

# Habitats Regulations Assessment



## Wellington Neighbourhood Area

Addendum

September 2015

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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 Wellington 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 (June 2015).
- 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 Wellington NDP would be likely to have a significant effect on the River Wye 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 Pre-submission version of the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the proposed Main Modifications were also taken into consideration.
- 2.4 None of the Wellington NDP objectives and policies (June 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 Wellington NDP, the proposed Main Modifications to 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 said modifications and 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 Wellington NDP will unlikely have any in-combination effects with any plans from neighbouring parishes, as no sites are currently allocated for development in these.
- 2.7 Therefore it was concluded that the **Wellington NDP will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC.**
- 2.8 The proposed amendments to the Draft NDP are screened to consider if they are likely to significantly affect the findings of the previous HRA Report, prepared in June 2015. A summary of the main findings is provided below.

## 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, prevention of additional flood risk and reduction of adverse impacts upon the River Wye SAC.

- 3.2 No new policies have been introduced into the Submission NDP following the Regulation 14 Draft Plan consultation. One policy has been removed Policy W11 – Design for Flood resilience and resistance, due to duplication with local and national policies.
- 3.3 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 Wellington NDP, the proposed Main Modifications to 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 said modifications and published on the Council's website.

#### **4.0 Conclusion**

- 4.1 With reference to section 3 above, the additional criteria added to Policy W5 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 **Wellington 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 protected sites.

# Appendix 1

Table 4: HRA Re-Screening of Significant Changes (Objectives, Options and Policies) following Draft Plan Consultation

Parish Council Name: Wellington Parish

NDP Title: Wellington NDP

Date undertaken: 21/09/15

NDP Redrafted policies following significant changes HRA Screening	HRA Re-Screening Assessment of significant changes (objectives, options and policies) following Draft Plan Consultation				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the redrafted objective, option or policy	Likely effect if redrafted objective, option or policy implemented. Could they have LSE on European Sites? (Yes/No, with reasons)  <i>(If no, progress onto next objective/option/policy. If yes, progress onto next set of columns in row)</i>	European Sites potentially affected  (Refer to Initial Screening)	Mitigation measures to be considered to avoid any impacts	If recommendations are implemented, would it be possible that it would result in no likely significant effect?
Redrafted Policy W5 – General Design principles	Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.  Housing development in line with policy criteria.  Housing development in line with policy criteria.	Uncertain as to the impact upon the River Wye SAC, depending upon location of development.  However, one criterion in the policy is stating that 'no development will be permitted within 100	River Wye SAC	The policies set out in the Local Plan (Core Strategy), subject the outcome of the Inspector's Report, and elsewhere within the NPD should help to avoid adverse impacts upon the	The HRA underlying the Core Strategy (April 2015) infers that the implementation of mitigation measures set out in the NMP would help to avoid adverse effects on the integrity of the River

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		metres of the River Wye SAC'.		European site.  Improved water efficiency measures, including metering and addressing leakages in supply may help to mitigate any additional pressure placed on the water supply as a result of new development.	Wye SAC.  In addition, this policy only provides criteria that other proposals must adhere to, and ensures mitigation methods to avoid any significant impact.
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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: Wellington Parish**

**Neighbourhood Development Plan Name: Wellington Neighbourhood Development Plan**

**Consultation date: 29<sup>th</sup> June – 9<sup>th</sup> August 2015**

**Consultation title: Wellington Draft Plan consultation Regulation 14**

No Comments were received for the HRA of the NDP