

Appendix 1; Assessment of requirement for Strategic Environmental Assessment

The Neighbourhood Plan's objectives are to;

- Encourage sustainable housing development within the village settlement boundary
- Ensure that the location, design and scale of any housing development is managed in order to maintain the character and heritage of the village
- Protect and enhance the village's key green spaces and recreational facilities
- Support people with a local connection who wish to remain within or return to the community
- Promote energy efficient buildings and increase resilience to Climate Change.

The plan includes policies on housing on brownfield sites, protection of open area, housing styles, local characteristics and design guidance, affordable entry level housing for people with a local connection and good practice in sustainable design.

Its overall vision is to “maintain the special character and built heritage of the parish of Norton St Philip while promoting its development as a compact and sustainable community”.

| Assessment Criteria | Assessment of Significant Effect | Justification | Amendments to Policy |
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| Criteria 1 from Schedule 1 of 2004 SEA Regulations – The characteristics of plans and programmes having regard, in particular, to: | | | |
| The degree to which the plan or programme sets a | Not significant | The NSP NP must be in general conformity with the Mendip Local Plan and the NPPF. | None |

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| <p>framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources</p> | | <p>The local plan site allocations document is in preparation and the NSP NP will both influence and be influenced by the emerging Local Plan documents, which are now at examination. Both the local plan and the NSP NP will set the context for determining planning applications alongside the NPPF. The plan influences development within the confines of the parish of Norton St Philip and therefore guides other activities, including the determination of applications for planning permission. Policies relating to development proposals are assessed separately below. The Plan has as an overarching principle encouraging sustainable development, including the conservation and enhancement of historic heritage, and is therefore unlikely to give rise to significant environmental effects.</p> | |
| <p>The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy</p> | <p>Not significant</p> | <p>The plan will both influence and be influenced by the emerging Local Plan site allocations document. However, it must be in general conformity with Part 1 of the Local Plan, which sets the strategic direction of development, and the NPPF. As such it is unlikely to give rise to significant environmental effects by reason of its influence on these tiers of the planning system.</p> | <p>None</p> |

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| The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development | Not significant | The NSP NP includes encouraging sustainable development within the village as an overarching principle, and is therefore unlikely to give rise to significant environmental effects. | None |
| Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme | Not significant | The environmental impacts of proposals within the NSP NP are considered not to have significant environmental effects, as discussed in the policy section below. Other policies are not site specific and are guided by the overarching principle of encouraging sustainable development. The plan is unlikely to give rise to significant environmental impacts. | None |
| The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of European Community legislation on the environment | Not significant | The NSP NP must be in general conformity with the Mendip Local Plan. The Local Plan part 1 and the emerging Local Plan part 2 have regard to European Community legislation on the environment and therefore this will not be relevant to the NSP NP. | None |

| Criteria 2 from Schedule 1 of 2004 SEA Regulations – Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: | | | |
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| The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects | Not significant | <p>The NSP NP supports some forms of development and therefore some environmental effects will occur. However the plan aims to ensure that development is appropriate to the village, within the settlement boundary and on a site where the principle of development has been agreed in previous planning permissions. This will minimise adverse effects, within the overarching principle of encouraging sustainable development. Some of the impacts will depend on the detail of proposals that come forward. The plan and any proposals requiring planning permission must be in conformity with the Mendip Local Plan and NPPF. The NSP NP is therefore unlikely to give rise to significant environmental impacts.</p> | None |
| The cumulative nature of the effects | Not significant | <p>The policies set out in the NSP NP must work with the overall strategic envelope set by the Mendip Local Plan and NPPF. Within this context, the cumulative impact of policies in the NSP NP are unlikely to give rise to significant environmental impacts.</p> | None |
| The transboundary nature of the effects | Not significant | <p>Effects will be local, with limited effect on neighbouring areas. The policies in the NP</p> | None |

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| | | relate only to the parish of Norton St Philip and transboundary effects will be very limited. | |
| The risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents) | Not significant | There is little scope for risks to human health as a result of the policies in the NSP NP. | None |
| The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected) | Not significant | The NSP NP covers a limited area (the parish of Norton St Philip) with a small population, so any effects are likely to be localised. | None |
| The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to special natural characteristics or cultural heritage | Not significant | The policies of the plan seek to protect the special characteristics of the area, including its open spaces, distinctive character and heritage. | None |
| The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values | Not significant | The level of development proposed through the NSP NP is not of a scale that would affect the value or vulnerability of the area. The overall level of development is determined by the local Plan part1 and the NSP NP must be in conformity with this. | None |
| The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to intensive land-use | Not significant | The scale of development proposed in the NSP NP would not result in intensive land use. The overall level of development is determined by the Local Plan Part1 and the NSP NP must be in conformity with this | None |
| | Not significant | No landscapes that have a recognised | None |

| | | national, European Community or international protections status will be affected by the NSP NP. The significance of buildings listed nationally for their historic or architectural value is acknowledged in the plan. | |
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| Development Policy Criteria Assessment | Assessment of significant effect | Justification | Amendments to Policy |
| Policy 1: Settlement Boundary | Not significant | The boundary has been set with reference to existing development, and planning permissions currently being built out. Open space within it is mostly proposed as Local Green Space in the Plan. The boundary is based on the previous one in the Mendip Local Plan 2002-2011, which was a saved policy in the Local Plan Part 1. This boundary is the same as proposed in the emerging Local Plan Part 2 | None |
| Policy 2: Housing Sites within the Development Boundary | Potential effect | The policy currently proposes two sites within the development boundary and conservation area, which if not developed with due regard to the need to conserve and enhance the historic heritage of the conservation area could have a significant effect. The alterations to the policy proposed are felt to address this matter, in that the potential site at the former Roman Catholic Site will no longer be specifically promoted, and the policy will specify that development will | See Revised policy 2 below. With the proposed alterations the danger of potential effect is considered no longer relevant. |

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| | | <p>have to have due regard to the Conservation Area and historic heritage to make the point clearer. The Bell Hill Garage Site is potentially improving a part of the conservation area which does not enhance the general appearance of the historic form. However the policy by specifying up to 18 dwellings could be in danger of promoting over-development of the site that would adversely impact on the conservation area.</p> <p>The site is characterised as both 'Close terraced cottages' and 'Leafy Cottages' within the Character Assessment. Thus the southern section is felt more appropriate for a denser development to the road frontage. Previous planning permission granted for 10 dwellings did not cover the entire site now offered. This needs to be clear in the Development Brief.</p> | |
| Policy 4: Promoting Locally-Responsive Good Design | Not significant, potential benefit | <p>The policy is requiring good design that complies with the Character Assessment and the requirements of the Conservation Area Appraisal. It aims to ensure that new development within the village enhances rather than detracts from the historic heritage.</p> | None – unless conservation bodies and experts are able to suggest improvements? |

Revised Policy 2: Development Site within the Settlement Boundary

The following site is allocated for housing development in line with the development brief in Appendix 1:

Bell Hill Garage site. The site is well suited to residential development subject to design constraints set out in Appendix 1 and the need to conserve and enhance the conservation area and comply with guidance in the Village Character Assessment, as set out in Policy 4.

In order that the current oversupply of larger homes in the village is reversed, the dwelling mix should be predominately 2 and 3 bedroom homes. A small number of flats may be suitable at the southern part of the site adjacent to Bell Hill in the Close Terraced Cottage area defined by the Village Character Assessment.

Appendix 2; HRA Assessment

| HRA Assessment | | | |
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| Potential impact | Assessment of significant effect | Justification | Amendments to Policy |
| Impact on bat foraging areas | Not significant | The designated area is just within Band C of the Mells Valley SAC, but the Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a significant impact on Great Horseshoe Bat habitats, including foraging areas and commuting structures. | None |

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| Impact on international wildlife designations | Not significant | No significant impacts on international wildlife designations have been identified. | None |
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