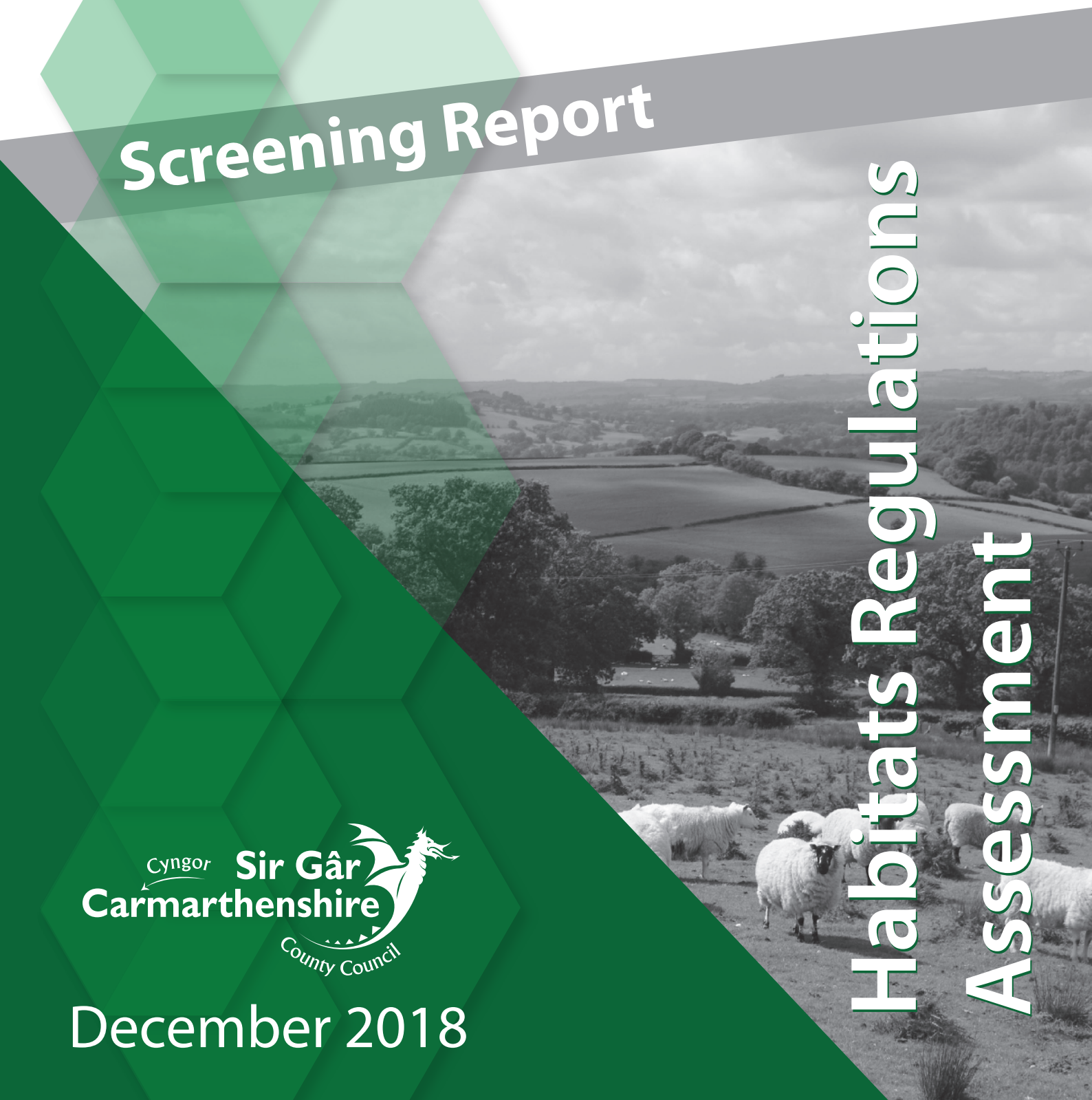
Revised Local 2018-2033 Development Plan

Screening Report

Habitats Regulations Assessment



Cyngor Sir Gâr Carmarthenshire County Council

December 2018

Contents

1. Introduction

1.1 Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA)

1.1.1 European Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna (known as the 'Habitats Directive'), implemented in the UK by the Habitat Regulations 2010, provides legal protection for a range of habitats and species identified as being of European importance.

1.1.2 Article 2 of the Directive requires the maintenance or restoration of these habitats and species, in a favourable condition, and is achieved through the establishment and maintenance of protected areas referred to as Natura 2000 sites. These are comprised of Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) designated under European Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Fauna and Flora ('the Habitats Directive 1992'), implemented in Britain by the Conservation (Natural Habitats & c) Regulations 2010 ('the Habitat Regulations'); and Special Protection Areas (SPA) designated under EC Directive 79/409 on the Conservation of Wild Birds ('the Birds Directive') and Ramsar site under the Ramsar Convention on the Conservation of Wetlands of Importance.

1.1.3 Sites designated as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention are subject to the same provisions as Natura 2000 sites.

1.2 The application of Habitats Regulations to Development Plans

1.2.1 Part IVA of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Regulations 1994 ("the Habitats Regulations") transposes the requirements of article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) in relation to "land use plans". These plans are defined in regulation 85A and include the following:

- Local development plans adopted or approved under the 2004 Act; and
- Unitary development plans adopted or approved under the 1990 Act, in accordance with the transitional agreements.

1.2.2 WAG's Technical Advice Note 5, Annex 6 states that The HRA process should consist of the following elements:

- Determining whether the development plan, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have significant effect on any European sites or European offshore marine sites and if so, scoping the "appropriate assessment";
- Undertaking the "appropriate "assessment" (in consultation with NRW and/or Natural England) to identify any significant effects that the development plan may have on any European sites or European offshore marine sites, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects, in view of those sites' conservation objectives;
- Where the "appropriate assessment" identifies potentially significant impacts on a European site or European offshore marine site, identifying whether there are possible alternative solutions or mitigation measures which, if adopted, will avoid or counteract those adverse impacts;

- Determining, in light of the "appropriate assessment", whether the development plan will or will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site or European offshore marine site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects;
- Where there is a possibility that the plan could have such an adverse effect, determining whether there are any alternative solutions to the development plan, or to the potentially damaging elements within that plan, which would avoid or reduce such effects upon the European site(s) or European offshore marine site(s); and
- Where there are no such alternative solutions, determining whether there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest for giving effect to the development plan.

1.2.3 The methods and approach used for this screening are based on guidance currently available and emergent practice, which recommends that HRA is approached in four main stages - outlined in Table 1 below. This report outlines the method and findings for stage 1 of the HRA process.

Table 1 Habitats Regulations Assessment: Key Stages

Habitats Regulation Assessment Stage	Purpose	Task
1. Screening	Process for identifying impacts of a plan or project on a European site, either individually or in combination, and consideration of whether likely effects will be significant.	• Description of the plan • Identification of potential effects on European Sites • Assessing the effects on European Sites.
2. Appropriate Assessment	Consideration of impacts on integrity of the site, either individually or in combination with other plans and projects, having regard to the site's structure, function and conservation objectives. Where adverse impacts are identified, assess mitigation options to identify impacts on the integrity of the site. This stage should involve consultation. If mitigation options do not result in avoidance of adverse effects permission can only be granted if the remaining 2 stages are followed.	• Gather information (plan and European Sites) • Impact prediction • Evaluation of impacts in view of conservation objectives
3. Assessment of alternative solutions	Review and examine alternatives to achieve objectives; would these alternative solutions avoid or have less adverse effects on the European sites?	• Where impacts considered to affect qualifying features, identify alternative options • Assess alternative options • If no alternatives exist, define and evaluate

		mitigation measures where necessary
4. Assessment of any 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI)	Where no suitable alternative solution exists and adverse impacts still remain then assess whether the development is necessary for IROPI. If so then identify potential compensatory measures to maintain integrity and coherence of the protected site.	• Identify 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI) • Identify potential compensatory measures

1.3 Purpose of report

1.3.1 At this stage of Plan preparation, with the exception of a small number of strategic sites, the Preferred Strategy will not include reference to the identification of any site-specific allocations. This will be done as part of drawing up the Deposit LDP, once the Preferred Strategy has been agreed.

1.3.2 This HRA Report therefore comprises the high-level preliminary screening stage (of the HRA process) of the Preferred Strategy. It identifies those allocation sites and/or policies which would clearly have no effects upon European sites enabling these to be 'screened out' of any further assessment. Therefore, the focus of further, more detailed assessment would only be applied to allocation sites, or policies, where a likely significant effect could be possible. Further detailed screening will be carried out on the next iteration of the LDP (i.e. the Deposit LDP) when the policies have been prepared and a full list of allocation sites has been agreed. Allocation sites and policies included for further detailed screening would then be reviewed in more detail based on the available information.

1.4 Consultation

1.4.1 The Habitats Regulations require the plan making/competent authority to consult the appropriate nature conservation statutory body (Natural Resources Wales) if undertaking an Appropriate Assessment, however consultation with other bodies and the public is left to the discretion of the local planning authority (regulation 85B(3)).

1.4.2 WAG guidance notes that it is good practice to make information on HRA available to the public at each formal development plan consultation stage. Therefore, in addition to the statutory consultation undertaken with NRW, this report will be made available for wider consultation.

1.4.3 Responses to this consultation should be sent in writing to:

Forward Planning Section,
Environment Department,
7/8 Spilman Street,
Carmarthen,
Carmarthenshire,
SA31 1JY

or e mail: forward.planning@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

or online at www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk

1.4.4 Following the receipt of the consultation comments, they will be reviewed and modifications will be made to the HRA screening report as necessary

1.5 Structure of report

1.5.1 This report documents the process and the findings from the screening stages of the HRA for Carmarthenshire County Council Preferred Strategy. Following this introductory section, the document is organised into the following sections:

Section 2 outlines the methodology and key tasks undertaken for the HRA screening of the Preferred Strategy stage of the LDP, and includes reference to the key information sources used.

Section 3 outlines the process and summary findings of the Screening Process and assessment including:

- **3.1 Task 1:** Identification and characterisation or European Sites
- **3.2 Task 2:** Screening of Preferred Strategy to identify potential likely effects on European Sites
- **3.3 Task 3:** Consideration of effects in combination with other plans, programmes and projects.
- **3.4 Task 4**: Screening Assessment Summary

2. Methodology

2.1 Stage 1 – Screening

2.1.1 The process of Screening can be broken down into four main task areas. Each task is outlined below.

- **Task 1**: Identification and characterisation of European sites
- **Task 2**: Review and screening of Development Plan to identify potential impacts and likely effects on European sites.
- **Task 3**: Consideration of other plans and projects that may act 'in-combination'
- **Task 4**: Screening Assessment, recording the opinion and supporting information and analysis.

2.1.2 A screening assessment, both alone and in combination, with other identified plans and projects will identify if any significant environmental affects will result affecting the site and conclude whether significant affects are likely or not.

2.1.3 If no potential significant affects are identified, the process ends at this stage.

2.1.4 If there are found to be likely significant effects, having applied the precautionary principle, the plan must be subject to an Appropriate Assessment (AA) of its implications for the European site in view of the site's conservation objectives. The work carried out at the evidence gathering stage and the screening stage should be drawn upon to assist in assessing the effects of the plan option on the conservation objectives

2.2 Determining 'likely significant effect'

2.2.1 In order to decide whether a development plan at any stage requires an appropriate assessment, it is necessary to apply the two tests set out in regulation 85B(1) of the regulations, which are:

(1) Is the plan likely to have a significant effect on a European site or European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects)?
(2) Is it directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site?

2.2.2 When undertaking this assessment a precautionary approach is required. The development plan should be considered 'likely' to have such an effect if the planning authority is unable (on the basis of objective information) to exclude the possibility that the plan could have significant effects on any European site or European offshore marine site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.

2.2.3 An effect will be considered 'significant' in this context if it could undermine the conservation objectives of a European designated site. The assessment of that risk (of 'significance') must be made in the light, amongst other things, of the characteristics and specific environmental conditions of the site concerned.

2.2.4 The screening step will therefore screen out aspects of the plan which could not have any negative effect at all on a European site, because there is no link, nor pathway, nor other relationship between the effects of the policy or proposal and any European site, including cases where the link is severed or eliminated by distance, or because any potential effects would be positive, not negative.

2.2.5 If the likelihood of significant affects cannot be ruled out on the evidence available, then it must be assumed that a risk of significant affects may exist. These will then need to be addressed through either changes to the scheme, avoidance or through securing mitigation measures.

2.3 Guidance for Habitats Regulations Appraisal/Appropriate Assessment

2.3.1 The following methodology developed for the HRA screening is based upon the following regulations and guidance documents:

Regulations:

- Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) Regulations 2012 (the 'Conservation Regulations').
- Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, (the 'Habitats Directive').

Guidance:

- Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. European Commission (2001).
- Department for Communities and Local Government (2006). Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Guidance for Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents.
- TAN 5
- Habitats Regulations Assessment: A toolkit to support HRA Screening and Appropriate Assessment of Plans. South East Wales Strategic Planning Group (SEWSPG) (2008)
- DTA Publications Limited The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook.

3. Screening

3.1 Task 1: Identification and characterisation or European Sites

3.1.1 Plans, programmes and projects can have spatial implications that extend beyond the intended plan boundaries. It is recognised that distance in itself is not a definitive guide to the likelihood or severity of an impact and factors such as prevailing wind direction, river flow direction and groundwater flow direction will all have baring on the relevant distance at which an impact can occur. This means that a plan directing development some distance away from a European Site could still have effects on the site and therefore, needs to be considered as part of the screening process.

3.1.2 European sites on which Carmarthenshire Local Development Plan could potentially have a significant effect have been identified via data obtained through the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Protected Sites Designations Directory and by applying a 15km buffer from the County boundary, in order to take into consideration the potential for transboundary impacts.

3.1.3 12 designated sites lie within Carmarthenshire's County boundary and are listed in the table below.

European Site within Plan Boundary	Designation
River Tywi	SAC
Caeau Mynydd Mawr	SAC
Cernydd Carmel	SAC
Carmarthen Bay Dunes	SAC
River Teifi	SAC
Cleddau Rivers	SAC
Carmarthen Bay and Estuary	SAC
Cwm Doethie – Mynydd Mallaen	SAC
Carmarthen Bay	SPA
Elenydd - Mallaen	SPA
Burry Inlet	SPA
Burry Inlet	Ramsar

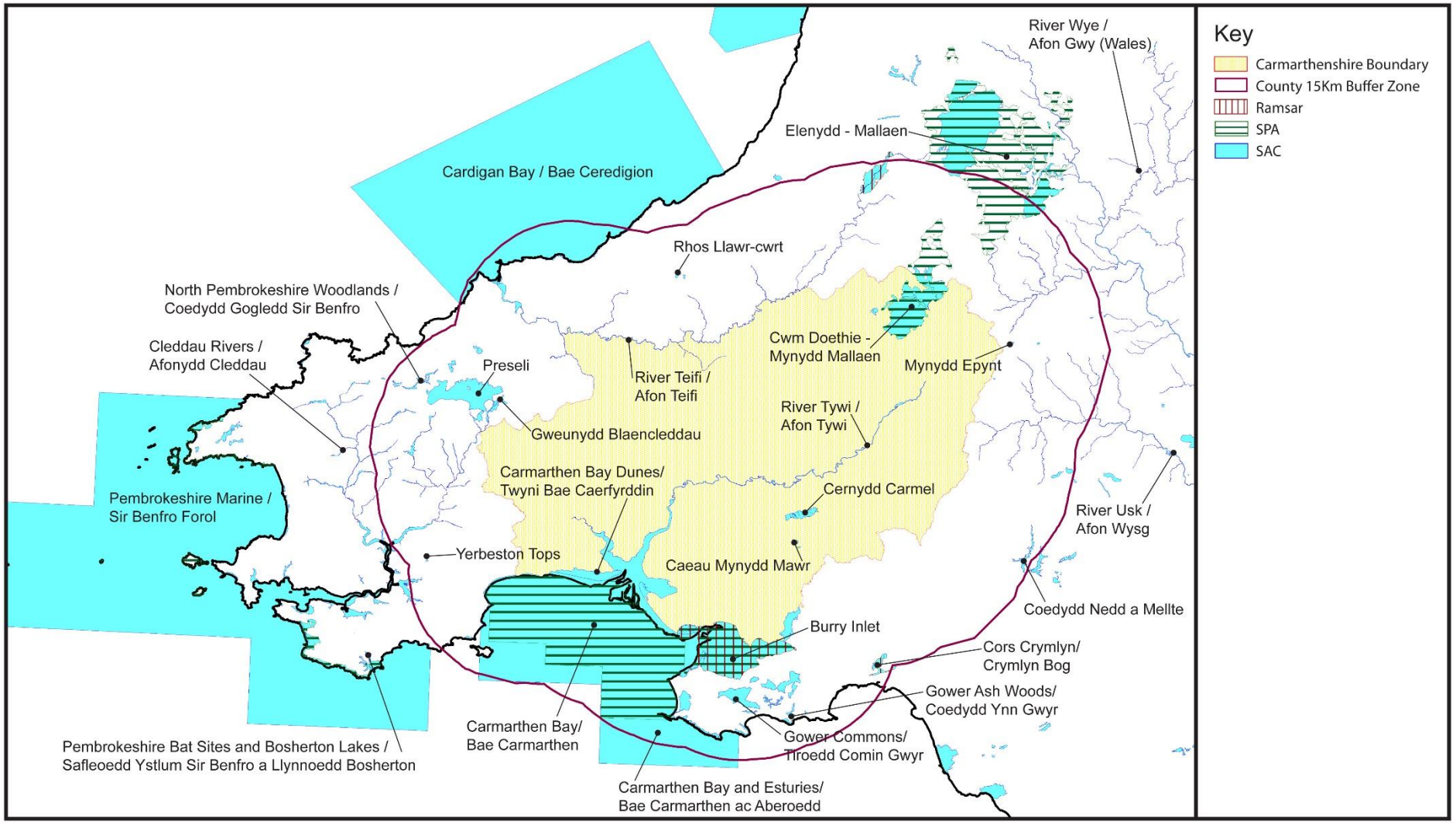
3.1.4 Screening has identified a further 13 designated sites that lie within the 15km buffer zone and may be influenced by transboundary effects of the Carmarthenshire preferred strategy.

European Site within 15km buffer around Plan Boundary	Designation	Distance from Plan boundary (km)
Cardigan Bay	SAC	9.2km
North Pembrokeshire Woodlands	SAC	9.0km
Yerbeston Tops	SAC	8.8km
Rhos Llawr-cwrt	SAC	7.5km
Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes	SAC	6.9km
Gower Ash Woods	SAC	8.8km
Pembrokeshire Marine	SAC	4.7km
Gower Commons	SAC	4.0km
River Wye	SAC	1.7km
Gweunydd Blaencleddau	SAC	1.9km

Preseli	SAC	0.5km
Mynydd Epynt	SAC	1.8km
River Usk	SAC	0.2km

3.1.5 Appendix 1.provides a summary of each of the European sites considered to potentially be affected by the Carmarthenshire Preferred Strategy, and sets out the conservation objectives and condition assessment for each of the features of interest for each site. Detailed site characterisation information for each of the identified sites can be found in the accompanying Core Management Plan and Natura 2000 standard data form for each site, which can be accessed via the Joint Nature Conservation Committee website.

Figure 1 Location of European sites in relation to Carmarthenshire.



3.2 Task 2: Screening of Preferred Strategy to identify potential likely effects on European Sites

3.2.1 This chapter sets out a preliminary screening of the potential significant likely effects of the revised Carmarthenshire Draft Pre-Deposit Preferred Strategy on the conservation objectives of the European sites identified in Task 1.

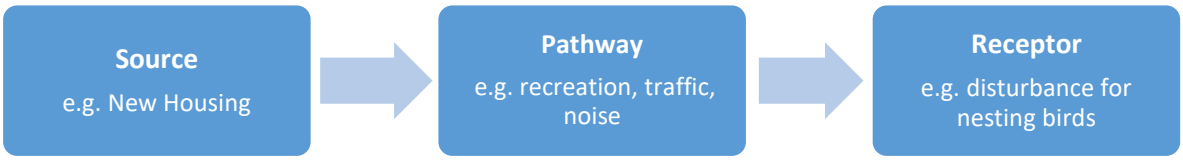
3.2.2 Those sites identified as having the potential for Likely Significant Effects (LSE), as a result of the implementation of the Preferred Strategy, or those European sites for which impacts were uncertain, will be carried forward into more detailed screening assessment.

Scanning and selection European sites potentially affected.

3.2.3 The scanning stage identifies sites that may be affected by the plan as far beyond as necessary for sites and identifying causal connections and links between the plan proposals and the qualifying features of the sites.

3.2.4 The checklist provided in Table 2 identifies potential pathways by which the Preferred Strategy may impact on European sites. This checklist reflects and expands upon Natural Resources Wales (NRW) guidance, and provides a systematic and transparent way of identifying sites potentially affected by the Preferred Strategy.

Figure 2 Impact Source, Pathway, Receptor model



3.2.5 This process enables an appropriate 'short list' of sites potentially affected to be identified, from which he final list of sites to be included in assessment can be selected after considering the relevant information. Selection of sites is an iterative process, considering and reconsidering information until there is a satisfactory degree of confidence that all sites potentially adversely affected have been selected.

3.2.6 If there is no causal connection or link between the Plan's proposals and the sites qualifying features there cannot be an effect. If there is a 'theoretical' pathway or 'hypothetical' cause, but in practice there is no credible evidence of a real link to the site, it cannot be regarded as being potentially significant, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. There is no point including that supposition in further assessment.

3.2.7 This scan is broad ranging, but following a systematic approach is likely to ensure compliance and to provide credible and demonstrable evidence of how sites were scanned and selected.

3.2.8 The scanning list includes plans by:

- Type – e.g. plans that increase the amount of development
- Potential effect on resources - e.g. the aquatic environment or mobile species

- The nature of potential effects – e.g. plans that introduce new activities which could affect air quality.

Table 2 Scanning and site selection list for sites that could potentially be affected by the plan.

Types of plan	Site selection criteria	Sites selected for further consideration
1. All plans (terrestrial, coastal and marine)	Sites within the plan area	SACs ▪ River Tywi ▪ Caeau Mynydd Mawr ▪ Cernydd Carmel ▪ Carmarthen Bay Dunes ▪ Cleddau Rivers ▪ River Teifi ▪ Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries ▪ Cwm Doethie – Mynydd Mallaen SPA/Ramsar ▪ Carmarthen Bay SPA ▪ Burry Inlet SPA/Ramsar ▪ Elenydd - Mallaen
2. Plans that could affect the aquatic environment	Sites upstream or downstream of the plan area in the case of river or estuary sites	SACs ▪ Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries ▪ River Usk ▪ River Wye SPA/Ramsar ▪ Carmarthen Bay ▪ Burry Inlet
	Open water, peatland, fen, marsh and other wetland sites with relevant hydrological links to land within the plan area, irrespective of distance	SACs ▪ Afon Teifi ▪ Caeau Mynydd Mawr ▪ Cernydd Carmel ▪ Carmarthen Bay Dunes ▪ Cleddau Rivers ▪ Gweunydd Blaencleddau ▪ Preseli ▪ River Wye SPA/Ramsar ▪ Burry Inlet SPA/Ramsar
3. Plans that could affect the marine environment	Sites that could be affected by changes in water quality, currents or flows; or effects on the intertidal or subtidal areas or the seabed or marine species	SACs ▪ Carmarthen Bay and Dunes ▪ Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries ▪ Cardigan Bay ▪ Pembrokeshire Marine SPA/Ramsar ▪ Burry Inlet ▪ Carmarthen Bay
4. Plans that could affect the coast	Sites in the same coastal 'cell' or part of the same coastal ecosystem, or where there are	SACs ▪ Carmarthen Bay and Dunes ▪ Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries ▪ Cardigan Bay

	interrelationships with or between different physical coastal processes	▪ Pembrokeshire Marine SPA/Ramsar ▪ Burry Inlet ▪ Carmarthen Bay
5. Plans that could affect mobile species	Sites whose qualifying features include mobile species which may be affected by the plan irrespective of the location of the plans or whether the species would be in or out of the site when thy might be affected.	SACs ▪ River Tywi ▪ River Teifi ▪ Cleddau Rivers ▪ Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries ▪ Caeau Mynydd Mawr ▪ Cardigan Bay ▪ Pembrokeshire Marine ▪ River Wye ▪ River Usk ▪ North Pembrokeshire Woodlands ▪ Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes ▪ Yerbeston Tops ▪ Rhos Lawr Cwrt ▪ Preseli ▪ Gower Commons SPA/Ramsar ▪ Carmarthen Bay ▪ Burry Inlet
6. Plans that could increase recreational pressure on European sites potentially vulnerable to such pressure	Such sites in the plan area	SAC ▪ River Teifi ▪ Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries ▪ Carmarthen Bay Dunes ▪ Cwm Doethie – Mynydd Mallaen SPA/Ramsar ▪ Burry Inlet ▪ Carmarthen Bay ▪ Elenydd - Mallaen
	Such sites within a reasonable travel distance of the plan area boundaries that may be affected by local recreational or other visitor pressure from within the plan area	None
	Such sites within a longer travel distance of the plan area which are major (regional or national) visitor attractions such as site which are National Nature Reserves where public visiting is promoted, sites in National Parks, coastal sites and sites in other major tourist or visitor destinations.	None

7. Plans that would increase the amount of development	Sites in the plan area or beyond that are used for, or could be affected by, water abstraction irrespective of distance from the plan area	SACs ▪ River Teifi ▪ River Tywi ▪ Cleddau Rivers ▪ Caeau Mynydd Mawr ▪ Cardigan Bay ▪ Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries ▪ Carmarthen Bay Dunes ▪ Cernydd Carmel ▪ Cwm Doethie – Mynydd Mallaen ▪ Mynydd Epynt ▪ Preseli ▪ River Wye ▪ River Usk ▪ Yerbeston Tops ▪ Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes ▪ Pembrokeshire Marine ▪ Gower Commons SPA/Ramsar ▪ Burry Inlet ▪ Carmarthen Bay
	Sites used for, or which could be affected by, discharge of effluent from waste water treatment works or other waste management streams serving the plan area, irrespective of distance	SACs ▪ River Teifi ▪ River Tywi ▪ Cleddau Rivers ▪ Cardigan Bay ▪ Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries ▪ Cernydd Carmel ▪ River Wye ▪ River Usk ▪ Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes ▪ Pembrokeshire Marine SPAs/Ramsar • Burry Inlet • Carmarthen Bay
	Sites that could be affected by the provision of new or extended transport or other infrastructure	None
	Sites that could be affected by increased deposition of air pollutants arising from the plan, including emissions from significant increases in traffic	SACs • Caeau Mynydd Mawr • Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries • Carmarthen Bay and Dunes • Cernydd Carmel • Cleddau Rivers • Cwm Doethie – Mynydd Mallaen • Gower Ash Woods

		• Gower Commons • Gweunydd Blaencleddau • Mynydd Epynt • Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes • Pembrokeshire Marine • Preseli • Rhos Llawr-cwrt • North Pembrokeshire Woodlands • Yerbeston Tops
		SPA/Ramsar
		• Carmarthen Bay • Burry Inlet
8. Plans for linear developments or infrastructure	Sites within a specified distance from the centre line of a proposed route (or alternative routes), the distance may be varied depending on type of site/qualifying features and in the absence of established good practice standards, distances are to be agreed by the statutory nature body	None (Plan does not produce such risks)
9. Plans that introduce new activities or new uses to the marine, coastal or terrestrial environment	Sites considered have qualifying features potentially vulnerable or sensitive to the effects of the new activities proposed by the plan	None (Plan does not produce such risks)
10. Plans that could change the nature, area, extent, intensity, density, timing or scale of existing use activities.	Sites considered to have qualifying features potentially vulnerable or sensitive to the effects of the changes to existing activities proposed by the plan	None (Plan does not produce such risks)
11. Plans that could change the quantity, quality, timing, treatment or mitigation of emissions or discharges to air, water or soil	Sites considered to have qualifying features potentially vulnerable or sensitive to the changes in emissions or discharges that could arise as a result of the plan (over and above those already identified)	None (Plan does not produce such risks)
12. Plans that could change the quantity, volume, timing, rate or other characteristics of biological resources	Sites whose qualifying features include the biological resources which the plan may affect, or whose qualifying features depend on the biological resources which the plan may affect e.g. as prey species or supporting habitat or	None (Plan does not produce such risks)

harvested, extracted or consumed	which may be disturbed by the harvesting, extraction or consumption	
13. Plans that could change the quantity, volume, timing, rate or other characteristics of physical resources extracted or consumed	Sites whose qualifying features rely on the non-biological resources which the plan may affect e.g. as habitat or physical environment on which habitat may develop or which may be disturbed by the extraction or consumption	None (Plan does not produce such risks)
14. Plans that could introduce, increase or alter the timing, nature or location of disturbance to species	Sites whose qualifying features are considered to be potentially vulnerable or sensitive to disturbance e.g. as a result of noise, activity or movement, or the presence of disturbing features that could be brought about by the plan	SACs • Afon Teifi • Afon Tywi • Cleddau Rivers • Cardigan Bay • Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries • Cwm Doethie • Gower Commons • Gower Ash Woods • North Pembrokeshire Woodlands • Pembrokeshire Marine • Pembrokeshire Bat sites and Bosherton Lakes • River Wye • River Usk SPA/Ramsar • Burry Inlet • Carmarthen Bay
15. Plans which could introduce, increase or change the timing, nature or location of light or noise pollution	Sites whose qualifying features are considered to be potentially vulnerable to the effects of changes in light or noise that could be brought about by the plan	SACs • Afon Teifi • Afon Tywi • Cleddau Rivers • Cardigan Bay • Carmarthen Bay • Pembrokeshire Marine • Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes • River Wye • River Usk SPAs • Burry Inlet • Carmarthen Bay
16. Plans which could introduce or increase a potential cause of mortality of species	Sites whose qualifying features are considered to be potentially vulnerable to the source of new or increased mortality that could be brought about by the plan	None (Plan does not produce such risks)

3.2.9 Based on the checklist and taking into account the nature, scope content and function of the Preferred Strategy, it is considered that the preliminary screening will need to consider the following range of effects:

- Effects on aquatic environment
- Effects on the marine environment
- Effects on the coast
- Effects on mobile species
- Recreational effects
- Effects associated development
  - Water abstraction
  - Discharge of effluent from wastewater
  - Effects of air pollution
- Species disturbance effects
- Noise and light pollution effects

3.2.10 Each effect mechanism is introduced and considered at a generic level in relation to the overall preferred strategy in the subsequent paragraphs and summarised in Table 12, where implications for further screening work have been identified. Where evidence shows that certain effect mechanisms will not result in Likely Significant Effects on certain sites, they are screened out from further assessment at this stage.

Effects on the aquatic environment

3.2.11 The 'aquatic environment' of a site is typically the body of water in a site, taking into consideration its movement into, through and out of the site. Effects considered under this heading relate to the localised effects of development on the existing surface water and ground water movement. Direct effects (such as sediment run off or the reduction of rainwater infiltration) are distinct from indirect effects such as water abstraction and wastewater, which are assessed separately under 'effects associated with development'.

3.2.12 Development and changes in land use can have affect the aquatic environment. It can cause acceleration of run off by increasing hard surface and reducing areas where infiltration can occur, which can increase the amount of chemicals or other pollutants entering watercourses. Water run off can also be slowed, through water retention and the introduction of Sustainable drainage systems. Sedimentation of surface water can also occur through run off from building sites or the diversion of water courses to other catchments.

3.2.13 Sites identified as potentially vulnerable to this effect are detailed in Table 3. In the case of all of these sites, effects are only considered likely where development is in close proximity to a water course that is in hydraulic continuity to the site and so will need to be subject to detailed screening. For this reason identified sites are screened in at this stage and this is summarised in Table 3.

Table 3 Preliminary screening of European Sites identified as vulnerable to effects on aquatic environment.

Sites identified as vulnerable	Further Assessment Required?	Reasoning
SAC		
Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
River Usk	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
River Wye	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
SPA/Ramsat		
Carmarthen Bay SPA	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Burry Inlet SPA/Ramsar	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Elenydd - Mallaen	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment

Effects on the marine environment

3.2.14 Development and growth can lead to effects on the marine environment. These effects are considered unlikely, but screened in for all identified sites for detailed assessment, on precautionary basis. Sites sensitive to effects on the marine environment and preliminary screening assessment is summarised in Table 4.

Table 4 Preliminary screening of European Sites identified as vulnerable to effects on marine environment.

Sites identified as vulnerable	Further Assessment Required?	Reasoning
SAC		
Carmarthen Bay and Dunes	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Cardigan Bay	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Pembrokeshire Marine	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
SPA/Ramsar		
Burry Inlet SPA/Ramsar	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Carmarthen Bay SPA	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment

Effects on the coast

3.2.15 New development and growth can result in impacts on coastal processes. Installation of coastal defence structures to protect land and property can interfere with natural sand movement and erosion, which can result in coastal squeeze and effects on coastal dynamics.
Increased recreational pressures also have the potential to modify physical, chemical and environmental factors and processes in the coastal environment, which are assessed in more detail under 'recreational effects'. These effects are considered unlikely, but screened in for all identified sites for detailed assessment, on precautionary basis. Sites sensitive to effects on the coast and screening assessment is summarised in Table 5.

Table 5 Preliminary screening of European Sites identified as vulnerable to effects on the coast

Sites identified as vulnerable	Further Assessment Required?	Reasoning
SAC		
Carmarthen Bay and Dunes	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Cardigan Bay	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Pembrokeshire Marine	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
SPA/Ramsar		
Burry Inlet SPA/Ramsar	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Carmarthen Bay SPA	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment

Effects on mobile species

3.2.16 Mobile species are those listed as features of a site, that are dependent on areas of land outside of the designated site boundary, such as birds, bats, fish etc. The mobile species identified as relevant to this preliminary assessment and the sites they are designated within are detailed in Table 6.

Table 6 Preliminary screening of European Sites identified as vulnerable to effects on the coast

Sites with mobile species as designated features	Distance outside CCC boundary	Potentially impacted Species	Further assessment required?
Within CCC boundary			
River Tywi SAC	N/A	Twaite shad	No
		Allis shad	No
		Sea lamprey	No
		River lamprey	No
		Otter	Yes
River Teifi SAC	N/A	Twaite shad	No
		Allis shad	No
		Sea lamprey	No
		River lamprey	No
		Otter	Yes
		Atlantic salmon	No
Cleddau Rivers SAC	N/A	River lamprey	No
		Sea lamprey	No
Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries SAC	N/A	Twaite shad	No
		Allis shad	No
		Sea lamprey	No
		River lamprey	No
		Otter	Yes
Caeau Mynydd Mawr SAC	N/A	Marsh Fritillary Butterfly	Yes
Carmarthen Bay SPA	N/A	Bird Assemblage	Yes
Burry Inlet SPA/Ramsar	N/A	Bird Assemblage	Yes
Outside CCC boundary			
Cardigan Bay SAC	9.2km	Bottlenose dolphin	No
		Grey seal	No

		Sea lamprey	No
		River lamprey	No
Pembrokeshire Marine SAC	4.7km	Grey seal	No
		Sea lamprey	No
		River lamprey	No
		Allis shad	No
		Twaite shad	No
		Otter	Yes
River Wye	1.7km	Twaite shad	No
		Allis shad	No
		Sea lamprey	No
		River lamprey	No
		Otter	Yes
		Atlantic salmon	No
River Usk	0.2km	Twaite shad	No
		Allis shad	No
		Sea lamprey	No
		River lamprey	No
		Otter	Yes
		Atlantic salmon	No
North Pembrokeshire Woodlands	9km	Barbastelle Bat	Yes
Pembrokeshire bat sites	6.9km	Greater Horseshoe Bat	Yes
		Lesser Horseshoe Bat	No
		Otter	Yes
Yerbeston Tops	8.8km	Marsh fritillary butterfly	No
Rhos Lawr-cwrt	7.5km	Marsh fritillary butterfly	No
Preseli	0.5km	Marsh fritillary butterfly	Yes
Gower Commons	4km	Marsh fritillary butterfly	No

Twaite Shad, Allis Shad, River lamprey, Sea lamprey and Atlantic salmon

3.2.17 The Twaite Shad, Allis Shad, River lamprey, Sea Lamprey and Atlantic salmon all utilise migratory routes through both estuarine and riverine SACs within Carmarthenshire at different stages of their life cycles. In Carmarthenshire, the Rivers Tywi, Teifi and Cleddau all have these as designated features of their SACs. The River Tywi is of particular importance to shad species as it is thought to be one of only four rivers in Wales in which they are known to spawn.

3.2.18 The rivers Tywi, Teifi and Cleddau all drain into estuaries which also have shad and lamprey as protected features, namely Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries SAC, Cardigan Bay SAC and Pembrokeshire Marine SAC respectively. The rivers Usk and Wye also have shad and lamprey as designated species and their catchment area lies partially within Carmarthenshire.

3.2.19 Offsite impact on features within these sites is likely to be as a result of water quality or abstraction impact. For this reason, any likely significant impacts on shad, lamprey or Atlantic salmon in the listed sites will be assessed further and in more detail under the heading 'affects associated with development' and will not be considered further under this impact pathway.

Marsh Fritillary Butterfly

3.2.20 Marsh fritillary butterfly are designated features of a number of sites within the 15km buffer zone for consideration under HRA. Conservation objectives for Marsh fritillary butterflies state that

'*There will be at least 10ha of Good Condition (optimal breeding) habitat on or within 2km radii of the SAC, set in a matrix of at least 50ha of Suitable Condition habitat'.*

3.2.21 All but Gower Commons SAC are considered to support insufficient habitat to achieve good conservation status under the above objective and are therefore highly sensitive to habitat fragmentation and loss as a result of development within a 2km radii of SAC boundaries.

3.2.22 Yerbeston tops SAC, Rhos Lawr cwrt SAC and Gower Commons SAC are sited more than 2km outside of the direct influence of Carmarthenshire's LDP and are therefore all screened out of further consideration under this impact pathway, as the LDP is not likely to have a significant effect on habitat fragmentation at these sites.

3.2.23 Sites identified as potentially vulnerable to impacts on Marsh Fritillary butterfly are: Caeau Mynydd Mawr SAC and Preseli SAC on the basis that the LDP may potentially impact on the 2km habitat buffer around these SACs and must therefore be considered at the detailed screening stage.

Barbastelle Bat

3.2.24 With regards to potential offsite impacts on Barbastelle bats, the management plan for North Pembrokeshire Woodlands SAC states that 'One threat to the barbastelle feature is that around half of the roosting sites and the majority of the foraging areas lie outside the SAC boundaries, as the boundaries were drawn up before the bats were discovered.'
To address this, the site management plan has the following conservation objectives for the Barbastelle bat feature:

'there will be continual foraging habitat within a 16km radius around Pengelli Forest, including wooded stream valleys, low and overgrown hedgerows, scrub, overgrown pastures, broken stands and woodland (which can include conifer plantations).'

'Roosts outside the [SAC] boundary will be left undisturbed, with no woodland management within 50m of a barbastelle roost and no clearance of shrub layer.'

3.2.25 As a result, detailed screening will need to be carried out to identify impacts any potential impacts on foraging habitat within a 16km radius around Pengelli, used by Barbastelle bats.

Greater and Lesser Horseshoe Bats

3.2.26 Both Greater and Lesser horseshoe bats are features of Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes, which is an important site for a number of bat species, and contains a range of important roosting sites and nursery roosts for a range of bat species.

3.2.27 The Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes Management Plan states that between 1-16km from the component SSSI '*extensive hedgerow systems and tree-lined watercourses, linking roost sites and grasslands foraging areas to be retained within up to 16km of these roosts'*.

3.2.28 It also states that an area between 7-16km from component SSSIs may be used for foraging, but flight routes may lead further connecting to other roost sites. And that *'All existing roosts known to CCW should be maintained and there should be no physical deterioration in or disturbance of these sites, or loss or of roosting opportunity within 1-16 km radius of the key breeding roosts within the SAC.*'

3.2.29 Pembrokeshire Bat Site and Bosherton Lakes SAC sits more than 16km outside of Carmarthenshire's border and therefore will not have any offsite impacts that will have a significant effect on this objective. However, it is relevant to this assessment that the management plan does make reference to cumulative records, which show that Greater horseshoe bats utilise roosts throughout the West Wales region, including Carmarthenshire.

3.2.30 Offsite impacts as a result of the LDP are therefore not considered to have a likely significant effect on Lesser Bat species, which are screened out of further assessment. Records would need to be checked to inform the screening of any such areas that are considered for development with regards to potential threats to greater horseshoe bats, and as such this will be taken forward for detailed screening.

European Otters

3.2.31 European otters are designated features of a number of European sites considered for screening within this document, including River Tywi, River Teifi, Cleddau Rivers, Carmarthenshire Bay and Estuaries, Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes, Pembrokeshire Marine, River Wye and River Usk SACs. Management plans for all of the aforementioned sites highlight that otters 'may be affected by developments that affect resting and breeding sites outside of SAC boundaries'.

3.2.32 With regards to riverine SACs, the management plans state that 'otters require sufficient undisturbed riparian habitat for breeding and resting to be maintained in areas adjacent to the SACs' and that in urban areas focus is often placed on maintaining the river as a 'communication corridor' without considering the requirement of the surrounding supporting habitats, which enable the river corridor to function efficiently. Therefore,

3.2.33 One threat of particular relevance is an increase in road use, as otter road deaths have been highlighted as having a potentially significant impact on populations within river catchments.

3.2.34 It is also highly likely that otters travel between water courses and along the coastline, utilising inland watercourses for breeding and coastal areas for foraging. Otters are known to utilise most areas of the coastline within and adjacent to both Pembrokeshire Marine and Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries SACs and it is likely that otters present at a particular site are part of the wider population, with no site completely isolated. Of relevance to this assessment is the emphasised links between the coastal SAC's and both Tywi and Cleddau river SACs, both of which fall within Carmarthenshire's boundary

3.2.35 This indicates otters a highly mobile between the aforementioned SACs and as such are at risk of impacts as a result of the LDP, outside of SAC boundaries**.**

3.2.36 In light of this, detailed screening will need to be undertaken to identify any site allocations which may impact on the use of suitable areas of land outside the SAC boundary by otters.

Bottlenose Dolphin and Grey Seal

3.2.37 Neither Bottlenose dolphin nor Grey seal species utilise any of the waterways that lie within the plan area as part of their natural range. However, upstream water quality issues within the rivers Cleddau or Teifi have the potential to negatively impact on both species within Cardigan Bay SAC and Pembrokeshire Marine SAC, as well as their natural prey. **This will be addressed in more detail under the heading 'affects associated with development' and will be therefore not be considered further under this effect pathway.**

SPA Bird Assemblages

3.2.38 The listed bird species of the Burry Inlet and Carmarthen Bay SPAs are also considered as 'mobile', as at high tide many of the wading species are likely to seek refuge in supporting habitat outside of the SPA boundary. This is due to habitats above mean high water becoming too crowded or disturbed by roosting birds, when birds that utilise intertidal habitats are forced out by the incoming tide. Therefore, the birds will, at certain time, be required to utilise supporting habitats outside of the SPA, which often include arable land or recreational playing fields. In absence of any evidence to the contrary, any suitable land within 1km inshore of the SPAs may be used as supporting habitat by bird species at high tide or during inclement weather**.**

3.2.39 Records will need to be checked to inform the screening of any such areas that are considered for development and will be considered in further detailed screening.

Recreational Effects

3.2.40 The effects of recreational pressure on SACs and SPAs are primarily related to damage to habitats and disturbance to species for which the site is designated. Damage to habitats usually arise as a result of trampling, which over a period of time can cause paths and tracks to become established and subsequently widened. The wearing of paths from use can also cause or accelerate erosion leading to further habitat damage. Increased access can also increase the likelihood of invasive, non-native species being introduced into the SAC.

3.2.41 Disturbance and/or impacts on species in SACs and SPAs are largely as a result of increased use of the sites, which can lead to an increase in activities such as dog walking, recreational fishing, as well as eco-tourism activities, recreational boating and pollution associated with anthropogenic use of a site. Recreational effects on species will be addressed in more detail under the heading 'Species disturbance effects'.

3.2.42 Section 9 of the preferred strategy states that the strategic growth option on which the strategy is based would result in a population change of + 16,567, which represents a population growth of +9.4% over the plan period. Unless development occurs in very close proximity to a European site it can be assumed, on a precautionary basis, that LDP allocations will result in a proportional 9.4% increase in visitor numbers over the plan period.

3.2.43 7 sites are identified as being potentially sensitive to recreational pressures. It is considered that in relation to the potential effects from recreation associated with overall population growth, current management of site activities will be able to ensure that sites are able to absorb the anticipated overall increase of approx. 0.63% in visitor numbers per year without any likely significant effects to conservation objectives.

3.2.44 Any effects associated with development in close proximity to a European site, which may generate effects with regards to increasing recreational pressure, will be considered in further detailed screening.

3.2.45 A summary of the preliminary screening of European sites identified as potentially vulnerable to effects of recreation are shown in Table 7

Table 7 Preliminary screening of European Sites identified as vulnerable to recreational effects

Sites identified as vulnerable	Further screening required?	Reasoning
SAC		
River Teifi	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Carmarthen Bay Dunes	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Cwm – Doethie – Mynydd Mallaen	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
SPA/Ramsar		
Burry Inlet SPA	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Carmarthen Bay SPA/Ramsar	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Elenydd – Mallaen SPA	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment

Effects as a result of development: Water abstraction

3.2.46 Development places an increased demand on water supplies and the potential impacts of increased abstraction rates on surface water and groundwater levels can represent likely significant effects on European sites.

3.2.47 Water supply for new development can be abstracted from a source at some distance from the actual development location. As a result the potential effects of development through increased abstraction must be informed by the Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP)

3.2.48 Abstraction is licenced by Natural Resources Wales (NRW), who are the competent authority under the Habitats Regulations, and therefore it is primarily the responsibility of NRW to avoid adverse effects on European sites as a result of abstraction. However, the HRA of the Deposit Plan must recognise that the consenting and management options available to NRW are limited by water availability. Welsh Water has a duty to supply new development and there is a tension within the HRA if it assumes the NRW can simply consent any associated increases in abstraction in such a way to avoid adverse effects on European Sites.

3.2.49 It is the responsibility of the HRA of the deposit plan to ensure that the allocation of housing as a result of the Preferred Strategy is done in such a way that there are viable options available to both NRW and DCWW to meet water supply demands and avoid adverse effects on the integrity of any European sites.

3.2.50 The water resources requirements for Carmarthenshire are supplied entirely by DCWW, and the county lies within the Tywi conjunctive use system (Tywi WRZ). The draft DCWW Resource Management Plan[1] (WRMP) predicts that the Tywi WRZ will be in surplus throughout the period of the LDP[2], based on the projected increase in household numbers within Carmarthenshire of 14.6%

[1] DCWW Draft Water Resources Management Plan Technical Report, March 2018.
[2] Refer to Section 5.18.4

between 2014 and 2039[3], with an increase from 82,751 to 89,532 between 2018 and 2033[4]. This overall growth forecast exceeds the growth provided for in the Preferred Strategy of 11.7%.

3.2.51 NRW and the EA undertook a detailed review of a DCWW abstraction licences and concluded that there were twenty one sites where potential adverse effects upon protected species could not be discounted. However the WRMP states that the required amendments to abstraction licences have been agreed in order to ensure that there are at sustainable levels now, and in the future, and have been built in to the baseline deployable output calculations.

3.2.52 DCWW were also responsible for undertaking a Habitats Regulations Assessment of the most recent Water Resources Management Plan. This included consideration of the abstraction licence review undertaken by EA and NRW and concluded that *'the WRMP will have no adverse effects, alone or in combination on any European sites*' at the plan level. On the basis of the detailed HRA assessment undertaken by DCWW, which was informed by the NRW and EA review of consents work and subject to a wide consultation with the statutory agencies, it is reasonable for Carmarthenshire to adopt the conclusions for the purpose of the HRA of the preferred strategy and the Deposit plan. Further work would be a duplication of work undertaken by NRW and DCWW and as the most appropriate authorities in relation to the potential effects connected with water supply, any further work by Carmarthenshire is not considered to be appropriate or necessary.

3.2.53 Therefore, it is concluded that the preferred strategy will have no likely significant effect on any European site in respect of effects associated with water supply. Such effects can be excluded on the basis of the objective information available through the EA and NRW review of consents work and the most recent HRA of the DCWW Water Resources Management Plan.

3.2.54 A summary of the preliminary screening of European sites identified as potentially vulnerable to effects of abstraction have been screened in Table 8.

[3] See Table 3.16, DCWW Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report of Draft Water Resources Management Plan, 2019.

[4] Welsh Government, Stats Wales. Household Projections by local authority and year 2011 based.

Table 8 Preliminary screening of European Sites identified as vulnerable to increased water abstraction

Sites identified as vulnerable	Further screening required?	Reasoning
SAC		
River Teifi	**No**	Based on most recent HRA of DCWW Water Resources Management Plan.
River Tywi	**No**	Based on most recent HRA of DCWW Water Resources Management Plan.
Cleddau Rivers	**No**	Based on most recent HRA of DCWW Water Resources Management Plan.
Caeau Mynydd Mawr	**No**	Based on most recent HRA of DCWW Water Resources Management Plan.
Cardigan Bay	**No**	Based on most recent HRA of DCWW Water Resources Management Plan.
Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries	**No**	Based on most recent HRA of DCWW Water Resources Management Plan.
Carmarthen Bay Dunes	**No**	Based on most recent HRA of DCWW Water Resources Management Plan.
Cernydd Carmel	**No**	Based on most recent HRA of DCWW Water Resources Management Plan.
Cwm Doethie – Mynydd Mallaen	**No**	Based on most recent HRA of DCWW Water Resources Management Plan.
Mynydd Epynt	**No**	Based on most recent HRA of DCWW Water Resources Management Plan.
Preseli	**No**	Based on most recent HRA of DCWW Water Resources Management Plan.
River Wye	**No**	Based on most recent HRA of DCWW Water Resources Management Plan.
River Usk	**No**	Based on most recent HRA of DCWW Water Resources Management Plan.
Yerbeston Tops	**No**	Based on most recent HRA of DCWW Water Resources Management Plan.
Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes	**No**	Based on most recent HRA of DCWW Water Resources Management Plan.
Pembrokeshire Marine	**No**	Based on most recent HRA of DCWW Water Resources Management Plan.
Gower Commons	**No**	Based on most recent HRA of DCWW Water Resources Management Plan.
SPA/Ramsar		
Burry Inlet SPA/Ramsar	**No**	Based on most recent HRA of DCWW Water Resources Management Plan.
Carmarthen Bay SPA	**No**	Based on most recent HRA of DCWW Water Resources Management Plan.

Effects as a result of development: Discharge of wastewater

3.2.55 Development will generate wastewater which needs to be treated prior to disposal. The preferred option for the disposal of wastewater is via connection to the mains sewerage network and treatment at the relevant wastewater treatment works (WWTW).

3.2.56 Discharge of wastewater by DCWW is licenced by the Environment Agency (EA), who is also a competent authority under the Habitats Regulations. Whilst the avoidance of any adverse effects on European Sites as a result of discharge consents is principally the responsibility of NRW, the HRA of the Deposit Plan must recognise that the consenting and management options available to NRW are limited by both capacity within infrastructure and the existing pollutant levels in the receiving environment. DCWW has a duty to accept wastewater from new development, when connection to the mains sewer system is viable; there is a tension within the HRA if it assumes either that DCWW can accept any associated increases in wastewater irrespective of limitations in capacity, or that such capacity issues can be resolved by NRW consenting options which avoid adverse effects on European sites.

3.2.57 DCWW are under a general duty under section 94 of the Water Industry Act 1991 to effectually drain the area. If additional capacity is required in the existing systems then they are legally obliged to provide it through their normal funding mechanisms. This general duty extends to sewerage systems as well as sewage treatment works[5].

3.2.58 It is the purpose of the HRA to ensure that the allocation of housing as part of the Preferred Strategy is done in such a way as to ensure that there are viable options available to both NRW and DCWW to meet wastewater drainage demands, without adverse effects on the integrity of any European sites.

3.2.59 Under Regulation 63 of the Habitats Regulations, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) are responsible for ensuring potential effects from treated wastewater on European Designated sites are considered as part of a Review of all existing Consents (RoC). Under the RoC, discharge consents and water abstraction licences will have been considered to ensure that there were no detrimental impacts on the conservation interests in designated sites a result of these consents.

3.2.60 The final HRA of the LDP deposit plan will need to seek clarification from both NRW and DCWW over the potential capacity within the current post RoC discharge consent limits for further growth. Where allocations can be accommodated within the post-RoC discharge consent limits, it can be considered that there will be no likely significant effects on European Designated sites.

3.2.61If the allocated development might exceed available permitted capacity, then a new or modified permit is likely to be required at the waste water treatment works in question to provide for the increased demand, and the HRA would need to consider whether it would be feasible for such additional capacity to be provided without any adverse effects on the integrity of any European Sites.

[5] See Barratts Homes Limited v Dwr Cymru Welsh Water [2009] UKSC13

Table 9 Preliminary screening of European Sites identified as vulnerable to effects on water quality

Sites identified as vulnerable	Further screening required?	Reasoning
SAC		
River Teifi	**Yes**	Further information required from NRW regarding RoC. Further consideration required in detailed assessment.
River Tywi	**Yes**	Further information required from NRW regarding RoC. Further consideration required in detailed assessment.
Cleddau Rivers	**Yes**	Further information required from NRW regarding RoC. Further consideration required in detailed assessment.
Cardigan Bay	**Yes**	Further information required from NRW regarding RoC. Further consideration required in detailed assessment.
Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries	**Yes**	Further information required from NRW regarding RoC. Further consideration required in detailed assessment.
Cernydd Carmel	**Yes**	Further information required from NRW regarding RoC. Further consideration required in detailed assessment.
Pembrokeshire Marine	**Yes**	Further information required from NRW regarding RoC. Further consideration required in detailed assessment.
Cardigan Bay	**Yes**	Further information required from NRW regarding RoC. Further consideration required in detailed assessment.
SPA/Ramsar		
Burry Inlet SPA/Ramsar	**Yes**	Further information required from NRW regarding RoC. Further consideration required in detailed assessment.
Carmarthen Bay	**Yes**	Further information required from NRW regarding RoC. Further consideration required in detailed assessment.

Increased development: effects of air pollution

3.2.62 Air quality is influenced by levels of pollutants such as sulphur dioxide ($S0_2$), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), ammonia (NH_3) and ozone (O_3), as well as persistent organic compounds (POPs), heavy metals and particulate matter (PM_{10}).

3.2.63 Carmarthenshire currently has three Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs), in Llandeilo (NO2), Llanelli (NO2) and Carmarthen (NO2). AQMA's also exist in some neighbouring counties; Swansea (NO2), Neath Port Talbot (PM10) and two in Pembrokeshire (NO2).

3.2.64 Housing development tends to be linked with increased traffic and therefore increased traffic related emissions. Emissions from traffic have been shown to have impacts on vegetation within

200m of the road edge[67]. Beyond 200m, no significant adverse effects associated with traffic emissions (including deposition) have been observed in scientific studies. This is likely due to the fact that at this distance, pollutants contribute to background levels of atmospheric pollution, and disperse to an extent that they have no observable impacts on ground level vegetation at a local scale.

3.2.65 On this basis, it is considered that there will be no likely significant effects on any sites more than 200m outside of Carmarthenshire's boundary.

3.2.66 However, additional contributions that may arise from increased traffic could be significant where the site is known to be sensitive to such effects and where appropriate critical loads and levels are either exceeded or approaching exceedance. The Air Pollution Information Service (APIS) data shows that current air quality levels already exceed the critical loads set for many of the habitat types at European sites in Carmarthenshire (Appendix 2.Nitrogen Deposition Data for SAC's/SPA's within Carmarthenshire and 15km Buffer Zone).

3.2.67 All other sites considered sensitive to air pollution will be taken forward for more detailed screening, however further consideration of potential effects is required only where site allocations may lead to increased traffic emissions within 200m of identified sites . This is summarised in Table 10.

Table 10 Preliminary screening of European Sites identified as vulnerable to effects of air pollution

Sites identified as vulnerable	Further screening required?	Reasoning
SAC		
Caeau Mynydd Mawr	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Carmarthen Bay Dunes	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Cernydd Carmel	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Cleddau Rivers	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Cwm Doethie – Mynydd Mallaen	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Gower Ash Woods	**No**	More than 200m outside Carmarthenshire boundary
Gower Common	**No**	More than 200m outside Carmarthenshire boundary
Gweunydd Blaencleddau	**No**	More than 200m outside Carmarthenshire boundary
Mynydd Epynt	**No**	More than 200m outside Carmarthenshire boundary
Pembrokeshire Bat Sites	**No**	More than 200m outside Carmarthenshire boundary
Pembrokeshire Marine	**No**	More than 200m outside Carmarthenshire boundary
Preseli	**No**	More than 200m outside Carmarthenshire boundary
Rhos Llawr-cwrt	**No**	More than 200m outside Carmarthenshire boundary
North Pembrokeshire Woodlands	**No**	More than 200m outside Carmarthenshire boundary
Yerbeston Tops	**No**	More than 200m outside Carmarthenshire boundary
SPA/Ramsar		

[6] Natural England Commissioned Report NECR200: Potential risk of impacts of nitrogen oxides from road traffic on designated nature conservation sites. 2016

[7] English Nature Research report 580: The ecological effects of diffuse air pollution from road transport. 2004.

Carmarthen Bay	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Burry Inlet SPA/Ramsar	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment

Effects of species disturbance, noise and light pollution effects

3.2.68 Effects of this nature are largely associated with the physical proximity of development to a sensitive European site. **Such effects include visual and noise disturbance associated with issues such as construction, lighting and the presence of development, and will be considered further in detailed assessment of site allocations. It is considered that the LDP is not likely to have significant effects on sites outside of Carmarthenshire's boundary and so these sites are screened out of further consideration.**

Sites sensitive to effects of species disturbance, noise and light pollution and the result of the preliminary screening assessment is summarised in Table 11

Table 11 Preliminary screening of European Sites identified as vulnerable to effects of disturbance, noise and light pollution effects.

Sites identified as vulnerable	Screening in/out	Reasoning
SAC		
Afon Teifi	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Afon Tywi	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Cleddau Rivers	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Cardigan Bay	**No**	Outside of Carmarthenshire boundary
Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Cwm Doethie – Mynydd Mallaen	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Gower Commons	**No**	Outside of Carmarthenshire boundary
Gower Ash Woods	**No**	Outside of Carmarthenshire boundary
North Pembrokeshire Woodlands	**No**	Outside of Carmarthenshire boundary
Pembrokeshire Marine	**No**	Outside of Carmarthenshire boundary
Pembrokeshire Bat sites	**No**	Outside of Carmarthenshire boundary
River Wye	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
River Usk	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
SPA/Ramsar		
Carmarthen Bay	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment
Burry Inlet SPA/Ramsar	**Yes**	Further consideration required in detailed assessment

Summary

3.2.69 Having considered each of the potential effect mechanisms and considered them at a generic level in relation to the overall growth provided for within the preferred strategy, the conclusions for further detailed screening work in relation to individual allocations are detailed in Table 12

Table 12 Summary of the preliminary screening based on overall growth projection of Preferred Strategy.

Potential Effect Mechanism	Summary of generic level screening	Further screening requirements in detailed screening of specific allocations
Aquatic Environment	Effects only likely where development is in close proximity to a water course that flows into/out of a site	To identify such allocations
Marine Environment	Effects considered unlikely, but screened in on precautionary basis	To ensure no such effects occur
Coast	Effects considered unlikely, but screened in on precautionary basis	To ensure no such effects occur
Mobile Species	• Marsh Fritillary Butterfly - Any potential development within 2km of Caeau Mynydd Mawr SAC or Preseli SAC should be subject to further assessment. • Barbastelle Bat – Any potential development within 16km radius of Pengelli Forest should be subject to further assessment. • Greater Horseshoe Bats – Presence records should be considered to inform screening of site allocations. • European Otters – Any land suitable for use by otters that may support SAC populations will need to be considered • SPA Bird Assemblages – Any suitable land 1km inshore of an SPA should be subject to further assessment	To identify such allocations
Recreation	Recreational effects associated with development in close proximity to a European site, will require further assessment.	To identify such allocations
Development: Abstraction	Effects associated with water supply have been screened out based on HRA of DCWW water resources management plan	No further screening required
Development: Waste water	Effects associated with waste water discharges require further information from NRW on the post-RoC capacity. Only allocated development might exceed available permitted capacity will be considered to have LSE.	To identify such allocations
Development: Air pollution	Only development which leads to increased traffic on roads within 200m of identified sensitive sites.	To identify any such allocations
Disturbance, noise and light pollution	Only development in close proximity to a European Site requires further consideration	To identify such allocations

3.2.70 Five sites identified in Task 1 have been screened out of further detailed assessment as all potential impact pathways have been screened out at this preliminary screening stage. This is summarised in Table 13.

Table 13 Summary of preliminary screening of sites where no likely significant effects have been identified.

European site	Designation	Scanned In	Screened Out
Yerbeston Tops	SAC	Mobile Species – Marsh Fritillary Butterfly	More than 2km outside of the direct influence of Carmarthenshire's LDP
		Abstraction	Based on no LSE being identified in most recent HRA of DCWW Water Resources Management Plan.
		Air pollution	More than 200m outside Carmarthenshire boundary
Rhos Llawr-cwrt	SAC	Mobile Species – Marsh Fritillary	More than 2km outside of the direct influence of Carmarthenshire's LDP
		Air pollution	More than 200m outside Carmarthenshire boundary
Gower Ash Woods	SAC	Air pollution	More than 200m outside Carmarthenshire boundary
		Species disturbance	Effects only considered likely in close proximity. Site outside of Carmarthenshire boundary
Gower Commons	SAC	Mobile Species – Marsh Fritillary Butterfly	More than 2km outside of the direct influence of Carmarthenshire's LDP
		Abstraction	Based on no LSE being identified in most recent HRA of DCWW Water Resources Management Plan.
		Air pollution	More than 200m outside Carmarthenshire boundary
		Species disturbance	Effects only considered likely in close proximity. Site outside of Carmarthenshire boundary
Mynydd Epynt	SAC	Air pollution	More than 200m outside Carmarthenshire boundary

Screening of Preferred Strategy

3.2.71 The Carmarthenshire Revised Preferred Strategy sets the long term vision for growth and development in Carmarthenshire (excluding that area within the Brecon Beacons National Park) and the strategic objectives and the strategic land use polices to deliver that vision. However, the Preferred Strategy is not the full LDP, rather it sets out broad strategic principles for development in our area. The full Plan is called the Deposit LDP and will contain detailed and specific policies as well as site-specific allocations.

3.2.72 The Preferred Strategy was subject to an initial screening process, the aim of which is to identify at a strategic level, any parts of the plan or its associated policies that will not have an effect on European sites and those that have the potential to have a likely significant effect. If LSE are identified, they must be considered alone, and in combination.

3.2.73 The approach taken is in accordance with guidance for the appraisal of plans under the Habitats Directive, DTA Publications Limited, The Habitat Regulations Assessment Handbook[8] The effects associated with the Preferred Strategy can be identified as one of the following broad screening categories.

Category	Description	Screening Outcome
A	General statements of policy/general aspirations.	Screen Out
B	Policies listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals.	Screen Out
C	Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan	Screen Out
D	Environmental protection/site safeguarding policy	Screen Out
E	Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects	Screen Out
F	Policy that cannot lead to development or other change	Screen Out
G	Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a site	Screen Out
H	Policy or proposal the (actual or theoretical) effects of which cannot undermine the conservation objectives (either alone or in combination with other aspects of this or other plans or projects)	Screen Out
I	Policy or proposal with a likely significant effect on a site alone	Screen In
J	Policy or proposal with an effect on a site but not likely to be significant alone, so need to check for likely significant effects in combination.	Check for in combination effects and re-categorised as K or L
K	Policy or proposal not likely to have significant effect either alone or in combination.	Screen out after in combination test
L	Policy or proposal likely to have a significant effect in combination	Screen in after in combination test

[8] Tyldesly, D., 2009. The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook. Accessed Oct 2018. https://www.dtapublications.co.uk/

Chapters 1-6 of Preferred Strategy

3.2.74 For completeness, the Chapters 1-6 comprise introductory and contextual text and cannot possibly have any effects on any European Sites. They are therefore **screened out of further assessment** and are not considered further.

Chapters 7 and 8 of Preferred Strategy

3.2.75 Chapter 7 outlines the draft vision for Carmarthenshire and is reported below.

> **One Carmarthenshire**
>
> Carmarthenshire 2033 will be a place to start, live and age well within a healthy, safe and prosperous environment, where its rich cultural and environmental qualities are valued and respected.
>
> It will have prosperous, cohesive and sustainable communities providing increased opportunities, interventions and connections for people, places and organisations in both rural and urban parts of our County.
>
> It will have a strong economy that reflects its position as a confident and ambitious driver for the Swansea Bay City Region.

3.2.76 The vision sets out a general aspiration and is not considered to result in any significant effects upon European sites. **The vision is therefore screened out under category A.**

3.2.77 Chapter 8 discusses the development of the strategic objectives, which are categorised under the following themes in alignment with Carmarthenshire's well-being objectives:

- Healthy Habits – People have a good quality of life and make healthy choices about their lives and environments
- Early Intervention – To make sure that people have the right help at the right time; as and when they need it
- Strong Connections – Strongly connected people, places and organisations that are able to adapt to change
- Prosperous People and Places – To maximise opportunities for people and places in both urban and rural parts of the county

3.2.78 The objectives listed against each of the themes are detailed in Appendix 4 . **All of the objectives are considered to be screened out of the need for further assessment.** The category against which each objective is considered to be screened out is given in brackets after each objective, as listed in Appendix 4 .

Chapter 9 of Preferred Strategy

3.2.79 Chapter 9 contains text which summarises the findings of the growth and spatial options appraisal process. **The appraisal process summarised within this chapters cannot possibly have any effect on any European sites and is therefore screened out of further assessment under Category**

B. The implications of the growth and spatial options will be further assessed within the detailed screening, where site allocations have been identified.

Chapter 11 of Preferred Strategy - Strategic Policies

3.2.80 There are 19 individual policies, and the screening conclusions for each policy are set out in Appendix 5 Preliminary screening of draft Strategic Policies .

3.2.81 Screening of the strategic policies concluded that the majority of policies are unlikely to have significant effects on European sites alone, as they either seek the protection/enhancement of cultural heritage and the natural environment or set out design criteria for development proposals. For some policies, it was considered that potential impacts would be more appropriately assessed at the site allocation level, once the precise nature, scale and location of development is known.

3.2.82 A number of policies do not necessarily propose development, but support certain types of development which have the potential to impact on European designated sites. Policy SP13 – Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment – seeks to ensure development does not impact negatively on the natural environment, provides some mitigation to help minimise the impacts on European sites. Wording has been suggested to strengthen this policy, so that when it is considered alongside all other strategic polices, will mitigate for any potential significant likely impacts.

3.2.83 Table 14 summarises the screening outcome of the Strategic Policies. Policies SP1, SP3, SP4, SP6, SP16 and SP19 have been identified as having the potential for a likely significant effect alone on European sites. The significance of any impacts as a result of these policies is dependent on the precise location and scale of development, environmental pathways and sensitivities of receptors.

Table 14 Summary of preliminary screening of draft Strategic policies.

Policy	Screening Category	Initial Screening Outcome
SP1 – Strategic Growth	**I**	Screened In
SP2 – Retail and Town Centres	**B**	Screened Out
SP3 – Providing New Homes	**I**	Screened In
SP4 – Affordable Homes	**I**	Screened In
SP5 – Strategic Sites	**C**	Screened Out
SP6 – Employment and the Economy	**I**	Screened In
SP7 – Welsh Language and Culture	**F**	Screened Out
SP8 - Infrastructure	**B**	Screened Out
SP9 – Gypsy and Traveller Provision	**H**	Screened Out
SP10 – The Visitor Economy	**A**	Screened Out
SP11 – Placemaking, Sustainability and High Quality Design	**B**	Screened Out
SP12 – Rural Development	**A**	Screened Out
SP13 – Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment	**D**	Screened Out
SP14 – Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment	**D**	Screened Out
SP15 – Climate Change	**B**	Screened Out
SP16 – Sustainable Distribution – Settlement Framework	**I**	Screened In
SP17 – Transport and Accessibility	**B**	Screened Out
SP18 – Mineral resources	**G**	Screened Out
SP19 – Waste Management	**I**	Screened In

3.3 Task 3: Consideration of effects in combination with other plans, programmes and projects.

3.3.1 It is a requirement of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that HRA examines the potential for plans and projects to have a significant effect either individually or 'in combination' with other plans, programmes & projects (PPPs). Undertaking an assessment of other PPPs has required a pragmatic approach given the extensive range of PPPs underway in the surrounding region. The approach taken was cognisant of the emphasis in the forthcoming WAG guidance that considering the potential for in-combination effects is core to delivering robust/ precautionary HRA.

3.3.2 When considering other PPPs attention was focused on those aimed at delivering planned spatial growth with the most significant being those that seek to provide, housing, employment and infrastructure. The review considered the most relevant plans including those listed below and detailed in **Appendix 3**:

Local Development Plans

- Pembrokeshire County Council Local Development Plan (2013 – 2021) – Adopted
- Swansea Local Development Plan (2010 – 2025) – Deposit
- Ceredigion Local Development Plan (2021 – 2033) – Adopted
- Powys Local Development Plan (2011 – 2026) – Adopted
- Brecon Beacons National Park Local Development Plan (2007 – 2022) – Adopted

National

- The Wales Spatial Plan (2008 update)
- The Wales Transport Strategy (2008)
- Wales Coastal Tourism Strategy (2008)
- Welsh Government Strategy for Tourism2013 – 2020
- Active Travel Action Plan (2016)
- A Walking and Cycling Action Plan for Wales (2009 – 2013)
- Dwr Cymru Welsh Water – Water Resources Management Plan (2015 – 2040)
- Dwr Cymru Welsh Water – Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2019
- Towards Zero Waste – Overarching Waste Strategy for Wales

Regional

- The Swansea Bay City Regional Economic Regeneration Strategy 2013 – 2030
- Swansea Bay City Deal 2017
- Joint Local Transport Plan for South West Wales (2015 – 2020)
- Lavernock Point to St Ann's Head Shoreline Management Plan 2 (2012)
- Waste Planning Monitoring Report(s) for the South West Wales Region
- Regional Technical Statement Regional Aggregate Working Parties (2014)

Local

- Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5 years (2018)
- Transformations: A strategic Regeneration Plan for Carmarthenshire 2015 – 2030
- Affordable Homes Delivery Plan 2016 -2020: Delivery more homes for the people of Carmarthenshire 2015 -2030
- Carmarthenshire Destination Management Plan 2015 -2020
- Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2013)
- Flood Risk Management Plan for the Western Wales River Basin District

3.3.3 The findings of this review were used when screening the Strategic Policies to consider if the policies had the potential to act in combination with other plans, programmes and projects to have significant effects on European Sites. The assessment identified that Strategic Policies SP1, SP3, SP4, SP6, SP16 and SP19 have the potential for significant in combination effect on European sites.

3.4 Task 4: Screening Assessment Summary

3.4.1 In line with the screening requirement of the Habitats Regulations, an assessment was undertaken to determine the potential significant effects of the Draft Pre Deposit preferred strategy on the integrity of the 25 European sites that lie outside and within the plan/proposal boundaries. The screening decision was informed by:

- The information gathered on the European sites – Appendix 1.;
- The review of the Preferred Strategy and its likely impacts ; which included an analysis of the potential environmental impacts generated by the development activities directed by the LDP and;
- The review of other relevant plans and programmes – Appendix 3;
- WAG guidance which indicates that HRA for plans is typically broader and more strategic than project level HRA and that it is proportionate to the available detail of the plan

3.4.2 The detail of the main screening of draft Strategic Policies is set out in Appendix 5 Preliminary screening of draft Strategic Policies. In summary, the screening assessment found that the majority of Preferred Strategy Policies are unlikely to have significant effects on European sites either alone or in combination. A number of recommendations have been made to strengthen the mitigation provided by specific policies and should be incorporated into the Preferred Strategy to ensure that these policies (Strategic Policies SP1, SP3, SP4, SP6, SP16 and SP19) have no likely significant effects on European sites either alone or in combination.

3.4.3 At this stage, these policies have the potential for significant effects both alone and in combination with other plans, programmes and projects. At this stage the significance of the effects is uncertain as further detail on the nature, scale and location of development is required. The next stage of the revised LDP (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. It is recommended that further screening work is carried out for the revised LDP once Deposit Policies and Site Allocations are available.

3.4.4 The Preferred Strategy already contains policies that seek to protect and enhance European sites as well as minimise the impacts of proposed development. When developing detailed Deposit policies the Councils should seek to minimise the potential impacts identified through this screening assessment.

3.4.5 This HRA Report is a high-level preliminary screening of the Preferred Strategy. It identifies those policies which would clearly have no effects upon European sites enabling these to be 'screened out' of any further assessment. The focus of further, more detailed assessment would only be applied to allocation sites, or policies, where a likely significant effect could be possible. A further detailed screening will be carried out on the next iteration of the LDP (i.e. the Deposit LDP) when the specific policies have been prepared and a full list of allocation sites has been agreed. Allocation sites and policies included for further detailed screening would then be reviewed in more detail based on the available information.

Appendicies

Appendix 1. Conservation objectives of sites identified as within 15km buffer zone of Carmarthenshire.

Site name : Afon Tywi/ River Tywi SAC **Location Grid Reference: SN687263** **JNCC Site Code: UK0013010** **Size: 363.45 ha**			
	Qualifying Features	**Condition Assessment**	**Conservation Objectives**
Annex II species primary reason for selection	Otter *Lutra lutra*	Favourable: Maintained	• The population of otters in the SAC is stable or increasing over the long term and reflects the natural carrying capacity of the habitat within the SAC, as determined by natural levels of prey abundance and associated territorial behaviour. • The natural range of otters in the SAC is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future. • The safe movement and dispersal of individuals around the SAC is facilitated by the provision, where necessary, of suitable riparian habitat, and underpasses, ledges, fencing etc. at road bridges and other artificial barriers.
	Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax*	Unfavourable: Unclassified (May 2012)	• The conservation objective for the watercourse as defined here XX must be met • The population of the feature in the SAC is stable or increasing over the long term. • The natural range of the feature in the SAC is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future. • There is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain the feature's population in the SAC on a long-term basis.
Annex II species qualifying feature	Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*	Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jan 2011)	
	River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatili*	Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jan 2011)	
	Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri*	Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jan 2011)	
	Allis shad *Alosa alosa*	Unfavourable: Unclassified (May 2012)	
	Bullhead *Cottus gobio*	Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jan 2012)	

Site name : Caeau Mynydd Mawr SAC
Location Grid Reference: SN575121
JNCC Site Code: UK0030105
Size: 25.06 ha

	Qualifying Features	Condition Assessment	Conservation Objectives
Annex I habitats qualifying features	*Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils *Molinion caeruleae*	Unfavourable: Unclassified (Sept 2015)	• The *Molinia* meadow feature (M24) will occupy between 25% and 80% of the total site area. • The remainder of the site will be other semi-natural habitat. • The following plants will be common in the *Molinia* meadows: purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*; meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum*; devil's bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*; carnation sedge *Carex panicea* and tormentil *Potentilla erecta*. • Cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* and common heather *Calluna vulgaris* will also be common in some areas. • Rushes should not be allowed to spread and species indicative of agricultural modification, such as perennial rye grass *Lolium perenne* and white clover *Trifolium repens*, will be largely absent from the *Molinia* meadow. • Scrub species such as willow Salix and birch Betula will also be largely absent from the Molinia meadow. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.
Annex II species primary reason for selection	Marsh fritillary butterfly *Euphydryas aurinia*	Unfavourable: Unclassified (Sept 2015)	• The population will be viable in the long term, acknowledging the extreme population fluctuations of the species. • Habitats on the site will be in optimal condition to support the metapopulational. • The SAC populations will be the core of the metapopulation. The metapopulation will consist of the SAC populations plus populations breeding on land within c. 2 kilometres of the SAC boundary. • At least 13 ha across the three component SSSIs will be marshy grassland suitable for supporting marsh fritillary, with *Succisa pratensis* present and only a low cover of scrub. • At least 6 ha of this will be good condition marsh fritillary breeding habitat, where, for at least 80% of sample points, the tussocky vegetation is within the range of 12-25 cms tall and *Succisa pratensis* is present within a 50 cm radius sample point. Scrub (>0.5 m tall) covers no more than 10% of area. • At least another 7 ha of this will be suitable condition marsh fritillary breeding habitat where *Succisa pratensis* is occasional/frequent/abundant and vegetation height is usually 12-25 cms. Scrub (> 0.5 m tall) will cover no more than 10% of the total area. • The marshy grassland will be well sheltered by hedgerows and mature trees. • All factors affecting the achievement of the foregoing conditions are under control.

Site name : Cernydd Carmel SAC Location Grid Reference: SN592161 JNCC Site Code: UK0030070 Size: 361.14 ha			
	Qualifying Features	**Condition Assessment**	**Conservation Objectives**
Annex I habitat primary reason for selection	Turloughs	**Favourable: Unclassified (Sept 2011)**	• The turlough will fill and empty according to the natural seasonal fluctuations in the underlying aquifer. It will typically fill with water in the autumn-spring period and empty during the summer months. • A natural pattern of vegetation zones will be apparent during the dry phase of the turlough, as determined by micro-topographical variation in the turlough basin in relation to the main swallow hole. • The following vegetation zones, together with typical associated species, will be present: hydrophytic bryophyte zone; *Equisetum fluviatile* zone; *Carex vesicaria* zone; *Phalaris arundinacea* zone; *Salix cinerea-Galium palustre* woodland zone. • Alien plant species such as *Crassula helmsii, Hydrocotyle ranuculoides, Myriophyllum aquaticum* and *Azolla filiculoides* will be absent • All factors affecting the achievement of the above conditions, including water quality, water levels and scrub development, will be under control.
Annex I habitat qualifying feature	North Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*	**Favourable: Unclassified (Sept 2016)**	• Northern Atlantic wet heath will occupy at least 6ha of Cernydd Carmel SAC. • The wet heath will have a high cover (>25%) of dwarf shrubs, including heather *Calluna vulgaris*, cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* and bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus*. • Typical associates will include western gorse *Ulex galli* and *Molinia caerulea*, but not high cover. • Bog mosses *Sphagnum* spp. will be prominent in the sward. • Scrub and bracken will be largely absent. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions, including grazing and scrub/bracken encroachment, are under control.
	European dry heaths	**Destroyed: Partially (Sept 2016)**	• European dry heath will occupy at least 19ha of Cernydd Carmel SAC. • The dry heath will be dominated by varying mixtures of heather *Calluna vulgaris*, bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* and western gorse *Ulex gallii*, although *U.gallii* itself should not exceed 50% cover. • Scrub, bracken, bramble, thistles, tall rushes, large docks and nettles will be largely absent. • Bare ground will not exceed 10% cover. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions, including grazing and scrub/bracken encroachment, are under control.
	Active raised bogs	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jul 2016)**	• Active raised bog will cover at least 13ha of Cernydd Carmel SAC.

			• At least five raised bog peatland units will be present, occupying a series of peaty depressions within the Millstone Grit ridge. • The mires will support a specialist bog flora including heather *Calluna vulgaris*, cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*, deergrass *Scirpus cespitosus*, hare's-tail cotton grass *Eriophorum vaginatum* common cotton-grass *E.angustifolium*, bog asphodel *Barthecium ossifragum* and round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*. • Bog mosses Sphagnum spp. Will be abundant, while purple moor-grass Molinia caerulea and other grasses will be scarce. • The mire surfaces will display a characteristic hummock and hollow topography, with lawns of Sphagnum moss dominating the wet hollows. • Scrub and bracken will be largely absent. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions, including water levels, nutrient levels and grazing, will be under control.
	Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines	**Favourable: Unclassified (Jul 2013)**	• Tilio-Acerion woodland will occupy approx. 44ha of Cernydd Carmel SAC. • The Tilio-Acerion woodland will occur as a patchwork of small woods with areas of grassland between, forming a characteristic element of the historic landscape pattern of Cernydd Carmel. The distribution of woods will mirror the pattern of woodland mapped in 1994. • Within the high forest areas, between 10 and 25% of the woodland will comprise open glades or canopy gaps, although the location of glades/canopy gaps may vary over time. • Trees and shrubs of a wide range of ages and sizes should be present, including functionally mature canopy trees, young trees and an active shrub layer. • Regeneration of locally native trees/shrubs will be plentiful • The canopy will comprise varying mixtures of locally native species including ash *Fraximus excelsior*, oak *Quercus spp*., goat willow *Salix caprea*, yew *Taxus baccata* and wych elm *Ulmus glabra*. Typical shrub layer species will include hazel *Corylus avellana*, hawthorn *Crateagus monogyna*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, spindle *Euonymus europaeus* and dogwood *Rhamnus catharticus.* Non-native species including sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and beech *Fagus sylvatica* will be largely absent. • The field layer will comprise a rich mixture of woodland herbs including *Ranunculus ficaria*, *Circaea lutetiana, Galium odoratum, Allium ursinum, Hyacinthoides non-scripta, Mercurialis perennis, Conopodium majus, Paris quadrifolia, Lamiastrum galeobdolon, Conopodium majus, Phyllitis scolopendrium, Arum maculatum* and *Anemone nemorosa.* • Dense bramble will be largely absent. • Within the high forest areas, dead wood will be present in the form of standing and fallen trunks/limbs. • All factors affecting the achievement of the above conditions, including grazing and browsing, will be under control.

Site name : Carmarthen Bay Dunes SAC Location Grid Reference: SN285074 JNCC Site Code: UK0020019 Size: 1206.32 ha			
	Qualifying Features	**Condition Assessment**	**Conservation Objectives**
Annex I habitats primary reasons for selection	Embyonic shifting dunes	**Favourable: Maintained (Jul 2007)**	• Natural processes will be allowed to determine the time and place when the strandline and embryonic dunes exist. These processes will not be impeded by direct or indirect human intervention. • A strandline will be present at least one year in every five within the areas identified • Embryonic dunes will be present on the seaward side of the mobile frontal dune ridge at least one year in every three • All of the factors affecting the feature are under control
	"Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (""white dunes"")"	**Favourable: Maintained (Jul 2007)**	• Shifting dunes will exist as part of the dynamic natural processes which create the dune systems. • There will be an interaction between the three dune systems such that the natural process of erosion in some parts and accretion in others will continue without direct or indirect human disturbance. • Shifting dunes will comprise a significant part of the dune system but will increase and decrease in extent and location as natural processes determine the landscape of the dune systems • At least two of the three sites in the SAC satisfy the limits outlined in the performance indicator below. • All of the factors affecting the feature are under control.
	"Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes"")"	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jan 2015)**	• Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) will occur where older, shifting dunes become more stabilised and in early successional stages become colonised by lichens and other species indicative of the transition from less mobile habitat. • The habitat will encompass a range of successional stages throughout the area, determined by patterns of natural factors and grazing. • Grey dunes will comprise a significant part of the dune system but will increase and decrease in extent and location as natural processes determine the landscape of the dune systems • All factors are under management control.

	Dunes with Salix repens ssp. Argentea (Salicion arenariae)	**Unfavourable Unclassified (Aug 2007)**	• Dunes with Salix repens and humid dune slacks will occur as part of the dune system, their location will be determined by natural processes and appropriate grazing management • A range of successional stages will be found in both features • Factors affecting the features will be under control
	Humid dune slacks	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jan 2015)**	
Annex II Species primary reason for selection :	Narrow-mouthed whorl snail	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Sept 2016)**	• Sufficient suitable habitat is present to support the populations • The factors affecting the feature are under control
	Petalwort	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (May 2016)**	• The species will be found where conditions are suitable in sufficient numbers to form a viable and sustainable population • The population will vary from year to year depending on conditions, especially in drier years, but the long term population will remain steady and sustainable • Suitable dune slacks will have patches of bare ground that is being colonised by jelly lichens (*Collema* spp.) and *Barbula* mosses. • The factors affecting the feature are under control
	Fen orchid	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Oct 2014)**	• Sufficient suitable habitat is present to support the populations • The factors affecting the feature are under control

Site name : Afon Teifi SAC Location Grid Reference: SN515508 JNCC Site Code: UK0012670 Size: 715.58 ha			
	Qualifying Features	**Condition Assessment**	**Conservation Objectives**
Annex I habitats primary reasons for selection	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation.	**Favourable: Unclassified (Sept 2012)**	• The conservation objective for the water course as defined above must be met. • The natural range of the plant communities represented within this feature should be stable or increasing in the SAC. • The area covered by the feature within its natural range in the SAC should be stable or increasing. • The conservation status of the feature's typical species should be favourable. The typical species are defined with reference to the species composition of the appropriate JNCC river vegetation type for the particular river reach, unless differing from this type due to natural variability when other typical species may be defined as appropriate.
Annex I habitats qualifying feature	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoeto-Nanojuncetea	**Favourable: Unclassified (Sept 2003)**	• The conservation objective for the water course as defined in 4.1 above must be met • The Littorelletea uniflorae aquatic upland lake community will be present in all five of the Teifi Pools (Llyn Hir, Llyn Teifi, Llyn Egnant, Llyn y Gorlan and Llyn Bach), and will be self-maintaining on a long-term basis. • A fully developed Littorelletea community will be present in Llyn Hir, including all of the component species typical of the SAC feature, as represented in the Afon Teifi SAC. • For each of Llyn Teifi, Llyn Egnant, Llyn y Gorlan and Llyn Bach, the extent and species composition of the Littorelletea community will be stable or increasing in range. There will be no deterioration in the conservation status of the feature as represented in these lakes.
Annex II species	Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jan 2016)**	• The conservation objective for the water course as defined in 4.1 must be met • The population of the feature in the SAC is stable or increasing over the long term. • The natural range of the feature in the SAC is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future. • There is, and will continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain the feature's population in the SAC on a long-term basis.
Annex II Species primary reason	Brook lamprey L*ampetra planeri*	**Favourable: Unclassified (Oct 2013)**	
	River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*	**Favourable: Unclassified (Oct 2013)**	

	Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar*	**Favourable: Unclassified (Jan 2016)**	
	Bullhead *Cottus gobio*	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jan 2012)**	
	Otter *Lutra lutra*	**Favourable: Maintained (Mar 2010)**	• The population of otters in the SAC is stable or increasing over the long term and reflects the natural carrying capacity of the habitat within the SAC, as determined by natural levels of prey abundance and associated territorial behaviour. • The natural range of otters in the SAC is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future. • The safe movement and dispersal of individuals around the SAC is facilitated by the provision, where necessary, of suitable riparian habitat, and underpasses, ledges, fencing etc. at road bridges and other artificial barriers.
	Floating water-plantain *Luronium natans*	**Favourable: Unclassified (Sept 2012)**	• The conservation objective for the water course as defined in 4.1 must be met. • The floating water-plantain populations will be viable throughout their current distribution in the SAC (maintaining themselves on a long-term basis). Each floating water-plantain population must be able to complete sexual and/or vegetative reproduction successfully. Potential for genetic exchange between floating water-plantain populations, in and/or outside the SAC, must be evident in the long-term. Dispersal of floating water-plantain must be unhindered. • The SAC will have sufficient suitable habitat to support floating water-plantain populations within their current distribution. There will be no contraction of the current floating water-plantain distribution in the SAC.

Site name : Afonydd Cleddau/ Cleddau Rivers SAC Location Grid Reference: SM938249 JNCC Site Code: UK0030074 Size: 751.71 ha			
	Qualifying Features	**Condition Assessment**	**Conservation Objectives**
Annex I habitats qualifying feature	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Calliticho-Batrachion vegetation.	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jan 2012)**	• The conservation objective for the watercourse as defined in 4.1 above must be met • The natural range of the plant communities represented within this feature should be stable or increasing in the SAC. • The area covered by the feature within its natural range in the SAC should be stable or increasing. • The conservation status of the feature's typical species should be favourable condition. The typical species are defined with reference to the species composition of the appropriate JNCC river vegetation type for the particular river reach, unless differing from this type due to natural variability when other typical species may be defined as appropriate.
	Active raised bogs	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Oct 2012)**	• On the mire expanse there are at least 3 of Calluna vulgaris, Erica tetralix, Eriophorum angustifolium, E.vaginatum & Trichophorum cespitosum constant, with a combined cover not exceeding 80% • · No single species > 50% cover • · At least one of Andromeda polifolia, Drosera rotundifolia, Empetrum nigrum, Narthecium ossifragum and Vaccinium oxycoccos occurs at least frequently • · On the mire expanse only there are at least 2 of the following spp. constant, with a combined cover > 20%: Sphagnum capillifolium, S. magellanicum, S. papillosum, S. tenellum • · No reduction in extent of microtopographic features (e.g. bog pools).

	Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Nov 2012)**	• The canopy is dominated by single stands of alder Alnus glutinosa or willow Salix spp. In alluvial woods with free draining soils there may be ash or oak in the canopy, but in the wetter alluvial woodlands ash Fraxinus excelsior is more likely to be limited to areas of relatively drier ground • The structure of alluvial woodland is recognised as being dynamic therefore the presence of over mature trees is desirable but not essential • The river itself should be dynamic to allow for areas of outwash and deposition that trees can regenerate on. • Lying or standing deadwood (> 20cm diameter and > 1m length) is present at all sites • The feature should support alluvial ground flora including two of the following: meadowsweet Filipendula ulmaria, yellow flag Iris pseudacorus, nettle Urtica dioica, common reed Phragmities austrailis, greater tussock sedge Carex paniculata, opposite-leaved golden saxifrage Chrysosplenium oppositifolium, rushes Juncus spp, tufted hair-grass Deschampsia cespitosa, hemlock water-dropwort Onanthe crocata, and wild angelica Angelica sylvestris.
Annex II Species primary reason for selection	Brook Lamprey lampetra planeri	**Unfavourable: Recovering (Jan 2012)**	• The conservation objective for the watercourse as defined in 4.1 is met • The population of the feature in the SAC must be stable or increasing over the long term. • The natural range of the feature in the SAC is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future. • Passage of the feature through the SAC is not to be hindered by artificial barriers such as weirs. • The characteristic channel morphology provides the diversity of water depths, current velocities and substrate types necessary to fulfil the habitat requirements of the features. The close proximity of different habitats facilitates movement of fish to new preferred habitats with age.
	River lamprey Lampetra fluviatilis	**Unfavourable: Recovering (Jan 2012)**	
	Bullhead Cottus gobio	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Nov 2006)**	• The conservation objective for the watercourse as defined in 4.1 above must be met • The population of the feature in the SAC must be stable or increasing over the long term. • The natural range of the feature in the SAC is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future. • Passage of the feature through the SAC is not to be hindered by artificial barriers such as weirs • . The characteristic channel morphology provides the diversity of water depths, current velocities and substrate types necessary to fulfil the habitat requirements of the features. The close proximity of different habitats facilitates movement of fish to new preferred habitats with age.

	Otter Lutra lutra	**Favourable: Maintained (Mar 2010)**	• The population of otters in the SAC is stable or increasing over the long term and reflects the natural carrying capacity of the habitat within the SAC • The SAC will have sufficient habitat, including riparian trees and vegetation and wetlands, to support the otter population in the long term • The natural range of otters in the SAC is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future. • The otter must be able to breed and recruit successfully in the SAC. The size of breeding territories may vary depending on prey abundance. • Otter food sources must be sufficient for maintenance of the population. • The safe movement and dispersal of individuals around the SAC is facilitated by the provision, where necessary, of suitable riparian habitat, and underpasses, ledges, fencing etc at road bridges and other artificial barriers. • No otter breeding site should be subject to a level of disturbance that could have an adverse effect on breeding success. Where necessary, potentially harmful levels of disturbance must be managed.
Annex II Species qualifying feature	Sea lamprey Petromyzon marinus	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jan 2012)**	• The conservation objective for the watercourse as defined in 4.1 above is met. • The population of the feature in the SAC must be stable or increasing over the long term. • The natural range of the feature in the SAC is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future. • Passage of the feature through the SAC is not to be hindered by artificial barriers such as weirs. • The characteristic channel morphology provides the diversity of water depths, current velocities and substrate types necessary to fulfil the habitat requirements of the features. The close proximity of different habitats facilitates movement of fish to new preferred habitats with age.
Site name : Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries SAC **Location Grid Reference: SS357991** **JNCC Site Code: UK0020020** **Size: 66092.05**			
	Qualifying Features	**Condition Assessment**	**Conservation Objectives**
Annex I habitats	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater all the time	**Unfavourable: Declining (Nov 2006)**	**Range:** The overall distribution and extent of the habitat features within the site, and each of their main component parts is stable or increasing. **Structure and function:** The physical biological and chemical structure and functions necessary for the long-term maintenance and quality of the habitat are not degraded. Important elements include;

	Estuaries	**Favourable: Maintained (Nov 2006)**	geology, sedimentology, geomorphology, hydrography and meteorology, water and sediment chemistry, biological interactions. This includes a need for nutrient levels in the water column and sediments to be: • at or below existing statutory guideline concentrations • within ranges that are not potentially detrimental to the long term maintenance of the features species populations, their abundance and range. Contaminant levels in the water column and sediments derived from human activity to be: • at or below existing statutory guideline concentrations • below levels that would potentially result in increase in contaminant concentrations within sediments or biota • below levels potentially detrimental to the long-term maintenance of the feature species populations, their abundance or range. For Atlantic saltmeadows this includes the morphology of the saltmarsh creeks and pans. Typical Species: The presence, abundance, condition and diversity of typical species is such that habitat quality is not degraded. Important elements include: species richness population structure and dynamics, physiological heath, reproductive capacity recruitment, mobility range As part of this objective it should be noted that: • populations of typical species subject to existing commercial fisheries need to be at an abundance equal to or greater than that required to achieve maximum sustainable yield and secure in the long term • the management and control of activities or operations likely to adversely affect the habitat feature is appropriate for maintaining it in favourable condition and is secure in the long term.
	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	**Favourable: Maintained (Nov 2006)**	
	Large shallow inlets and bays	**Favourable: Maintained (Nov 2006)**	
	Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Oct 2006)**	
	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jan 2012)**	
Annex II Species primary reason for selection	Twaite Shad Alosa fallax	**Unfavourable: No change (Nov 2006)**	**Population:** The population is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitat. Important elements include: • population size • structure, production • condition of the species within the site. As part of this objective it should be noted that; • Contaminant burdens derived from human activity are below levels that may cause physiological damage, or immune or reproductive suppression

Annex II Species qualifying feature	Sea lamprey Petromyzon marinus	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Apr 2005)**	**Range:** The species population within the site is such that the natural range of the population is not being reduced or likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future. As part of this objective it should be noted that: • Their range within the SAC and adjacent inter-connected areas is not constrained or hindered. • There are appropriate and sufficient food resources within the SAC and beyond. • The sites and amount of supporting habitat used by these species are accessible and their extent and quality is stable or increasing. **Supporting habitats and species:** The presence, abundance, condition and diversity of habitats and species required to support this species is such that the distribution, abundance and populations dynamics of the species within the site and population beyond the site is stable or increasing. Important considerations include; • distribution • extent • structure • function and quality of habitat • prey availability and quality. **As part of this objective it should be noted that;** • The abundance of prey species subject to existing commercial fisheries needs to be equal to or greater than that required to achieve maximum sustainable yield and secure in the long term. • The management and control of activities or operations likely to adversely affect the species feature is appropriate for maintaining it in favourable condition and is secure in the long term. • Contamination of potential prey species should be below concentrations potentially harmful to their physiological health. • Disturbance by human activity is below levels that suppress reproductive success, physiological health or long-term behaviour. • For otter there are sufficient sources within the SAC and beyond of high quality freshwater for drinking and bathing.
	River lamprey Lampetra fluviatilis	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Apr 2005)**	
	Allis shad Alosa alosa	**Unfavourable: No change (Nov 2006)**	
	Otter Lutra lutra	**Favourable: Unclassified (Mar 2010)**	

Site name : Cwm Doethie - Mynydd Mallaen SAC
Location Grid Reference: SN747458
JNCC Site Code: UK0030128
Size: 4121.73ha

	Qualifying Features	**Condition Assessment**	**Conservation Objectives**

Annex I habitats primary reasons for selection	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Aug 2012)**	• Old sessile oak woodlands remain a significant and conspicuous feature of the upland valley sides within the plan area. Those in the Elan and Claerwen valleys and Rhayader area, the Dinas and Gwenffrwd area of the upper Tywi valley and the Cothi valley to the north of Mynydd Mallaen are particularly well developed and extensive. • The boundary between the woodland and adjacent upland habitat is often a flexible one where trees regenerate on to open ground. At many locations oak woodland forms patches in 'ffridd' areas where there is less grazing pressure on the upland fringe. • The oak woodland has of a variety of different structures and its character varies from place to place, ranging from long standing closed canopy areas to largely open wood pasture. • The dominant trees are sessile oaks, but in places birch is more conspicuous. Rowans and other trees occur as a minor component while at the foot of slopes where the oak woodland grades into wet woodland, there are some alders and willows. Non-native trees such as beech and sycamore will be present only in small numbers are generally scarce. • Under-storey shrubs are generally quite sparse, but scattered groups of hazel or holly will be found in some woods. • Ground cover varies widely. Parts will be bracken covered, others grassy, others again have a wider range of flowering plants and ferns and are often carpeted with bluebells in spring. On thin soils in shaded moist situations there are luxuriant carpets of mosses and liverworts, with or without under-shrubs like heather and bilberry. • The larger trees support a variety of lichens on their trunks and branches. • In each woodland block, trees in most age classes are present and veteran trees are prominent in some areas, particularly where there is wood pasture. • In all areas except wood pasture, there is evidence of actual regeneration in the form of seedlings and saplings or potential for regeneration, while in some wood pasture areas the planting and protecting of young trees, especially oak, may be appropriate. • Dead wood is well distributed and sometimes abundant, both lying on the woodland floor and occurring as standing dead trees or branches of trees. • The majority of the oak woodland has a closed canopy, but there are some clearings and much larger areas that are effectively wood pasture. These conditions should be sympathetic to the important populations of mosses and liverworts on the one hand and lichens on the other. • The oak woods support a characteristic assemblage of birds, such as wood warbler, pied flycatcher and redstart. • The pattern and distribution of grazed and un-grazed woods may change over time as different conservation needs arise. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.

Annex I habitats qualifying feature	European dry heaths	**Unfavourable: Recovering (Sept 2012)**	• The extent, quality and diversity of heath vegetation within the constituent sites is maintained and, where possible, degraded heath is restored to good condition. • · The main heathland areas have a varied age structure with a mosaic of young heath, mature heath and degenerate heath. • · Sunny slopes in certain areas support vegetation that includes bell heather and western gorse and steep north and east facing slopes have a rich variety of mosses and liverworts beneath the dwarf shrub canopy, including bog mosses in some areas. • · Populations of uncommon plants, such as lesser twayblade, are stable or increasing. • · The larger heathland areas provide suitable habitat for breeding birds, including red grouse and merlin. • · All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control

Site name : Cardigan Bay SAC Location Grid Reference: SN214641 JNCC Site Code: UK0012712 Size: 4121.73ha			
	Qualifying Features	**Condition Assessment**	**Conservation Objectives**
Annex I habitats qualifying feature	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	**Not Assessed**	**Range:** The overall distribution and extent of the habitat features within the site, and each of their main component parts is stable or increasing. For the reef feature these include; Intertidal bedrock reefs Intertidal cobble, pebble with Sabellaria alveolata (biogenic) reefs Subtidal bedrock reefs Subtidal pebble, cobble and boulder reefs Sea caves **Structure and Function:** The physical biological and chemical structure and functions necessary for the long-term maintenance and quality of the habitat are not degraded. Important elements include; geology, sedimentology, geomorphology, hydrography and meteorology, water and sediment chemistry, biological interactions This includes a need for nutrient levels in the water column and sediments to be: • at or below existing statutory guideline concentrations • within ranges that are not potentially detrimental to the long term maintenance of the features species populations, their abundance and range. Contaminant levels in the water column and sediments derived from human activity to be: • at or below existing statutory guideline concentrations • below levels that would potentially result in increase in contaminant concentrations within • sediments or biota • below levels potentially detrimental to the long-term maintenance of the feature species populations, their abundance or range taking into account bioaccumulation and biomagnification. **Typical species**: The presence, abundance, condition and diversity of typical species is such that habitat quality is not degraded. Important elements include • species richness: • population structure and dynamics, • physiological heath, • reproductive capacity • recruitment, • mobility • range As part of this objective it should be noted that:
	Reefs	**Not Assessed**	

	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	**Favourable: Maintained (Nov 2006)**	• populations of typical species subject to existing commercial fisheries need to be at an abundance equal to or greater than that required to achieve maximum sustainable yield and secure in the long term • the management and control of activities or operations likely to adversely affect the habitat feature is appropriate for maintaining it in favourable condition and is secure in the long term.
Annex II Species primary reason for selection	Bottlenose dolphin Tursiops truncatus	**Favourable: Maintained (Jan 2007)**	Populations: The population is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitat. Important elements include: • population size • structure, production • condition of the species within the site. As part of this objective it should be noted that for bottlenose dolphin and grey seal; • Contaminant burdens derived from human activity are below levels that may cause physiological damage, or immune or reproductive suppression For grey seal populations should not be reduced as a consequence of human activity **Range:** The species population within the site is such that the natural range of the population is not being reduced or likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future. As part of this objective it should be noted that for bottlenose dolphin and grey seal • Their range within the SAC and adjacent inter-connected areas is not constrained or hindered • There are appropriate and sufficient food resources within the SAC and beyond • The sites and amount of supporting habitat used by these species are accessible and their • extent and quality is stable or increasing **Supporting habitats and species:** The presence, abundance, condition and diversity of habitats and species required to support this species is such that the distribution, abundance and populations dynamics of the species within the site and population beyond the site is stable or increasing. Important considerations include; • distribution • extent • structure
Annex II Species	Sea lamprey Petromyzon marinus	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (April 2005)**	
	River lamprey Lampetra fluviatilis	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (April 2005)**	

	Grey seal Halichoerus grypus	**Favourable: Maintained (Jan 2007)**	• function and quality of habitat • prey availability and quality. As part of this objective it should be noted that; • The abundance of prey species subject to existing commercial fisheries needs to be equal to or greater than that required to achieve maximum sustainable yield and secure in the long term. • The management and control of activities or operations likely to adversely affect the species feature is appropriate for maintaining it in favourable condition and is secure in the long term. • Contamination of potential prey species should be below concentrations potentially harmful to their physiological health. • Disturbance by human activity is below levels that suppress reproductive success, physiological health or long-term behaviour **Restoration and recovery:** As part of this objective it should be noted that for the bottlenose dolphin populations should be increasing.

Site name : North Pembrokeshire Woodlands/Coedydd Gogledd Sir Benfro SAC Location Grid Reference: SN046345 JNCC Site Code: UK0030227 Size: 4121.73ha			
	Qualifying Features	**Condition Assessment**	**Conservation Objectives**
Annex I habitats primary reasons for selection	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	**Unfavourable: Recovering (May 2010)**	• The majority of the SAC will be covered by oak woodland. • There will be no measurable, permanent loss of semi-natural woodland. • The trees will be locally native, with a dominance of oak in the canopy, and include ash and rowan. • No more than 5% of the canopy forming trees will consist of non-native species. • Each woodland will include trees of a wide range of age classes, including veteran trees. • Between 10-25% of the woodland area will comprise a dynamic, shifting pattern of gaps: in the long-term, most of these will be created by natural processes. • There will be sufficient natural regeneration to replace the canopy in these gaps over time. • There will be abundant dead and dying trees with holes and hollows, rot columns, torn off limbs and rotten branches. Dead wood, both standing and fallen, will be retained to provide habitats for other species, and will represent at least 10% (by volume) of the total timber. • Veteran trees will be favoured during any silvicultural management because they support a wide variety of species, including lichens. • Old forest lichen species will be found throughout the site, especially on well-lit trees around woodland edges and glades. • Invasive alien species, such as rhododendron, laurel and Japanese knotweed, will eventually be eradicated from the site, or restricted to very low cover. • There will be a well-developed shrub layer throughout the SAC, including hazel and holly. • The field layer will be diverse and include broad-buckler fern, greater wood-rush, bluebell, honeysuckle, wood-sorrel, dog's-mercury, opposite-leaved golden-saxifrage, bilberry, bracken, bramble and violets. • The woodlands will support populations of butterflies, birds and mammals. • All factors affecting the achievement of the foregoing conditions will be under control.

Annex I Habitat qualifying feature	Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (June 2016)**	• At least 2% of the SAC will be covered by alluvial woodland. • The canopy will consist of locally native trees, with an overall dominance of alder. At least 90% of the canopy trees will be wet woodland species. There will be no non-native trees present in the canopy. • In the long-term, each woodland will include trees of a broad range of age classes, including saplings and veteran trees. • At any given time, around 30% of the woodland area will consist of a dynamic, shifting pattern of canopy gaps, maintained by natural processes. • There will be sufficient natural regeneration in the gaps (from seed or vegetative) to replace the canopy, 90% of which will be alder or willow. • There will be abundant dead and dying trees with holes and hollows, rot columns, torn off limbs and rotten branches. Dead wood, both standing and fallen, will be retained to provide habitats for other species, and will represent at least 10% (by volume) of the total timber. • There will be no evidence of alder disease. • Veteran trees will be favoured during any silvicultural management because they support a wide variety of species, including lichens. Old forest lichen species will be found throughout the sites, especially on well-lit trees around woodland edges and glades. • Invasive alien species, such as rhododendron, laurel and Japanese knotweed, will be eradicated from the site, or subject to a control programme of eradication. • The field layer will be diverse and dominated by alluvial species. Indicators of drying out (bramble) and over-grazing (creeping buttercup) will be scarce. • All factors affecting the achievement of the foregoing conditions will be under control.

Annex II species primary reasons for selection	Barbastelle Bat *Barbastella barbastellus*	**Favourable: Maintained (Aug 2012)**	• There will be no loss of ancient semi-natural woodland at the site. • Canopy gaps will be present throughout the site, with two or more young trees growing in each. • Canopy cover will be 50-90% throughout the site (except in Hawthorn fields). • A well-developed shrub layer with holly will be present throughout the woodland, to provide a favourable micro-climate for roosting barbastelles. • A minimum of 4 trees per hectare will be allowed to die standing, will not be removed or cut down. These will be distributed across the site and will include trees with splits, fallen, leaning trees and hollow trees. • Ivy will be allowed to grow on trees throughout the site, to provide roosting opportunities. • There will be no overall loss of open water. • There will be no increase in disturbance (eg paths or rides) near any of the roosting sites. • No roosting sites will be lost as a result of human intervention. • Barbastelle bat passes will be detected on at least 4 out of 6 transects between 25 July and 7 September. • There will be contiguous suitable foraging habitat within a 16km radius around Pengelli Forest, including wooded stream valleys, low and overgrown hedgerows, scrub, overgrown pastures, bracken stands and woodland (which can include conifer plantations). • Roosts outside the SSSI boundary will be left undisturbed, with no woodland management within 50m of a barbastelle roost, and no clearance of the shrub layer. Over-mature trees in any of the woodlands within 2km of Pengelli should be left undisturbed except where they pose a risk to public safety, in which case minimal trees surgery can be permitted. • All factors affecting the achievement of the foregoing conditions will be under control.

Site name : Yerbeston Tops SAC Location Grid Reference: SN057099 JNCC Site Code: UK0030305 Size: 18.6ha			
	Qualifying Features	**Condition Assessment**	**Conservation Objectives**
Annex I Habitat qualifying feature	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Sept 2017)**	• Molinia meadows will cover at least 4ha • The following plants will be common in the Molinia meadows: purple moor-grass Molinia caerulea; small sedges including Carex pulicaris and hostiana, and devil's bit scabious Succisa pratensis. • Soft rush Juncus effusus and species indicative of agricultural modification, such as perennial rye grass Lolium perenne and white clover Trifolium repens will be largely absent from the Molinia meadows. • Scrub species such as willow Salix and birch Betula will also be largely absent from the Molinia meadows • • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions will be under control
Annex II species primary reasons for selection	Marsh fritillary butterfly Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Sept 2017)**	• Density of larval webs during sampling is at least 200 per hectare of optimal breeding habitat • There are at least 10ha of Good Condition (optimal breeding) habitat on or within 2 km radii of the SSSI • • There are at least 50ha of Suitable Condition habitat on or within 2km radii of the SSSI • • Optimal breeding habitat comprises grassland, with Molinia abundant, where the vegetation height is within the range of 10 to 20 cm, and where, for at least 80% of sampling points, Succisa pratensis is present within a 1 m radius. Scrub (>1 metre tall) covers no more than 10% of area. • The factors influencing the breeding habitat are under control. • Trees, bracken, scrub and saplings are of no more than scattered occurrence within the marshy grassland. • A range of characteristic wetland plants and insects are present. • Species indicating agricultural improvement are rare or absent.

Site name : Rhos Llawr-cwrt SAC Location Grid Reference: SN411497 JNCC Site Code: UK0012680 Size: 45.95ha			
	Qualifying Features	**Condition Assessment**	**Conservation Objectives**
Annex II species primary reasons for selection	Marsh fritillary butterfly Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia	**Unfavourable: Recovering (Aug 2012)**	• The SAC will continue to support a nationally important population of the marsh fritillary butterfly. Although, numbers of adult butterflies and larvae will fluctuate annually in response to a parasitic wasp and weather conditions, the population will be robust, resilient and viable in the long term. • During peak years, a visitor taking a walk through the site on a sunny day in June will see several hundreds of adult butterflies. In these years the caterpillars, feeding communally in silken webs on their food plant devil's bit scabious, will be found in their thousands throughout the SAC. • The SAC population will be the core of the Rhos Llawr Cwrt marsh fritillary metapopulation. The metapopulation will consist of the SAC population, plus populations breeding on land outside the SAC, within the Rhos Llawr Cwrt National Nature Reserve and elsewhere in the immediate vicinity (research indicates that a marsh fritillary metapopulation requires at least 50 hectares of available habitat to be viable in the long term). • The population will breed throughout all 4 SAC units, where it will be a key species driving the management of each unit. • Rosettes of devil's bit scabious will be both very numerous and widespread throughout the SAC, growing amongst a short turf of grasses, sedges and flowering herbs with scattered tussocks of purple moor grass and rushes providing shelter for the caterpillars in wet weather. This colourful wet grassland mosaic will extend throughout all the management units and some of the NNR fields outside the SAC and other non-designated areas nearby. • Dense mixed hedges of hawthorn, hazel, mountain ash and other locally native species will grow around the external and internal boundaries and offer vital shelter to the breeding adult butterflies during poor weather in what is otherwise a very exposed landscape with little shelter. • • All factors affecting the achievement of the foregoing conditions will be under control.

Annex II species qualifying species	Slender green feather-moss Drepanocladus (Hamatocaulis) vernicosus	**Unfavourable: unclassified (Oct 2005)**	• Slender green feather moss will be common across the Bwdram and Clettwr valley bottoms, with more than five populations of plants, appearing as groups of uniform dark green 'patches' scattered amongst the marshy grassland and fen vegetation communities. • The populations of moss will grow in a series of flushes, old peat cuttings and shallow excavations, where ground conditions are wet throughout the year, the water table being at, or near the surface. This habitat will have an open, relatively short sward and scrub will be confined to hedge banks on old field boundaries. • Groundwater across the valley bottom will range from slightly acid to slightly basic. • Associated site-specific herbs, grasses and sedges will grow in close proximity to the moss populations. These plants share the habitat requirements of the moss; they include Lesser Spearwort, Sharp-flowered Rush, Purple Moor Grass, Star Sedge, Carnation Sedge, Devil's- bit Scabious, Lesser Skullcap, Large Birdsfoot Trefoil, Bogbean, Common marsh-bedstraw, Common Cotton Sedge, Bottle Sedge, Common Sedge, Common Yellow Sedge, Velvet Bent and Flea Sedge. • • The site will continue to be summer-grazed by cattle; this will maintain the short open sward conditions favoured by the moss. • • All factors affecting the achievement of the foregoing conditions will be under control.

Site name : Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes / Safleodd Ystlum Sir Befro a Llynnoedd Bosherton SAC
Location Grid Reference: SR966954
JNCC Site Code: UK0014793
Size: 121.26ha

Annex I habitat primary reasons for selection	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.	**Unfavourable: No Change (Dec 2011)**	• Submerged Chara beds (mainly Chara hispida in places up to a metre long) will form the predominant submerged macrophyte vegetation throughout most of Central and Western Arms and Central Lake of Bosherston Lakes (unit 1a) and may be present in the Eastern Arm (unit 1b). • Chara will occur at more than 50% frequency along regular surveillance transects within the Western and Central arms. • Chara species (not necessarily hispida) will be present in other embayments and pools, including the Eastern Arm of Bosherston Lakes (unit 1b) and pools in the Mere Pool Valley (unit 1d). • The Western and Central Arms are spring-fed, so nutrient levels here remain low. One of the main nutrients (phosphorous) will reach no more than 25 micrograms per litre in regular sampling areas. Nitrogen levels in the water will be low (less than 1 milligram per litre) and declining or stable. • The Western Arm, Central Arm and Central Lake water will be fairly clear, but well vegetated with submerged and marginal plants. In natural openings (e.g. over springs) within otherwise dense Chara beds, a sechii disk will be viewable on the lakebed. • Water depth will vary from about 3.5 metres OD (winter maximum) to about 0.5 metres or less in places in summer. • Fringing the Chara beds, are beds of white water lilies Nymphaea alba. They will remain fairly abundant in the Western and Central Arms, with smaller populations in Central Lake. • Reed and swamp and fringing burr-reed will be restricted to shallow zones – covering not more than 10 % of the site. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.

Annex II species primary reasons for	Greater horseshoe bat Rhinolophus ferrumequinum	**Favourable: Maintained (Aug 2012)**	• The greater horseshoe bat population will be capable of maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats. • The natural range of greater horseshoe bats will neither be reduced nor will be likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and • There will be sufficient habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis. • At least three SSSI maternity roosts will be occupied annually by adult greater horseshoe bats and their babies: • Stackpole Courtyard Flats and Walled Garden SSSI • Slebech Stable Yard Loft, Cellars and Tunnels SSSI • Felin Llwyngwair SSSI • Carew Castle SSSI will continue to be used as an intermediate greater horseshoe bat roost, during the spring and autumn, as a male summer roost and an autumn/spring mating roost. • The greater horseshoe bat population at the component SSSI's will be stable or increasing. • There will be a sufficiently large area of suitable habitat surrounding these roosts to support the bat population, including continuous networks of sheltered, broadleaved woodland, tree lines and hedgerows connecting the various types of roosts with areas of insect-rich grassland and open water. • • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.

Annex II species qualifying features	Lesser horseshoe bat Rhinolophus hipposideros	**Unfavourable: Declining (Aug 2012)**	• The Lesser horseshoe bat population will be capable of maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats. • The natural range of lesser horseshoe bats will be neither being reduced nor will be likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and • There will be sufficient habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis. • At least four SSSI maternity roosts will be occupied annually by adult lesser horseshoe bats and their babies: • Beech Cottage, Waterwynch SSSI, • Orielton Stable Block and Cellars SSSI, • Park House Outbuildings SSSI, • Stackpole Courtyard Flats and Walled Garden SSSI • The lesser horseshoe bat population at the component SSSI's will be stable or increasing. • There will be a sufficiently large area of suitable habitat surrounding these roosts to support the bat population, including continuous networks of sheltered, broadleaved woodland, tree lines and hedgerows connecting the various types of roosts with areas of insect-rich grassland and open water. • • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.
	Otter Lutra lutra	**Favourable: Unclassified (Mar 2010)**	• The Otter population will be capable of maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitats. • The natural range of otters will neither be reduced nor will be likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future, and • There will be sufficient habitat to maintain its populations on a long-term basis. • The otter population will be stable or increasing. • There will be a sufficiently large area of suitable habitat to support an otter breeding population, including: • Open water with sufficient food resources (notably eels and other fish species) and • a continuous network of undisturbed sheltered resting places along the lake shoreline – including swamp, broadleaved woodland and calcareous scrub. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.

Site name : Gower Ash Woods SAC
Location Grid Reference: SS574882
JNCC Site Code: UK0030157
Size: 233.15ha

	Qualifying Features	Condition Assessment	Conservation Objectives
Annex I habitat primary reasons for selection	Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (May 2016)**	• The steep sided valleys found across most of the site will be covered with woodland dominated by ash. • The rocky slopes will be covered with a rich ground flora including species such as dog's mercury, hart's tongue fern and ramsons. • Fallen trees left on the ground will provide homes for invertebrates and fungi. • The steep slopes will prevent the canopy trees reaching full size. • Amongst the canopy ash will dominate, with other species like field maple, oak and sycamore also present. • A shrub layer of hazel, hawthorn, spindle and saplings of ash will fill the spaces between the ground flora and the canopy. • Mosses and hart's tongue fern will cover limestone boulders that pepper the ground. • The ground flora on the slopes and on the flatter ground will be full of colour in the spring, with bluebells and ransoms providing a haze of blue and white. • Mature rotting trees will be found standing and fallen. • Young trees will grow in the ground flora and shrub layer ready to take the place of a fallen tree. • Some uncommon vascular plants will be found in the woods these include herb Paris, purple gromwell, butcher's broom and spurge laurel. • On the flatter areas fallen planted conifers will support mosses and ferns and ash trees will grow up from between the fallen conifers. Old conifer and beech plantations will support developing ash woodland. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions will be under control.

Annex I habitat qualifying features	Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jun 2016)**	• Alongside the Pennard Pill and the Ilston stream alluvial woodland will grow in the silts from the river, • Alder will dominate these areas but hazel and elder will also grow here, • Creeping buttercup, nettles and meadowsweet will dominate the ground flora. • There will be no signs of disturbance such as over-grazing or fly-tipping and no non-native species will grow in these areas. • Young saplings of alder and hazel will be numerous and waiting to fill the spaces left by fallen • trees. • All other factors will be under control.

Site name : Pembrokeshire Marine SAC
Location Grid Reference: SM503093
JNCC Site Code: UK0013116
Size: 138038.50ha

	Qualifying Features	Condition Assessment	Conservation Objectives
Annex I habitat primary reason for selection	Estuaries	**Unfavourable: Declining (Nov 2006)**	**Range**: The overall distribution and extent of the habitat features within the site, and each of their main component parts is stable or increasing. For the inlets and bays feature these include; • The embayment of St.Brides Bay • The ria of Milford Haven • Peripheral embayments and inlets For the coastal lagoons feature this is subject to the requirements for maintenance of the artificial impoundment structure and maintenance of the lagoons for the original purpose or subsequent purpose that pre-dates classification of the site. **Structure and Function:** The physical biological and chemical structure and functions necessary for the long-term maintenance and quality of the habitat are not degraded. Important elements include; geology, sedimentology, geomorphology, hydrography and meteorology, water and sediment chemistry, biological interactions. This includes a need for nutrient levels in the water column and sediments to be: • at or below existing statutory guideline concentrations • within ranges that are not potentially detrimental to the long term maintenance of the features species populations, their abundance and range. Contaminant levels in the water column and sediments derived from human activity to be: • at or below existing statutory guideline concentrations • below levels that would potentially result in increase in contaminant concentrations within sediments or biota • below levels potentially detrimental to the long-term maintenance of the features species populations, their abundance or range. **Restoration and recovery:** As part of this objective it should be noted that; the Milford Haven waterway complex would benefit from restorative action, for example through the removal of non-natural beach material, and the removal, replacement or improved maintenance of rock filled gabions.
	Large shallow inlets and bays	**Unfavourable: Declining (Nov 2006)**	
	Reefs	**Unfavourable: Declining (Jul 2008)**	
Annex I habitats qualifying features	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time	**Unfavourable: No change (Dec 2006)**	
	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	**Unfavourable: Declining (Nov 2006)**	
	Coastal lagoons	**Favourable: Maintained (Nov 2006)**	

	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Oct 2006)**	There is also need for some restoration of the populations of several typical species of the Milford Haven waterway complex that are severely depleted with respect to historical levels as a consequence primarily of human exploitation. In the Milford Haven waterways complex inputs of nutrients and contaminants to the water column and sediments derived from human activity must remain at or below levels at the time the site became a candidate SAC. For the lagoons feature this is subject to the requirements for maintenance of the artificial impoundment structures of coastal lagoons and maintenance of the lagoons for their original purpose or subsequent purpose that pre-dates classification of the site. For the inlets and bays features this includes the need for some restoration of the populations of several typical species which are severely depleted with respect to historical levels as a consequence, primarily of human exploitation. In the Milford Haven waterways complex inputs of nutrients and contaminants to the water column and sediments derived from human activity must remain at or below levels at the time the site became a candidate SAC. **Typical Species**: The presence, abundance, condition and diversity of typical species are such that habitat quality is not degraded. Important elements include species richness, population structure and dynamics, physiological heath, reproductive capacity, recruitment, mobility, range. As part of this objective it should be noted that: • populations of typical species subject to existing commercial fisheries need to be at an abundance equal to or greater than that required to achieve maximum sustainable yield and be secure in the long term • the management and control of activities or operations likely to adversely affect the habitat feature is appropriate for maintaining it in favourable condition and is secure in the long term.
	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	**Favourable: Maintained (Nov 2006)**	
Annex II species primary reason for selection	Grey seal Halichoerus grypus	**Favourable: Maintained (Nov 2006)**	• Populations: The population is maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitat. Important elements are population size, structure, production, and condition of the species within the site. As part of this objective it should be noted that for otter and grey seal; • Contaminant burdens derived from human activity are below levels that may cause physiological damage, or immune or reproductive suppression For grey seal, populations should not be reduced as a consequence of human activity

	Shore dock Rumex rupestris	**Favourable: Maintained (Feb 2006)**	**Range:** The species population within the site is such that the natural range of the population is not being reduced or likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future. As part of this objective it should be noted that for otter and grey seal • Their range within the SAC and adjacent inter-connected areas is not constrained or hindered • There are appropriate and sufficient food resources within the SAC and beyond • The sites and amount of supporting habitat used by these species are accessible and their extent and quality is stable or increasing **Supporting Habitats and Species**: The presence, abundance, condition and diversity of habitats and species required to support this species is such that the distribution, abundance and populations dynamics of the species within the site and population beyond the site is stable or increasing. Important considerations include; distribution, extent, structure, function and quality of habitat, prey availability and quality. As part of this objective it should be noted that; • The abundance of prey species subject to existing commercial fisheries needs to be equal to or greater than that required to achieve maximum sustainable yield and secure in the long term. • The management and control of activities or operations likely to adversely affect the species feature is appropriate for maintaining it in favourable condition and is secure in the long term. • Contamination of potential prey species should be below concentrations potentially harmful to their physiological health. • Disturbance by human activity is below levels that suppress reproductive success, physiological health or long-term behaviour • For otter there are sufficient sources within the SAC and beyond of high quality freshwater for drinking and bathing. **Restoration and recovery:** In the Milford Haven waterways complex inputs of nutrients and contaminants to the water column and sediments derived from human activity must remain at or below levels at the time the site became a candidate SAC. As part of this objective it should be noted that for the otter, populations should be increasing.
Annex II species qualifying features	Sea lamprey Petromyzon marinus	**Unfavourable: Declining (Apr 2005)**	
	River lamprey Lampetra fluviatilis	**Unfavourable: No change (Apr 2005)**	
	Allis shad Alosa alosa	**Not Assessed**	
	Twaite shad Alosa fallax	**Not Assessed**	
	Otter Lutra lutra	**Favourable: Unclassified (Mar 2010)**	

Site name : Gower Commons / Tiroedd Comin SAC Location Grid Reference: SS497900 JNCC Site Code: UK0012685 Size: 1775.29ha			
	Qualifying Features	**Condition Assessment**	**Conservation Objectives**
Annex I habitat primary reason for selection	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Sept 2016)**	• The wet heath will be found on moist and generally acidic soils across the commons. • The wet heath will be characterised by western gorse growing amongst cross-leaved heath and purple moor grass. The gorse will be low growing and does not seem to dominate the heath. The yellow of the gorse and the pink of the cross-leaved heath make a spectacular display. Pink lousewort will be seen growing amongst the mixture of gorse and heath, with grasses and sedges weaving their way through the mix of species such as cotton grass, heath bedstraw, heath milkwort, flea sedge and carnation sedge. • Sphagnum mosses grow beneath the heath, holding moisture like a sponge. Plants capable of growing in certain very wet areas associated with wet heath like bog asphodel and the insect eating sundews will also be found as you walk around the wet heath. • The wet heath is not poached by grazing animals, but is evenly and sensitively grazed. There are no invasive species like Rhododendron or Japanese Knotweed growing in the wet heath and willow and birch are found only very thinly scattered throughout the site, mainly on the edges. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.

	European dry heaths	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Sept 2008)**	• Dry heath is found on the free-draining parts of the commons. In some parts of the SAC dry heath grows in large continuous areas like at Rhossili Down, in other parts of the SAC, the dry heath grows in mosaics with wet heath and acid grassland. Bell heather and cross-leaved heath grow along side European and western gorse. There is a lack of purple moor grass and sphagnum mosses which tell us that the heath is drier. Heath milkwort, tormentil and heath bedstraw are seen regularly decorating the dry heaths. • Scrub like birch and overgrown gorse is rare with the dry heaths, except where island of scrub provide some shelter for grazing animals. These islands will be accepted within the heathland landscape. • Bracken is present within the dry heath and grows around the edges but bracken never dominates stands of dry heath and does not encroach on the dry heath. • Burning of the heath is only carried out as a controlled management technique to create a mosaic of different ages of heath. There are no signs of burning causing damage or causing bracken to spread.
	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Sept 2016)**	On the wettest ground, marshy grassland will be found; it will often be found growing in a mosaic with wet heath. • The marshy grassland will be dominated by tussocks of purple moor grass. The tussocks will provide little sheltered areas where flowers grow and help to provide some shelter for the marsh fritillary butterfly. • The tussocks are uneven in size, but there will always be young purple moor grass coming through each spring. Only a few of the tussocks will have old and 'rank' purple moor grass growing on them. • Devil's bit scabious, the food plant for the larvae of marsh fritillary butterflies will be found commonly growing amongst the purple moor grass. Whorled caraway and soft leaved sedge are both scarce plants that will be commonly found in the marshy grassland areas. • Often heathy plants like cross-leaved heath and gorse will be found in marshy grassland – this is a transition area between the two habitats.

Annex II species primary reason for selection	Southern damselfly Coenagrion mercuriale	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jul 2017)**	• Seepages and runnels at Rhossili Down, Cefn Bryn and Sluxton Marsh will be well maintained, clear and pollution free. • They will support good numbers of native aquatic plants. • On summer days each year southern damselflies will be seen darting over the seepages and runnels. • Each year the population of southern damselflies will stay the same or increase.
	Marsh fritillary butterfly Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Sept 2009)**	• The site will contribute towards supporting a sustainable metapopulation of the marsh fritillary on Gower. This will require a minimum of 50ha of suitable habitat, of which at least 10ha must be in good condition. Some will be on nearby land within a radius of about 2km. • The population will be viable in the long term, acknowledging the extreme population fluctuations of the species. • Habitats on the site will be in optimal condition to support the metapopulation. • At least 50ha of the total site area within the SAC & associated SSSI will be marshy grassland suitable for supporting marsh fritillary, with Succisa pratensis present and only a low cover of scrub. • At least 10ha will be good marsh fritillary breeding habitat in good condition, dominated by purple moor-grass Molinia caerulea, with S. pratensis present throughout and a vegetation height of 10-20cm over the winter period. • Suitable marsh fritillary habitat is defined as stands of grassland where Succisa pratensis is present and where scrub more than 1 metre tall covers no more than 10% of the stands • Optimal marsh fritillary breeding habitat will be characterised by grassland where the vegetation height is 10-20 cm, with abundant purple moor-grass Molinia caerulea, frequent “large-leaved” devil’s-bit scabious Succisa pratensis suitable for marsh fritillaries to lay their eggs and only occasional scrub. In peak years, a density of 200 larval webs per hectare of optimal habitat will be found across the site. (Fowles 20042) • The marshy grassland will be well sheltered by hedgerows and mature trees. • All factors affecting the achievement of the foregoing conditions are under control.

Site name : River Wye / Afon Gwy SAC Location Grid Reference: SO109369 JNCC Site Code: UK0012642 Size: 2147.64ha			
	Qualifying Features	**Condition Assessment**	**Conservation Objectives**
Annex I habitats primary reason for selection	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jan 2012)**	• The conservation objective for the water course as defined in 4.1 must be met • The natural range of the plant communities represented within this feature should be stable or increasing in the SAC. • The area covered by the feature within its natural range in the SAC should be stable or increasing • The conservation status of the feature's typical species should be favourable.
Annex I habitat qualifying feature	Transition mires and quaking bogs	**Unfavourable: Declining (Jul 2012)**	• The conservation objective for the water course as defined in 4.1 must be met • The natural range of the plant communities represented within this feature should be stable or increasing in the SAC. • The area covered by the feature within its natural range in the SAC should be stable or increasing • The conservation status of the feature's typical species should be favourable.

Annex II species primary reason for selection	White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish Austropotamobius pallipes	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Sept 2016)**	• The conservation objective for the water course as defined in 4.1 must be met • The population of the feature in the SAC is stable or increasing over the long term. • The natural range of the feature in the SAC is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future. • There is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain the feature's population in the SAC on a long-term basis.
	Otter Lutra lutra	**Favourable: Recovered (Mar 2010)**	• The population of otters in the SAC is stable or increasing over the long term and reflects the natural carrying capacity of the habitat within the SAC, as determined by natural levels of prey abundance and associated territorial behaviour. • The natural range of otters in the SAC is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future. • The safe movement and dispersal of individuals around the SAC is facilitated by the provision, where necessary, of suitable riparian habitat, and underpasses, ledges, fencing etc at road bridges and other artificial barriers.
	Sea lamprey Petromyzon marinus	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jan 2012)**	• The conservation objective for the water course as defined in 4.1 must be met • The population of the feature in the SAC is stable or increasing over the long term. • The natural range of the feature in the SAC is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future. • There is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain the feature's population in the SAC on a long-term basis.
	Brook lamprey Lampetra planeri	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jan 2012)**	
	River lamprey Lampetra fluviatilis	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jan 2012)**	
	Twaite shad Alosa fallax	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jan 2012)**	
	Atlantic salmon Salmo salar	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jan 2012)**	
	Bullhead Cottus gobio	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Dec 2016)**	
Annex II species qualifying features	Allis shad Alosa alosa	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jan 2012)**	

Site name : Gweunydd Blaencleddau SAC Location Grid Reference: SN155317 JNCC Site Code: UK0030144 Size: 149.13ha			
	Qualifying Features	**Condition Assessment**	**Conservation Objectives**
Annex I habitats qualifying features	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jul 2016)**	• Wet heath will occupy at least 6% of the total site area. • The following plants will be common in the wet heath: heather Calluna vulgaris; cross-leaved heath Erica tetralix; purple moor-grass Molinia caerulea; bog asphodel Narthecium ossifragum; short sedges Carex species; mosses including bog moss Sphagnum species; devil's bit scabious Succisa pratensis. • Competitive species indicative of under-grazing, particularly purple moor-grass Molinia caerulea and western gorse Ulex gallii will be kept in check. • Bracken, and scrub species such as willow Salix and birch Betula will also be largely absent from the wet heath.
	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jul 2016)**	• Molinia meadows will occur as small patches around the site. • The following plants will be common: purple moor-grass Molinia caerulea; small sedges including Carex pulicaris and hostiana, and devil's bit scabious Succisa pratensis. • Soft rush Juncus effusus and species indicative of agricultural modification, such as perennial rye grass Lolium perenne and white clover Trifolium repens will be virtually absent. • · Scrub species such as willow Salix and birch Betula will also be largely absent. • · All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions will be under control.
	Blanket bogs	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jul 2016)**	• Blanket bog will occupy at least 4% of the total site area. • The following plants will be common in the blanket bog: hare's-tail cotton grass Eriophorum vaginatum; heather Calluna vulgaris; cross-leaved heath Erica tetralix and bog moss Sphagnum species. • Competitive species indicative of under-grazing, particularly purple moor-grass Molinia caerulea will be kept in check. • Bracken, and scrub species such as willow Salix and birch Betula will also be largely absent from the blanket bog.
	Transition mires and quaking bogs	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jul 2016)**	• Transition mire and quaking bog will occupy at least 2% of the total site area. • Bottle sedge should be abundant over carpets of bog mosses, 'brown' mosses or swamp species such as marsh cinquefoil • Competitive species indicative of under-grazing, particularly soft rush Juncus effusus and purple moor-grass Molinia caerulea will be kept in check. • Scrub species such as willow Salix and birch Betula will also be largely absent.

	Alkaline fens	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jul 2017)**	• Flushes will occupy at least 10% of the total site area. • The majority of the flushes will naturally support carpets of bog moss below a canopy of tall rushes or sedges. • A proportion (at least 15%) should support short, open vegetation rich in small mosses, sedges and wildflowers characteristic of less acidic conditions. This type of flush corresponds to the Alkaline Fen feature of European interest. • Many of the flushes will have short, open vegetation to suit the requirements of the southern damselfly. • Competitive species indicative of under-grazing, particularly soft rush Juncus effusus and purple moor-grass Molinia caerulea will be kept in check. • Scrub species such as willow Salix and birch Betula will also be largely absent.
Annex II species primary reason for selection	Marsh fritillary butterfly Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jul 2016)**	• Density of larval webs during sampling will be at least 200 per hectare of Good Condition habitat • There are at least 50ha of Suitable habitat on the site or within a 2km radius around it. • At least 10ha of the suitable habitat is Good Condition habitat • Good Condition habitat habitat comprises grassland, with Molinia abundant, where the vegetation height is within the range of 10 to 20 cm, and where, for at least 80% of sampling points, Succisa pratensis is present within a 1 m radius. Scrub (>1 metre tall) covers no more than 10% of area. • Suitable marshy grassland comprises grassland where Succisa pratensis is present at lower frequencies but still widely distributed throughout the habitat patch and in which scrub (>1 metre tall) covers no more than 20% of area. Alternatively, Succisa may be present at high density in close-cropped swards. • The factors influencing the breeding habitat are under control
Annex II species qualifying feature	Southern damselfly Coenagrion mercuriale	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jul 2016)**	• Density of adult males during sampling is at least 1 male per 10 square metres of breeding habitat • The extent of breeding habitat is at least 1500 square metres. • Breeding habitat will be mapped where patches of oviposition plants are present as more than 20% cover over areas greater than 0.5 square metres and no more than 20% of the total cover consists of Apium nodiflorum greater than 15cm tall. Southern damselfly females lay their eggs into the tissue of emergent aquatic plants and in Wales the key species are Menyanthes trifoliata (bog-bean), Hypericum elodes (marsh St. John's wort), Potamogeton polygonifolius (bog pondweed) and Apium nodiflorum (fool's watercress). • · The factors influencing the flush habitat are under control

Site name : Preseli SAC Location Grid Reference: SN110320 JNCC Site Code: UK0012598 Size: 2701.68ha			
	Qualifying Features	**Condition Assessment**	**Conservation Objectives**
Annex I habitats qualifying features	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jun 2012)**	Wet heath will cover at least 11%3 of the site and display a range of plant species typical of the habitat. Most of the wet heath will have a mixture of tussocks of purple moor-grass, separated by closely grazed patches rich in deer grass, bog mosses and heathers such as cross-leaved heath. A proportion should also have a range of short sedges and flowering plants such as round leaved sundew. • The following plants will be common in the wet heath: heather Calluna vulgaris; cross-leaved heath Erica tetralix; purple moor-grass Molinia caerulea; bog asphodel Narthecium ossifragum; short sedges Carex species; mosses including bog moss Sphagnum species; devil's bit scabious Succisa pratensis. • Competitive species indicative of under-grazing, particularly Purple Moor Grass Molinia caerulea and Western Gorse Ulex gallii will be kept in check. • Bracken, and scrub species such as willow Salix and birch Betula will also be largely absent from the wet heath.
	European dry heaths	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jun 2012)**	• Dry heath will cover at least 11%2 of Mynydd Preseli SSSI and display a range of plant, insect and bird species typical of the habitat. • The following plants will be common in the dry heath: heather Calluna vulgaris; bell heather Erica cinerea and western gorse Ulex gallii. • Competitive species indicative of under-grazing, particularly bracken Pteridium aquilinum, purple moor-grass Molinia caerulea and western gorse Ulex gallii will be kept in check.
	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	**Unfavourable: Declining (Aug 2012)**	Depressions on peat substrates is a habitat type which typically occurs in complex mosaics with wet heath and flush habitats. The vegetation will be open, and have an abundance of species such as white beak-sedge Rhynchospora alba, the bog moss Sphagnum auriculatum, marsh clubmoss Lycopodiella inundata and round-leaved sundew Drosera rotundifolia. The amount of this habitat on the site has not been clearly defined yet, but is thought to be around 1-2% of the total site area. • Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion will occupy roughly 1-2% of the SAC, and be present in at least two management units (currently units 2 and 3). • The following plants will be common: white beaked sedge Rhynchospora alba, the bog moss, Sphagnum denticulatum, round-leaved sundew Drosera rotundifolia and, in relatively base-rich sites, brown mosses such as Drepanocladus revolvens and Scorpidium scorpioides. • The vegetation in these areas will be typically very open and competitive species indicative of under-grazing, particularly purple moor-grass Molinia caerulea, will be kept in check. • Scrub species such as willow Salix and birch Betula will also be largely absent.

	Alkaline fens	**Favourable: Unclassified (Dec 2004)**	Alkaline fen will be present in patches across the site and display a range of plant and insect species typical of the habitat, including the southern damselfly. The flushes supporting this specific habitat will comprise short, open vegetation rich in small mosses, sedges and plants characteristic of less acidic conditions. • Alkaline fens will be present in 8 out of the 10 pink areas as shown on map. • Characteristic flush species such as Menyanthes trifoliata, Triglochin palustre, Anagallis tenella, Pedicularis palustris and Pinguicula vulgaris will be present • Species indicative of negative change, such as Juncus squarrosus, will be absent. • Scrub species such as willow Salix and birch Betula will also be largely absent.
Annex II habitats qualifying features	Southern damselfly Coenagrion mercuriale	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jul 11)**	• The density of adult males, during sampling, will be at least 1 male per 10 square metres of breeding habitat • • There will be at least 3500 square metres of breeding habitat • • All factors affecting the feature will be under control
	Marsh fritillary butterfly Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia	**Unfavourable: No change (Sept 2011)**	A healthy population of the marsh fritillary butterfly will be present on and around the SAC. There will be sufficient suitable and good condition habitat to support viable meta-populations of the butterfly which is dependent here on marshy grassland and flush, with tussocks of purple moor-grass and plenty of the caterpillar's main food-plant, devil's bit scabious. The swards will vary in height so that there are short 'lawn' areas for the caterpillars to sun themselves on, and taller tussocky areas to provide shelter. For each of the two Meta-populations present within the SAC • • There should be at least 200 larval webs per hectare of Good Condition habitat • • There should be at least 50ha of Suitable habitat on the SAC or within a 2km radius around it. • • At least 10ha of this suitable habitat should be Good Condition Habitat • All factors affecting the feature must be under control
	Slender green feather-moss Drepanocladus (Hamatocaulis) vernicosus	**Favourable: Maintained (Feb 2006)**	Slender green feather moss is a qualifying feature in the SAC, but has been found to be considerably more frequent and abundant both within Preseli SAC, and indeed in a number of other sites in Wales than was previously thought. In the light of this, it has been decided to treat the feature as part of the Rare mosses on damp ground SSSI feature.

Site name : Mynydd Epynt SAC Location Grid Reference: SN883400 JNCC Site Code: UK0030221 Size: 40.11ha			
	Qualifying Features	**Condition Assessment**	**Conservation Objectives**
Annex II species primary reason for selection	Slender green feather-moss Drepanocladus (Hamatocaulis) vernicosus	**Favourable: Unclassified (Aug 2009)**	• There is a thriving population of varnished hook-moss in the mildly base-rich flushes, at six different locations spread throughout the site. • Around 1.5 ha of suitable flush vegetation will continue to occur at Mynydd Epynt at the six different locations and the moss will continue to be present and maintain its distribution throughout the suitable areas of flush in at least ten separate locations overall. • The water table is maintained at or near to the surface for most of the year within the flushes. • The flushes are open in character with no woody shrubs present. • The flushes are not dominated by rushes, purple moor-grass or bog-mosses (Sphagnum spp.). • The following plants are typically found in the flushes scattered amongst the moss carpet but not dominant: carnation sedge Carex panicea, star sedge C. echinata, common sedge C. nigra , purple moor-grass Molinia caerulea and rushes Juncus acutifolius and J. articulatus. • Species indicative of agricultural modification, such as perennial rye grass Lolium perenne and white clover Trifolium repens are absent from the flushes and the surrounding areas of SSSI/SAC in the six locations. • All six locations continue to be grazed by sheep at a level which maintains the short open sward of the flushes without poaching. • All six locations are free from physical damage such as trampling/poaching caused by livestock, troop activity, passage of agricultural/other vehicles, or impact damage from weapons practice. • The population of varnished hook-moss is stable and is sustainable in the long term with its range not contracting and all factors that may affect the species are under control.

Site name : River Usk / Afon Wysg SAC Location Grid Reference: SO301113 JNCC Site Code: UK0013007 Size: 967.97ha			
	Qualifying Features	**Condition Assessment**	**Conservation Objectives**
Annex I habitats qualifying features	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jan 2012)**	• The conservation objective for the water course as defined in 4.1 above must be met • The natural range of the plant communities represented within this feature should be stable or increasing in the SAC. • The area covered by the feature within its natural range in the SAC should be stable or increasing. • The conservation status of the feature's typical species should be favourable. The typical species are defined with reference to the species composition of the appropriate JNCC river vegetation type for the particular river reach, unless differing from this type due to natural variability when other typical species may be defined as appropriate.
Annex II species primary reason for selection	Otter Lutra lutra	**Favourable: Recovered (Mar 2010)**	• The population of otters in the SAC is stable or increasing over the long term and reflects the natural carrying capacity of the habitat within the SAC, as determined by natural levels of prey abundance and associated territorial behaviour. • The natural range of otters in the SAC is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future. The safe movement and dispersal of individuals around the SAC is facilitated by the provision, where necessary, of suitable riparian habitat, and underpasses, ledges, fencing etc at road bridges and other artificial barriers.
	Sea lamprey Petromyzon marinus	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Nov 2012)**	• The conservation objective for the water course as defined in 4.1 above must be met • The population of the feature in the SAC is stable or increasing over the long term. • The natural range of the feature in the SAC is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future. • There is, and will probably continue to be, a sufficiently large habitat to maintain the feature's population in the SAC on a long-term basis.
	Brook lamprey Lampetra planeri	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Nov 2012)**	
	River lamprey Lampetra fluviatilis	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Nov 2012)**	
	Twaite shad Alosa fallax	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jan 2012)**	
	Atlantic salmon Salmo salar	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jan 2012)**	
	Bullhead Cottus gobio	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jan 2012)**	

Annex II species qualifying feature	Allis shad Alosa alosa	**Unfavourable: Unclassified (Jan 2012)**	

Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites		
Site name : Elenydd-Mallaen SPA **Location Grid Reference:** **JNCC Site Code: UK9014111** **Size: 30022.14ha**		
Qualifying Features	Condition Assessment	Conservation Objectives
Breeding Red Kite *Milvus milvus*	Favourable: Unclassified (Jun 2000)	• The SPA area continues to support at least 15 pairs of breeding red kites, or 0.5% of the British population. • Traditional nest sites within the SPA continue to be used. • The extent of suitable semi-natural feeding habitat within the SPA is maintained. • Availability of carrion within the SPA is maintained. • Roosting sites within the SPA are maintained. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.
Breeding Merlin *Falco columbaris*	Favourable: Unclassified (Jun 2003)	• The SPA area continues to support at least 7 pairs of breeding merlins, or 0.5% of the British population. • Traditional nest sites within the SPA continue to be used. • The extent of suitable semi-natural feeding habitat within the SPA is maintained. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.
Breeding Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*	Favourable: Maintained (2006)	• The SPA area continues to support at least 15 pairs of breeding peregrines, or 0.5% of the British population. • Traditional nest sites within the SPA continue to be used. • The extent of suitable semi-natural feeding habitat within the SPA is maintained. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.
Site name : Carmarthen Bay SPA **Location Grid Reference:** **JNCC Site Code: UK9014091** **Size: 30022.14ha**		
Common scoter Melanitta nigra.	Not Assessed	• The numbers of all SPA bird species are stable or increasing. • The abundance and distribution of suitable prey are sufficient and appropriate to support the numbers of all SPA bird species. • All SPA birds are allowed to inhabit their feeding grounds and resting areas with minimum disturbance, and are allowed to move unhindered between them. • All states of the Conservation Objectives for the supporting habitats and species, subject to natural processes, are fulfilled and maintained in the long-term. Supporting habitats for bird species of the Burry Inlet SPA include: •Estuaries

		•Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide •Atlantic salt meadows •Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand 'Large shallow inlets and bays' are the supporting habitat for the common scoter of the Carmarthen Bay SPA. • The management and control of activities or operations likely to be of significant effect to the oystercatchers, is appropriate for maintaining the feature at FCS and is secure in the long-term.
Site name : Burry Inlet SPA/Ramsar **Location Grid Reference:** **JNCC Site Code:** **Size: 6627.99**		
Curlew Numenius arquata	Favourable: Unclassified (Mar 2004)	• The numbers of all SPA bird species are stable or increasing. • The abundance and distribution of suitable prey are sufficient and appropriate to support the numbers of all SPA bird species. • All SPA birds are allowed to inhabit their feeding grounds and resting areas with minimum disturbance, and are allowed to move unhindered between them. • All states of the Conservation Objectives for the supporting habitats and species, subject to natural processes, are fulfilled and maintained in the long-term. • Supporting habitats for bird species of the Burry Inlet SPA include: •Estuaries •Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide •Atlantic salt meadows •Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand 'Large shallow inlets and bays' are the supporting habitat for the common scoter of the Carmarthen Bay SPA. • The management and control of activities or operations likely to be of significant effect to the oystercatchers, is appropriate for maintaining the feature at FCS and is secure in the long-term.
Dunlin Calidris alpina alpine	Favourable: Unclassified (Mar 2004)	
Grey plover Pluviatilis squatarola	Favourable: Unclassified (Mar 2004)	
Knot Calidris canutus	Favourable: Unclassified (Mar 2004)	
Oystercatcher Haematopus ostralegus	Favourable: Unclassified (Mar 2004)	
Pintail Anas acuta	Favourable: Unclassified (Mar 2004)	
Redshank Tringa tetanus	Favourable: Unclassified (Mar 2004)	
Shelduck Tadorna tadorna	Favourable: Unclassified (Mar 2004)	
Shoveler Anas clypeata	Favourable: Unclassified (Mar 2004)	
Teal Anas crecca	Favourable: Unclassified (Mar 2004)	
Turnstone Arenaria interpres	Not Assessed	
Wigeon Anas penelope	Favourable: Unclassified (Mar 2004)	

Appendix 2.Nitrogen Deposition Data for SAC's/SPA's within Carmarthenshire and 15km Buffer Zone

Site	Designated features	Critical Load Class	Critical Load (kg N/ha/yr)	Site Average (kg N/ha/yr)
Afon Teifi	Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoeto-Nanojuncetea	Permanent oligotrophic waters: Softwater lakes	3 - 10	14.2
	Luronium natans – Floating water-plantain		3 - 10	14.2
Caeau Mynydd Mawr	Marsh fritillary butterfly - Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia	Non-mediterranean dry acid and neutral closed grassland	10	22
		Sub-atlantic semi-dry calcareous grassland	15	22
		Moist and wet oligotrophic grasslands: Molinia caerulea meadows	10	22
	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	Moist and wet oligotrophic grasslands: Molinia caerulea meadows	15	22.0
Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries	Atlantic salt meadows Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand	Pioneer, low-mid, mid-upper salt marshes	30	11.1
Carmarthen Bay and Dunes	Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes)	Coastal stable dune grasslands - acid type	8	12.7
		Coastal stable dune grasslands - calcareous type	10	12.7
	Humid dune slacks	Moist to wet dune slacks – acid type	10	12.7
		Moist to wet dune slacks – calcareous type	15	12.7
	Fen Orchid – Liparis loeselii	Moist to wet dune slacks	10-15	12.7
	Petalwort - Petalophyllum ralfsii			
	Dunes with Salix repens ssp argentea (Salicion arenariae)			
	Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (“white dunes”) Embryonic shifting dunes	Shifting coastal dunes	10	12.7
Cernydd Carmel	Active raised bogs	Raised and blanket bogs	5	21.1
	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	Northern wet heath: Erica tetralix dominated wet heath	10	21.1
	European dry heaths	Dry heaths	10	21.1

	Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines	Meso- and eutrophic Quercus woodland	15	31.3
Cleddau Rivers	Active raised bogs	Raised and blanket bogs	5	19.2
Cwm Doethie	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	Acidophilous Quercus-dominated woodland	10	21.5
	European dry heaths	Dry heaths	10	13.8
Gower Ash Woods	Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines	Meso- and eutrophic Quercus woodland	15	17.3
Gower Commons	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix Southern damselfly Coenagrion mercuriale	Northern wet heath: Erica tetralix dominated wet heath	10	11.9
	European dry heaths	Dry heaths	10	11.9
	Marsh fritillary butterfly	Non-mediterranean dry acid and neutral closed grassland	10	11.9
		Sub-atlantic semi-dry calcareous grassland	15	11.9
	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	Moist and wet oligotrophic grasslands: Molinia caerulea meadows	10	11.9
Gweunydd Blaencleddau	Blanket bogs	Raised and blanket bogs	5	21.3
	Marsh fritillary butterfly Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia	Non-mediterranean dry acid and neutral closed grassland	10	21.3
		Sub-atlantic semi-dry calcareous grassland	15	21.3
	Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae)	Moist and wet oligotrophic grasslands: Molinia caerulea meadows	10	21.3
	Transition mires and quaking bogs	Valley mires, poor fens and transition mires	10	21.3
	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix Southern damselfly Coenagrion mercuriale	Northern wet heath: Erica tetralix dominated wet heath	10	21.3
	Alkaline fens	Rich fens	15	21.3
Mynydd Epynt	Slender green feather-mossDrepanocladus (Hamatocaulis) vernicosus	Valley mires, poor fens and transition mires	10	14.9
Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes	Rhinolophus hipposideros - Lesser horseshoe bat	Broadleaved deciduous woodland	10	18.1

	Rhinolophus ferrumequinum - Greater horseshoe bat			
Pembrokeshire Marine	Shore Dock – Rumex rupestris	Moist to wet dune slacks	10	8.9
	Coastal lagoons	Pioneer, low-mid, mid-upper saltmarshes	30	5.8
	Atlantic salt meadows		30	8.9
	Estuaries		30	8.9
Preseli	Marsh fritillary butterfly – Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia	Non-mediterranean dry acid and neutral closed grassland	10	18.9
		Sub-atlantic semi-dry calcareous grassland	15	18.9
		Moist and wet oligotrophic grasslands: Molinia caerulea meadows	10	18.9
	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion	Valley mires, poor fens and transition mires	15	18.9
	Slender green feather-moss - Drepanocladus (Hamatocaulis) vernicosus		15	18.9
	European dry heaths	Dry heaths	10	18.9
	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix	Northern wet heath: Erica tetralix dominated wet heath	10	18.9
	Southern damselfly – Coenagrion mercuriale		10	18.9
	Alkaline Fens	Rich fens	15	18.9
Rhos Llawr-cwrt	Marsh fritillary butterfly - Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia	Non-mediterranean dry acid and neutral closed grassland	10	19.9
		Sub-atlantic semi-dry calcareous grassland	15	19.9
		Moist and wet oligotrophic grasslands: Molinia caerulea meadows	10	19.9
	Slender green featherela-moss - Drepanocladus (Hamatocaulis) vernicosus	Valley mires, poor fens and transition mires	15	19.9
North Pembrokeshire Woodlands	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles	Acidophilous Quercus-dominated woodland	10	28.6
	Barbastelle Bat - Barbastella barbastellus	Broadleaved deciduous woodland	10	28.6
Yerbeston Tops	Marsh fritillary butterfly - Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia	Non-mediterranean dry acid and neutral closed grassland	10	17.4
		Sub-atlantic semi-dry calcareous grassland	15	17.4
		Moist and wet oligotrophic	10	17.4

		grasslands: Molinia caerulea meadows		
Burry Inlet SPA	Eurasian curlew – Numenius arquata	Moist and wet oligtrophic grasslands: Heath (Jancus) meadows and humid (Nardus stricta) swards	10- 20	11.7
		Pioneer, low-mid, mid-upper saltmarshes	20 - 30	11.7
		Low and medium altitude hay meadows	20 - 30	11.7
	Tringa tetanus (eastern Atlantic – wintering) – Common redshank	Pioneer, low-mid, mid-upper saltmarshes	20 - 30	11.7
	Calidris alpina alpine (Northern Siberia/Europe/Western Africa) DUnlin			11.7

Appendix 3 Plans and Programmes with potential in-combination effects.

National	
People, Places, futures – The Wales Spatial Plan (WSP) (2008 update)	
Document Details	**Potential 'in-combination' effects**
The Wales Spatial Plan (WSP) provides an overarching policy context for spatial planning and development in Wales by establishing cross-cutting national priorities. Carmarthenshire is situated within three of the six sub areas identified within the WSP. Carmarthen, is identified as playing a vital role between this area, Swansea Bay and Pembrokeshire; and Newtown, with a key role in the Severn Valley area, providing services to the surrounding settlements. These have all been identified by Wales Spatial Plan partners as primary settlements for the future development of Central Wales. The Wales Spatial Plan Area of Pembrokeshire and western Carmarthenshire combines exemplary coast and countryside, with a history of development based on agriculture, tourism, defence and the Milford Haven Waterway.	• Direct loss of habitat and/or migratory routes through development, particularly localised hub & cluster development for specific sites • Housing and employment growth in rural areas may lead to increased transport movements - the potential for in-combination effect is greater where housing sites are in close proximity to Natura 2000 sites. • Added growth in rural communities require increased infrastructure - potential for land take, pollution increase, disturbance / fragmentation & severance of habitats and species. • Atmospheric pollution generated as a result of housing, employment and transport growth leading to further climate change impact. • Encouraging tourism and diversification in rural areas will open up the countryside and increase possibility of further pollution and disturbance to the European sites via noise and physical erosion through walking activities. *NOTE: Wales Spatial Plan does not set policy although, has considerable influence insofar as the Local Development Plan must have regard to the Plan.* A HRA screening report of the Wales Spatial plan concluded that specific impacts could not be identified at this stage due to the lack of detail on the development that might occur under the plan but did identify the following potential impact pathways: • Hydrology, water quality and water resources • Population pressure • Recreation pressure • Direct and indirect effects from transport
The Wales Transport Strategy 2008	
Document Details	**Potential 'in-combination' effects**

The National Transport Plan (2008) sits alongside the Regional Transport Plans in delivering the Wales Transport Strategy. This Plan details the approach to putting transport onto a carbon reduction pathway, whilst at the same time ensuring that it can continue to support sustainable economic development and social inclusion.	Improving the efficient, reliable and sustainable movement of people and freight as well as reducing the contribution of transport to greenhouse gas emissions may help to mitigate or offset any increase in diffuse air pollution as a result of this Strategy. Supports investment travel infrastructure, which could, in turn, have negative effects on qualifying features within a European Site, through disturbance and habitat fragmentation.
Wales Coastal Tourism Strategy 2008	
Document Details	**Potential 'in-combination' effects**
The Coastal Tourism Strategy for Wales was launched in 2008. The purpose of the strategy was to identify a clear way forward for the development of Coastal Tourism, which realised and built on the economic potential of the coastline of Wales whilst respecting its environmental quality and recognising the importance of achieving community benefits. Within the regions, seaside tourism is particularly important for South West Wales where it accounts for half of all tourism activity. Carmarthenshire has a number of coastal towns including Llanelli and Burry Port, which have not traditionally attracted much tourism activity, but the development of their coastal resources such as the Burry Port Harbour Development, Pembrey and the Millennium Coastal Parks provide opportunities for attracting a wider day visitor market as well as staying tourists. Tourism is an important contributor to the local economy, with villages attracting both staying and day visitors, as well as acting as service points for the surrounding rural areas. Most have an attractive environment and ambience for the visitor as well as specific heritage attractions, cultural or historic associations such as Laugharne, Llansteffan. Pendine and Pembrey .	There is the potential for the following impacts on all coastal SACs and SPAs related to the plan area: • Increased levels of tourism and employment may lead to increased transport movements, which could then result in increased noise/ disturbance and increased levels of atmospheric pollution. • Potential for increased recreational pressure and therefore disturbance through various activities such as water sports. • An increased level of waterborne transport and development along the coast has the potential to increase diffuse levels of water pollution.
Welsh Government Strategy for Tourism 2013 – 2020	

Document Details	Potential 'in-combination' effects
This strategy sets the vision for the Welsh Government and the industry to work in partnership to increase visitor spend to Wales. The strategy focuses on 5 key areas: • promoting the Brand • product Development • people Development • profitable Performance • place building. The strategy identifies a product-led approach to developing and marketing tourism in Wales. This means working with iconic, high quality, reputation-changing products and events. We will be focusing on: • more luxury and branded hotels • more well-being facilities, such as spas • more heritage hotels that utilise historic and distinctive buildings • more all year round attractions, activities and cultural experiences • more innovative, unusual and distinctive products. The Great Britain domestic market is the main market for Wales and will continue to be the main focus. Marketing activity will be increased in London and South East Midlands and Yorkshire, as well as within Wales itself for the first time. Overseas, the 3 key markets identified by the panel are Ireland, Germany and USA.	• Potential for the plan to increase levels of disturbance through increased tourism and therefore recreational activity. • Increased levels of tourism and employment may lead to increased transport movements, which could then result in increased noise/ disturbance and increased levels of atmospheric pollution.
Active Travel Action Plan (2016)	
Document Details	**Potential 'in-combination' effects**
The purpose of the Active Travel Plan (2016) is to set out: • the Welsh Government's vision for active travel and how it relates to wider aims • how WG will work with others to achieve the changes required • how WG will embed consideration of active travel across different portfolios • how WG will monitor progress against these actions and the rates of active travel across Wales	Supports investment in highway and active travel infrastructure, which could, in turn, have negative effects on qualifying features within a European Site, through disturbance and habitat fragmentation. Improving the efficient, reliable and sustainable movement of as well as reducing the contribution of transport to greenhouse gas emissions may help to mitigate or offset any increase in diffuse air pollution as a result of this Strategy.

A Walking and Cycling Action Plan for Wales (2009 – 2013)	
Document Details	**Potential 'in-combination' effects**
This Action Plan brings together the key initiatives which the Welsh Assembly Government and its partners are planning to undertake in support of walking and cycling in Wales. It replaces the previous Walking and Cycling Action Plan which ran from 2007 – 2013. The plans core objectives are to improve the health and well-being of the population and the environment by encouraging sustainable travel. This should be done by promoting walking and cycling and associated facilities in crosscutting policies, guidance and funding.	Promoting sustainable travel may influence infrastructure such as cycleways, paths, lighting which in turn may have a substantial negative effect to the qualifying features within a European Site. Improving the efficient, reliable and sustainable movement of as well as reducing the contribution of transport to greenhouse gas emissions may help to mitigate or offset any increase in diffuse air pollution as a result of this Strategy.
Dwr Cymru Welsh Water – Water Resources Management Plan (2015-2040)	
Document Details	**Potential 'in-combination' effects**
The Water Resources Management Plan (WRMP) up to 2035 sets out how Dwr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) intends to achieve the required balance between supply and demand. The aim is to do so efficiently so that water bills are no higher than they need to be and the impact on our environment is minimised. In order to develop the plan, DCWW have projected the future demand for water from our customers, we have calculated how much will be available from current sources, and, where there is a shortfall, looked at all the ways of increasing supply and reducing demand so as to arrive at the best overall package of solutions.	The Water Resource Management plan does not set out policy although gives prioritised direction and guidance on what achievements are required during the plan period to take consideration of water demand and water supply in the context of future challenges including that of climate change. A HRA of the WRMP concluded that no significant or adverse effects on any European sites as a result of its implementation (alone or in combination with other plans and programmes), and that sufficient safeguards are in place to ensure this.
Dwr Cymru Welsh Water – Draft Water Resources Management Plan 2019	
Document Details	**Potential 'in-combination' effects**
In line with our 2050 strategy, this Plan describes the water resources risks that need to be overcome between 2020 and 2050, whether this be from the balance between our ability to supply water against the demand from our customers, the need to invest in our water resource infrastructure to maintain resilient water supplies or to meet the expectations of our regulators and customers.	The Water Resource Management plan does not set out policy although gives prioritised direction and guidance on what achievements are required during the plan period to take consideration of water demand and water supply in the context of future challenges including that of climate change. The preliminary conclusion of the draft HRA for the draft Water Resources Management Plan (2019) found that the plan would have no adverse effects alone, or in combination. However, it is possible that some aspects

	of the plan (and therefore HRA conclusion) may change whist the plan is in draft format and undergoing consultation.
Towards Zero Waste – One Wales One Planet: The Overarching Waste Strategy for Wales (2010)	
Document Details	**Potential 'in-combination' effects**
This Strategy sets out a long term framework for resource efficiency and waste management up to 2050. It identifies the outcomes to achieve, sets high level targets and lays out the general approach to delivering these targets and other key actions. The Strategy identifies high level outcomes, policies and targets, and forms part of a suite of documents that comprise the national waste management plan for Wales. The Strategy is accompanied by a number of Sector plans - implementation plans that describe the role of the individual sector, the Welsh Assembly Government and others in delivering the outcomes, targets and policies in Towards Zero Waste.	There are a number of potential impacts that a Waste development can have on qualifying features. These are summarised below: • Consideration should be given to the presence of protected or rare species • Dust • Hours of operation / disturbance • Litter • Impact of landfill on existing nature conservation and archaeology • Noise • Odours • Protection of surface and groundwater • Transport and access • Visual impact LDP is not proposing landfill sites so minimal impact on qualifying features.

Regional	
The Swansea Bay City Region Economic Regeneration Strategy 2013 - 2030	
Document Details	**Potential 'in-combination' effects**
Swansea Bay City Region Economic Regeneration Strategy represents an ambitious strategic framework to support South West Wales and its future economic development. The strategy contains 5 strategic aims: • Business growth, retention and specialisation • Skilled and ambitious long-term success • Maximising job creation for all • Knowledge, economy and innovation • Distinctive places and competitive infrastructures	This strategy supports economic investment in the South West Wales area, including Carmarthenshire. This has the potential to result in increased growth and development and could result in the following, in combination effects: • Hydrology, water quality and water resources • Population pressure • Recreation pressure • Direct and indirect effects from transport • Habitat fragmentation
Swansea Bay City Deal 2017	
Document Details	**Potential 'in-combination' effects**
The £1.3 billion Swansea Bay City Deal was signed in March 2017. It is claimed that the Deal will transform the economic landscape of the area, boost the local economy by £1.8 billion, and generate almost 10,000 new jobs over the next 15 years. There is reference to 11 major projects overall, with the following specific projects proposed for Carmarthenshire: • Wellness and Life Science Village in Llanelli • Creative industry project Yr Egin in Carmarthen 4 key themes of Economic acceleration, Life science and Well-being, Energy and Smart manufacturing. An enhanced Digital infrastructure and next generation wireless networks and the development of workforce skills and talent will underpin each.	The proposed Wellness and Life Science village in Llanelli is situated adjacent to the Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries European Marine Site. It has the potential to have to following in combination effects: • Effects on mobile species (bird assemblages and otter populations) • Water Quality • Noise, disturbance • Recreation • Population pressure • Tansport related air pollution
Joint Local Transport Plan for South West Wales (2015 – 2020)	
Document Details	**Potential 'in-combination' effects**
The joint local transport plan sets out a long term strategy for improvements to transport across four Local Authorities: • Carmarthenshire County Council	Potential to improve air quality through proposed mitigation

• Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council • Pembrokeshire County Council • City and County of Swansea Aims include: Economic Growth, Access to employment, tackling poverty, sustainable travel and safety and access to services. The plan lays out a programme of schemes to improve transportation across Carmarthenshire.	Supports investment in travel infrastructure, which could, in turn, have negative effects on qualifying features within a European Site, through disturbance and habitat fragmentation.
Lavernock Point to St Ann's Head Shoreline Management Plan 2 (2012)	
Document Details	**Potential 'in-combination' effects**
A Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) provides a large-scale assessment of the risks associated with coastal erosion and flooding at the coast. It also presents policies to help manage these risks to people and to the developed, historic and natural environment in a sustainable manner. This document is the second generation Shoreline Management Plan (SMP2) for the shoreline between Lavernock Point (Vale of Glamorgan) in the east and St Ann's Head (Pembrokeshire) in the west, including the counties of Vale of Glamorgan, Bridgend, Neath Port Talbot, Swansea, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire. The study area includes the Neath Estuary, the Tawe Estuary, the Loughor Estuary (Burry Inlet), the Three Rivers Estuarine Complex (Gwendraeth, Towy and Taf) and Milford Haven, as well as a number of smaller estuaries.	The overall conclusion of the Habitats Regulations Assessment for the Shoreline Management Plan was that its policies may lead to adverse effects on the Integrity of the following Natura 2000 sites: • Pembrokeshire Marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC); • Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries SAC; • Burry Inlet Special Protection Area (SPA); and • Burry Inlet Ramsar Site. • Habitat loss • Surface water pollution An 'in combination' assessment refers to the total effect of all influences acting on a feature from all plans and projects in the context of prevailing environmental conditions. No effects were identified that might, in combination with the Lavernock Point to St Ann's Head SMP2, adversely affect the integrity of the SAC, SPA or Ramsar designations present.
Waste Planning Monitoring Report(s) for the South West Wales Region	
Document Details	**Potential 'in-combination' effects**
The principal purpose of the Plan is to provide a land use planning framework which will assist in the provision of a comprehensive, integrated and sustainable network of new waste management facilities throughout the South West Wales Region to deal with the future waste forecast to be generated in the Region in 2013. The plan, which deals with all controlled	Each of the Unitary Authorities in the Region have a duty to allocate within their own development plan an integrated and adequate network of waste management facilities to deal with the forecast waste generated within their own Local Authority area. In doing the HRA we need to be aware of neighbouring authority plans for waste management.

waste, provides a sustainable land use planning framework for the Region for the next ten years. The Plan provides guidance on how the individual Authorities in the Region should plan for the future sustainable management of waste in their Unitary Development Plans. It does this by forecasting what waste will be generated in each Authority area as well as providing a broad commentary on the different waste management methods and facilities that are available. While not specifically allocating sites the Plan provides the relevant information to allow each Unitary Authority in the Region to allocate sites, or to come to cross border	Neighbouring planning authorities have the potential to cause 'in-combination' effects to the European sites within Carmarthenshire through their waste management policies and proposals. • Consideration should be given to the presence of protected or rare species • Dust • Hours of operation / disturbance • Litter • Impact of landfill on existing nature conservation and archaeology • Noise • Odours • Protection of surface and groundwater • Transport and access • Visual impact In combination effects may arise in the very nature of a waste management facility being developed either within the plan area or a neighbouring plan area The waste plans state "Where it is not possible / practicable for an Authority to deal with all forecast waste arising within its area, then that Authority's LDP shall identify how that particular element of waste generated within its area is to be managed by reference to cross boundary arrangements. The allocation of waste management facilities within the Region shall have a cumulative capacity that deals with all of the waste forecast to be generated in the Region. Any additional capacity over and above the waste forecast to be generated in the Region will need to be fully justified.
Regional Technical Statement Regional Aggregate Working Parties (2014)	
Document Details	**Potential 'in-combination' effects**
The main purpose of the statement is to set out the strategy for the provision of the aggregates in the North Wales region for the period until 2021. As appropriate, MPAs in South Wales will then include allocations for	• Loss of Habitat - land-take. • Loss of Supporting Habitat - land-take adjacent to European sites. • Habitat Fragmentation Impacts - land-take due. • increased levels of disturbance - acoustic, noise and light pollution; and

future aggregates provision in their area, as part of the UDP / LDP process. The RTS will therefore seek to: • Maximise the use of secondary and recycled materials and mineral wastes. • Safeguard land-based minerals which may be needed in the long term. • ・Acknowledge that where the principles of sustainable development can be achieved, the extension of existing aggregate quarries is likely to be appropriate. • ・Where there is a need for new areas of aggregates supply, these should come from locations of low environmental constraint and take into account transport implications. • ・Maintain supply of marine aggregate consistent with the requirements of good environmental practice.	• Impacts for Increased Use of Roads - Impacts from increased numbers of heavy vehicles: - increased noise impacts (volume, duration); - increased vehicular emissions; - increased road mortality; and - increased fragmentation impacts.

Local	
Moving Forward in Carmarthenshire: the next 5 years (2018)	
Document Details	**Potential 'in-combination' effects**
The Council has identified almost 100 priority projects, schemes or services that it wants to deliver over the next five years to make Carmarthenshire *"the best place to live, work and visit".* The Council will be investing in key areas as it strives to improve economic, environmental, social and cultural well-being in the county.	Has potential to deliver mitigating effects for some potential impacts, such as improvements to sewerage system may have positive effects, as well improvements to active travel routes which could contribute to improvements in air quality. A number of the projects outlined for delivery in this strategy are in proximity to European designated sites. Potential in combination impacts include: • Air quality • Disturbance (noise, light, recreation) • Habitat fragmentation • Water quality • Water supply
Transformations: A Strategic Regeneration Plan for Carmarthenshire – 2015 – 2030	
Document Details	**Potential 'in-combination' effects**
The economic landscape is evolving with Carmarthenshire's position in the new Swansea Bay City Region for which the strategy has been adopted by the Council; "by 2030, Carmarthenshire will be a confident, ambitious and connected component of a European City Region." Strategic regeneration sites highlighted include: Delta Lakes The Beacon Cross Hands Food Park Carmarthen Town Centre Llanelli Town Centre Ammanford Town Centre	A number of the projects outlined for delivery in this plan are in proximity to European designated sites. Generic impacts associated with growth and development include: • Air quality • Disturbance (noise, light, recreation) • Habitat fragmentation • Water quality • Water supply

Affordable Homes Delivery Plan 2016 – 2020: Delivering more homes for the people of Carmarthenshire – 2015 – 2030	
Document Details	**Potential 'in-combination' effects**
This sets out the Council's five year vision for maximising the supply of affordable homes. Its purpose is to provide detail on how and where more homes will be delivered and what resources will be used and how more could potentially be accessed. It also outlines how an ambitious new build programme can be delivered. The programme will initially deliver over 1000 additional affordable homes over five years, with a total investment exceeding £60m.	Generic impacts associated with growth and development include: • Air quality • Disturbance (noise, light, recreation) • Habitat fragmentation • Water quality • Water supply
Carmarthenshire Destination Management Plan 2015 – 2020 (June 2015) – Carmarthenshire Destination Partnership	
Document Details	**Potential 'in-combination' effects**
The purpose of the Destination Management Plan (DMP) for Carmarthenshire is to clarify what is important to get right for the future, to shape policy and priorities, to steer resources and to form the basis for people, businesses and organisations to work together to achieve common goals.	• Potential for the plan to increase levels of disturbance through increased tourism and therefore recreational activity. • Increased levels of tourism and employment may lead to increased transport movements, which could then result in increased noise/ disturbance and increased levels of atmospheric pollution.
Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (2013)	
Document Details	**Potential 'in-combination' effects**
This document identifies the Risk Management Authorities within Carmarthenshire, the key requirements and contents of the strategy, and outlines the high level objectives and measures for implementing the strategy. In addition, this document identifies the potential sources which could fund the implementation of the measures. The document also discusses the context within which the strategy is required to achieve wider environmental benefits.	No structural measures to control flood risk are proposed in this strategy and therefore there are unlikely to be in-combination effects. However the strategy does state that is requirements for structural measures do arise, that the strategy would be subject to a HRA and in-combination effects may be possible. These may include disturbance, barriers to migration and pollution.
Flood Risk Management Plan for the Western Wales River Basin District	
Document Details	**Potential 'in-combination' effects**
	The HRA of the FRMP concluded that the plan contained insufficient detail to ascertain significant effects and consequently the assessment for these measures have been deferred to lower tier plans or projects.

	Environmental Assessment and HRA will be undertaken of these lower tier plans or projects. Sites a relevance to Carmarthenshire which likely significant effects could not be screened out include: • Burry Inlet • Elenydd – Mallaen • Cleddau Rivers • North Pembrokeshire Woodlands • Pembrokeshire Bat sites and Bosherton lakes • River Usk • River Wye Sites were screened in for potential impacts on mobile species (birds, otters lamprey, bullhead, shad, bats)

Local Development Plans	
Pembrokeshire County Council Local Development Plan (2013 – 2021) - Adopted	
Document Details	**Potential 'in-combination' effects**
Spatial approach New allocations for housing development will be directed to the Hub Towns, which are Haverfordwest, Milford Haven, Neyland, Pembroke, Pembroke Dock, Fishguard and Goodwick, and, in rural Pembrokeshire, to those settlements identified as appropriate for future growth in the settlement hierarchy. The settlement hierarchy classifies all settlements according to their functional characteristics and provision of services and facilities, with Settlement Boundaries defined for Narberth, the Service Centres, Service Villages, and Local Villages **Housing growth** Provision is made for approximately 7,300 dwellings in the Plan period, to enable delivery of 5,700 dwellings **This plan is now under review as of 5th May 2017. The preferred strategy is scheduled to be published for consultation by 2018. The deposit plan is scheduled to be published for consultation by October 2019.This will have to be considered as the HRA process develops.**	The development plans of nearby local planning authorities have the potential to cause 'in-combination' effects to the European sites within Powys through their housing and employment land allocations and other policies. Development could have an indirect effect on the sites and could increase their vulnerability and have a substantial negative effect if connected in any way. Generic effects related to development/ growth scenarios include: • Potential for land take/ habitat fragmentation • Increased demand for water resources/ abstraction/ hydrological impacts • Increased traffic movements, contributions to atmospheric pollution loading • Growth in requirements for waste management facilities, increased demand for minerals • Increased recreational pressure from existing/ new populations Specific sites include: **SAC** • Preseli • Afon Teifi • Cleddau Rivers • Yerbeston Tops • North Pembrokeshire Woodlands • Gwenydd Blaencleddau • Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lake • Pembrokeshire Marine • Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries **SPA** • Carmarthen Bay
Swansea Local Development Plan (2010 – 2025) – Deposit	

Document Details	Potential 'in-combination' effects
Spatial approach The broad locations identified for growth arising from the analysis of spatial options are listed below: • **Greater North West (GNW)** encompasses former industrial communities such as Gorseinon and Pontarddulais, which have become primarily dormitory settlements served by large district centres. • **The North Zone** incorporates largely residential urban areas around the fringes of Central Swansea, including Penlan, Mynyddbach, Llangyfelach, and Morriston; and also established business parks at Fforestfach and Waunarlwydd. • **The East Zone** largely comprises the urban area east of the River Tawe and extends as far north as Clydach. It includes employment and mixed use locations, such as Swansea Enterprise Park, Swansea Vale, Swansea Port and SA1 Swansea Waterfront. • **The West Zone** rapidly expanded and merged in the late Twentieth Century, expanding to its environmental limits from the waterfront through to the Gower Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) boundary. The Zone comprises primarily residential settlements, including Sketty and Mumbles. • **The Gower and Gower Fringe Zones** are characterised by small and large villages located in rural and semi-rural landscapes, some near the western fringe of the urban area. **Housing growth** This analysis of demographic trends and economic growth scenarios has concluded that between 16,100 and 17,100 new dwellings (including a 10% flexibility allowance to allow for where some sites may not come forward as planned or to respond to unforeseen needs) are required over the Plan period	The development plans of nearby local planning authorities have the potential to cause 'in-combination' effects to the European sites within Powys through their housing and employment land allocations and other policies. Development could have an indirect effect on the sites and could increase their vulnerability and have a substantial negative effect if connected in any way. Generic effects related to development/ growth scenarios include: • Potential for land take/ habitat fragmentation • Increased demand for water resources/ abstraction/ hydrological impacts • Increased traffic movements, contributions to atmospheric pollution loading • Growth in requirements for waste management facilities, increased demand for minerals • Increased recreational pressure from existing/ new populations Specific sites include: **SAC** • Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries • Gower Commons • Gower Ash Woods • Carmarthen Bay Dunes **SPA** • Burry Inlet
Ceredigion Local Development Plan (2021 – 2033) - Adopted	
Document Details	**Potential 'in-combination' effects**

Spatial Approach **Urban service centres:** Aberystwyth, Cardigan, Lampeter, Llandysul, Aberaeron and Tregaron **Rural service centres:** Aberporth/Parcllyn, Bow Street, Cenarth, Felinfach/ Ystrad Aeron, Llanarth, Llanilar, Llanon Llanrhystud, Llanybydder (Carmarthenshire), New Quay, Penrhyncoch, Pontarfynac, Pontrhydfendigaid, Talybont, Y Borth **Housing Growth** Approximately 6544 dwellings in order to meet the projected growth of 6000 units • At least 51% of this growth in the Urban Service Centres (USCs); • 24% of this growth in the Rural Service Centres (RSCs); and • A maximum of 25% of this growth (or in any event not more than 1522 units) in settlements and locations other than the Service Centres (predominantly in the Linked Settlements)	The development plans of nearby local planning authorities have the potential to cause 'in-combination' effects to the European sites within Powys through their housing and employment land allocations and other policies. Development could have an indirect effect on the sites and could increase their vulnerability and have a substantial negative effect if connected in any way. Generic effects related to development/ growth scenarios include: • Potential for land take/ habitat fragmentation • Increased demand for water resources/ abstraction/ hydrological impacts • Increased traffic movements, contributions to atmospheric pollution loading • Growth in requirements for waste management facilities, increased demand for minerals • Increased recreational pressure from existing/ new populations Specific sites include: **SAC** Afon Teifi Rhos Lawr-cwrt Cwm Doethie – Mynydd Mallaen **SPA** Ellenydd – Mallaen
Powys Local Development Plan (2011 – 2026) - Adopted	
Document Details	**Potential 'in-combination' effects**
Spatial Approach: **Towns:** Builth Wells (including Llanelwedd), Knighton, Llandrindod Wells, Llanfair Caereinion, Llanfyllin, Llanidloes, Llanwrtyd Wells, Machynlleth, Montgomery, Newtown, Presteigne, Rhayader, Welshpool, Ystradgynlais, Hay-on-Wye (part BBNP area) Large Villages: Abercrave, Abermule, Arddleen, Berriew, Bettws Cedewain, Boughrood and Llyswen, Bronllys, Caersws, Carno, Castle Caereinion,	The development plans of nearby local planning authorities have the potential to cause 'in-combination' effects to the European sites within Powys through their housing and employment land allocations and other policies. Development could have an indirect effect on the sites and could increase their vulnerability and have a substantial negative effect if connected in any way. Generic effects related to development/ growth scenarios include:

Churchstoke, Clyro, Coelbren, Crewgreen, Crossgates, Forden and Kingswood, Four Crosses, Glasbury, Guilsfield, Howey, Kerry, Knucklas, Llanbrynmair, Llandinam, Llandrinio, Llanfechain, Llangurig, Llangynog, Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain, Llansilin, Llanymynech, Llanyre, Meifod, Middletown, New Radnor, Newbridge on Wye, Penybontfawr, Pontrobert, Three Cocks, Trefeglwys, Tregynon, Trewern **Housing Growth:** The LDP evidence identifies a Dwelling Requirement Figure of 4,500 including an affordable housing target of 952 new affordable homes.	• Potential for land take/ habitat fragmentation • Increased demand for water resources/ abstraction/ hydrological impacts • Increased traffic movements, contributions to atmospheric pollution loading • Growth in requirements for waste management facilities, increased demand for minerals • Increased recreational pressure from existing/ new populations Specific sites include: **SAC** River Wye River Usk
Brecon Beacons National Park Local Development Plan (2007 – 2022) – Adopted	
Document Details	**Potential 'in-combination' effects**
Spatial approach: **HUB: Brecon -** Identified as the "Primary Key Settlement" for the Region **CLUSTER:** Talgarth, Hay-on-Wye, Crickhowell, Sennybridge - Identified as "Key Settlements" having an importantstrategic function in serving the surrounding communities. **Housing Growth:** The identified housing requirement for the Brecon Beacons National Park is 1990 dwellings between 2007 and 2022.	The development plans of nearby local planning authorities have the potential to cause 'in-combination' effects to the European sites within Powys through their housing and employment land allocations and other policies. Development could have an indirect effect on the sites and could increase their vulnerability and have a substantial negative effect if connected in any way. Generic effects related to development/ growth scenarios include: • Potential for land take/ habitat fragmentation • Increased demand for water resources/ abstraction/ hydrological impacts • Increased traffic movements, contributions to atmospheric pollution loading • Growth in requirements for waste management facilities, increased demand for minerals • Increased recreational pressure from existing/ new populations Specific sites include: **SAC**

	River Tywi River Usk

Appendix 4 Preliminary screening of draft Strategic Objectives

Objective		Assessment category	Screening Conclusion
Healthy Habits - People have a good quality of life and make healthy choices about their lives and environment			
SO1	To ensure that the natural environment, including habitats and species, are safeguarded and enhanced	D	Screened Out
SO2	To assist with widening and promoting wellbeing opportunities through access to community, leisure and recreational facilities as well as the countryside	A	Screened Out
SO5	To safeguarded and enhance the built and historic environment and promote the appropriate reuse of redundant buildings.	A	Screened Out
Early Intervention - To make sure that people have the right help at the right time; as and when they need it			
SO3	To assist in widening and promoting education and skills training opportunities for all.	A	Screened Out
SO4	To ensure that the principles of equal opportunities and social inclusion are upheld by promoting access to a high quality and diverse mix of public services, healthcare, shops, leisure facilities and work opportunities, as well as vibrant town centres.	A	Screened Out
Strong Connections - Strongly connected people, places and organisations that are able to adapt to change			
SO6	To ensure that the principles of spatial sustainability are upheld by directing development to sustainable locations with access to services and facilities and wherever possible encouraging the reuse of previously developed land.	A	Screened Out
SO7	To make a significant contribution towards tackling the cause and adapting to the effect of climate change, including promoting the efficient use and safeguarding of resources.	D	Screened Out
SO8	To contribute to the delivery of an accessible integrated and sustainable transport system, including links to alternative transport methods	A	Screened Out
Prosperous People and Places – To maximise opportunities for people and places in both urban and rural parts of our county			
SO9	To protect and enhance the diverse character, distinctiveness, safety and vibrancy of the County's communities by promoting a place making approach and a sense of place.	A	Screened Out
SO10	To make provision for an appropriate mix of quality homes across the County based around the principles of sustainable socio-economic development and equality of opportunities.	A	Screened Out
SO11	To assist in protecting, enhancing and promoting the Welsh Language and the County's unique cultural identity, assets and social fabric**.**	A	Screened Out

SO12	To encourage investment & innovation in rural and urban areas by making adequate provision to meet employment need and to contribute at a regional level to the delivery of the Swansea Bay City Deal.	A	Screened Out
SO13	To make provision for sustainable & high quality all year round tourism related initiatives.	A	Screened Out
SO14	To reflect the requirements associated with the delivery of new development, both in terms of hard and soft infrastructure (including broadband).	A	Screened Out

Appendix 5 Preliminary screening of draft Strategic Policies

Policy	Screening Category	Justification and conclusion	Mitigation measures?	Screening Outcome
SP1 – Strategic Growth The LDP will provide for the future growth of the economy and housing requirement through the provision of following: a) 10,480 new homes to meet the identified housing requirement of 9,887. b) A minimum of 5,295 new jobs The focus on regeneration and growth reflects the Councils core strategic ambitions with development distributed in a sustainable manner consistent with the spatial strategy and settlement hierarchy.	**I**	This policy promotes change, but potential effects on European sites cannot be identified, because at this stage the proposal is too general. Detailed assessment is required when, location specific information is available **This policy will require further screening following the consideration of mitigation.**	It is suggested that the potential for likely significant effects can be avoided through the incorporation of specific policy restriction.	Screened In
SP2 – Retail and Town Centres Proposals for retail development will be considered in accordance with the following retail hierarchy. Proposals will be permitted where they maintain and enhance the vibrancy, viability and attractiveness of our retail centres. They should protect and promote the viability and vitality of the defined retail centres, supporting the appropriate delivery of	**B**	This policy relates specifically to town centre locations and maintaining the vibrancy, viability and attractiveness of Carmarthenshire's town, district, and local centres. Implementation of this policy would not lead directly to development, as they list general criteria for testing the acceptability of proposals.	N/A	Screened Out

retail provision (comparison and convenience), leisure, entertainment, office and cultural facilities. Proposals for small local convenience shopping facilities in rural and urban areas where they accord with the settlement framework will be supported.		**There would be no LSE on European sites as a result of implementation of this policy**		
SP3 – Providing New Homes In order to ensure the overall housing requirement of 9,887 homes for the plan period 2018-2033 is met, provision is made for 10,480 new homes in accordance with the settlement framework.	**I**	This policy promotes change, but potential effects on European sites cannot be identified, because at this stage the proposal is too general. Detailed assessment is required when, location specific information is available **This policy will require further screening following the consideration of mitigation.**	**It is suggested that the potential for likely significant effects can be avoided through the incorporation of specific policy restriction.**	Screened In
SP4 – Affordable Homes The Plan will maximise the delivery of affordable homes up to 2033 through the provision of XXXX affordable homes. [9]	**I**	This policy promotes change, but potential effects on European sites cannot be identified, because at this stage the proposal is too general. Detailed assessment is required when, location specific information is available. **This policy will require further screening following the consideration of mitigation.**	It is suggested that the potential for likely significant effects can be avoided through the incorporation of specific policy restriction.	Screened In

[9] The level of affordable housing provided will be populated as part of the preparation of the Deposit LDP.

SP5 - Strategic Sites In reflecting their contribution to the future growth requirements for Carmarthenshire and as key components of the Swansea Bay City deal, two Strategic Sites have been identified as making an important contribution to the overall provision for growth during the Plan period: • The Llanelli Life Science and Well-being Village; and • Yr Egin – Creative Digital Cluster, Carmarthen	**C**	This policy refers to specific proposals for projects that would progress irrespective of LDP adoption. Both proposals will be subject to HRA if required through the planning process. **Therefore, it is determined that there will be no likely significant impacts on European sites as a result of the implementation of this policy.**		Screened Out
SP6 Employment and the Economy Sufficient and appropriate land will be allocated for the provision of employment opportunities for the Plan period (figure to be quantified) in accordance with the Plan's Spatial Strategy / Settlement Framework.	**I**	This policy promotes change, but potential effects on European sites cannot be identified, because at this stage the proposal is too general. Detailed assessment is required when, location specific, site allocation information is determined. **This policy will require further consideration at the detailed screening stage.**		Screened In
SP7 – Welsh Language and Culture The Plan supports development proposals which safeguard and promote the interests of the Welsh language and culture in the County. Development proposals which have a detrimental impact on the vitality and viability of the Welsh language and	**F**	This policy will not lead to any development and it relates to general safeguarding of Welsh language. **There would be no LSE on European sites as**	N/A	Screened Out

culture will not be permitted unless the impact can be mitigated.		**a result of implementation of this policy**		
SP8 – Infrastructure Development will need to be directed to locations where the infrastructure, services and facilities considered necessary to deliver and support the development proposal are available. Development proposals will need to demonstrate that there is sufficient capacity in the existing infrastructure to deliver and support the proposed development. Where this cannot be achieved, proposals will need to demonstrate that suitable arrangements are in place to provide the infrastructure capacity considered necessary to deliver and support the development. Planning obligations may be sought to ensure that the infrastructure, services and facilities needed to deliver and support the development are delivered.	**B**	This policy refers specifically to ensuring that development is sufficiently supported by infrastructure, and is designed to test plan proposals for their general acceptability. Therefore, **There would be no LSE on European sites as a result of implementation of this policy**	N/A	Screened Out
SP9 – Gypsy and Traveller Provision Land will be allocated to meet the identified need for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation and to allow for the potential future expansion of Gypsy and Traveller Households.	**H**	This policy identifies the need to address the accommodation needs of gypsies, travellers and travelling showpeople. The policy sets out the Council's legal duty, but the policy itself does not allocate any sites. Given the likely small-scale nature of		Screened Out

		such sites, and their likely location adjacent to existing development**, it is considered unlikely that there would be LSE on European sites as a result of implementation of this policy.**		
SP10 – The Visitor Economy Proposals for tourism related developments will be supported where they: (a) add value to our visitor economy; and, (b) preserve our social, economic and environmental fabric for future generations; and, **(c)** are sustainably located.	**A**	This policy relates to supporting sustainable tourism within the County. Although SP10 supports new development, there are no specific sites allocated under this policy. The policy states that tourism related developments will be *'sustainably located'* and will *'preserve social, economic and environmental fabric for future generations'.* **Given that the aim of this policy emphasises sustainable tourism, it is considered unlikely that there would be LSE on European sites as a result of this policy.**	N/A	Screened Out
SP11 – Placemaking, Sustainability and High Quality Design In order to facilitate sustainable development, new development should acknowledge local distinctiveness and sense of place, and be designed to high standards that are adaptable to climate change.	**B**	This policy refers specifically to ensuring that development is considers placemaking, sustainability and high quality design, and proposed criteria to test plan proposals for their general acceptability. Therefore, **There would be no LSE on European sites as**	N/A	Screened Out

In order to achieve this, all development should: Contribute towards the creation of attractive, safe places and public spaces, which enhance the well-being of communities, including safeguarding amenity, landscaping, the public realm and the provision of open space and recreation; a) Retain and where appropriate incorporate new green infrastructure which encourages opportunities to enhance biodiversity and ecological connectivity; b) Be adaptable to climate change and utilise materials and resources appropriate to the area within which it is located; c) Exhibit and demonstrate a clear understanding of the existing natural and built heritage, local character and sense of place; d) Be accessible and integrated allowing permeability and ease of movement; e) Have regard to the generation, treatment and disposal of waste; **f)** Manage water sustainably, including incorporating sustainable urban drainage		**a result of implementation of this policy**		

systems (SuDS) into development proposals where feasible.				
SP12 – Rural Development The Plan supports development proposals which will contribute towards the sustainability of the County's rural communities. Development proposals in rural areas should demonstrate that they support the role of the rural settlements in the settlement hierarchy to meet the housing, employment and social needs of Carmarthenshire's rural communities.	**A**	Although this policy does support development in rural areas, there are no specific areas or sites allocated under the policy. The policy does state that 'the sustainability of the countryside and natural environment' is 'imperitive' and that 'development would need to demonstrate that they accord with the provisions of national planning policies'. **Given that this policy emphasises that the consideration of the sustainability of countryside and natural environment is imperative and that national planning policy must be adhered to, it is considered unlikely that there would be LSE on European sites as a result of this policy.**	N/A	Screened Out
SP13 – Protection and Enhancement of the Natural Environment Proposals for development will be expected to protect and enhance the County's natural environment. Proposals must reflect the role an ecologically connected environment has in protecting and enhancing biodiversity, defining the landscape,	**D**	The direct purpose of this policy is the protection and enhancement of the natural environment. For this reason, **There would be no LSE on European sites as a result of implementation of this policy**	In order to strengthen this policy the addition of the following wording is suggested: ***All development proposals should be considered in accordance with national policy (PPW and TAN5) where a proposal for development would result in a significant adverse***	Screened Out

creating a sense of place and contribute to a sense of Well-being.			***effect on a European designated site.*** ***Development that would result in unacceptable adverse environmental effects will not be permitted.***	
SP14 – Protection and Enhancement of the Built and Historic Environment Development proposals should preserve or enhance the built and historic environment of the County, its cultural, townscape and landscape assets, and, where appropriate, their setting. Proposals will be expected to promote high quality design that reinforces local character and respects and enhances the cultural and historic qualities of the plan area.	**D**	The direct purpose of this policy is the protection and enhancement of the built and historic environment. For this reason, **There would be no LSE on European sites as a result of implementation of this policy**	N/A	Screened Out
SP15 – Climate Change Where development proposals respond to, are resilient to, adapt to and minimise the causes and impacts of climate change they will be supported. In particular proposals will be supported where they: a) Reflect sustainable transport principles and minimise the need to travel, particularly by private motor car;	**B**	This policy relates specifically to ensuring development is resilient to climate change Implementation of this policy would not lead directly to development, as they list general criteria for testing the acceptability of proposals. **There would be no LSE on European sites as a result of implementation of this policy**	N/A	Screened Out

b) Avoid, or where appropriate, minimise the risk of flooding including the incorporation of measures such as SuDS and flood resilient design; c) Promote the energy hierarchy by reducing energy demand, promoting energy efficiency and increasing the supply of renewable energy; d) Incorporate appropriate climate responsive design solutions including orientation, layout, density and low carbon solutions (including design and construction methods) and utilise sustainable construction methods where feasible. Proposals for development which are located within areas at risk from flooding will be resisted unless they accord with the provisions of Planning Policy Wales TAN 15.				
SP16 – Sustainable Distribution – Settlement Framework The provision of growth and development will be directed to sustainable locations in accordance with the following spatial framework *(see Preferred Strategy for settlement framework)*.	**I**	This policy promotes change, but potential effects on European sites cannot be identified, because at this stage the proposal is too general. Detailed assessment is required when, location specific information is available		Screened In

		This policy will require further screening following the consideration of mitigation.		
SP17 – Transport and Accessibility Sustainable and deliverable development requires an integrated, accessible, reliable, efficient, safe and sustainable transport network to underpin delivery. The Plan therefore contributes to the delivery of a sustainable transport system and associated infrastructure through: a. Reducing the need to travel, particularly by private motor car; b. Addressing social inclusion through increased accessibility to employment, services and facilities; c. Supporting and where applicable enhancing alternatives to the motor car, such as public transport (including park and ride facilities and encourage the adoption of travel plans) and active transport through cycling and walking; d. Re-enforcing the function and role of settlements in accordance with the settlement framework; e. Promoting the efficient use of the transport network;	**B**	This policy relates specifically to ensuring the plan contributes to the delivery of a sustainable transport system through sustainable location of development Implementation of this policy would not lead directly to development, as they list general criteria for testing the acceptability of proposals. **There would be no LSE on European sites as a result of implementation of this policy**	N/A	Screened Out

f. Enhancing accessibility to employment, homes, services and facilities at locations accessible to appropriate transport infrastructure – including significant trip generating proposals; g. The incorporation of design and access solutions within developments to promote accessibility. Provide walking and cycling routes, linking in with active travel networks and green infrastructure networks; and **h.** Adopt a sustainable approach to the design, function and layout of new development, including providing appropriate levels of parking.				
SP18 – Mineral Resources The County's identified mineral resources will be sustainably managed by: a) Ensuring supply by maintaining an adequate landbank of permitted aggregate reserves (hard rock and sand and gravel) throughout the Plan period; b) Encouraging the efficient and appropriate use of high quality minerals and maximising the potential for the re-use and	**G**	This policy makes provision for change, however the policy states that 'buffer zones' will be used to 'reduce the conflict between mineral development and sensitive development' and that 'appropriate restoration' will be secured which can 'deliver specific environmental community benefits'. **Given that this policy details the use of buffer zones to avoid sensitive areas, it is considered unlikely that**	N/A	Screened Out

recycling of suitable minerals as an alternative to primary won aggregates; c) Safeguarding areas underlain by minerals of economic importance where they could be worked in the future to ensure that such resources are not unnecessarily sterilised by other forms of development; d) The use of buffer zones to reduce the conflict between mineral development and sensitive development; **e)** Securing appropriate restoration which can deliver specific environmental and community benefits.		**there would be LSE on European sites as a result of this policy.**		
SP19 – Waste Management Provision will be made to facilitate the sustainable management of waste through: a) The allocation of adequate appropriate land to provide for an integrated network of waste management facilities; b) Supporting proposals for waste management which involve the management of waste in accordance with the ranking set out within in the waste hierarchy;	**I**	This policy promotes change, but the wording of the policy does not allow likely significant effects to be ruled out. **This policy will require further screening, following the consideration of mitigation.**	Suggested rewording of policy: The location and scale of developments should have regard to the availability and capacity of waste management facilities in the area. They should also have regard to ***sustainable location and protection of the natural environment.***	Screened In

c) Supporting proposals for new in-building waste management facilities at existing and allocated industrial sites which are suitable for waste management facilities; d) Acknowledging that certain types of waste facility may need to be located outside the development limits of settlements; e) Ensuring that provision is made for the sustainable management of waste in all new development, including securing opportunities to minimise the production of waste.				