

# Habitats Regulations Assessment



## Hope under Dinmore Group Neighbourhood Area

Addendum

May 2016

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## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 To ensure that the requirements of the Habitats Directive and Regulations are met, it is necessary to consider the modifications through the HRA process to the Hope-under-Dinmore NDP; the NDP was refined by the NDP steering group to reflect feedback from consultation on the Draft Plan and Draft Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report, refer to Appendix 2.
- 1.2 The purpose of this further HRA Addendum Report is to detail the findings of the screening of proposed changes to policies and consider if they significantly affect the conclusions of the earlier HRA Report (October 2015).
- 1.3 The refinements are not considered to significantly affect the conclusions of the earlier HRA report, the addition of one criterion in policy HUD3 does not change the overall aims and objectives of the existing planning policies.

## 2.0 Screening of proposed modifications to the NDP

- 2.1 Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 requires that a Screening Assessment be undertaken, in order to identify the 'likely significant effects' of a NDP. Accordingly, a screening matrix was prepared (October 2015) and this determined the extent to which any of the policies and site allocations in the Hope-under-Dinmore draft NDP would be likely to have a significant effect on the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC.
- 2.2 The findings of the screening matrix can be found in Appendices 1 and 2 of that report.
- 2.3 The screening matrix took the approach of screening each policy and objective individually, which is consistent with current guidance. The results from the HRA reports for the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) were also taken into consideration.
- 2.4 None of the Hope-under-Dinmore NDP objectives and policies (October 2015) were concluded to be likely to have a significant effect on the European site. This conclusion is based on assumptions and information contained within the Hope-under-Dinmore NDP, the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the latest version of the HRA for the Local Plan (Core Strategy) published on the Council's website.
- 2.5 In many cases this is because the policies themselves would not result in development, i.e. they related instead to criteria for development. In several cases the policies also included measures to help support the natural environment including biodiversity, and therefore no significant effect conclusion could be reached. These policies have the potential to mitigate some of the possible adverse effects arising from other policies within the NDP.
- 2.6 It was also concluded that the Hope-under-Dinmore NDP will unlikely have any in-combination effects with any plans from neighbouring parishes, as any sites currently allocated in the adjacent parishes' NDP is within the parameters set out within the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy).
- 2.7 Therefore it was concluded that the **Hope-under-Dinmore draft NDP (October 2015) will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC.**
- 2.8 The proposed amendments to the Draft NDP following the Regulation 14 consultation are screened to consider if they are likely to significantly affect the findings of the previous HRA Report, prepared in October 2015. A summary of the main findings is provided below.

## 3.0 Summary of main findings

- 3.1 The Submission NDP (April 2016) incorporates suggestions made by consultees during the Regulation 14 Draft Plan consultation, by adding clarity and emphasis throughout the document. There has only been one addition to the criteria in policy HUD3, which is protecting the residential amenity on new developments, this criterion is unlikely to have a adverse impact upon the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC.

- 3.2 Policies HUD1, HUD2 and HUD8 and have changes made to the sentence construction to aid clarity and therefore are not considered to have changed in meaning and alter the aims and objectives of the policy for the purposes of the HRA.

#### **4.0 Conclusion**

- 4.1 With reference to section 3 above, the additional criteria and information added to Policy HUD3 is not considered to affect the findings of the previous HRA report.

- 4.2 Therefore the earlier conclusion that the **Hope-under-Dinmore NDP will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC** remains valid.

#### **5.0 Next steps**

- 5.1 This Addendum Report will be published alongside both the Submission NDP and earlier HRA Report for consultation. Any changes to the plan that arise from this consultation will be subject to further screening, in order to consider their impact on the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC.

# Appendix 1

Table 2: HRA Re-Screening of Emerging Redrafted Neighbourhood Development Plan Policies

Parish Council Name: Hope-under-Dinmore Group Parish Council

NDP Title: Hope-under- Dinmore group Neighbourhood Development Plan (Submission Draft) Date undertaken: April 2016

NDP options	HRA Screening of Emerging NDP options				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the option	Likely effect if option implemented. Could they have Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on European Sites?	European Sites potentially affected	Mitigation measures to be considered, as necessary, through redraft of option and to be considered as part of Appropriate Assessment	Could the policy have likely significant effects on European sites (taking mitigation into account?)
<b>Policy HUD3: Criteria for new housing development</b>	<p>Housing development</p> <p>Increased vehicle traffic</p> <p>Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment</p> <p>The submission version has added criterion regarding residential amenity</p>	<p>No significant effect on the River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC.</p>	<p>River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC</p>	<p>The measures set out in the Core Strategy policies and also the NDP policies should help to avoid adverse impacts upon the European site.</p> <p>This policy should help to mitigate the potential effects of future development.</p>	<p>No. This policy is unlikely to lead to development, instead it relates to criteria for development</p> <p>The change made to the policy only affected Residential amenity with new development sites and therefore does not have a material change to the conclusion of the HRA.</p>

# Appendix 2

## HRA Consultation Feedback

This consultation feedback is **only** for comments received on the HRA of the Neighbourhood Development Plan

**Parish Council Name: Hope-under-Dinmore**

**Consultation title: Hope-under-Dinmore Regulation 14 Draft Plan consultation**

<b>Response Date</b>	<b>Consultee</b>	<b>Summary of Comments</b>
29/01/2016	Natural England	Natural England notes and agrees with the HRA screening conclusion i.e. that as the draft neighbourhood plan conforms with the adopted local plan for Herefordshire and does not allocate sites no significant effects are likely to arise.

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Date: 29 January 2016  
Our ref: 171888  
Your ref: Hope under Dinmore



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## BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Mr Latham

### Re: Hope under Dinmore Neighbourhood Development Plan SEA and HRA

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated and received by Natural England on 18 November 2015.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

### Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) Report and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Report

Natural England notes and agrees with the HRA screening conclusion i.e. that as the draft neighbourhood plan conforms with the adopted local plan for Herefordshire and does not allocate sites no significant effects are likely to arise. For the same reasons we agree with the SEA report's conclusion that no changes to the neighbourhood plan are needed.

We would be happy to comment further should the need arise but if in the meantime you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

For any queries relating to the specific advice in this letter only please contact Gillian Driver on 0300 060 4335. For any new consultations, or to provide further information on this consultation please send your correspondences to [consultations@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:consultations@naturalengland.org.uk).

We really value your feedback to help us improve the service we offer. We have attached a feedback form to this letter and welcome any comments you might have about our service.

Yours sincerely

Antony Muller  
Lead Adviser – North Mercia Sustainable Development and Wildlife Team