproxylic invertebrates, including many rare species (e.g. the beetle *Lacon querceus*). The SAC is thought to support the largest of the known populations in the UK of European important Violet click beetle *Limoniscus violaceus*. It is also recognised as having rich fungal assemblages. Atlantic acidophilous beech forest habitat (H9120) is present at the site and supports many of the important invertebrate and fungi assemblage

### Conservation Objectives

With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;

- The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species
- The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats
- The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species
- The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely
- The populations of qualifying species, and,
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

### Qualifying Features

H9120. Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with *Ilex* and sometimes also *Taxus* in the shrublayer (*Quercion robori-petraeae* or *Ilici-Fagenion*); Beech forests on acid soils

H9190. Old acidophilous oak woods with *Quercus robur* on sandy plains; Dry oak-dominated woodland

S1079. *Limoniscus violaceus*; Violet click beetle

### SSSI Condition

The table below provides information on the condition of the SSSI making up the SAC at 24 May 2016.

### Condition of Windsor Forest and Great Park SSSI (24 May 2016)

Condition	% of Area
Favourable	51.84%
Unfavourable recovering	48.16%
Unfavourable no change	0%
Unfavourable declining	0%
Destroyed / part destroyed	0%

## APPENDIX F - Consultation Response from Natural England

Date: 11 October 2016  
Our ref: 197339



Julie Gil  
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**BY EMAIL ONLY**

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Dear Julie

### **Warfield Neighbourhood Plan Draft Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report**

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 28 September 2016 which was received by Natural England on the same day.

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.

Natural England is a statutory consultee in neighbourhood planning and must be consulted on draft neighbourhood development plans by the Parish/Town Councils or Neighbourhood Forums where they consider our interests would be affected by the proposals made.

### **Natural England does not have any specific comments on this Draft Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report.**

For clarification of any points in this letter, please contact Amy Steel on 0208 225 6386 or [amy.steel@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:amy.steel@naturalengland.org.uk). For any further consultations on your plan, please contact: [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto: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 sincerely

Marc Turner  
Thames Valley Team  
Sustainable Development and Regulation