

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Addendum Report for:

Much Marcle Neighbourhood Area

December 2017



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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 proposed main modifications through the HRA process to the Much Marcle NDP; the NDP was refined by the NDP steering group to reflect feedback from consultation on the Draft Plan and Draft Environmental and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Reports, 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 (November 2016).
- 1.3 The vast majority of refinements are not considered to significantly affect the conclusions of the earlier HRA report, as they did not involve the introduction of new policies or change the overall aims and objectives of the existing planning policies, despite the addition of new criteria in certain places.

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 and this determined the extent to which any of the policies and site allocations in the Much Marcle NDP would be likely to have a significant effect on the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat sites 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, objective and site allocation individually, which is consistent with current guidance. The results from the HRA reports for the adopted Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy).
- 2.4 None of the Much Marcle NDP objectives and policies (November 2016) 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 Much Marcle NDP, the adopted 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.
- 2.6 It was also concluded that the Much Marcle NDP will unlikely have any in-combination effect with any plans from neighbouring parishes, as no sites are currently allocated for development in these.
- 2.7 Therefore it was concluded that the **Much Marcle NDP will not have a likely significant effect on the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat sites SAC.**

3.0 Summary of main findings

- 3.1 The Submission NDP incorporates suggestions made by consultees during the Regulation 14 Draft Plan consultation, by adding clarity and emphasis throughout the document. There have been some additions to the criteria in some of the policies which are strengthening up the protection of the area and reductions of allocated sites within Much Marcle and Rushall and Kynaston.
- 3.2 The proposed amendments to the Draft NDP have been relabelling of all of the policy names minor wording changes to several Policies within the NDP. H03 (previously MM5), H04 (previously MM3) have added parts to the policy so were re screened. Site identified in Much Marcle have changed from 13 dwellings in 8 sites to 6 dwellings on 3 sites. Rushall and Kynaston had 11 dwellings on 6 sites this has been reduced to 10 dwellings on 4 sites.
- 3.3 Additional policies have been added H05 Exception Sites and H06 Windfall building conversions, these have expanded on points that have previously been mentioned in policy MM3. The amended policies and new policies have been rescreened and screened in the screening assessments, overall there were no significant effects. Therefore conclusion is the same as the findings of the previous HRA Report, prepared in November 2016. A summary of the main findings is provided below.
- 3.4 The revised NDP policies are therefore unlikely to result in significant effects on the European sites, a conclusion of which is based on assumptions and information contained within the Much Marcle NDP, the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the latest version of the HRA for the Local Plan (Core Strategy), updated in April 2015 in light of the modifications. This is published on the Council's website.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 With reference to section 3 above, the changes to sites effecting policies H03 and H04 and new policies H05 and H06. Therefore are not considered to affect the findings of the previous HRA report. On the contrary; they strengthen the likelihood of there being no adverse impacts.
- 4.2 Therefore the earlier conclusion that the **Much Marcle NDP will not have a likely significant effect on the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat sites 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 protected sites.

Appendix 1

HRA Screening of Significant Changes (Objectives, Options and Policies) following Draft Plan (reg 14) Consultation

Parish Council Name: Much Marcle

NDP Title: Much Marcle Neighbourhood Plan

Date undertaken: December 2017

NDP objectives, options and policies significantly changed following Draft Plan Consultation	HRA Screening of significant changes (objectives, options and policies) following Draft Plan Consultation				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the significant change to the objective, option or policy	Likely effect if changed objective, option or policy is implemented. Could it have LSE on any European Site? (Yes/No, with reasons)	European Sites potentially affected (Refer to Initial Screening)	Potential mitigation measures to be considered through redraft of changed objective, option or policy and as necessary, to be considered as part of Appropriate Assessment of these changes	If recommendations are implemented, would it be possible that the changes would result in no likely significant effect? (Yes/No, with reasons)
<i>Policy HO3 was MM5 Housing extensions</i>	Small scale housing extensions developed	Small scale development on existing housing Physical damage of disturbance on a localised scale. Non-physical disturbance such as noise.	Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC	Good practice construction techniques include noise suppression measures; hours of operation may help to mitigate potential adverse effects during construction. The Lesser Horseshoe Bat is known to travel 5-10km between summer and winter roosts, and is vulnerable to disturbance; light pollution; and habitat loss. Development proposals will need to consider woodland habitat buffers and measures to minimise light pollution. Measures within Core	No. The scale and extent of house extensions is unlikely to have a significant impact on the SAC. However where there is a possibility of Bat habitats being effected by development, the necessary screening and reports are requirement and assessed at planning application stage. Mitigation measures are covered in policy LD2 and LD3 of the Core Strategy and policies within the Much Marcle NDP. There are additional policy criteria in this policy to mitigate development

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				Strategy policy SD1 should help to mitigate potential impacts relating to non-physical disturbances.	impact. Neighbourhood Plan to avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects towards the SAC Changes to this policy have no significant effect towards the SAC.
<i>Policy HO4 was MM3 Housing Sites</i>	<p>Housing sites identified.</p> <p>6 dwellings identified in Much Marcle on 3 sites</p> <p>10 dwellings identified in Rushall and Kynaston on 4 sites</p> <p>Promotion of achieving housing target.</p> <p>Increased vehicle traffic</p> <p>Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment</p> <p>Sustainable housing growth</p>	<p>Small scale housing development</p> <p>Housing, infrastructure development</p> <p>Possible increase in recreation activities, vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment.</p> <p>Uncertain as to the impacts upon the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat sites SAC dependent on the location of development, however the policy would result in small scale growth.</p> <p>Physical damage of disturbance on a localised scale.</p> <p>Non-physical disturbance such as noise.</p>	Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC	<p>Improved water efficiency measures, metering and addressing leakages in supply may help to mitigate any additional pressure placed on the water supply as a result of new developments.</p> <p>Wording change to achieve BREEAM requirement is nice to have as an aspiration however it is unrealistic to have that as a caveat to build in Much Marcle, Kynaston and Rushall.</p>	<p>No: this policy would allow for small scale housing schemes and supports the Core Strategy Policy RA1 and RA2 There are additional policy criteria in this policy to mitigate development impact.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan to avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects towards the SAC. Changes to this policy have no significant effect towards the SAC.</p> <p>Changes to this policy have no significant effect towards the SAC.</p>

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<p>Policy HO5 Exception sites (New policy)</p>	<p>Small amount of housing developed.</p> <p>Non-physical disturbance such as noise.</p> <p>Water abstraction</p> <p>Land allocated as rural exception sites 8 dwellings on 5 sites</p>	<p>Small scale housing development.</p> <p>Housing, infrastructure development</p> <p>Possible increase in recreation activities, vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment.</p> <p>Physical damage of disturbance on a localised scale.</p> <p>Potential to impact on nearby BAP habitat</p>	<p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC</p>	<p>Improved water efficiency measures, metering and addressing leakages in supply may help to mitigate any additional pressure placed on the water supply as a result of new developments.</p>	<p>No: this policy would allow for very small scale housing schemes and supports the Core Strategy Policy H2.</p> <p>There are additional policy criteria in this policy to mitigate development impact.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan to avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects towards the SAC.</p>
<p>Policy HO6- Windfall building conversions (New policy)</p>	<p>Small amount of housing developed.</p> <p>Non-physical disturbance such as noise.</p> <p>Water abstraction</p> <p>Reuse of materials and sites</p> <p>Change of use</p> <p>Barn conversions</p>	<p>Individual housing development.</p> <p>Housing, infrastructure development</p> <p>Possible increase in recreation activities, vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment.</p> <p>Physical damage of disturbance on a localised scale.</p>	<p>Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC</p>	<p>Improved water efficiency measures, metering and addressing leakages in supply may help to mitigate any additional pressure placed on the water supply as a result of new developments.</p>	<p>No: this policy would allow for small scale housing schemes and supports the Core Strategy Policy RA3. There are additional policy criteria in this policy to mitigate development impact.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Plan to avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects towards the SAC.</p>

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Appendix 2

HRA Consultation Feedback

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

Parish Council Name: Much Marcle Parish Council

Neighbourhood Development Plan Name: Much Marcle Neighbourhood Plan

Details of consultation: Regulation 14

Consultation date: 7 November 2016 to 3 January 2017

Consultation title: Reg 14

No comments have been received regarding the Much Marcle HRA report.