



LEPUS CONSULTING
LANDSCAPE, ECOLOGY, PLANNING & URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

Habitat Regulations Assessment of the Brailes Neighbourhood Plan

HRA Screening Document

LC-340	Document Control Box
Client	Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Report Title	Habitat Regulations Assessment of the Brailes Neighbourhood Plan: HRA Screening Document
Status	Final
Filename	LC-340_Brailes_NDP_HRA_Screening_2_311017DS.docx
Date	October 2017
Author	DS
Reviewed	NJD
Approved	NJD

1 HRA Screening

1.1 This report

1.1.1 Lepus Consulting Ltd. (Lepus) has prepared this Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening report of the Brailes Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) on behalf of Stratford-on-Avon District Council. This is a requirement of Regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010¹.

1.2 HRA process

1.2.1 HRA considers the potential adverse impacts of plans and projects on designated Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), classified Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and listed Ramsar sites. This is in accordance with the Habitats Directive² and the Birds Directive³. SACs, SPAs and Ramsar sites are collectively known as the Natura 2000 network.

1.2.2 Should a development, plan or project be considered likely to have a significant impact on a Natura 2000 site, the HRA proceeds to an Appropriate Assessment. If Likely Significant Effects (LSEs) cannot be avoided, mitigated or compensated to the extent that the conservation status of the EU site will not be undermined, the HRA proceeds to Imperative Reasons of Overriding Interest (IROPI).

1.3 Background

1.3.1 Lepus completed an HRA screening of the Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy in April 2014⁴, concluding that it was not likely to lead to adverse effects on any Natura 2000 sites. The Brailes NDP, if adopted, would form part of the Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy.

1.4 HRA screening conclusion

1.4.1 The nearest Natura 2000 sites to Brailes is Bredon Hill SAC, located approximately 31km west. The development and policies proposed within the NDP are unlikely to impact on the SAC in any way. Based on the available information, an LSE of the NDP on any Natura 2000 site can be objectively ruled out at this stage.

¹ Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2010/490/regulation/102/made>

² EU Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

³ EU Council Directive 2009/147/EC on the Conservation of wild birds

⁴ Lepus Consulting (2014) Habitat Regulations Assessment of the Stratford-on-Avon Core Strategy

1.5

Consultation

1.5.1

This report is subject to consultation, with Natural England as a statutory consultee. Natural England expressed their agreement with the conclusion of the screening report within the consultation response, received 31st October 2017 (see **Appendix A**)

Appendix A

Natural England Consultation
Response

Date: 31 October 2017
Our ref: 228516, 228421 ,228442



Daniel Speakman
Lepus Consulting Ltd.

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BY EMAIL ONLY

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Dear Mr Speakman,

Planning consultation: Brailes, Harbury and Deppers Bridge and Shipston-on-Stour Neighbourhood Plans, HRA Screening Reports.

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.

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening - Brailes NDP

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:

- Bredon Hill SAC.

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening - Harbury and Deppers Bridge NDP

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:

- Ensor's Pool SAC

Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening - Shipton-on-Stour NDP

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:

- Bredon Hill SAC

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 sincerely

Tom Amos
Sustainable Development

Ecological Services

Green Infrastructure

Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment

Landscape Character Assessment

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Sustainability Appraisal



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