

**Burntwood Neighbourhood Plan
Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)
Addendum (May 2019)**



Background

The [Habitat Regulations Assessment \(HRA\) for the Burntwood Neighbourhood Plan](#) was completed in November 2018. The screening report concluded following receipt of Natural England's response and a subsequent legal opinion that the neighbourhood plan be "*subject to further work as part of the compliance with the Habitat Regulations and that the further stages of Appropriate Assessment would need to be undertaken*" (Screening report paragraph 5.4).

The screening report was provided to the qualifying body (Burntwood Town Council). Following receipt of this Burntwood Town Council advised Lichfield District Council that the further work referred to would be undertaken.

Review of Habitat Regulations Assessment

Burntwood Town Council submitted the 'Shadow Habitat Regulations Assessment – Burntwood Neighbourhood Development Plan' to Lichfield District Council in April 2019. This represents the appropriate assessment stage.

The assessment concludes that the Burntwood Neighbourhood Development Plan (as drafted at the base date of the screening report (November 2018) is unlikely to have a significant effect on the interest features of the Cannock Chase SAC. Lichfield District Council has reviewed the assessment and concurs with its conclusions. The review concluded:

- The HRA conclusions acknowledges the presence of additional mitigations, avoidance and cancellation measures within the Local Plan Strategy;
- Appendix 2 of the SEA & HRA Screening Report (dated November 2018) provides a review on a policy by policy basis. This assessment does not identify any policies with the potential for significant effects;
- The HRA was carried out on the precautionary principle basis;
- Government guidance remains that generally neighbourhood plans are unlikely to result in significant effects;
- The appropriate assessment concludes that the Burntwood Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a significant effect on the interest features of the Cannock Chase SAC.
- Natural England concur with the conclusions of the assessment that the Burntwood Neighbourhood Development Plan is unlikely to have a significant effect on the interest features of the Cannock Chase SAC (**Appendix A of this addendum**).

Conclusion

The Shadow Habitat Regulations Assessment – Burntwood Neighbourhood Development plan concludes that the Burntwood Neighbourhood Plan is not likely to have a significant effect on the interest features of the Cannock Chase SAC. Natural England have confirmed their agreement with the conclusions of the Appropriate Assessment. The District Council also agrees with the conclusions.

Appendix A: Natural England response (dated 23 May 2019)

Date: 23 May 2019
Our ref: 281220



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Dear Patrick,

Planning consultation: Burntwood Neighbourhood Plan – HRA Appropriate Assessment

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 16 April 2019 which was received by Natural England on 16 April 2019.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (Habitats Regulations Assessment 2107)

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Natural England notes that your authority, as competent authority, has undertaken an appropriate assessment of the proposal in accordance with Regulation 63 of the Conservation of Species and Habitats Regulations 2017 (as amended). Natural England is a statutory consultee on the appropriate assessment stage of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process.

Having considered the assessment, Natural England advises that we concur with the assessment conclusions. This is based on the application of the Strategic Access Management and Monitoring (SAMM) mitigation measures secured through Policy NR7 of the Lichfield District Local Plan which means that the Burntwood Neighbourhood Plan is unlikely to have a significant effect on the interest features of Cannock Chase SAC.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter please contact Hazel McDowall at hazel.mcdowall@naturalengland.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

Hazel McDowall

Hazel McDowall
West Midlands Area Team - Planning for a better environment