

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Screening Report of the Niton & Whitwell Parish Plan

Introduction

In order to consider whether the Niton & Whitwell Parish Plan is likely to have any significant environmental effects on the Island's natural and built environment, a Sustainability Check has been applied. This document is the report for a Sustainability Appraisal incorporating the requirements for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), using the following screening criteria:

1. Is the plan likely to have a negative impact when assessed against the SA Objectives of the Island Plan Core Strategy as the relevant Development Plan Document (DPD)?
2. Does the plan propose a higher level of development than has been identified in the Island Plan Core Strategy as the relevant Island Plan documents?
3. Will the plan lead to major (development) projects in the future?
4. Is the plan likely to affect nature conservation sites of European (EU) importance?

While all of these criteria have been judged to be in conformity simply with a 'Yes' or 'No' response, the first test, *'Is the plan likely to have a negative impact when assessed against the Sustainability Appraisal (SA) Objectives of the Island Plan Core Strategy as the relevant DPD'* is in essence a summary of an assessment of the document's content against the SA Objectives of the Core Strategy Sustainability Appraisal. Appendix 1 details the assessment of the Parish Plan, and the following tables set out the summary of the SA.

Table 1: SA Summary of Niton & Whitwell Parish Plan

<i>Niton & Whitwell Parish Plan</i>			
Conformity Test	(Y/N)	Conformity with Core Strategy SA Objectives (Y/N)	Explanatory Text
1. Is the plan likely to have a negative impact when assessed against the SA Objectives of the Island Plan Core Strategy?	N	Y	The plan is not likely to have a negative impact when assessed against the SA Objectives of the Core Strategy.
2. Does the plan propose a higher level of development than has been identified in the Island Plan Core Strategy?	N	Y	The plan does not propose a higher level of development than that which is set out in the Core Strategy. Therefore the plan is in conformity with the SA Objectives of the Core Strategy on this test.
3. Will the plan lead to major (development) projects in the future?	N	Y	The plan will not lead to major development projects in the future. Therefore the plan is in conformity with the SA Objectives of the Core Strategy on this test.
4. Is the plan likely to affect nature conservation sites of European (EU) importance?	N	Y	The plan is not likely to affect nature conservation sites of European (EU) importance. Therefore the plan is in conformity with the SA Objectives of the core Strategy on this test.
Overall summary assessment			
The plan is in conformity when applying the above tests (1-4).			
Any further actions required			
No further actions required			

Table 2: SA Assessment Scoring

Score	Description	Symbol
Major Positive Impact	The proposed policy contributes significantly to the achievement of the objective	++
Minor Positive Impact	The proposed policy contributes to the achievements of the objective but not significantly	+
Neutral	The proposed policy does not have any effect on the achievements of the objective	0
Minor Negative Impact	The proposed policy detracts from the achievement of the objective but not significantly	-
Major Negative Impact	The proposed policy detracts significantly from the achievement of the objective	--
No Relationship	There is no clear relationship between the proposed policy and the achievement of the objective or the relationship is negligible	~
Uncertain	The proposed policy has an uncertain relationship to the objective or the relationship is dependant on the way in which the aspect is managed. In addition, insufficient information may be available to enable an assessment to be made	?

Appendix 1 – Detailed Sustainability Appraisal Assessment

Table A1: Screening of Niton & Whitwell Parish Plan against the SA Objectives of the Core Strategy

<i>Niton & Whitwell Parish Plan</i>			
Is the plan likely to have a negative impact when assessed against the SA Objectives of the Island Plan Core Strategy as the relevant DPD?			
SA Objectives	Appraisal Questions	Assessment Score ++/+/0/- /--/~/?	Commentary/Explanation
1. Air Quality: To provide a transport network which maximises access whilst minimising detrimental impacts on air quality	Does it reduce the amount of congestion on the Island's roads?	+	4. Traffic & Parking This section of the plan supports maintenance to the existing road network. 5. Public & Community Transport This section of the plan supports improvements to Community Bus Programme, Southern Vectis services and car sharing schemes. Action 13.2 supports the introduction of a public foot/cycle path between Niton and Whitwell.
	Does it increase the proportion of people using public transport, cycling and walking?	+	5. Public & Community Transport This section of the plan supports improvements to Community Bus Programme, Southern Vectis services and car sharing schemes. Action 13.2 supports the introduction of a public foot/cycle path between Niton and Whitwell.
	Does it reduce number of car trips?	+	5. Public & Community Transport This section of the plan supports improvements to Community Bus Programme, Southern Vectis services and car sharing schemes. Action 13.2 supports the introduction of a public

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	Does it maintain or decrease current levels of air pollutants from ferry activity and other polluting activities?	+	foot/cycle path between Niton and Whitwell. 5. Public & Community Transport This section of the plan supports improvements to Community Bus Programme, Southern Vectis services and car sharing schemes. Action 13.2 supports the introduction of a public foot/cycle path between Niton and Whitwell.
2. Coasts: To reduce the risk to people and property from coastal erosion and instability.	Reduce the risk to property and people from erosion and instability and avoid damage to the coastline or loss of amenity as a result of human activity. Seek to promote protection, restoration and enhancement of coastal zone by seeking to sustain natural systems and processes including opportunities identified within the Shoreline Management Plan for managed retreat of the coastline, where defence is no longer economically viable or sustainable. Improve the quality and cleanliness of the beaches around the Isle of Wight and ensure that development does not negatively impact on the current levels of beach quality and cleanliness.	+	Action 4.1 supports the Island Roads programmed improvements to road drainage. The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue, but is related to it by virtue of the physical area it covers.
3. Water: To maintain and improve the water quality of the	Limit abstraction on the Isle of Wight to a sustainable level. Ensure the efficient and sustainable use of water and reduce the reliance on water imported to the Island.	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue, but is related to it by virtue of the physical area it covers. No relationship. No relationship.

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Islands, groundwater, rivers and coasts and to achieve sustainable water resources management.	Protect the quality of water by controlling development likely to adversely affect groundwater, surface water, bathing water, and estuaries quality.	~	No relationship.	
	Maintain groundwater and surface water levels and flows of designated sites	~	No relationship.	
4. Landscape, archaeology and heritage: To protect and enhance the Islands natural and historic environment and character, and to achieve sustainable development within a sensitive landscape	Conserve and enhance the AONB in line with its designated status, purpose and the AONB Management Plan.	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue, but is related to it by virtue of the physical area it covers.	
	Conserve and enhance the Tennyson and Hamstead Heritage Coasts in line with their status, purpose and AONB Management Plan.	~	No relationship as the Tennyson and Hamstead Heritage Coasts are outside of Niton & Whitwell Parish.	
	Protect tranquil areas on the island and avoid risk to them from light and noise pollution and increases in traffic.	+	6. Housing and Planning prefers small-scale infill development. Action 6.1 Welcomes pre-application discussions on development proposals.	
	Protect the landscape and settlement character of the Island and ensure that any change in land use does not negatively impact on the existing character of the area.	+	6. Housing and Planning prefers small-scale infill development. Action 6.1 Welcomes pre-application discussions on development proposals.	
	Positively enhance landscape and settlement character.		+	6. Housing and Planning prefers small-scale infill development. Action 6.1 Welcomes pre-application discussions on development proposals.
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			on development proposals.
	Protect the fabric and setting of Designated and undesignated archaeological sites, monuments, structures and buildings recorded on the Isle of Wight Historic Environment Record; Historic Parks and gardens, maritime and coastal heritage, listed buildings and conservation areas.	+	6. Housing and Planning prefers small-scale infill development. Action 6.1 Welcomes pre-application discussions on development proposals.
	Conserve and enhance Conservation Areas in line with adopted Management Plans.	~	No relationship as there are no conservation areas in Niton & Whitwell Parish.
5. Biodiversity, fauna and flora: To conserve and enhance the Islands biodiversity, fauna and flora.	Maintain and/or increase biodiversity and the variety of habitats on the Island.	~	The plan identifies habitats, but does not seek to cover the issue further than the detail already set out in the Island Plan Core Strategy.
	Provide opportunities for people to come into contact with wildlife places whilst encouraging respect for and raising awareness of the sensitivity of these sites and avoid adverse effects on their integrity.	~	The plan identifies habitats, but does not seek to cover the issue further than the detail already set out in the Island Plan Core Strategy.
	Avoid net loss, damage to, or fragmentation of designated wildlife sites and the qualifying habitats and species (marine, estuarine, terrestrial and freshwater).	~	The plan refers to designated areas, but does not seek to cover the issue further than the detail already set out in the Island Plan Core Strategy.
6. Soil, geology and land use: To ensure appropriate	Protect the function of designated geological sites on the Island as scientific and educational resources.	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue, but is related to it by virtue of the physical area it covers.
	Ensure that regional quotas for mineral extraction are met whilst	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue,

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land use in relation to soil and geology functionality and to improve efficiency in land use.	minimising the environmental and social impact of extraction.		further than the detail already set out in the Island Plan Core Strategy.
	To support the viability of agriculture and forestry to ensure that they build upon local and island-specific markets and create local employment.	+	6. Housing and Planning acknowledges government support for rural diversification to enable farms to remain viable.
	Encourage the remediation and re-use of contaminated and brownfield land.	+	6. Housing and Planning prefers small-scale infill development. Action 6.1 Welcomes pre-application discussions on development proposals.
	Protect areas which have value for their mineral resource, coastal position, employment land etc.	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue, further than the detail already set out in the Island Plan Core Strategy.
	Protect soils and their functionality in land use planning and sustainably manage soils as a finite multi-functional resource, specifically including best and most versatile agricultural land	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue, further than the detail already set out in the Island Plan Core Strategy.
	Minimise the future land-take for landfill on the Island.	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue, further than the detail already set out in the Island Plan Core Strategy.
7. Waste: To reduce waste generation and disposal, and to achieve the sustainable management of	Minimise the production of waste then re-use or recover through recycling, composting or energy recovery.	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue, further than the detail already set out in the Island Plan Core Strategy.

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waste.			
8. Climate Change Mitigation To minimise future climate change through reducing emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases.	Reducing the need to travel	+	5. Public & Community Transport This section of the plan supports improvements to Community Bus Programme, Southern Vectis services and car sharing schemes. Action 13.2 supports the introduction of a public foot/cycle path between Niton and Whitwell.
	Ensure the efficient use of energy on the Island.	+	9. Niton & Whitwell Economy supports the roll out of bulk energy purchasing, starting with domestic central heating fuel. Action 9.2 commits to extending the scheme to Niton
	Increase the use of renewable resources to generate electricity and use of CHP.	+	9. Niton & Whitwell Economy supports the roll out of bulk energy purchasing, starting with domestic central heating fuel. Action 9.2 commits to extending the scheme to Niton
9. Climate Change Adaptation To reduce the risks to people and properties from the effects of climate change.	New development should not be at risk from flooding.	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue, further than the detail already set out in the Island Plan Core Strategy.
	Ensure development does not increase flood risk.	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue, further than the detail already set out in the Island Plan Core Strategy.
	Increase the capacity for climate change adaptation through	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue,

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	provision of Green infrastructure.		further than the detail already set out in the Island Plan Core Strategy.
	Increased opportunities for sustainable travel, including public transport, walking and cycling.	+	5. Public & Community Transport This section of the plan supports improvements to Community Bus Programme, Southern Vectis services and car sharing schemes. Action 13.2 supports the introduction of a public foot/cycle path between Niton and Whitwell.
10. Culture and local distinctiveness To maintain and protect the local culture, traditions and civic pride of Island towns and villages and increase engagement in cultural activity	To secure better opportunities for people on the Island to have access to a range of cultural activities/facilities/events.	+	3. Niton & Whitwell Today This section identifies a number of cultural activities/facilities/events that occur within the Parish. 5. Public & Community Transport This section of the plan supports improvements to Community Bus Programme, Southern Vectis services and car sharing schemes. Action 13.2 supports the introduction of a public foot/cycle path between Niton and Whitwell.
11. Population: To develop and maintain a balanced and sustainable population structure	To achieve a balanced population structure on the Island.	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue, further than the detail already set out in the Island Plan Core Strategy.
	To balance the needs of permanent residents and visitors.	~	6. Housing and Planning does not support further small-scale chalet/caravan sites in the Parish, or

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on the Island			their conversion to residential development.
12. Crime and safety: To reduce crime and the fear of crime and ensure safety in the public realm	To reduce the fear of crime.	+	8. Crime, Policing and Neighbourhood Watch sets out the current situation, and how people can get involved.
	To cut levels of crime and disorder, including anti-social behaviour.	+	8. Crime, Policing and Neighbourhood Watch sets out the current situation, and how people can get involved.
13. Health: To improve the health and well being of the population and reduce inequalities in health.	To cut levels and inequalities in incidence and mortality from cancer, coronary heart disease, suicide and accidents.	~	10. Health Services describes the current provision within the Parish, and does not propose anything further.
	To keep an appropriate balance between services provided on the Island and the mainland.	~	10. Health Services describes the current provision within the Parish, and does not propose anything further.
	To support Social Services and health services agencies to safeguard a range of residential and nursing home provision for Island residents.	~	10. Health Services describes the current provision within the Parish, and does not propose anything further.
	Ensuring adequate access to the natural environment in contributing to people's physical and mental wellbeing, and also encouraging increased opportunities for walking and cycling.	+	10. Health Services describes the current provision within the Parish, and does not propose anything further. Action 13.2 supports the introduction of a public foot/cycle path between Niton and Whitwell.
14. Social Inclusion:	Promote community involvement and access to information and to empower local communities to become more involved in	+	Action 6.1 Welcomes pre-application discussions on development proposals

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To reduce the level and distribution of poverty and social exclusion across the Island.	making local decisions.		
	To address the level and the distribution of wealth across the Island.	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue, further than the detail already set out in the Island Plan Core Strategy.
	To ensure there is an equitable distribution of services and facilities for all sectors of society.	+	7. Recreation, Sport and Leisure Facilities identifies current facilities and deficiencies. Action 7.1 is to find a site to address the deficiency. Action 7.2 is to safeguard the future of facilities.
15. Education and training: To raise educational achievement levels across the Island and develop opportunities for everyone to acquire the skills they need to find and remain in work.	Ensure there is adequate provision of education facilities associated with new developments.	~	11. Education describes the current provision and that the current pre-school building is nearing the end of its life.
	Improve education attainment levels in school leavers.	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue.
	Improve skills and qualifications within the workforce.	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue.
16. Access: To improve accessibility to all	To help in the provision of learning opportunities that match skills supply to the demand of the local economy and businesses.	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue.
	To ensure transport is accessible for all sectors of the community, including those with mobility problems.	+	5. Public & Community Transport This section of the plan supports improvements to Community Bus Programme, Southern Vectis services and car sharing schemes.

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services and facilities.			Action 13.2 supports the introduction of a public foot/cycle path between Niton and Whitwell.
	Improving access to services and facilities (e.g. retail, leisure, sporting, cultural, communication, open space etc).	+	5. Public & Community Transport This section of the plan supports improvements to Community Bus Programme, Southern Vectis services and car sharing schemes. Action 13.2 supports the introduction of a public foot/cycle path between Niton and Whitwell. 7. Recreation, Sport and Leisure Facilities identifies current facilities and deficiencies. Action 7.1 is to find a site to address the deficiency. Action 7.2 is to safeguard the future of facilities. The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue.
	Improve access to jobs, higher level education, skills and training.	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue, further than the detail already set out in the Island Plan Core Strategy.
	Improve access for permanent residents to affordable homes.	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue, further than the detail already set out in the Island Plan Core Strategy.
	Improve access to smaller residential units for smaller households.	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue, further than the detail already set out in the Island Plan Core Strategy.
17. Material assets To ensure the	Improve condition of dwellings on the Island.	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue, further than the detail already set out in the Island Plan Core Strategy.

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provision of adequate infrastructure for transport, utilities, housing and public facilities to meet the needs of residents and	To meet housing needs on the Island.	+	6. Housing and Planning prefers small-scale infill development. Action 6.1 Welcomes pre-application discussions on development proposals.
	Ensure that the existing utilities infrastructure is sufficient to support existing and new development.	+	Action 4.1 supports the Island Roads programmed improvements to road drainage.
	To improve the physical quality of the Island's transport infrastructure network through appropriate investment.	+	Action 3.1 is to seek improvements to the Rookley to Niton Road Action 13.2 supports the introduction of a public foot/cycle path between Niton and Whitwell.
18. Employment: To ensure high and stable levels of employment so everyone can benefit from the economic growth of the Island.	Create opportunities to diversify the employment base.	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue, further than the detail already set out in the Island Plan Core Strategy. The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue, further than the detail already set out in the Island Plan Core Strategy.
	Increase average wages to achieve a better paid workforce.	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue.
	Reduce distances people travel to work.	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue, further than the detail already set out in the Island Plan Core Strategy.
	Improve opportunities for permanent and less seasonal employment on the island.	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue, further than the detail already set out in the Island Plan Core Strategy.

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	Reduce unemployment.	+	9. Niton & Whitwell Economy supports expansion and development of small start-up businesses. Action 9.1 is to improve marketing and communications aspects of local tourism.
19. Investment in business: To stimulate economic revival in priority regeneration areas	Provide opportunities for growth within small businesses and SMEs.	+	9. Niton & Whitwell Economy supports expansion and development of small start-up businesses. Action 9.1 is to improve marketing and communications aspects of local tourism.
	Provide opportunities for development and enhancement of traditional and local businesses and industry.	+	9. Niton & Whitwell Economy supports expansion and development of small start-up businesses. Action 9.1 is to improve marketing and communications aspects of local tourism.
20. Economic performance: To sustain economic growth and competitiveness.	To create opportunities for and facilitate inward investment for a range of business size.	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue, further than the detail already set out in the Island Plan Core Strategy.
	Improve quality of tourism accommodation and attractions.	+	Action 9.1 is to improve marketing and communications aspects of local tourism.
	Increase per capita GVA/GDP.	~	9. Niton & Whitwell Economy supports expansion and development of small start-up businesses. Action 9.1 is to improve marketing and communications aspects of local tourism.
	Increase the number of products 'exported' from the Island (to mainland and other countries).	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue.

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	Link local consumers to local markets to help provide a viable farming and forestry sector.	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue.
	Improve the balance from net importer of goods etc to being more self-sufficient.	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue.
	Increase the proportion of the population who are economically active.	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue, further than the detail already set out in the Island Plan Core Strategy.
	Encourage the development of a buoyant, sustainable tourism sector and to increase the diversity of the tourism market.	+	9. Niton & Whitwell Economy supports expansion and development of small start-up businesses. Action 9.1 is to improve marketing and communications aspects of local tourism.
	Promote the Island as a year round visitor destination.	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue, further than the detail already set out in the Island Plan Core Strategy.
	Increase wealth creation on the Island.	~	The Parish Plan does not seek to cover this issue, further than the detail already set out in the Island Plan Core Strategy.