BROUGHTON NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT (HRA)

Screening Report and Appropriate Assessment – October 2026

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

The Broughton Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) has been prepared by Broughton Parish Steering Group to guide development within the Broughton Neighbourhood Area over the plan period.

The principal growth element of the NDP is Policy HP3, which allocate 2 sites Land north of School Lane and Land North of Whiteshoot Road for approximately 25 dwellings. The NDP also contains a range of policies relating to landscape protection, water management, heritage conservation, community facilities and sustainable development.

This Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) has been prepared to determine whether the NDP is likely to have a significant effect upon any European Site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, and where necessary to undertake Appropriate Assessment.

1.2 Legislative Context

The assessment has been undertaken in accordance with:

- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended);
- Habitats Directive requirements as retained in domestic law;
- National Planning Policy Framework;
- Natural England guidance;
- Relevant case law including Waddenzee and subsequent UK and European judgments.

The HRA applies the precautionary principle throughout.

1.3 Purpose of the Assessment

The purpose of this HRA is to establish whether the Broughton NDP:

- has pathways capable of affecting European designated sites;
- gives rise to likely significant effects;
- requires Appropriate Assessment;
- can be implemented without adverse effects on site integrity.

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2. Methodology

The assessment follows the recognised staged HRA process.

Stage 1: Evidence Gathering

Review of:

- the draft Broughton NDP;
- housing allocation proposals;
- European site citations and conservation objectives;
- strategic HRA evidence prepared for Test Valley Borough Council;
- relevant environmental evidence.

Stage 2: Screening

Assessment of whether likely significant effects (LSE) can be excluded.

Stage 3: Appropriate Assessment

Detailed assessment of impact pathways that cannot be screened out.

Stage 4: Integrity Conclusions

Assessment of whether adverse effects on site integrity can be excluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt.

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3. Limitations, Caveats and Reliance Statement

3.1 Purpose of this HRA

This HRA has been prepared to assess the strategic implications of the Broughton Neighbourhood Development Plan.

It is not a planning application assessment and should not be interpreted as granting approval for any specific development proposal.

3.2 Strategic Nature of Assessment

The assessment has been undertaken at neighbourhood plan level.

Detailed matters including:

- layout;
- drainage design;
- lighting design;
- ecological mitigation;
- nutrient calculations;
- construction methods;

remain subject to future planning applications.

The assessment therefore considers whether the Plan is capable of being delivered in accordance with the Habitats Regulations.

3.3 Reliance on Available Evidence

The assessment relies upon:

- The Draft Broughton Neighbourhood Development Plan;
- The site allocation boundaries;
- Test Valley Local Plan 2040 Habitats Regulations Assessment (AECOM, 2024);
- Test Valley Water Cycle Study (Royal HaskoningDHV, 2024);
- Habitats Regulations Assessment and Appropriate Assessment prepared by Test Valley Borough Council;
- Available European Site information and conservation objectives;
- Strategic mitigation arrangements operating within Test Valley Borough.

The assessment has not been informed by:

- radio-tracking studies for barbastelle bats;
- site-specific water-cycle assessments;
- bespoke traffic modelling prepared specifically for the NDP allocation.

3.4 Ecological Caveats

The site lies approximately 2.5 km from the Mottisfont Bats SAC which introduces an additional ecological sensitivity. Barbastelle bats may use suitable habitat up to 7.5 km from the SAC boundary. Development affecting wooded river corridors, riparian habitats, woodland or commuting routes could potentially have a significant effect on the SAC population.

Habitats that may indicate potential Barbastelle presence include ancient woodland, veteran trees and deadwood, dense, well-connected hedgerow networks and woodland linked to river valleys. The sites allocated in the neighbourhood plan are either predominantly agricultural land or hardstanding or maintained grass related to a disused skatepark; therefore it is considered that no important Barbastelle habitat would be lost, however any boundary hedgerows and trees would be retained.

This HRA therefore does not conclude that the allocation lacks ecological importance. Rather, it concludes that the allocation is capable of being delivered without adverse effects on SAC integrity through retention of key habitat corridors, maintenance of dark commuting routes and implementation of sensitive lighting design.

3.5 Nutrient Neutrality Caveats

The development of these sites would have a likely significant effect on the Solent and Southampton Water SPA through increased wastewater-derived nitrogen entering the Solent catchment unless mitigation is secured. A nutrient budget has yet to be prepared for these sites but would need to be completed in support of a planning application. Any future permissions will remain subject to the nutrient mitigation requirements in place at the time applications are determined.

3.6 Water Infrastructure Caveats

The NDP identifies existing concerns relating to:

- foul drainage;

- sewer capacity;
- groundwater ingress;
- flooding.

This HRA assumes that future development proposals will need to demonstrate adequate infrastructure capacity.

3.7 Reliance on Strategic Mitigation

Several conclusions rely upon strategic mechanisms already operating across the Borough, including:

- New Forest recreation mitigation;
- nutrient neutrality frameworks;
- water resource planning;
- environmental permitting systems.

If these mechanisms are materially altered, the competent authority may need to review this assessment.

3.8 No Reliance by Third Parties

This report has been prepared for the purposes of assessing the Broughton NDP.

It should not be relied upon as evidence that any individual development proposal complies with the Habitats Regulations.

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4. Monitoring Framework

4.1 Monitoring Indicators

Topic	Indicator	Responsible Body
Salisbury Plain recreation	Strategic visitor monitoring	TVBC / Partner Authorities
Nutrient neutrality	Permissions demonstrating neutrality	TVBC
Mottisfont Bats SAC	Ecological survey findings	TVBC

Water quality	River monitoring data	Environment Agency
Water resources	Water resource monitoring	Southern Water
Biodiversity Net Gain	Habitat creation and retention	Developers / TVBC
Wastewater infrastructure	Capacity assessments and upgrades	Southern Water

4.2 Review Triggers

Review of this HRA should be considered if:

- housing numbers increase materially above those assessed;
- additional allocations are proposed;
- significant ecological evidence emerges;
- strategic mitigation arrangements change;
- legislation or case law changes materially;
- European site conservation objectives are amended.

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5. Physical Scope of the HRA

5.1 Plan Overview

The principal source of housing growth is:

HP3 Site Allocation

North of School Lane is allocated for approximately **16 dwellings**, including affordable housing with access proposed via School Lane. A desktop site analysis concludes:

- agricultural land use;
- location adjoining the northern edge of the village;
- proximity to field boundaries and likely hedgerows;
- no direct connection to internationally designated land.

Land North of Whiteshoot Road is allocated for approximately **9 dwellings**, however this is below the threshold to deliver affordable housing on site a financial contribution could be sought. Access is proposed via Whiteshoot Road. A desktop site analysis concludes:

- recreational land use;
- location within the settlement boundary;
- proximity to existing vegetation along cemetery boundary;
- no direct connection to internationally designated land.

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6. European Sites Considered

The following European sites have been considered.

Site	Relevant Pathway
Salisbury Plain SAC	Recreation
Salisbury Plain/Porton Down SPA	Recreation
Mottisfont Bats SAC	Functionally linked habitat
New Forest SAC	Recreation
New Forest SPA	Recreation
New Forest Ramsar	Recreation
Solent Maritime SAC	Nutrient neutrality
Solent & Southampton Water SPA	Nutrient neutrality
Solent and Dorset Coast SPA	Nutrient neutrality

These sites have been identified consistently in comparable Test Valley and neighbourhood plan HRAs.

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7. Screening for Likely Significant Effects

7.1 Screening of Neighbourhood Plan Policies

Policy	Description	Relevant European Site(s)	Potential Impact Pathway	Likely Significant Effect?	Screening Conclusion

HP1 Need, Type and Mix	Supports residential growth associated with HP3	Mottisfont Bats SAC, Solent European Sites, New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar, Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA	In combination with housing allocation	Yes	Screened in for Appropriate Assessment
HP2 Location	Settlement-based policy framework	None identified	Does not itself allocate growth	No	Screened out
HP3 Site Allocation	Allocation for approximately 25 dwellings across two sites	Mottisfont Bats SAC, Solent European Sites, New Forest SAC/SPA/Ramsar, Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA	Recreation, nutrient enrichment, water resources, functionally linked habitat, air quality	Yes	Screened in for Appropriate Assessment
D&CP1 Design & Character	Design policy	None identified	No pathway	No	Screened out
H&CAP1 Heritage and Conservation Area	Heritage protection policy	None identified	No pathway	No	Screened out
VP1 Views	Protective policy	None identified	Protective effect	No	Screened out
IP1 Infrastructure	Development management policy	None identified	No pathway	No	Screened out
CFP1 Community Facilities	Community infrastructure	None identified	No pathway	No	Screened out

CFP2 Footpaths and Local Active Travel	Access and route protection	None identified	No adverse pathway	No	Screened out
EP1 Green Spaces	Protective policy	None identified	Protective effect	No	Screened out
EP2 Natural Features	Protection of landscape features	Mottisfont Bats SAC (indirectly beneficial)	Protective effect	No	Screened out
EP3 Wallop Brook	Water protection policy	River Itchen SAC, Solent sites	Protective effect	No	Screened out
ENP1 Renewable Energy	Renewable energy support	None identified	No pathway identified	No	Screened out

Screening Outcome

The only policies capable of resulting in likely significant effects are Policies HP1 and HP3 because they facilitate residential development that may result in:

- recreational pressure on designated sites;
- nutrient loading to Solent European sites;
- water resource demand;
- impacts on functionally linked habitat associated with Mottisfont Bats SAC;
- in-combination effects with other plans and projects.

Accordingly, these policies were taken forward to Appropriate Assessment.

7.2 Screening Conclusions

Pathway	Screening Conclusion
Salisbury Plain Recreation	Potential Likely Significant Effect in combination
New Forest Recreation	Likely Significant Effect

Mottisfont Bats SAC	Likely Significant Effect
Nutrient Neutrality	Likely Significant Effect
Water Resources	Potential Likely Significant Effect in combination
Air Quality	Further consideration in AA

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8. Appropriate Assessment

8.1 Salisbury Plain SAC and Salisbury Plain/Porton Down SPA

Evidence

Salisbury Plain SAC and Salisbury Plain/Porton Down SPA are internationally designated sites located to the west of the Parish. The allocation at Neighbourhood Plan area lies within 10km of the designated area. The principal pathway identified in the Test Valley Local Plan HRA is recreational pressure associated with additional residential development. Salisbury Plain/Porton Down SPA is designated for populations of stone curlew, hen harrier, hobby and quail, whilst Salisbury Plain SAC is designated primarily for internationally important calcareous grassland habitats.

The Test Valley Local Plan HRA identifies a 6.4km recreational catchment associated with Salisbury Plain recreational impacts and specifically identifies development to the west of the borough as having potential recreational effects.

Assessment

The two sites allocated in the Broughton NDP are materially smaller than the strategic allocations assessed through the Local Plan HRA and are located outside the principal recreational catchment identified for Salisbury Plain. The allocations comprises approximately 25 dwellings and are situated adjacent to the existing settlement where day-to-day recreational activity is likely to be focused upon local facilities and green spaces rather than Salisbury Plain.

No evidence has been identified to indicate that growth arising from the NDP would materially increase recreational use of Salisbury Plain SAC or Salisbury Plain/Porton Down SPA either alone or cumulatively when compared with the strategic growth already assessed through the Test Valley Local Plan HRA.

Integrity Conclusion

No adverse effect on the integrity of Salisbury Plain SAC or Salisbury Plain/Porton Down SPA is identified through recreational pathways, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

8.2 New Forest SAC, SPA and Ramsar

Evidence

Residential growth can increase recreational pressure through:

- walking;
- dog walking;
- cycling;
- informal recreation.

The New Forest designations are sensitive to disturbance, trampling and habitat degradation. Although approximately 25 dwellings represent a relatively modest increase, recreation impacts are cumulative and cannot be excluded at screening stage.

Assessment

Development resulting from the NDP remains subject to strategic recreation mitigation arrangements operating across Test Valley and neighbouring authorities.

These mechanisms are:

- established;
- funded;
- operational;
- secured through planning permissions.

Caveat

This conclusion depends upon continued operation of strategic mitigation arrangements throughout the plan period. Work is being undertaken to address this, and Strategic Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) provision is likely to come forwards imminently within the Borough.

Integrity Conclusion

No adverse effect on the integrity of the New Forest SAC, SPA or Ramsar Site following implementation of strategic mitigation measures.

8.3 Mottisfont Bats SAC

Evidence

Mottisfont Bats SAC is designated for its maternity colonies of barbastelle bat (Barbastella barbastellus). The Test Valley Local Plan HRA identifies a Core Sustenance Zone of 7.5 kilometres around the SAC within which development may affect functionally linked habitat used for commuting and foraging.

Assessment

The allocation does not include any land within Mottisfont Bats SAC.

The principal pathway is through potential loss or deterioration of functionally linked habitat. However, available ecological evidence indicates that the principal value of the site lies in the hedgerow and tree network rather than on arable land itself.

The ecological assessment identifies the following mitigation measures:

- retention of hedgerows and mature trees;
- retention of dark commuting corridors;
- lighting levels not exceeding 3 lux on habitat boundaries;
- warm spectrum lighting below 2700 Kelvin;
- biodiversity enhancement;
- habitat connectivity measures.

The Local Plan HRA similarly identifies retention of habitat corridors and maintenance of darkness as the key means by which functionally linked habitat can be protected.

Integrity Conclusion

No adverse effect on the integrity of Mottisfont Bats SAC can be concluded, subject to retention of key habitat corridors, implementation of a sensitive lighting strategy and ecological safeguards secured through the development management process.

8.4 Solent Designated Sites and Nutrient Neutrality

Evidence

The proposed allocation has been screened in relation to the following European sites:

- Solent and Southampton Water SPA;
- Solent Maritime SAC;

- Solent and Dorset Coast SPA; and
- Ramsar sites associated with the Solent.

These sites are internationally designated for their bird populations, coastal habitats and intertidal features. The principal pathway of impact arising from residential development within the Solent catchment is increased wastewater discharges leading to elevated nitrogen levels within receiving watercourses and ultimately the Solent designated sites.

Assessment

The allocations comprise of land at Broughton within the River Test catchment. Wastewater generated by future residential development would be treated and discharged within the wider Solent drainage network.

In accordance with the advice of Natural England, it cannot be excluded that additional overnight accommodation arising from the allocation would result in increased nitrogen entering the Solent system, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. In the absence of mitigation, such increases may contribute to the existing unfavourable nutrient status of the internationally designated Solent sites.

At the neighbourhood plan stage, no detailed development proposals, dwelling mix, occupancy assumptions, drainage strategy or nutrient budget have been prepared. Consequently, it is not possible to calculate the likely nutrient load generated by development of the allocation or determine the precise mitigation requirement.

Mitigation

The allocation is proposed on the basis that any planning application will be required to demonstrate nutrient neutrality in accordance with the requirements of the competent authority and the guidance in force at the time of determination.

Prior to the grant of planning permission, proposals will need to:

- Prepare a nutrient budget using the methodology approved by the competent authority and Natural England;
- Demonstrate that the development will achieve nutrient neutrality, either through on-site measures, off-site measures, or the purchase of recognised nutrient mitigation credits;
- Secure all mitigation measures through planning obligations, conditions or other legally enforceable mechanisms; and

- Demonstrate that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the relevant Solent European sites.

Policy safeguards within the Neighbourhood Plan require compliance with all relevant Habitats Regulations requirements and therefore prevent development proceeding unless nutrient neutrality can be achieved and secured.

Integrity Conclusion

At the plan-making stage, it cannot be ruled out that development of the allocation could result in likely significant effects on the Solent European sites through increased wastewater-derived nutrients.

However, the Neighbourhood Plan does not itself grant consent for development and the allocation is subject to a clear requirement that nutrient neutrality is demonstrated and secured through subsequent planning applications.

On this basis, and taking account of the mitigation safeguards embedded within the Neighbourhood Plan and the statutory requirements of the Habitats Regulations, it can be concluded that **the allocation will not result in an adverse effect on the integrity of the Solent designated sites**, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, provided that nutrient neutrality is demonstrated and secured at the project level before development proceeds.

8.5 Water Resources

Evidence

River Itchen SAC is vulnerable to changes in water quality, water quantity, abstraction and hydrological regime. The Test Valley Local Plan HRA identifies water abstraction as the principal impact pathway associated with growth within the borough.

The Test Valley Water Cycle Study confirms that the borough lies within an area of serious water stress and that abstraction pressures affecting the River Itchen catchment are already managed through Environment Agency licensing controls and Southern Water resource planning.

The NDP identifies existing local concerns regarding water infrastructure and sewerage capacity. Growth generated by the allocation is relatively modest when compared with strategic growth assessed at Borough level.

Assessment

The allocations within the Broughton NDP comprises approximately 25 dwellings and forms a very small component of the growth already assessed through:

- the Southern Water Water Resources Management Plan;
- the Test Valley Water Cycle Study;

The development will not introduce new abstraction infrastructure and will instead rely on strategic water supply arrangements already subject to regulatory control.

Integrity Conclusion

No adverse effect on the integrity of River Itchen SAC is identified through water quantity, level or flow pathways.

8.6 Air Quality

Evidence

These allocations comprise of approximately 25 dwellings.

There is no evidence that development of this scale would generate traffic increases capable of materially affecting European sites through atmospheric pollution.

Assessment

The Test Valley Local Plan HRA includes detailed air quality modelling for European sites including Mottisfont Bats SAC, Emer Bog SAC, Salisbury Plain SAC, New Forest SAC and Solent designations. The modelling concluded that Local Plan growth would not result in adverse effects on integrity through atmospheric pollution pathways.

The contribution arising from development within Broughton NDP would represent a very small fraction of the growth already assessed through the strategic HRA evidence base.

Integrity Conclusion

No adverse effect on the integrity of any European site is identified through air quality pathways.

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9. Mitigation and Recommendations

The following wording is recommended to strengthen the Plan.

Biodiversity

Future development proposals should:

- retain key hedgerows;
- retain mature trees;
- provide ecological connectivity;
- protect dark corridors;
- minimise external lighting impacts.

Housing Allocation

Future development should demonstrate:

- compliance with nutrient neutrality requirements;
- compliance with New Forest mitigation requirements;
- protection of ecological networks associated with Mottisfont Bats SAC.

Water Management

Future development should:

- demonstrate adequate wastewater infrastructure capacity;
- provide sustainable drainage;
- avoid adverse effects on the River Test, its tributaries and downstream catchments.

9A. Securing Mitigation Measures

The conclusions of this Appropriate Assessment rely upon a series of avoidance and mitigation measures. The responsible authority is satisfied that these measures are capable of being secured through the combined operation of the Neighbourhood Development Plan, the Test Valley Local Plan, planning conditions, legal agreements and relevant statutory environmental regimes.

Mottisfont Bats SAC

Avoidance of adverse effects on the integrity of Mottisfont Bats SAC relies upon:

- retention of existing hedgerows and mature trees;
- maintenance of habitat connectivity across the site;
- retention of dark commuting corridors;
- implementation of a sensitive lighting strategy;
- biodiversity enhancement measures.

These measures are secured through:

- A new Mottisfont Bats Policy (recommended below)
- site-specific ecological assessments submitted at application stage;
- planning conditions and approved lighting strategies.

Any planning application affecting land allocated under Policy BE3 must demonstrate that ecological connectivity associated with barbastelle bat commuting and foraging routes will be maintained and enhanced.

Solent Nutrient Neutrality

Avoidance of adverse effects on Solent European sites relies upon achievement of nutrient neutrality.

This requirement is secured through:

- A new Nutrient Neutrality Policy (recommended below)
- the Habitats Regulations;
- project-level Habitats Regulations Assessment;
- planning conditions and/or legal agreements securing mitigation.

Development proposals within the allocation area will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that adverse effects arising from nutrient enrichment have been avoided through nutrient neutrality measures in force at the time of determination.

New Forest SAC, SPA and Ramsar Site

Avoidance of recreation impacts on the New Forest designations relies upon continued participation in strategic recreational mitigation schemes.

This mitigation is secured through:

- A new New Forest SPA Policy (recommended below)
- strategic mitigation arrangements operated by Test Valley Borough Council and partner authorities;
- developer contributions secured through planning obligations;
- project-level planning permissions.

Residential development permitted under the Plan will be required to contribute to strategic mitigation measures where required by the competent authority.

River Itchen SAC

Avoidance of effects upon water resources and water quality relies upon:

- compliance with environmental permitting requirements;
- implementation of sustainable drainage systems;
- provision of adequate wastewater infrastructure capacity;
- strategic water resource planning.

These measures are secured through:

- Policy NE4 (Water Management and Pollution);
- Local Plan policies relating to infrastructure and water efficiency;
- Environment Agency licensing controls;
- water company investment and regulatory programmes.

Air Quality

The assessment concludes that no adverse effects are likely through atmospheric pollution pathways. Nevertheless, sustainable transport, active travel and settlement-focused growth promoted through the Neighbourhood Plan further reduce the potential for European site impacts.

Recommended new policy wording relating to:

Mottisfont Bats

Development proposals on greenfield sites and sites that support or are in close proximity to suitable commuting and foraging habitat (including mature vegetative linear features such as woodlands, hedgerows riverine and wetland habitats) should have due regard to the possibility that barbastelle bats will be utilising the site. Such proposals will be required to incorporate necessary surveys and ensure that key features (foraging habitat and commuting routes) are retained, in addition to a suitable buffer to safeguard against disturbance.

Planning applications for development shall be supported by an appropriate level of ecological survey undertaken in accordance with best practise survey guidelines. This will establish the ecological baseline in respect of bats and thereby determine the need for, and inform the formulation of any avoidance, mitigation and where required as a last resort, compensation measures necessary as part of the project design, to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the Mottisfont Bats Special Area of Conservation (SAC) over the lifetime of the proposed development and to promote the conservation of bats generally.

Exterior lighting affecting roosting, foraging and/or commuting habitat for bats will need to conform with the latest best practice guidelines outlined by the Bat Conservation Trust and the Institute of Lighting Professionals (current guidelines being Guidance note 08/18 Bats and artificial lighting in the UK) due to the proximity to the Mottisfont Bats SAC.

The above information will be required to enable the planning authority to assess planning applications under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 (or any subsequent amendments) and confirm there is no reasonable scientific doubt of any adverse effects to the SAC.

Nutrient Neutrality

Applications for development that will result in a net increase in nitrogen reaching the Solent Region International Sites through e.g. additional units of overnight accommodation or increased intensity of farming will be required to confirm the nitrogen budget and set out specific and appropriately located mitigation measures that will be implemented in order to ensure development is nutrient neutral from the start of its operational phase. Such mitigation measures must be secured for the duration of the development's effects. A financial contribution to strategic mitigation measures may be an appropriate alternative to direct provision of mitigation. In this case it will be necessary to liaise with Natural England to confirm an appropriate mitigation scheme to which the contributions will be directed and to ensure any contributions are sufficient to fully mitigate the impacts of the development on the Solent internationally designated sites.

Development proposals will only be supported if they can achieve nutrient neutrality regarding the Solent Maritime, Solent & Southampton Water and the Solent and Dorset Coast European sites. Assuming the developer's nutrient neutrality calculation confirms that mitigation is required, it is likely that some or all of the following may need to be undertaken.

If mitigation is required, the following should be explored:

- Provide measures that will remove nitrogen draining from the development site or discharged by the Waste Water Treatment Works (WwTW) (such as wetland or reedbed).
- Increase the size of the Open Space provision for the development on agricultural land that removes more nitrogen from this source or establish changes to agricultural land in the wider landholding in perpetuity that removes more nitrogen from this source.
- Use Nutrient Neutrality – Off Site Mitigation Financial Contributions Framework to help offset an increase in nitrogen off-site. Acquire, or support others in acquiring, agricultural land elsewhere within the river catchment area containing the development site (or the waste water treatment discharge if different), changing the land use in perpetuity (e.g. to woodland, heathland, saltmarsh, wetland or conservation grassland) to remove more nitrogen from this source and/or, if conditions are suitable, provide

measures that will remove nitrogen on drainage pathways from land higher up the catchment (e.g. interception wetland).

New Forest SPA

New residential development and overnight accommodation (including seasonal workers accommodation) within the New Forest SPA recreation buffer zone will need to mitigate against the recreation pressure on the New Forest Special Protection Area. This could be in the form of a financial contribution or provision of alternative natural green space for recreational use to the standard in force at the time of the application. Such mitigation measures must be secured for the duration of the development's effects and must fully adhere to any updates to the guidance issued following the approval of this Plan.

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10. Integrity Conclusions

European Site	Conclusion
Salisbury Plain SAC	No adverse effect on integrity
Salisbury Plain/Porton Down SPA	No adverse effect on integrity
New Forest SAC	No adverse effect on integrity
New Forest SPA	No adverse effect on integrity
New Forest Ramsar	No adverse effect on integrity
Mottisfont Bats SAC	No adverse effect on integrity
River Itchen SAC	No adverse effect on integrity
Solent Maritime SAC	No adverse effect on integrity
Solent & Southampton Water SPA	No adverse effect on integrity
Solent and Dorset Coast SPA	No adverse effect on integrity

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11. Overall HRA Conclusion

The Broughton Neighbourhood Development Plan has been assessed under Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).

The assessment identified potential pathways relating to:

- recreational pressure;
- nutrient enrichment;
- water quantity and abstraction;
- functionally linked habitat associated with Mottisfont Bats SAC;
- atmospheric pollution.

In reaching this conclusion regard has been had to:

- the Test Valley Local Plan 2040 Habitats Regulations Assessment;
- the Test Valley Water Cycle Study;

Project-level ecological evidence confirms the presence of barbastelle bats using the allocation site's boundary habitats and demonstrates that retention of habitat corridors and lighting controls can safeguard ecological connectivity.

Project-level Habitats Regulations Assessment evidence demonstrates that nutrient impacts associated with the allocation can be mitigated through established strategic nutrient neutrality measures.

Strategic evidence similarly demonstrates that impacts relating to water resources, air quality and recreation are capable of mitigation through the operation of established strategic frameworks and regulatory controls.

Accordingly, it can be concluded beyond reasonable doubt that the Broughton Neighbourhood Development Plan is capable of being implemented without adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.

References

- AECOM (2024) Test Valley Local Plan 2040 Habitats Regulations Assessment.
- Royal HaskoningDHV (2024) Test Valley Water Cycle Study.
- Test Valley Borough Council (2025) HRA Screening Matrix and Appropriate Assessment Statement.
- Natural England Conservation Objectives.
- Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).