

**ERCALL MAGNA NEIGHBOURHOOD
DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2017 – 2031**

**REGULATION 15 HABITAT REGULATION SCREENING
STATEMENT**

OCTOBER 2021

HABITAT REGULATION SCREENING STATEMENT FOR THE ERCALL MAGNA NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

This document is the Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) Screening Statement for the Ercall Magna 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 Ercall Magna 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 Ercall Magna Neighbourhood Development Plan

2.1 The Ercall Magna Neighbourhood Area was designated by Telford & Wrekin Council on 19th September 2013 and Ercall Magna Parish Council was recognised as the qualifying body to produce the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

2.2 The Ercall Magna NDP is based on a number of locally important broad policy objectives, these include:

- Housing
- Environment
- Pedestrians, traffic and transport
- Economy and jobs
- Community wellbeing
- Long term sustainability.

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. A positive result at referendum will result in the plan being made. The Plan will then become part of the Telford & Wrekin Council Development Plan.

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 ten miles from Ercall Magna 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 H1, H2, H3, H4, H5, H6, H7	These Policies address new housing and design and flood risks.	No
Tourism and Leisure Policy TL1, TL2	These Policies supports small scale tourism and leisure development in appropriate and accessible locations	No
Environment and Green Spaces Policy, EG1, EG2, EG3, EG4, EG5, EG6	These Polices do not result in development and are intended to protect, preserve and enhance green and open spaces.	No
Conservation and Heritage Policies CH1, CH2, CH3, CH4	These policies provide guidelines for planned development.	No
Pedestrians, Traffic and Transport Policy TR1, TR2, TR3	These Policies seek to support road safety and enhance public rights of way and cycle links and support traffic calming in new development.	No
Community Wellbeing Policy CF1, CF2	These Policies seek to protect existing community facilities and support new facilities	No
Achieving sustainable development and responding to the challenge of climate change Policy LRE1	This Policy supports energy efficiency in new buildings and supports on-site energy generation from renewable/sustainable sources	No
Economy and Jobs Policies B1, B2	These policies support the development of small scale businesses and commercial development and supports changes of use from B2/ B8 to	No

	alternative uses that are no longer viable or active.	
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5.0 Conclusion

5.1 The Policies within the Ercall Magna 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 Ercall Magna Neighbourhood Development Plan have the potential to lead to a “likely significant effect” on a European Site. The Ercall Magna 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 the 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.