

# Habitats Regulations Assessment



## Humber, Ford & Stoke Prior Neighbourhood Area

Addendum

November 2015

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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 To ensure that the requirements of the Habitats Directive and Regulations are met, it is necessary to consider the proposed Main Modifications through the HRA process to the Humber Ford Stoke Prior NDP; the NDP was refined by the NDP steering group to reflect feedback from consultation on the Draft Plan and Draft Environmental and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Reports, refer to Appendix 2.
- 1.2 The purpose of this further HRA Addendum Report is to detail the findings of the screening of proposed changes to policies and consider if they significantly affect the conclusions of the earlier HRA Report (July 2015).
- 1.3 The vast majority of refinements are not considered to significantly affect the conclusions of the earlier HRA report, as they did not involve the introduction of new policies or change the overall aims and objectives of the existing planning policies, despite the addition of new criteria in certain places.

## 2.0 Screening of proposed modifications to the NDP

- 2.1 Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 requires that a Screening Assessment be undertaken, in order to identify the 'likely significant effects' of a NDP. Accordingly, a screening matrix was prepared and this determined the extent to which any of the policies and site allocations in the Humber Ford Stoke Prior NDP would be likely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC.
- 2.2 The findings of the screening matrix can be found in Appendices 1 and 2 of that report.
- 2.3 The screening matrix took the approach of screening each policy, objective and site allocation individually, which is consistent with current guidance. The results from the HRA reports for the Pre-submission version of the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the proposed Main Modifications were also taken into consideration.
- 2.4 None of the Humber Ford Stoke Prior NDP objectives and policies (August 2015) were concluded to be likely to have a significant effect on the European site. This conclusion is based on assumptions and information contained within the Humber Ford Stoke Prior NDP, the proposed Main Modifications to the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the latest version of the HRA for the Local Plan (Core Strategy), updated in April 2015 in light of the said modifications and published on the Council's website.
- 2.5 In many cases this is because the policies themselves would not result in development, i.e. they related instead to criteria for development. In several cases the policies also included measures to help support the natural environment including biodiversity, and therefore no significant effect conclusion could be reached. These policies have the potential to mitigate some of the possible adverse effects arising from other policies.

- 2.6 It was also concluded that the Humber Ford Stoke Prior NDP will unlikely have any in-combination effect with any plans from neighbouring parishes, as no sites are currently allocated for development in these.
- 2.7 Therefore it was concluded that the **Humber Ford Stoke Prior NDP will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC.**
- 2.8 The proposed amendments to the Draft NDP are screened to consider if they are likely to significantly affect the findings of the previous HRA Report, prepared in July 2015. A summary of the main findings is provided below.

## 2.0 Summary of main findings

- 3.1 The Submission NDP incorporates suggestions made by consultees during the Regulation 14 Draft Plan consultation, by adding clarity and emphasis throughout the document. There have been some additions to the criteria in some of the policies which are strengthening up the protection of the area, prevention of additional soil management, water quality measures added and generally a reduction of adverse impact upon the River Wye SAC.
- 3.2 No new policies have been introduced into the Submission NDP following the Regulation 14 Draft Plan consultation. Settlement boundaries have changed in Stoke Prior, changes which include a to south west of the Stoke Prior settlement boundary to include The Hollies annexe. The eastern Settlement Boundary of Risbury will include only the existing continuous limits of housing development and for this reason will be adjusted to exclude the paddock immediately east of Butterfield.
- 3.3 The revised NDP policies are therefore unlikely to result in significant effects on the European sites, a conclusion of which is based on assumptions and information contained within the Humber Ford Stoke Prior NDP, the proposed Main Modifications to the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the latest version of the HRA for the Local Plan (Core Strategy), updated in April 2015 in light of the said modifications and published on the Council's website.

## 4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 With reference to section 3 above, the additional criteria added to Policy HFSP 3,4,5,6,7,8, 14 and HFSP17 are not considered to affect the findings of the previous HRA report. On the contrary; they strengthen the likelihood of there being no adverse impacts.
- 4.2 Therefore the earlier conclusion that the **Humber Ford Stoke Prior NDP will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC** remains valid.

## 5.0 Next steps

- 5.1 This Addendum Report will be published alongside both the Submission NDP and earlier HRA Report for consultation. Any changes to the plan that arise from this consultation will be subject to further screening, in order to consider their impact on protected sites.

# Appendix 1

**Table 4: HRA Re-Screening of Significant Changes (Objectives, Options and Policies) following Draft Plan Consultation**

Parish Council Name: Humber Ford Stoke Prior

NDP Title: Humber Ford Stoke Prior NDP

Date undertaken: 19th November 2015

NDP Redrafted objectives, options, policies, sites following significant changes HRA Screening	HRA Re-Screening Assessment of significant changes (objectives, options and policies) following Draft Plan Consultation				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the redrafted objective, option or policy	Likely effect if redrafted objective, option or policy implemented. Could they have LSE on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons)	European Sites potentially affected (Refer to Initial Screening)	Mitigation measures to be considered to avoid any impacts	If recommendations are implemented, would it be possible that it would result in no likely significant effect?
<b>HFSP3 (part of) Policy HFSP3: Housing development and phasing</b>	Smaller Housing developed will be phased. Construction traffic may create noise and disruption but will be reduced from phasing development.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. Potential detrimental effects would be mitigated with the policies within the Core Strategy and by NDP policy HFSP 11, 14, 16 and 17.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	N/A	Scale and extent of such development is unlikely to be significant
<b>HFSP4 Stoke Prior Inset Map (part of)</b> Change to south west of the Stoke Prior settlement boundary to include The Hollies annexe.	New homes will be created in Stoke Prior. Construction traffic may create noise and disruption.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. Potential detrimental effects would be mitigated with the policies within the Core Strategy and by NDP policy HFSP 11, 14, 16 and 17.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	N/A	Small changes to settlement boundary unlikely to have a significant impact on the environment.
<b>HFSP5 Risbury Inset Map (part of)</b> The eastern	New homes will be created in Risbury.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European	River Wye (including River Lugg)	N/A	Small changes to settlement boundary unlikely to have a

Settlement Boundary will include only the existing continuous limits of housing development and for this reason will be adjusted to exclude the paddock immediately east of Butterfield	Construction traffic may create noise and disruption	Site. Potential detrimental effects would be mitigated with the policies within the Core Strategy and by NDP policy HFSP 11,14 , 16 and 17.	SAC		significant impact on the environment.
<b>Policy HFSP7: Provision of affordable housing outside the villages</b> Wording changes	Affordable housing will be developed under rural exception sites policy. Construction traffic may create noise and disruption, however this will be on a small scale.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	N/A	No. This criteria based policy will not produce any impacts upon the European site.
<b>Policy HFSP8(i)</b> Response to comments from Natural England to include reference to soil management.	Houses developed within the Neighbourhood area will abide by design criteria listed in HFSP8.m,n	Changes to policy for additional soil management will help mitigate the effects of housing development for housing based policies in Humber Ford Stoke Prior.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC	N/A	No. This criteria based policy will not produce any impacts upon the European site.
<b>Policy HFSP14: Surface and foul water drainage</b> Response to comments from Natural England, to include	Improvement works to foul sewerage  Detailed water assessments carried out.  Identification of existing	Changes to policy for developers to carry out detail water assessments will help mitigate environmental impact stemmed from development.	N/A	N/A	No, this policy aims to mitigate any potential harmful effect that surface and foul drainage caused from development t upon the European sites.

reference to local water quality targets.	and potential water management problems.				
<b>Policy HFSP16:</b> Changes in wording clarify policy in response to Natural England comments.	Protection of natural environment  Further protection for housing in and surrounding the identified settlements.	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site. This can help mitigate effect of the policies HSP3,4,5,6,	N/A	N/A	No, the policies involved in delivering this objective would only have positive impacts upon the European sites if it is successfully implemented.
<b>HFSP17(c)</b> Response to comments from residents. To strengthen policy.	Local heritage will be protected from development.  Detailed archaeological assessments carried out	Unlikely that there will be any significant effects on the European Site.  Safeguard significant archaeological remnants.	N/A	N/A	No. This criteria based policy will not produce any impact upon the European site and ensures protection for heritage assets in the neighbourhood area.

# Appendix 2

## **HRA Consultation Feedback**

This consultation feedback is **only** for comments received on the HRA of the Neighbourhood Development Plan

**Parish Council Name: Humber Ford Stoke Prior Group Parish**

**Neighbourhood Development Plan Name: Humber Ford Stoke Prior Neighbourhood Development Plan**

**Consultation date: 1 August – 15 September 2015**

**Consultation title: Humber Ford Stoke Prior consultation Regulation 14**

No Comments were received for the HRA of the NDP