

**Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitats
Regulations Assessment and Marine Plan
Screening Opinion for Antrobus Community
Right to Build Order**

Prepared on behalf of Antrobus Parish Council by
Cheshire West and Chester Council

January 2023

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1 Introduction

This screening opinion determines whether or not the draft Antrobus Community Right to Build order (CRtBO) Plan requires a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), and/or a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). It also assesses whether further work is required to ensure that the CRtBO takes full account of the relevant Marine Plans.

Under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, the responsible authority (i.e. the Local Planning Authority) must carry out an environmental assessment for any plan or programme that is prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications, tourism, town and country planning or land use, which sets the framework for future development consents of certain projects.

A CRtBO may be considered a plan for a proposed land use, but the regulations state that an environmental assessment need not be carried out for a plan or programme which determines the use of a small area at a local level unless it has been determined that the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects.

The regulations advise that a screening process is used to determine whether or not a plan is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. This process should use a specified set of criteria (set out in Schedule 1 of the regulations). The results of this process must be summarised in a SEA screening opinion, which is then sent to the statutory consultation bodies for comment. Once comments have been taken into account a screening determination is prepared setting out whether SEA is required and reasons for the decision and this must be made publicly available.

This screening opinion has been based upon the drawings of the proposal, as received by the Local Planning Authority on 5 January 2023.

Location and geographical scope of the proposed CRtBO

The site of the CRtBO is located at the junction of Knutsford Road and School Lane in Antrobus. The land forming the neighbourhood area is all within the ownership of Antrobus village hall apart from the small area covered by a electricity substation (which is owned by Manweb, which is now part of SP Energy Networks). The neighbourhood area currently includes the existing village hall, car parking, grassed area, play area and the temporary community shop and café, which is located within a static caravan. The current, temporary community shop and café does not have the benefit of planning permission and will need to be removed as part of the proposed CRtBO.

The area forming the neighbourhood area for the CRtBO covers less than 5 hectares and within this, it is proposed that there will be a building with a footprint of around 140 square metres.

The whole of the neighbourhood area is within the Green Belt. Part of the neighbourhood area is located within Antrobus Local Service Centre, but the land on which the new community shop and café is to be built is outside the Local Service Centre.

The neighbourhood area is not within a Conservation Area and there is no Conservation Area within Antrobus. There are no listed buildings close to the site, but there are several locally listed buildings.

It is at least 8km to any protected sites.

A map showing the boundary of the land to be covered by the neighbourhood area is provided separately.

Relationship to other plans and programmes

CRtBOs are a special type of Neighbourhood Development Order. They grant planning permission for a small-scale community-led development. The CRtBO will only grant permission for that specific development within the defined neighbourhood area. It does not provide policies relating to other types of development.

The CRtBO must be in general conformity with strategic local policy set out in the Local Plan. It must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development and meet EU obligations and human rights requirements. It must also have regard to listed buildings and conservation areas.

The current adopted Local Plan for the area is Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies (adopted January 2015) and the Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies (adopted July 2019). The Part One plan sets out the overall vision, strategic objectives, spatial strategy and strategic planning policies for the borough to 2030, with supporting policies in Part Two.

The Local Plan policy framework has been taken into account when carrying out the screening exercise. This forms the baseline for the SEA and HRA screening assessment. It has considered the potential effects of the CRtBO over and above the current adopted Local Plan (Part One) and the Local Plan (Part Two).

Scope and description of the CRtBO

The CRtBO covers a small site in Antrobus and specifically relates to the construction of a community shop and tearoom. The proposed building will replace the current temporary shop and tearoom located on the site in a static caravan.

There is already access and parking provided on the site, but this does not have the benefit of planning permission.

The proposed CRtBO includes minor landscaping works and hard landscaping but does not involve creation of a new access or removal of any existing trees.

The proposed community shop and cafe building has a footprint of around 140 square metres. It will be a single storey building with a pitched roof.

2 Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening

Legislative background and methodology

European Directive 2001/42/EC (the SEA Directive) required a Strategic Environmental Assessment to be carried out for certain plans and programmes to assess their effects on the environment. This Directive was transposed in law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

The Antrobus CRtBO fall within the scope of this legislation as it is a plan or programme prepared for town and country planning or land use and will set the framework for future development consent of projects. However, the CRtBO has been prepared at the local level to determine land use in a small area.

Under Part 5(6) of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004, SEA is only required for documents that determine land use of a small area at local level and minor modifications to plans and programmes where it is considered that it is likely to have significant environmental effects. Assessment of whether the plan is likely to have significant environmental effects is carried out through the screening process.

If SEA is required, the assessment is usually incorporated into a Sustainability Appraisal, which includes environmental factors as required under the SEA Directive, along with social and economic factors.

Screening methodology

The role of the screening exercise is to determine whether the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have a significant effect on the environment.

The criteria for assessing whether a plan or programme is likely to have a significant environmental effect are set out in Schedule 1 of the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004.

The assessment criteria used to determine whether a plan or programme will have significant environmental effects are separated into two categories:

- those relating to the characteristics of the plan or programme; and
- those relating to the characteristics of the plan or programme's effects and of the area likely to be affected.

In order to undertake the identification of the likely significance of effects, an assessment has been undertaken the potential types of effects resulting from the CRtBO. This has included an assessment of the impact that the CRtBO will have above and beyond the impact of existing Local Plan policies. This assessment is set out in the table in Appendix 1.

The assessment of the significant environmental effects of the draft CRtBO is set out in Appendix 2. The characteristics of the CRtBO's effects and the area likely to be affected are set out in Appendix 3.

Conclusion

As a result of the SEA screening assessment, Cheshire West and Chester Council consider that it is unlikely there will be any significant environmental effects arising from the Antrobus CRtBO. As such, a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Antrobus CRtBO is not required.

3 Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening

Legislative background

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 transposed the requirements of the European Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC into UK law. The Habitats Directive and Regulations afford protection to plants, animals and habitats that are rare and vulnerable in a European context.

Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is a systematic process through which the performance of a plan or project can be assessed for its likely impact on the integrity of a European Site. European sites, also referred to as Natura 2000 sites, consist of Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC); Potential Special Protection Areas and candidate Special Areas of Conservation (pSPA and cSAC); and listed or proposed Ramsar sites.

Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect on it, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, should be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives.

The first stage of HRA is to screen a plan or programme to identify if there are likely to be any significant effects on the European sites. This will indicate whether a full Appropriate Assessment is required. The regulations require that the impacts and effects of any land use plan being assessed, are considered in combination with other plans and projects that may also be affecting the relevant European site(s).

Inter-relationship with the Local Plan HRA

The Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies has already been through the HRA process, and the results detailed in the Cheshire West and Chester Local Plan Publication Draft (Part 1) Strategic Policies Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Report.

The HRA for the Local Plan (Part One) identified 12 European sites to include within the HRA:

- Oak Mere SAC;
- Midlands Meres and Mosses Ramsar site;
- West Midlands Mosses SAC;
- River Dee and Bala Lake SAC;
- Mersey Estuary SPA and Ramsar;

- Dee Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar;
- Liverpool Bay SPA;
- Berwyn and South Clwyd Mountains SAC;
- Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar and SPA;
- Sefton Coast SAC;
- Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site; and
- River Eden SAC.

Information about all of these sites, the reasons for designation, pressures and pathways of impacts are provided in the HRA for the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two). Information about sites relevant to the CRtBO is summarised in Appendix 4.

Map 1 shows the European sites that are within 15km of the CRtBO. All of the other European sites have been screened out from this assessment as impacts would not occur due to the distance or would be so small and insignificant in scale that they would not have a Likely Significant Effect, even when combined with other plans or projects.

Map 1: European sites within 15km of the Antrobus CRtBO

Due to the location of the CRtBO site, there are three additional European sites that are within 15km of the CRtBO but were not considered through work on the Local Plan. These sites are:

- Manchester Mosses
- Rixton Clay Pits
- Rostherne Mere

The following sites have been screened out as they are outside the 15km radius for the Antrobus CRtBO neighbourhood area:

- River Dee and Bala Lake SAC
- Dee Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar;
- Liverpool Bay SPA;
- Berwyn and South Clwyd Mountains SAC;
- Mersey Narrows and North Wirral Foreshore Ramsar and SPA;
- Sefton Coast SAC;
- Ribble and Alt Estuaries SPA and Ramsar site; and
- River Eden SAC.

Due to the distance from these areas and the small scale of anticipated development proposed through the CRtBO, it is not considered relevant to include these sites in the HRA Screening of the Antrobus CRtBO.

The European protected sites that fall within a 15km radius of the CRtBO neighbourhood area (as shown on Map 2) are included within the HRA Screening.

Appendix 4 identifies the reasons for the designation of each relevant European protected site and the existing pressures and potential impacts.

The conservation objectives of the European sites will be taken into account. These include maintaining or restoring:

- 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
- The distribution of qualifying species within the site.

The HRA undertaken for the Local Plan (Part One) and (Part Two) forms part of the baseline for the HRA screening assessment of the Antrobus CRtBO. The potential effects of the CRtBO over and above those already assessed for the Local Plan have been considered. The Local Plan (Part One) was identified through the HRA process, as not leading to a Likely Significant Effect on European Sites. The HRA of the Local Plan (Part Two) concluded that, in the context of the over-arching strategic policies contained within the Local Plan (Part One) comprises a sufficient policy framework to enable the subsequent delivery of necessary measures that would avoid or adequately mitigate adverse effects on internationally designated sites and thus enable a conclusion of no adverse effect on integrity.

The European sites are also subject to certain pressures that are outside the scope of the Local Plan and CRtBO and therefore have not been included in the table above. Table 1 identifies the potential pressures and explains why it is not considered relevant to the HRA of the Antrobus CRtBO.

Table 1: Potential pressures outside the scope of the HRA

Pressure	Reasons outside scope of this HRA
Disturbance of sediment releasing legacy heavy metal pollution that is bound into the sediment.	The CRtBO relates to a small-scale, land based development, which will not disturb sediment within European sites.
Pollution via commercial shipping by chemical or noise pollution and dumping of litter at sea	The CRtBO will not have a significant impact on commercial shipping.
Navigational / aggregate dredging resulting in physical loss and alteration of coastal processes or damage of marine benthic habitat	The CRtBO will not have a significant impact on navigational or aggregate dredging.
Overfishing of particular species	Fishing levels are not controlled through the CRtBO.
Grazing / overgrazing	Grazing levels are not controlled through the CRtBO.
Damage of marine benthic habitat directly from fishing methods	Commercial fishing methods and levels are not controlled through the CRtBO.
The need to manage continuing coastal erosion at protected sites outside CWaC	The CRtBO will not impact on management of coastal erosion in areas outside CWaC.
The need to develop and maintain management practices which sustain the conservation value of	The CRtBO cannot influence management

the area for protected sites outside CWaC.	practices for protected sites outside CWaC.
Loss or damage of habitat as a result of increasing off-shore exploration and production activity associated with oil and natural gas on protected sites outside CWaC.	The CRtBO is within CWaC and cannot control oil and gas exploration and production activity outside CWaC.
Coastal squeeze from land reclamation and coastal flood defences and drainage in European sites outside CWaC.	The CRtBO is within CWaC and will not have a significant impact on coastal squeeze resulting from land reclamation, coastal flood defences and drainage in areas outside CWaC.
Modification of cultivation practices	The CRtBO cannot influence cultivation practices outside the neighbourhood area.
Forest and plantation management and use	The CRtBO cannot influence forest and plantation management or use outside the neighbourhood area.

HRA screening

The CRtBO is not directly connected with, or necessary to the management of a European site for nature conservation and therefore needs to be assessed for Likely Significant Effects.

It is considered that as long as the CRtBO does not alter the strategic policy framework assessed in the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two) HRA Screening Report and does not have Likely Significant Effects beyond this, then Appropriate Assessment of the Antrobus CRtBO will not be required.

In March 2022, Natural England issued advice to Local Authorities about the adverse effect that nutrient pollution is having on habitats sites. Nutrient neutrality advice requires that competent authorities under the Habitats Regulations carefully consider the nutrient impacts of any new plans and projects on habitats sites and whether those impacts may have an adverse effect on the integrity of a protected site. Within CWaC, Oakmere and the West Midlands Meres and Mosses are identified as potentially affected sites.

Oakmere and the West Midlands Meres and Mosses have been screened in for the HRA as they fall within the 15km radius. However, as the CRtBO only relates to a small area and the development of a community shop and café it is unlikely to create a source of water pollution and there is no hydrological connectivity with Oakmere or the West Midlands Meres and Mosses. It is therefore not necessary to apply the nutrient neutrality methodology to the Antrobus CRtBO.

Appendix 5 identifies whether the CRtBO alters the policy position for the area or has a Likely Significant Effect alone. If a Likely Significant Effect is identified, the CRtBO would be taken forward for further investigation through Appropriate Assessment. If there is no Likely Significant Effect when considering the CRtBO, the final column assesses whether the policy could have a Likely Significant Effect when combined with the effects of other relevant policies, plans or projects.

Conclusion

The CRtBO relates only to a small area within Antrobus and the development of a community shop and café. The CRtBO will not impact on the policy position outside the defined Antrobus neighbourhood area. The CRtBO will grant planning permission for the proposed community shop and café but for any other development within the CRtBO area or any proposals outside that area the development plan policies within the Local Plan (Part One), Local Plan (Part Two) and any relevant Neighbourhood Plans will be taken into account.

The CRtBO will not impact on the level of housing or other development within Antrobus or the rural area, apart from granting permission for a community shop and café.

There are no specific issues highlighted in the HRA of the Local Plan in relation to Antrobus, although there were other more general potential impacts resulting from the quantum and location of development proposed for the borough as a whole in the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two). However, this was considered within the HRAs for the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two) and the HRAs concluded that there were sufficient mitigation and control measures in the policy framework of the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two) to avoid and mitigate any of these adverse effects on the integrity of a European site in the emerging Local Plan. The Antrobus CRtBO will not add significantly to the impacts and will not prevent the mitigation and control measures from avoiding and mitigating the effects sufficiently.

Therefore, it is considered that the Antrobus CRtBO and proposed community shop and café would not result in a Likely Significant Effect on a European site beyond those already identified and assessed through the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two) Habitats Regulation Assessment Report.

The Antrobus CRtBO is unlikely to have an adverse effect on a European site (as defined in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (d), alone or in combination with other plans and projects. As such, Appropriate Assessment is not considered to be required.

4 Marine Plan Screening

Marine planning ensures that the right activities happen in the right place, at the right time and in the right way in marine areas.

Marine plans provide guidance on things to promote or avoid in certain marine locations. As the marine planning authority for England, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) is responsible for preparing marine plans in England for inshore and offshore waters.

The Marine Plans that are potentially relevant to CRtBOs in Cheshire West and Chester (CWaC) are the draft North West Marine Plan and the Welsh National Marine Plan. The diagram below shows the areas covered by these Marine Plans. Marine plans apply up to the mean high-water springs mark, which includes the tidal extent of any rivers, as shown on the map.

Figure showing CWaC boundary in black. The light blue is the area covered by the North West Marine Plan, and the darker turquoise the area covered by the Welsh National Marine Plan.

Map 1 in the section above also shows the location of part of the North West Marine Plan, part of which falls within 15km of the CRtBO neighbourhood area.

It is a legal requirement for marine plans to be considered in all decisions that affect England's marine area, now and into the future. Section 58(3) of the Marine and Coastal Access Act requires that public authorities must have regard to marine plans when taking any decisions which relate to the exercise of any function capable of affecting the UK marine area. This can include decision making relating to CRtBOs.

The policies set out in marine plans apply only in their area (i.e. up to the mean high-water springs mark – which includes the tidal extent of any rivers), but if a proposed activity may affect the plan area, this should be acknowledged and considered.

There are not statutory requirements or guidelines for the screening of CRtBOs to assess likelihood of impacts on the marine plan or marine area. To do this we undertake a three-stage process, with the first stage to assess the distance of the CRtBO neighbourhood area from the marine area.

Stage 1

If a CRtBO extends into the marine plan area, it should be screened in. If a CRtBO is within 1km of a marine plan area it should proceed to the next stage, but it is likely that it will need to be screened in. As the distance from mean high-water springs mark increases, the likelihood of being screened in reduces, however further assessment is required at the next stage.

Antrobus CRtBO neighbourhood area is over 8km from the mean high-water springs mark for the North West Marine Plan and over 35km from the mean high-water springs mark for the Welsh National Marine Plan.

The Welsh National Marine Plan is screened out due to distance and the fact that there are no major watercourses close to Antrobus that drain into the Welsh National Marine Plan area. As such, no further assessment is required in relation to the Welsh National Marine Plan.

The North West Marine Plan boundary is closer to Antrobus, but there are no major watercourses close to Antrobus that drain into the Mersey or any other parts of the North West Marine Plan area. Due to the location and the small scale of the proposal in the CRtBO, there are no significant direct or indirect pathways of impact and. Further assessment through Stage 2 and Stage 3 is not required.

Conclusion

The Antrobus CRtBO is unlikely to impact on the North West Marine Plan area or Welsh Marine Plan area due to the significant distance between the site and the marine plan areas, the small scale of the proposed development and because there are no major watercourses close to Antrobus that drain into the marine plan areas.

Appendix 1: SEA Screening - Overview of identified effects of the Antrobus CRtBO

Identified potential effects of policy (taking into account SEA topics of biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage and landscape).	Relationship to Local Plan (Part One) Strategic Policies and Local Plan (Part Two) Land Allocations and Detailed Policies
Biodiversity, flora and fauna – loss of existing grassed area	ENV 3 (green infrastructure) ENV 4 (biodiversity and geodiversity)
Population and human health – will provide positive opportunities for social interaction and purchase of food within the local community	SOC 5 (health and wellbeing) T 5 (parking and access)
Soil – impact on soil quality in area covered by the proposed building. Additional soil impacts through hard landscaping. Parking area already in place.	ENV 4 (biodiversity and geodiversity)
Water – potential for increased runoff due to new building and hard landscaping.	ENV 1 (flood risk and water management) DM 41 (Sustainable Drainage Systems) (SuDS) (not strategic)
Air and climatic factors – enables local community to obtain food and visit a café within walking distance. Potential for increased travel from other areas to visits shop or café.	STRAT 1 (sustainable development) STRAT 10 (transport and accessibility) T 5 (parking and access) ENV 6 (high quality design and sustainable construction)
Cultural heritage – no conservation area or listed buildings in the nearby area, but close to locally listed building and potential to impact on their setting.	ENV 5 (historic environment)
Landscape – within Green Belt and may impact on views and openness.	STRAT 9 (green belt and countryside) ENV 2 (landscape) GBC 2 (protection of landscape)

<p>Economic development (no SEA topic) – the proposal will provide a community-run business, but retail uses should be directed to town centres and the site is located outside the Antrobus Local Service Centre</p>	<p>ECON 2 (town centres) DM 39 (culture and community facilities) (not strategic)</p>
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Appendix 2: SEA Screening – Assessment of significant environmental effects of the Antrobus CRtBO

SEA Directive	Characteristics of the plan	Significant environmental effect?
<p>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</p>	<p>The CRtBO covers a small site in Antrobus and relates to construction of a community shop and café only. As such, it is a local level document that will determine land use in a small area. It will not impact on the planning policy framework outside the designated neighbourhood area in Antrobus.</p> <p>The CRtBO is required to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted Local Plan and to have regard to national policy and guidance. The CRtBO will grant permission for a community shop and café within the neighbourhood area, subject to certain conditions. Apart from this, it will not impact on the strategic location, nature, size and operating conditions of new development over and above that set by the adopted Local Plan for the borough.</p> <p>The CRtBO will work alongside the strategic policies in the development plan; other development management measures and environmental protection legislation.</p> <p>The proposed community shop and café in Antrobus is not identified specifically within the Local Plan and the site is outside the identified Antrobus Local Service Centre boundary and is within the Green Belt. However, as the proposal relates to a small local site it will not result in development at a scale significantly above that set out in the Local Plan.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy</p>	<p>The CRtBO has to be in general conformity with the strategic policies of the adopted Local Plan and must contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It will have very limited influence over other plans and programmes as it relates to a specific local-level site.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development</p>	<p>The CRtBO is required, as one of the basic condition tests, to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Whether this basic condition is met will be tested during the examination of the CRtBO. However, the framework for the promotion of sustainable development is set by the Government's Strategy for Sustainable Development, the National Planning Policy Framework and the policies in the adopted Local Plan for the borough. Given the small-scale of the CRtBO and the fact that it relates to a specific proposal and site, it will not change the sustainable development policies in plans and policies at the higher strategic level.</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme</p>	<p>The Sustainability Appraisal scoping reports for the Local Plan (Part One and Part Two) provide a comprehensive overview of the issues in Cheshire West and Chester. The previous closure of a local shop within Antrobus resulted in development of a temporary shop and café in a static caravan to meet local needs and reduce the need for local</p>	<p>No</p>

	residents to travel to other areas. The CRtBO aims to provide a permanent building to locate the shop and tearoom. There are no specific additional environmental problems identified for the Antrobus area.	
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)	The CRtBO will have no direct role in the delivery of community legislation on the environment. The CRtBO has been subject to Habitats Regulation Assessment screening as set out in part 2 of this document.	No

Appendix 3: SEA Screening – Characteristics of the plan’s effects and of the area likely to be affected

Identified effects of the proposed policies	Probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Cumulative nature of the effects	Trans-boundary nature of the effects ¹	Risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	Magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on special natural characteristics or cultural heritage	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on environmental quality standards or limit values	Value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to the effect on intensity of land-use	Effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, Community or international protection status	Significant environmental effect?
Biodiversity , flora and fauna	High probability, low frequency, low reversibility and long term impact.	Potential for small scale cumulative effects with other developments within the area. But this will be limited by the Green Belt location.	None	None	Local, small scale at the neighbourhood level.	Medium value / vulnerability. Green Belt site, but no specific biodiversity or heritage designations on the site. Close to several locally listed buildings.	Low	Medium – will intensify use of land in this specific location	Low – as no specific biodiversity or landscape designations on or close to the site	No

¹ The assessment here has considered whether the effect of the policy goes beyond the UK and impacts upon other EU territories. Given scale and nature of Neighbourhood Plan the effects are not considered to be transboundary.

Population and human health	High probability, low frequency, low reversibility and long term impact.	Potential for small scale cumulative effects with other developments within the area. But this will be limited by the Green Belt location.	None	None	Local, small scale at the neighbourhood level.	Medium value / vulnerability. Green Belt site, but no specific biodiversity or heritage designations on the site. Close to several locally listed buildings.	Low	Low – will improve access to food and opportunities for social interaction but at a small scale and for the Antrobus area only	Low – as no specific biodiversity or landscape designations on or close to the site	No
Soil	High probability, low frequency, low reversibility and long term impact.	Potential for small scale cumulative effects with other developments within the area. But this will be limited by the Green Belt location.	None	None	Local, small scale at the neighbourhood level.	Medium value / vulnerability. Green Belt site, but no specific soil or mineral designations.	Low	Medium – will intensify use of land in this specific location	Low – as no specific biodiversity or landscape designations on or close to the site	No

Water	High probability, medium frequency, low reversibility and long term impact as the neighbourhood area includes areas at risk of surface water flooding.	Potential for small scale cumulative effects with other developments within the area. But this will be limited by the Green Belt location.	None	Potential for increased surface water flooding in the local area.	Local, small scale at the neighbourhood level.	Medium value / vulnerability. Green Belt site, but no specific biodiversity or heritage designations on the site. Close to several locally listed buildings.	Existing risk of surface water flooding could be exacerbated by additional development.	Medium – will intensify use of land in this specific location and the increase in impermeable areas could increase risk of surface water flooding.	Low – as no specific biodiversity or landscape designations on or close to the site	No
Air and climatic factors	High probability, low frequency, short, medium and long term impact but at a small scale.	Potential for small scale cumulative effects with other developments within the area. But this will be limited by the Green Belt location.	None	None	Local, small scale at the neighbourhood level.	Medium value / vulnerability. Green Belt site, but no specific air quality issues or designations.	Low	Medium – will intensify use of land in this specific location	Low – as no specific biodiversity or landscape designations on or close to the site	No

Cultural heritage	Low probability as the site is not within a conservation area and there are no listed buildings nearby. There are locally listed buildings nearby. Low frequency, short, medium and long term impact but at a small scale.	Potential for small scale cumulative effects with other developments within the area. But this will be limited by the Green Belt location.	None	None	Local, small scale at the neighbourhood level.	Medium value / vulnerability. Green Belt site with some locally listed buildings nearby, but no conservation area or listed buildings.	Low	Medium – will intensify use of land in this specific location	Low to medium – as no conservation area or listed buildings, but there are some locally listed buildings nearby.	No
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Appendix 4 – HRA Screening - European sites relevant to the CRtBO

European site	Reason for inclusion	Reason for designation	Existing pressures and potential impacts
Oak Mere SAC	Located within Cheshire West and Chester	Water body with clear water of low nutrient status characteristics of oligotrophic waters and a marginal zone of shoreweed (<i>Littorella uniflora</i>). Site supports an assemblage of plants that are rare in the lowlands of England, including bog moss (<i>Sphagnum</i> spp) and the scarce narrow small-reed (<i>Calamagrostis stricta</i>).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water pollution / enrichment. - Hydrological changes - reduction in size of the mere due to natural lowering of the local water table caused by successive droughts, resulting in threat to shoreline communities from desiccation and invasion by birch and willow. - Atmospheric pollution from nearby roads.
Midlands Meres and Mosses	Located within Cheshire West	Series of open water and peatland sites supporting a diverse range of habitats from open water to raised bog.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Water pollution / enrichment. - Hydrological changes.

Ramsar site	and Chester	This includes natural dystrophic lakes and ponds and transition mires and quaking bogs with floating bog moss.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Despite number of visitors to some of the meres and mosses, interest features are resilient to recreational pressure and off-track trampling is not a significant issue due to the hazardous nature of the sites away from designated tracks and boardwalks. - Due to distance to major roads, changes in local air quality are not an issue requiring investigation.
West Midlands Mosses SAC	Located partly within Cheshire West and Chester	Site supports a number of rare plant species associated with wetlands and an assemblage of rare wetland invertebrates.	
Mersey Estuary SPA and Ramsar	Located partially within Cheshire West and Chester	<p>Designated for over-wintering and on passage birds.</p> <p>Over winter – Golden plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>), Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>), Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>), Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>), Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>), Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>), Wigeon (<i>Anas Penelope</i>), Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>), Grey plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>), Great crested grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>), Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>).</p> <p>On passage – Ringed plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>).</p> <p>It also contains internationally important populations of Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>), Black-tailed godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>), Redshank (<i>Tringa tetanus</i>), Eurasian teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>), Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) and Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>).</p> <p>It also has a 5 year peak mean (1998/99-2002/3) of 89,576 waterfowl.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recreational disturbance from abrasion (boating, anchoring, trampling). - Selective extraction of species (harvesting, bait digging, recreational fishing) - Visual presence of recreational activity. - Disturbance to birds from increased recreational pressure and wildfowling. - Coastal squeeze and loss of supporting habitat. - Deterioration in water quality. - Deterioration in air quality. - Introduction of non-native species.
Manchester Mosses	Located outside Cheshire West and Chester	Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration. Also includes broad-leaved deciduous woodland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grazing. - Modification of cultivation practices. - Forest and plantation management and use. - Air pollution through air-borne pollutants. - Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions.
Rixton Clay Pits	Located outside Cheshire West and Chester	Designated for <i>Triturus cristatus</i> , for which this is considered to be one of the best areas in the UK. Inland water body, heath, scrub, humid grassland and mesophile grassland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Other human intrusions and disturbances.
Rostherne Mere	Located outside Cheshire West and Chester	One of the deepest and largest meres of the Shropshire-Cheshire Plain. It's shoreline is fringed with common reed (<i>Phragmites australis</i>). Supports Great cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo carbo</i>), Great bittern (<i>Botaurus stellaris stellaris</i>) and Water Rail (<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eutrophication. - Introduction / invasion of non-native animal species.

Appendix 5: HRA Screening – Screening of Antrobus CRtBO for Likely Significant Effect

Antrobus CRtBO	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) alone?	LSE in combination?
<p>The CRtBO will grant planning permission for a community shop and café on the edge of Antrobus. It will not impact on the policy position outside the Antrobus neighbourhood area.</p>	<p>The proposed community shop and café could have a minor positive impact on air quality through a reduction in the need of local residents travelling to other nearby retail centres. However, the shop and café may attract some visitors from other areas, so the impact on air quality is likely to be negligible. The shop and café will require water and will discharge water and the car parking and hard landscaping could increase runoff and surface water flooding if this is not managed correctly. However, due to the small scale of the site and the distance to European sites there are no significant links or pathways with air quality or water quality. The proposed community shop and café will not result in increased visits to or close to European sites or introduction of invasive species and as such, there is no link or pathway with recreational disturbance or invasive species.</p> <p>No LSE.</p>	<p>Due to the small scale of the proposed community shop and café and the fact that Antrobus is located within the Green Belt (so additional development is unlikely) it is unlikely that there will be LSE in combination with other policies, plans or projects.</p> <p>No LSE.</p>