



The Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Ceredigion LDP

Final Screening Report

Summary

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- 1.1 Ceredigion County Council (CCC) is required by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004 to produce a Local Development Plan (LDP). Part of this process involves a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) being undertaken on the LDP to ensure that key international nature conservation sites are safeguarded and that the plan will not cause adverse effects on their integrity.
- 1.2 Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of spatial development plans incorporates the requirements of the Habitats Directive (1992/43/EEC) as set out in the amended Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010) (as amended).
- 1.3 This document is a summary of the results of the 'Screening Report' of the LDP (Ceredigion CC, 2013b). This 'Screening Report' includes the preliminary stages of the HRA process;
 - a. the identification of protected areas;
 - b. the collection of data;
 - c. the assessment of the effects LDP policies and allocations may have on these protected sites, and;
 - d. the identification of existing objectives from other plans, policies and programmes and details on projects which would, in combination with the LDP, be likely have a significant negative effect on any international nature conservation site.
- 1.4 During the process, 20 International Sites were identified as potentially being affected by the Ceredigion LDP. This included 12 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), 2 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and 2 Ramsar sites. 16 of these were all or partly within Ceredigion. These are listed below in Table 1.
- 1.5 The LDP (Ceredigion CC, 2013a) was then assessed for its effects on these International Sites, alone or in-combination. Each element of the plan has been assessed for its potential effects using systematic analysis following good practice guidance published by CCW in 2009 and revised in 2010 (Tyldesley, 2010), and in accordance with guidance from the Welsh Assembly Government in Annex 6 of TAN 5, published in 2009 (Welsh Assembly Government, 2009). Several key effects were identified for the sites as these are listed in Table 1.
- 1.6 Taking into account of mitigation measures including (but not limited to);
 - Policies that reduce or eliminate effects such as DM12: Utility Infrastructure, which prevents development if there are any capacity issues within the infrastructure or the water bodies affected, unless these issues can be resolved or acceptable interim measures can be included;
 - A sustainable Strategy with development being focussed on reducing the need to travel;

- Counteracting measures such as the Regional Transport Plan; and
- A HRA caveat for any policies where the effects were unknown and could not be mitigated otherwise;

1.7 the Ceredigion LDP proposals will have no effect or no significant negative effect, alone or in-combination with other plans or projects on the International Sites identified. Table 1 provides a summary of this.

Table 1: Summary of HRA screening assessment on International Sites

International Site	Key issues alone or in-combination	Likely sig. effect alone	Likely sig. affect in-combination	Appropriate Assessment?
Afon Teifi / River Teifi SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Water availability • Water quality • Disturbance • Atmospheric Deposition • Others: Effects on natural processes • Others: Spreading or introduction of non-native invasive species 	X	X	No
Cardigan Bay/ Bae Ceredigion SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Water availability • Water quality • Disturbance • Atmospheric Deposition • Others: Spreading or introduction of non-native invasive species 	X	X	No
Coed Cwm Einion SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Effect on micro-climate • Disturbance and erosion • Atmospheric Deposition 	X	X	No
Coedydd a Cheunant Rheidol/ Rheidol Woods & Gorge SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Effect on micro-climate 	X	X	No

International Site	Key issues alone or in-combination	Likely sig. effect alone	Likely sig. affect in-combination	Appropriate Assessment?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disturbance and erosion • Atmospheric Deposition 			
Cors Caron SAC and Ramsar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Effect on hydrology • Effect on micro-climate • Disturbance and erosion • Atmospheric Deposition 	X	X	No
Cors Fochno SAC and Cors Fochno and Dyfi Ramsar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Effect on hydrology • Effect on micro-climate • Erosion • Atmospheric Deposition 	X	X	No
Cwm Doethie - Mynydd Mallaen SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Effect on hydrology • Effect on micro-climate • Erosion • Atmospheric Deposition 	X	X	No
Dyfi Estuary SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Disturbance • Atmospheric Deposition 	X	X	No
Elenydd SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Effect on hydrology • Effect on micro-climate • Erosion • Atmospheric Deposition 	X	X	No
Elenydd – Mallaen SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Disturbance • Atmospheric Deposition 	X	X	No
Grogwynion SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss 	X	X	No

International Site	Key issues alone or in-combination	Likely sig. effect alone	Likely sig. affect in-combination	Appropriate Assessment?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effect on micro-climate • Erosion • Atmospheric Deposition 			
Pen Llyn a'r Sarnau/ Llyn Penisular and the Sarnau SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Water availability • Water quality • Disturbance • Atmospheric Deposition • Others: Spreading or introduction of non-native invasive species 	X	X	No
Rhos Llawr Cwrt SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Effect on hydrology • Effect on micro-climate • Erosion • Atmospheric Deposition 	X	X	No
Rhos Talglas SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Effect on hydrology • Effect on micro-climate • Erosion • Atmospheric Deposition 	X	X	No
Afon Tywi / River Towy SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Water availability • Water quality • Disturbance • Atmospheric Deposition • Others: Effects on natural processes • Others: Spreading or introduction of non-native invasive species 	X	X	No
River Wye / Afon Gwy SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat loss • Water availability 	X	X	No

International Site	Key issues alone or in-combination	Likely sig. effect alone	Likely sig. affect in-combination	Appropriate Assessment?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality • Disturbance • Atmospheric Deposition • Others: Effects on natural processes • Others: Spreading or introduction of non-native invasive species 			
North Pembrokeshire Woodlands/Coedydd Gogledd Sir Benfro SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat :Loss (removal of features important for flight lines) 	X	X	No
Meirionnydd Oakwoods and Bat Sites/Coedydd Derw a Safleoedd Ystumod Meirion SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat Loss (removal of features important for flight lines) 	X	X	No

1.8 It is therefore concluded that an AA of the implications of the plan for the International sites, in view of their conservation objectives, is not necessary in this case, in accordance with regulation 102 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.

1.9 The HRA for the Ceredigion LDP Final Screening Report and its associated Appendices and Technical Background Paper are available by contacting the Planning Policy team on 01545 572123 or on the Ceredigion County Council website at www.ceredigion.gov.uk.

References

Ceredigion County Council (2008) Preferred Strategy: Consultation Document

Ceredigion County Council (2010a) Ceredigion Local Development Plan 2007-2022: Deposit Version

Ceredigion County Council (2010b) Ceredigion Local Development Plan 2007-2022 : Habitat Regulations Appraisal Screening Report

Ceredigion County Council (2010b) Ceredigion Local Development Plan 2007-2022 : Sustainability Appraisal Report

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)

The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2010)

Tyldesley, D. (2010) Draft Guidance for Plan Making Authorities in Wales: The Appraisal of Plans Under the Habitats Directive. Produced for the Countryside Council For Wales

Welsh Assembly Government (2009) Planning Policy Wales: Technical Advice Note. 5: Nature Conservation and Planning