Test Valley Borough Council

Screening Statement on the determination of the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment / Habitat Regulations Assessment for the emerging Broughton Neighbourhood Plan

August 2026

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

This screening report is designed to determine whether or not the content of the draft Broughton Neighbourhood Plan 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.

Whether a Neighbourhood Plan requires a SEA, and if so the level of detail needed, will depend on what is proposed in the draft Neighbourhood Plan. The National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) states that a SEA may be required, for example, where:

- the Neighbourhood Plan allocates sites for development;
- the Neighbourhood Plan Area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan;
- the Neighbourhood Plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through the SEA of the Local Plan in the area.

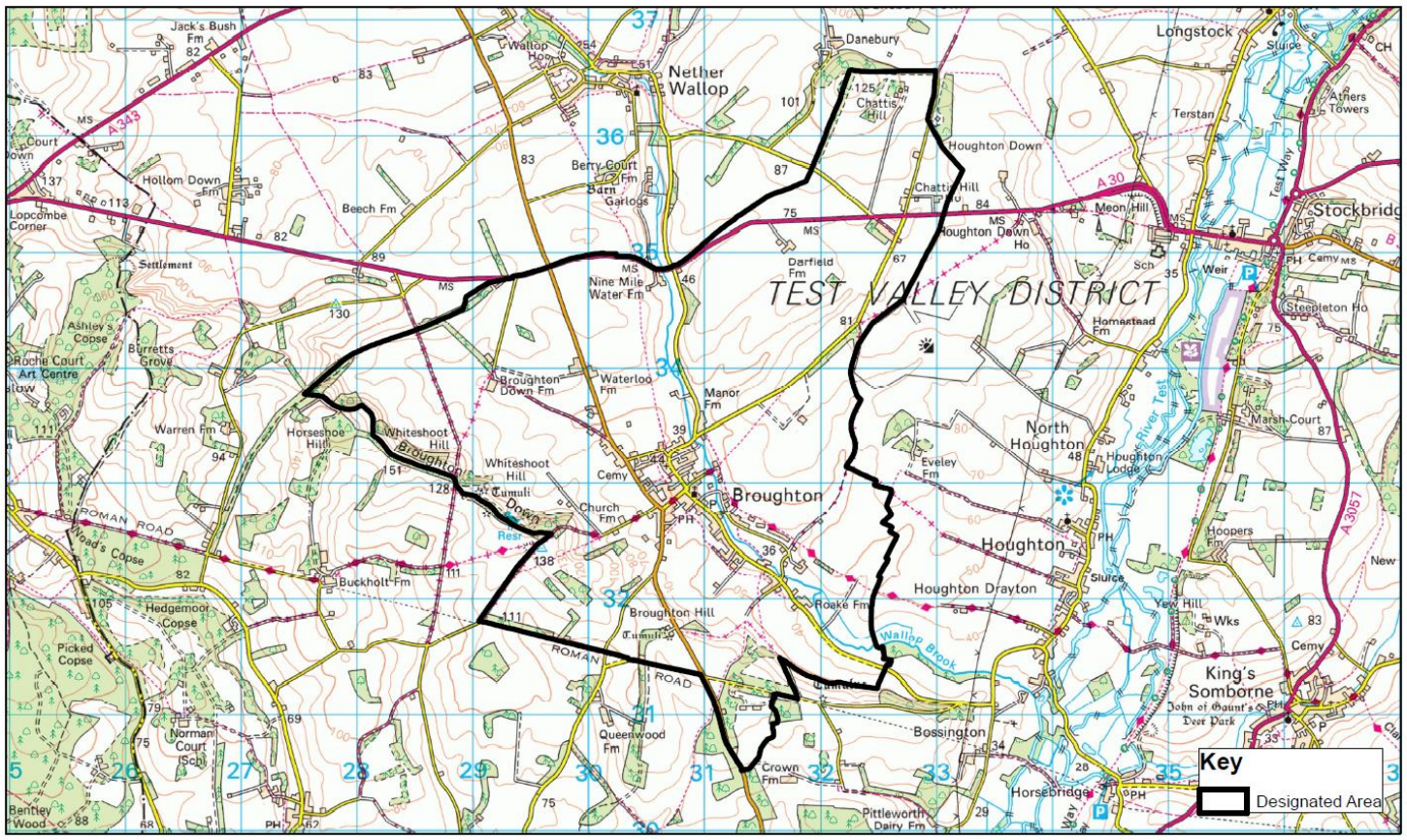
The screening report also examines the potential impact of the draft Broughton Neighbourhood Plan on internationally designated wildlife sites and determines if the plan requires a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA).

When deciding on whether the proposals are likely to have significant effects, the local authority is required to consult Historic England, Natural England and the Environment Agency. Where the local planning authority determines that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment) it should prepare a statement of its reasons for the determination.

1.2 DRAFT BROUGHTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN SUMMARY

The Broughton Neighbourhood Plan is essentially a community-led framework for guiding future development and growth of the parish until 2037. 27 draft policies have been proposed, focusing on topics including Location and nature of development, Housing, Biodiversity and nature, Water management, Built Environment, Community facilities, Local Green Spaces, Employment and Renewable energy.

1.3 BROUGHTON DESIGNATED NEIGHBOURHOOD AREA



Broughton Designated Area

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1.4 DRAFT BROUGHTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN POLICY SUMMARIES

Policy	Summary of policy wording
Need, Type and Mix (HP1)	The policy promotes modest, well-integrated housing growth that addresses local housing needs, provides a mix of sizes and tenures, supports older residents and self-build opportunities, and safeguards the rural character of the parish.
Location (HP2)	The policy directs new housing to locations that are well connected to village facilities, protect Broughton's heritage and natural environment, and reinforce the existing settlement pattern by focusing development on sites adjoining the village.
Site Allocation (HP3)	The policy seeks to ensure that future housing allocations are guided by community preferences, safeguard Broughton's heritage, favour small developments in preferred locations, and properly account for infrastructure impacts.
Design & Character (D&CP1)	The policy aims to ensure that new development is attractive, sensitive to Broughton's historic and rural character, environmentally sustainable, accessible for all ages and abilities, and designed in a way that preserves the village's distinctive appearance, amenities and valued views.
Conservation Area (H&CAP1)	The policy places strong emphasis on conserving Broughton's historic character and heritage assets. Development must work with, rather than detract from, the Conservation Area and wider historic environment, with harmful impacts only considered acceptable in exceptional circumstances where significant public benefits can be demonstrated.
Views (VP1)	The policy seeks to protect the most valued views within and around Broughton, particularly those that showcase the village's rural setting, historic landmarks, distinctive landscape features, chalk downland scenery, water meadows and the relationship between the built village and surrounding countryside. New development must be designed and located so that these important visual qualities are not harmed and, where possible, are enhanced.
Infrastructure (IP1)	The policy seeks to ensure that new development is supported by adequate infrastructure and does not place undue pressure on roads, drainage systems, watercourses or community facilities. It promotes sustainable transport, effective flood risk management and investment in local services so that growth remains compatible with the capacity and character of the parish.
Community Facilities (CFP1)	The policy aims to safeguard valued community assets while ensuring that any growth in the parish is accompanied by appropriate investment in facilities and services. It seeks to ensure that community infrastructure remains accessible, sustainable and capable of meeting the needs of existing and future residents.
Footpaths and Active Travel (CFP2)	The policy aims to safeguard Broughton's extensive footpath and rights of way network while encouraging improvements that make walking and cycling more attractive and practical. New development should support

Policy	Summary of policy wording
	healthier and more sustainable travel choices, strengthen connections within the village, and protect the rural and historic character of existing routes.
Local Green Spaces (EP1)	The policy aims to protect Broughton's valued green spaces and recreational areas from the adverse effects of development. It expects new housing schemes to contribute positively to the quality, accessibility and long-term stewardship of these spaces, ensuring they continue to serve the community and support the rural character of the parish.
Natural Features (EP2)	The policy aims to ensure that Broughton's natural environment remains a key part of its character and identity. Development should protect biodiversity, maintain ecological connectivity, preserve valued natural features and dark skies, and contribute positively to the overall environmental quality of the parish.
The Wallop Brook (EP4)	The policy provides strong protection for the Wallop Brook and its associated habitats, requiring development to avoid harm to flood management, water quality and biodiversity. It also encourages proposals that actively improve the brook's natural environment and help address the challenges of climate change.
Renewable Energy (ENP1)	The policy seeks to make new development more sustainable by encouraging the use of renewable and low-carbon energy technologies. It promotes greater energy self-sufficiency, reduced carbon emissions and a positive contribution towards climate change objectives, whilst allowing flexibility for technologies that are appropriate to the location and development concerned.

1.5 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA) PROCESS

The basis for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) legislation is European Directive 2001/42/EC which was transposed into English law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, or SEA Regulations. Detailed guidance on these regulations can be found in the Government publication “A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive” (OPDM 2005).

The SEA process aims to ensure that likely significant environmental effects arising from a Plan are identified, assessed, mitigated, communicated and monitored, and that opportunities for public involvement are provided. It enables environmental considerations to be accounted for in decision-making throughout the production of a Plan in an integrated manner.

Figure 2 sets out the screening procedure and how a plan should be assessed against the SEA Directive criteria. This outline procedure has then been applied to the draft Broughton Neighbourhood Plan in Table 1.

The implications of the policies and proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan have been assessed against any European sites within 10km of the neighbourhood area boundary in order to establish the likelihood of a significant effect on the reason for designation of the European site in question.

This assessment has been undertaken having regard to the results and information in the HRA screening assessment prepared for the Test Valley Local Plan, and in the light of the relevant European Commission guidance (as referred to above), which forms the basis for the assessment criteria set out below.

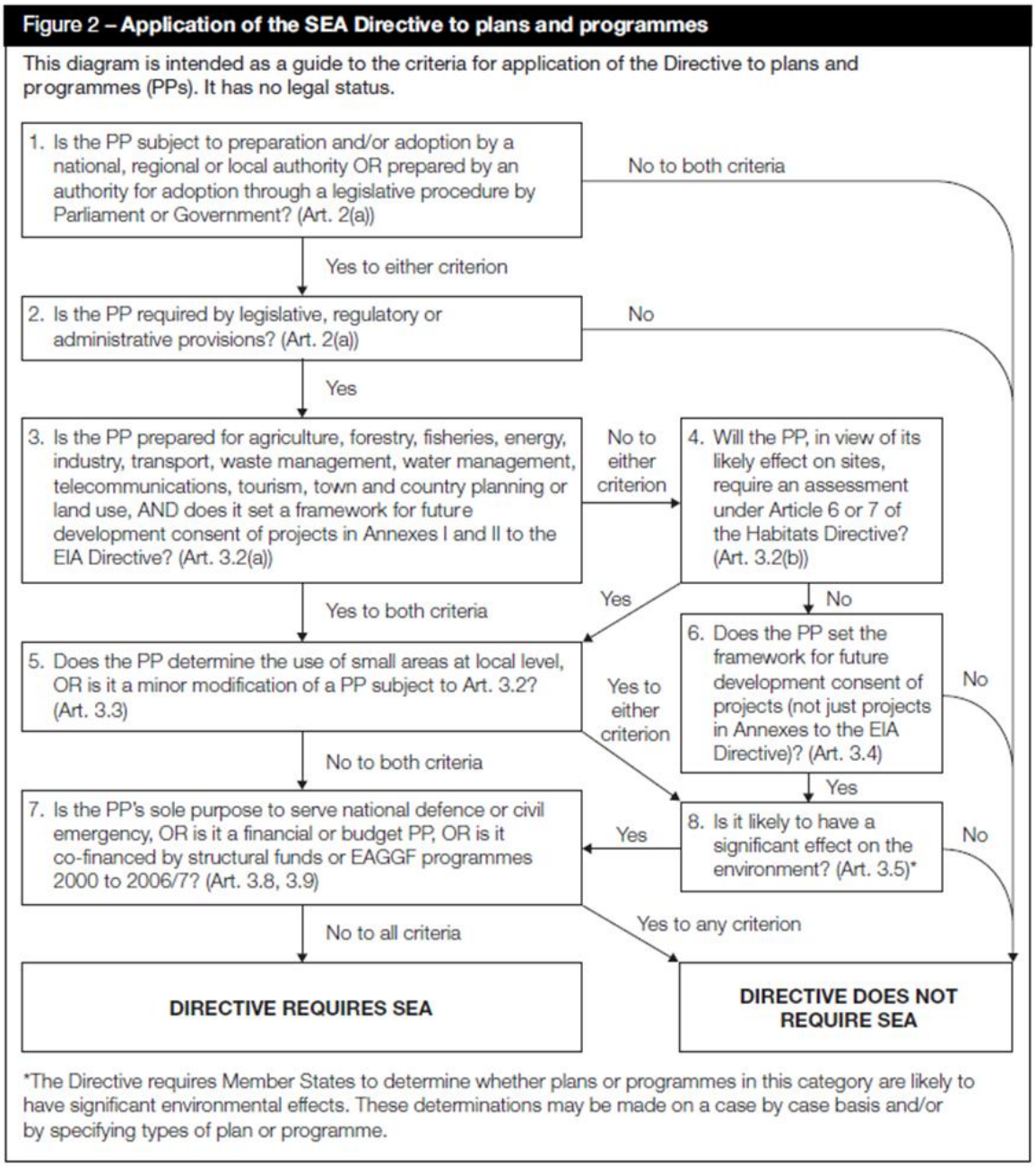


Figure 2 – Application of the SEA Directive to Plans and Programmes

1.6 Table 1: Assessment of the draft Broughton Neighbourhood Plan using SEA Directive Criteria

Stage	Yes / No	Reason
1. *Is the Neighbourhood Plan 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))*	Yes	This is a Neighbourhood Plan that is being prepared by a qualifying body the Localism Act 2011. If the Plan is passed by means of an Examination and Referendum, it will be formally made and adopted by the Local Planning Authority. It will then form part of the local development framework and be afforded significant weight in planning decisions.
2. *Is the Neighbourhood Plan required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))*	No	Neighbourhood Plans are not mandatory requirements, and the Broughton Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared voluntarily by the local qualifying body in line with the provisions of the Localism Act. If the Plan is adopted it will form part of the statutory development plan, and it is therefore considered necessary to answer the following questions to determine if an SEA is required.
3. *Is the Neighbourhood Plan 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 (see Appendix 2) to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))*	Yes	The Broughton Neighbourhood Plan is being prepared for the purposes of town & country / land use planning and will set out a framework for future development consents as part of the statutory development plan covering Broughton. At this stage the scale of housing development proposed is likely to be limited, but this will only be determined as the emerging Neighbourhood Plan goes through its preparation process. It is acknowledges that development sites are likely to be small and due regard will be given to

Stage	Yes / No	Reason
		national and local policy relating to the National Park and the Borough Council, as confirmed by the Parish Council. These matters will become clearer as work on the Plan progresses.
4. *Will the Neighbourhood Plan, 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))*	Yes	Given the range of protected habitats within and adjacent to the Neighbourhood Plan Area, at this stage it is concluded that the Broughton Neighbourhood Plan could potentially have uncertain or significant effects on Natura 2000 sites. The Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Opinion that follows in Section 3 provides more detail on this and concludes that an HRA will be required.
5. *Does the Neighbourhood Plan 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)*	Yes	A Neighbourhood Plan can only determine the use of small areas at the local level and the Neighbourhood Plan is proposing to allocate sites for development.
6. *Does the Neighbourhood Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)*	Yes	When adopted, the Broughton Neighbourhood Plan will be a statutory planning document. It will form part of the Local Development Framework and so will have significant weight in planning decisions. The responsibility for issuing development consent will remain with the Local Authority.
7. *Is the Neighbourhood Plan'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)*	No	A Neighbourhood Plan does not deal with any of these categories of plan.
8. *Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)*	Yes	Given the statutory nature of the Broughton Neighbourhood Plan; the range of environmental designations within and adjacent to the Broughton Neighbourhood Area; and the fact that the Plan is proposing

Stage	Yes / No	Reason
		to allocate sites for development; **it is concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) due to the potential for significant effects upon the environment**.

The Government's National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) resource recognises that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) may be required where a Neighbourhood Plan allocates sites for development and/or the Neighbourhood Area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan.

The Test Valley Borough Council has concluded that this is the case with the emerging Broughton Neighbourhood Plan. Although the Parish Council has confirmed that at this stage the scale of development likely to be allocated in the Neighbourhood Plan is limited (40 dwellings), this will only be confirmed as work on the Plan progresses.

Based upon the initial screening carried out against the criteria in Table 1 above, the emerging draft Broughton Neighbourhood Plan is **likely to have a significant effect on the environment.** To explore these potential effects further, a case-by- case assessment has been conducted. The criteria used in the undertaking of such an assessment are drawn from Article 3.5 (Annex II) of the SEA directive, and the results are shown in Table 2.

2 SEA SCREENING

2.1 SEA SCREENING ASSESSMENT

European Directive 2001/42/EC requires a full Strategic Environmental Assessment to be undertaken for certain types of plans and programmes that would have a significant environmental effect.

Table 2 below provides the screening determination of the need to carry out a full Strategic Environmental Assessment for the draft Broughton Neighbourhood Plan.

This has been made in accordance with the Regulations and will be subject to consultation with the strategic environmental bodies before the Council makes its determination on the necessity for a full Strategic Environmental Assessment.

Table 2 – The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004: Schedule 1 - Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (SEA Directive, Annex II)	Summary of significant events
1(a) the degree to which the draft Broughton Neighbourhood Plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;	The Broughton Neighbourhood Plan would, if adopted, form part of the statutory 'development plan' for the parish and provide the planning framework for consenting development proposals within the Borough Council area of the parish. Under Section 38(6) of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act it would therefore form part of the legal planning framework for the consideration and consenting of future development projects within the wider framework set by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the strategic policies of the Test Valley Park Local Plan (2016).
1(b) the degree to which the draft Broughton Neighbourhood Plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	The policies contained within the draft Broughton Neighbourhood Plan have been produced by the local community to influence the Parish areas. The policies will need to be in general conformity with the TVBC Local Plan and the relevant sections of the Government's National Planning Policy Framework, and will be used alongside the documents in the determination of planning applications when formally 'made' (adopted).

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (SEA Directive, Annex II)	Summary of significant events
1(c) the relevance of the draft Broughton Neighbourhood Plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	Broughton Parish Council has confirmed that the Neighbourhood Plan will include policies which seek to protect valuable cultural, environmental, economic and community resources whilst facilitating sustainable growth and commensurate provision of infrastructure to serve any new development The Broughton Neighbourhood Area is located close to a range of environmental designations that will be key considerations in preparing the Neighbourhood Plan. The NPPF places the presumption in favour of sustainable development at the heart of national planning system (paragraph 11) and also includes a range of environmental policies that the Neighbourhood Plan is required to be in general conformity with. The SEA aims to ensure environmental factors are fully considered when planning for sustainable development.
1(d) environmental problems relevant to the draft Broughton Neighbourhood Plan;	The Broughton Neighbourhood Area is situated close to a range of environmental designations. In terms of habitat designations, these include the following either within the Neighbourhood Area, or in close proximity to it. - New Forest SAC - Mottisfont Bats SAC - Salisbury Plain SAC and Salisbury Plain/Porton Down SPA

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (SEA Directive, Annex II)	Summary of significant events
	- National SSSI designations (including Porton Down SSSI, Broughton Down SSSI, Bentley Woods SSSI, Mottisfont Bats SSSI, River Test SSSI, Stockbridge Common SSSI, Stockbridge Fen SSSI, Stockbridge Down SSSI, Danebury Hill SSSI, Quarley Fort SSSI, Chilbolton Common SSSI, Bransbury Common SSSI and Brockley Warren SSSI). Parts of the Broughton Neighbourhood Area are also affected by flooding (fluvial and surface water), particularly in the River Anton valley. The emerging Broughton Neighbourhood Plan will therefore need to consider flood risk in the preparation of policy and any site allocations. Evidence from the Environment Agency can inform this process. On this basis it is concluded that the Broughton Neighbourhood Plan **has the potential to have significant effects on the environment, which should be assessed in reviewing potential development sites.**
1(e) the relevance of the draft Broughton Neighbourhood Plan for the implementation of community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management and water protection);	The emerging Broughton Neighbourhood Plan includes several policies linked to the environment. For example, the current draft Plan includes policies on: - Support for appropriate renewable energy and sustainable construction.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (SEA Directive, Annex II)	Summary of significant events
	- A 'Water management and pollution policy' to protect the water quality in the River Anton and associated tributaries. - Measures to promote biodiversity. - The potential designation of 'local green spaces' through the Neighbourhood Plan making process.
2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: (a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;	Changes in water quality: The European sites vulnerable to a deterioration in water quality as the following that are relevant to the Broughton Neighbourhood Plan - the Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC; Solent Maritime SAC; Solent & Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site. Although new development only makes a small contribution to the issue, Natural England's methodology and budget calculator (March 2022) re-affirms that new development in the Solent catchment must be 'nitrate-neutral' to ensure compliance with the Habitats Regulations and recent legal case law. Recreational pressure: The Plan Area includes part of the internationally designated Salisbury Plain/Porton Down SPA and SAC. Assessments carried out by Wiltshire Council identified an increase in recreational pressure on the Salisbury Plain/Porton Down SPA, particularly through increased levels of dog walking leading to disturbance of nesting stone-curlew.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (SEA Directive, Annex II)	Summary of significant events
	Loss of habitat: The plan area has the Mottisfont Bates SAC within close proximity. Barbastelles feed mainly on small moths, some flies and beetles. They may forage up to 5-7 km from their maternity roosts, though some individuals in less favourable habitat may forage further to reach suitable feeding grounds. It is thought that barbastelles prefer pastoral landscapes with deciduous woodland, wet meadows and water bodies, though they will feed in more open areas i.e. orchards, suburban parks. Barbastelles prefer to commute along linear landscape features, such as woodland edges and hedgerows, to cross extensive open areas (i.e. arable fields) to reach foraging grounds and may feed to a certain extent within these more open areas. Typical flightlines used by this species include linear hedgerows, waterways, blocks of scrub, wooded rides and tracks, and sunken lanes. Flightlines will extend beyond the designated site boundary into the wider local landscape. **Potential disturbance therefore cannot be ruled out.**
2(b) the cumulative nature of the effects of the draft Broughton Neighbourhood Plan;	To be determined as more detailed information becomes available. There could be cumulative, in-combination impacts of development around the Salisbury Plain's International designations. These impacts could include increased recreational pressures on the designations.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (SEA Directive, Annex II)	Summary of significant events
2(c) the transboundary nature of effects of the draft Broughton Neighbourhood Plan;	No transboundary effects with EU countries are considered likely to be significant.
2(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents) due to the draft Broughton Neighbourhood Plan;	There are unlikely to be any significant risks to human health arising from the Plan
2(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);	The Designated Area covers an area of nearly 11.4 square kilometres and a population of approximately 747 people. Given the environmental sensitivities of the area – and in particular the need to address the impacts of development on water quality and increased recreational pressure, effects are likely. There are established mitigation schemes in place to address these matters.

Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects (SEA Directive, Annex II)	Summary of significant events
2(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: (i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use; and	There are a number of nationally and internationally protected nature conservation sites within and adjacent to the Broughton Neighbourhood Area. These sites are vulnerable to a variety of impacts, as set out in the assessment against criteria 2(a) above. The Broughton Neighbourhood Area also contains a range of built environment assets (designated and non-designated), including a number of listed buildings. National (NPPF and NPPG) and local planning policies (the respective National Park Authority and Borough Council Local Plans) includes policies seeking to protect these assets.
2(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.	National Parks have the highest status of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty (paragraph 176 of the NPPF) and great weight should also be given to the conservation of wildlife and cultural heritage within the National Park. Section 62(2) of the Environment Act 1995 requires relevant authorities to have regard to the two statutory Park purposes in making decision that could affect National Parks. This applies to the preparation of plans and projects outside National Parks, but which could impact on them, including Neighbourhood Plans

2.2 SEA SCREENING OPINION AND DECISION.

As it has been concluded that **there is potential for likely significant environmental effects**, an environmental report should be prepared in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of regulation 12 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. It is advised that the following matters should be focused on in the assessment.

- Impacts on natural environment designations – comprising international (e.g. SAC, SPA, Ramsar), national (e.g. SSSI) and county/local (e.g. SINCs). This issue will also be addressed through the HRA process for international nature conservation designations (see next section).

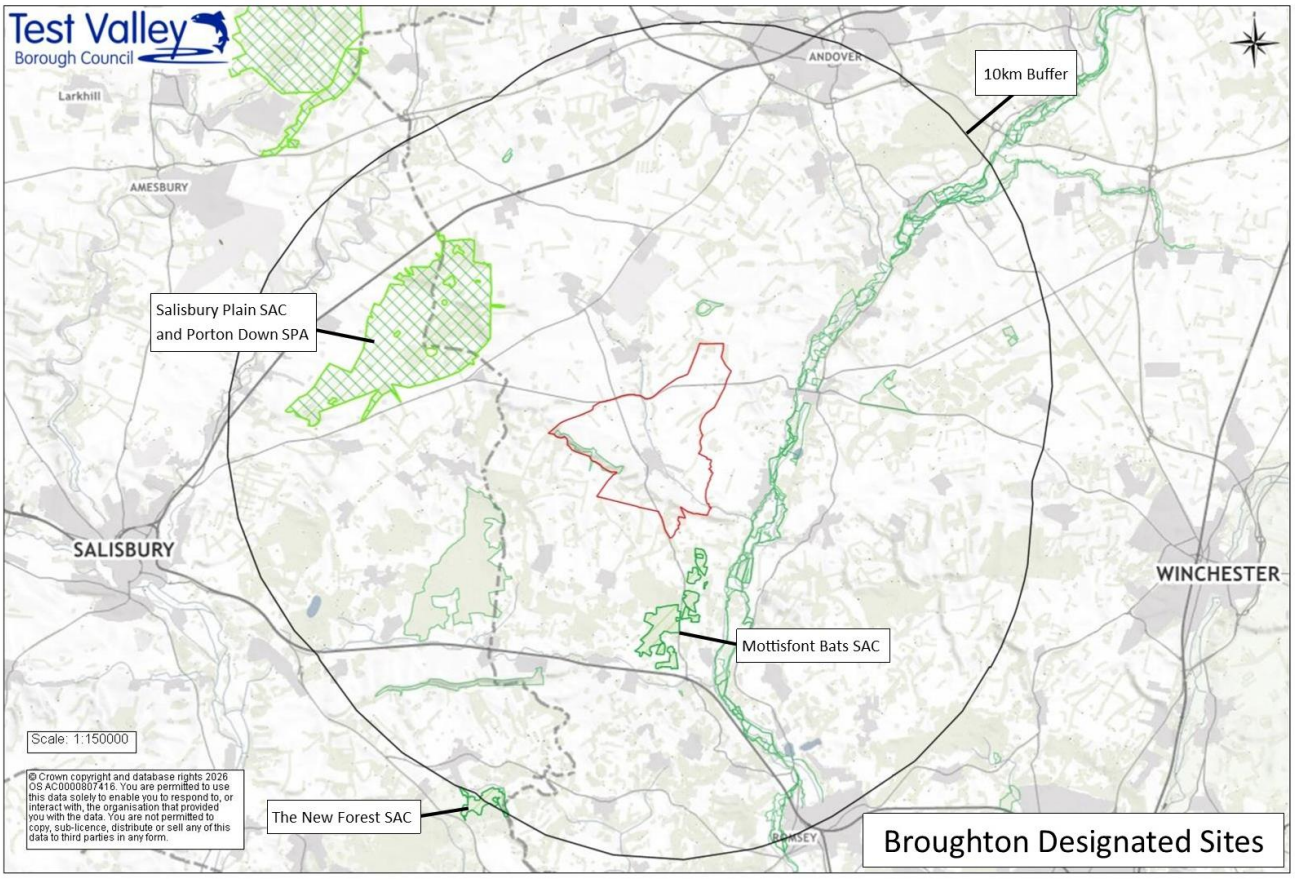
- Impacts on built environment designations – including designated heritage assets (e.g. listed buildings); and non-designated heritage assets. These heritage assets should be identified through the SEA process and consideration given to impact on them (and their settings) from the policies in the emerging Broughton Neighbourhood Plan.

3 HRA SCREENING

3.1 HRA SCREENING ASSESSMENT

Broughton Parish Council has also sought a formal screening opinion from the Borough Council on the need for a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan. The Authority is the 'competent authority' under the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2010, and therefore needs to ensure the emerging Neighbourhood Plan has been assessed through the Habitats Regulations process where necessary.

This process looks at the potential for significant impacts on nature conservation sites that are of international importance. The Broughton Neighbourhood Area includes, or is adjacent to or withing the catchment of, a number of internationally important habitats – including the New Forest SAC, Salisbury Plain SAC and Salisbury Plain/Porton Down SPA sites and the Mottisfont Bats SAC. The map below illustrates these designations in relation to the Parish boundary.



3.2 HRA SCREENING OPINION AND APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

This screening assessment has regard to the information that has become available since the Test Valley Local Plan was adopted in 2016. It is also recognised that the Neighbourhood Plan will be in general conformity with the higher-level development plan prepared by the Test Valley Borough Council which has itself been subject to Habitats Regulations Assessments.

From this process the Authority has determined whether the Broughton Neighbourhood Plan is likely to result in significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites either alone or in combination with other plans and policies and, therefore, whether an 'Appropriate Assessment' is required.

Legislative Background

Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive provides that:

> *"Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [European] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public."*

Assessment

Table 3

Potential Impacts		
Salisbury Plain Designations	**Mottisfont bats**	**New Forest SAC**
Recreational pressure: The Broughton Neighbourhood Area is within the recreational 'zone of influence' of the internationally designated Salisbury Plain/Porton Down SPA and Salisbury Plain SAC. The AA carried out by Wiltshire council identified an increase in recreational pressure on the Salisbury Plain/Porton Down SPA,	**Loss of habitat:** Barbastelles feed mainly on small moths, some flies and beetles. They may forage up to 5-7 km from their maternity roosts, though some individuals in less favourable habitat may forage further to reach suitable feeding grounds. It is thought that barbastelles prefer pastoral landscapes with	**Recreational pressure:** The Local Plan HRA work concluded in relation to recreational impacts that, prior to mitigation, likely significant effects in-combination could not be ruled out for any residential development or visitor accommodation within New Forest National Park on the New Forest SAC. The

Potential Impacts		
Salisbury Plain Designations	**Mottisfont bats**	**New Forest SAC**
particularly through increased levels of dog walking leading to disturbance of nesting stone-curlew. **As the plan proposes to allocate housing sites, potential disturbance cannot be screened out.**	deciduous woodland, wet meadows and water bodies, though they will feed in more open areas i.e. orchards, suburban parks. Barbastelles prefer to commute along linear landscape features, such as woodland edges and hedgerows, to cross extensive open areas (i.e. arable fields) to reach foraging grounds, and may feed to a certain extent within these more open areas. Typical flightlines used by this species include linear hedgerows, waterways, blocks of scrub, wooded rides and tracks, and sunken lanes. Flightlines will extend beyond the designated site boundary into the wider local landscape. **Potential disturbance therefore cannot be screened out.**	National Park Authority adopted an updated Habitat Mitigation Scheme SPD in 2020 which provides details on how the recreational impacts of new development within the National Park can be mitigated. In addition, development within the defined 13.8km 'zone of influence' of the New Forest's designated sites may also increase recreational pressures and **therefore mitigation is required for new housing and other forms of overnight accommodation within the zone.** Research reports published in 2020 and 2021 from the consultants Footprint Ecology (see Research into recreational use of the New Forest's protected habitats - New Forest National Park Authority (newforestnpa.gov.uk) identified a 13.8km 'zone of influence' from the New Forest's designated sites within which the majority of recreational visits originated from. This work has been supported by Natural England. **New development will therefore be required to address recreational impacts on the New Forest designations.**

Conclusions

It is concluded that the emerging Broughton Neighbourhood Plan does require a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). This is based on the range of designated habitats within and adjacent to the Broughton Neighbourhood Area and the recognition in published HRA work of their sensitivities to the impacts of development.

4 REPRESENTATIONS FROM CONSULTATION BODIES

The Borough Councils initial SEA and HRA Screening Opinion were sent to Natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England - as statutory consultation bodies under Regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations. The statutory consultees were given 5 weeks to respond in accordance with national policy. The Consultees agreed with the screening opinion in that an SEA and HRA are required for the plan and the responses received on the Authority's draft SEA and HRA screening opinion are in Appendix 1:

5 CONCLUSIONS

The screening process undertaken by the Test Valley Borough Council concludes that a **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) are required for the emerging Broughton Neighbourhood Plan**. This conclusion is consistent with the requirements placed on other statutory development plans that have been prepared by the local planning authorities for the area which have gone through the SEA and HRA process.

The Authority's conclusion is based on the fact that the Broughton Neighbourhood Plan will, once adopted, be a statutory planning document that will set the framework for future development in an area with a range of environmental designations. The Neighbourhood Plan is proposing to allocate a site for development and include further policies that support sustainable development.

Table 2 of this report sets out an assessment as to whether the Broughton Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment. This assessment is based on the requirements of Regulation 9 and Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations and recognises the statutory nature of the Neighbourhood Plan; its likely scope; and the value and vulnerability of the area (including national and internationally protected landscapes and habitats).

The SEA and HRA scoping work has identified the following environmental effects as key:

- The potential for direct loss of, or physical damage, to designated habitats or habitats on which designated species rely or direct mortality of designated species. In addition, the potential for development to result in loss of habitat which lies outside European site boundaries but which is used by the qualifying bird populations requires consideration.

- Recreational pressures arising from new development on the international nature conservation sites including the Salisbury Plain SAC & Salisbury Plain/Porton Down SPA – this applies across the whole of the parish of Broughton.

- Potential impacts on the habitat and flight lines of the Barbastelle bats at the Mottisfont SAC

- Potential impacts on built heritage assets, both directly and indirectly (through impacts on their settings).

The plan has been subject to an Appropriate Assessment, due to potential impacts on the European sites. The report outlines the methods used and the findings arising from the Appropriate Assessment stage of the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Broughton Neighbourhood Plan. The AA considered the Mottisfont Bats SAC and Salisbury Plain/Porton Down SPA.

The report concludes that the Regulation 16 plan as submitted **will have a likely significant effect on European sites in the absence of avoidance and mitigation measures.** Therefore, further wording is advised for relevant policies within the NP to

address the impacts as shown in Table 2

Further HRA and AA are likely be required for relevant developments at the planning application stage, in which further avoidance and mitigation measures will be required.

6 APPENDIX 1

RESPONSES FROM STATUTORY CONSULTATION BODIES