

SEA and HRA Assessments update in relation to revised Submitted Wraxall and Failand Neighbourhood Plan

In accordance with the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC also known as the “Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive”, associated Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 and Habitats Regulations (2010), a [screening report](#) was undertaken in January 2023 on the contents of the Regulation 14 Consultation Draft of the Wraxall and Failand Neighbourhood Plan in January 2023. The conclusion which was supported by the three statutory consultation bodies was that:-

In respect of the SEA assessment, it can be concluded that there are not likely to be significant environmental effects arising from the Plan.

In respect of the HRA assessment, it was also concluded that it is unlikely that there will be any significant effects on protected species or their habitats and therefore a full HRA is not required.

Having reviewed the revised policies in the Submission version of the Plan it is noted that the policy wording has been amended for WF2 Local Green Space, WF4 Cycling, Walking and Wheeling Networks, WF6 Rural Diversification, WF7 Biodiversity and Food Production and WF9 Building Design and Sustainability.

Each is taken in turn below in relation to the significance of the amendment in relation to the SEA and HRA screening.

<b>Policy</b>	<b>Wording change from Reg 14 Plan</b>	<b>Significance for SEA</b>	<b>Significance for HRA</b>
WF2 Local Green Space (LGS)	Number of LGS reduced from 7 to 5. Minor wording changes to provide clarity.	No material implications for SEA, or therefore change to conclusions at Draft Plan Reg 14 stage	No material implications for HRA, and therefore no change to conclusions at Draft Plan Reg 14 stage
WF4 Cycling, Walking and Wheeling Networks	Very minor wording amendment to remove reference to increased levels of car ownership.	No material implications for SEA, or therefore change to conclusions at Draft Plan Reg 14 stage	No material implications for HRA, and therefore no change to conclusions at Draft Plan Reg 14 stage
WF6 Rural Diversification	Removed the reference to conversion of existing building in the bulleted list but included it within the following paragraph. Included reference to compliance with NPPF and NSC Strategic Green Belt policy.	No material implications for SEA, or therefore change to conclusions at Draft Plan Reg 14 stage	No material implications for HRA, and therefore no change to conclusions at Draft Plan Reg 14 stage

WF7 Biodiversity and Food Production	Restructuring of policy, but with materially the same intent and inclusion of reference to sustainable drainage and relationship to Green Infrastructure.	No material implications for SEA, or therefore change to conclusions at Draft Plan Reg 14 stage	No material implications for HRA, and therefore no change to conclusions at Draft Plan Reg 14 stage
WF9 Building Design and Sustainability	Very minor wording change to ordering of the policy.	No material implications for SEA, or therefore change to conclusions at Draft Plan Reg 14 stage	No material implications for HRA, and therefore no change to conclusions at Draft Plan Reg 14 stage

The conclusion is therefore that the revised Wraxall and Failand Neighbourhood Plan as submitted does not affect the conclusions of the HRA/SEA Assessment undertaken in January 2023 that they are not likely to give rise to either any

- likely significant environmental effects; or
- significant effects on protected species or their habitats.

There is therefore no necessity to undertake a full SEA/HRA Assessment in relation to the Plan.

Planning Policy Team  
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