

**DONNINGTON AND MUXTON NEIGHBOURHOOD
DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2017 - 2031**



**REGULATION 15 HABITAT REGULATION SCREENING
STATEMENT**

OCTOBER 2020

HABITAT REGULATION SCREENING STATEMENT FOR THE DONNINGTON AND MUXTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

This document is the Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) Screening Statement for the Donnington and Muxton Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP). This HRA Screening Statement concludes that there is no significant effect on any European Site as a result of the Policies contained within the Donnington and Muxton Neighbourhood Plan and as a result the Neighbourhood Development Plan is screened-out of the HRA process and no further HRA assessments (including Appropriate Assessments) are deemed necessary.

1.0 Neighbourhood Planning

1.1 Neighbourhood Planning is a community right introduced under the Localism Act 2011 and guidance on its implementation is included in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).

1.2 Neighbourhood Plans form part of the Development Plan and as such are subject to HRA under the **Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) (the Habitats Regulations)**.

2.0 Donnington and Muxton Neighbourhood Development Plan

2.1 The Donnington and Muxton Neighbourhood Area was designated by Telford & Wrekin Council on 15th June 2017 and Donnington and Muxton Parish Council was recognised as the qualifying body to produce the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

2.2 The Donnington and Muxton NDP is based on a number of locally important policy objectives.

- The scale of any new housing
- The provision of affordable homes for young people and families
- The provision of homes for the elderly
- The build quality and energy efficiency of new housing
- The locations where new housing may be proposed
- The need for some new housing to be bungalows

2.3 These policy objectives form the basis of the detailed policies that comprise the Neighbourhood Development Plan that will be the subject of public consultation, Independent Examination and Public Referendum prior to being “made” by Telford & Wrekin Council.

3.0 Habitat Regulation Assessment

3.1 The **Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended)** set out the process by which the Habitat Regulation Assessment of Plans and Projects must be undertaken. Government and Natural England have provided further guidance on the process.

3.2 Telford & Wrekin Council has undertaken several stages of HRA during the preparation of the Telford & Wrekin Local Plan 2011-2031, most recently in the Sustainability Appraisal reports of 2016 and 2017. The Parish Council is satisfied that the policies contained in the Neighbourhood Development Plan are covered by the Telford & Wrekin Integrated Appraisal (2016) and Addendum (2017) and that as a result no further assessments are required.

3.3 This HRA Screening Statement seeks to assess whether any policy in the Neighbourhood Development Plan would result in a **likely significant effect on a European Site**. This assessment follows the process used in the latest Telford & Wrekin HRA report and relies on evidence gathered during that process. Natural England will be given an opportunity to comment on this HRA Screening Statement and Telford & Wrekin Council will have regard to the representations of Natural England prior to “making” the Neighbourhood Development Plan as required under Regulation 16(3).

3.4 The HRA process assesses the potential effects arising from a Plan against the conservation objectives of any site designated for its nature conservation importance. There are no European Sites within the Neighbourhood Area or within Telford & Wrekin. However, the Aqualate Mere, part of the Midland Meres & Moses Ramsar Phase 2 Site in Staffordshire, is close to the Telford & Wrekin boundary. The Mere is over six miles from Muxton and there are no proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan that would result in a **likely significant effect on the Mere**.

4.0 Habitat Regulation Screening

4.1 Each policy within the Neighbourhood Development Plan has been screened to determine whether it has potential to cause a “likely significant effect” on any European site.

4.2 Any policy with no “likely significant effect” will be screened-out of the HRA process. Any policy where potential for a “likely significant effect” is identified will be subject to further, more detailed assessment (called an Appropriate Assessment) as required by the habitat Regulations and relevant guidance documents.

4.3 The table below considers the potential impacts arising from each of the policies within the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

POLICIES	ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS	POTENTIAL FOR LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECT
Housing Policy H2, H2	These Policies address new housing and design	No
Economy and Jobs Policy B2, B2	These Policies support new employment and seek to retain existing employment	No
Environment and Green Spaces Policy GS1, GS2, GS3	These Polices do not result in development and are intended to protect, preserve and enhance green and open spaces	No
Granville Country Park and Local Nature Reserve Policy GCP1	This policy seeks to protect and enhance the Country Park and Local Nature Reserve	No
Transport and Roads Policy TR1, TR2	These Policies seek to enhance public rights of way and cycle links	No
Recreation and Play Facilities Policy RPF1	This policy supports links between and access to open spaces and green areas	No
Community Facilities Policy CF1, CF2	These Policies seek to protect existing community facilities and support new facilities	No
Local Renewable Energy Policy LRE1	This Policy supports energy efficiency in new buildings and supports on-site energy generation from renewable/sustainable sources	No
Traffic, Road Safety. Walking and Cycling Policy RWC1	This policy supports traffic calming in new developments	No

5.0 Conclusion

5.1 The Policies within the Donnington and Muxton Neighbourhood Development Plan have been screened under the Habitat Regulation Assessment process. The conclusion of the HRA Screening process is that none of the Policies proposed within the Donnington and Muxton Neighbourhood Development Plan have the potential to lead to a “likely significant effect” on a European Site. The Donnington and Muxton Neighbourhood Development Plan can therefore **be screened-out of the Habitat Regulation Assessment process** and an **Appropriate Assessment is not required**.

5.2 The statutory consultee Natural England will be given an opportunity to comment on this Screening Statement and Telford & Wrekin Council as Local Planning Authority will have regard to their comments prior to “making” the Neighbourhood Development Plan. If following Regulation 15 consultation and the Independent Examination any significant changes are proposed to the policies contained within the Neighbourhood Development Plan then an update to this HRA Screening Statement will be produced reflecting the changes made and further consultation with Natural England will be undertaken.