

**Bath & North East Somerset
Local Plan (Core Strategy /Placemaking Plan) 2011-2029
Partial Update**

**Submission
December 2021**

**The Habitat Regulations Assessment of
the B&NES Local Plan Partial Update
(Submission version)**

***Addendum including updated Appendix C
(In-combination assessment of other plans
and projects)***

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**

Improving People's Lives

B&NES LPPU – Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) UPDATE & RECOMMENDATIONS

Submission December 2021

1. Introduction

This note outlines required updates to the HRA of the Regulation 19 Publication Draft Local Plan Partial Update (LPPU) that are recommended for inclusion in any final HRA document prepared for the adopted LPPU. It also highlights some modest changes recommended to three policies in the Publication Draft LPPU resulting from the HRA.

The HRA of the Regulation 19 Publication Draft LPPU was based upon the main local plan changes approved for consultation by Council on 14/7/21. Following the Reg 19 consultation a few points of clarification and some additional minor changes were made to the Draft Plan under delegated authority and prior to public consultation, none of which alter the conclusions of the HRA (published in August 2021).

It should be noted that the HRA makes recommendations for modest changes to three policies to add mitigation measures to ensure that the LPPU does not result in adverse effects to any European sites either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. These policy changes have not been made or incorporated into the submission LPPU (schedule or composite plan), but are recommended to the Inspector for inclusion in the Local Plan Partial Update finalised for adoption. These recommendations are copied in section 2 below.

It is also recommended that any final or updated HRA document or HRA addendum prepared for the adopted Local Plan Partial Update should address some minor changes. These changes are described in sections 3-5 below and are recommended to address: a) matters raised at consultation; b) other minor updates needed in the description of in-combination documents considered, and c) to address minor errors identified within the main HRA document.

Four recommendations are made. One clarifies the main plan changes recommended in the HRA and which are designed to avoid impacts to any European Site with plan's zone of influence. The other three recommendations concern minor corrections and updates for final HRA documentation.

2. Main HRA recommendations and conclusions reproduced from the HRA (August2021): -

Mitigation Recommendations :

- For Policy SB18 (Royal United Hospital) –a protective clause to prevent harmful lighting is required. A similar approach for that included in the Development Requirements for Sion Hill (Policy SB24) is recommended.
- For Policy SB22 (Locksbrook Creative Industry Hub) – a protective clause to retain riverside habitat and to control light spill is recommended. A similar approach to Bath Western Riverside could be used.
- For Policy RE1 (Employment uses in the countryside) recommend adding “where not habitat functionally linked to a European site” after “previously developed land”.

Conclusions and recommendations

The appropriate assessment stage of the LPPU HRA has concluded that, subject to some recommendations for additional site development requirements for a limited number of allocations and a small change to one policy, the LPPU will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of any of the European sites included in the HRA, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. This is based upon consideration of the sites conservation objectives, site attributes, impact pathways and the mitigation measures included within new and amended policies, and within site development requirements for new or amended site allocations.

The assessments and conclusions are based upon assumptions and consideration of effects appropriate to the scale of the plan. The full effects of the existing approved plan, and these plan changes cannot be known until the plan is implemented and individual development projects come forward. Many individual development projects have and will need to be subject to project level HRA. For this reason the plan includes the following statement:

“For clarity, development likely to have a significant effect on a European site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, and which cannot be adequately mitigated, would not be in accordance with the Development Plan”

For greater clarity, particularly in relations to windfall developments, it is recommended that this existing statement is expanded to include the following :

Any planning project with potential direct or indirect impacts on these sites must be appropriately assessed, mitigated, and/or compensated for, in line with existing best practice and relevant legislation over the lifetime of the Plan. This would require project level Habitats Regulation Assessments to be carried out, as necessary, prior to final planning decisions being made on such projects

R1: It is recommended that these mitigation recommendations and the additional statement set out in italics above are included within the final adopted LPPU.

3) Matters raised at consultation

The consultation responses submitted at the Regulation 19 stage were generally supportive of the HRA approach, including the conclusions and recommendations made. However, the process identified two issues to consider in future iterations of the HRA. Firstly in relation to an erroneous reference to the role of the Office of Environmental Protection as raised by Natural England and reproduced in 3.1 below, and secondly, related to in-combination effects flagged by Wiltshire CC, and reproduced in 3.2 below.

3.1 Natural England Comments

Natural England’s comments 7/10/21 noted erroneous references to the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP) in the document which should be deleted in any final HRA documentation:-

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

In our view the HRA provides a thorough, systematic, and proportionate assessment of potential effects of the LPPU on EU sites, within and beyond the plan area, which has clearly informed the

proposed new and updated policies. We particularly welcome the development of screening buffers, set out in Appendix F, which we found helpful and consider robust and suitably precautionary.

Terminology – the HRA includes references to the Office for Environmental Protection (OEP). We would like to apologise again for our previous incorrect advice regarding this new public body. The OEP is proposed as part of the Environment Bill, however the Bill has not yet been enacted and the future role of the OEP is not yet determined but is unlikely to involve individual local plan or project HRAs - as such we recommend that all references to the OEP in the HRA are deleted.

For avoidance of doubt, the LPA is the Competent Authority for Habitats Regulations Assessment of Local Plans and projects that are subject of planning applications. The relevant Secretary of State would be involved where a Competent Authority is minded to consent a plan or project following a negative assessment under regulation 63 and where, in the absence of alternative solutions, it is considered there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest (regulation 64).

R2: It is recommended that any final HRA documentation deletes or avoids any reference to the OEP.

3.2 Wiltshire County Council Comments

Wiltshire CC (October 2021) noted that the in-combination assessment did not reference the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan which was adopted in 2020:

Habitats Regulation Assessment

Wiltshire Council has reviewed the Habitats Regulation Assessment (August 2021) supporting the Local Plan Partial Update Draft Plan (Reg 19) Consultation and have no substantial concerns relating to the conclusion of the appropriate assessment. It is noted however, that the in-combination assessment does not consider the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan (Adopted Feb 2020) (WHSAP). Housing site allocations at Trowbridge were considered to have potential for adverse effects on the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats Special Area of Conservation (SAC) due to potential impacts on functionally linked land. One of the issues Wiltshire has had to address through the Trowbridge Bat Mitigation Strategy Supplementary Planning Document is the potential for developments to cause effects through recreational pressure at woodlands used by breeding Bechstein's bats. The developments lie up to 3km from the woodlands, which in turn lies a minimum of 9km from the SAC parcels. It is accepted that this is a judgement call for Bath and North East Somerset's ecologists and it may be felt that in-combination effects of the Partial Update and WHSAP can be excluded due to the level of mitigation that Wiltshire is putting in place. Nonetheless, it is unlikely that these are the only woodlands supporting Bechstein's bats and is something that the Partial Review, and indeed future full Local Plan reviews, may need to consider further.

It is accepted that Appendix C should be updated to include reference to the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan (Adopted Feb 2020), and it is recommended that reference to this plan should be added to the list of In-combination Plans considered in any final LPPU HRA document or addendum.

The B&NES LPPU does not allocate any new development sites within 7km of the woodlands or the Bat Sensitivity Zones identified within the Wiltshire SPD. No records of breeding Bechstein's Bats or other significant Bechstein's bat roosts are known for ancient woodlands within B&NES. In addition

development within B&NES as elsewhere must avoid impacts to ancient woodlands. It is concluded therefore that the B&NES LPPU in combination with the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan 2020 would not result in adverse effects to the Bath & Bradford SAC or any other European Site.

R3: It is recommended that any final HRA documentation includes reference to the Wiltshire Housing site allocations Plan 2020 and that Appendix C is updated as indicated by track changes in the revised *Appendix C (as updated December 2021)* document attached below.

4) Other minor updates needed in the description of the in-combination documents considered in Appendix C.

Whilst reviewing the Wiltshire CC plan documents of relevance to the LPPU, the other regional strategic plans considered were briefly reviewed. As a result, it is recommended that some additional updates and changes are made to Appendix C to bring these up to date. The updates recommended are shown by track changes in the amended Appendix C (as updated December 2021) document attached. These include an update of the description of the West of England Joint Local Transport Plan 4 2020-2036 and its HRA; an update of the description of the Mendip Local Plan Part II approved for adoption in September 2021; and updates to references to the Sedgemoor Local Plan 2011-2032 (2019). None of the recommended changes alter the conclusions made for any in-combination effects.

R4: It is recommended that Appendix C is updated as indicated by track changes in the revised Appendix C (as updated December 2021) document attached below.

Appendix C: In-combination assessment of other plans and projects

Note: Amendments are shown as underlined for proposed new text and proposed deletions as ~~a strike-through~~.

In-combination assessment of other plans and projects

The consideration of in-combination effects is based upon a shortened and updated list of plans identified for in-combination scrutiny through the West of England Joint Spatial Plan Updated Habitats Regulations Assessment 2018 & taking account of potential impact pathways.

Regional Plans

West of England Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy (2020-2030)

Status

The Joint Green Infrastructure Strategy (JGIS) has been produced and endorsed by the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) and Bath and North East Somerset, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire councils.

The JGIS is a prospectus for how organisations and key partners can engage in joint programmes and projects to work collaboratively to ensure GI is recognised as a key component of providing sustainable places for people and wildlife.

It can support measures which support the resilience of European sites.

Therefore, there are no likely in-combination effects of the adopted West Of England Joint Green infrastructure Strategy with the Partial Update of the B&NES Local Plan.

West Of England Joint Waste Core Strategy (2011-2026)

Status

The West Of England Joint Waste Core Strategy was produced in February 2011 and was adopted by Bath & North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council, North Somerset Council and South Gloucestershire Council in March 2011.

Development Provision

The Waste Core Strategy safeguards operational waste sites and allocates the following residual waste sites over the plan period to 2026:

Bath and North East Somerset

- BA19 Broadmead Lane, Keynsham
- BA12 Former Fuller's Earth Works, Fosseyway
- Land located on existing industrial land in Yate within Strategic Area A
- on land located on existing industrial land in Yate within Strategic Area A?

Bristol

- BR505 Hartcliffe Way
- DS05 Merebank, Kings Weston Lane
- DS06 BZL Site, Kings Weston Lane
- DS07 Sevalco Plant (northern part), Severn Road
- DS13 Rhodia Chemical Works, Kings Weston Lane
- DS14 Gypsy and Traveller Site, Kings Weston Lane
- DS15 Advanced Transport System Ltd Site, Severn Rd

South Gloucestershire

- SG39 South of Severnside Works

North Somerset

- IS8 Warne Rd, Weston-super-Mare

- on land located within the redevelopment area of Weston within Strategic Area B

HRA

The August 2009 HRA of the Waste Core Strategy concluded that there are no likely significant effects on European sites for the impacts of traffic emissions, hydraulic – ground water, hydraulic – surface water and for some of the pollutants for stack emissions (e.g. heavy metals). The HRA was not able to conclude no likely significant effects for other effects including other stack emissions (e.g. NOx and NH3, nitrogen deposition and acid deposition) at some sites and disturbance to the Severn Estuary SPA for one site. However, ~~these~~ these effects were predominantly in regard to sites that were not included in the adopted version of the plan. No European sites were screened in as having potential Likely Significant Effects as a result of Air pollution associated with the LPPU.

In addition, the August 2009 HRA identified sites requiring consideration of bird mitigation to avoid likely significant effects. The requirements for this mitigation was also incorporated within the adopted version of the plan and sites at which development has been identified as likely to result in significant disturbance to birds must be able to demonstrate that no adverse effects on the integrity of European sites will result. moreover, the May 2010 and July 2010 HRA Recommendations were produced to ensure there would be no likely significant effects on European sites and these recommendations were incorporated within the adopted version of the plan.

Therefore, there are no likely in-combination effects of the adopted West Of England Joint Waste Core Strategy with the Partial Update of the B&NES Local Plan

West of England Joint Local Transport Plan 4 2020-2036 (2011)

Status

The West of England Joint Local Transport Plan ~~4 2020-2036~~ was published in January 2020 ~~2011-2026~~ and is ~~was produced in March 2011~~ and was adopted by Bath & North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council, North Somerset Council and South Gloucestershire Council. It sets out an ambitious vision for transport to 2036, identifying a programme of transport packages that will transform the travel choices

available to residents and visitors. These, along with other schemes, are being taken forward as the major transport schemes programme to support the delivery of the JLTP4.

The JLTP4 contains five Transformational Major Schemes, which would consist of mass transit routes, as follows:

- T1 Bristol City Centre to Airport;
- T2 Bristol City Centre to Bath;
- T3 Bristol City Centre to East Fringe;
- T4 Bristol City Centre to North Fringe; and
- T5 Bath City Centre and corridors.

These are all currently in the feasibility stage.

The JLTP4 also contains eight ‘Corridor Scheme Packages’ to mitigate the growth set out within the WoE Joint Spatial Plan (JSP), which were identified within the WoE Joint Transport Strategy²⁶

In addition, there are six early investment schemes in progress (committed projects) and 20 early

investment schemes under development. A further six longer term scheme opportunities are also identified.

The HRA of the WoE Joint Transport Plan 4 was published in 2019. This identifies a series of mitigations measures for different aspects of the plan to enable the plan, with one exception, not to have an adverse impact on the integrity of all European sites within the study area, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects. The exception was the Avon Gorge Woodland which could potentially be subject to habitat loss due to the MetroWest Phase 1 project. This project is spatially distinct from B&NES and would not be subject to any in-combination effects from the LPPU.

Plan 4 is being developed (2020-2036), but not yet finalised?

Development Provision

The Transport Plan makes provision for 11 major transport schemes over the plan period to 2026:

- Greater Bristol Bus Network
- Bath Transportation Package
- Ashton Vale to Temple Meads Rapid Transit
- Weston Package Phase 1
- South Bristol Link
- North Fringe to Hengrove Package
- Portishead Rail Corridor
- M5 Junction 21 Bypass
- Greater Bristol Metro
- Emerson's Green to Temple Meads Rapid Transit
- Callington Road Link/Bath Road Improvements

In addition, the plan makes provision for future significant transport schemes:

- Further Rapid Transit routes in the main urban centres of Bath, Bristol and Weston-super-Mare;
- Further Park and Ride schemes;
- Further rail enhancements (with Network Rail and train operators) for example re-opening the Radstock to Frome line and the Henbury loop;
- Improvements at M5 Junction 19;
- Cycling and walking major scheme;
- Banwell Bypass;
- Second Avon Crossing (possible Highways Agency scheme);
- A38 – A370 Barrow Gurney Bypass;
- Whitchurch Bypass
- Saltford Bypass;
- Yate Package;
- A4174 Avon Ring Road Package;
- Temple Cloud/Clutton Bypass;
- Infrastructure to support Weston-super-Mare new villages;
- Investigation of additional transport links including a new road link between the M5 and South Bristol, A36/A46 link and M4 link.

Likely effects of major and significant transport schemes:

- Additional infrastructure improving road, rail, walking and cycling routes
- Additional road infrastructure to reduce congestion
- Improved sustainable transport infrastructure links
- Increased P&R infrastructure — including additional parking sites
- Additional railway lines and stations

HRA

The June 2010 HRA of the Transport Plan found there to be potential impacts with regard to air pollution effects (NO_x and Nitrogen deposition from vehicles), habitat loss and fragmentation, increased recreation impacts on SPA/Ramsar bird species due to increased transport/ access to sites, noise and light disturbance to bird and bat species, and disturbance to flight paths of SPA/Ramsar bird species or bat species. However, the HRA concluded that no schemes in the plan were considered to have unavoidable likely significant effects on any international site and it anticipated that all of the potential effects can be avoided or mitigated at project level with a full HRA undertaken for each major transport scheme

Therefore, there are no likely in-combination effects of the adopted West of England Joint Local Transport Plan 43 with the Partial Update of the B&NES Local Plan.

Bristol Water: Water Resources Management Plan (2020-204519)**Status**

The existing Management Plan was produced in July 2019.

Plan Provision

The Management Plan sets out how, with the active participation of customers, Bristol Water proposes to ensure that there is a sufficient supply of water to meet the demand forecast from all customers over the 25-year planning period from 2020 to 2045. The Management Plan identifies a number of preferred options relating to supply, distribution management and leakage reduction, but concludes that no new supply options need to be developed.

HRA

The HRA of the Final Water resources Management Plan 2019 concludes that the plan will not have any significant effects that cannot be avoided at the scheme-level with normal best-practice measures, and that the plan will have no significant effects, alone or in combination.

Therefore, there are no likely in-combination effects of the emerging Bristol Water: Water Resources Management Plan with Partial Update of the B&NES Local Plan.

Wessex Water: Water Resources Management Plan (2020-204519)**Status**

The existing Management Plan was produced in August 2019.

Plan Provision

The adopted Management Plans describe how Wessex Water expect to balance the demand for water from customers with available supplies and protect the environment over the next 25 years from 2020 to 2045.

HRA

The HRA of the adopted Management plan concluded that the plan is not likely to have a significant effect, alone or in combination, on the integrity of any European sites.

Therefore, there are no likely in-combination effects of the existing Wessex Water: Water Resources Management Plan with the Partial Update of the B&NES Local Plan.

Local Plans and Strategies adjoining the Bath & North East Somerset Plan area

Bristol Development Framework: Core Strategy (2011), Site Allocations and Development Management Policies (2014), Bristol Central Area Plan (2015)

Status

The adopted Local Plan comprises of the Core Strategy which was adopted in June 2011, the Site Allocations Development Management Polices document which was adopted in July 2014 and the

Bristol Central Area Plan which was adopted in 2015. A new local plan is being prepared for examination in 2023.

Housing Provision

The adopted Core Strategy makes provisions for 30,600 homes during the plan period with the majority of these being delivered in the built up area. The remaining dwellings will be delivered in small unidentified sites and Green Belt areas of land.

Employment Land Provision

The adopted Core Strategy makes provisions for up to 236,000m² of additional office floorspace during the plan period. Around 150,000m² of this office floorspace will be delivered in the city centre, around 60,000m² will be delivered in South Bristol and 26,000m² will be delivered in town, district and local centres in the rest of the Bristol area.

HRA

The May 2014 HRA of the Bristol Core Strategy conducted Appropriate Assessment of Avon Gorge Woodlands

SAC, Chew Valley Lake SPA, Mendip Limestone Grasslands SAC, North Somerset & Mendip Bats SAC And Severn Estuary SAC and SPA. It was concluded that there is unlikely to be significant adverse effects on all these European sites due to there being sufficient mitigation measures in place in the Core Strategy.

Therefore, there are no likely in-combination effects of the adopted Bristol Local Plan with Partial Update of the B&NES Local Plan.

North Somerset Council Local Plan: Core Strategy (2017), Development Management Policies (2016), Site Allocations Plan (2018)

Status

The Core Strategy was adopted in April 2012. However, following a high court challenge nine policies were remitted for re-examination. One of the policies was re-adopted in September 2015 and the remaining policies were re-adopted following re-examination in January 2017. A new local plan is being prepared for examination in 2023.

The Development Management Policies were adopted in July 2016 and the Site Allocations Plan was adopted in April 2018.

Housing Provision

The adopted Core Strategy makes provisions for 20,985 additional dwellings during the plan period up to 2026. The delivery of this housing development will be focussed in Weston urban area (6,300 dwellings), Weston Villages (6,500 dwellings), Clevedon, Nailsea and Portishead (5,100 dwellings), service villages (2,100 dwellings) and other settlements and countryside (985 dwellings).

The 2018 adopted Site Allocations plan makes provisions for a slight increase in housing delivery at 22,285 additional dwellings during the plan period. This is due to the Core Strategy examination of remitted policies increasing flexibility at Weston-super-Mare, the towns and service villages by allowing new residential growth of an appropriate scale.

Employment Land Provision

The adopted Core Strategy makes provisions for 10, 100 additional jobs in the plan period until 2026. This will be delivered through 114 hectares of land for B1, B2 and B8 uses.

This employment development will be focussed in Weston urban area (43.82ha), Weston villages (37.70ha), Clevedon (8.95ha), Nailsea (1.40ha), Portishead (3.17ha) and the remainder of the district (18.87ha).

HRA

The February 2011 HRA of the Core Strategy concluded that there are sufficient mitigation measures in place to suggest that it is unlikely that there will be any significant adverse effects on European sites. The June 2015 HRA for the Development Management Policies document concluded that the mitigation measures detailed in the Core Strategy are sufficient to suggest that there is unlikely to be any significant adverse effects on European sites.

Therefore, there are no likely in-combination effects of the adopted North Somerset Local Plan with the Partial Update of the B&NES Local Plan.

South Gloucestershire Local Plan: Core Strategy (2013), Policies, Sites and Places Plan (2017)

Status

The Core Strategy was adopted in December 2013 and the Policies, Sites and Places Plan was adopted in November 2017. A new local plan is being prepared for examination in 2023.

Housing Provision

The adopted Local Plan makes provisions for up to 22,545 additional dwellings during the plan period 2013- 2027. This housing development will be delivered in the North and East Fringes of Bristol urban area and in new sites in the rest of South Gloucestershire (new neighbourhood at Yate and housing opportunities at Thornbury).

Employment Land Provision

The adopted Local Plan makes provisions for safeguarding and providing additional economic development land in North Fringe of Bristol urban area (355Ha), East Fringe of Bristol urban area (147Ha), Yate and Chipping Sodbury (88Ha). Thornbury (19Ha), Rural Area (14Ha) and Severnside (635Ha).

HRA

The March 2011 HRA of the Core Strategy concluded that the majority of policies are unlikely to have significant adverse effects on European sites. However, it was suggested that a series of policies within the Core Strategy do have the potential to have a significant effect on the Severn Estuary N2K site. It was recommended that revision of policy wording and/or amendment to supporting text will remove the likelihood of these policies to have adverse significant effects on European sites. This recommendation was addressed within the plan.

The June 2016 HRA of the Policies, Sites and Places Development Plan document concluded that there is unlikely to be significant adverse effects upon European sites.

Therefore, there are no likely in-combination effects of the adopted South Gloucestershire Local Plan with the Partial Update of the B&NES Local Plan.

Local Plans and Strategies adjoining the West of England Joint Spatial Plan area

Mendip District Council Local Plan Part I: Strategy and Policies 2006-2029 (2014)

~~Pre-Submission~~ Local Plan Part II: Sites & Policies (2021~~18~~)

Status

The Mendip District Council Local Plan Part 1 was adopted in December 2014.

The ~~Pre-Submission~~ Local Plan Part II approved for adoption in September 2021 subject to adoption of main modifications. The plan allocates sites for development over the plan period 2006 to 2029. was published in January 2018 and consultation was closed on 12th February 2018.

Housing Provision

The adopted Local Plan 1 makes provisions for 9,635 additional dwellings during the plan period up to 2029 at a development rate of 420 dwellings per annum. The housing development will be delivered in Frome (2,300 dwellings), Glastonbury (1,000 dwellings), Street (1,300 dwellings), Shepton Mallet (1,300 dwellings), Wells (1,450 dwellings) and in rural areas (1,780 dwellings).

The ~~Pre-Submission~~ Local Plan Part II identifies put forward further allocations for housing increasing the total additional dwellings to 10,528 for the plan period. The represents a 21% for Frome, a 1% for Glastonbury, a 13% increase for Street and Shepton Mallet and a 9% increase for Wells compared to the growth proposals in the original Local Plan.

Employment Land Provision

The adopted Local Plan 1 makes provisions for 7,391 additional jobs and 88,650m² of additional employment floorspace during the plan period up to 2029. The employment development will be delivered in Frome, Glastonbury, Shepton Mallet, Street and Wells.

The ~~Pre-Submission~~ Local Plan Part II allocates 19.4ha of employment land, over the plan period, including 5.9ha in Frome, 7.5ha in Shepton Mallet, 1.7ha in Glastonbury and 4.3ha in Street.

HRA

The January 2011 HRA of the Local Plan Part I: Strategy and Policies, ~~referred to in the HRA as the Core Strategy~~ concluded that there is unlikely to be any significant adverse effects on European sites. This was subject to recommended policy amendments and additions being made in the plan to comply with the requirements of HRA and remove the need for any further assessment.

The ~~addendum to the December 2017~~ HRA of the ~~Pre-Submission~~ Local Plan Part II: Sites & Policies concluded that there is unlikely to be any significant adverse effects on European sites so long as specific policy wording for habitat replacement for Greater Horseshoes was included where required for specific policies. STR001, WAL022b and WAL026 were amended in line with the recommendations of the HRA. These recommendations have been included within the plan.

Therefore, there are no likely in-combination effects of the adopted Mendip Local Plan Part I: Strategy and Policies and the Local Plan Part II: Sites & Policies with the Partial Update of the B&NES Local Plan.

Sedgemoor Local Plan 2011-2032 (2019)

Status

Local Plan was adopted in February 2019.

Housing Provision

The Local Plan makes provision for 13,530 new homes over the plan period from 2011-2032,

Employment Land Provision

The Local Plan makes provision for 75ha of employment land to create 9,795 new jobs over the plan period from 2011-2032

HRA

The July 2018 HRA of the Proposed Submission Local Plan 2011-2032 concludes that, provided the counteracting measures recommended by the HRA are incorporated into the plan, the plan is unlikely to have a significant effect on the conservation objectives of European sites. The plan was adopted in 2019 and references the HRA recommendations. No residual impacts were identified if these measures are adopted. ~~The plan was submitted for examination in January 2017 and therefore these recommendations had not yet been incorporated within the plan. However, proposed modifications to the plan address these recommendations. (Assume these recommendations were taken on – havnt found final HRA!)~~

Therefore, there are no likely in-combination effects of the emerging Sedgemoor Local Plan with the Partial Update of the B&NES Local Plan.

Wiltshire Local Plan: Core Strategy (2015), saved Local Plan (2003-2012) Policies and Housing Site Allocations Plan (2020)

Status

The adopted Local Plan comprises the Core Strategy, including saved Local Plan (2003-2012) Policies and the Chippenham Site Allocations Plan; the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan and Mineral and Waste Plan. ~~The Core Strategy was adopted in 2015, the Chippenham Site Allocations Plan was adopted in 2017. The saved former District Council Local Plan policies were adopted in 2003 (Salisbury District Local~~

Plan), 2004 (Kennet District Local Plan and West Wiltshire District Plan), 2006 (North Wiltshire Local Plan), 2009 (West Wiltshire Leisure and Recreation DPD) and 2012 (South Wiltshire Core Strategy). The plan is under review.

Housing Provision

The Core Strategy makes provision for 42,000 homes from 2006-2026, including strategic housing sites in Salisbury and Wilton, Amesbury, Tidworth and Luggershall, Marlborough, Warminster, Westbury, Trowbridge, Bradford on Avon, and Chippenham.

Employment Land Provision

The Core Strategy makes provision for 27,500 jobs from 2006-2026, including the provision of strategic employment sites at Salisbury and Wilton, Devizes, Westbury, Trowbridge, and Chippenham.

In addition in 2020 the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan was adopted. The purpose of the plan is to support delivery of new housing set out in the Wiltshire Core Strategy. This was subject to HRA which led to the requirement for Wiltshire to produce a Trowbridge Bat Mitigation Strategy SPD to address any residual effects from increased recreational pressure upon the Bath & Bradford on Bat SAC. The potential impacts of concern were primarily related to recreational pressures upon woodlands used by Bechstein's bats associated with the SAC. This SPD is in place.

The B&NES LPPU does not allocate any development sites within 7km of the woodlands or the Bat Sensitivity Zones identified within the Wiltshire SPD. ~~HRA~~ No records of breeding Bechstein's Bats or other significant Bechstein's bat roosts are known for ancient woodlands within B&NES. In addition, development within B&NES as elsewhere must avoid impacts to ancient woodlands.

The February 2012 HRA of the Core Strategy concluded that, provided recommended text is included within the plan to demonstrate that the Core Strategy will not give rise to significant adverse effects, the Core Strategy will not give rise to significant adverse effects on European sites. The recommended text is included within the adopted version of the plan.

The March 2014 HRA of the Core Strategy was produced in light of all modifications proposed to the plan following examination. The HRA concluded that the plan would not lead to adverse effects on European sites, either alone or in combinations, provided that some sites be subject to HRA at the planning application stage or within the Site Allocations DPD or a neighbourhood plans.

Therefore, there are no likely in-combination effects of the adopted Wiltshire Local Plan with the Partial Update of the B&NES Local Plan.