

**Schedule 1: Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects on the environment**

| <b>Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects</b>   | <b>Likely to have significant effects</b> | <b>Justification for assessment</b>  |
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| 1 (a) the degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources | No  | <p>The Neighbourhood Plan) will form part of the Statutory Development Plan and therefore would set a framework for future development projects in Hertford Heath. However, the Neighbourhood Plan sits within a wider framework set out by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), and East Herts District Plan.</p> <p>In addition, the projects for which the neighbourhood plan contributes to setting a planning framework are very local in nature. The Watton-at-Stone Neighbourhood Plan does include two sites allocated for housing (see Section 7 above)</p> |
| 1 (b) the degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans or programmes including those in a hierarchy.   | No  | <p>The Neighbourhood Plan will sit alongside the statutory development plan and provide a greater degree of detail to illuminate the development plan policies, as they relate to the Watton-at-Stone Parish.</p> <p>However, the Neighbourhood Plan will respond to and align with rather than influence other plans or programmes.</p>   |
| 1 (c) the relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development  | No  | <p>The Neighbourhood Plan will work to protect and enhance the character, natural environment and landscape of Watton-at-Stone, including statutory and non-statutory environmental designations and Local Green</p>   |

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|  |     | <p>Space designations. A number of policies in the Neighbourhood Plan will contribute to the social sustainability of Watton-at-Stone and provide socially sustainable development as defined in the NPPF, including a supply of housing which meets the needs of current and future generations, balancing growth with infrastructure provision.</p> <p>Therefore, it is considered that the Neighbourhood Plan will have a positive impact on local environmental assets and therefore will promote sustainable development.</p>   |
| 1(d) environmental problems relevant to the plan   | Yes | <p>There will be an increase in the number of houses in the village as a result of new development. However, the Neighbourhood Plan will help to address wider environmental problems as highlighted in the NPPF at a local level, such as climate change, air pollution, traffic congestion, and loss of biodiversity; without any negative effects.</p> <p>Following the responses by the Environment Agency during the consultation period. It has been deemed that the location of a proposed footbridge within Flood Zone 3b presents unknown impacts. Because of that there could be likely significant effects.</p> |
| 1 (e) the relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection) | No  | <p>The Neighbourhood Plan complies with the East Herts planning documents and the NPPF which have taken account of existing legislation for environmental protection.</p> <p>The Neighbourhood Plan also contains policies requiring efficient, effective and well</p>   |

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|   |    | maintained SUDs systems to ensure no pollution run-off flows into the River Beane.   |
| 2 (a) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects | No | No significant effects have been identified.<br>The Neighbourhood Plan will result in positive environmental effects through policies that seek to protect rural landscape setting and important heritage assets including views, and limit flood risks; have positive social and economic effects by ensuring ongoing support for leisure and business facilities and promoting walking and cycling. These positive effects are small and low frequency but are likely to be long term. |
| 2 (b) the cumulative nature of the effects                                  | No | No significant effects have been identified.<br>A combination of the Neighbourhood Plan, which seeks to protect and enhance the character, environment and landscape of Watton-at-Stone and wider environmental policy in the East Herts District Plan is likely to have cumulative positive environmental effects and benefits for Watton-at-Stone.<br>Notwithstanding the above, the effects of the Neighbourhood Plan will be small scale.  |
| 2 (c) the trans-boundary nature of the effects                              | No | The boundaries of the village have been modestly extended in some parts to allocate for housing. This is to meet the specific housing target set by the East Herts District Plan. Every effort was made to find sites within the village boundary, but this was not possible.<br>However, all effects will have negligible or no impacts on  |

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|  |     | neighbouring areas as Watton-at-Stone is contained within roads and the railway line.   |
| 2 (d) the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)   | No  | No significant effects have been identified   |
| 2 (e) the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)   | No  | No significant effects have been identified. The Neighbourhood Plan aims to enhance the environment and to provide the infrastructure required to meet the social needs of Watton-at-Stone's residents.   |
| 2 (f) the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:<br>(i) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage<br>(ii) exceeded environmental quality standards<br>(iii) intensive land-use | Yes | <p>The Neighbourhood Plan area does contain sensitive features, although the Housing Allocation Sites are all outside the conservation area and do not impact on listed buildings or the historic park. Neither site allocation contains habitats of significance. There are no proposals in the Neighbourhood Plan which are likely to have significant environmental effects. In addition, design policies, environmental policies and the Design Code will protect and enhance the natural and historic environment.</p> <p>The following specific policies protect sensitive features:<br/>WAS 3-5; WAS 6; WAS 16-23.</p> <p>East Herts planning policies and the NPPF will also protect natural assets, listed and unlisted heritage assets and designated assets contained within the boundary of the Parish.</p> <p>Following the responses by the Environment Agency during the consultation period. It has been deemed that the location of a proposed footbridge within Flood</p> |

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|   |    | Zone 3b presents unknown impacts. Because of that there could be likely significant effects.   |
| 2 (g) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status | No | The Neighbourhood Plan contains policies aimed at protecting local Green Spaces, Local Wildlife Sites, Historic Parks and gardens. The following specific policies protect sensitive features:<br>WAS 3-5; WAS 6; WAS 16-23. |