



New Forest District Council Local Plan

New Milton Neighbourhood Plan (Review)

**Screening Statement on the determination of the need
for a Strategic Environmental Assessment /
Habitat Regulations Assessment for the
Review of the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan**

**(in accordance with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes
Regulations 2004 and European Directive 2001/42/EC, and
Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010)**

FINAL VERSION

November 2024

Introduction

- 1.1 The whole parish of New Milton was formally designated and confirmed by this council as a 'Neighbourhood Area' in February 2015. As the parish includes land within both the District Council and National Park Authority (NPA) to the north of the town, this designation was also confirmed separately by the NPA.
- 1.2 The New Milton Neighbourhood Plan was submitted and underwent 'Regulation 16' public consultation which closed on 21 October 2019. An Examiner recommended in December 2019 that the plan, once modified, proceed to referendum on the basis that it met all the relevant legal requirements. Following meetings of the Cabinet and Full Council in February 2020, the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan proceeded to a local referendum held on 6 May 2021. As the majority of those who voted (i.e. over 50%) were in favour of the draft Neighbourhood Plan, the District Council formally adopted the plan on 21 June 2021.
- 1.3 New Milton Town Council has now commenced a review of the Neighbourhood Plan and has submitted its intentions for the scope of the Plan to both New Forest District Council and the New Forest National Park Authority.
- 1.4 This screening report is being used to determine whether the review of the New Milton Neighbourhood Development Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and/or Habitats Regulations Assessment. This is in accordance with the European Directive 2001/42/EC ('SEA Directive') and associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 ('SEA Regulations'). These require an SEA to be undertaken on any land use plan or programme 'which sets the framework for future development consent of projects'. In relation to the Habitats Regulations Assessment this is derived from European Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora ('Habitats Directive') and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 ('Habitat Regulations'), as amended.
- 1.5 There are exceptions to this requirement for plans 'which determine the use of a small area at local level' or which only propose 'minor modifications to a plan', if it is determined that the plan is unlikely to have significant environmental effects.
- 1.6 On 6 September 2024 New Milton Town Council formally wrote to New Forest District Council (as the 'responsible authority' under the relevant Regulations) to request a formal screening opinion on the requirement for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and/or a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Neighbourhood Plan Review. A similar request was also made to New Forest National Park Authority regarding the area of the designated Neighbourhood Area that falls within the National Park Authority's planning remit.
- 1.7 To assess whether an SEA is required a screening process must be undertaken based on a standard set of criteria. This must be subject to consultation with Historic England, the Environment Agency and Natural England. The results of the screening process must be detailed in a Screening Statement, available to the public.
- 1.8 In issuing this screening opinion the District Council has had regard to advice in the Government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) resource. The NPPG guidance on 'Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal' confirms that whether a neighbourhood plan proposal requires a strategic environmental assessment will depend on what is proposed. An SEA may be required, for example, where:
 - (i) a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development;
 - (ii) the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan; or

(iii) the neighbourhood plan is likely to have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the local plan or other strategic policies.

The Screening Process

- 1.9 The key to the screening decision is the determination of whether the Plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, using the criteria set out in Annex II of the Directive and Schedule 1 of the 2004 Regulations. These criteria are set out in the table in Appendix 1, together with the response in relation to the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan Review (NPR).
- 1.10 The extract from 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive' in Appendix 1 provides a flow diagram to demonstrate the SEA screening process. This process has been set out and followed in Table 1 (Appendix 1) to ascertain whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required for the New Milton NPR.
- 1.11 Also part of the screening process is the Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening, which can be found in Appendix 2, and the assessment of likely significance of effects on the environment, which can be found in Appendix 3. This screening will determine whether an Appropriate Assessment of the Neighbourhood Plan is required. These two assessments feed-in to Table 1 (Appendix 1) and the SEA screening assessment (Appendix 3).

New Milton Neighbourhood Plan Review

- 1.12 The New Milton NPR will contain policies which allocate development sites but will likely contain policies that support sustainable development.
- 1.13 New Forest District Council, as the 'Responsible Authority', considers that the New Milton NPR will likely fall within the scope of the SEA Regulations on the basis that it:
- 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, para.4); and
 - c) will likely apply to the use of small areas at local level but is deemed to have (cumulative) significant effects on the environment (Regulation 5, para. 6).
- 1.14 A determination under Regulation 9 is therefore required as to whether the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan Review is likely to have significant effects on the environment. 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. See Appendix 3 for an assessment of the likely significance of effects on the environment.

Statutory Consultees

- 1.15 The initial Screening Opinion was sent to Natural England, Environment Agency and Historic England (as statutory consultation bodies under Regulation 9 of the SEA Regulations) on 9th October 2024. The statutory consultees were given four weeks to respond in accordance with national policy.
- 1.16 One response was received from the Environment Agency, but only in relation to the need for a SEA. The Environment Agency concurred with the conclusion of the initial Screening

Opinion. Comments made by that consultation body have been taken into account in finalising this screening statement.

Conclusion

- 1.17 Given the statutory nature of the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan Review; the range of environmental designations within and adjacent to the New Milton Neighbourhood Area; and the fact that the Plan is giving consideration to the allocation of sites for development (albeit the final scale and locations have yet to be determined); **it is concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) due to the potential for significant effects upon the environment (see Appendix 3).**
- 1.18 An environmental report should be prepared in accordance with paragraphs (2) and (3) of regulation 12 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004. It is advised that the following matters should be focused on in the assessment in relation to impacts on the New Forest District Plan Area:
- Impacts on designated habitats and species – comprising international (e.g. SAC, SPA, Ramsar), national (e.g. SSSI) and county/local (e.g. SINCs). **This issue will also need to be addressed through the HRA process for international nature conservation designations (see Appendix 2).**
 - Impacts on built environment designations – including designated heritage assets such as listed building and Conservation Areas (e.g. Old Milton Green); and non-designated heritage assets. These heritage assets should be identified through the SEA process and consideration given to impact on them (and their settings) from the policies in the New Milton NPR.
 - Potential landscape impacts on the adjoining New Forest National Park. National policy also highlights the importance of considering development within the settings of National Parks. This reflects the legal duty placed on ‘relevant bodies’ by Section 62 of the Environment Act 1995 to have regard to the two statutory National Park purposes when undertaking activities which could impact on them. This can include development outside National Parks. This legal duty was strengthened in December 2023 and New Milton Town Council are considered a ‘relevant body’ for the purposes of applying the duty.

Appendix 1

Extract from 'A Practical Guide to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive', DCLG (2005)

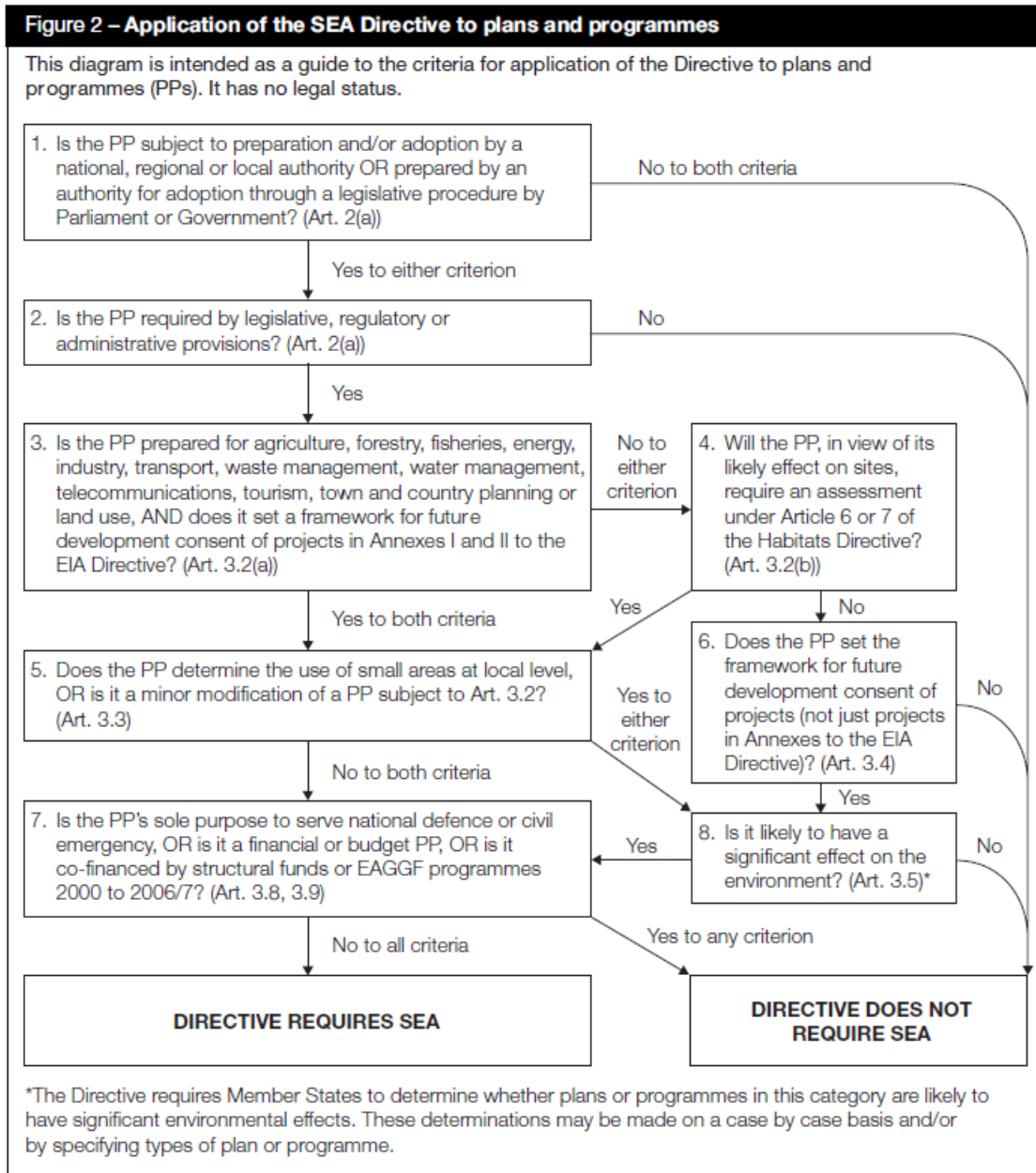


Table 1: Application of the SEA Directive

Stage	Yes / No	Explanation
1. Is the Neighbourhood Plan subject to preparation and/or adoption by a national, regional or local authority OR prepared by an authority for adoption through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government? (Art. 2(a))	Yes	<p>The preparation of and adoption (and review) of the Neighbourhood Development Plan is allowed under the Localism Act 2011. The Neighbourhood Plan Review will be prepared by New Milton Town Council (as the “relevant body”) and will be “made” by New Forest District Council as the local authority. The review of the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan is subject to the following regulations (as amended):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012; • Neighbourhood Planning (referendums) Regulations 2012; • Neighbourhood Planning (General) (Amendment) Regulations 2015.
2. Is the NP required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions? (Art. 2(a))	Yes	<p>Whilst the Neighbourhood Development Plan is not a requirement and is optional under the Localism Act 2011, it will, if “made”, form part of the Development Plan for the District. It is therefore important that the screening process considers whether it is likely to have significant environmental effects and hence whether SEA is required under the Directive.</p>
3. Is the Neighbourhood Plan prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, AND does it set a framework for future development consent of projects in Annexes I and II (see Appendix 2) to the EIA Directive? (Art 3.2(a))	Yes	<p>The New Milton NPR is being prepared for the purposes of town & country / land use planning and will set out a framework for future development consents as part of the statutory development plan covering New Milton. These projects are potentially of a scale referred to in Article 4(2) of the EIA Directive (listed at Annex II of the Directive). It is recognised that development sites are unlikely to be within the National Park, as confirmed by the Town Council in initial documents submitted in September 2024.</p> <p>In conclusion, the Neighbourhood NPR is reviewing and setting a revised framework for future development. At this stage the exact scale of development is unknown and it is noted that it is very unlikely that development sites will be identified within the National Park. These matters will become clearer as work on the Review progresses.</p>
4. Will the Neighbourhood Plan, in view of its likely effect on sites, require an assessment for future development under Article 6 or 7 of the Habitats Directive? (Art. 3.2 (b))	Yes	<p>The New Milton NPR may determine the use of sites at a wider than small area / local level. The parish of New Milton extends to nearly 30 square kilometres (more than half of which lie within the National Park) and the Neighbourhood Plan as a whole may allocate sites for development.</p>
5. Does the Neighbourhood Plan determine the use of small areas at local level,	Yes	<p>The New Milton Neighbourhood Plan may determine the use of sites at a wider than small area / local level. The parish of New Milton extends to nearly 30 square</p>

OR is it a minor modification of a PP subject to Art. 3.2? (Art. 3.3)		kilometres (more than half of which lie within the National Park) and the Neighbourhood Plan as a whole may allocate sites for development.
6. Does the Neighbourhood Plan set the framework for future development consent of projects (not just projects in annexes to the EIA Directive)? (Art 3.4)	Yes	If adopted as revised, the New Milton NPR will include policies to provide a framework to guide future development within the Parish. The Plan will form part of the statutory 'development plan' for the parish and in accordance with Section 38(6) of the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act will be the starting point for planning decisions on development proposals.
7. Is the Neighbourhood Plan's sole purpose to serve the national defence or civil emergency, OR is it a financial or budget PP, OR is it co-financed by structural funds or EAGGF programmes 2000 to 2006/7? (Art 3.8, 3.9)	No	N/A
8. Is it likely to have a significant effect on the environment? (Art. 3.5)	Yes	Given the statutory nature of the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan; the range of environmental designations within and adjacent to the New Milton Neighbourhood Area; and the fact that the Plan is giving consideration to the allocation of sites for development (albeit the scale and locations have yet to be determined); it is concluded that the Neighbourhood Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) due to the potential for significant effects upon the environment. See assessment of the likely significance of effects on the environment in Appendix 3.

Appendix 2 - Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Screening Opinion for the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan Review

Introduction

1. The Local Authority is the “competent authority” under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, and needs to ensure that Neighbourhood Plans have been assessed through the Habitats Regulations process. This looks at the potential for significant impacts on nature conservation sites that are of European importance, also referred to as Natura 2000.
2. This Screening Assessment relates to a Neighbourhood Development Plan that will be in general conformity with the strategic policies within the development plan (the higher level plan for town and country planning and land use). This Screening Assessment uses the Habitats Regulations Assessment of New Forest District Council’s Local Plan Review 2016-2036 Part 1 as its basis for assessment. From this, the Local Authority will determine whether the New Milton NPR is likely to result in significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites either alone or in combination with other plans and policies and, therefore, whether an ‘Appropriate Assessment’ is required.

Legislative Basis

3. Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive provides that:

“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the [European] site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site’s conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.”

Assessment

4. A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) was prepared for the Local Plan Review 2016-2036 Part 1. Following further consultations with Natural England and other bodies, the development set out in the New Forest District Local Plan Review will likely lead to significant effects on European sites, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans.
5. The latest HRA of the Local Plan Review was undertaken by consultants (Land Use Consultants) and assesses the potential effects of the Local Plan on one or more European sites, including Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) as well as Ramsar sites¹. HRA found that effective avoidance & reduction measures (through adopted policies and those put forward) have been secured. Therefore the Local Plan Part 1 will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.
6. A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) was also undertaken for the New Forest National Park Local Plan Review (2016-2036). This assessment was undertaken in consultation with Natural England and other bodies. The HRA work on the National Park Local Plan concluded that significant impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites within and adjacent to the National Park could not be ruled out. This conclusion recognised the in-combination effects caused by the development plans prepared for areas surrounding the National Park. The main areas where

¹ Habitats Regulations Assessment of New Forest District Local Plan Part 1 June 2018

potential impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites in the New Forest are highlighted in the response to point 2(a) in Appendix 3.

7. It is concluded that the New Milton NPR does require a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). This is based on the range of designated habitats within and adjacent to the New Milton Neighbourhood Area and the recognition in published HRA work of their sensitivities to the impacts of development. The HRA work for the New Forest District Council Local Plan for example, identified the potential impacts of recreational pressure on the integrity of the New Forest's Natura 2000 sites from any development within the National Park. In addition, more recently Natural England has confirmed the need for new development within the River Avon catchment to be 'phosphate neutral' and updated guidance on this matter was published in March 2022. The New Milton Neighbourhood Area is also close to parts of the designated Dorset Heathlands sites and therefore future HRA work will need to consider potential impacts on these designations to the west of the Neighbourhood Area.

Statutory Consultees

8. On the 29th October the Environment Agency provided a response to NFDC but this related to the SEA element only:

"We concur with your conclusion that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is required for this emerging plan, and that this is consistent with the requirements placed on other statutory development plans that have been prepared by the local planning authorities for the area which have gone through the SEA process. As you conclude that a SEA is required, please consult us on the scope so we can ensure our key environmental issues are addressed".

Conclusions

9. **The screening process undertaken by the District Council concludes that a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) is required for the New Milton NPR.** This conclusion is consistent with the requirements placed on other statutory development plans that have been prepared by the local planning authorities for the area which have gone through the SEA and HRA process.

10. The Authority's conclusion is based on the fact that the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan Review will, if adopted, be a statutory planning document that will set the framework for future development in an area with a range of environmental designations. The Neighbourhood Plan is likely to allocate sites for development (although the exact final sites to be chosen are not known at this point in the process) and include further policies that support sustainable development.

11. Appendix 3 of this report sets out an assessment as to whether the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment. This assessment is based on the requirements of Regulation 9 and Schedule 1 of the SEA Regulations and recognises the statutory nature of the Neighbourhood Plan; its likely scope; and the value and vulnerability of the area (including national and internationally protected landscapes and habitats).

12. The SEA and HRA scoping work undertaken on the HRA of the Council's own Local Plan (2016-2036) identified the following environmental effects:

- The potential for direct loss of, or physical damage, to designated habitats or habitats on which designated species rely or direct mortality of designated species. In addition, the potential for development to result in loss of habitat which lies outside European site boundaries but which is used by the qualifying bird populations requires consideration.
- Disturbance and other urban edge effects from new residential development within 400 metres of New Forest SPA.

- Recreational pressures arising from new development on the international nature conservation sites including the New Forest SAC & SPA.
- Changes in water quality arising from new development within the New Forest (Lymington and Beaulieu) and Becton Bunny catchment.
- Potential impacts on built heritage assets, both directly and indirectly (through impacts on their settings).
- Potential impacts on the landscape of the New Forest National Park, including its setting.

Appendix 3 - Assessment of the likely significance of effects on the environment (SEA) – based on Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004

Characteristics of the plan, having regard 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;	The New Milton Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) would, if revised and adopted, form part of the Statutory Development Plan and as such does contribute to the framework for future development consent of projects. However, the Plan will sit within the wider framework set by the National Planning Policy Framework, the strategic policies of the New Forest District Local Plan Part 1: Planning Strategy 2016-2036 (adopted 2020) and Local Plan Part 2 Sites and Development Management (2014).
(b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	The New Milton NDP (if revised and adopted) must be in conformity with the National Planning Policy Framework. The policies within the document must also conform with the Council's strategic policies and complement the adopted Local Plan 2016-2036.
(c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	The New Milton NDP might contain policies relating to environmental considerations such as biodiversity (including internationally designated nature conservation sites) and the historic environment (heritage assets). These policies must be in conformity with national and local policies as required by the basic conditions. The NPPF places the presumption in favour of sustainable development at the heart of national planning system (paragraph 11) and also includes a range of environmental policies that the Neighbourhood Plan is required to be in general conformity with. The Neighbourhood Plans contribution to the achievement of sustainable development will need to be approved at examination and "made" by the district council. Development would also be subject to the policies in the adopted Local Plan 2016-2036 and therefore all environmental considerations would be covered by policy.
(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme; and	<p><u>International nature conservation designations, in particular:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New Forest Special Protection Area (SPA) - New Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC) - New Forest Ramsar - Solent and Dorset Coast SPA - River Avon SAC - Avon Valley SPA - Avon Valley Ramsar - Dorset Heathlands SPA

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dorset Heathlands SAC - Dorset Heathlands Ramsar - National SSSI designations along the coastal cliffs and intertidal zone (Highcliffe to Milford Cliffs SSSI) - Climate Change Management Areas (coastal erosion) along the Barton on Sea and New Milton coastal frontages. - Flooding (groundwater and fluvial) are known issues in parts of the New Milton parish and have been considered by the SEA of the Local Plan in determining suitable sites to allocate. The New Milton NDP will take this assessment into account as its policies develop. <p>On this basis the New Milton NDP has the potential to have significant effects on the environment, which should be assessed in relation to the NDP (see Section 2 below).</p>
(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).	The New Milton NDP is not directly relevant to any of these.
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;	<p>The Neighbourhood Plan will need to consider all environmental effects – some of which may be significant. The New Forest District Council Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal (2018) and Scoping Report (updated 2018) set out the key sustainability issues for the District plan area and how these may be affected by Local Plan policies. It is recommended that the suite of documents are utilised for the New Milton NPR. The National Park Authority also undertook similar technical work for its Local Plan Review.</p> <p>The New Forest District Council Local Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment (undertaken by LUC) identified the following potential effects from development either within the National Park, or in combination with development proposed in surrounding areas that would need to be considered:</p> <p>Direct loss or physical damage due to construction:- The New Milton Neighbourhood Area includes part of the internationally designated New Forest Ramsar SPA and SAC. The HRA work for the District Council Local Plan identified the potential effects of direct loss of or physical damage to designated habitats or habitats on which designated species rely or direct mortality of designated species. In addition, the HRA work identified the</p>

	<p>potential for development to result in loss of habitat which lies outside European site boundaries but which is used by the qualifying bird populations of Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar site; Dorset Heathlands SPA; and the New Forest SPA. Should HRA Screening be unable to rule out likely significant effects then more detailed Appropriate Assessment will be required to determine whether loss of the supporting habitat present at the development site would have an adverse effect on the integrity of Avon Valley SPA and Ramsar site; Dorset Heathlands SPA; New Forest SPA; or Solent and Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site.</p> <p>Disturbance and other urban edge effects from construction or occupation of buildings:- It is not possible to rule out the potential for urban edge effects such as pet predation from new residential development within 400 metres of New Forest SPA; or from effects such as noise pollution or light pollution from all types of built development. The New Milton Neighbourhood Area includes part of the New Forest SPA and areas of land within the north of the parish are located within 400 metres of the SPA. Potential disturbance and urban edge effects therefore cannot be screened out. It should be highlighted that these urban edge impacts relate to the lowland heathland areas of the New Forest SPA and Dorset Heathlands and are not generic across all designated SPAs.</p> <p>Recreational pressure:- The District Council’s Local Plan HRA work concluded in relation to recreational impacts that, prior to mitigation, likely significant effects in-combination could not be ruled out for any residential development or visitor accommodation within New Forest National Park on the New Forest SAC and SPA. The New Milton Neighbourhood Area includes significant areas of land within the National Park and is therefore affected by this issue. The District Council adopted an updated ‘Mitigation for Recreational Impacts On New Forest European Sites’ SPD in 2021 which provides details on how the recreational impacts of new development within the New Forest District can be mitigated.</p> <p>Changes in water quality:- The District Council’s Local Plan HRA work identified the European sites vulnerable to a deterioration in water quality as: River Avon SAC; Avon Valley SPA & Ramsar site; Dorset Heathlands SAC & Ramsar site; the New Forest SAC & Ramsar site; Solent & Isle of Wight Lagoons SAC; Solent Maritime SAC; Solent & Southampton Water SPA and Ramsar site. The most relevant of these for the New Milton Neighbourhood Plan are the South Coast / Solent & Dorset Coast SPA designations and the impacts arising from increased levels of phosphates and nitrates. Although new development only makes a small contribution to the issue, Natural England’s updated methodology and budget calculator (March 2022) confirms new development in the New Forest Rivers / Becton Bunny / Solent catchments must be ‘nutrient neutral’.</p>
(b) the cumulative nature of the effects;	To be determined. Likely to be significant. HRA work undertaken for the District Council’s Local Plan 2016 – 2036 highlighted the cumulative, in-combination impacts of development around the New Forest’s Natura 2000 sites as potentially significant. These impacts included increased recreational pressures on the New Forest

	designations and impacts on water quality on the New Forest / South Coast / Solent designations arising from increased levels of nutrients (phosphates and nitrates).
(c) the transboundary nature of the effects;	The effects of the Plan are unlikely to have transboundary impacts (i.e. other Member States).
(d) the risks to human health or the environment (for example, due to accidents);	There are no significant risks to 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);	The Designated Area covers a medium sized town and small villages with an area of 2,103 Ha. A combined population of approximately 25,000 residents (ONS census 2021). Significant effects due to the geographic size of the area and population size are 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; and	There are a number of international nature conservation sites within and immediately adjacent to the New Milton Neighbourhood Area. These sites are vulnerable to a variety of impacts, as set out in the assessment against criteria 2(a) above. The New Milton Neighbourhood Area also contains a range of built environment assets (designated and non-designated), including a number of listed buildings, and the Old Milton Green Conservation Area. Part of the designated New Milton Neighbourhood Area lies within the New Forest National Park. The first statutory Park purpose is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the National Park.
(g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status.	The Designated Area is partly within the New Forest National Park, where great weight is given to conserving landscape and scenic beauty.