

# Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan 2

## Basic Conditions Statement



May 2024

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## **A. Introduction**

- A1.1.** This Basic Conditions Statement sits alongside the revised Calne Community Neighbourhood Development Plan (shortened to CCNP2) which was approved for submission to Wiltshire Council by Calne Town Council and Calne Without Parish Council in May 2024.
- A1.2.** The Neighbourhood Development Plan has been produced by Calne Town Council and Calne Without Parish Council, as joint “qualifying bodies” (the lead qualifying body is Calne Town Council) overall responsibility for the preparation, consultation and submission of the Neighbourhood Development Plan. The development of the plan and management of the process has been led by a Steering Group comprised of members of our community and Town and Parish Councillors, advised by planning consultants Place Studio Ltd.
- A1.3.** This Basic Conditions Statement is required under Regulation 15 of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012 (as amended) (‘the Regulations’). Regulation 15 requires a Neighbourhood Development Plan to be submitted with a statement explaining how the proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan meets the requirements of paragraph 8(2) of Schedule 4B of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011)<sup>1</sup>.
- A1.4.** To comply with the requirements of Regulation 15 (1) of the Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, and to provide sufficient material to help demonstrate that the Basic Conditions have been met, the following documents have been submitted to the local authority:
- The Neighbourhood Development Plan (which includes a map and statement which identifies the area to which our plan relates);
  - The Consultation Statement;
  - This Basic Conditions Statement; and,
  - The screening report, produced by the local planning authority, which concluded that no Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) or Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) are necessary (appended to this document).
- A1.5.** The Neighbourhood Development Plan includes appendices, reports and topic papers which elaborate and support our policy justification and content. All evidence base documents are available to view on the Neighbourhood Development Plan webpages here - <https://www.calnecommunityplan.com/>

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/schedule/10/enacted> They are also set out in the National Planning Practice Guidance at <http://planningguidance.planningportal.gov.uk/blog/guidance/neighbourhood-planning/the-basic-conditions-that-a-draft-neighbourhood-plan-or-order-must-meet-if-it-is-to-proceed-to-referendum/>

## **B. Legislative Requirements**

*This part of the Basic Conditions Statement confirms that in the view of Calne Town Council and Calne Without Parish Council, the Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan complies with the requirements of the basic conditions set out in paragraph 8 of Schedule 4B of Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended). These requirements are set out below.*

### **The plan is being submitted by a qualifying body**

- B1.1.** A “qualifying body” is defined by Section 38A(12) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by Schedule 9 of the Localism Act 2011 as “a parish council, or an organisation or body designated as a neighbourhood forum, authorised for the purposes of a neighbourhood development plan to act in relation to a neighbourhood area...”.
- B1.2.** The Calne Community Neighbourhood Development Plan has been prepared by Calne Town Council and Calne Without Parish Council as the joint “qualifying bodies” and Calne Town Council as the lead “qualifying body” for the purposes of Neighbourhood Planning.

### **The Neighbourhood Development Plan relates to the use and development of land.**

- B1.3.** The Calne Community Neighbourhood Development Plan relates to planning matters (the use and development of land) and has been prepared in accordance with the statutory requirements and processes set out in the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Localism Act 2011) and the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012 (as amended) and the Neighbourhood Planning Act 2017.
- B1.4.** A positive future vision for the CCNP area has been developed through consultation, together with research and local evidence gathering. The consultation has provided local people with the opportunity to engage with the process of reviewing the Plan, from its inception through to the drafting of the policies and Plan itself. The planning policies are drafted in a way which provides positive, and locally responsive criteria to proactively inform decisions taken by Wiltshire Council on planning applications.

### **The proposed Neighbourhood Development Plan states the period for which it is to have effect.**

- B1.5.** The CCNP2 specifies the time period for which it is to have effect as 2023-2038.

### **The policies do not relate to excluded development**

B1.6. The CCNP2 proposals do not deal with county matters (mineral extraction and waste development), nationally significant infrastructure or any other matters set out in Section 61K of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

**The proposed neighbourhood plan does not relate to more than one neighbourhood area and there are no other neighbourhood development plans in place within the neighbourhood area.**

B1.7. The CCNP2 proposals relate to the designated Neighbourhood Area and to no other area. There are no other neighbourhood plans relating to this neighbourhood area.

B1.8. The Calne Community Neighbourhood Area was designated on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014. The area of the Neighbourhood Plan is based upon the combined Town and Parish boundaries, which was seen as appropriate as this area is recognised as the distinct community of Calne and its hinterland.

B1.9. The Neighbourhood Area boundary is shown in **Appendix 1 to this Statement** and within the Calne Community Neighbourhood Development Plan, as figure 1.

## C. Basic Conditions

*This part of the Basic Conditions Statement confirms that in the view of Calne Town Council and Calne Without Parish Council, the Calne Community Neighbourhood Development Plan meets all of the basic conditions required for a Neighbourhood Plan.*

### **C1 Have regard to national policy and advice contained in guidance issues by the Secretary of State**

C1.1. CCNP2 is considered to meet the requirements and objectives of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), has had regard to national policy and advice and, in alignment with paragraph 15 in the NPPF is a “succinct and up-to-date” Plan which provides “...a positive vision for the future of...[our]...area; a framework for addressing housing needs and other economic, social and environmental priorities; and a platform for local people to shape their surroundings.”

C1.2. The National Planning Policy Framework (Revised Version December 2023)<sup>2</sup> sets out the planning policies for England, together with the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)<sup>3</sup>. Table 1 below briefly summarises how the national policies and guidance have been taken into account for each planning policy in the Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan.

**Table 1: General conformity of NDP Policies with National Planning Policy Framework (December 2023) and guidance**

How the Neighbourhood Plan has had regard to the National Planning Policy Framework and guidance		
Planning Policy Title	Key National Policies / Guidance Cross Ref.	Commentary
<b>Policy C1 High Quality, Sustainable Development in the Calne Community Plan Area</b>	NPPF: 7, 8, 11, 29, 157  NPPG: Climate Change, Para. 001	Addressing climate change is one of the core land use planning principles which the National Planning Policy Framework expects to underpin both plan-making and decision-taking (para. 7). This policy reflects a local ambition to deliver this expectation and for the Plan to be a key way to support the transition to a local carbon future (para.157).

<sup>2</sup>[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a11af7e8f5ec000f1f8c46/NPPF\\_December\\_2023.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a11af7e8f5ec000f1f8c46/NPPF_December_2023.pdf)

<sup>3</sup><https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance>

		This policy draws back directly to the Plan objectives which have been drafted to with the aim of achieving sustainable development in the local area.
<b>Policy C2</b> <b>Sustainable Design and Energy</b>	NPPF: 157, 158, 159  NPPG: Climate Change, Para. 008, 012	Policy C2 is a local response to a global challenge, which is an important issue to the local community. It sets out a clear set of criteria supports the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate (para. 157). It takes a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change (para. 158).
<b>Policy C3</b> <b>Retrofitting the Existing Built Environment</b>	WMS Dec 2023	Policy C3 supports renewable and low carbon energy through the retrofit and conversion of existing buildings (para. 157).
<b>Policy C4</b> <b>Calne Community Energy</b>	NPPF: 157, 160, 161  NPPG: Climate Change, Para. 001	This policy supports community-led initiatives, giving strong support to proposals for community energy projects that are community-led (para. 161), and help increased the use and supply of renewable and low-carbon energy (para. 160).  It provides a positive strategy for bringing forward renewable energy generation in Calne, and stipulates that any adverse impacts of the development should be satisfactorily addressed (including cumulative landscape and visual impacts) in the planning submission (para. 160).
<b>Policy NE1</b> <b>Local Green Space</b>	NPPF: 8b. 105, 106, 107  NPPG: Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space.  Environmental Improvement Plan, DEFRA, 2023	The proposed Local Green Space designations are all in reasonable proximity to the community they serve, local in character and not an extensive tract of land, and demonstrably special to the local community and hold a particular local significance as evidenced in the Local Green Space Report which clearly sets out how the proposed designations meet criteria in paragraphs 105 and 106.  The Environmental Improvement Plan sets out a national objective for everyone to live within 15 minutes' walk of a green or blue space. By designating more Local Green Space in CCNP2, this policy contributes to this national objective.
<b>Policy NE2</b>	NPPF: 8(c) 158, 180, 185	The policy plans positively to preserve and protect habitats and biodiversity in the Neighbourhood Area (para180a and b). This

<p><b>Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity</b></p>	<p>NPPG: Biodiversity net gain</p> <p>Environment Act 2021</p>	<p>policy is supported by the Biodiversity Topic Paper, which identifies sites of biodiversity value across the Neighbourhood Area (para185).</p> <p>This policy also supports biodiversity net gain (para180d) of a 10% biodiversity net gain, a level which is consistent the Environment Act 2021, but supports higher figures consistent with the emerging Wiltshire Local Plan.</p>
<p><b>Policy NE3 - Green and Blue Infrastructure</b></p>	<p>NPPF: 96(c), 124, 158, 180, 181, 185(a)</p> <p>NPPG: Climate Change, Para. 004</p> <p>Green Infrastructure Framework, Natural England, 2023</p>	<p>Figures 4, 5a and b accompany this policy, mapping the wildlife-rich GBI network in the Neighbourhood Area (para. 185a), including strategic green corridors and locally identified neighbourhood green corridors. The multi-functional Green and Blue Infrastructure (GBI), provides for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, cooling/shading, carbon storage or food production (para. 124b) and also enables and supports healthy lifestyles (para. 96.c).</p> <p>The policy aims to protect and enhance the area’s GBI network, recognising its important role in contributing positively to the causes and effects of the climate crisis; shaping development to avoid increased vulnerability to the impacts arising from climate change and flood risk (para. 158).</p>
<p><b>Policy NE4 Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows</b></p>	<p>NPPF: 136, 157, 158, 185</p> <p>Environmental Improvement Plan, DEFRA, 2023 The England Trees Action Plan 2021- 2024, UK Government,</p> <p>2021 Green Infrastructure Framework, Natural England, 2023</p>	<p>This policy recognises that retained trees, woodland and hedgerows and/or replacement tree planting makes an important contribution to the places and spaces of the town and villages as well helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change (para. 136), and benefit biodiversity (para. 185).</p> <p>The government has also made a commitment in the England Trees Action Plan 2021-2024 to that trees should be incorporated in new developments and that streets should be tree lined.</p>



<p><b>Policy NE5</b> <b>Setting of Calne and Calne Without</b></p>	<p>NPPF: 135(c), 180 (a/b)</p>	<p>By identifying landscape qualities of local importance, this policy aims to ensure that developments are sympathetic to locally valued landscape, and the rural setting of the settlements of the area (para. 135).</p> <p>This policy also seeks to protect important views and vistas both within the developed area and the wider landscape. This helps to achieve well designed places in conformity with NPPF paragraph 135 while also serving to protect valued landscapes (para. 180.b).</p>
<p><b>Policy BE1</b> <b>Design Principles for Local Distinctiveness</b></p>	<p>NPPF: 28, 129, 131,132,133, 134</p> <p>NPPG - Design: process and tools Para 019</p> <p>National Design Guide, 2019 National Model Design Code, 2021</p>	<p>This policy establishes local design principles for new development in the neighbourhood (para. 28) through the Calne Community Design Guide and Code.</p> <p>The Calne Community Design Guide and Code identifies the special qualities of the Neighbourhood Area and sets out in detail how this should be reflected in new development (paras. 132 and 133). It also sets out a clear design vision and expectation to enable as much certainty as possible about what will constitute a ‘well-designed’ place (para. 131) within Calne. It is informed by work undertaken on identifying positive design features and locally distinctive qualities (para. 133). It enables design quality to be considered at the earliest stages (para. 131).</p> <p>Good design is a key aspect of sustainable development, creates better places in which to live and work and helps make development acceptable to communities (para. 131)</p> <p>The policy and the Design Code have been prepared to be in general conformity with the design principles set out in the National Design Guide and National Model Design Code and to add locally distinctive information.</p>
<p><b>Policy BE2</b> <b>Heritage Assets</b></p>	<p>NPPF: 195, 196, 209</p> <p>PPG: Historic Environment, Para. 040</p>	<p>This policy is presented in two parts addressing both designated and non-designated heritage assets recognising both sets as an ‘irreplaceable resource’ (para. 195), where their significance is taken into account in any proposal to avoid or minimise harm to the building (para. 195) and sets out</p>

		<p>a positive local level strategy for the conservation and enjoyment of non-designated, locally valued heritage assets (paras. 196 and 209).</p> <p>The policy is supported by a Topic Paper, which sets out the process and evidence behind the identification of buildings and structures of local interest, which are considered to be non-designated heritage assets (PPG para. 040) as informed by the Historic England Advice Note 7 (2nd edition).</p>
<p><b>Policy CF1 - Community Facilities</b></p>	<p>NPPF: 28, 97</p> <p>NPPG Neighbourhood Planning para 046</p>	<p>This policy provides a positive context within which community facilities can be improved or established in the Plan area through non-strategic policies (para. 28). The policy also links to a local community infrastructure priority list which plans positively for the provision and use of community facilities (para.97), some off which might be suitable candidates for CIL funding.</p>
<p><b>Policy CF2 - Community Infrastructure and Phasing of Development</b></p>	<p>NPPF: 28, 29, 30, 97</p> <p>NPPG Neighbourhood Planning para 046</p>	<p>This policy also links to a local community infrastructure priority list, some off which might be suitable candidates for CIL funding.</p> <p>The policy promotes the identification and coordination of infrastructure, a key part of sustainable development's economic objective.</p>
<p><b>Policy CF3 - Burial Space</b></p>	<p>NPPF Paras. 96, 97</p>	<p>This policy addresses the role of the planning system in creating healthy, inclusive communities (para. 96), and in providing space for cultural facilities (para. 97).</p>
<p><b>Policy GA1 Highway Impact</b></p>	<p>NPPF: 108, 114, 115, 117, 192</p>	<p>This policy supports development only when proposals have addressed the assessed safety impacts and any significant impacts from the development on the transport network or on highway safety can be cost effectively mitigated to an acceptable degree (paras. 108 / 114).</p> <p>This policy does not support development where there is an unacceptable impact on highway safety (para. 115). Improvements are supported.</p>

		The matter of air quality is an important one in the Plan area which has an Air Quality Management Area (para. 192).
<b>Policy GA2 Public Realm</b>	NPPF: 28, 96(b), 108(b), 110(d),	This links to paragraph 96 which sets out the importance of achieving healthy inclusive and safe places, linking to detail set out in the Calne Design Code (para. 28). The promotion of safe walking is also highlighted in paragraphs 108 and 110.
<b>Policy GA3 Sustainable Transport and Inclusive Active Travel</b>	NPPF: 96, 108(b), 110(d),  Cycle Infrastructure Design, Local Transport Note 1/20, DoT, 2020	<p>This policy promotes opportunities for walking, cycling and public transport by identifying opportunities for protection and enhancement of, and connection to, the existing sustainable transport network (para. 108) based on a detailed local evidence base as set out in the Getting Around Topic Paper.</p> <p>This policy aims to protect and enhance public rights of way and access to key identified locations, including to provide better and more inclusive facilities for users (para. 110) and in line with the guidance in LTN 1/20.</p>
<b>Policy GA4 Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Charging</b>	NPPF: 116(e), 157, 158.	<p>This policy encourages the infrastructure to enable use of ultra-low emission vehicles (para. 116) in specific locations in the area, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase the use of renewable and low carbon energy, and support the transition to a low carbon future (para 157).</p> <p>It aligns with national and local standards, adding local detail through the Calne Design Guide and seeks to ensure that applications for development be designed to enable charging of plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles in safe, accessible and convenient locations (para. 116e). It takes a proactive approach to mitigating and adapting to climate change (para 158).</p>
<b>Policy GA5 Parking Provision</b>	NPPF: 28, 112	This policy links to the Calne Area Design Guide and Code with the aim of improving the quality of parking so that its safe, convenient and secure alongside measures to promote accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists. (paras. 28 / 112).
<b>Policy GA6</b>	NPPF: 92, 110 (d).	This policy links into Wiltshire standards for attractive and well-designed walking and

<b>Walking and Cycling for Leisure and Recreation</b>		cycling infrastructure (para. 110.d) The policy and Figure 12 sets out key routes and improvement priorities.
<b>Policy WS1 Protecting and Promoting Sustainable, Low Carbon Local Employment</b>	NPPF: 85, 157	This policy supports development proposals that deliver sustainable local employment growth (para 85). It supports transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate by encouraging the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings (para. 157) .
<b>Policy WS2 Supporting Local Agriculture and Farm Diversification</b>	NPPF: 88, 89	This policy recognises the extensive rural part of the plan area, and that much of that area is in agricultural use. The CCNP promotes a prosperous and sustainable rural economy (paras. 88 / 89) in line with national policy.
<b>Policy WS3 Supporting the Local Visitor Economy</b>	88 (c)	The CCNP promotes sustainable rural tourism which respect the character of the countryside (para. 88.c) in line with national policy.
<b>Policy WS4 Calne Town Centre</b>	NPPF: 86, 90, 135	<p>This policy supports the role that Calne Town Centre plays at the heart of the local community and takes a proactive approach to its growth, management and adaptation (para. 90). It promotes the continued development of the town centre’s viability and vitality (para. 90.a).</p> <p>By supporting the long-term vitality and viability of the town centre, this policy also sets a clear economic vision and strategy to encourage sustainable economic growth (para 86).</p> <p>The policy also encourages high quality design within the town centre, through requirement for development proposals within the town centre to conserve or enhance the character of the town centre in line with the NPPF (para. 135).</p>
<b>Policy WS5 Local, neighbourhood centres in</b>	NPPF: 88 (d) 97 (a) / (d)	The local shops of areas outside the town centre are important to the communities that use them. The CCNP seeks to support the retention of the local shops for the benefit of

<b>Calne and Derry Hill</b>		the community (para. 97) in the town and in the rural areas (para. 88).
<b>Policy H1 Housing Within Settlement Boundaries</b>	NPPF: 8b/c, 60,	The policy promotes effective use of land (para. 8.c) by conforming with, and adding Calne-specific detail to, Wiltshire Council's strategic policy framework to support housing development (para. 60) within defined settlement boundaries.
<b>Policy H2 Affordable Housing</b>	NPPF: 8b, 60, 63, 66  NPPG: First Homes, Para. 001  WMS on Affordable Homes (Update May 2021)	The policy aims to add the local housing needs detail at the level of the neighbourhood area to increase the effectiveness of delivering the right types of housing to help local people secure a home that meets their needs, whether through open market or through subsidised pathways (paras. 63 / 64).  This policy complies with the Written Ministerial Statement and NPPG Para. 001 that First Homes should account for at least 25% of all affordable housing units delivered by developers through planning obligations.
<b>Policy H3 Housing Mix</b>	NPPF: 60, 63	This policy is informed by the Calne Housing Needs Assessment, sets out the size, type and tenure of housing needed for different groups in the community (para. 60 / 63).
<b>Policy H4 - Housing to meet the needs of Older People and those Living with Disabilities</b>	NPPF: 60, 63, 135(f),	These policies are informed by the Calne Housing Needs Assessment, and the Calne Area Design Guide and Code. Both policy H4 and H5 aim to address the needs of groups with specific housing requirements related to the local demographic as the population of the area is ageing (para. 63). It reinforces the NPPF aim that policies and planning decisions should create places that are safe, inclusive and accessible and which promote health and well-being (para. 135.f) which includes nationally described space standards.
<b>Policy H5 Adaptable and Accessible Housing</b>		
<b>Policy H6 Exception Sites and Community Led Housing</b>	NPPF: 60, 63, 64	The policy also supports self and custom build projects, supporting the government's objective of significantly boosting the supply of homes.  The policy also supports sustainable development coming forward as a rural exceptions site, provided that it meets all other national and local policy requirements.

## C2 Contributes to the achievement of sustainable development

C2.1 The key ways that the CCNP2 will help to contribute to meeting the objectives of sustainable development are detailed in the table below:

Policy	Objective		
	Economic	Social	Environment
<b>Climate Change and Sustainable Development</b>			
Policy C1 - High Quality Sustainable Development in the Calne Area <b>NEW!</b>	✓	✓	✓
Policy C2 - Sustainable Construction <b>NEW!</b>	✓	✓	✓
Policy C3 - Retrofitting the Existing Built Environment <b>NEW!</b>	✓	✓	✓
Policy C4 - Calne Community Energy <b>NEW!</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>Housing and Infrastructure</b>			
Policy H41 -Housing within Settlement Boundaries <b>UPDATE!</b>	✓	✓	✓
Policy H2 - Affordable Housing <b>UPDATE!</b>	✓	✓	
Policy H3 - Housing Mix <b>UPDATE!</b>	✓	✓	
Policy H4 - Housing to meet the needs of Older and Disabled People <b>NEW!</b>	✓	✓	
Policy H5 - Adaptable and Accessible Housing <b>NEW!</b>	✓	✓	
Policy H6 - Rural Exception Sites and Community Led Housing <b>NEW!</b>	✓	✓	
<b>Getting Around</b>			
Policy GA1 - Highway Impact <b>UPDATE!</b>	✓	✓	✓
Policy GA2 - Public Realm <b>NEW!</b>	✓		✓
Policy GA3 - Sustainable Transport and Inclusive Active Travel - <b>UPDATE!</b>	✓	✓	✓
Policy GA4 - Ultra Low Emission Vehicles <b>NEW!</b>	✓		✓
Policy GA5- Walking and Cycling for Leisure and Recreation <b>NEW!</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>Working and Shopping</b>			
Policy WS1 - Employment Sites <b>UPDATE!</b>	✓	✓	✓
Policy WS2- Supporting Local Farming and Farm Diversification <b>NEW!</b>	✓	✓	✓
Policy WS3 - Supporting the Local Visitor Economy <b>NEW!</b>	✓		
Policy WS4- Calne Town Centre <b>UPDATE!</b>	✓	✓	
Policy WS5 - Local, neighbourhood centres in Calne and Derry Hill <b>UPDATE!</b>	✓	✓	
<b>Community Facilities</b>			
Policy CF1 - Community Facilities <b>UPDATE!</b>	✓	✓	
Policy CF2 - Community Infrastructure and Phasing of Development <b>UPDATE!</b>	✓	✓	
Policy CF3 - Burial Space		✓	
<b>Built Environment</b>			
Policy BE2 - Design Principles for Local Distinctiveness <b>UPDATE!</b>	✓	✓	✓
Policy BE4 - Heritage Assets <b>UPDATE!</b>	✓	✓	✓
<b>Natural Environment</b>			
Policy NE1 - Local Green Space <b>UPDATE!</b>	✓	✓	✓
Policy NE2 - Biodiversity <b>UPDATE!</b>	✓	✓	✓
Policy NE3 - Green and Blue Infrastructure <b>NEW!</b>	✓	✓	✓
Policy NE4 - Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows <b>NEW!</b>	✓	✓	✓
Policy NE5 - Setting of Calne and Calne Without <b>UPDATE!</b>	✓	✓	✓

**C3 Be in general conformity with strategic policies in the Local Plan**

C3.1 The local policy which applies to the Calne Community Neighbourhood Development Plan Area can be found in the following key policy documents:

- Wiltshire Core Strategy (adopted 2015)
- Saved policies from the West Wiltshire District Plan 1<sup>st</sup> Alteration (adopted 2004)
- The Wiltshire Housing Sites Allocations Plan (adopted 2020)
- Various minerals and waste documents prepared for Wiltshire County and Swindon Borough.
- Wiltshire Local Plan Review (Regulation 19)

C3.2 As the Core Strategy, saved policies from the West Wiltshire District Plan 1<sup>st</sup> Alteration and Wiltshire Housing Sites Allocations Plan are strategic in nature, general conformity will be considered against these documents.

C3.2 The Neighbourhood Development Plan covers the period 2020 - 2038 and is being prepared alongside the review of the Wiltshire Core Strategy (known as the Wiltshire Local Plan Review (LPR)), which plans ahead to 2038. It therefore takes into consideration both the adopted WCS and emerging LPR. While the draft CCNP2 is not tested against the policies in an emerging local plan, the reasoning and evidence informing the local plan process is likely to be relevant to the consideration of the basic considerations against which a neighbourhood plan is tested. Therefore, reference is made within Table 2 to the emerging draft policies

C3.3 The qualifying bodies consider that Calne Community Neighbourhood Development Plan is in general conformity with the adopted Wiltshire Local Plan. This is outlined in Table 3 below.

**Table 3 - NDP Policies General conformity with the Wiltshire Core Strategy (CP) 2015 (including saved policies of the Saved policies from the North Wiltshire Local Plan 2011(NW) / Wiltshire Local Plan Review (LPR)**

Planning Policy	Most relevant policies from Local Plan	Commentary
<b>Policy C1</b> <b>High Quality, Sustainable Development in the Calne Community Plan Area</b>	CP 41 CP 50 CP 52 CP 57 NW C1 & T1  LPR 4 LPR 83 LPR 85 LPR 86	This Neighbourhood plan policy is a holistic one that sets the scene for local ambition for development and links to a number of policies across the Wiltshire Local Plan (existing and emerging). It provides a locally specific layer of policy which emphasises the importance of housing being accessible in the plan area. Policy C1 responds positively

	LPR 88 LPR 93 LPR 98 LPR 99	to issues raised by the community during informal and formal consultations.
<b>Policy C2</b> <b>Sustainable Design and Energy</b>	CP 41  LPR 85	The Wiltshire Core Strategy policy, CP41 (Sustainable Construction and Low Carbon Energy) is now significantly out of date and does not align with national policy/guidance on net zero carbon. Some aspects of CP41, such as reference to the Code for Sustainable Homes, has been withdrawn.  The aim therefore is to make these Neighbourhood Plan policies a ‘stepping stone’ to the emerging Local Plan Review (LPR) Policy 85.  CP41 requires submission of a Sustainable Energy Strategy for major development, outlining the low carbon strategy for the proposal. Policy C2 requires that all new development proposals should be submitted with a proportionate Sustainable Energy Strategy that sets out a low-carbon approach as suggested by Wiltshire Council as part of their Regulation 14 consultation response. Both policies have been shaped up with significant input from Wiltshire Council.
<b>Policy C3</b> <b>Retrofitting the Existing Built Environment</b>		
<b>Policy C4</b> <b>Calne Community Energy</b>	CP 42 NW C3  LPR 86	The policy supports proposals for local renewable and low carbon energy projects, in line with policy CP42 (Standalone Renewable Energy Installations). It adds detail to policy CP42 by outlining criteria for how this would be acceptable.  Policy C4 responds positively to issues raised by the community during informal and formal consultations.
<b>Policy NE1</b> <b>Local Green Space</b>	CP50 CP 52  NW NE15  LPR 83 LPR 84 LPR 88 LPR 93	CP52 makes provision for the retention of Wiltshire’s green infrastructure network, and Local Green Spaces are part of this network. Many of proposed Local Green Spaces have wildlife value, which aligns with CP50 which protects features of nature conservation value in order to maintain their ecological value, connectivity and functionality in the long term.



		It provides a locally specific layer of policy derived from an extensive local evidence base.
<b>Policy NE2</b> <b>Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity</b>	CP50 NW NE15 LPR88	Policy NE2 aligns with, strengthens and updates CP50 by not only requiring major development to ‘include measures to deliver biodiversity gains’ to deliver least 10% Biodiversity Net Gain, in line with national legislation, but encourages 20% in line with the emerging Local Plan policy LPR89 (Biodiversity net gain). This Neighbourhood Plan policy also adds local detail and best practice updates to biodiversity measures.
<b>Policy NE3 -</b> <b>Green and Blue Infrastructure</b>	CP 50 CP 52 NW NE15 LPR 84 LPR 93  Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Wiltshire, 2022	The policy is accompanied by two mapping diagrams which identify key green infrastructure assets and priorities in the Neighbourhood Area, encouraging development proposals to incorporate measures to protect, manage and enhance the green and blue infrastructure network relating directly to policy CP52 (Green Infrastructure), but also to CP50 (Biodiversity and Geodiversity).  It contributes to the shared GBI goals in the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy.
<b>Policy NE4</b> <b>Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows</b>	CP 50 CP 51 CP 57 NW NE12  LPR 90 LPR 91  Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Wiltshire, 2022	This policy recognises Calne’s trees and hedgerows as particularly important aspects of the Neighbourhood Area’s green infrastructure network to be retained and enhanced as part of new development in line with, and adding local detail and expectations to CP50 (Biodiversity and Geodiversity).  ‘Woodland and Trees’ is one of the seven themes of the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy.
<b>Policy NE5</b> <b>Setting of Calne and Calne Without</b>	CP 51 CP 57  NW NE15  LPR 91	Policy NE5 expects development to protect, conserve and where possible enhance the distinct landscape character of the Neighbourhood Area in line with CP51 (Landscape) and adds a local dimension specific to the setting of the villages and town and the Marden Valley.

	Wiltshire Design Guide SPD, 2024	
<b>Policy BE1</b> <b>Design Principles for Local Distinctiveness</b>	CP 51 CP 57  NW C3  LPR98  Wiltshire Design Guide SPD, 2024	BE1 provides a locally specific layer of policy, drawing attention to design considerations which are of particular importance in the area, signposting and linking to detail set out in the Calne Design The Calne Community Design Guide and Code. This aligns with CP57 (Ensuring High Quality Design and Place Shaping) directly and is encouraged in Core Strategy paragraph 6.132).  As set out in the Wiltshire Design Guide SPD (adopted February 2024) Neighbourhood Plans can include an extra tier of design guidance and define the identity of their community and character of the area. The SPD is clear that Neighbourhood Plans can provide further guidance on local character and design guidance.
<b>Policy BE2</b> <b>Heritage Assets</b>	CP 57 CP 58  NW HE1, HE2, HE3, HE4, HE5, HE6, HE7 & HE8  LPR98 LPR99	This policy is in conformity and adds local detail to, CP58 (Ensuring the Conservation of the Historic Environment) which seeks to conserve, and where possible enhance, ‘distinctive elements of Wiltshire’s historic environment, including non-designated heritage assets, which contribute to a sense of local character and identity.’  CP57 (Ensuring High Quality Design and Place Shaping) requires development to demonstrate how the proposal will make a positive contribution to the character of Wiltshire through ‘being sympathetic to and conserving historic buildings and historic landscapes.’
<b>Policy CF1 -</b> <b>Community Facilities</b>	CP8 CP 49  LPR9 LPR81 LPR83	The policy reinforces CP8 (Spatial Strategy for the Calne Community) and CP49 (Protection of rural services and community facilities) through the identification of the local facilities in the Neighbourhood Area that are to be protected.
<b>Policy CF2 -</b>	CP3	This policy promotes the effective phasing and prioritising of infrastructure in line with

<b>Community Infrastructure and Phasing of Development</b>	LPR81	the delivery of housing in line with CP 3 (Infrastructure Requirements). The policy outlines that the town and parish councils will set out and maintain a community infrastructure list(s), as referenced in criteria (vi) of CP3.
<b>Policy CF3 - Burial Space</b>	CP3 LPR5 LPR81	This policy highlights a particular local need that is covered under ‘infrastructure priority theme 2: Place-shaping infrastructure’ (see para 4.42) in CP 3 (Infrastructure Requirements).
<b>Policy GA1 Highway Impact</b>	CP8 CP55 CP61 CP62  LPR9 LPR71 LPR72 LPR101	As referred to in CP8 (see paragraph 5.41), an Air Quality Management Area has been declared in the town and there are concerns that more development will contribute to this issue.  This also links to CP55 (Air quality) which seeks to ensure that any proposals which exacerbate existing areas of poor air quality effectively mitigate any impacts.  This policy also adds local detail to policies CP61 (Transport and new development) and CP62 (Development impacts on the transport network) which set out the need for development to provide appropriate mitigating measures to offset any adverse impacts on the highway network
<b>Policy GA2 Public Realm</b>	CP57 CP61  LPR98	GA2 provides a locally specific layer of policy, drawing attention to design considerations which are of particular importance in the area, signposting and linking to detail set out in the Calne Design Guidelines and Code with the aim of delivering more ‘people friendly streets’ and high-quality design as in CP57 (Ensuring high quality design and place shaping).  As in CP61, this policy encourages new development to be located and designed to reduce the need to travel particularly by private car, and to encourage the use of sustainable transport alternatives.

<p><b>Policy GA3</b></p> <p><b>Sustainable Transport and Inclusive Active Travel</b></p>	<p>CP60 CP61</p> <p>LPR70 LPR71</p>	<p>As in CP60 (Sustainable transport)., GA3 encourages new development to be located and designed to reduce the need to travel particularly by private car, and to encourage the use of sustainable transport alternatives and sets out a hierarchy of transport users as in CP61 (Transport and new development).</p> <p>The policy promotes development that encourages alternative modes of transport to the private car, in line with the requirements of CP60.</p> <p>By working to protect and enhance the existing network of pedestrian routes in the Neighbourhood Area, the policy reflects the aims of CP52 (Green infrastructure).</p>
<p><b>Policy GA4</b></p> <p><b>Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Charging</b></p>	<p>CP41 CP55</p> <p>LPR70 LPR101</p>	<p>The policy promotes the provision of ultra low emission vehicle charging points in new residential, employment, leisure and retail development, incorporating design measures to reduce energy demand in line with CP41 (Sustainable construction and low carbon energy).</p> <p>This also links to CP55 (Air quality) which seeks to ensure that any proposals which exacerbate existing areas of poor air quality effectively mitigate any impacts.</p>
<p><b>Policy GA5</b></p> <p><b>Parking Provision</b></p>	<p>CP57 CP64</p> <p>LPR73 LPR98</p>	<p>GA5 provides a locally specific layer of policy, drawing attention to design considerations which are of particular importance in the area, signposting and linking to to detail set out in the Calne Design Guidelines and Code with the aim of a design-led approach to parking provision and high-quality design as in CP57 (Ensuring high quality design and place shaping).</p> <p>It links also to CP64 (Demand management) which sets out measures (such as parking standards) to encourage sustainable transport alternatives and appropriate approaches to parking provision for the private car.</p>
<p><b>Policy GA6</b></p> <p><b>Walking and Cycling for</b></p>	<p>CP52</p> <p>LPR70</p>	<p>GA6 reflects local ambition to protect and further enhance the existing network of pedestrian and cycles routes in the</p>

<b>Leisure and Recreation</b>		Neighbourhood Area, the policy reflects the aims of CP52 (Green infrastructure).
<b>Policy WS1</b> <b>Protecting and Promoting Sustainable, Low Carbon Local Employment</b>	CP8 CP34 CP35 CP60  LPR9 LPR65	This policy supports the retention, regeneration and intensification of employment sites within the Principle Employment Areas as set out in CP8 (Spatial Strategy for the Calne Community Area) and CP35 (Existing Employment Land), as well additional employment land, especially for innovative and progressive businesses, in line with CP34 (Additional employment land).  The policy also helps to achieve the goals of CP60 and CP8 by reducing the need to use private cars by reducing the need for commuting.
<b>Policy WS2</b> <b>Supporting Local Agriculture and Farm Diversification</b>	CP48  LPR64	Policy WS2 aligns with CP48 (Supporting Rural Life) and provides a locally specific layer of policy which emphasises this important local economic and cultural sector.
<b>Policy WS3 - Supporting the Local Visitor Economy</b>	CP39 CP40  LPR69	WS3 aligns with CP39 (Tourist Development) and CP40 (Hotels, Bed & Breakfasts, Guest Houses and Conference Facilities) and provides a locally specific layer of policy which emphasises this local economic area.
<b>Policy WS4</b> <b>Calne Town Centre</b>	CP8 CP36 CP38  LPR9 LPR68	The policy adds locally specific detail as well as updating and reflecting the aims of CP8 (Spatial Strategy for the Calne Community Area) which is for development to contribute to the enhancement of the Town Centre and updates the information supporting the policy.  In line with CP38 (Retail and leisure) it seeks to enhance the vitality and viability of the town centre.  It contributes to economic regeneration of the town and highlights ‘opportunity sites’, that would be regeneration of brownfield sites as supported by CP36 (Economic regeneration).

<p><b>Policy WS5</b></p> <p><b>Local, neighbourhood centres in Calne and Derry Hill</b></p>	<p>CP8 CP48 CP49</p> <p>LPR9 LPR81</p>	<p>The CCNP seeks to protect and support the retention of the local shops for the benefit of the community in the rural areas, as well as neighbourhood centres in the town. It reflects local concerns and adds locally specific detail and policy updates to CP8 (Spatial Strategy for the Calne Community Area), CP48 (Supporting rural life) and CP49 (Protection of rural services and community facilities).</p>
<p><b>Policy H1</b></p> <p><b>Housing Within Settlement Boundaries</b></p>	<p>CP1 CP2 CP8 CP45</p> <p>LPR1 LPR2 LPR9</p>	<p>This policy accords with the settlement hierarchy as set out in CP1, as well as the development strategy set out in CP2 and CP8 (Spatial Strategy for the Calne Community Area). It supports development within the settlement boundaries within the Neighbourhood Area, and responds to specific housing circumstances in the plan area.</p> <p>The policy supports new homes in the defined settlements of the Neighbourhood Area, contributing towards the housing delivery in line with CP45 (Meeting Wiltshire’s housing needs).</p> <p>Policy H1 responds positively to issues raised by the community during informal and formal consultations.</p>
<p><b>Policy H2</b></p> <p><b>Affordable Housing</b></p>	<p>CP43 CP45</p> <p>LPR76</p>	<p>Policy H2 aligns with CP43 (Providing Affordable Homes) and CP45 (Meeting Wiltshire’s housing needs). It provides a locally specific layer of evidence and policy which responds to specific housing circumstances in the plan area as evidenced by evidence base report on housing needs (or other updated assessments).</p>
<p><b>Policy H3</b></p> <p><b>Housing Mix</b></p>	<p>CP45</p> <p>LPR78</p>	<p>Policy H3 provides a locally specific layer of evidence and policy which enables the delivery of CP45 (Meeting Wiltshire’s housing needs) at the Neighbourhood Plan area level.</p>
<p><b>Policy H4 -</b></p> <p><b>Housing to meet the needs of Older People and those Living with Disabilities</b></p>	<p>CP45 CP46</p> <p>LPR78 LPR80</p>	<p>These policies support the Wiltshire core strategy CP45 (Meeting Wiltshire’s housing needs) by identifying housing provision that meet evidenced local needs, particularly with emphasis on the need for accessible and adaptable homes. There is a particular need to within the area.</p>

<p><b>Policy H5</b></p> <p><b>Adaptable and Accessible Housing</b></p>		<p>Policy H4 and H5 also respond specifically to local needs whilst aligning with CP46 (Meeting the Needs of Wiltshire’s Vulnerable and Older People).</p>
<p><b>Policy H6</b></p> <p><b>Exception Sites and Community Led Housing</b></p>	<p>CP45 CP44  LPR77 LPR79 LPR80</p>	<p>The policy encourages the diverse provision of new homes in the Parish, contributing towards the housing delivery objectives outlined in the Spatial Vision of the Core Strategy, and towards creating mixed and balanced communities as set out in CP45 (Meeting Wiltshire’s housing needs) and also looks ahead to policies in the Local Plan Review such as LPR80 (Self and custom build housing) and LPR79 (First homes exception sites).</p> <p>Policy H6 responds positively to issues raised by the community during informal and formal consultations adds a local layer of policy that aligns with CP44 (Rural Exceptions Sites), but looks ahead to LPR77 (Rural Exceptions Sites) that enables larger exception sites of up to 20 houses come forward.</p>

## C4 Compatibility with Retained European Union Obligations

### Environmental Impact and Habitat Regulations

- C4.1. Wiltshire Council, in line with the requirements of the European Directive 2001/42/EC, has an obligation to determine whether the Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. To this end, Wiltshire Council carried out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening on the draft Neighbourhood Plan, and prepared a SEA screening determination report for the Neighbourhood Plan in March 2024 (see **Appendix 2**). Wiltshire Council considers that the Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects and therefore a **Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required**.
- C4.2. In line with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive, Wiltshire Council also has an obligation to determine whether the Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have any harmful effects on any European Designated sites, including Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation. The Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment was prepared in March 2024 and is included as **Appendix 3** to this document. The Assessment concludes that the Calne Neighbourhood Plan will **not result in a likely significant effect on any**

**European Sites or their qualifying features** either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects.

- C4.3. The Habitats Regulation Assessment also screens the Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations and determines that no further assessment is required and therefore that **the requirements of Chapter 8 of Part 6 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations are not breached by the Neighbourhood Plan.**

## **Human Rights**

- C4.4. The purpose of the Calne Community Neighbourhood Development Plan is to improve the quality of life for people living and working now and in the future in the Plan area from an environmental, social and economic point of view. The aims and policies in the modified Calne Community Neighbourhood Development Plan are in response to local people's views and in the light of evidence gathered to meet the needs expressed and address the issues identified. More detail is set out in supporting Topic Papers<sup>4</sup>, and in the Consultation Statement which accompanies the submitted Revised Neighbourhood Plan.
- C4.5. Those who are affected by the proposals within the Neighbourhood Plan have been adequately consulted and have had the opportunity to comment on the proposals. The details of consultation that has been carried out on the Plan are outlined in the Consultation Statement. No issues have been raised in relation to the possible contravention of Human Rights in the preceding consultations on the Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan, and as the Plan's is considered to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the Development Plan and have regard to National Planning Policy, guidance and legislation, the qualifying bodies conclude that the making of the Revised Plan has regard to and is compatible with the fundamental rights and freedoms guaranteed under the European Convention on Human Rights<sup>5</sup> and complies with the Human Rights Act 1998<sup>6</sup>.

## **Appendices**

**Appendix 1:** Map of designated Neighbourhood Plan Area.

**Appendix 2:** SEA Final Screening Determination for the Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan March 2024.

**Appendix 3:** Calne Neighbourhood Development Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment, March 2024.

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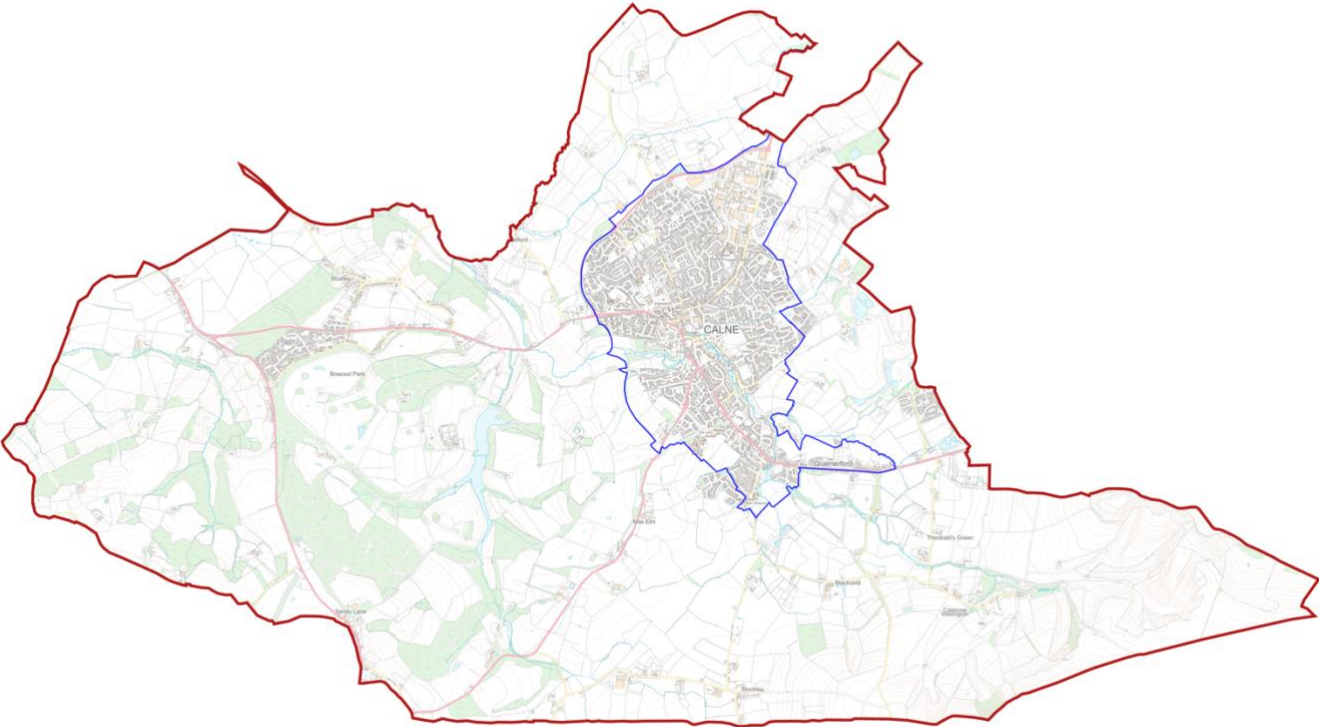
<sup>4</sup> [www.calnecommunityplan.com](http://www.calnecommunityplan.com)

<sup>5</sup> These are the right to life, the right to a fair hearing, the right to respect for private and family life, freedom of expression, freedom of thought, conscience and religion and the protection of property.

<sup>6</sup> See <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/42/contents>



**Appendix 1:** Map of designated Neighbourhood Plan Area (the red line indicates the Plan area / Blue line the Town Parish Boundary).



**Appendix 2:**

**Wiltshire Council**

**Strategic Environmental Assessment**

**Screening determination for the Draft Calne Community  
Neighbourhood Plan 2**

**March 2024**

**Wiltshire Council**  
The logo for Wiltshire Council, featuring a green wavy line underneath the text.

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document provides a screening determination of the need to carry out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Draft Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan 2 (hereafter 'draft CCNP2').
- 1.2 Wiltshire Council, as the 'Responsible Authority'<sup>1</sup> under the SEA Regulations<sup>2</sup>, is responsible for undertaking this screening process. It will determine if the draft CCNP2 is likely to have significant environmental effects, and hence whether SEA is required.
- 1.3 This process has been carried out in accordance with the requirements of European Directive 2001/42/EC<sup>3</sup>, often known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive, which has been transposed into English law by the SEA Regulations.

## 2. Legislative requirements

- 2.1 The Localism Act 2011 requires neighbourhood plans to comply with EU legislation. The screening procedure outlined in this report meets the requirements of the SEA Directive and Regulations, as introduced in Section 1 of this document.

- 2.2 Regulation 5 of the SEA Regulations requires an environmental assessment of plans which:

1. *are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use (Regulation 5, para. (2)(a), and which set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annex I or II to Council Directive 85/337/EEC (EIA Directive) on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment (Reg. 5, para. (2)(b)*
2. *in view of the likely effect on sites, have been determined to require an assessment pursuant to Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) (Reg. 5, para. (3)*
3. *set the framework for future development consent of projects<sup>4</sup> (Reg. 5, para. (4)(b)*
4. *are determined to be likely to have significant environmental effects as determined under regulation 9(1) (Reg. 5, para. (4)(c)*

An environmental assessment need not be carried out for:

- a) *plans which determine the use of a small area<sup>5</sup> at local level (Regulation 5, para. (6)(a); or*
- b) *plans which are a minor modification<sup>6</sup> to a plan or programme (Regulation 5, para. (6)(b)* unless it has been determined under regulation 9(1) that the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects.

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<sup>1</sup> The organisation which adopts the neighbourhood plan (this is described in Wiltshire Council's guide *Neighbourhood planning – a guide for Wiltshire's parish and town councils* (June 2012) as 'makes the plan').

<sup>2</sup> The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

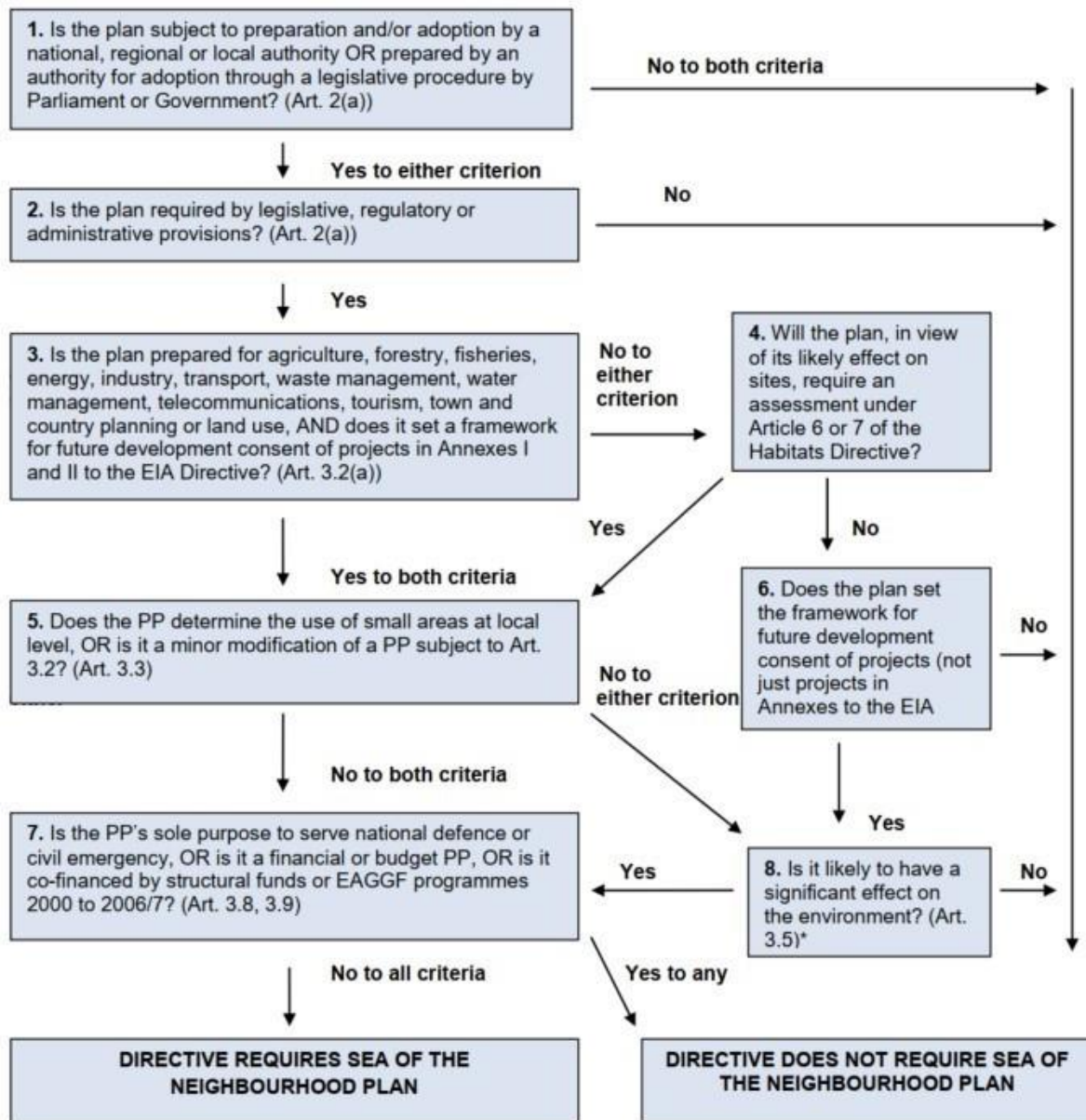
<sup>3</sup> European Directive 2001/42/EC "on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment"

<sup>4</sup> European Commission guidance states that plans and programmes which set the framework for future development consent of projects would normally contain 'criteria or conditions which guide the way a consenting authority decides an application for development consent'. Development consent is defined in the EIA Directive as "the decision of the competent authority or authorities which entitled the developer to proceed with the project" (Article 1(2) of the EIA Directive).

<sup>5</sup> European Commission guidance suggests that plans which determine the use of small areas at local level might include "a building plan which, for a particular, limited area, outlines details of how buildings must be constructed, determining, for example, their height, width or design"

<sup>6</sup> 'Minor modifications' should be considered in the context of the plan or programme which is being modified and of the likelihood of their having significant environmental effects. A modification may be of such small order that it is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.

2.3 The diagram<sup>7</sup> below shows the SEA Directive's requirements and its application to neighbourhood plans:



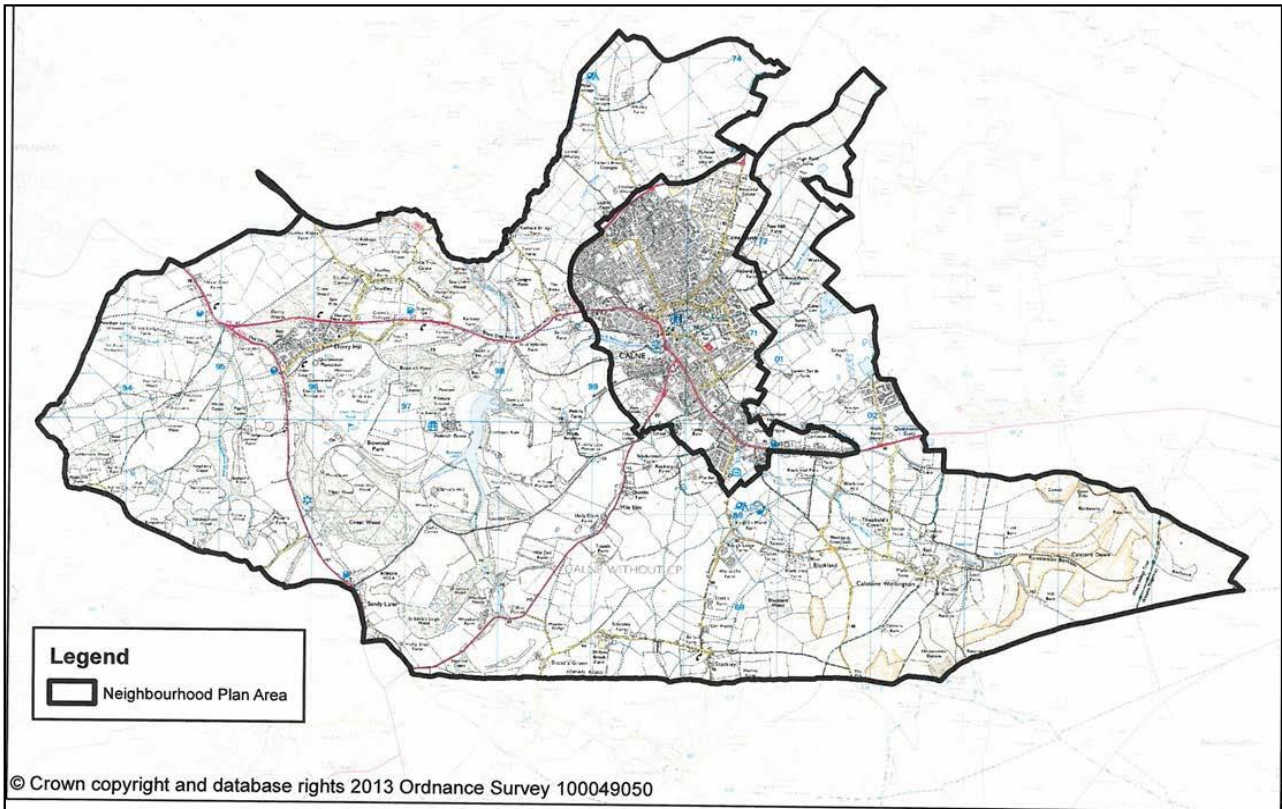
\* Plans falling in this category (No.8) will be screened by Wiltshire Council to determine if they are likely to have significant environmental effects. This determination will be made on a case-by-case basis for neighbourhood plans coming forward in Wiltshire.

NB This diagram is intended as a guide to the criteria for application of the Directive to neighbourhood plans. It has no legal status.

<sup>7</sup> Taken from *A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive* ODPM, 2005)

### 3. The Draft Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan 2

- 3.1 The parishes of Calne Town and Calne Without are preparing a neighbourhood development plan under the provisions of the Localism Act 2011.
- 3.2 The designation of the Calne Town and Calne Without Neighbourhood Area was made on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2014 (see map of area outlined in black below). For the designation notice see <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/planning-neighbourhood-latest-news>



- 3.3 This screening decision is based on, and accompanied by, a draft proposed modified Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan 2 2023-2038 Working Draft Review Plan (Modification Proposal), November 2023

#### **4. SEA Screening assessment**

4.1 Wiltshire Council, as the 'Responsible Authority', considers that the draft CCNP2 falls within the scope of the SEA Regulations on the basis that it is a plan that:

**a)** is subject to preparation or adoption by an authority at national, regional or local level (Regulation 2);

**b)** is prepared for town and country planning or land use and it is a plan that sets the framework for future development consent of projects generally (Regulation 5); and

**c)** will apply to a wider area other than a small area at local level and is not a minor modification to an existing plan or programme (Regulation 5).

4.2 A determination under Regulation 9 is therefore required as to whether the draft CCNP2 is likely to have significant effects on the environment.

4.3 The screening requirements set out in Regulation 9 and Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations includes two sets of characteristics for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment. These relate to i) the characteristics of the draft CCNP2 and ii) the characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected by the draft CCNP2. In making a determination, Wiltshire Council will take into account the criteria specified in Schedule I of the Regulations which are follows:

##### **1. The characteristics of the plans and programmes, having regard in particular to:**

**(a)** the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;

**(b)** the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;

**(c)** the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;

**(d)** environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and

**(e)** the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection).

##### **2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:**

**(a)** the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;

**(b)** the cumulative nature of the effects;

**(c)** the transboundary nature of the effects;

**(d)** the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);

**(e)** the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected);

**(f)** the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to—

- (i)** special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;
- (ii)** exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or
- (iii)** intensive land-use; and

**(g)** the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.



The screening assessment of the draft CCNP2 is set out below:

Criteria (Schedule 1 SEA Regs.)	Significant environmental effects likely?	Justification and evidence
<b>1. The characteristics of plans, having regard, in particular, to:</b>		
(a) the degree to which the plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regards to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources	No	The neighbourhood plan covers the parishes of Calne Town and Calne Without. Whilst the draft Plan does set a framework for projects at the parish level, it does not set a framework for a significant degree of projects or other activities.
(b) the degree to which the plan influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy	No	The draft CCNP2 is produced by the local community to influence development at the local parish level. The draft CCNP2 will not have a significant influence on other plans and programmes or those in a hierarchy. All neighbourhood plans must be in general conformity with the strategic policies contained in the development plan for the area, contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and have regard to national policies.
(c) the relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development	No	The draft CCNP2 is a land-use plan that promotes sustainable development, in general conformity with the Local Plan and national planning guidance. It is not a Plan specifically relating to the integration of environmental considerations.
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan	No	There are no known specific environmental problems relevant to this Plan.
(e) the relevance of the plan for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (for example, plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection)	No	The neighbourhood plan is not relevant as a plan for implementing Community legislation.
<b>2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to:</b>		
(a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	No	The draft CCNP2 covers the Market Town of Calne, Large Village of Derry Hill/Studley and open countryside. There are no proposed development site allocations. Policies seek to protect and enhance the natural, built and historic environment. Policies supporting new development do not introduce anything that is over and above that supported by the Wiltshire Core Strategy (WCS).

(b) the cumulative nature of the effects	No	No specific cumulative effects of the proposals are considered likely.
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects	No	No transboundary effects with other EU countries are considered likely to be significant.
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents)	No	There are no significant environmental effects considered likely to risk human health or the environment.
(e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	No	The draft CCNP2 covers two parishes. Significant environmental effects due to the geographic size of the area and population size are not considered likely.
(f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to— (i) special natural Characteristics or Cultural heritage; (ii) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; or (iii) intensive land-use;	No	The draft CCNP2 covers the Market Town of Calne, Large Village of Derry Hill/Studley and open countryside. There are no proposed development site allocations. Policies seek to protect and enhance the natural, built and historic environment. Policies supporting new development do not introduce anything that is over and above that supported by the Wiltshire Core Strategy (WCS). The draft Plan is considered unlikely to have significant environmental effects due to exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values or intensive land-use.
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	No	The draft CCNP2 covers the Market Town of Calne, Large Village of Derry Hill/Studley and open countryside. There are no proposed development site allocations. Policies seek to protect and enhance the natural, built and historic environment. Policies supporting new development do not introduce anything that is over and above that supported by the Wiltshire Core Strategy (WCS). The Council's ecologist has confirmed that, having been screened under the Habitats Regulations, an appropriate assessment (AA) will not be required.

## 5. SEA Screening decision

5.1 Regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations requires that the responsible authority (Wiltshire Council) shall determine whether or not a plan is likely to have significant environmental effects. The responsible authority shall —

- (a) take into account the criteria specified in Schedule 1 to these Regulations; and
- (b) consult the consultation bodies (Historic England, Natural England, Environment Agency).

5.2 Where the responsible authority determines that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects (and, accordingly, does not require an environmental assessment), it shall prepare a statement of its reasons for the determination.

5.3 Wiltshire Council considers that the draft CCNP2 **is not likely to have significant environmental effects** and accordingly **a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required**. This decision is made for the following reasons:

Reason 1: the draft Plan does not contain any proposed development site allocations. It seeks to protect and enhance the natural, built and historic environment. Policies supporting new development do not introduce anything that is over and above that supported by the Wiltshire Core Strategy (WCS).

Reason 2: an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations is not required.

5.4 This SEA screening has been undertaken on a draft proposed modified Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan 2 2023-2038 Working Draft Review Plan (Modification Proposal), November 2023. It is possible that these proposals may change. If the draft Plan is subsequently amended significantly from these proposals i.e. changes that substantially alter the draft plan and/or are likely to give rise to additional significant environmental effects, or it is subsequently decided that the draft Plan should be subject to an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations, this SEA screening must be reviewed. In this instance, the Qualifying Body should request a revised SEA screening assessment from Wiltshire Council.

## 6. Consultation on SEA screening decision

6.1 This screening decision was sent to Natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England, requesting comments within a 5-week period from 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Comments were received from Historic England and the Environment Agency. Natural England did not respond to the consultation request.

6.2 Comments received from the two consultees agreed that an SEA was not required for the plan. These comments are included in Appendix 1.

## Appendix 1 – Comments received from consultation bodies

### Historic England

Draft Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan 2 - - SEA screening consultation with consultation bodies



Stuart, David <David.Stuart@HistoricEngland.org.uk>  
To: Clarke, Aidan

[Reply](#) [Reply All](#) [Forward](#)

Thu 15/02/2024 15:56

This sender David.Stuart@HistoricEngland.org.uk is from outside your organization.  
 Follow up. Completed on 16 February 2024.

FORMAL NOTICE OF CONSULTATION ON THE REGULATION 14 STAGE OF THE CALNE COMMUNITY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2  
Outlook item

Dear Aidan

Thank you for your SEA Screening consultation associated with the emerging Calne Community neighbourhood Plan 2.

Coincident with this consultation we have received a formal Regulation 14 consultation from the community on the pre-submission version of the Plan. We have therefore used this to inform our position on the SEA Screening exercise rather than the draft Plan provided by you, and our response to that consultation is attached here for information.

On the basis of that version of the Plan I can confirm that we have no objection to the view that a full SEA is not required.

Kind regards

David

David Stuart | Historic Places Adviser

### Environment Agency

RE: Draft Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan 2 - - SEA screening consultation with consultation bodies



Sustainable Places, WX <wx.sp@environment-agency.gov.uk>  
To: Clarke, Aidan

[Reply](#) [Reply All](#) [Forward](#)

Fri 01/03/2024 16:10

This sender wx.sp@environment-agency.gov.uk is from outside your organization.  
 Follow up. Completed on 04 March 2024.

You don't often get email from [wx.sp@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:wx.sp@environment-agency.gov.uk). [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Aidan Clarke,

Thank you for consulting the Environment Agency.

We have **no objection** to the opinion Wiltshire Council has taken with regards the SEA screening consultation.

Many thanks

**Lindsay Ffello**  
Planning Advisor (Wessex - Sustainable Places)  
Environment Agency | Rivers House, Sunrise Business Park, Higher Shaftesbury Road, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 8ST

[wx.sp@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:wx.sp@environment-agency.gov.uk) **[PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW EMAIL ADDRESS]**

## Appendix 3

HRA of the Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan 2 2023-2038 Pre Submission Consultation Draft February 2024  
NH V2.0 13/03/2024

# CALNE COMMUNITY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN 2 HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) relates to the proposed modified Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan 2 2023-2038 Pre Submission Consultation Draft February 2024, hereafter referred to as the NP, submitted to Wiltshire Council in February 2024. This HRA has been undertaken to inform a Regulation 14 consultation response from Wiltshire Council to the NP. The Calne Community NP was made in February 2018 and the proposed modified NP is being screened under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019<sup>1</sup>, hereafter referred to as the Habitats Regulations, due to proposed amendments to several policies, the deletion of policies, the inclusion of new policies and the requirement for the qualifying body to consult the local planning authority on the proposed modifications to the NP.
- 1.2. The HRA has been carried out to comply with Regulation 105 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019, hereafter referred to as the Habitats Regulations. Under these Regulations, a competent authority must consider whether a relevant plan is likely to have a significant effect on any European sites (formally also referred to as Natura 2000 sites and now known as the national site network<sup>2</sup>) before deciding to give any consent, permission or other authorisation. If the screening exercise demonstrates significant effects are likely, whether or not these are addressed through mitigation measures<sup>3</sup>, the competent authority must undertake an appropriate assessment to examine the effects of the plan on the conservation objectives of the European sites in question, consult the appropriate nature conservation body and have regard to its representations. Both the screening and any subsequent AA must consider the impacts of the plan alone and in combination with other plans or projects.
- 1.3. It is usually the case that a plan of this nature does not go into the detailed aspects of development proposals and therefore the full effects of potential development cannot be accurately assessed at the plan making stage. Those details will typically be identified through a planning application which would be subject to further, more detailed HRA. The principle that a HRA need only consider the effects of a proposal or policy in as much detail as is specified by the plan was explained by Advocate General Kokott in a judgement brought against the UK government in 2005:  
  
*“Many details are regularly not settled until the time of the final permission. It would also hardly be proper to require a greater level of detail in preceding plans or the abolition of multi-stage planning and approval procedures so that the assessment of implications can be concentrated on one point in the procedure. Rather, adverse effects on areas of conservation must be assessed at every relevant stage of the procedure to the extent possible on the basis of the precision of the plan. This assessment is to be updated with increasing specificity in subsequent stages of the procedure.”*<sup>4</sup>
- 1.4. Where appropriate assessment is undertaken, the competent authority may go on to authorise the plan or project provided that it will not adversely affect the integrity of any European sites. Where an **adverse**

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<sup>1</sup> On 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 were amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019. Most of these changes involved transferring functions from the European Commission to the appropriate authorities in England and Wales. All other processes or terms in the 2017 Regulations remain unchanged and existing guidance is still relevant. The obligations of a competent authority in the 2017 Regulations for the protection of sites or species do not change [Changes to the Habitats Regulations 2017 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/614447/Changes_to_the_Habitats_Regulations_2017_-_GOV.UK_(www.gov.uk).pdf)

<sup>2</sup> Due to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) being amended by the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021.

<sup>3</sup> Court of Justice of the European Union, Case C 323/17 “People Over Wind”/P. Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta

<sup>4</sup> Commission of the European Communities v UK and NI, opinion of Advocate General KoKott, 9 June 2005, Case C-6/04

**effect on the integrity (AEoI)** of any European sites cannot be ruled out, and where there are no alternative solutions, the plan can only be authorised and proceed if there are **imperative reasons of over-riding public interest (IROPI)** and if the necessary compensatory measures can be secured.

- 1.5. Wiltshire Council has conducted the following HRA as competent authority for the Calne Community NP. Where risks to European sites are identified, changes are recommended to remove or reduce the risks, and these should be incorporated into the NP before it is made. Likewise, if the policies or planning context change after the HRA is completed, the HRA process must be repeated before the final plan is considered by a referendum and adopted.

## 2. Screening Methodology

- 2.1. Each element of the plan has been categorised against screening criteria developed by Natural England (NE) to provide a clear audit trail for the screening assessment.
- 2.2. The screening criteria used are as follows:
  - Category A1: The policy will not itself lead to development e.g. because it relates to design or other qualitative criteria for development.
  - Category A2: The policy is intended to protect the natural environment.
  - Category A3: The policy is intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment.
  - Category A4: The policy would positively steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas.
  - Category A5: The policy would have no effect because no development could occur through the policy itself, the development being implemented through later policies in the same plan, which are more specific and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects on European sites and associated sensitive areas.
  - Category B: No significant effect.
  - Category C: Likely significant effect alone; and
  - Category D: Likely significant effects in combination.
- 2.3. The effect of each policy has been considered both individually and in combination with other plans and projects (see Table 1 below). Where potential for likely significant effects have been identified, an appropriate assessment has been undertaken in subsequent sections.

## 3. Higher Level HRAs

### Wiltshire Core Strategy

- 3.1 The Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA (October 2009, February 2012<sup>5</sup>, March 2013<sup>6</sup>, February 2014<sup>7</sup> and April 2014<sup>8</sup>) identified general parameters to determine the likelihood of potential impacts on European sites. The following potential impact pathways and associated parameters were identified and assessed for the European sites stipulated below.
  - *Recreation – European sites within 5km of the plan area, or where the New Forest Special Protection Area (SPA)/Special Area of Conservation (SAC) is within 13.8km (extended to 15km where HRA indicates this is necessary) of the plan area or where Salisbury Plain SPA/SAC is within 15km of the plan area (it*

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<sup>5</sup> Wiltshire Core Strategy Submission Draft – Assessment under the Habitats Regulations, Wiltshire Council, February 2012

<sup>6</sup> Wiltshire Core Strategy – Assessment under the Habitats Regulations, Wiltshire Council, March 2013

<sup>7</sup> Update to the Wiltshire Core Strategy habitats Regulations Assessment, February 2014 (Exam/89)

<sup>8</sup> Wiltshire Core Strategy Updated Habitats Regulations Assessment, April 2014

*should be noted that the relevant parameter for the latter has since been revised on the basis of data obtained by means of visitor surveys and is now 6.4km):*

- Salisbury Plain Special Area of Conservation (SAC) / Special Protection Area (SPA)
- River Avon SAC
- New Forest SAC / SPA
- Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC (added post adoption of Wiltshire Core Strategy (WCS))
- North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC (added post adoption of WCS)
- *Hydrology / Hydrogeology - Sites that fall wholly or partly within the Wessex Water Resource Zone may be susceptible to impact:*
  - Salisbury Plain SAC / SPA
  - Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC
  - Pewsey Downs SAC
  - North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC
  - River Avon SAC
  - River Lambourn SAC
  - Kennet & Lambourn Floodplain SAC
- *Air Pollution / Nitrogen Deposition – European sites within 200m of a main road*
  - Porton Down SPA
  - Salisbury Plain SAC / SPA
  - Solent and Southampton Water SPA
  - North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC
  - River Avon SAC
  - Rodborough Common SAC
  - Cotswolds Beechwoods SAC
- *Physical Damage / Interruption of Flight Lines / Disturbance*
  - Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC
  - Porton Down SPA
  - Chilmark Quarries SAC (added post adoption of WCS)
  - Mottisfont Bats SAC (added post adoption of WCS)

### **Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan**

- 3.2 Since the Core Strategy was adopted, the Council published a pre-submission draft of the Wiltshire Housing Site Allocations Plan (WHSAP) together with a HRA dated 21 June 2017. A schedule of proposed changes was considered by Cabinet supported by an Addendum to the HRA dated May 2018. A schedule of changes and an Addendum to the HRA incorporating minor factual changes were published in September 2018 for public consultation. Subsequently, the WHSAP (Council Version, February 2020) was adopted by Full

Council on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2020 and this was accompanied by the final WHSAP Assessment under the Habitats Regulations (Wiltshire Council, February 2020).

- 3.3 The screening criteria for the adopted WHSAP and final HRA were modified for some European sites from those used for the Core Strategy subsequent to the acquisition of results from new surveys, and in light of advice from NE. This includes the zone of influence (Zoi) around the Salisbury Plain SPA used to screen for likely significant effects as a result of recreational pressure being revised from 15km to 6.4km on the basis of data obtained by means of visitor surveys.
- 3.4 Furthermore, since the Core Strategy was adopted, NE has advised Wiltshire Council of its concerns regarding the growing number of visitors to the North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC in recent years which has led to an increase in trampling. NE has advised that this is particularly evident at North Meadow (which is also a National Nature Reserve (NNR)) during April and May when visitors come to see the Snake's-head fritillaries in flower. NE considers that the increase in recreational pressure upon the SAC is primarily as a result of increases in the local population, and that major new housing developments within a short travel distance of North Meadow are likely to add to the existing visitor pressure and trampling effects. The North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC Interim Recreation Mitigation Strategy 2023 – 2028 (May 2023, strategy approved for use by Wiltshire Council in November 2023) sets out the mitigation strategy for the North Meadow component of the SAC with regards to new residential and tourism accommodation developments within the identified Zoi. The Clattinger Farm component of the SAC is not subject to the strategy. The Interim Recreation Mitigation Strategy sets out two Zoi, an Inner Zone of 0km - 4.2km and an Outer Zone of 4.2km – 9.4km. The Inner Zone represents the area within which 75% of local year round users (e.g. dog walkers) originate. The Outer Zone represents the area within which 75% of those people who visit to view the Snake's-head fritillaries during the main flowering season originate<sup>9</sup>. Mitigation will be achieved through financial contributions to Strategic Access Management Monitoring (SAMM), Infrastructure Mitigation Projects (IMP) and/or Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANGs). Developments of over 50 units within the Inner Zone will be expected to provide their own SANG unless a financial contribution to the IMP/SANG project system can be robustly justified. The strategy is an interim approach and will be reviewed within 5 years following further monitoring and surveys.
- 3.5 Impacts of development in Wiltshire on the New Forest SPA were considered in the HRA for the South Wiltshire Core Strategy (SWCS) adopted in 2012<sup>10</sup>. The assessment used data from the Tourism South East PROGRESS survey for 2004/05 and census data from 2001 for the former Salisbury District to examine patterns of visitors to the New Forest from across south Wiltshire. That HRA concluded that the development in south Wiltshire would increase visitor pressure by less than 1% and 89% of this would be through additional local day visits from within 8km of the National Park. The WCS addressed the New Forest's mitigation requirements through Core Policy 50, identifying that a New Forest Mitigation Strategy would be prepared to address recreational impacts. Since the WCS was adopted, the council has joined a partnership of local authorities seeking to develop a strategic approach to address the impacts of recreational pressure on the New Forest SPA. A Government grant through the Planning Delivery Fund enabled visitor surveys to be conducted across the New Forest in 2018/19. This work was recently published, and the Council is now part of a steering group working to agree a common approach to mitigation including the extent of the zone of influence and how to fairly reflect different visit rates within it. This evidence has informed the preparation of an Interim Recreation Mitigation Strategy by Wiltshire Council.
- 3.6 The WCS adopted the 8km zone of influence, however, as discussed in the latest iteration of the council's strategy, from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021 this has been revised to 13.8km. Before this date, the mitigation scheme

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<sup>9</sup> North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC Interim Recreation Mitigation Strategy 2023 – 2028. Cotswold District Council, Swindon Borough Council and Wiltshire Council in partnership with Natural England. May 2023

<sup>10</sup> South Wiltshire Proposed Submission Core Strategy HRA Report, Appendix 13. NPA for Wiltshire Council, July 2009



only applied to permitted dwellings lying within 8km of the New Forest designated sites whereas thereafter the scheme has been extended to apply to new residential and tourism development within 13.8km of any of the New Forest designated sites and may be extended to include applications within 15km, where demonstrated to be necessary through a bespoke appropriate assessment.

- 3.7 Since the WCS was adopted and on the advice of NE, any plan or project that will lead to development within the catchment of the River Avon SAC must be phosphorus neutral and be subject to appropriate assessment which concludes no adverse effect on the SAC alone or in-combination with other plans or projects in order to be authorised.

### **Emerging Evidence and Advice from Natural England Subsequent to Adoption of WHSAP**

- 3.8 Similarly, it came to light in spring 2020 that any plan or project that will lead to development within the catchment of the River Test must be nitrogen neutral as the Test drains into the Solent and this region is protected by a number of European and international designations including the Solent Maritime SAC, Chichester and Langstone Harbours SPA, Portsmouth Harbour SPA and Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site. In 2018 and 2019 NE undertook a number of condition assessments of the features of these designated sites around the Solent. These assessments identified that high levels of nitrogen and phosphorus are entering this water environment and that there is sound evidence that nitrogen in particular is causing eutrophication at the aforementioned designated sites and that the resulting excessive growth of green algae and plants, which reduces oxygen and light levels, is leading to negative effects on the special features for which the European sites are designated. These nutrient inputs currently mostly come either from agricultural sources or from wastewater from existing housing and other development. These findings were published by NE in June 2020 in *Advice on Achieving Nutrient Neutrality for New Development in the Solent Region*. This advice also stipulates that:

*“There is uncertainty as to whether new growth will further deteriorate designated sites. This issue has been subject to detailed work commissioned by local planning authorities (LPAs) in association with Natural England, Environment Agency and water companies. This strategic work, which updates early studies, is ongoing. Until this work is complete, the uncertainty remains and the potential for future housing developments across the Solent region to exacerbate these impacts creates a risk to their potential future conservation status.*

*One way to address this uncertainty is for new development to achieve nutrient neutrality. Nutrient neutrality is a means of ensuring that development does not add to existing nutrient burdens and this provides certainty that the whole of the scheme is deliverable in line with the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended).*

*This report sets out a practical methodology to calculating how nutrient neutrality can be achieved. This methodology is based on best available scientific knowledge, and will be subject to revision as further evidence is obtained. It is our advice to local planning authorities to take a precautionary approach in line with existing legislation and case-law when addressing uncertainty and calculating nutrient budgets.”*

- 3.9 In accordance with NE’s advice, any plan or project which will lead to development within the catchment of the River Test cannot be approved unless nitrogen neutrality has been demonstrated via quantitative means, and an appropriate assessment conducted by the competent authority has concluded beyond reasonable scientific doubt that there would be no adverse effects on the integrity of any of the Solent region European sites.
- 3.10 In 2022 the River Lambourn SAC and the Somerset Levels and Moors Ramsar site were identified by NE as being in unfavourable condition due to excessive phosphorus inputs. A very small area of both of these sites are located within Wiltshire. Any overnight accommodation development within the catchment of the SAC or Ramsar site are now required to demonstrate phosphorous neutrality and be subject to an

appropriate assessment which concludes no adverse effect on the SAC or Ramsar site alone or in combination with other plans or projects in order to be authorised.

### **Screening of the Calne Community NP Area**

#### *Recreation*

- 3.11 In relation to Salisbury Plain, the SAC habitat features were screened out of appropriate assessment for the WCS on the advice of NE. The Salisbury Plain SPA can also be screened out of appropriate assessment in respect of this NP as the NP area is located approximately 5.4km beyond the 6.4km ZOI around the SPA within which the majority (75%) of visitors to the Plain are expected to live. This is based on the data collated by means of a visitor survey commissioned by Wiltshire Council in 2015.
- 3.12 Recreational pressure on the River Avon SAC is recognised to occur in limited circumstances predominately where significant development lies immediately adjacent or in close proximity to the river, which will not occur as a result of this NP as the closest component of the River Avon SAC lies approximately 12.7km south east of the NP area at its closest point. The River Avon SAC has therefore been screened out of appropriate assessment.
- 3.13 The NP area lies approximately 51.1km from the New Forest SPA/SAC, at its closest point, and is therefore a substantial distance beyond the 13.8km ZOI around the SPA/SAC within which the majority of day visitors to the New Forest originate<sup>11</sup>. Appropriate assessment with respect to the New Forest SPA/SAC has therefore been screened out.
- 3.14 The NP area lies approximately 8.6km from the nearest component of the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC and there are no core roosts functionally linked to the SAC or core areas associated with core roosts within the NP area.
- 3.15 The NP area lies approximately 13.1km beyond the 9.4km outer recreational zone of influence around the North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC, and as such appropriate assessment will not be required in respect of this European site.
- 3.16 The NP area lies approximately 5.1km to the north west of the closest point of the Pewsey Downs SAC. As the NP area lies more than 5km from the SAC and the NP does not allocate sites for development, appropriate assessment with respect to this SAC has been screened out.

#### *Hydrology / Hydrogeology*

- 3.17 In terms of hydrology/hydrogeology, the NP area is located within the catchment of the Bristol Avon rather than the Hampshire Avon, and as such there is no pathway for a likely significant effect on the River Avon SAC as a result of the NP.
- 3.18 There have been no water resource issues identified for the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC which is the only SAC from the above list to lie fully within the Bristol Avon catchment. Furthermore, the Bristol Avon has not been identified as a cause of water resource issues for the Salisbury Plain SAC/SPA.

#### *Air Pollution / Nitrogen Deposition*

- 3.19 The Wiltshire Core Strategy HRA identified that increased traffic would lead to potential effects through an increase in atmospheric pollution and nitrogen deposition upon a range of European sites within 200m of a main road. Such effects were considered to be very small and difficult to predict at the strategic level<sup>12</sup>. The NP does not allocate any sites for development and all of the European sites listed above are a considerable distance from the NP; as such it is concluded that the NP will not result in significant effects on European sites as a result of nitrogen or particulate matter deposition.

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<sup>11</sup> Wiltshire Core Strategy Updated Habitats Regulations Assessment, April 2014

<sup>12</sup> Update to the Wiltshire Core Strategy Habitats Regulations Assessment, February 2014 (Exam/89)

*Physical Damage / Interruption of Flight Lines / Disturbance*

- 3.20 The NP area is located approximately 11.8km from Salisbury Plain SPA, and therefore beyond the 6.4k Zol, and 34.6km from Porton Down SPA, from its closest point. Therefore, it is considered that the plan area is sufficiently distant from the two SPAs and known functionally linked habitat, for any development within the plan area to cause direct physical damage to, or fragmentation of, breeding and foraging habitat for the Annex I species stone-curlew. The plan area is also considered too remote for development within the plan area to result in anthropogenic disturbance or visual stimuli that could have an adverse effect on stone-curlew breeding at either SPA.
- 3.21 In terms of the potential to cause physical damage to features which provide habitat for bats, such as breeding, roosting and foraging habitat, and the potential to interrupt or fragment/sever bat flight lines, or to cause disturbance to such features, it is deemed that the NP area is sufficiently distant from the Bath and Bradford on Avon Bats SAC (and there are no core roosts or core areas located within the NP area), and too remote to have implications for bats at the Mottisfont Bats SAC or the Chilmark Quarries SAC.

**4. Screening of Policies in the Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan 2 2023-2038 Pre Submission Consultation Draft February 2024**

- 4.1 The Calne Community NP comprises 30 policies; these are detailed and assessed in Table 1 below.
- 4.2 All parts of the NP have been screened for potential impacts which may arise from the plan alone or in combination with other plans and projects. None of the policies allocate sites for development or would lead directly to development, nor would they result in a likely significant effect on any European sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects. This is due to the nature, scope and scale of the proposals set out in the NP, and on account of the distance of the NP area from any European sites and the absence of a potential pathway for effect.
- 4.3 Any further drafts of the NP and/or changes made to the NP as a result of the examination in public should be subject to a rescreening assessment before the plan is adopted.

**TABLE 1: Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening of the Calne Community NP**

A / B (Green) – Screened out  
 C / D (Red) – Screened in

Policy	Initial screening Category	Policy Summary and Assessment under Habitats Regulations	Comments and Recommendations
Policy C1 – High Quality Sustainable Development in the Calne Community Plan Area	A2 and A3	<p>This policy supports developments in the Clane area that are of high quality, are sustainable and contribute positively to the health and wellbeing of communities and the natural world. Development proposals are expected to demonstrate mitigation against and improved resilience to the effects of climate change, and to ensure the natural, historic and cultural assets are managed for future generations.</p> <p>The policy will not lead to development but seeks to ensure development within the NP area is of a high quality and sustainable. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the National Planning Policy Framework 2023 (NPPF) and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	
Policy C2 - Sustainable Construction and Energy	A1, A2 and A3	<p>This policy seeks to ensure that all developments are designed to reduce their impact on the environment and can create high quality internal and external spaces for people to use. Developments will be required to demonstrate how they have implemented the principles and requirements set out in the policy or explain where it has not been feasible. The policy then goes on to set out requirements for new developments and existing buildings, including reducing energy demand and increasing efficiency.</p> <p>The policy will not lead to development but seeks to ensure sustainable construction across all developments, a reduction in energy usage and an increase in energy efficiency. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	

Policy	Initial screening Category	Policy Summary and Assessment under Habitats Regulations	Comments and Recommendations
Policy C3 – Calne Community Energy	A1	<p>This policy encourages community owned renewable energy schemes which directly benefit the local community within the NP area. The policy goes on to set out criteria which should be demonstrated by an application:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <i>Community support;</i></li> <li>b. <i>Administrative and financial structures, such as a Community Benefits Society, to deliver and manage the energy scheme;</i></li> <li>c. <i>Local energy self-sufficiency through integration into the local grid or by other means, so that the energy generated can be supplied directly to domestic, business and other buildings, demonstrated by direct reduction to buildings’ energy consumption;</i></li> <li>d. <i>No adverse impacts on the local environment, or residential amenity that cannot be satisfactorily mitigated.</i></li> </ul> <p>The policy will not lead to development but seeks to encourage community owned renewable energy schemes. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	
Policy NE1 – Local Green Space	A2 and A3	<p>This policy states that Local Green Spaces - <i>will be protected from inappropriate development, particularly in regards to the characteristics underpinning their designation, such as beauty, historic importance, recreational value, tranquillity or richness of wildlife.</i></p> <p>The policy will not lead to development but seeks to protect local green spaces within the NP area. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	
Policy NE2 – Protecting and Enhancing Biodiversity	A1 and A2	<p><i>Biodiversity</i></p> <p>Development proposals must include provision for the protection, enhancement and maintenance of wildlife habitat and biodiversity. Proposals must demonstrate how they have applied the adopted Calne Design Guidelines and Codes (2023).</p> <p>Matters highlighted as particular importance include:</p>	

Policy	Initial screening Category	Policy Summary and Assessment under Habitats Regulations	Comments and Recommendations
		<p><i>a. securing a net gain for biodiversity as calculated to reflect the latest local or national policy and advice, through planning conditions or planning obligations;</i></p> <p><i>b. protecting and enhancing designated sites, including SSSI's, designated County Wildlife Sites, nature reserves, and other priority habitats as shown on Figure N17.a, as well as for sites with observations of protected species as detailed in the Biodiversity Topic Paper (CCNP 2022);</i></p> <p><i>c. protecting, and wherever possible enhancing woodland, hedgerows, ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, ditches, and wildlife habitats. Corridors should include ecology buffers of up to 200m of the main watercourse of the River Marden and 100m of other watercourses including the disused Wiltshire &amp; Berkshire Canal.</i></p> <p>The policy also expects major developments to demonstrate its contribution to the delivery of local nature recovery objectives.</p> <p><i>Protected Species</i></p> <p>Proposals which could harm legally protected species or habitats will only be supported where impacts can be avoided or mitigated. In particular, the policy sets out the following:</p> <p><i>a. development within 100 - 200m of the River Marden where the adjacent land is accessible to otters;</i></p> <p><i>b. development that would reduce or damage the habitat of water voles (in particular in the Abberd Brook area);</i></p> <p><i>c. development that would require the removal of hedgerows or trees that support the movement of bats.</i></p> <p>The policy will not lead to development but seeks to protect and enhance biodiversity within the NP area. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	
Policy NE3 – Green and Blue Infrastructure Network	A2	<p>This policy seeks to ensure the green and blue infrastructure within the NP area is maintained and protected, and where possible enhanced. Proposals must demonstrate that they have been informed by the adopted Calne Design Guidelines and Codes (2023) document and major developments should demonstrate the use of Natural England's Green Infrastructure Standards. The policy goes on to state that there will be a presumption against development that</p>	

Policy	Initial screening Category	Policy Summary and Assessment under Habitats Regulations	Comments and Recommendations
		<p>encroaches upon or hams a green or blue infrastructure asset. Where impacts are unavoidable, they must be mitigated in full that an appropriate habitat improvement scheme with a net improvement.</p> <p>The policy will not lead to development but seeks to protect and enhance the green and blue infrastructure network within the NP area. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	
<p>Policy NE4 – Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows</p>	<p>A2</p>	<p><i>Protection of Ancient of Veteran Trees</i>            This policy does not support development which would result in the loss of ancient woodlands or individual trees. Buffers to woodlands or individual trees should be in accordance with the latest guidance from Natural England.</p> <p><i>Protection of other Trees and Hedgerows</i>            Development proposals should ensure other trees and hedgerows are retained to the maximum extent possible and incorporated into new development as placemaking features.</p> <p><i>Replacement Planting</i>            Where developments cannot avoid the loss of trees then replacement planting will be required in accordance with the criteria in this policy, the wider NP and the NP Tree topic paper.</p> <p><i>Trees and Tackling Climate Change</i>            The size, species and placement of trees provided as part of the landscape and green infrastructure of development proposals will be expected to take practicable opportunities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. increase canopy cover (with a target of 20%) and assist in providing shade and shelter;</li> <li>b. assist in reducing or mitigating run-off and flood risk on the development site; and,</li> <li>c. connect into the wider green infrastructure network.</li> </ul> <p>The policy also expects proposals to set out appropriate measures to secure long-term maintenance of newly planted trees.</p>	

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		<p>The policy will not lead to development but seeks to protect trees, woodlands and hedgerows within the NP area from new developments. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	
<p>Policy NE5 – Setting of Calne and Calne Without</p>	<p>A1, A2 and A3</p>	<p><i>Pastoral Setting</i>            This policy sets out the need for new developments to respect the pastoral setting of Calne and Calne Without and should address their impact on, for example, the rural edges of the town and villages and the separate identity of settlements and important views. Where possible, developments should also deliver enhancements to the landscape character.</p> <p><i>River Marden Valley</i>            In the River Marden Valley, proposals will be expected to address, with mitigation where appropriate, their impact on the character, appearance, setting, recreational use and tranquillity of the valley.</p> <p>The policy will not lead to development but seeks to protect the setting of Calne and Calne Without, and the River Marden Valley. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	
<p>Policy BE1 – Design Principles for Local Distinctiveness</p>	<p>A1 and A3</p>	<p>This policy supports developments within the NP area that demonstrate good design, contributing to the conservation, enhancement and extension of positive and distinctive characteristics in the various character areas of the NP area. It requires developments to have regard to National Design Guidance and Wiltshire Council design policy and the adopted Calne Design Guidelines and Codes (2023). Major developments are expected to demonstrate how the proposals complement and extend the positive characteristics of the character area and highlights that good design will be important in all locations.</p> <p>The policy will not lead to development but seeks to protect the local distinctiveness of areas within the NP area. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	



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Policy BE2 – Heritage Assets	A1 and A3	<p><i>Designated Heritage Assets</i></p> <p>Development will be expected to preserve and where appropriate enhance the character, appearance, special interest and setting of the conservation areas, open green space and other designated heritage assets such as listed buildings across the NP area.</p> <p><i>Non-Designated Heritage Assets</i></p> <p>Development proposals that affect non-designated heritage assets of local interest will be required to take into account the character, context and setting, including important views towards and from the building or structure.</p> <p>Where any heritage asset is affected, a heritage statement should be included with proposals.</p> <p>The policy will not lead to development but seeks to protect designated and non-designated heritage assets within the NP area. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	
Policy CF1 – Community Facilities	A1 and A2	<p>This policy sets out 4 criteria which must be met for proposals which result in the loss of community facilities to be supported by the NP. The policy also states that proposals for the provision of new community facilities will be supported where they would not have an unacceptable adverse effect on the local environment or residential amenity.</p> <p>The policy will not lead to development but seeks to protect community facilities within the NP area. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	
Policy CF2 - Community Infrastructure and Phasing of Development	A1	<p>This policy sets out how Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions paid to Calne Town Council or Calne Without Parish Council will be used. The policy goes on to state that: <i>Development proposals must consider, assess and address their infrastructure requirements and plan the related programmes of work to ensure that these dovetail together and minimise any disruption to the community, and to protect the amenity and safety of existing residents and minimise disruption, during the development, the agreement of a related construction programme and process should be a condition of any planning consent.</i></p>	

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		<p>The policy will not lead to development but sets out how CIL contributions will be used within the NP area and seeks to minimise disruption during the construction phase of projects. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	
Policy CF3 – Burial Space	A1, A2 and A3	<p>This policy states – <i>Proposals for additional public and non-denominational burial space to meet increased needs and to provide burial choices within Calne and Calne Without Parish will be supported subject to meeting all necessary environmental criteria and maintaining the amenity of neighbouring residents and does not cause unacceptable levels of increased traffic and congestion.</i></p> <p>The policy will not lead to development but supports the creation of additional burial spaces within the NP area. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	
Policy GA1 – Highway Impact	A1 and A2	<p><i>1. Impact on safety</i>            This policy supports proposals that provide access to the local road network in a way that mitigates potential adverse transport impacts. The policy seeks to ensure there is no further detriment to key areas on the network within the NP area. Criteria are provided for new developments which involve alterations to existing highways or the provision of new highways.</p> <p><i>2. Impact on Air Quality</i>            Proposals which are likely to adversely affect air quality anywhere in the NP area will be required to demonstrate that impacts can be effectively mitigated.</p> <p><i>3. Impact of HGVs</i>            Major developments that will result in HGV movements through Calne town centre and the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) will need to identify mitigation measures in the Transport Assessment and provide a Travel Plan.</p> <p><i>4. Mitigation of Impacts</i>            Proposals that avoid Calne town centre and the AQMA and do not result in unacceptable impacts on congestion, air pollution, noise pollution and or safety will be sought where feasible.</p>	

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		<p>The policy will not lead to development but seeks to reduce highway impacts from new developments. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	
Policy GA2 – Public Realm	A1 and A3	<p>The policy states that <i>‘Development proposals must consider, assess, and address their impact on the streets, pavements, parking areas and other public spaces and the opportunities provided to improve the quality, accessibility, and safety of the public realm’</i>. The policy goes on to state that proposals that demonstrate ‘people-friendly streets’ will be supported.</p> <p>The policy will not lead to development but seeks to protect and improve the public realm. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	
Policy GA3 – Sustainable Transport and Inclusive Active Travel	A1	<p>This policy supports developments which prioritise travel in the following way: walking, then cycling, then public transport, then car clubs, electric vehicles and lastly private fossil-fuelled vehicles. Development proposals should connect to the existing pedestrian, cycle and public transport network across the NP area. Proposals will be supported where they can demonstrate how they contribute to the protection, enhancement and extension of the area’s active travel network. The policy sets out several criteria for major developments to consider.</p> <p>The policy will not lead to development but seeks to ensure that new developments protect, enhance and extend the active travel network within the NP area. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	
Policy GA4 –Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Charging	A1	<p>This policy seeks to encourage the use of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles by increasing charging infrastructure across the NP area. New infrastructure will be in accordance with national or local standards as relevant and must have appropriate regard to pedestrian movement.</p> <p>The policy will not lead to development but seeks to encourage the use of Ultra Low Emissions Vehicles. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments</p>	

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		will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.	
Policy GA5– Parking Provision	A1	<p>This policy supports proposals that demonstrate a design led approach in accordance with the adopted Calne Design Guidelines and Codes 2023. The levels of on and off-road parking shall be in accordance with the Wiltshire Car Parking Strategy and cycle parking and storage will be required in line with parking standards and design guidance set by Wiltshire Council.</p> <p>The policy seeks to ensure appropriate parking and cycle parking and storage provision and will not lead to development. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	
Policy GA6 – Walking and Cycling for Leisure and Recreation	A3	<p>This policy seeks to protect and enhance existing walking and cycling routes that connect Calne town centre, local neighbourhoods and the surrounding countryside. Enhancement and extension of sections of leisure and recreation routes within the NP area will be prioritised, including the 5 routes set out in the policy. The policy goes on to state that improvements to the provision of facilities to encourage cycling, for example secure storage and signage, will be supported.</p> <p>The policy will not lead to development but seeks to protect and enhance the walking and cycling provision within the NP area. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	
Policy WS1 – Protecting and Promoting Sustainable, Low Carbon Local Employment	A1	<p>This policy seeks to protect employment land within the NP area and supports new employment development on existing employment land where it meets the criteria set out in the policy.</p> <p>The policy will not lead to development but seeks to protect and enhance employment land and employment opportunities within the NP area. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	
Policy WS2– Supporting Local	A1 and A3	This policy supports proposals for small-scale development for business space outside of Calne, Studley and Derry Hill settlement boundaries where proposals are for farming or to diversity	

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Agriculture and Farm Diversification		<p>and support an existing rural based business. The policy goes on to list criteria which proposals will need to meet in order to be supported.</p> <p>The policy will not lead to development but supports farming and farm diversification proposals within the NP area. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	
Policy WS3 - Supporting the Local Visitor Economy	A1, A2 and A3	<p>This policy supports developments that maintain, enhance or expand the tourism and visitor economy within the NP area where the proposal is in accordance with the Core Strategy and where the development would protect and enhance the NP areas local character and environment, designated and non-designated heritage assets and will contribute positively to sustainable economic vitality. The policy goes on to list proposals which will be supported. It also supports developments within the open countryside where they protect or enhance rural character, are well connected to local services and do not harm neighbouring businesses.</p> <p>The policy will not lead directly to development but supports the maintenance, enhancement and expansion of the tourism and visitor economy in the NP area. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	
Policy WS4– Calne Town Centre	A1 and A3	<p>This policy supports proposals for main town centre uses within the defined Calne town centre boundary and within the Calne Town Centre Primary Shopping Area where they are in accordance with the emerging Local Plan and have regard to and make a proportionate and positive contribution to the delivery of specific Calne Town Centre objectives and any subsequently adopted Calne Town Centre Strategy.</p> <p>The policy will not lead directly to development but supports development within Calne town centre. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	
Policy WS5 - Local, Neighbourhood	A1	<p>This policy supports development proposals for change of use or alteration to frontages in Calne and Derry Hill where they protect or strengthen the role, character and vitality of the settlement.</p>	

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Centres in Calne and Derry Hill		<p>Proposals for the change of use of floorspace within class F2 (community facilities) are supported by this policy where they are in accordance with NP policy CF1 Community Facilities. The policy also supports proposals for the use of under-used or vacant floorspace above ground floor frontage for residential, business or community uses where they provide a high quality of self-contained accommodation and will not harm the amenity of existing residents or the viability of the ground floor or neighbouring business uses.</p> <p>The policy will not lead to development but supports the development of local neighbourhood shopping floorspace. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	
Policy H1 – Housing within Settlement Boundaries	A1, A2 and A3	<p>This policy supports small infill housing proposals of up to 10 dwellings within the defined settlement boundaries where they meet the criteria set out in the policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>a. Accord with the settlement boundaries;</i></li> <li><i>b. Do not cause harm to the valued landscape setting and green infrastructure of the settlement, the natural scenic beauty of the North Wessex Downs AONB, adjacent Sites of Special Scientific Interest, the River Marden valley and designated local green spaces;</i></li> <li><i>c. Where relevant, protect or enhance the character of the Calne, Derry Hill and Sandy Lane Conservation areas and the setting of designated and non-designated heritage assets;</i></li> <li><i>d. Are proportionate scale, land-use character and design that enhances local character of the settlement or part of the settlement within which they are located informed by the Calne Design Guidelines and Codes.</i></li> </ul> <p>The policy will not lead directly to development but supports small scale infill development within settlement boundaries. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	
Policy H2 – Affordable Housing	A1	<p>This policy requires residential developments of 10 or more dwellings or developments on sites larger than 0.5ha to include affordable housing in line with Wiltshire Council’s adopted Local Plan policies. The policy goes on to state that in response to local housing needs, affordable housing schemes in the NP area should provide 67% affordable rented housing, 8% intermediate discounted market housing and 25% First Homes provided at a discount of 30%.</p>	

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		<p>The policy will not lead to development but sets out requirements for affordable housing for developments of a certain size. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	
<p>Policy H3 – Housing Mix</p>	<p>A1</p>	<p>This policy sets out that residential developments should include open market and affordable dwelling types and sizes that address the assessed local needs of the community. The policy then goes on set out market and affordable housing delivery priorities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 2 and 3 bedroom starter homes;</li> <li>b. 3 and 4 bedroom family homes;</li> <li>c. Include a mix of smaller and single storey housing types to address increasing needs and demand for accessible housing and local downsizing;</li> <li>d. Schemes will be expected to provide a high standard of internal space.</li> </ul> <p>The policy will not lead to development but sets out housing mix priorities for developments within the NP area. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	
<p>Policy H4 – Housing to meet the needs of Older and those Living with Disabilities</p>	<p>A1</p>	<p>This policy supports proposals for new or expanded housing for older people, including extra care housing and residential nursing home facilities, in Calne and Derry Hill where they meet the criteria in the policy, including where they are in conformity with NP Policy H3 Affordable Housing and do not result in the net loss of housing within the NP area.</p> <p>The policy will not lead to development but supports housing to meet the needs of older and disabled people. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	
<p>Policy H5 – Adaptable and Accessible Housing</p>	<p>A1</p>	<p>This policy supports residential schemes of 10 or more units where they meet the criteria in the policy to enable disabled or older people to live actively and inclusively within their local communities. The policy goes on to state that planning, conservation area or listed building applications will be supported where the proposals meet the criteria in the policy in order to</p>	

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		<p>allow local residents with changing mobility and accessibility needs to continue to live in their homes.</p> <p>The policy will not lead to development but seeks to ensure adaptable and accessible homes are provided within the NP area. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	
<p>Policy H6 – Exception Sites and Community Led Housing</p>	<p>A1 and A3</p>	<p>This policy supports Rural Exception, First Home Exception and Community led Housing sites where they meet the criteria set out in the policy. The policy also supports proposals for self-build or custom build within settlement boundaries or as part of allocated site developments where they conform to adopted Local Plan policy. Developments that demonstrate exemplary standards of sustainable construction and environmental performance are also supported by this policy.</p> <p>The policy will not lead directly to development but supports exception sites and community led housing schemes. The policy will not have a likely significant effect on any European sites. Developments will be considered at the planning application stage to ensure they comply with this policy, the NPPF and other relevant Development Plan policies.</p>	



## **5. Conclusion**

- 5.1. The HRA screening exercise presented in this document has concluded that the Calne Community Neighbourhood Plan 2 2023-2038 Pre Submission Consultation Draft February 2024 will not result in a likely significant effect on any European sites or their qualifying features either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects. Therefore, it has not been necessary to subject the NP to an appropriate assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019.
- 5.2. It should be noted that if any changes are made to the NP or the policies contained therein, it will be necessary for the amended NP to be subject to a repeat HRA screening exercise before it can be 'made'.

Prepared by Naomi Harvey, Ecologist, Wiltshire Council, 13 March 2024

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