

TIBBERTON AND CHERRINGTON  
PARISH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN  
2020-2031

HABITAT REGULATION  
ASSESSMENT  
SCREENING STATEMENT

Tibberton and Cherrington  
Parish Council

# **Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Statement for the Tibberton and Cherrington Neighbourhood Plan (TCNP)**

## **1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 This document is the Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) Screening Statement for the Tibberton and Cherrington Neighbourhood Plan (TCNP).
- 1.2 This HRA Screening Statement concludes that there is no likely significant effect on any European Site as a result of the policies contained within the Tibberton and Cherrington Neighbourhood Plan and as such the TCNP is 'screened out' of the HRA process and no further HRA assessments (including 'Appropriate Assessments') are deemed necessary.

## **2.0 Neighbourhood Planning**

- 2.1 Neighbourhood planning is a new community right introduced by the Localism Act 2011 and guidance on its implementation is provided in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- 2.2 Neighbourhood Plans form part of the Statutory Land Use Plan and as such must be subject to HRA under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) [the Habitats Regulations].

## **3.0 Tibberton and Cherrington Neighbourhood Plan**

- 3.1 The Tibberton and Cherrington Neighbourhood Area was designated by Telford & Wrekin Council in January 2019. The Parish Council has subsequently prepared a draft Neighbourhood Plan and ran a public consultation on the draft plan from January - March 2020 with a view to 'making' the Neighbourhood Plan later in 2020.
- 3.2 The Tibberton and Cherrington Neighbourhood Plan is based upon four themes and includes 11 policies within those themes.

## **4.0 Habitat Regulation Assessment**

- 4.1 The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) set out the process by which HRA of plans and projects must be undertaken. Further guidance has been provided by government and Natural England on the process.
- 4.2 Telford & Wrekin Council has undertaken several stages of HRA during the preparation of the Local Plan 2011 - 2031 and has carried out a Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Report (Submission Version)<sup>1</sup>. This HRA Screening Statement follows the process used in the latest HRA report and relies on the evidence gathered during that process.
- 4.3 Telford & Wrekin Council is the 'Competent Authority' in terms of HRA for the 'making' of the Tibberton and Cherrington Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council produced this HRA Screening Statement to accompany the draft Neighbourhood Plan.
- 4.4 Natural England has been given an opportunity to formally comment on this HRA Screening Statement and Telford & Wrekin Council will have regard to the representations of Natural England prior to 'making' the Neighbourhood Plan as required under Regulation 61 (3).

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<sup>1</sup> Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Report (Submission Version) by Enfusion (July 2016).

4.5 The HRA process assesses the potential effects arising from a plan against the conservation objectives of any site designated for its nature conservation importance. The European Sites situated in close proximity to the borough of Telford & Wrekin are set out in the HRA Screening Report (Submission Version)<sup>2</sup> along with their conservation objectives and an assessment of potential effect pathways.

4.6 There are no European Sites within the Neighbourhood Area or, indeed, within the borough of Telford & Wrekin. Aqualate Mere is part of the Midland Meres & Mosses Ramsar Phase 2 site and is located in Staffordshire, close to the borough border with Telford & Wrekin. Aqualate Mere is approximately 7 miles from the Tibberton and Cherrington Neighbourhood Area.

## 5.0 HRA Screening

5.1 Each policy within the Neighbourhood Plan has been screened to determine whether it has potential to cause a Likely Significant Effect on any European Site.

5.2 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 (sometimes called an 'Appropriate Assessment') in line with the Habitats Regulations and relevant guidance documents.

5.3 Table 1 below considers the potential impacts arising from each of the policies within the draft Tibberton and Cherrington Neighbourhood Plan.

Policy	Assessment of potential impacts	Potential for Likely Significant Effect
POLICY CA1: COMMUNITY FACILITIES	This policy recognises and seeks to protect and improve local facilities, including those which will encourage a viable and active community. This includes access to these facilities by more sustainable movement by ensuring accessibility by public transport, walking and cycling.	No
POLICY CA2: SMALL SCALE EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT	This policy seeks to encourage local employment in ways which deliver sustainable development. This might result in the conversion of existing buildings or small new buildings/extensions for business use within the Parish that provide demonstrable benefits to the local community and contribute to its long-term sustainability.	No
POLICY CA3: TOURISM AND LEISURE DEVELOPMENT	This policy may result in small scale improvements to visitor infrastructure and accommodation where it is in line with Local Plan Policies particularly SP3: Rural Area, EC3: Employment in the rural area and EC12: Leisure, cultural and tourism development. The Local Plan HRA Screening Report (Submission Version) assesses the potential impact of development in and around Newport on Aqualate Mere in detail and concludes that there is no Likely Significant Effect either alone or in-combination from any of the policies in the Local Plan on a European Designated Site.	No

<sup>2</sup> Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Report (Submission Version) by Enfusion (July 2016).

Policy	Assessment of potential impacts	Potential for Likely Significant Effect
POLICY RCH1: CONSERVATION OF TIBBERTON AND CHERRINGTON HISTORIC CHARACTER	This policy does not drive land use or the location of developments but relates to qualitative criteria which protect, promote or enhance the character, setting and appearance of the Parish.	No
POLICY RCH2: RESIDENTIAL WITHIN TIBBERTON AND CHERRINGTON	This policy requires development within the Tibberton Settlement Boundary to contribute positively to local character and distinctiveness. It also builds on Telford and Wrekin Local Plan policies SP3 and HO10 which support new development where it meets the need of the local community.	No
POLICY RCH3: RESIDENTIAL OUTSIDE OF TIBBERTON AND CHERRINGTON	This policy seeks to protect the surrounding countryside, prevent ribbon development and further housing outside of the Tibberton Settlement Boundary. This policy is supported by Local Plan policy SP3 which recognises the importance of the local area and the need to protect its environmental, social and economic characteristics.	No
POLICY RCH4: DESIGN OF NEW HOUSING	This policy does not drive land use or the location of developments but relates to qualitative criteria including design which contributes to improving residents' quality of life and provides positive support and protection for wildlife and biodiversity.	No
POLICY RCH5: TYPE AND TENURE OF HOUSING	This policy does not drive land use or the location of developments but relates to qualitative criteria including design for the younger and older generations.	No
POLICY EOR1: LOCAL GREEN SPACE	This policy might result in enhancements and improvement and is intended to protect and enhance open spaces and the natural environment.	No
POLICY EOR2: ECOLOGY AND LANDSCAPE	This policy might result in enhancements and improvements and is intended to protect and enhance open spaces and the natural environment.	No
POLICY HB1: LINKAGES AND CONNECTIONS	This policy might result in enhancements and improvements to Public Rights of Way and pedestrian links. All new proposals will be expected to demonstrate safe routes for pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders to local service and facilities. However, no potential development or proposal has been identified by which such a small scale development could result in a Likely Significant Effect on a European Site.	No

## **Conclusion of the HRA Screening process for the Tibberton and Cherrington Neighbourhood Plan**

- 6.0 The policies within the Tibberton and Cherrington Neighbourhood Plan have been screened under the Habitat Regulation Assessment process
- 6.1 The conclusion of the HRA Screening Process is that none of the proposed policies within the draft Tibberton and Cherrington Neighbourhood Plan has the potential to lead to a Likely Significant Effect on a European Site.
- 6.2 The draft Tibberton and Cherrington Neighbourhood Plan can be 'screened out' of the Habitat Regulation Assessment process and an 'Appropriate Assessment' is not required.
- 7.0 **Next Steps**
- 7.1 Natural England has been given an opportunity to comment on this Habitat Regulation Assessment Screening Statement and has agreed with the above conclusion that no further assessment work is required. Telford & Wrekin Council will have regard to the comments of Natural England as the appropriate nature conservation body under the Habitats Regulations prior to the 'making' of Tibberton and Cherrington Neighbourhood Plan.
- 7.2 If, following the public consultation on the draft Tibberton and Cherrington Neighbourhood Plan, changes are proposed to the policies contained within the Plan then an update to this HRA Screening Statement will be produced reflecting the changes made and, if significant changes are proposed, a further consultation with Natural England will be undertaken.