

Habitats Regulations Assessment



Callow & Haywood Neighbourhood Area

2nd Addendum

May 2015

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Appendix 1: Revised screening of policy matrix

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 To ensure that the requirements of the Habitats Directive and Regulations are met it is necessary to consider the proposed modifications through the HRA process to the Callow and Haywood NDP; the Submission NDP (February 2015) was refined by the NDP steering group to reflect the proposed Main Modifications to the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy).
- 1.2 The earlier Draft NDP had been refined following feedback from the Regulation 14 consultation and the associated Draft Environmental and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Reports.
- 1.3 The purpose of this further HRA Addendum Report is to detail the findings of the screening of the proposed changes to Policy CH9 of the Callow and Haywood NDP and consider if they significantly affect the conclusions of the earlier first HRA Report (November 2014).
- 1.3 However, these refinements are not considered to significantly affect the conclusions of the earlier HRA report, as they do not materially change the overall aims and objectives of the policy, save for a marginal rise in the number of dwellings proposed.

2.0 Screening of proposed modifications to the NDP

- 2.1 As required under Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2010, a Screening Assessment was undertaken to identify the 'likely significant effects' of the NDP. This involved the preparation of a screening matrix, which determined whether any of the policies in the NDP would be likely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC.
- 2.2 The findings of the screening matrix can be found in Appendix 2 of that report.
- 2.3 The screening matrix took the approach of screening each policy and objective individually, which is consistent with current guidance. The results from the HRA report for the Pre-submission version of the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) were also taken into consideration.
- 2.4 A number of suggestions were made in respect of five policies, as it was considered that the policy wording could be strengthened to ensure that any potential effects on the River Wye are taken into account. However, based on assumptions and information contained within the Callow and Haywood NDP, Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the Pre-submission version of the HRA for the Local Plan (Core Strategy) all of the NDP policies were found to be unlikely to result in significant effects on the River Wye SAC.
- 2.5 In many cases this was because the policy itself would not result in development, i.e. it related instead to criteria for development. In several cases the policies also included measures to help support the natural environment including biodiversity. In addition, to conserve community facilities and heritage etc, and therefore no significant effect conclusion could be reached. These policies were considered to have the potential to mitigate some of the possible adverse effects arising from other policies.
- 2.6 It was also concluded that the Callow and Haywood NDP will unlikely have any in-combination effects with any plans from neighbouring parishes, as no sites are allocated for development in these.
- 2.7 Therefore, it was concluded that the **Callow and Haywood NDP will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC.**
- 2.8 The proposed amendments to the NDP (post November 2014) were then screened to consider if they were likely to significantly affect the findings of the previous HRA Report, prepared in November 2014.
- 2.9 The Submission NDP incorporated the changes that were suggested in the earlier HRA Report and during the Regulation 14 Draft Plan consultation, by making specific reference to

the River Wye SAC within certain policies. Therefore these policies have been strengthened and so the likelihood of there being no significant effect remained high.

- 2.10 Based on assumptions and information contained within the Callow and Haywood NDP, Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the Pre-submission version of the HRA for the Local Plan (Core Strategy) the revised NDP policies were found to be unlikely to result in significant effects on the River Wye SAC.

Withdrawal and resubmission of the NDP

- 2.11 The Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) underwent an Independent Examination at the same time the Callow and Haywood Submission NDP was out to consultation. The EiP has resulted in proposed Main Modifications to the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and consequently the Submission NDP was withdrawn and modified, in order to ensure its conformity with the said proposed Main Modifications, and the housing policies of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) in particular.
- 2.12 The May 2015 version of the NDP incorporated changes to the level of housing proposed in the Group Parish up to 2031 and further details about where the growth would take place within the two settlements that are listed in the Local Plan (Core Strategy) at Table 4.21 as being sustainable locations for growth: Grafton and Twyford Common.
- 2.13 These proposed amendments are screened to consider if they are likely to significantly affect the findings of the previous HRA Report, prepared in November 2014. A summary of the main findings is provided below

3.0 Summary of main findings

- 3.1 The revised Submission NDP acts upon the proposed Main Modifications to the Local Plan (Core Strategy), by making provisions for the delivery of at least 7 dwellings, a figure which is based on proportional growth of 18% of the total number of households within Group Parish.
- 3.2 The impact of 7 dwellings up to 2031 is considered to be negligible and, in any event, there are policy criteria in place to mitigate against harmful impact on the River Wye SAC. Therefore the likelihood of there being no significant effect remains high.
- 3.3 Based on assumptions and information contained within the Callow and Haywood NDP, the proposed Main Modifications to the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the latest version of the HRA for the Local Plan (Core Strategy), updated in April 2015 in light of the said modifications and published on the Council's website, the revised NDP policies were found to be unlikely to result in significant effects on the River Wye SAC.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 With reference to section 3 above, the modifications to Policy CH9 of the NDP are not considered to affect the findings of the first HRA report.
- 4.2 Therefore the earlier conclusion that the **Callow and Haywood NDP will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC** remains valid.

5.0 Next steps

- 5.1 This Addendum Report will be published alongside both the Submission NDP and earlier HRA Reports for consultation from May to June 2015. Any further changes to the plan that arise as a result of the consultation will be subject to further screening to consider their significance with regard to HRA.

Appendix 1

| Redrafted Policy | HRA Re-Screening Assessment of Emerging redrafted NDP objectives, options and policies | | | | |
|------------------|---|--|--|--|---|
| | Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the redrafted objective/option/policy | Likely effect if redrafted objective/option/policy implemented. Could they have LSE on European Sites? | European Sites potentially affected | Mitigation measures to be considered to avoid any impacts | If recommendations are implemented, would it be possible that it would result in no likely significant effect? |
| Policy CH9 | <p>Housing development across two settlements in accordance with Policy RA2 of the Core Strategy.</p> <p>Increased vehicular movements.</p> <p>Increased demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment.</p> | <p>The proposed Main Modifications to Policy RA1 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) have led to an increase in the proportional housing growth target.</p> <p>Minimum of 7 dwellings to be built across the Group Parish but directed to Grafton and to a lesser extent Twyford Common.</p> | River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC | <p>The policies set out in the Local Plan (Core Strategy), subject the outcome of the Inspector's Report, and elsewhere within the NPD should help to avoid adverse impacts upon the European site.</p> <p>Whilst the Local Plan (Core Strategy) has yet to be adopted and cannot, therefore, be relied upon in too much detail, the implications of the Main Modifications to its policies, for the earlier HRA findings, are set out in an addendum report, prepared in April 2015 and published on the Council's website.</p> <p>This addendum report reveals that none of the changes proposed to the policies through the Main Modifications would affect the conclusions set out in the September 2014 HRA Report. It also makes clear that the roll out of the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) should avoid adverse effects.</p> <p>Improved water efficiency measures, including metering and addressing leakages in supply may help to mitigate any additional pressure placed on the water supply as a result of new development.</p> | No. This policy conforms to Policy RA2 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy), and although it is acknowledged that there will be an increase in the demand for water abstraction and sewage treatment, the latest version of the HRA underlying the Core Strategy (April 2015) confirms that the roll out of Policy RA2 across the rural areas should not lead to adverse effects on the integrity of the River Wye SAC, provided the mitigation measures set out in the NMP are implemented. |