



Dorset
Council

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan

November 2023

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan

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1 Introduction

- 1.0.1 This document provides a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan.
- 1.0.2 The main purpose of the HRA process is to prevent a plan or project from adversely affecting the integrity of a European Site, which are areas of exceptional importance for rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats or species. Extensive areas of Dorset and surrounding areas are occupied by European sites, reflecting the importance of the region for wildlife and habitats.
- 1.0.3 The HRA process involves several distinct stages of assessment which must be undertaken in order to meet the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017). This is explained in more detail in Chapter 3
- 1.0.4 The first of these stages is the HRA screening stage. The main purpose of the HRA screening is to assess whether a plan is likely to have a significant negative effect on a European Site, and hence whether the subsequent steps of the HRA process are required.
- 1.0.5 If the HRA screening concludes that there would be no likely significant effect on a European Site, then the plan may proceed without further assessment.
- 1.0.6 However, if it is found that the plan would have a likely significant effect on a European Site then further assessment is required through the subsequent stages of the HRA process, to ensure that the plan does not result in adverse effects upon the integrity of a European site.
- 1.0.7 The HRA screening report firstly explains the legal basis for HRA (Chapter 2) and explains the HRA process (Chapter 3), before setting out the scope of the Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan (Chapter 4). Following this, consideration is given to whether the Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan is likely to have a significant effect upon a European site in the HRA screening exercise (Chapter 5).

2 Legislative background to Habitats Regulations Assessment

2.0.1 EU Directive (92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora ('the Habitats Directive') led to the establishment of a network of 'European sites', collectively known as Natura 2000, which are areas of exceptional importance with respect to rare, endangered or vulnerable natural habitats or species. European Sites consist of the following ecological designations:

- Special Protection Areas (SPAs): Classified under the EU Directive (79/409/EEC) on the Conservation of Wild Birds ('the Birds Directive'), with the objective of protecting and managing areas which are important for rare and vulnerable birds as they are important grounds for breeding, feeding, wintering or migration; and
- Special Areas of Conservation (SACs): Classified under the Habitats Directive, these areas provide rare and vulnerable animals, plants and habitats with increased protection and management.

2.0.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 176) states that the following sites should be afforded the same protection as European Sites:

- Potential Special Protection Areas (pSPA): Potential Special Protection Areas, are sites on which the Government has initiated public consultation on the scientific case for designation as a Special Protection Area;
- Possible Special Areas of Conservation (pSAC): Possible Special Areas of Conservation are sites on which Government has initiated public consultation on the scientific case for designation as a candidate Special Area of Conservation;
- Ramsar sites (and proposed Ramsar sites): Wetlands of international importance designated under the 1971 Ramsar Convention, and proposed Ramsar sites are sites on which Government has initiated public consultation on the scientific case for a Ramsar site; and
- Sites identified, or required, as compensatory measures for adverse effects on European sites and Ramsar sites: Sites which are included as compensation in schemes to mitigate adverse impacts upon European and Ramsar sites.

2.0.3 The requirement to undertake an assessment of plans or projects that are likely to have an effect upon European sites is given in Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive.

2.0.4 The Habitats Directive is transposed into UK law through the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017. Regulation 63 of the Habitats Regulations implements Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive and requires the competent authority to complete an appropriate assessment of the implications of the plan or project for the European site in view of the site's conservation objectives before deciding to undertake a plan or project which is likely to have a significant effect on a European site. Regulation 105 applies to land use plans, with Regulation 106 pertaining to Neighbourhood Development Plans specifically.

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- 2.0.5 The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012, state that submitted neighbourhood plans need to be accompanied by a statement explaining how the proposed neighbourhood plan meets a series of 'basic conditions', which are set out in Schedule 4B of the 1990 Town and Country Planning Act. These basic conditions include a requirement to demonstrate how the plan is compatible with EU obligations, which includes the need to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment to satisfy the Habitats Directive.

3 The Habitats Regulations Assessment Process

- 3.0.1 The UK Government's Planning Practice Guidance on Appropriate Assessment explains that there are several distinct stages of assessment which must be undertaken in order to achieve compliance with the Habitats Regulations.

3.1. TASK 1: HRA SCREENING

- 3.1.1 The HRA screening stage involves consideration of whether the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site, either alone and in combination with other plans or projects.
- 3.1.2 A 'likely significant effect' may be defined as a 'possible significant effect; one whose occurrence cannot be excluded on the basis of objective information'.
- 3.1.3 The HRA screening stage firstly involves gathering information on the European sites that may be affected, through geographical proximity or a potential impact pathway which links the plan to an effect on a European Site.
- 3.1.4 Following this, the HRA considers whether the plan is likely to result in a significant effect upon these European sites, either alone or in combination with other projects and plans, through the test of likely significant effect.
- 3.1.5 Measures which have been specifically added to achieve the purpose of avoiding or reducing the harmful effects of a plan upon a European site, known as mitigation measures, should not be considered at the screening stage.
- 3.1.6 If the HRA screening concludes that there is no likely significant effect on a European site, then further assessment is deemed unnecessary.
- 3.1.7 However, if it is found that the plan would have a likely significant effect on a European site then the next stage of assessment, known as the Appropriate Assessment stage, is required.

3.2. TASK 2: APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

- 3.2.1 If a proposed plan or project is considered likely to have a significant effect on a European Site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, then an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site, in view of the site's conservation objectives, must be undertaken.
- 3.2.2 The scope and content of an appropriate assessment will depend on the nature, location, duration and scale of the proposed plan and the European sites which may be affected. However, the assessment needs to be proportionate and sufficient to support the task of determining whether the plan will adversely affect the integrity of a European site.

3.3. TASK 3: MITIGATION

- 3.3.1 The competent authority may agree to the plan or project only after having ruled out adverse effects on the integrity of the European site.

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- 3.3.2 Where it cannot be concluded that there will be no adverse effects on a site's integrity, there is a need to consider potential mitigation.
- 3.3.3 Mitigation measures are protective measures forming part of a project and are intended to avoid or reduce any direct adverse effects that may be caused by a plan or project, to ensure that it does not have an adverse effect on the integrity of a European site.
- 3.3.4 Any measures used to inform the decision about the effects on the integrity need to be sufficiently secured and likely to work in practice.

4 The Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan

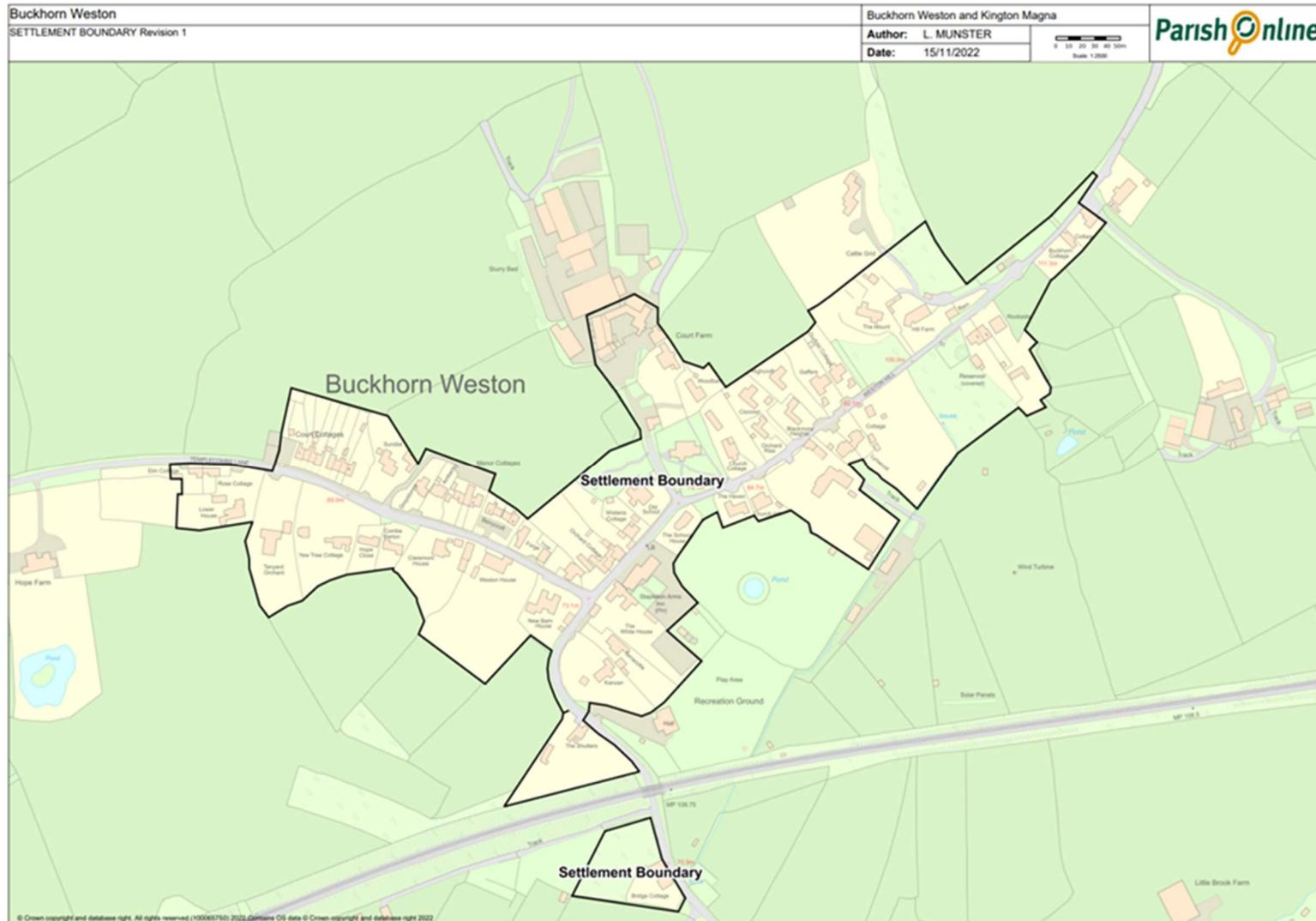
- 4.0.1 The Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan area occupies approximately 15.67 km² (1,567ha) in North Dorset.
- 4.0.2 According to the 2021 census, the Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan area has a population of 711 and contains 317 households¹.
- 4.0.3 The Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan has been established with the purpose of restoring Settlement Boundaries and supporting the provision of development within the Settlement Boundaries which meets the design and development form principles.
- 4.0.4 The plan introduces three settlement boundaries (Buckhorn Weston, Kington Magna, and Shepherds Hill, see Figures 3.1, 3.2 and 3.3), reinstating the settlement boundaries which were removed in January 2016 following the adoption of the North Dorset Local Plan Part 1.
- 4.0.5 The restored settlement boundaries enclose those areas which exhibit the characteristics of settlements, and avoid the creation of large development plots within the boundaries on the fringes of the villages.
- 4.0.6 The Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan aims to bring forward 12 dwellings over the period 2021 to 2038, with 6 dwellings as extant planning permissions and a further 6 dwellings expected through windfall development.
- 4.0.7 The proposed settlement boundary includes an area to the south of the railway line, which is considered to be part of the village based on a former garage use on one plot and an existing dwelling. The proposed settlement boundary may enable development to occur on this brownfield plot.
- 4.0.8 The Neighbourhood Plan has also been established with the purpose of identifying green areas of particular importance, which need special protection. The plan includes a review of and identifies which Important Open or Wooded Areas (IOWA) require continued protection.

¹ Source: 2021 Census, Office for National Statistics

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Figure 4.1: Settlement boundary for Buckhorn Weston (Main Village)



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Figure 4.2: Settlement Boundary for Buckhorn Weston (Shepherds Hill)



5 Habitats Regulations Assessment: Screening

- 5.0.1 The first stage of the HRA process is the screening stage, the purpose of which is to determine whether the plan is likely to result in a significant effect upon a European Site.
- 5.0.2 In order to determine whether the Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan is likely to result in a significant effect upon a European Site, it is first necessary to identify those European Sites which may be affected by the plan. This involves gathering information about the European Sites within the neighbourhood plan area and its vicinity.
- 5.0.3 The European Sites are within approximately 20km of the Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan area, to within approximately 20km of the plan area are shown in Figure 5.1. Further details of these European Sites are presented in Appendix A.

Figure 5.1: European sites within 20km of the Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan area

European Site	Designation	Approx. Distance/orientation from Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan area (km)
Rooksmoor	SAC	7km to the south
Fontmell & Melbury Downs	SAC	10km to the east
Holnest	SAC	13km to the southwest
Chilmark Quarries	SAC	15km to the northeast
River Avon	SAC	17km to the northeast
Cerne and Sydling Downs	SAC	18km to the south
Prescombe Down	SAC	19km to the east
Mendip Woodlands	SAC	19km to the northwest

- 5.0.4 Having identified the characteristics of the European sites within approximately 20km of the Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan boundary, it is now possible to identify those European Sites which may be linked to the Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan through a known 'pathway'.
- 5.0.5 A 'pathway' may be defined as the means by which a change in activity leads to an effect. In this instance, a pathway may be defined as the means by which a change in activity due to the Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan leads to an effect on a European Site.
- 5.0.6 At the initial stage of the screening, all of the potential pathways were identified by considering the potential threats, pressures and activities to the European Sites provided in the official citation which are relevant given the scope of the Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan. Those potential threats, pressures and activities that were not considered to be linked to the Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan through a pathway were discounted from further consideration.

Figure 5.2: The potential threats, pressures and activities to European sites within 20km of the Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan area

Potential threat, pressure or activity	European Site
Water pollution	River Avon SAC
Air pollution	Cerne & Sydling Downs SAC Fontmell & Melbury Downs SAC Mendip Woodlands SAC Prescombe Down SAC Rooksmoor SAC
Public access, disturbance and other human intrusion	Mendip Woodlands SAC
Sport, leisure and recreational activities	Cerne & Sydling Downs SAC Fontmell & Melbury Downs SAC

- 5.0.7 Following the identification of all of the possible pathways, the habitats regulations assessment screening then considered these possible pathways in more detail to determine whether or not they represent a credible or plausible pathway.
- 5.0.8 The following sections of this chapter explores each of the potential pathways which have been identified according to the threat, pressure or activity.

5.1. WATER POLLUTION – RIVER AVON SAC

- 5.1.1 The Avon and its tributaries comprise a large, lowland river system running through chalk, greensand and clay, with transitions between them.
- 5.1.2 The River Avon SAC supports floating vegetation which is dominated by water crowfoot. Five species are present, with stream water-crowfoot *Ranunculus penicillatus* ssp. *pseudofluitans* and river water-crowfoot *R. fluitans* the main dominants.
- 5.1.3 The River Avon system also supports a diverse fish community. The bullhead *Cottus gobio* is an important component of this community, particularly in the tributaries. A healthy, stable population of brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* occurs in the main river and a number of tributaries. There are also excellent examples of the features that the sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* needs for survival, including areas of sand and gravel where the species is known to spawn. The Avon also supports Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* populations typical of a high-quality chalk stream.
- 5.1.4 There is an extensive population of Desmoulin's whorl snail *Vertigo moulinsiana* along the margins and associated wetlands of the Rivers Avon, Bourne and Wylfe.
- 5.1.5 On 16th March, Natural England informed Dorset Council that the River Avon SAC was in unfavourable condition and advised the council to carefully consider the impacts of

additional phosphorus from development proposals that have the potential to affect water quality in the River Avon SAC.

- 5.1.6 Elevated concentrations of phosphorus within a river system can speed up the growth of certain plants and algae, disrupt natural processes and impact wildlife through the 'eutrophication' process.
- 5.1.7 The predominant source of the phosphorus in the River Avon catchment is believed to be domestic sewage and agricultural fertilizers.
- 5.1.8 Whilst the Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan area is 17km to the southeast of the River Avon SAC, it is not within the River Avon hydrological catchment as it is situated within the River Stour catchment. Therefore, there is no viable pathway linking the Buckhorn Weston & Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan to the River Avon SAC.

5.2. AIR POLLUTION - CERNE & SYDLING DOWNS SAC, FONTMELL & MELBURY DOWNS SAC, MENDIP WOODLANDS SAC, PRESCOMBE DOWN SAC, ROOKSMOOR SAC

- 5.2.1 Atmospheric nitrogen resulting from emissions to air from road traffic may result in the deposition of atmospheric nitrogen into the soil. This causes the enrichment of soils, affecting those habitats which are necessarily naturally low in nutrients. The sensitive habitats within 20km of the neighbourhood plan area include the chalk grasslands at the Fontmell and Melbury Downs SAC, Cerne and Sydling Downs SAC, Prescombe Downs SAC, the neutral and acid grassland meadows at the Rooksmoor SAC, and the ash-dominated woods on limestone at Mendip Woodlands SAC.
- 5.2.2 Natural England's guidance note on the assessment of road traffic emissions under the habitats regulations advises a series of steps at the HRA screening stage to determine whether a proposal will result in a likely significant effect.
- 5.2.3 Step 1 of the Natural England methodology asks the following question: Does the proposal give rise to emissions which are likely to reach a European site?
- 5.2.4 This initial screening step for air pollution assessment considers the distance between an emission source and the receptor, and factors including the scale of the proposal and source of emissions to determine whether emissions are likely to reach the European site.
- 5.2.5 The Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan is at least 7km from a European site which is sensitive to air quality, the nearest of which is the Rooksmoor SAC.
- 5.2.6 The Rooksmoor SAC is characterised by Purple moor-grass meadow habitat which supports Marsh fritillary butterfly *Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia*.
- 5.2.7 Whilst the site is 7km from the site, the distance by car is approximately 11km to the junction where the A357 crosses the A3030 within the Lydlinch Common section of the Rooksmoor SAC.
- 5.2.8 The Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan will bring forward approximately 12 dwellings in the period up to 2036.
- 5.2.9 Considering the distance of the neighbourhood plan area from the European sites which are sensitive to air quality, and the scale of the proposed development and resulting traffic

emissions, it is considered unlikely that the proposal would give rise to emissions which are likely to reach a European site. Therefore, the Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan will not result in a likely significant effect as a result of air quality effects.

5.3. SPORT, LEISURE AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES - CERNE & SYDLING DOWNS SAC, FONTMELL & MELBURY DOWNS SAC

- 5.3.1 Many of the European Sites within Dorset and its surrounding areas offer an attractive natural environment for sport, leisure and recreation.
- 5.3.2 Visitor numbers to the countryside in England are increasing². This may be due to the rising population, an increase in the amount of available leisure time as a result in the change to social conditions (such as greater leave entitlement) and greater accessibility as a result of more private vehicle ownership and improved transport infrastructure.
- 5.3.3 The Fontmell and Melbury Downs SAC and Cerne and Sydling Downs SAC, located 10km and 18km from the plan area respectively, are characterised predominantly by semi-natural dry grassland with some scrub and heathland on the chalk valley slopes of north Dorset.
- 5.3.4 These chalk grassland habitats are sensitive to recreational pressure. This may result from trampling and erosion by walking or cycling. Those parts that are steep and with thin soils and those areas near to access points, where pressures are more concentrated, are particularly vulnerable. The addition of nutrients from dog faeces is also a threat, as this results in an input of nutrients into the soil, whereas chalk grassland habitats are necessarily naturally low in nutrients.
- 5.3.5 New development in the areas surrounding these European Sites may increase the local population and the number of visits to these sites, increasing the recreational pressure.
- 5.3.6 However, given the distance of the neighbourhood plan area from the site and the scale of the proposed development (12 dwellings in the period up to 2038), it is considered unlikely that the Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan would result in an appreciable increase in the number of visitors to the Fontmell and Melbury Downs SAC and Cerne and Sydling Downs SAC. As a result, the Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan will not result in a likely significant effect as a result of recreational pressure upon these European Sites.

5.4. PUBLIC ACCESS, DISTURBANCE AND OTHER HUMAN INTRUSION – MENDIP WOODLANDS SAC

- 5.4.1 Disturbance occurs where human activity influences a habitat or the population of species which it supports.

² Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment Survey (MENE) (Natural England, 2015)

- 5.4.2 Disturbance can result in a physical effect upon a habitat, for example by causing damage through erosion or trampling, or indirect effects through changes in management due to human intrusion.
- 5.4.3 In terms of the effects upon species, disturbance may affect an animal's behaviour, affecting its distribution, breeding success and health, and ultimately its survival.
- 5.4.4 The Mendip Woodlands SAC is a cluster of three ash-dominated woods on limestone, with a rich variety of other trees and shrubs also present, located approximately 19km to the northwest of the Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 5.4.5 One of these woods is Asham Wood, which lies in the east of Mendip. Asham Wood is dominated by Ash and is characterised by limestone gorges and permanent streams.
- 5.4.6 Asham wood has a history of trespass by offroad vehicles. This has resulted in serious damage to parts of the woodland.
- 5.4.7 The Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan is approximately 19km from the Mendip Woodlands SAC. In light of the distance of the plan area from the woods, and the scale of the development likely to come forward through the plan (12 dwellings in the period up to 2038), the plan will not result in an appreciable increase in the number of people illicitly using the site. Therefore, it is considered unlikely that further harm to the woodland SAC will result from the Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan.

6 Conclusion

- 6.0.1 The HRA screening exercise considered the potential threats, pressures and activities which may affect the European sites within 20km of the Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan area.
- 6.0.2 The HRA screening did not identify a credible or plausible pathway between the changes resulting from the Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan and an effect upon a European Site. These findings were largely due to the scope of the neighbourhood plan and the amount of housing which it is likely to bring forward, and the considerable distance between the neighbourhood plan area and European sites.
- 6.0.3 Therefore, the HRA screening did not identify any likely significant effects resulting from the Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan, and an Appropriate Assessment is not required in this instance.

Appendix A: Details of European Sites within 20km of the Buckhorn Weston and Kington Magna Neighbourhood Plan

European Site	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Potential threats, pressures and activities with impacts
Cerne and Sydling Downs SAC	<p>Annex 1 habitats: Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites)</p> <p>Annex 2 species (present as a qualifying feature but not a primary reason for selection of this site): Marsh fritillary butterfly <i>Euphydryas</i> (<i>Eurodryas</i>, <i>Hypodryas</i>) <i>aurinia</i></p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying species, and, • The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	<p>Grazing; Fertilisation; Interspecific floral relations; Other ecosystem modifications</p>
Chilmark Quarries SAC	<p>Annex 2 species: greater horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i>; Barbastelle <i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>; Bechstein's bat <i>Myotis bechsteinii</i>.</p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p>	<p>Air pollution, air-borne pollutants; Changes in biotic conditions;</p>

European Site	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Potential threats, pressures and activities with impacts
	<p>Annex 2 habitats (present as a qualifying feature but not a primary reason for selection of this site): Lesser horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying species, and, • The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	<p>Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities; Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities; Abiotic (slow) natural processes.</p>
Fontmell and Melbury Downs SAC	<p>Annex 1 habitats (present as a qualifying feature but not a primary reason for selection of this site): Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia) (* important orchid sites) Annex 2 species: Early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i></p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species 	<p>Cultivation; Modification of cultivation practices; Air pollution; Biocenotic evolution, succession</p>

European Site	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Potential threats, pressures and activities with impacts
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying species, and, • The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	
Holnest SAC	Annex 2 species: Great crested newt <i>Triturus cristatus</i>	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of the habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying species, and, • The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	None given
Mendip Woodlands SAC	Annex 1 habitats: Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation	Other human intrusions and disturbances;

European Site	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Potential threats, pressures and activities with impacts
		Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats, and • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats rely 	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants; Problematic native species; Interspecific floral relations
Prescombe Down SAC	<p>Annex 1 habitats (present as a qualifying feature but not a primary reason for selection of this site): Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco-Brometalia)</p> <p>Annex 2 species: Early gentian <i>Gentianella anglica</i></p> <p>Annex 2 species (present as a qualifying feature but not a primary reason for selection of this site): Marsh fritillary butterfly <i>Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia</i></p>	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely 	Air pollution, air-borne pollutants; Changes in biotic conditions

European Site	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Potential threats, pressures and activities with impacts
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The populations of qualifying species, and, • The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	
<p>River Avon SAC</p>	<p>Annex 1 habitats: Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation</p> <p>Annex 2 species: Desmoulin's whorl snail <i>Vertigo moulinsiana</i>; Sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>; Brook lamprey <i>Lampetra planeri</i>; Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>; Bullhead <i>Cottus gobio</i></p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying species, and, • The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	<p>Pollution to groundwater (point sources and diffuse sources); Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions; Changes in biotic conditions</p>

European Site	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Potential threats, pressures and activities with impacts
Rooksmoor SAC	<p>Annex 1 habitats (present as a qualifying feature but not a primary reason for selection of this site): Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (<i>Molinion caeruleae</i>)</p> <p>Annex 2 species: Marsh fritillary butterfly <i>Euphydryas</i> (<i>Eurodryas</i>, <i>Hypodryas</i>) <i>aurinia</i></p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely • The populations of qualifying species, and, • The distribution of qualifying species within the site. 	<p>Mowing / cutting of grassland; Grazing; Air pollution; Biocenotic evolution, succession</p>