

Oaksey Neighbourhood Plan

Oaksey
Parish
Council



HRA Screening March 2018

oaksey  village

Oaksey Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2026

HRA Screening - March 2018

Pre-Submission draft of the Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with Regulation 14 of Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group on behalf of Oaksey Parish Council:

Councillor Professor Richard Moody (Chair)
Tony Fleming
Colonel Nick Mangnall
Mike Martin
Nigel Nicholls
Miriam Nicholls
Fred Price
Councillor David Spurrier-Kimbell
Councillor Roger Squance

The Parish Council received professional planning support from NEIGHBOURHOOD-PLAN.CO.UK during the production of this Neighbourhood Plan.



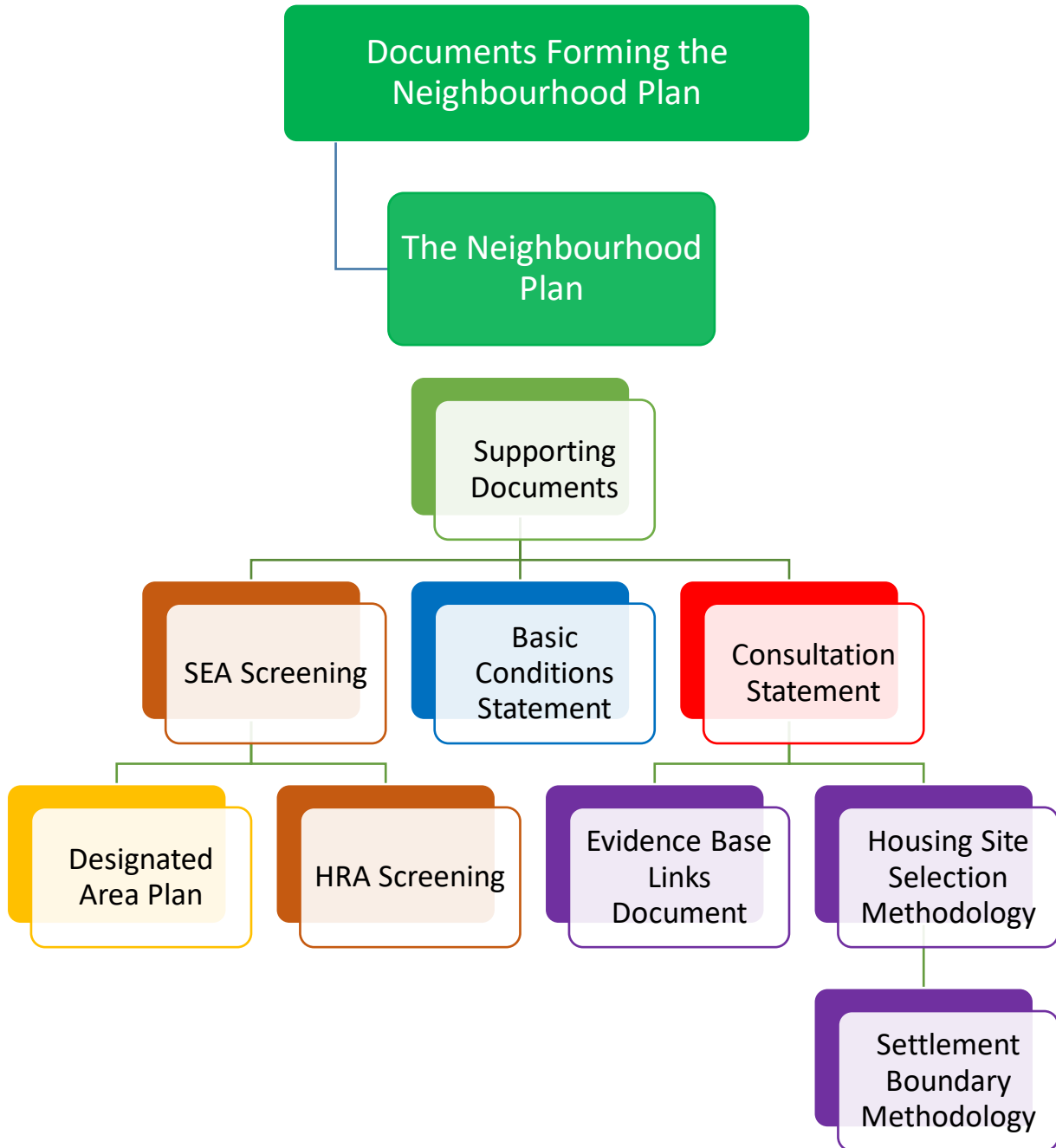
NEIGHBOURHOOD-PLAN.CO.UK

For any query relating to the Neighbourhood Plan contact:
Veronica Hourihane - Clerk to the Council
Tel - 01285 706303
Email: parishclerk@oaksey.com

oaksey  village

www.oakseyvillage.org

Oaksey Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2026



This page is intentionally blank

Introduction

1. The Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) as required under the European Directive 92/43/EEC and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 require that Development Plans undergo an assessment to determine whether or not the Local Plan will have a significant effect on sites of European importance for nature conservation. Accordingly a HRA screening request was made by Oaksey Parish Council to Wiltshire Council.
2. The contents of the Oaksey Neighbourhood Development Plan does not technically require a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) in accordance with the European Directive 92/43/EEC and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. A Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) may however be required to accompany the Neighbourhood Plan where the policies and proposals of the plan may give rise to significant effects on internationally designated wildlife sites. The process to establish whether a HRA is necessary starts with a screening exercise to determine whether any internationally designated sites might be exposed to likely significant effects as a result of implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan and therefore whether further stages of the HRA process are required.
3. For Oaksey, the Neighbourhood Plan Area does include part of the North Meadow and Clattinger Farm Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Covering a slightly larger area including Mallard Lake is the Clattinger Farm Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Outside of the Neighbourhood Plan area but within around 250m of the Plan Area boundary also lies the Cotswold Water Park SSSI. Internationally designated wildlife sites (SACs/SPAs/Ramsar) are accorded the highest level of protection under European legislation. The purpose of the screening assessment is to ascertain whether there is potential for implementation of the Neighbourhood Plan to have significant effect on any such site.
4. The Habitats Regulations Assessment of land use plans relates to Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar Sites. SPAs are sites classified in accordance with Article 4 of the EC Directive on the conservation of wild birds (79/409/EEC), more commonly known as the Birds Directive. They are classified for rare and vulnerable birds, listed in Annex I to the Birds Directive, and for regularly occurring migratory species.
5. SACs are classified in accordance with EC Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive). Article 3 of this Directive requires the establishment of a European network of important high-quality conservation sites that will make a significant contribution to conserving the 189 habitat types and 788 species identified in Annexes I and II of the Directive. These sites are known as the Natura 2000 network and are commonly referred to as European sites.
6. Ramsar Sites are designated under the International Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat (the Ramsar Convention, Iran 1971 and amended by the Paris Protocol 1992). Although Ramsar Sites are not protected in law by the Birds and Habitats Directives as a matter of policy government has decreed that unless otherwise specified procedures relating to SPAs and SACs will also apply to Ramsar Sites. Therefore the term 'international sites' is used to refer to all three of these designated sites.
7. The Oaksey Neighbourhood Plan contains part of a Natura 2000 site within its boundary. No cumulative effects with other plans or programmes are likely in the view of Oaksey Parish Council, the relevant Qualifying Body. Whilst the Neighbourhood Plan does propose to allocate land for development, it is not considered that it will lead to issues in terms of

Oaksey Neighbourhood Plan - HRA Screening

increased recreational disturbance, water resources or water quality. The SAC and SSSI already fall within the Cotswold Water Park an area where Core Policy 54 of the Wiltshire Core Strategy seeks to balance recreational use of the lakes against the need to protect and enhance biodiversity. The Neighbourhood Plan is required to be in general conformity with the Wiltshire Core Strategy.

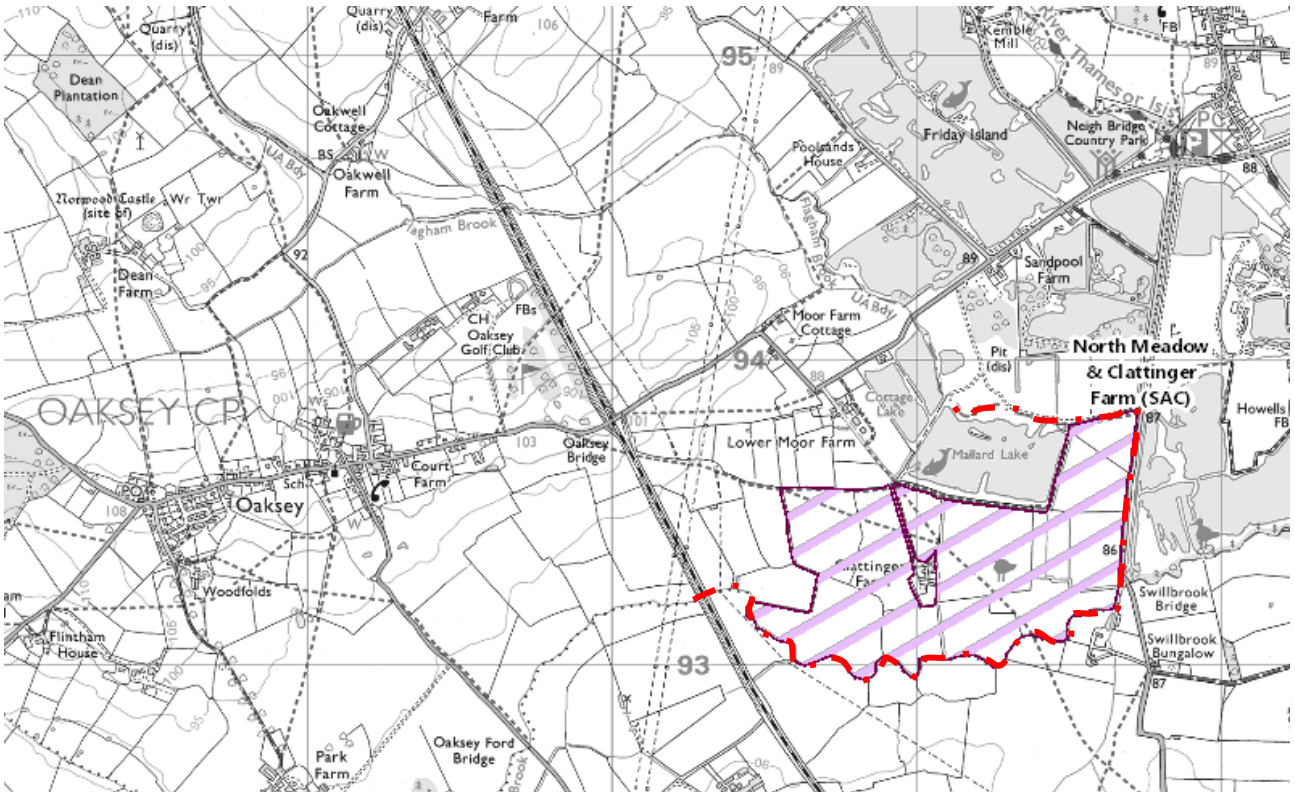
8. The SAC is protected, conserved and enhanced by adopted planning policies in the respective higher order Local Plans. The Core Strategy and emerging Housing Sites Allocations Document have been subject to Sustainability Appraisal (meeting Strategic Environmental Assessment requirements) and appropriate assessment under the Habitat Regulations Assessment. The Oaksey Neighbourhood Plan does not conflict with any policies in these documents, and will have limited additional effect.
9. The criteria for determining if an individual policy, or a combination of policies, would have a likely significant effect, and require assessment, are based on the characteristics of the relevant European site and the objectives set by Natural England. The main factors to consider are:
 - Development on or adjacent to the European site destroying part or all of the site, or changing the ecological functioning of the site (e.g. disrupting water flows or migration routes)
 - Increased public recreation, causing disturbance to birds, damage to vegetation, increased littering / flytipping or leading to management compromises (e.g. grazing being restricted).
 - Reduction in water levels or flow, from increased water demand in the District requiring greater water abstraction
 - Reduction of water quality, from increased discharges of sewage and surface water drainage, or from pollution incidents, either during, or after, construction
10. As a result of consideration of the above factors, based on the provisions of the European Directive 92/43/EEC and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, the view of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and Oaksey Parish Council is that the Oaksey Neighbourhood Plan will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of any internationally designated sites either on its own or in combination with any other plans. Therefore, an assessment is not required. The HRA Screening Assessment undertaken by Wiltshire Council is set out in the next section.



HRA Screening Determination by Wiltshire Council

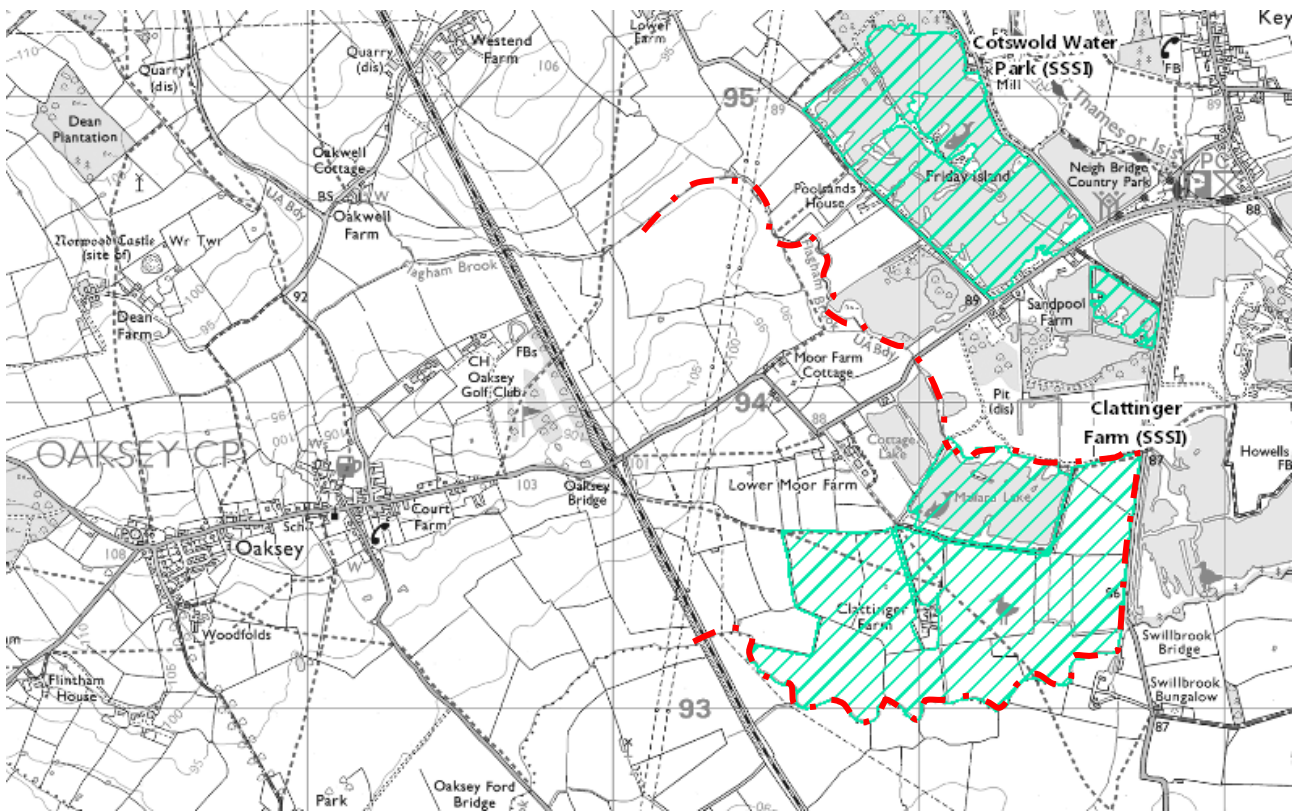
11. To be inserted prior to the Submission under Regulation 15, when the formal Screening Determination has been received from Wiltshire Council.

Maps of North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC, Clattinger Farm SSSI and Cotswold Water Park SSSI



Map 1 - North Meadow and Clattinger Farm SAC
Extract Taken from the Magic.gov.uk website © Defra/Natural England
- - - Oaksey Parish Boundary

Oaksey Neighbourhood Plan - HRA Screening



Map 2 - Clattinger Farm SSSI and Cotswold Water Park SSSI
Extract Taken from the [Magic.gov.uk](http://magic.gov.uk) website © Defra/Natural England
- - - Oaksey Parish Boundary

Oaksey Neighbourhood Plan 2018-2026

HRA Screening
March 2018

Pre-Submission draft of the Neighbourhood Plan in accordance with Regulation 14 of Neighbourhood Planning Regulations 2012



Oaksey Neighbourhood Plan is led by a Steering Group made up of Parishioners and Parish Councillors supported by Oaksey Parish Council

www.oakseyvillage.org

Oaksey Parish Council

NEIGHBOURHOOD-PLAN.CO.UK 

© Oaksey Parish Council 2018