
**Anglesey County Council and Gwynedd Council
Joint Local Development Plan**

HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT

July 2017

enfusion



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enfusion

environmental planning and management for sustainability



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Anglesey County Council and Gwynedd Council have prepared a Joint Local Development Plan (JLDP) for the Gwynedd and Anglesey Local Planning Authority Areas. The JLDP sets out the strategy for development and land use in Anglesey and Gwynedd for the next 15 years (2011- 2026). It sets out policies to implement the strategy and provide guidance on the location of new houses, employment opportunities and leisure and community facilities.
- 1.2 In line with the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended) [the Habitats Regulations] the Councils, in their roles as the competent authorities, have undertaken a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the JLDP. Enfusion Ltd was commissioned to carry out the HRA for JLDP on behalf of both Councils.

Background

- 1.3 Anglesey County Council and Gwynedd Council set up a Joint Policy Unit in 2011 to prepare a Joint Local Development Plan (JLDP) for the Gwynedd and Anglesey Local Planning Authority Areas. The JLDP sets out the strategy for development and land use in Anglesey and Gwynedd for the next 15 years. The JLDP aims to achieve the following:
- Guide the development of housing, retail, employment and other uses;
 - Include policies which will aid each Local Planning Authority's decision with regard to planning applications; and
 - Protect areas to ensure the maintenance and enrichment of the natural and built environment.
- 1.4 The HRA process for the JLDP began in 2013, when HRA Screening was undertaken for the Preferred Strategy. The findings of this work were presented in the HRA Screening Report (May 2013). The screening found that the majority of Preferred Strategy Policies were unlikely to have significant effects on European sites either alone or in combination as they do not necessarily propose development or support certain types of development and set out criteria for the determination of any planning applications.
- 1.5 The report made recommendations to strengthen the mitigation provided by specific policies to ensure that there would be no likely significant effects on European sites either alone or in combination. The HRA screening of the Preferred Strategy concluded that there was the potential for significant effects on identified European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans, programmes or projects. It recommended that further screening work was carried out at the next stage of the JLDP (Deposit), which provided further detailed policies and site allocations to allow a more comprehensive assessment of the impacts and how they may affect European sites.

- 1.6 Following consultation on the Preferred Strategy in 2013, the Councils progressed with the preparation of the Deposit JLDP. In line with the recommendations of the Preferred Strategy HRA Report, further HRA screening work was carried out to consider the policies and development proposed in the Deposit JLDP. The findings of this work were presented in a HRA Report (Feb 2015) that accompanied the Deposit JLDP on public consultation which ended in March 2015. The screening concluded that the Deposit JLDP was not likely to have significant effects on any European sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans, programmes and projects. A further HRA report was produced in February 2016 which screened the Focused Changes made to the Plan following consultation on the Deposit JLDP. This report accompanied the Deposit JLDP and Focused Changes on submission to the Welsh Government.
- 1.7 In July 2016 a HRA Addendum Report considered proposed amendments to the JLDP following consideration of responses to the Focused Changes as well as further work undertaken in relation to Gypsy and Traveller site options. In December 2016 a further Addendum Report considered the Matters Arising Changes during examination of the JLDP. Both these reports were also submitted to the Welsh Government as part of the examination process.

Consultation

- 1.7 The Habitats Regulations require the plan making/ competent authorities [Anglesey County Council and Gwynedd Council] to consult the appropriate nature conservation statutory body [Natural Resources Wales (NRW)]. Comments from NRW were received on the HRA Screening Report published in May 2013 and on the HRA Report that accompanied the Deposit JLDP on consultation in February 2015. These and any other advice provided have been taken forward in the iterative HRA work documented in this Report.

Purpose and Structure of Report

- 1.8 The purpose of the Report is to bring together the HRA work undertaken and to summarise whether the policies and proposals set out in the JLDP are likely to have a significant effect on European sites, either alone or in-combination with other plans or projects and whether in the light of available avoidance and mitigation measures, an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is necessary. Following this introductory section the report is organised into three further sections:
- **Section 2** - summarises the requirements and approach for the HRA of the JLDP.
 - **Section 3** - outlines the Screening process and the findings of the screening assessment for the Deposit JLDP, Focused Changes and Matters Arising Changes.
 - **Section 5** - summarises the findings of the HRA

2.0 HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT (HRA) AND THE PLAN

Requirement for Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 2.1 The Habitats Regulations require that HRA is applied to all statutory land use plans in England and Wales. The aim of the HRA process is to assess the potential effects arising from a plan against the conservation objectives of any site designated for its nature conservation importance.
- 2.2 The Habitats Regulations transpose the requirements of the European Directive (92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna [the Habitats Directive] which aims to protect habitats and species of European nature conservation importance. The Directive establishes a network of internationally important sites designated for their ecological status. These are referred to as Natura 2000 sites or European Sites, and comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) which are designated under European Directive (2009/147/EC) on the conservation of wild birds [the Birds Directive]. In addition, Government guidance also requires that Ramsar sites (which support internationally important wetland habitats and are listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance [Ramsar Convention]) are included within the HRA process as required by the Regulations.
- 2.3 The process of HRA is based on the precautionary principle and evidence should be presented to allow a determination of whether the impacts of a land-use plan, when considered in combination with the effects of other plans and projects against the conservation objectives of a SAC, SPA and/or Ramsar site (hereafter referred to as European sites); would adversely affect the integrity of that site. Where effects are considered uncertain, the potential for adverse impacts should be assumed.

Guidance and Good Practice

- 2.4 Guidance for HRA 'The Appraisal of Development Plans in Wales under the Provisions of the Habitats Regulations', is provided in Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning (WAG, September 2009). CCW has also produced draft guidance 'The Appraisal of Plans under the Habitats Directive' (D. Tyldesley and Associates, 2012) which takes account of developments in HRA practice.
- 2.5 The methods and approach used for this HRA are based on the formal Welsh guidance currently available and emergent practice, which recommends that HRA is approached in three main stages - outlined in Table 1. This report outlines the method and findings for stage 1 of the ongoing and iterative HRA process - the Screening of the Deposit JLDP.

Table 1 Habitats Regulations Assessment: Key Stages	
Stage 1	
Screening for likely significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Identify international sites in and around the plan/ strategy area in search area agreed with the Statutory Body the Countryside Council for Wales ■ Examine conservation objectives of the interest feature(s)(where available) ■ Review plan policies and proposals and consider potential pathways and effects on European sites (magnitude, duration, location, extent) ■ Examine other plans and programmes that could contribute to 'in combination' effects
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>If no effects likely – report no significant effect (taking advice from CCW as necessary).</i> ■ <i>If effects are judged likely or uncertainty exists – the precautionary principle applies proceed to stage 2</i>
Stage 2	
Appropriate Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Complete additional scoping work including the collation of further information on sites as necessary to evaluate impact in light of conservation objectives ■ Agree scope and method of AA with CCW ■ Consider how plan 'in combination' with other plans and programmes will interact when implemented (the Appropriate Assessment) ■ Consider how effect on integrity of site could be avoided by changes to plan and the consideration of alternatives ■ Develop mitigation measures (including timescale and mechanisms) ■ Report outcomes of AA including mitigation measures, consult with CCW and wider [public] stakeholders as necessary ■ If plan will not significantly affect European site proceed without further reference to Habitats Regulations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>If effects or uncertainty remain following the consideration of alternatives and development of mitigations proceed to stage 3</i>
Stage 3	
Procedures where significant effect on integrity of international site remains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Consider alternative solutions, delete from plan or modify ■ Consider if priority species/ habitats affected ■ Identify 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI) economic, social, environmental, human health, public safety ■ Notify Welsh Government ■ Develop and secure compensatory measures

3.0 HRA STAGE 1: SCREENING

3.1 As detailed in Section 2, Table 1, HRA typically involves a number of stages. This Section sets out our approach and findings for Stage 1, HRA Screening for the JLDP. The aim of the screening stage is to assess in broad terms whether the policies and proposals set out in the Plan are likely to have a significant effect on a European site(s), and whether in the light of available avoidance and mitigation measures, an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is necessary.

Screening of the Preferred Strategy (2013)

3.2 A screening of the Preferred Strategy was carried out in 2013, the findings were presented in the HRA Screening Report (May 2013). The screening assessment found that the majority of Preferred Strategy Policies were unlikely to have significant effects on European sites either alone or in combination. There were a number of reasons for this including: the majority of the policies did not necessarily propose development, but rather supported certain types of development and set out criteria for the determination of any planning applications; a number of the policies contained safeguards that sought to protect biodiversity or required any proposal for development to undertake a HRA; and the mitigation provided by Strategic Policy PS14 (Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment) - which sought to manage development to conserve and where possible enhance the natural environment by safeguarding European sites and wider biodiversity.

3.3 Recommendations were made to strengthen the mitigation provided by specific policies (Strategic Policies PS6, PS7 & PS16) to ensure that they have no likely significant effects on European sites either alone or in combination. These included the following:

- Strategic Policy PS6 (Proposals for Large Infrastructure Projects) - there is potential for the policy to be strengthened by explicitly requiring a project level HRA to be carried out for any proposal for large infrastructure projects.
- Strategic Policy PS7 (Nuclear Related Development at Wylfa) - it is recommended that the policy requires any proposal for nuclear related development at Wylfa to undertake a project level HRA. The project level HRA should be informed by the findings and conclusions of the HRA: Site Report for Wylfa¹ as well as the HRA for the Anglesey and Gwynedd LDP.
- Strategic Policy PS16 (Renewable Energy Technology) - to strengthen the mitigation contained in the policy it is recommended that point 2 is amended as follows:
 2. *'ensuring that installations in accordance with SP14 do not individually or cumulatively compromise the objectives of international, national and local nature conservation designations.'*

¹ Department of Energy and Climate Change (2010) Habitats Regulations Assessment: Site Report for Wylfa. EN-6: Revised Draft National Policy Statement for Nuclear Power Generation.

- 3.4 The screening identified that there was the potential for Strategic Policies PS3, PS8, PS11 and PS22 to have the following impacts on European sites either alone or in combination:
- atmospheric pollution, which could reduce air quality;
 - increased levels of disturbance - recreational activity, noise and light pollution;
 - increased levels of surface water run-off, which could reduce water quality; and
 - land take, which could lead to the loss and fragmentation of habitats.
- 3.5 The screening concluded that the Preferred Strategy of the JLDP has the potential for significant effects on the identified European sites, either alone or in combination with other plans, programmes or projects. It noted that the next stage of the JLDP (Deposit) will provide further detailed policies and site allocations that will allow a more comprehensive assessment of the impacts and how they may affect European sites as well as more detailed consideration of mitigation measures. It recommended that further screening work is carried out for the JLDP once Deposit Policies and Site Allocations are available. This further screening work will be able to conclude with more certainty if a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment for the JLDP is required.
- 3.6 The findings of the HRA Screening for the Preferred Strategy were subject to consultation with NRW. The comments received and how they have been taken into account through the iterative HRA process

Screening of the Deposit JLDP (2015)

- 3.7 As recommended in the HRA Screening Report (May 2013) it was necessary to undertake further screening work to determine if the JLDP was likely to have significant effects on European sites and if a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment is required.

Approach to HRA Screening: Key Tasks

- 3.8 The process of Screening can be broken down into four main task areas. Each Task is outlined in more detail below.

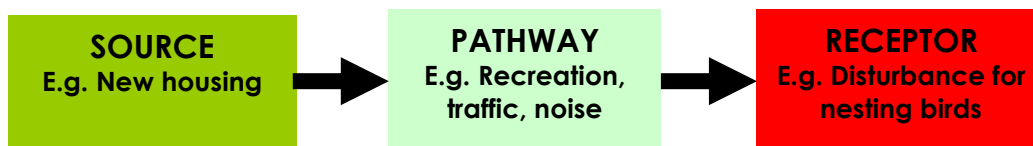
- **Task 1: Identification & Characterisation of European Sites** – This is where European sites that may be affected, both within and outside the Plan Area, will be identified. Once identified, to understand the nature of the European site and the reasons for its designation, information on the following key factors will be gathered: qualifying features; conservation objectives; and vulnerabilities (existing pressures and trends).
- **Task 2: Review and screening of Development Plan to identify potential impacts and likely effects on European sites** – This will involve looking at the plans: aims and objectives; its special extent and period of implementation; and any known development allocations including the quanta of development.

- **Task 3: Consideration of other plans and projects that may act 'in-combination'** – This will involve identifying any other development plans, sectoral plans or significant projects directing development in the region which could potentially affect the European sites identified in Task 1.
- **Task 4: Screening Assessment, recording the opinion and the supporting information and analysis** – This is where the information gained from tasks 1 to 3 is brought together to support the screening view.

Task 1: Identification of European sites and characterisation

- 3.9 Plans and their policies can have spatial implications that extend beyond the intended Plan boundaries. For the purposes of HRA, it is recognised that distance in itself is not a definitive guide to the likelihood or severity of an impact. Factors such as the prevailing wind direction, river flow direction, and ground water flow will all have a bearing on the relative distance at which an effect can occur. This means that European sites at some distance from the policy/ plan being screened may still need to be considered as part of the screening process.
- 3.10 Therefore, rather than rely on distance alone, a more effective mechanism for considering the scope of the HRA is to use a 'source-pathway-receptor' model (see Figure 1) which focuses on whether there is a pathway by which impacts from the plan can affect the identified sensitivities/ vulnerabilities of European site(s)' environmental conditions.

Figure 1: Source, Pathway, Receptor Model



- 3.11 Using this approach the sites listed in Table 2, that lie both within and outside the plan area, were scoped into the HRA Screening for the JLDP.

Table 2: European Sites within HRA Scope	
Special Protection Areas	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Abermenai to Aberffraw Dunes SAC ■ Afon Eden - Cors Goch Trawsfynydd SAC ■ Afon Gwyrfrai a Lyn Cwellyn SAC ■ Anglesey Coast: Saltmarsh SAC ■ Anglesey Fens SAC ■ Berwyn and South Clwyd 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Glynllifon SAC ■ Great Orme's Head SAC ■ Holy Island Coast SAC ■ Llyn Fens SAC ■ Llyn Peninsula and the Sarnau SAC ■ Llyn Dinam SAC ■ Meirionnydd Oakwoods and Bat Sites SAC ■ Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mountains SAC ■ Cadair Idris SAC ■ Cemlyn Bay SAC ■ Coedydd Aber SAC ■ Cors Fochno SAC ■ Corsydd Eifionydd SAC ■ Glan-traeth SAC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Migneint - Arenig - Dduallt SAC ■ Morfa Harlech a Morfa Dyffryn SAC ■ Preseli SAC ■ Rhinog SAC ■ River Dee and Bala Lake SAC ■ Sea Cliffs of Lleyn SAC ■ Snowdonia SAC
Special Protection Areas	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Aberdardon Coast and Bardsey Island SPA ■ Berwyn SPA ■ Craig yr Aderyn SPA ■ Dyfi Estuary SPA ■ Elenydd - Mallaen SPA ■ Holy Island Coast SPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Lavan Sands, Conway Bay SPA ■ Liverpool Bay SPA ■ Migneint - Arenig - Dduallt SPA ■ Mynydd Cilan, Trwyn y Wylfa ac Ynysoedd Sant Tudwal SPA ■ Puffin Island SPA ■ Ynys Feurig, Cemlyn Bay and the Skerries SPA
Ramsars	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Anglesey and Llyn Fens Ramsar ■ Cors Fochno and Dyfi Ramsar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Llyn Idwal Ramsar ■ Llyn Tegid Ramsar

3.12 Characterisations, including conservation objectives and vulnerabilities, for each of the European sites are presented in Appendix I.

Task 2: Deposit JLDP Screening and Identification of Likely Impacts

Deposit Policy Screening

3.13 The screening matrix considered the potential for the policies contained in the Deposit JLDP to have likely significant effects on the identified European sites.

3.14 The screening matrix identified that the majority of policies are unlikely to have a significant effect on European sites alone as they either seek the protection and enhancement of cultural/ heritage and natural environmental assets or set out design criteria for development proposals. For some policies, it was considered that potential impacts would be more appropriately assessed against other policies that provide further detail on the scale and location of proposed development. For other policies, it was considered that it would be more appropriate to address potential impacts at the project level once the precise nature, scale and location of development is known.

3.15 A number of policies do not necessarily propose development, but rather support certain types of development and set out criteria for the determination of any planning applications. While the policies don't propose any development themselves, some of the supported

development types have the potential for impacts on European sites, such as large infrastructure, renewable energy and nuclear energy related projects. A number of the policies contain safeguards that seek to protect biodiversity or require any proposal for development to undertake a HRA. This along with the mitigation provided by Strategic Policy PS16 (Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment) - which seeks to manage development to conserve and where possible enhance the natural environment by safeguarding European sites and wider biodiversity - will help to ensure that there are no likely significant effects on European sites.

3.16 The recommendations made as a result of the HRA Screening Report (May 2013) and subsequent advice from NRW have been incorporated into the Deposit JLDP policies. These included:

- Strategic Policies PS8 (Proposals for Large Infrastructure Projects) and PS9 (Wylfa Newydd Related Development) Criteria 7 should be amended as follows:
 7. Any proposal for development, including all ancillary and induced development, must be accompanied by a project level Habitats Regulations Assessment, which meets the requirements of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (as amended).
- Strategic Policy PS7 (Renewable Energy Technology) Criteria ii should be amended as follows:
 - ii. ensuring that installations in accordance with PS16 do not individually or cumulatively compromise the objectives of international, national and local nature conservation designations.'

3.17 The screening matrix identified that there is uncertainty with regard to the potential for likely significant effects both alone and in-combination for the following policies.

Table 3: Deposit Policies identified as having impacts that could lead to LSE both alone and in-combination	
Strategic Policy PS13: Housing Provision	The policy makes provision for 7,184 new homes between 2011 and 2026. This requirement will be met by identifying supply opportunities for around 7,902 new homes to enable a 10% slippage allowance. The Plan sets out a requirement for 2,604 housing units between 2011 and 2018 and 5,298 housing units between 2018 and 2026.
Strategic Policy PS15: Settlement Strategy	The policy outlines where development should be distributed subject to the environmental, social and infrastructure capacity to accommodate development.
Policy TAI14: Housing In Sub-Regional Centre & Urban Service Centres	The policy identifies site allocations in the sub-regional centre of Bangor and the Urban Service Centres of Amlwch, Holyhead, Llangefni, Blaenau Ffestiniog, Caernarfon, Porthmadog and Pwllheli.
Policy TAI15:	The policy identifies site allocations in the Local Service

Table 3: Deposit Policies identified as having impacts that could lead to LSE both alone and in-combination	
Housing In Local Service Centres	Centres of Beaumaris, Benllech, Bodedern, Cemaes, Gaerwen, Llanfairpwll, Menai Bridge, Pentraeth, Rhosneigr, Valley, Abermaw, Abersoch, Bethesda, Criccieth, Llanberis, Llanrug, Nefyn, Penrhyndeudraeth, Penygroes, and Tywyn.
Policy TAI16: Housing In Service Villages	The policy identifies site allocations in the Service Villages of Gwalchmai, Newbrough, Llanerchymedd, Bethel, Bontnewydd, Botwnnog, Chwilog, Deiniolen, Rachub, Tremadog, and Y Ffor.

Residential Site Allocations Screening

- 3.18 The policies propose a quantum or broad location for development that has the potential for impacts on European sites. The significance of these impacts is dependent on the precise location and scale of development, environmental pathways and sensitivity of receptors. Therefore a screening of the proposed residential allocations was carried out. The detailed screening of potential residential site allocations found that development at the majority of sites will not have significant effects on European sites given the small scale of proposed development and distance from European sites. For those with the potential for significant effects it was considered that suitable mitigation is provided through Deposit JLDP policies and available at the project level to ensure that there would be no likely significant effects as a result of development alone on individual sites and in-combination within each individual settlement.
- 3.19 Policy mitigation included within the Deposit JLDP includes the following:
- Policy PS4 - Sustainable transport, development and accessibility: the policy supports development that encourages transport methods alternative to the private car, and seeks to change travel behaviour.
 - Policy TRA1 - Transport network developments: the policy seeks to minimise the impacts of transport developments (including in improvements to existing infrastructure) on the natural environment.
 - Policy PS5 - Sustainable development: the policy seeks to protect and improve the quality of the natural environment, its landscapes and biodiversity assets.
 - Policy PS6 – Alleviating and adapting to the effects of climate change: The policy seeks to ensure that the ability of landscapes, environments and species to adapt to the harmful effects of climate change is not affected by development. The policy also protects the water environment, which indirectly supports biodiversity assets.
 - Policy PCYFF2 – Design and Place Shaping: The policy ensures that development considers the natural environment in the creation of attractive and sustainable places.
 - Policy PCYFF3 – Design and Landscaping: the policy ensures that development respects, retains and complements any existing

positive natural features, and replaces any loss of green infrastructure. The policy also restricts the introduction of any non-native invasive species.

- Policy PCYFF4 – Carbon Management: the policy seeks energy efficiency and renewable energy in new development which can contribute to improved air quality and mitigate the effects of climate change.
- Policy PCYFF5 – Water Conservation: the policy seeks water conservation measures in new development that can indirectly support biodiversity assets.
- Policy ARNA1 – Coastal Change Management Area: the policy seeks to restrict development within Coastal Change Management Areas, and ensure that biodiversity is not affected in the relocation of existing dwellings within these areas.
- Policy PS11 – The Visitor Economy: the policy seeks to protect the natural environment in the development of the tourism industry.
- Policy PS16 – Conserving and enhancing the natural environment: the policy seeks to conserve and enhance the natural environment, countryside and coastline, including; safeguarding habitats, species, geology, history and landscapes; protecting sites and species of international, national, regional and local importance; and enhancing networks of natural habitats.
- Policy AMG2 – Protecting and enhancing features and qualities that are unique to the local landscape character: the policy seeks to ensure that development does not adversely impact on features of visual, historic, geological, ecological or cultural importance.
- Policy AMG3 – Coastal Protection: the policy ensures that development in coastal areas does not adversely affect water quality or biodiversity interests, including SACs and SPAs as a result of location, scale, form, appearance, materials, noise, emissions or traffic increases.
- Policy AMG4 – Local Biodiversity Conservation: the policy seeks to protect important biodiversity assets from being adversely affected as a result of new development.
- Policy AMG5 – Protecting Sites of Regional or Local Significance: the policy seeks to protect locally valued biodiversity from direct or indirect adverse effects from new development.
- Policy PS18 – Waste Management: the policy seeks to promote a sustainable approach to waste management based on the waste hierarchy of prevention and reuse, recycling, recovery and then disposal whilst taking into consideration the unique character of the area including the transport links and rural nature.

3.20 Given the findings of the site allocation screening, it is considered that none of the policies identified in Table 3 are likely to have significant effects alone.

Task 3: Consideration of the Deposit JLDP as a whole and with other plans and programmes

- 3.21 The screening of Deposit JLDP individual policies and site allocations did not identify the potential for likely significant effects alone European site. However, it is important to also ensure that the Plan as a whole will not result in significant effects on European sites. Housing, employment and infrastructure development has the potential to generate a range of environmental impacts which can, (depending on their nature, magnitude, location and duration), have effects on European sites. A summary of the types of impacts and effects that can arise from these types of development is provided in Table 4 below.

Table 4: Housing, Employment and Infrastructure Development: Summary of Impacts and Effects on European Sites

Effects on European Sites	Impact Types
Habitat (& species) fragmentation and loss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Direct land take, removal of green/ connecting corridors/ supporting habitat, changes to sediment patterns (rivers and coastal locations) ■ Introduction of invasive species (predation)
Disturbance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increased recreational activity (population increase) ■ Noise and light pollution (from development and increased traffic)
Changes to hydrological regime/ water levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increased abstraction levels (new housing) ■ Increased hard standing non-permeable surfaces/ accelerated run-off ■ Laying pipes/ cables (surface & ground) ■ Topography alteration
Changes to water quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increase in run-off/ pollutants from non-permeable surfaces (roads, built areas) ■ Increased air pollution (eutrophication) (traffic, housing) ■ Increased volume of discharges (consented)
Changes in air quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Increased traffic movements ■ Increased emissions from buildings

- 3.22 The screening found that development proposed at the site allocations alone or in-combination with each other at settlements are unlikely to have significant effects on any European sites. While there are potential pathways for impacts on some European sites, the small scale of proposed development and mitigation provided through Deposit JLDP policies and available at the project level will ensure that there are no significant effects.
- 3.23 The JLDP makes provision for 7,184 new homes between 2011 and 20126 (Policy PS13). This requirement will be met by identifying supply opportunities for around 7,902 new homes to enable a 10% slippage allowance. The Deposit Plan set out a requirement for 2,604 housing units between 2011 and 2018 and 5,298 housing units between 2018

and 2026. The following tables provide a breakdown of the Plan's proposed growth and distribution as set out in the Deposit Plan.

Table 5: Distribution of Housing Growth within the Plan Area

Type of Settlements	Number of Settlements	Percentage of the Growth	Number of Units
Sub-regional Centre & Urban Service Centres	8	Up to 55%	4,346
Local Service Centres	20	At least 20%	1,580
Villages	87	No more than 25%	1,502
Clusters	112		224
Open Countryside	-		250

Table 6: Position since Base Date of the Plan in 2011 - Isle of Anglesey (2014 figures)

Type of Settlements	Number of Settlements	Units Required	Units Completed	Units with planning permission ¹	Additional number required
Urban Service Centres	3	2,039	141	480	1,418
Local Service Centres	10	790	146	235	409
Service Villages	3	120	2	54	64
Villages	30	616	89	290	237
Clusters	51	102	39	106	-43
Open Countryside	-	150	86	205	-141
TOTALS	97	3,817	503	1,370	1,944

¹ This figure does not include sites unlikely to be completed within the Plan Period.

Table 7: Position since Base Date of the Plan in 2011 - Gwynedd (2014 figures)

Type of Settlements	Number of Settlements	Units Required	Units Completed	Units with planning permission ¹	Additional number required
Sub-regional Centre & Urban Service	5	2,306	172	740	1,394

Type of Settlements	Number of Settlements	Units Required	Units Completed	Units with planning permission ¹	Additional number required
Centres					
Local Service Centres	10	790	89	368	333
Service Villages	8	320	21	57	242
Villages	46	446	144	232	70
Clusters	61	122	12	35	75
Open Countryside	-	100	30	44	26
TOTALS	130	4,084	468	1,476	2,140

¹ This figure does not include sites unlikely to be completed within the Plan Period.

- 3.24 The majority of the growth (up to 55% as set out in the Deposit Plan) is focused in the Bangor as the Sub-Regional Centre as well as the Urban Service Centres (Amlwch, Holyhead, Llangefni, Blaenau Festiniog, Caernarfon, Portmadog & Pwllheli). As set out in the Deposit Plan it was anticipated that at least 20% will be focussed in the Local Service Centres with no more than 25% in the villages and open countryside.
- 3.25 The tables set out above demonstrate that in April 2014 a total of 3,817 units have already been completed or currently have planning permission, which leaves 3,367 units remaining to deliver the required 7,184 new homes during the life of the Plan.
- 3.26 In terms of employment provision the Deposit JLDP states in Para 7.3.27 that, "to ensure that there is provision for the possibility of slippage and flexibility of economic stimulus that would lead to greater demand for employment land, the Plan provides for the rate of take up of employment land 6ha per annum". In the Deposit Plan this equated to 66 ha of employment land during the remaining life of the Plan to 2026. At this stage the precise location and scale of proposed employment development is now known.
- 3.27 The Habitats Regulations also require that the effects of the Plan are considered in-combination with the effects of other plans and programmes. Appendix II provides a summary of each plan, programme and project and describes potential impacts that could cause in-combination effects for each document. The following plans and programmes were considered:

Development Plans

- Conwy Local Development Plan 2007-2022 (Adopted 2013)
- Denbighshire County Council Deposit Development Plan 2006 – 2021 (Adopted 2013)
- Ceredigion Local Development Plan 2007 – 2022 (Adopted 2013)
- Powys Local Development Plan 2011-2026 (Deposit Draft July 2014)

- Snowdonia (Eryri) National Park Local Development Plan 2007-2022 (Adopted May July 2011)

Transport

- National Transport Plan (Consultation Draft 2015)
- North Wales Joint Local Transport Plan (Draft for Consultation November 2014)

Water

- Welsh Water's Final Water Resource Management Plan (2014)
- River Basin Management Plan Western Wales River Basin District Update (Consultation Document, 2015)
- Habitats Directive Review of Consents
- River Basin Management Plan Dee River Basin District Update (Consultation Document, 2015)
- River Basin Management Plan Severn River Basin District Update (Consultation Document, 2015)
- West Wales Shoreline Management Plan 2

Waste and Minerals

- North Wales Regional Waste Plan 1st Review Core Document (2009)
- North Wales Regional Technical Statement 1st Review (2014)

Energy

- National Policy Statement on Energy (EN-1 (2011)
- National Policy Statement for Nuclear Power Generation (EN-6) (2011)
- Energy Wales: A Low Carbon Transition Delivery Plan (2014)
- Energy Wales: Low Carbon Transition (2012)
- SeaGen, Tidal Power Plans, Anglesey (2011)
- Offshore Wind, Gwynt y Mor (2011)
- Rhiannon Wind Farm
- Wylfa B Nuclear Power Station
- National Grid: North West Wales Connections (2013)

Other

- Tourism Strategy North Wales (2010-2015)
- Economic Renewal : A New Direction (2010)
- Anglesey Destination Management Plan (2012-2016)
- Gwynedd Destination Management Plan (2013-2020)

Air Quality

- 3.28 The Councils' candidate site assessment process considered the potential traffic impacts of development at potential site allocations, the findings of this work including the potential sites themselves were subject to consultation with the transport units of both Councils as well as the Welsh Government's Transport Unit. As part of the candidate

site assessment process the North Wales Trunk Road Agency stated that there are existing capacity issues in relation to the Britannia Bridge at peak times. The Britannia Bridge is the only single carriageway section of the Trans European Road Network Route E22.

- 3.29 The development proposed in the Deposit JLDP could potentially increase levels of traffic on the Britannia Bridge, which crosses the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC. At this stage there is uncertainty if any increase in traffic would be of significance as a result of proposed development; however, there is no evidence to indicate that the existing traffic has had any significant impacts on air quality in the immediate area.² The Regulation 33 advice for the SAC³ does not indicate that the qualifying features are sensitive to atmospheric pollution, which is supported by the UK Air Pollution Information System (APIS).
- 3.30 The Deposit JLDP includes a variety of policy mitigation to ensure that proposed development does not have significant impacts on traffic, these include:
- Policy PS4 (Sustainable transport, development and accessibility): Development will be located so as to minimise the need to travel. The policy supports development that encourages transport methods alternative to the private car, and seeks to change travel behaviour. Planning obligations or other appropriate mechanisms for development on all major development sites will be sought to mitigate their impact on the Plan area's transportation system in accordance with Strategic Policy PS2 in addition to promoting an integrated transport system.
 - Policy TRA1 (Transport network developments): the policy seeks to minimise the impacts of transport developments (including in improvements to existing infrastructure) on the natural environment. In line with Policy PCYFF1, the policy requires a Transport Assessment should to be provided. Where the Transport Assessment reveals the need for a Transport Implementation Strategy this will need to be secured through a planning obligation.
- 3.31 It is considered that development proposed in the Deposit JLDP will not have likely significant effects either alone or in-combination on the Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC as a result of increased short range atmospheric pollution. The SAC is not sensitive to the impacts of atmospheric pollution and the mitigation provided through Deposit JLDP policies and available at the project level will ensure that any increase as a result of proposed development will not be significant.
- 3.32 The Deposit JLDP acknowledges that if the new nuclear power station at Wylfa is progressed then the A5025 from Valley to Wylfa Newydd

² Air Quality in Wales: Website of the Welsh Air Quality Forum.

³ CCW (Feb 2009) Y Fenni a Bae Conwy/ Menai Strait and Conwy Bay European Marine Site: Advice provided by the Countryside Council for Wales in Fulfilment of Regulation 33 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994.

would experience a significant increase in traffic, including an increase in the number of large vehicles using the road. Development proposed within the Plan on Anglesey has the potential to act in-combination with the proposed nuclear power station to increase traffic along the A5025. The Deposit JLDP identifies a number of areas that will require significant improvement to accommodate the increase in traffic and larger vehicles, which include:

- A5/A5205 (Valley);
- A5025 (Llanfachraeth);
- A5025 (Llanfaethlu);
- A5025 (Cefn Coch).

3.33 The potential for a nuclear development at Wylfa was considered by the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) through the National Policy Statement (NPS) for Nuclear Power Generation (En-6), which formed part of the National Policy Statements for Energy Infrastructure. The NPS for Nuclear Power Generation was subject to a HRA and included detailed reports on the potential impacts of nuclear related development at a number of potential sites, which included Wylfa. The HRA Site Report for Wylfa⁴ concluded that, "based on HRA experience, professional judgement, and the consultation advice received from the Statutory Consultees, it is reasonable to conclude that the suggested measures may be sufficient to avoid and/ or mitigate the adverse effects on the integrity of European Sites identified. However, the effectiveness of the measures proposed can only be ascertained with certainty through HRA at a project level, where the specific details of developments and primary data sources will be available. Only at the project level HRA can a conclusion of no adverse effect on site integrity be made with any confidence".

3.34 Given the findings of the HRA Site Report for Wylfa and that there are no European sites within 200m of A5025 from Valley to Wylfa Newydd, it is considered unlikely that the Deposit JLDP will have significant effects either alone or in-combination with a new nuclear power station at Wylfa as a result of increased short range atmospheric pollution.

Water Resources

3.35 Welsh Water has produced a Final Water Resource Management Plan⁵ (WRMP), which identifies twenty-four water resource zones⁶ (WRZs) within the supply area for which it is responsible. The JLDP area falls within a number of WRZs and two of these are identified as being in deficit, which are the North Eryri/Ynys Mon and Tywyn/Aberdyfi (NEYM) WRZs. The Deposit JLDP only proposes 35 new dwellings within the Tywyn/Aberdyfi WRZs and is therefore not considered likely to result in

⁴ Department of Energy and Climate Change (2010) Habitats Regulations Assessment: Site Report for Wylfa. EN-6: Revised Draft National Policy Statement for Nuclear Power Generation.

⁵ Welsh Water (April 2014) Final Water Resource Management Plan 2014 - 2040.

⁶ Welsh Water defines Water Resource Zones as, "the largest area in which all resources can be shared".

significant in-combination effects on any European sites as a result of increased abstraction and therefore reduced water levels.

- 3.36 The NEYM WRZ contains the majority of development proposed through the JLDP, with a small proportion of the WRZ also falling within the Snowdonia National Park. The Final WMRP identifies states that the deficit in the NEYM WRZ by 2024 is driven by a combination of an improved understanding of forecast demand and also the potential impacts of climate change. It should be noted that the Final WRMP also took account of the potential development of the Wylfa Nuclear Power Station.
- 3.37 To maintain the supply demand balance in this zone to 2040 the Final WRMP proposes to improve leakage levels and carry out water efficiency work with customers. It also proposes to transfer water from Cwm Dulyn WTW (in Lleyn Harlech WRZ) in 2027/28. This will utilise the abstraction licence surplus at Cwm Dulyn, meaning that there is no need for additional consents.
- 3.38 The WRMP was subject to SEA and HRA and the findings were taken into consideration when determining the preferred solutions for the WRZ. The HRA⁷ of the WRMP found that "there are no reasonable pathways for any effects to occur, and as a result the option will have no significant effects on any European sites".
- 3.39 Any applications for new licences will be assessed by the NRW through the Review of Consents Process (RoC) to make sure that they do not have adverse impacts on internationally important nature conservation sites. If the assessment of a new application shows that it could have an impact on a European site the EA will have to follow strict rules in setting a time limit for that license. This ensures that water levels at European sites do not fall below critical levels. The sustainability reductions required by the RoC process are fully accounted for within the modelled scenarios underpinning the Final WRMP.
- 3.39 The Deposit JLDP includes a variety of policy mitigation that will help to ensure that there are no likely significant effects on water levels at European sites either alone or in-combination. Deposit Policy PS5 (Sustainable Development) only permits proposals where it is demonstrated that they are consistent with the principles of sustainable development. It requires all proposals to reduce the amount of water used and wasted; reducing the effect on water resources and quality; managing flood risk and maximising use of sustainable drainage schemes; and progressing the objectives of the Western Wales River Basin Water Management Plan.
- 3.40 Deposit Policy PCYFF5 (Water Conservation) seeks any proposals to incorporate water conservation measures and Sustainable Urban

⁷ HRA of Revised Draft Water Resources Management Plan December 2013.

Drainage Systems where practicable. It also seeks any proposals greater than 1,000 m² or 10 dwellings to be accompanied by a Water Conservation Statement. In line with this, proposals will only be permitted where it is demonstrated that they aim for the highest possible standard in terms of water efficiency and implement other measures to withstand drought, maintain the flow of water and maintain or improve the quality of water, including using sustainable drainage systems (Deposit Policy PS6 Alleviating and Adapting to the Effects of Climate Change).

- 3.41 Given the findings of the Welsh Water's Final WRMP and the accompanying HRA, as well as the mitigation provided through Deposit JLDP Policies and available at the project level, it is considered that the Deposit JLDP will not have likely significant effects either alone or in-combination on any European sites as a result of increased water abstraction.

Water Quality

- 3.42 NRW is currently in the process of updating river basin management plans (RBMPs) that will set objectives for Wales' rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal and ground waters to cover the period 2015 - 2021. The majority of proposed development in the Deposit JLDP falls within the Western Wales RBMP, in particular the Ynys Môn and Llyn and Eryri River Basin Districts (RBDs).
- 3.43 The majority of water bodies within the Ynys Môn catchment are assessed by NRW to have good overall status; however, there are also a number that have moderate status. Since 2009, there have been improvements with a greater number of water bodies now reaching good status⁸. For the majority of water bodies it is currently unknown why they are failing to achieve good status; however, NRW have identified reasons for a number of them which include:
- Nutrient enrichment, particularly by phosphorus, is identified as affecting some of the lakes and one river on the island, including Llyn Dinam, Llyn Coron and the Afon Goch Dulas. Agricultural land management, and discharges from wastewater treatment and septic tanks are contributory sources. Land spreading of waste can also be a factor, and there are several large scale intensive agricultural units on the island which routinely dispose of waste in this way.
 - Discharges of acidic metal rich mine water from the abandoned metal mine at Parys Mountain have a significant impact on the Afon Goch Amlwch.
 - Bacteria from waste water treatment and agricultural land present a risk to shellfish and bathing water quality around the coastline.
- 3.44 The status of the water bodies in the Llyn and Eryri catchment predominantly range from moderate to good, with a small number

⁸ Water Watch Wales. Available online:
<http://waterwatchwales.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/en/>

identified as having poor status. Since 2009, there have been improvements in some areas; however, there has also been a decline in status in one or two areas⁹. It is unknown why a number of the water bodies are failing to achieve good status; however, NRW have identified reasons for a number of the water bodies:

- Bacteria from waste water treatment pose a risk of bathing and shellfish waters failing to meet EC quality standards. Work to identify and if necessary reduce the impact of physical modifications for water supply and hydropower is underway at sites including Cwmystradllyn, Llyn Cwellyn, Llyn Trawsfynydd and Llyn Llydaw.
- Abandoned metal and slate mines are causing impacts to a number of water bodies in the area. Rivers in the Blaenau Ffestiniog area have elevated metals and also experience sediment flushes in heavy rainfall.
- Acidification due to atmospheric deposition is identified as a problem in upland water bodies in the east of this area such as Llynau Gamallt and Llyn Llagi. Acidification can cause toxic metals to leach out of the soils and enter watercourses, which can cause problems to aquatic organisms.
- Nutrients from sources including agricultural land management, urban diffuse pollution and discharges from wastewater treatment are identified as a problem in some rivers and lakes including Llyn Padarn and the Afon Cegin near Bangor.

3.45 Dwr Cymru has not objected to any of the proposed development in the Deposit JLDP; however, they did highlight that the proposed growth would require improvements to the following waste water treatment works (WwTW):

- Treborth WwTW (service Bangor and Bethel)
- Bodedern WwTW
- Cemaes WwTW
- Blaenau Ffestiniog WwTW

3.46 These improvements would need to be funded through the Council's Asset Management Plan or potentially earlier through developer contributions. Policy ISA1 (Infrastructure Provision) ensures that proposals are only granted where adequate infrastructure capacity exists or where it is delivered in a timely manner. Where proposals generate a directly related need for new or improved infrastructure and this is not provided by a service or infrastructure company, then this must be funded by the proposal. A financial contribution may be sought to secure improvements in infrastructure, facilities, services and related works, where they are necessary to make proposals acceptable.

⁹ Water Watch Wales. Available online:
<http://waterwatchwales.naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/en/>

- 3.47 It is considered that the Deposit JLDP contains suitable policy safeguards to ensure that the necessary improvements to WwTWs are provided to service proposed development.

Disturbance

- 3.48 The majority of the sites within the influence of the Deposit JLDP are sensitive in some way to increased disturbance, including recreational activity. The level of significance of this sensitivity varies for each European site and is dependent on a number of factors.
- 3.49 The screening found that development proposed at the site allocations alone or in-combination with each other at the settlements are unlikely to have significant effects on any European sites as a result of increased disturbance. Table 6 & 7 demonstrate that a total of 3,817 units have already been completed or currently have planning permission within the Plan area, which leaves 3,367 units remaining to deliver the required 7,184 new homes during the life of the Plan.
- 3.50 The average household size in Wales was 2.3 residents per household in 2011.¹⁰ Using this figure, it is estimated that the delivery of the remaining 4,084 residential units could result in an increase of approximately 9,393 people over the next 11 years, an average increase of 853 people per year. Over the remaining life of the plan (11 years) this would roughly equate to an increase of 4,471 people in Anglesey and 4,922 people in Gwynedd.
- 3.51 The population of Anglesey is approx. 69,700¹¹, so proposed development could increase the population by 6.4%. The population of Gwynedd is approx. 121,900¹², so proposed development could increase the population by 4%. However, it should be noted that the Gwynedd Local Authority includes large areas that fall within the Snowdonia National Park and therefore within the Plan area for the adopted Snowdonia LDP (2011).
- 3.52 The Deposit JLDP focusses the majority of the growth (up to 55%) in the Bangor as the Sub-Regional Centre as well as the Urban Service Centres (Amlwch, Holyhead, Llangefni, Blaenau Festiniog, Caernarfon, Portmadog & Pwllheli). At least 20% will be focussed in the Local Service Centres with no more than 25% in the villages and open countryside.
- 3.53 The screening of proposed residential allocations found that proposed development was unlikely to significantly increase disturbance and there have significant effects on any European site. Given the scale, distribution and phasing of proposed development, it is considered

¹⁰ Office for National Statistics. 2011 Census - Population and Household Estimates for Wales. Available online: <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/census/2011-census/population-and-household-estimates-for-wales/stb-2011-census-wales.html>

¹¹ 2011 Census

¹² Ibid.

unlikely a particular European site will see a significant increase in disturbance, in particular recreational activity, during the life of the Plan.

- 3.54 The Deposit JLDP ensures that proposals are only granted where adequate infrastructure capacity exists or where it is delivered in a timely manner. A financial contribution may be sought to secure improvements in infrastructure, facilities, services and related works, where they are necessary to make proposals acceptable. Where appropriate, contributions may be sought for a range of purposes, which include recreation and open space, sports and leisure facilities and/or nature conservation.
- 3.55 Given the scale, distribution and phasing of proposed development as well as mitigation provided through Deposit Policies. It is considered that the Deposit JLDP will not have significant effects either alone or in-combination on any European sites as a result of increased disturbance.

Habitat Loss and Fragmentation

- 3.56 The screening found that development proposed at the site allocations alone or in-combination with each other at the settlements are unlikely to have significant effects on any European sites as a result of habitat loss and fragmentation. The sites are situated within or adjacent to existing settlements and given their scale are considered unlikely to result in the loss of any important supporting habitats or result in the loss of connectivity for mobile species that could have significant effects on European sites. The Deposit JLDP ensures that any proposals for development safeguard the Plan area's habitats and species, including European sites and European protected species, and protect and enhance biodiversity through networks of green/blue infrastructure. It is therefore considered that the Deposit JLDP will not have likely significant effects either alone or in-combination on any European sites as a result of habitat loss and fragmentation.

Task 4: Screening Assessment Summary

- 3.57 The screening assessment found that the Deposit JLDP was not likely to have significant effects on any European sites either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects. Existing legislative requirements (for project level HRA) as well as mitigation provided through Deposit JLDP policies and available at the project level will ensure that the development proposed will not have likely significant effects on any European sites. These findings were subject to consultation comments and advice from NRW and wider stakeholders.
- 3.58 The Council incorporated the recommendations arising through the HRA process into the JLDP including any advice from NRW. It was

recommended that further screening work was carried out to consider any proposed modifications to the JLDP following the Deposit consultation.

Screening of the Focused Changes (2016)

- 3.59 The Deposit JLDP was subject to HRA Screening with the findings informing the development of the Plan. A HRA Screening Report (Feb 2015) accompanied the Deposit JLDP on public consultation from 16 February to 31 March 2015. Comments were received from NRW and these were considered and have informed the ongoing HRA process. As a result of responses received on the Deposit JLDP the Council proposed a number of Focused Changes to the Plan prior to submission of the JLDP to the Welsh Government. It was important that these changes were screened to determine if they significantly affect the findings of the previous HRA work presented earlier in this Section.
- 3.60 The majority of changes provide further clarification or seek to ensure consistency and are therefore not considered to significantly affect the findings of the previous HRA work set out above. The key changes of significance for the HRA process are considered in further detail below.

Table 7: HRA Screening of Key Focused Changes

Key Focused Changes	HRA Screening
New Policy TAI X	The policy seeks a phased release of housing to ensure that communities are able to accommodate the proposed growth. It should be noted that the policy itself does not provide detail in terms of quantity or dates for the phasing of development. This policy is not likely to have any significant effects either alone or in-combination on any European sites.
New Policy relating to the AOMB	Policy ensures that any proposals within or affecting the setting of the AONB have regard to the AONB Management Plan. No potential for likely significant effects either alone or in-combination.
Changes to Policy TAI 12	The number of Gypsy & Traveller pitches at the Llandygai site has been increased from 5 to 11. As per the previous screening findings, it is considered that the mitigation provided through Deposit JLDP policies, including Policy PS16, and available at the project level will ensure that there are no likely significant effects.
Changes to Policy TAI 14	Site T4 in Bangor has been removed from the policy. The previous screening work concluded that development at the site would not have likely significant effects on any European sites; therefore, its removal from the policy is also not likely to have significant effects.
Changes to Policy TAI 16	Site T58 has been removed and sites T70 (Land opposite Cremlyn Estate) and T71 (Land opposite Rhoslan Estate) have now been allocated for 28 and 12 dwellings respectively. The overall level of growth proposed at the settlement has not changes and the location of the two sites are not substantially different from site T58. Both of the sites are approx 2km from the

	<p>closest European designated site (Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC). Given the small scale of proposed development, distance from European sites and mitigation provided through Deposit JLDP policies and available at the project level, it is considered that there will be no likely significant effects alone or in-combination.</p>
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- 3.61 The screening of the key changes above found that they were not likely to have a significant effect either alone or in-combination on any European sites. It was therefore concluded that the Focused Changes did not significantly affect the findings of the previous HRA work and the Deposit JLDP was not likely to have significant effects on any European sites either alone or in-combination. It should be noted that as part of the ongoing and iterative HRA process for the JLDP the plans, programmes and projects review provided in Appendix II was updated and that this does not significantly affect the findings of the previous HRA work.

HRA Addendum Report

- 3.62 In July 2016 a HRA Addendum Report considered proposed amendments to the JLDP following consideration of responses to the Focused Changes as well as further work undertaken in relation to Gypsy and Traveller site options.
- 3.63 The screening of the proposed amendments following consultation on the Focused Changes found that all the changes were minor and did not significantly affect the findings of the previous HRA work as they sought to provide further clarification or ensure consistency. The HRA Addendum report was submitted to the Inspector for consideration in July 2016 which should be read in conjunction with this final HRA Report (Examination document DA019).

Matters Arising Changes (2017)

- 3.64 A number of changes were proposed to the JLDP which emerged as a result of matters considered during the JLDP Hearing Sessions. It was important to ensure that any proposed changes were screened through the HRA process to determine if they would significantly affect the findings of the previous HRA work presented in the HRA Report (February 2016). The screening found that all the proposed changes were minor and did not significantly affect the findings of the previous HRA work as they sought to provide further clarification or ensure consistency.
- 3.65 The Schedule of Matters Arising Changes (DA.039 & DA.040) was the subject of public consultation from 23 January to 9 March 2017. Consideration of the representations and the discussion at additional Hearing Sessions held on the 26th and 27th April 2017 led to a number

of minor amendments to the Schedule of Matters Arising Changes. A final Schedule of of Matters Arising Changes was published on the 8th May 2017. The amendments to the Schedule of Matters Arising Changes was subject to a HRA screening assessment. This work found that all the changes were minor and did not significantly affect the findings of the previous HRA work as they sought to provide further clarification or ensure consistency. The HRA report was submitted to the Inspector for consideration and should be read in conjunction with this final HRA Report (Examination document DA042).

- 3.66 The Inspector also made 1 additional Matters Arising Change (INMC). Given the nature of the INMC the Inspector concludes that the change does not undermine the HRA processes undertaken and neither does it compromise the Plan's strategy. The Inspector's recommendation was screened to determine whether the change was significant and whether it would result in significant sustainability effects. It was concluded that the change was not considered to have significant impacts on sustainability issues and affect the overall HRA of the Plan, in line with the findings of the Inspector.

4.0 HRA CONCLUSIONS

HRA Summary

- 4.1 In line with the screening requirement of the Habitats Regulations, an assessment was undertaken to determine the likelihood for significant effects on European sites within the influence of the JLDP.
- 4.2 The screening of the Deposit JLDP found that individually, the majority of policies or site allocations proposed within the Deposit JLDP were unlikely to have significant effects on European sites. There are a number of reasons for this including: the majority of the policies do not necessarily propose development, but rather support certain types of development and set out criteria for the determination of any planning applications. A number of the policies also contain safeguards that seek to protect biodiversity or require any proposal for development to undertake a HRA. This along with the mitigation provided Deposit JLDP policies, including Strategic Policy PS16 (Conserving and Enhancing the Natural Environment) - which seeks to manage development to conserve and where possible enhance the natural environment by safeguarding European sites and wider biodiversity - will help to ensure that there are no likely significant effects on European sites.
- 4.3 The screening assessment also considered the potential impacts of the Deposit JLDP as whole as well as in-combination with other plans and projects. It concluded that that the Deposit JLDP was unlikely have significant effects on any European sites either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects as a result of atmospheric pollution, increased disturbance, habitat loss or fragmentation and reduced water quality and levels. These findings were subject to consultation comments and advice from NRW and wider stakeholders.
- 4.4 Following the consultation on the Deposit JLDP, the Councils made a number of changes to the Plan. These changes were screened and found to not significantly affect the findings of the HRA Screening for the Deposit JLDP.
- 4.5 Further changes to the Plan which emerged as a result of matters considered during the JLDP Hearing sessions were also screened to determine if they would significantly affect the findings of the previous HRA work. The screening found that all the proposed changes were minor and did not affect the findings of the previous HRA work as they sought to provide further clarification or ensure consistency.
- 4.6 It was therefore concluded that the JLDP is not likely to have significant effects on any European sites either alone or in-combination.