

Tasley Neighbourhood Development Plan

Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Statement

August 2026

Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Statement for the draft Tasley Neighbourhood Development Plan

Summary

This HRA Screening Statement concludes that there is no likely significant effect on any European Site as a result of the policies contained within the Tasley Neighbourhood Development Plan and as such the Tasley Neighbourhood Development Plan is ‘screened out’ of the HRA process and no further HRA assessments (including ‘Appropriate Assessments’) are required.

August 2026 Update

Following the submission of the Draft Tasley Neighbourhood Plan in March 2026, the policies were rescreened to determine if there were any likely significant effects on any European Site. The conclusion of this process was that none of the proposed policies within the submission version of the draft TNDP had the potential to have a significant effect on any European Site. No further HRA assessments (including ‘Appropriate Assessments’) were therefore required.

Contents

Summary.....	2
August 2026 Update	2
Introduction.....	2
Consultation responses	3
Tasley Designated Neighbourhood Area	4
Natural environment designations	4
HRA Screening	5
Conclusion of the HRA Screening Process for the draft Tasley Neighbourhood Development Plan.....	6
Appendix 1: Response from Natural England	7

Introduction

The HRA process assesses the potential effects arising from a plan against the conservation objectives of any site designated for its nature conservation importance. Neighbourhood Plans form part of the statutory land use plan and as such must be subject to HRA under The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017.

The Local Authority is the ‘competent authority’ under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 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 importance¹, also referred to as Natura 2000.

The Local Authority will determine whether the Tasley Neighbourhood Development Plan (TNDP) 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.

Consultation responses

Shropshire Council has produced this HRA Screening Statement to accompany the draft TNDP at the Regulation 14 consultation stage. The screening opinion was sent to Natural England on 15th January 2025 for a five-week

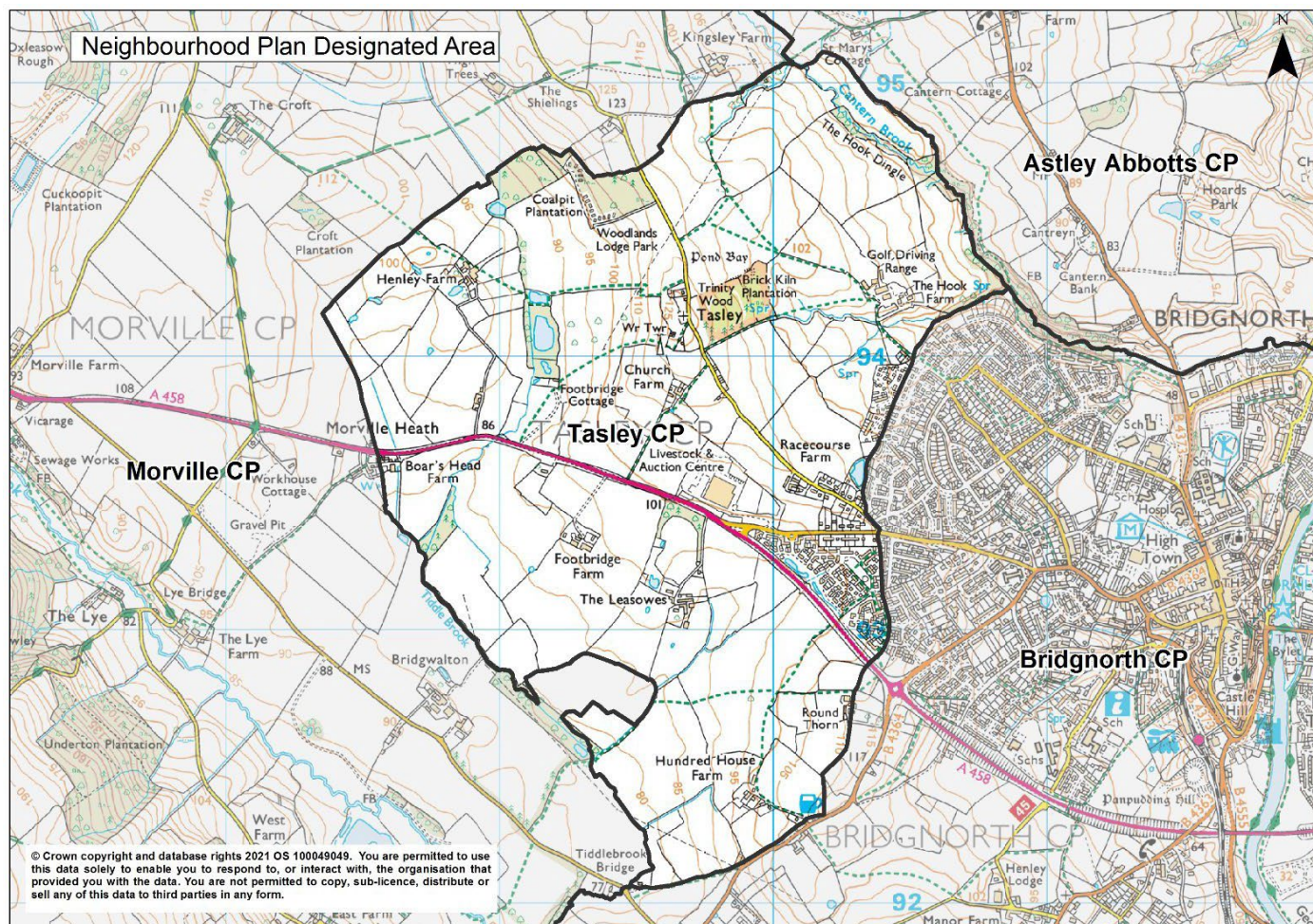
¹ Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for birds and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) for other species, and for habitats.

consultation period. Their response in full is presented in Appendix 1. It is their advice, on the basis of material supplied with the consultation, that ‘significant effects on statutorily designated nature conservation sites or landscapes are unlikely; and, significant effects on Habitat sites, either alone or in combination, are unlikely.

Tasley Designated Neighbourhood Area

An application by Tasley Parish Council to designate a neighbourhood plan area went out for public consultation from 10 December to 28 January 2022. The application was approved by Shropshire Council's Cabinet on 6 April 2022 and a formal notice was issued.

Fig. 1 – Map showing designated neighbourhood area



Natural environment designations

The following natural environmental designations exist within the neighbourhood area:

Designation	Sites
Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	None
Special Protection Areas (SPA)	None
Ramsar Sites	None

National Landscape	None
Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	None
Geological Conservation Review sites (GCR)	None
Local Wildlife Sites (LWS)	None
Local Nature Reserves	None
Ancient woodland	None
Local Green Spaces	1) Nature Zone off Clee View Road 2) St Peter and St Paul Church and Grounds 3) Tasley Cemetery 4) Trinity Wood and Brick Kiln Plantation 5) Wenlock Rise Central Green with Play Area 6) Wenlock Rise Natural Area
None-designated sites	There is a sizeable body of open water abutting the Gateway site; classified by CEFAS (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science), the UK Government's marine and freshwater science experts, as a lake. The lake is fed by a natural spring with an outlet draining directly onto the Tasley Gateway site. There has been flooding on and near the Gateway site. Otters are actively using the lake abutting the Gateway site. It is our understanding that on the 12th April 2024 an Environment Agency officer assessed the lake and located otter spraint with fish scales present within it and advised that otters are catching and feeding from the carp within the lake. There is a strong smell of sewage by the fishing pool at Woodlands Lodge Park.

HRA Screening

Each policy within the draft TNDP has been screened to determine whether it has potential to cause a 'Likely Significant Effect' on any European Site.

Any policy with no 'Likely Significant Effect' will be screened out of the HRA process. Any policy where potential for a 'Likely Significant Effect' is identified will be subject to further more detailed, assessment (sometimes called an 'Appropriate Assessment') in line with the Habitats Regulations and relevant guidance documents.

The table below considers the potential impacts arising from each of the policies within the draft TNDP.

Policy	Assessment of Potential Impacts	Potential for Likely Significant Effect
Policy TNP1 – Footpaths and Cycle Paths	No explicit details from Steering Group.	Low

Policy TNP2 – Local Green Spaces	Some of the six proposed Local Green Spaces have wildlife interest and importance and include built heritage assets. Local Green Space designation should provide added protection from inappropriate development. This will be explained in more detail in Appendix 2 of the draft TNP (local Green Space Assessment) which assesses Local Green Spaces against NPPF criteria.	Low
TNP3 – Green Infrastructure Improvements	This policy identifies existing wildlife corridors, networks and habitats which should be protected, and which offer opportunities for enhancement and Biodiversity Net Gain. These will be shown on maps and references in the Policy.	Low
TNP4 – Respecting Local Character and Delivering High Quality Contemporary Design	No explicit details from Steering Group.	Low
TNP5 – New Cemetery	No explicit details from Steering Group.	Low
TNP6 – Tasley Village Hall and Local Community Centre	No explicit details from Steering Group.	Low
TNP7 – Community Energy Schemes	Supports small scale community-led renewable energy schemes subject to landscape impact.	Low
TNP8 – Residential Mix	No explicit details from Steering Group.	Low
TNP9 – Employment Development	No explicit details from Steering Group.	Low

Conclusion of the HRA Screening Process for the draft Tasley Neighbourhood Development Plan

The policies within the draft TNDP have been screened under the HRA process.

The conclusion of the HRA Screening Process is that none of the proposed policies within the draft TNDP has the potential to lead to a 'Likely Significant Effect' on a European Site.

The draft TNDP Neighbourhood Development Plan can be 'screened out' of the HRA process and an 'Appropriate Assessment' is not required.

Appendix 1: Response from Natural England

Date: 20 February 2025
Our ref: 499164
Your ref: Tasley Neighbourhood Plan



Ms Rosie Corner
Shropshire Council

BY EMAIL ONLY
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Dear Ms Corner

Tasley Neighbourhood Plan - SEA/HRA Screening Consultation

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 15 January 2025.

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.

Screening Request: Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

It is Natural England's advice, on the basis of the material supplied with the consultation, that:

- significant effects on statutorily designated nature conservation sites or landscapes are unlikely; and,
- significant effects on Habitats sites¹, either alone or in combination, are unlikely.

The proposed neighbourhood plan is unlikely to significantly affect any Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection areas (SPA), Ramsar wetland or sites in the process of becoming SACs or SPAs ('candidate SACs', 'possible SACs', 'potential SPAs') or a Ramsar wetland. The plan area is unlikely to have a significant effect on a National Park, Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty or Heritage Coast, and is unlikely to impact upon the purposes for which these areas are designated or defined.

Guidance on the assessment of Neighbourhood Plans, in line with the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 is contained within the [Planning Practice Guidance](#). This identifies three triggers that may require the production of an SEA:

- a neighbourhood plan allocates sites for development
- the neighbourhood area contains sensitive natural or heritage assets that may be affected by the proposals in the plan
- the neighbourhood plan may have significant environmental effects that have not already been considered and dealt with through a sustainability appraisal of the Local Plan.

Natural England does not hold information on the location of significant populations of protected species, so is unable to advise whether this plan is likely to affect protected species to such an extent

¹ Habitats sites are those referred to in the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (Annex 2 - glossary) as "any site which would be included within the definition at regulation 8 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 for the purpose of those regulations, including candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and any relevant Marine Sites".

as to require an SEA. Further information is included in Natural England's [standing advice](#) on protected species.

Furthermore, Natural England does not routinely maintain locally specific data on all environmental assets. The plan may have environmental impacts on priority species and/or habitats, local wildlife sites, soils and best and most versatile agricultural land, or on local landscape character that may be sufficient to warrant an SEA. Information on ancient woodland, ancient and veteran trees is set out in Natural England/Forestry Commission [standing advice](#).

We therefore recommend that advice is sought from your ecological, landscape and soils advisers, local record centre, recording society or wildlife body on the local soils, best and most versatile agricultural land, landscape, geodiversity and biodiversity receptors that may be affected by the plan before determining whether a SEA is necessary.

Natural England reserves the right to provide further advice on the environmental assessment of the plan. This includes any third party appeal against any screening decision you may make. If a SEA is required, Natural England must be consulted at the scoping and environmental report stages.

Please send any new consultations, or further information on this consultation to consultations@naturalengland.org.uk

Yours sincerely

Sally Wintle
Consultations Team