



**Warwick District Council
Net Zero Carbon DPD
Proposed Main Modifications (MMs)**

**Sustainability Appraisal (SA)
incorporating Strategic Environmental
Assessment (SEA) & Habitats
Regulations Assessment (HRA)**

**Addendum Note
May 2023**

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Warwick District Council: Net Zero Carbon DPD Proposed Main Modifications (MMs)

Sustainability Appraisal (SA) incorporating Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) & Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

Addendum Note May 2023

<i>date:</i>	May 2023 Draft v01; May 2023 Final v02	
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Contents:

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Screening the MMs for SA & HRA Significance
- 3 Summary & Next Steps

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Warwick Net Zero Carbon DPD: Submission & Examination

- 1.1 The draft Warwick Net Zero Carbon DPD was submitted to the Secretary of State on 17 October 2022 for independent examination by a Planning Inspector. The examination hearings were held between 7 and 9 March 2023¹. The Inspector raised certain Matters, Issues & Questions prior to the hearing sessions and these included queries regarding the SA/SEA and HRA for Matter 1 Legal & Procedural Requirements. The Council prepared a written statement that responded to queries relating to these assessments. The SA and HRA were discussed during the first session on the morning of 7 March 2023.
- 1.2 The Inspector in his post hearing letter of 30 March 2023 [EXAM_12] advised that main modifications to the submission DPD would be required to be made for reasons of soundness. He did not raise any concerns regarding the SA/SEA and HRA. In his further letter of 12 May 2023 [EXAM_17], he asked the Council to consider and advise as to whether any updates to the SA and/or HRA were required as a result of the proposed modifications identified. If so, they will need to be included in the consultation on the Proposed Modifications.

Purpose & Method for the SA & HRA Addendum Note

- 1.3 This SA Addendum constitutes part of the SA/SEA report submitted [SUB3] for the purposes of compliance with SA and SEA requirements. This Addendum Report only addresses the implications for the assessments with regard to the proposed MMs; it does not reconsider any other aspects of the DPD. Thus, the purpose of the SA Addendum is to consider those proposed MMs that are likely to have significant effects and to demonstrate that the requirements for SA, SEA and HRA have been met.
- 1.4 Government planning guidance² advises that amendments to the SA should be appropriate and proportionate to the level of change being made to the plan. A change is likely to be significant if it substantially alters the plan and/or is likely to give rise to significant effects. An appropriate and proportionate approach has been taken and the proposed MMs have been screened using professional judgment to assess their likely significance with regard to SA/SEA and HRA. Any MMs that might be significant are considered with regard to the same assessment method (Section 2 SUB3) and the implications for the previous findings considered.

¹ https://www.warwickdc.gov.uk/info/20799/development_plan_documents

² <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/strategic-environmental-assessment-and-sustainability-appraisal>

2.0 SCREENING THE PROPOSED MAIN MODIFICATIONS (MMs) FOR SA & HRA SIGNIFICANCE

2.1 The proposed MMs were screened for their significance with regard to SA, SEA and HRA, as set out in the following Table 2.1:

Table 2.1: Screening the MMs for SA/SEA & HRA Significance

MM No.	DPD Ref.	Summary of Change	Significant for SA/SEA or HRA?
01	New para 5.12	New text to clarify how the DPD Policy NZC1 relates to existing Local Plan policies	No
02	New para 6.11	New text to clarify how the DPD Policy NZC2(A) relates to existing Local Plan policies	No
03	New para 7.10	New text to clarify how the DPD Policy NZC2(B) relates to existing Local Plan policies	No
04	Para 8.7	Additional text to outline & provide clarification on the measures that have been taken in creating a carbon market for Warwickshire & which will be the preferred carbon offsetting mechanism for the DPD	No
05	New para 8.10	New text to clarify how the DPD Policy NZC2(C) relates to existing Local Plan policy and the relationship with CIL	No
06	New para 9.4	New text to clarify how the DPD Policy NZC3 relates to existing Local Plan policy	No
07	New para 10.3	New text to clarify how the DPD Policy NZC4 relates to existing Local Plan policy	No
08	Para 1.3.1	Deletion to avoid duplication	No
09	Para 4.1.2	Additional text to clarify that the DPD relates to regulated operational energy & does not include unregulated energy and associated emissions	No
10	Para 4.2.1 Obj. 1	<i>...to have net zero <u>regulated</u> carbon in operation.</i>	No
11	Para 4.2.2 Obj. 2	<i>... standards that can be applied to new <u>and existing</u> buildings</i>	No
12	Para 5.2	For factual clarification that the DPD relates to regulated operational energy & associated carbon emissions	No
13	Para 5.6	For factual clarification that the DPD relates to regulated operational energy & associated carbon emissions	No
14	Policy NZC2(B)	<i>... and achieve on-site net zero regulated operational carbon wherever possible.</i>	No
15	Para 12.1	To correct that Policy CC3 is expanded & the requirements in relation to BREEAM standards are not superseded	Yes?

16	Para 3.3.4	To outline & clarify that the DPD supports & expands upon relevant Local Plan policies	No
17	Para 3.3.5	Additional text for signposting	No
18	Para 3.3.6	Additional text for signposting	No
19	Para 8.9	Additional text to clarify the relationship with CIL & other funds	No
20	Para 9.3	Additional text to clarify the assessment methods considered appropriate & that supplementary guidance will be provided on the type & scope of embodied carbon assessments	No

- 2.2 Most of the proposed main modifications are to provide greater clarity, correct errors, avoid repetition, for consistency, and for updating, and as such are not significant for the findings of the assessment processes. There is only one proposed change to policy wording – PMM14 and Policy NZC2(B) Zero or Low Carbon Energy Sources and Zero Carbon Ready Technology. The addition of the word “regulated” provides clarity that the policy applies to regulated operational energy and associated carbon emissions. The deletion of the wording “where possible” in the first paragraph of the policy removes duplication since it is in the second paragraph that the policy addresses circumstances where it is not possible (ie feasible or viable) to achieve on-site regulated net zero carbon.
- 2.3 The Submission DPD included superseding of Policy CC3 Building Standards & Other Sustainability Requirements. Following comments made and discussion during the examination hearings, it was agreed that Policy CC3 should not be superseded but rather should be expanded. Proposed MM12 relates to this correction as an amendment to paragraph 12.1 of the DPD. Whilst Policy CC3 and its requirement for BREEAM Very Good for major non-residential schemes will not deliver the carbon reductions sought by the DPD, BREEAM has a wider range of environmental benefits as it also addresses matters such as ecology, water, health and wellbeing, pollution, transport, materials, waste and management.
- 2.4 This change does not change the DPD policy requirements but will enable the continuation of an existing policy. The support and expansion of Local Plan Policy CC3 confirms and enhances the likely positive effects found through the SA process and confirms the effectiveness of mitigation measures that require environmental assessment methods such as BREEAM.
- 2.5 There are no negative effects indicated from the proposed MMs and there are no implications for the HRA findings.

3.0 SUMMARY & NEXT STEPS

- 3.1 The implications of the proposed MMs on the findings of the previous SA/SEA and HRA have been investigated. The MMs were screened for their significance with regard to the assessment processes. Most amendments are to provide further clarity and the changes do not substantially alter the plan. Overall, the previous findings of the SA/SEA remain relevant and valid. One change to reinstate the BREEAM requirement by expanding, rather than superseding, Local Plan Policy CC3 Building Standards confirms the positive effects found by the SA. The previous findings of the HRA remain relevant and valid - the Warwick NZC DPD will not have adverse effects on the integrity of protected sites, alone or in combination.

- 3.2 The proposed MMs will be subject to public consultation later this year, including this SA Addendum Note. The details of the consultation will be made available on the Council's website. The Inspector will consider any representations made and then his final report will be published later in 2023. Upon adoption of the modified Plan, an SA Adoption Statement will also be prepared and published, in accordance with regulatory requirements.