

# Final Habitats Regulations Assessment of the National Park Management Plan 2020-2024

**Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, 11<sup>TH</sup> December 2019**

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# 1 Relevant background and introduction

## 1.1 Relevant background

1.1.1 Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority (PCNPA) is required to prepare a Management Plan for the National Park. The plan being developed covers the period from 2020-2024 and seeks to secure the National Park purposes through partnership action across five complementary themes as follows:

1. A national asset – A landscape for life and livelihoods
2. Landscapes for everyone – Well-being, enjoyment and discovery
3. A resilient Park – restoring biodiversity
4. A place of culture – celebrating heritage
5. Global responsibility – managing natural resources sustainably

1.1.2 For the purpose of an initial screening exercise under the Habitats Regulations, chapter 1 provides primarily background and contextual information. Chapters 2-6 then contain a series of policies under each of the theme headings above.

## 1.2 Habitats Regulations of plans generally

1.2.1 PCNPA is a competent authority under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017<sup>1</sup>, commonly referred to as the Habitats Regulations. In accordance with Regulation 63 of those regulations, PCNPA must make an assessment of their Management Plan as a matter of law before it is put into effect<sup>2</sup>. This assessment is generally referred to as a 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' or 'HRA' and the regulations set out a clearly defined step-wise process which must be followed.

1.2.2 Under the regulations, HRA is required in respect of both 'plans' and 'projects'. Where a project is subject to assessment, there is generally sufficiently detailed *project specific* information against which to make a comprehensive assessment. A plan based assessment is different; in most cases a plan is a strategic level document setting out broad intentions and often lacking the project specific details which may not be developed until after the plan has been published. Indeed, it is the plan itself which frequently steers the detail of the projects which it envisages. As such the HRA of a 'plan' is recognised to require a different approach to that of a 'project'.

1.2.3 In the case of the EC v UK<sup>3</sup> the European Court of Justice (the ECJ) required the UK Government to secure the assessment of Britain's land use plans under the provisions of the Habitats Directive. In that judgment the Advocate General, and the Court itself, recognised that the assessment of plans had to be tailored to the stage in plan making.

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<sup>1</sup> The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 SI No 1012 (replacing the 2010 Regulations and coming into force on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017)

<sup>2</sup> Refer regulation 63

<sup>3</sup> Case C-6/04: Commission of the European Communities v United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland judgment of the Court 20 October 2005.

- 1.2.4 The Advocate General's opinion<sup>4</sup> which informed the judgment of the court acknowledged the difficulties associated with an assessment of a plan. In paragraph 49 of her opinion Advocate General Kokott stated that adverse effects:

*'...must be assessed at every relevant stage of the procedure to the extent possible on the basis of the precision of the plan. This assessment is to be updated with increasing specificity in subsequent stages of the procedure.'*

Consistently, in the UK High Court case of Feeney<sup>5</sup> the judge said:

*'Each appropriate assessment must be commensurate to the relative precision of the plans at any particular stage and no more. There does have to be an appropriate assessment at the [plan] stage, but such an assessment cannot do more than the level of detail of the [plan] at that stage permits.'*

- 1.2.5 In undertaking plan based HRAs, it is therefore important to get the balance right; too severe an approach may be excessive. Caution is required, even adopting a precautionary approach, not to assign a 'likely significant effect' to policies and proposals that could not, realistically, have such an effect, because of their general nature. It is important to apply the precautionary principle in the 'likely significant effect test' in the Regulations, but the European Commission in its own guidance on the application of the test<sup>6</sup>, accepts that policies in a plan that are no more than general policy statements or which express the general political will of an authority cannot be likely to have a significant effect on a site.
- 1.2.6 To include such policies or general proposals in a formal 'appropriate assessment' is likely to generate a considerable amount of abortive or unnecessary work. It could even lead to the plan failing the 'integrity test'. Not because, in practice, any policy or proposal might adversely affect the integrity of any European site, but because policies have been 'screened in' which generate no more than theoretical risks, or vague or hypothetical effects, and for which no meaningful assessment can be made at this stage, because no particular significant effect on any particular European site can actually be identified. Such an approach is not believed to be in the interests of the plan or the European sites. In the Boggis judgment<sup>7</sup>, the Court of Appeal ruled that there should be "*credible evidence that there was a real, rather than a hypothetical, risk*". What the assessment needs to concentrate on are those aspects of the plan that could, realistically, be likely to have a significant effect.
- 1.2.7 Too lenient a view however can be equally problematic. Consequently, policies or proposals which could have a high potential for significant adverse effects on European sites should be removed from the plan, or policy-specific, or proposal-specific, mitigation measures must be introduced to the plan. This is in preference to a general protection policy which can, in the event of spatially specific policies create an internal conflict between plan policies, rather than avoiding the potentially significant effects.

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<sup>4</sup> Opinion of Advocate General Kokott, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2005, Case C-6/04. Commission of the European Communities v United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

<sup>5</sup> Sean Feeney v Oxford City Council and the Secretary of State CLG para 92 of the judgment dated 24 October 2011 Case No CO/3797/2011, Neutral Citation [2011] EWHC 2699 Admin

<sup>6</sup> European Commission, 2000, *Managing Natura 2000 Sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC* section 4.3.2 at [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/provision\\_of\\_art6\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/provision_of_art6_en.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> Peter Charles Boggis and Easton Bavants Conservation v Natural England and Waveney District Council, High Court of Justice Court of Appeal case C1/2009/0041/QBACF Citation No [2009] EWCA Civ. 1061 20th October 2009

### 1.3 The HRA approach

- 1.3.1 This HRA follows the guidance set out in *The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook*<sup>8</sup> (hereafter referred to as 'The HRA Handbook'). Current subscribers to the Handbook include Natural Resources Wales and the Planning Inspectorate. The 'Practical Guidance for the Assessment of Plans under the Regulations' contained in Part F is considered to represent best practice as it is accepted by both these bodies as appropriate for their own staff to follow.
- 1.3.2 The process and method of assessment is summarised in the following three diagrams which are taken from the HRA Handbook. Figure 1.1 illustrates the statutory procedures required by the regulations. Figure 1.2 is an outline of the four stage approach to the HRA of plans; this report represents 'stage 1' in the diagram. Figure 1.3 illustrates how the HRA process is integrated into the plan making process.

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<sup>8</sup> Tyldesley, D., and Chapman, C., (2013) *The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook*, November 2017 edition UK: [DTA Publications Ltd.](#)

Figure 1.1: Procedures required by regulations 63 and 105 of the Habitats Regulations

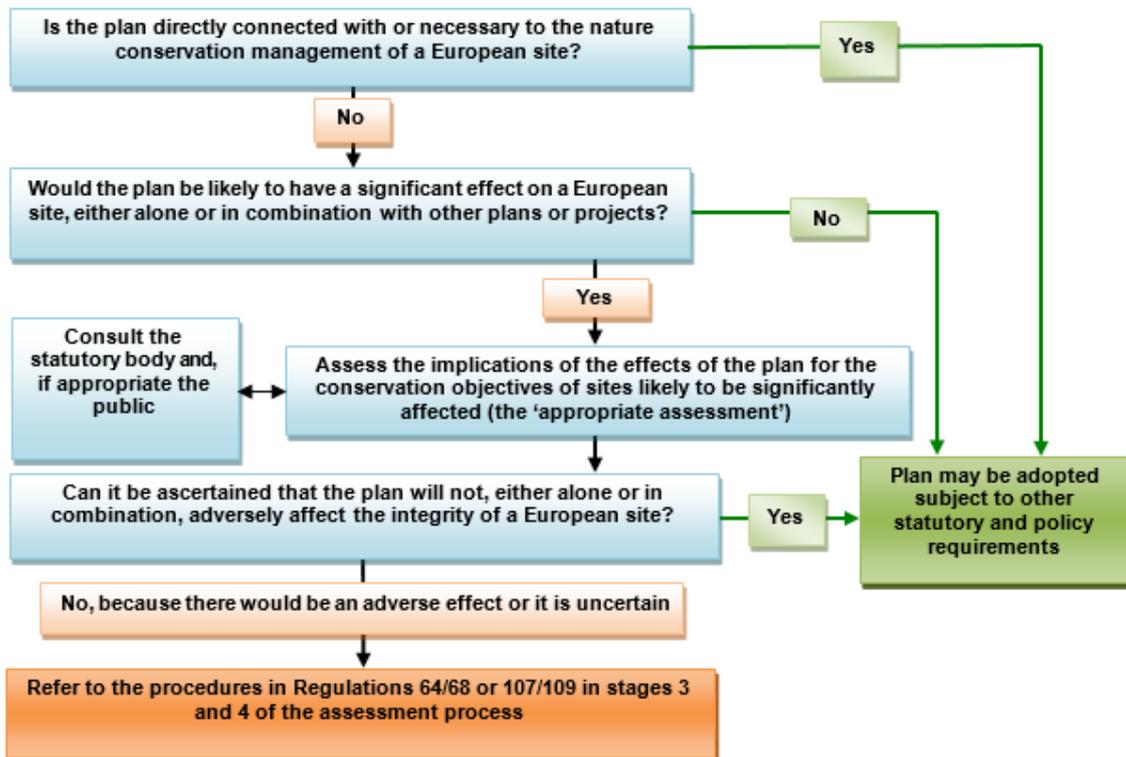
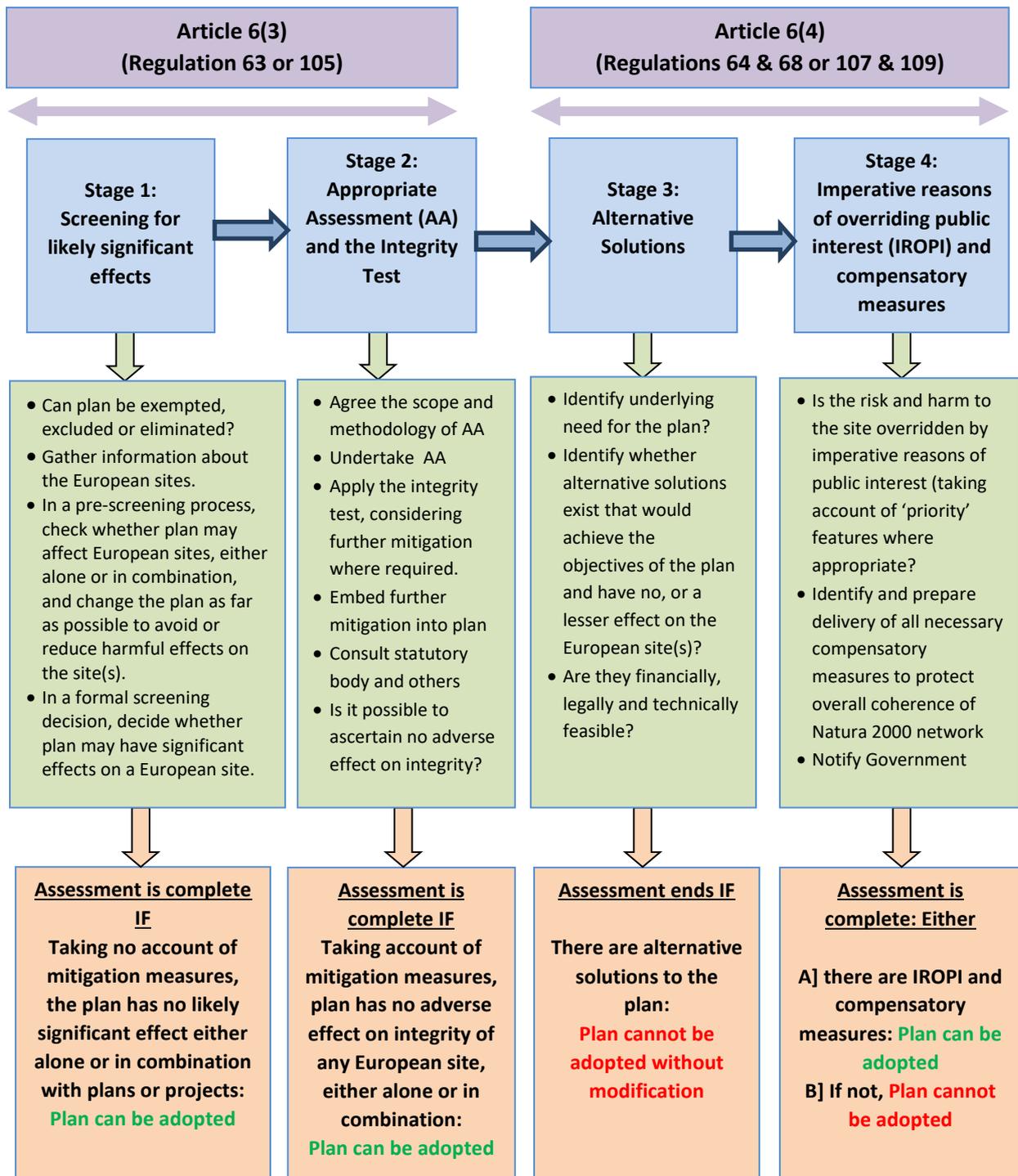
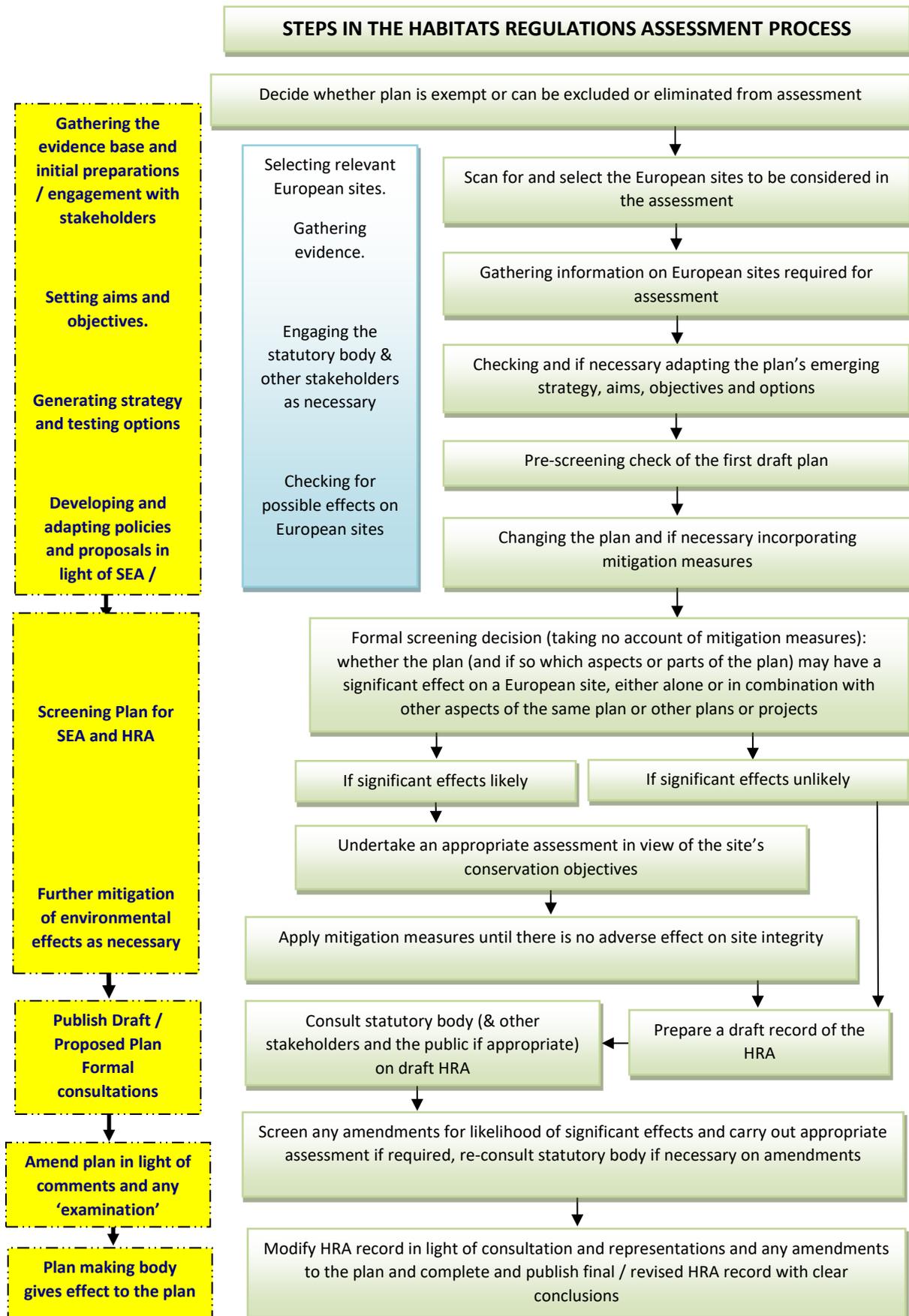


Figure 1.2

Outline of the four stage approach to the assessment of plans under the Habitats Regulations



**Figure 1.3: Relationship of steps in the Habitats Regulations Assessment with a typical plan making process**



## 1.4 Scope of this assessment

- 1.4.1 This report is a *shadow* Habitats Regulations Assessment as required under regulation 63 of the Habitats Regulations. It is the responsibility of PCNPA as the competent authority to apply the specific legal tests and make the formal decisions which are required to be taken. This report sets out advice to PCNPA as to how a Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Management Plan might be completed. PCNPA, as the competent authority, are then able to adopt the conclusions and findings set out in this report, should they consider it appropriate to do so.

## 1.5 The Defra guidance on competent authority co-ordination

- 1.5.1 An important, but frequently overlooked, provision within the Habitats Regulations can be found at regulation 67 which reads as follows:

***Co-ordination where more than one competent authority involved***

67. (1) *This regulation applies where a plan or project—*
- (a) is undertaken by more than one competent authority;*
  - (b) requires the consent, permission or other authorisation of more than one competent authority; or*
  - (c) is undertaken by one or more competent authorities and requires the consent, permission or other authorisation of one or more other competent authorities.*
- (2) *Nothing in regulation 63(1) or 65(2) requires a competent authority to assess any implications of a plan or project which would be more appropriately assessed under that provision by another competent authority.*

- 1.5.2 In light of the significance of this provision for minimising duplication of assessment effort and increasing efficiency, Defra issued guidance on regulation 67<sup>9</sup> (then regulation 65) under the provisions of 67(3); competent authorities are obliged to have regard to this guidance under the provisions of regulation 67(4). In the absence of equivalent guidance in Wales, the Welsh Government are supportive of the Defra guidance being relied on as best available information to satisfy the requirements of regulation 67.
- 1.5.3 It is recognised that, strictly speaking, the provisions of regulation 67 do not apply as a matter of law to the assessment requirements for this Management Plan Document, as it does not meet any of the three scenarios in regulation 67(1). However it is generally accepted<sup>10</sup> that paragraphs 5-7 of the Defra guidance should be applied widely as a matter of good practice. Paragraph 4 of the guidance refers to two situations where competent authorities might ‘co-ordinate’ their assessment requirements. The first scenario is of relevance to the current HRA as it states that ‘*where previous decisions have been taken in relation to the appropriate assessment requirements for a plan or project, competent authorities should adopt the parts of the earlier assessment that are robust and have not become outdated by further information or developments*’.

<sup>9</sup> [Defra guidance on competent authority co-ordination](#), July 2012

<sup>10</sup> Refer section C.12 of The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook

1.5.4 Having introduced the concept of ‘adopting’ earlier decisions in order to ‘*simplify the assessment process and reduce its time and costs for both the applicant and the competent authorities involved*’<sup>11</sup>, paragraphs 5-7 then provide specific further guidance on how and when a competent authority might adopt the reasoning or conclusions from an earlier assessment; they read as follows:

*5. The Regulations transposing the Habitats Directive enable competent authorities to adopt the reasoning or conclusions of another competent authority as to whether a plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, or will adversely affect the integrity of a European site. They also provide that a competent authority is not required to assess any implications of a plan or project that would be more appropriately assessed by another competent authority’.*

*6. Competent authorities should adopt the reasoning, conclusion or assessment of another competent authority in relation to the appropriate assessment requirements for a plan or project, if they can. This can happen when all or part of the appropriate assessment requirements have already been met by another competent authority. It could also happen if one competent authority is completing all or part of the appropriate assessment requirements on behalf of others. Competent authorities remain responsible for ensuring their decisions are consistent with the Habitats Directive, so must be satisfied:*

- No additional material information has emerged, such as new environmental evidence or changes or developments to the plan or project, that means the reasoning, conclusion or assessment they are adopting has become out of date*
- The analysis underpinning the reasoning, conclusion or assessment they are adopting is sufficiently rigorous and robust. This condition can be assumed to be met for a plan or project involving the consideration of technical matters if the reasoning, conclusion or assessment was undertaken or made by a competent authority with the necessary technical expertise.*

*‘7. Due to these conditions there may be cases where it is not appropriate to adopt the reasoning, conclusions or assessment of another competent authority, or it is only appropriate to adopt some elements of an earlier assessment. In addition, even where the conditions are met, a competent authority may need to undertake additional work to supplement the assessment they have adopted in order to meet the full appropriate assessment requirements.’*

1.5.5 The application and implications of the Defra guidance has been considered in detail within Part C12 of the HRA Handbook which refers to a ‘common sense’ approach at C.12.3 and states that:

*‘In respect of ‘earlier decisions’ that relate to a separate plan or project, the competent authorities do not need to ‘coordinate’, because only one authority has a decision to take... However, the principles set out in the Defra statutory guidance, about adopting the reasoning and conclusions of another authority may be applicable and should be adopted as good practice. ‘Earlier decisions’ that relate to a separate plan or project could be separated by short, or relatively long, periods of*

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<sup>11</sup> Refer para 2 of the Defra guidance

*time. The point is that the earlier decision is made before the later competent authority embarks on its assessment'*

In the context of this assessment it is appropriate for PCNPA to 'adopt' the reasoning, conclusion or assessment of relevant earlier (or 'previous') HRA findings if they can.

### *Earlier relevant HRA assessments*

#### **HRA of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Management Plan**

1.5.6 PCNPA have also produced a HRA in respect of their 2009-2013 Management Plan<sup>12</sup>, and took a proportionate approach to screening the 2015-2019 Management Plan<sup>13</sup> (para 3.2.14 of the Management Plan). Where appropriate this assessment will seek to 'adopt' the assessment, reasoning or conclusions from this HRA work.

#### **HRA of the current Local Plan**

1.5.7 The current Local Development Plan was itself subject to HRA<sup>14</sup> which concluded that the plan would have no adverse effect on the integrity of any European sites. Where appropriate therefore, this assessment 'adopts' the reasoning, assessment and conclusion of that earlier HRA in respect of any references made to it within this Management Plan on the basis that:

- No material information has emerged which would render the reasoning 'out of date', and
- The analysis underpinning the reasoning is sufficiently rigorous and robust

1.5.8 The Management Plan makes reference to Local Development Plan policies within policy L1, E1, H1, N1 and N3. **All references to the LDP within the Management Plan can be SCREENED OUT with reference to the earlier HRA findings/conclusions.**

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<sup>12</sup> Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report PCNPA National Park Management Plan, Dec 2008

<sup>13</sup>

[http://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/Files/files/Management%20Plan/Final%20Management%20Plan%202015-19/National%20Park%20Management%20Plan%202015-2019%20\(Eng\)%20www.pdf](http://www.pembrokeshirecoast.wales/Files/files/Management%20Plan/Final%20Management%20Plan%202015-19/National%20Park%20Management%20Plan%202015-2019%20(Eng)%20www.pdf)

<sup>14</sup> Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Local Development Plan – end date 2031 Consultation version (Sept 2018)

## 2 Identification of European sites potentially affected

### 2.1 Scanning and site selection

2.1.1 Twenty sites are initially identified for screening. The European sites for which effects which are considered to represent a credible risk, and which should therefore be considered as part of the preliminary screening, are those summarised in table 2.1 below.

<b>Table 2.1 European Sites already identified in HRA of earlier plan</b>	
<b>European Sites within the Plan area</b>	
1	Cardigan Bay SAC
2	Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries SAC/SPA/Ramsar
3	Castlemartin Coast SPA
4	Cleddau Rivers SAC
5	Gweunydd Blaencleddau SAC
6	Grassholm SPA
7	Limestone Coast of South West Wales SAC
8	North Pembrokeshire Woodlands SAC
9	North West Pembrokeshire Commons SAC
10	Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes SAC
11	Pembrokeshire Marine SAC
12	Preseli SAC
13	Ramsey and St David's Peninsula Coast SPA
14	Skokholm and Skomer and the Seas off Pembrokeshire SPA
15	St David's SAC
16	West Wales Marine SAC
17	Bristol Channel Approaches SAC
<b>European Sites beyond the Plan area</b>	
18	Carmarthen Bay Dunes SAC
19	River Teifi SAC
20	Yerbeston Tops SAC

2.1.2 Information on the sites, their qualifying features and conservation objectives can be found within Appendix 1.

2.1.3 Having identified the sites that are within (or adjacent) to the Plan area, the next step is to identify the potential impact mechanisms through which the Plan might exert an influence over the sites identified, and hence identify which of the 20 sites need to be subject to further assessment. This is of particular importance where, as is the case here, a large number of sites have been identified within the Plan area. Part F.4.2 of the HRA Handbook recognises:

*'...scanning for relevant sites potentially affected (and then selecting those which will need to be considered in respect of the plan's effects) is not always a straightforward process. It is important to ensure all sites potentially adversely affected are considered to a sufficient degree, but it is equally important to avoid unnecessary or excessive data gathering about sites that would either not be affected at all, or in respect of which there are only theoretical risks. This will help to keep the assessment proportional to the residual risk of significant effects.'*

2.1.4 The HRA Handbook continues:

*'It is acknowledged that in plan assessment or in considering options at an early stage the scanning and selection process may need to be quite 'coarse grained', due to the lack of information about the precise nature of what may be proposed in the plan and how it might affect the qualifying features.*

*As a general guide, and subject to case-by-case analysis by an ecological adviser, as necessary, the sites described in the Scanning and Site Selection List in Figure F.4.4 at the end of this section, are likely to be relevant. In almost all cases a scan of such sites will enable an appropriate 'short-list' of sites potentially affected to be drawn up, from which the final list of sites to be included in the assessment can be selected after considering the relevant information. Selection of the sites is an iterative process, considering and reconsidering information and effects as understanding and information improve, until there is a satisfactory degree of confidence that all sites potentially adversely affected have been selected....'*

*... If there is no causal connection or link between the plan's proposals and the site's 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 rather than a hypothetical link to the site, it cannot be regarded as being potentially significant, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. There is no point including that supposition in further assessment.'*

2.1.5 It is therefore important, before embarking on a detailed assessment of all 20 sites listed above, to identify those sites where there is credible evidence of a real risk sites from the adoption of the Plan as currently drafted. Whilst there are many European sites within the Plan area, it may be fairly straightforward to exclude sites based on a common sense approach which recognises the credible evidence for real risks which are likely to arise in view of the sensitivity of the site and its qualifying features. This will help to focus later steps in the assessment and minimise unnecessary assessment effort.

2.1.6 Table 2.3 below is a completed 'scanning and site selection' list referred to in the extract of the HRA Handbook quoted above (figure F.4.4 of the Handbook) to inform this sifting process.

<b>Table 2.3: Scanning and site selection list</b>		
<b>Types of plan</b>	<b>Sites to scan for and check</b>	<b>Names of sites selected</b>
1. All plans (terrestrial, coastal and marine)	Sites within the geographic area covered by or intended to be relevant to the plan	Sites 1-17 from list above
2. Plans that could affect the aquatic environment	Sites upstream or downstream of the plan area in the case of river or estuary sites	N/A (not an effect anticipated to arise from the plan)
	Open water, peatland, fen, marsh and other wetland sites with relevant hydrological links to land within the plan area, irrespective of distance from the plan area	N/A (not an effect anticipated to arise from the plan)

<b>Table 2.3: Scanning and site selection list</b>		
<b>Types of plan</b>	<b>Sites to scan for and check</b>	<b>Names of sites selected</b>
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 inter-tidal or sub-tidal areas or the sea bed, or marine species	N/A (effects on marine processes not anticipated to arise from the plan)
4. Plans that could affect the coast	Sites in the same coastal 'cell', or part of the same coastal ecosystem, or where there are interrelationships with or between different physical coastal processes	N/A (no coastal process effects anticipated to arise from the plan)
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 plan's proposals or whether the species would be in or out of the site when they might be affected	Bristol Channel Approaches SAC Cardigan Bay SAC Cleddau Rivers SAC Carmarthen Bay & Estuaries SAC/SPA Castlemartin Coast SPA Grassholm SPA Limestone Coast of SW Wales SAC North Pembrokeshire Woodlands SAC Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes SAC Pembrokeshire Marine SAC Ramsey and St David's Peninsula SPA Skomer, Skokholm and the Seas off Pembrokeshire Coast SPA West Wales Marine SAC
6. Plans that could increase recreational pressure on European sites potentially vulnerable or sensitive to such pressure	Such European sites in the plan area	Cardigan Bay SAC Cleddau Rivers SAC Carmarthen Bay & Estuaries SAC/SPA Castlemartin Coast SPA Grassholm SPA Limestone Coast of SW Wales SAC North Pembrokeshire Woodlands SAC Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes SAC Pembrokeshire Marine SAC Ramsey and St David's Peninsula SPA Skomer, Skokholm and the Seas off Pembrokeshire Coast SPA
	Such European sites within an agreed zone of influence or other reasonable and evidence-based travel distance of the plan area boundaries that may be affected by local recreational or other visitor pressure from within the plan area	Carmarthen Bay Dunes SAC

<b>Table 2.3: Scanning and site selection list</b>		
<b>Types of plan</b>	<b>Sites to scan for and check</b>	<b>Names of sites selected</b>
	Such European sites within an agreed zone of influence or other evidence-based longer travel distance of the plan area, which are major (regional or national) visitor attractions such as European sites 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	N/A (not an effect anticipated to arise from the plan)
	Sites used for, or could be affected by, discharge of effluent from waste water treatment works or other waste management streams serving the plan area, irrespective of distance from the plan area	N/A (not an effect anticipated to arise from the plan)
	Sites that could be affected by the provision of new or extended transport or other infrastructure	N/A (not an effect anticipated to arise from the plan)
	Sites that could be affected by increased deposition of air pollutants arising from the proposals, including emissions from significant increases in traffic	N/A (not an effect anticipated to arise from the plan)
8. Plans for linear developments or infrastructure	Sites within a specified distance from the centre line of the proposed route (or alternative routes), the distance may be varied for differing types of site / qualifying features and in the absence of established good practice standards, distance(s) to be agreed by the statutory nature conservation body	N/A (not an effect anticipated to arise from the plan)
9. Plans that introduce new activities or new uses into the marine, coastal or terrestrial environment	Sites considered to have qualifying features potentially vulnerable or sensitive to the effects of the new activities proposed by the plan	N/A (no such 'new' uses introduced by the Plan)
10. Plans that could change the nature, area, extent, intensity, density, timing or scale of existing activities or uses	Sites considered to have qualifying features potentially vulnerable or sensitive to the effects of the changes to existing activities proposed by the plan	See 6 above
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	N/A (not an effect anticipated to arise from the plan)

<b>Table 2.3: Scanning and site selection list</b>		
<b>Types of plan</b>	<b>Sites to scan for and check</b>	<b>Names of sites selected</b>
12. Plans that could change the quantity, volume, timing, rate, or other characteristics of biological resources harvested, extracted or consumed	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, for example as prey species or supporting habitat or which may be disturbed by the harvesting, extraction or consumption	N/A (not an effect anticipated to arise from the plan)
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, for example, as habitat or a physical environment on which habitat may develop or which may be disturbed by the extraction or consumption	N/A (not an effect anticipated to arise from the plan)
14. Plans which could introduce or increase, or alter the timing, nature or location of disturbance to species	Sites whose qualifying features are considered to be potentially sensitive to disturbance, for example as a result of noise, activity or movement, or the presence of disturbing features that could be brought about by the plan	Cardigan Bay SAC Cleddau Rivers SAC Carmarthen Bay & Estuaries SAC/SPA Castlemartin Coast SPA Grassholm SPA Limestone Coast of SW Wales SAC North Pembrokeshire Woodlands SAC Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherston Lakes SAC Pembrokeshire Marine SAC Ramsey and St David's Peninsula SPA Skomer, Skokholm and the Seas off Pembrokeshire Coast SPA
15. Plans which could introduce or increase or change the timing, nature or location of light or noise pollution	Sites whose qualifying features are considered to be potentially sensitive to the effects of changes in light or noise that could be brought about by the plan	TBC
16. Plans which could introduce or increase a potential cause of mortality of species	Sites whose qualifying features are considered to be potentially sensitive to the source of new or increased mortality that could be brought about by the plan	N/A (not an effect anticipated to arise from the plan)

2.1.7 The scanning and site selection table has identified six potential mechanisms through which the Plan might exert an influence over European sites which are summarised below.

<b>Potential effects</b>	<b>Further comment</b>
Effects on Mobile species	This recognises the potential for species to be impacted within land or sea out-with the boundary of a designated site, but functionally connected to the population for which the site has been designated.
Recreational pressure	This impact mechanism is directly related to changes in recreational activities and usage patterns.
Disturbance	This impact mechanism is directly related to changes in land use patterns.

### 3 Screening the Management Plan Document for a likelihood of significant effects

#### 3.1 An introduction to screening

3.1.1 Having identified the sites which might potentially be affected by aspects of the Management Plan Document, the first stage in the HRA process is commonly referred to as the 'screening' stage.

3.1.2 'Screening' is not a term used in the Directive or Regulations but is widely used for convenience to describe the first step of the HRA process. The purpose of the screening stage is to consider each aspect of the Plan and identify whether it is:

- a) Exempt from the need for assessment (where a plan is directly connected with or necessary for the management of the European site concerned)
- b) Excluded from the need for assessment (where a document under consideration is not a 'plan' within the context of the Habitats Regulations)
- c) Eliminated from the need for assessment (where it is obvious from the beginning that there is no conceivable effect upon any European sites)
- d) Subject to assessment and screened out from further consideration (that is the case where an aspect of the plan is considered not 'likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects')
- e) Subject to assessment and screened in for further assessment (that is the case where an aspect of the plan is considered 'likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects')

3.1.3 For aspects of the Plan which are subject to assessment, the screening test requires a decision to be made as to whether that aspect of the Plan has a 'likely significant effect, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects', or not.

3.1.4 The HRA Handbook contains further guidance regarding this practical interpretation of this step, with reference to case law and government guidance. Section C.7.1 sets out a series of principles relevant to the screening decision; key extracts are set out below:

- *As a result of European case law in Waddenzee, irrespective of the normal English meaning of 'likely', in this statutory context a 'likely significant effect' is a possible significant effect; one whose occurrence cannot be excluded on the basis of objective information. In this context it is permissible to ask whether a plan or project 'may have a significant effect'...(principle 3)*
- *A significant effect is any effect that would undermine the conservation objectives for a European site... (principle 4)*
- *An effect which would not be significant can properly be described as : as 'insignificant effect'; or a 'de minimis effect; or a 'trivial effect'; or as having 'no appreciable effect'; but it is important to bear in mind that, in this context, all the terms are synonymous and are being used to describe effects which would not undermine the conservation objectives'....(principle 8)*

- ‘Objective’, in this context, means clear verifiable fact rather than subjective opinion. It will not normally be sufficient for an applicant merely to assert that the plan or project will not have an adverse effect on a site, nor will it be appropriate for a competent authority to rely on reassurances based on supposition or speculation. On the other hand, there should be credible evidence to show that there is a real rather than a hypothetical risk of effects that could undermine the site’s conservation objectives. Any serious possibility of a risk that the conservation objectives might be undermined should trigger an ‘appropriate assessment’ (principle 11).

## 3.2 Screening Chapter 1

- 3.2.1 Chapter 1 of the Management Plan is entirely comprised of introductory text and contextual information. These parts of the document are factual and not proposing any change *per se*, and cannot conceivably have any effects on a European site and are screened out of further assessment.

Table 3.1: Screening chapters 1 & 2 of the Plan		
Element of the Plan	Assessment and reasoning	Screening conclusion
<b>Chapter 1: Welcome to Pembrokeshire Coast National Park</b>	Administrative text	Screened out

## 3.3 Screening the Management Plan Policies

- 3.3.1 The Management Plan then continues in chapters 2-6 to set out 12 detailed policies under the 5 theme headings. In accordance with the approach adopted for this assessment (refer 1.3 above) a list of ‘screening categories’ have been used to provide a rigorous and transparent approach to the screening process. These categories are taken from Part F of the HRA Handbook and are as follows:
- A. General statement of policy / general aspiration (screened out).
  - B. Policy listing general criteria for testing the acceptability / sustainability of proposals (screened out).
  - C. Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan (screened out).
  - D. Plan-wide environmental protection / site safeguarding policy (screened out).
  - E. Policies or proposals which steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects (screened out).
  - F. Policy that cannot lead to development or other change (screened out).
  - G. Policy or proposal that could not have any conceivable effect on a site (screened 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) (screened out).
  - I. Policy or proposal which may have a significant effect on a site alone (screened in)
  - J. Policy or proposal with an effect on a site but unlikely to be significant alone, so need to check for likely significant effects in combination
  - K. Policy or proposal unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination (screened out after the in combination test).
  - L. Policy or proposal which might be likely to have a significant effect in combination (screened in after the in combination test).

- M. Bespoke area, site or case specific policies or proposals intended to avoid or reduce harmful effects on a European site (screened in)

3.3.2 All 12 policies were screened against these categories and detailed policy based conclusions are provided in table 3.1 below.

No	Policy	Screening category	Comment/justification	Further work?
A landscape for life and livelihoods				
L1	Conserve and enhance National Park Landscapes	A/C/G	<p><b>Screened out</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policies L1(a) and (f) are general statements of policy</li> <li>• Policies L1(b) refers to the LDP and is screened out with reference to para 1.5.8 above.</li> <li>• Policy L1(c) refers to reducing visibility of infrastructure with reference to three specific schemes. The schemes referred to are all located outside of the boundaries of European sites and are considered in further detail at 3.4 below. They are strictly temporary schemes and will not have any conceivable effect upon any sites.</li> <li>• Policy L1(e) refers to another plan which is not proposed by this plan document.</li> </ul>	N
L2	Protect and enhance dark night skies	D	<b>Screened out:</b> A plan wide protection policy which will have no effect on any European sites.	N
L3	Protect and enhance natural soundscapes	A/C	<b>Screened out:</b> L3(a) is a general statement of policy. L3(b) refers to the LDP and is screened out with reference to para 1.5.8 above.	N
Well-being, enjoyment and discovery				
W1	Provide and promote sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities for all	I	This is a plan wide strategic policy promoting recreational activities. In the absence of any mitigation within the plan to ensure protection to European sites which are potentially sensitive to recreational pressure an internal conflict is created between the plan and the requirements of the Habitats Regulations. <b>Likely to have a significant effect 'alone'.</b>	Y

No	Policy	Screening category	Comment/justification	Further work?
W2	Provide and promote inspiring outdoor learning and personal development opportunities for all	I	This is a plan wide strategic policy promoting outdoor learning opportunities. In the absence of any mitigation within the plan to ensure protection to European sites which are potentially sensitive to disturbance an internal conflict is created between the plan and the requirements of the Habitats Regulations. <b>Likely to have a significant effect 'alone'.</b>	No
Protecting and restoring biodiversity				
E1	Protect and improve biodiversity quality, extent and connectivity at scale	D/M	<b>Policies E1 (a-p) &amp; E1(r) - Screened out:</b> Plan wide environmental protection / safeguarding policy which will have no effect on any European sites. <b>Policy E1(q) – Screened in:</b> This policy is a mitigation measures which cannot be taken into account at screening, but can inform a later appropriate assessment.	Y
Celebrating heritage				
H1	Conserve and enhance landscapes of particular historic interest, scheduled monuments, listed buildings and their settings.	D	<b>Screened out:</b> A plan wide environmental protection / safeguarding policy which will have no effect on any European sites.	N
H2	Promote the Welsh language and local dialects, and celebrate culture and creativity related to the landscape	A	<b>Screened out:</b> This is a general statement of policy	N
Managing natural resources sustainably				
N1	Contribute to a low carbon economy for Wales and adapt to climate change	A	<b>Screened out:</b> This is a general statement of policy	N
N2	Conserve and enhance water quality and restore water levels and natural flow regimes	D	<b>Screened out:</b> A plan wide environmental protection / safeguarding policy which will have no effect on any European sites.	N
N3	Conserve and enhance soils and natural carbon storage	D	<b>Screened out:</b> A plan wide environmental protection / safeguarding policy which will have no effect on any European sites.	N
N4	Protect air quality	D	<b>Screened out:</b> A plan wide environmental protection / safeguarding policy which will have no effect on any European sites.	N

### 3.4 Further assessment of policy L1(c)

3.4.1 Policy L1(c) promotes three proposals to reduce the visibility of overhead infrastructure through underground cabling at Newport Parrog, Great Castle Head and Marloes Sands. Further details regarding these schemes are provided below:

Fig 3.4.1. Newport Parrog scheme

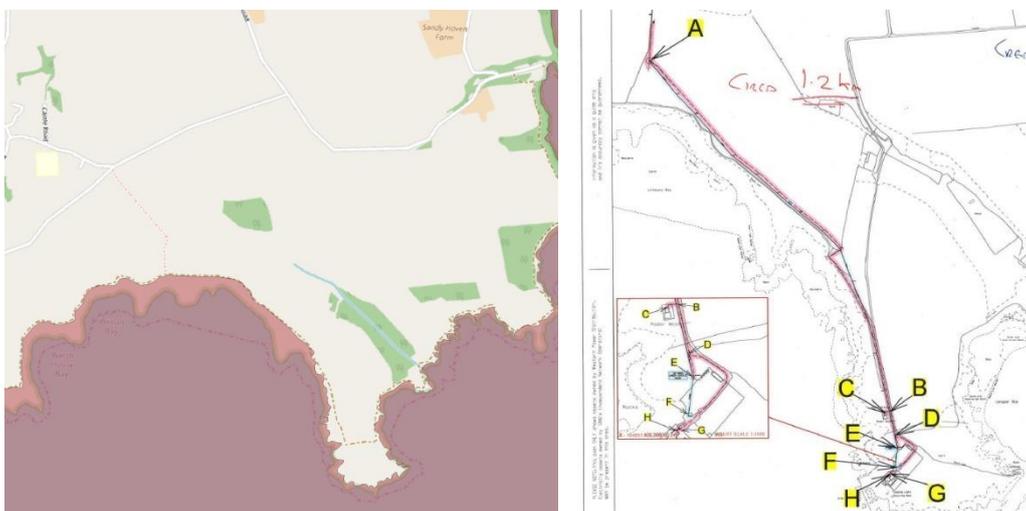


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3.4.2 This scheme extends for 400m and is located entirely within the residential area of Newport Parrog running along Parrog Road. The effects from the scheme will be temporary in nature. The West Wales Marine SAC is located 500m from the proposed scheme and is designated for harbour porpoise. It is inconceivable that the effects from the scheme will have any effect upon the qualifying features for the SAC, given the nature and scale of the works.

3.4.3 The scheme location is 1.5km from the Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes. The temporary nature of the scheme and the siting within a residential street means that, again, it is inconceivable that the effects from the scheme will have any effect upon the qualifying features for which the SAC has been designated.

Fig 3.4.2 Great Castle Head Scheme

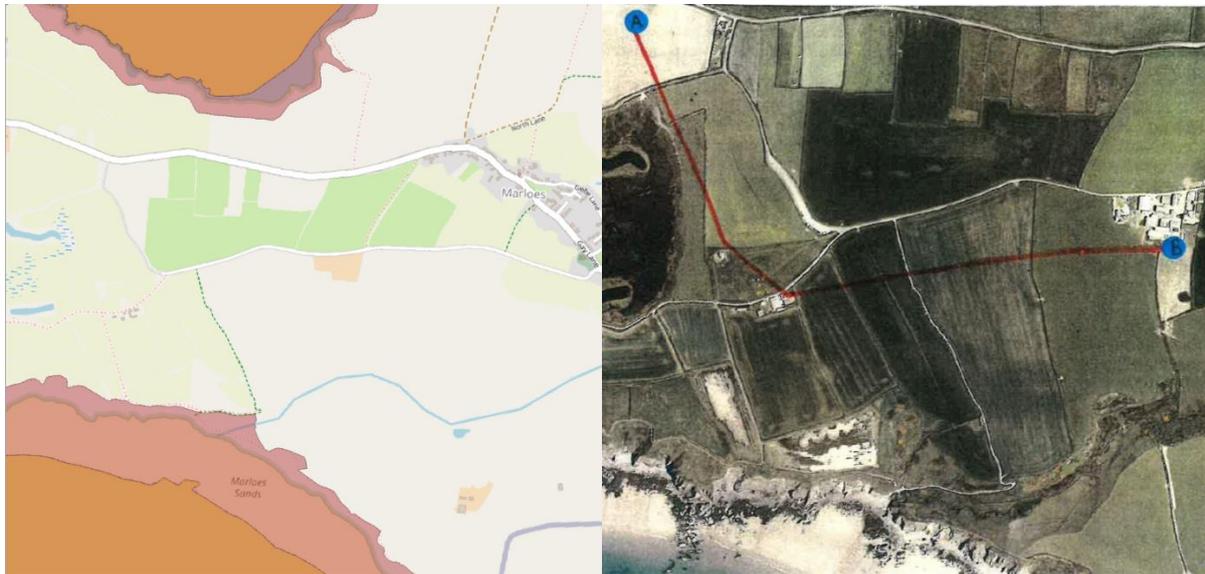


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3.4.4 This scheme extends

for approximately 1.2km across agricultural fields located at the top of cliffs which form the boundary of the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC and the West Wales Marine SAC. The scheme will be temporary in nature and the physical barrier provided by the cliff face means that effects upon the qualifying features for which the sites have been designated are inconceivable.

*Fig 3.4.3 Marloes Sands Scheme*



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3.4.5 The Marloes scheme extends for approximately 1.3km across agricultural fields to the southwest of Marloes. The scheme is located on the peninsula and the boundaries of the Skokholm and Skomer SPA, the Pembrokeshire Marine SAC and the West Wales Marine SAC are located some 600m to the north and 350m to the south at the bottom of the cliffs. The scheme will be temporary in nature and the distance from the designated site boundaries together with the physical barrier provided by the cliff faces means that effects upon the qualifying features for which the sites have been designated are inconceivable.

3.4.6 Having considered the three schemes, it is the conclusion of this HRA that policy L1(c) can be screened out as having no likely significant effects. They will have no conceivable effects upon the qualifying features for any European sites.

### 3.5 Screening conclusions

3.5.1 Having screened the plan policies against the screening categories from the HRA Handbook all policies have been screened out of the need for further assessment with the exception of policies W1 and W2 which are taken forward to an appropriate assessment.

## 4 Appropriate Assessment

### 4.1 The appropriate assessment and applying the integrity test

- 4.1.1 The purpose of an appropriate assessment is to ensure that, prior to the plan being implemented, a judgment can be made as to whether it can be ascertained that the plan would have no adverse effect on the integrity of any European sites (the integrity test).
- 4.1.2 The sole reason that this plan has progressed through to an appropriate assessment is the screening work identified that, without taking account of any specific policy protection within the plan for European sites, 2 policies were identified as having a likely significant effect. The formal screening recognised policy E1(q) as being a ‘mitigation measure’ which, following the ruling in *People Over Wind*, could not be taken into account. As such, this new policy (and the 2 policies which might rely on it to avoid harmful effects on European sites) were progressed through to an appropriate assessment.
- 4.1.3 The implications of policy E1(q) can now be taken into account as part of this appropriate assessment which. Taking full account of the European site protection policy, table 4.2 below sets out the integrity test conclusions for new policy and the 2 policies identified as having a likely significant effect.

### 4.2 Appropriate Assessment of Policies W1 and W2

- 4.2.1 Policies W1 and W2 provide for and promote sustainable outdoor recreation and learning opportunities. In principle there is scope therefore for this policy to result in potential pressures upon European sites which are identified in table 2.3 against recreational pressure and disturbance. These sites are listed below for ease of reference:
- Cardigan Bay SAC
  - Cleddau Rivers SAC
  - Carmarthen Bay & Estuaries SAC/SPA
  - Castlemartin Coast SPA
  - Grassholm SPA
  - Limestone Coast of SW Wales SAC
  - North Pembrokeshire Woodlands SAC
  - Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes SAC
  - Pembrokeshire Marine SAC
  - Ramsey and St David’s Peninsula SPA
  - Skomer, Skokholm and the Seas off Pembrokeshire Coast SPA
- 4.2.2 All these sites are potentially sensitive to recreational pressure/disturbance and broad policy support to promote *all* such activities, without recognising any restrictions that might need to be imposed for European sites carries associated risks. In accordance with the Habitats Regulations an effect is ‘likely’ if it *undermines the conservation objectives*; it is therefore necessary to be satisfied that the implementation of policies W1 and W2 will not result in any such objectives being so *undermined*.
- 4.2.3 Policies W1 and W2 are not spatially specific and they apply to the National Park, as a whole. Generally speaking policy support for promoting sustainable recreational opportunities is a central part of the National Parks objectives and the requirements of the Habitats

Regulations should not prevent such objectives being met. However in the absence of any geographic specificity, hypothetically speaking, it might be argued that the Plan supports all such activities irrespective of any conflict that may arise with the achievement of the conservation objectives for European sites.

- 4.2.4 In this regard it is therefore necessary to consider whether the policy recognises these risks and whether the plan itself provides sufficient confidence that they will not arise. Where other policies might be relied upon to address such risks these can correctly be taken into account if they have been clearly referred to within WP1 itself.
- 4.2.5 W1(f) explicitly recognises the need to manage potential *and* actual recreational pressures and capacity issues. This is important; if this management commitment can be relied upon to provide objective information upon which potential risks which might otherwise undermine the conservation objectives of European sites can be excluded, the policy will have resolved any conflict that might otherwise arise in respect of European sites.
- 4.2.6 It is therefore necessary to consider whether the plan itself provides a mechanism through which the protection to European sites from inappropriate implementation of these policies through these management commitments might be secured.

**Table 4.1: Applying the integrity test to the new policy and the 20 policies identified at screening as having a likely significant effect**

	<b>Policy</b>	<b>Integrity test conclusion and justification</b>
Policy E1(q)	Resist proposals which have a likely significant effect (either alone or in combination with other plans and projects) upon a European site unless it can be ascertained following an appropriate assessment that they will have no significant adverse effect on the integrity of the site(s) concerned.	<b>No adverse effect on integrity.</b> This is a plan wide policy incorporated into the plan with the sole intention of providing protection to European sites in a manner which ensures that adverse effects to site integrity will be avoided.
W1	Provide and promote sustainable outdoor recreation opportunities for all.	<b>No adverse effect on integrity.</b> This is a plan wide strategic policy, 11 European have been identified as potentially sensitive to recreational pressure/disturbance. An overarching strategic policy promoting recreational opportunities risked presenting a potential conflict between the plan and the requirements of the Habitats Regulations. <b>However the European site protection policy can be relied upon to ensure that proposals coming forward under this policy will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European sites.</b>
W2	Provide and promote inspiring outdoor learning and personal development opportunities	<b>No adverse effect on integrity.</b> This is a plan wide strategic policy, 11 European have been identified as potentially sensitive to recreational pressure/disturbance. An overarching strategic policy promoting outdoor learning opportunities risked presenting a potential conflict between the plan and the requirements of the Habitats Regulations. <b>However the European site protection policy can be relied upon to ensure that proposals coming forward under this policy will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of any European sites.</b>

4.2.7 In assessing the potential impacts associated with recreational activities, it is also important to recognise the status of the National Park itself. In carrying out its statutory duties, PCNPA must have regard to their statutory responsibilities and management role as a National Park Authority. The Environment Act 1995 establishes two statutory purposes for National Parks in England and Wales which provide an over-arching umbrella under which all other responsibilities are delivered<sup>15</sup>. These are to:

- a) Conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage
- b) Promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of National Parks by the public

Any irreconcilable conflict in respect of these two purposes should be resolved in favour of the purpose to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage<sup>16</sup>. As a National Park authority PCNPA should also seek to foster the economic and social well-being of local communities within the Park in pursuance of these two purposes<sup>17</sup>.

4.2.8 The National Park is a heavily managed resource. Authority staff are familiar with balancing the enjoyment of the Park by visitors with the overarching purpose to protect and conserve the special features of the Park. **The level of involvement by Park Authority staff with the way that the Park is utilised, together with their experience in managing visitor pressure provides the objective information upon which effects which might otherwise undermine the conservation objectives for a European site (and hence be 'significant') can be excluded. There is no credible evidence of a real risk from policies W1 and W2 in light of the protection afforded through policy E1(q).**

4.2.9 With the inclusion of the European site protection policy E1(q), it is possible to conclude, that the policy itself, and the 2 plan policies which rely upon it, will have no adverse effect on the integrity of any European site. The plan wide policy protection afforded to European sites ensures that wider proposals coming forward under other plan policies cannot result in any adverse effects to the integrity of any European sites.

4.2.10 In reaching this conclusion regard has been given to section C.5 of the HRA Handbook and the principles which should be applied to the consideration of 'mitigation measures' within the framework of an appropriate assessment. Principle 5 in section C.5.1 reads as follows:

*'To be taken fully into account, at the appropriate stages, all 'mitigation measures' should be effective, reliable, timely, guaranteed to be delivered and as long term as they need to be to achieve their objectives'*

4.2.11 With reference to this principle the plan-wide European site policy E1(q) will be *effective* as all proposals coming forward under the plan will be required to demonstrate compliance with it. It is *reliable* as it is explicit in the protection afforded to all European sites. It is *timely and guaranteed to be delivered* as it has been incorporated into the plan itself; it will therefore be effective for the entire plan period.

4.2.12 It is therefore **the conclusion of this HRA that, with reference to the European Site protection policy, the draft management plan will have no adverse effect on the integrity of any European sites.**

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<sup>15</sup> Refer Section 61 of the Environment Act 1995

<sup>16</sup> Refer section 62 (11A(2)) of the Environment Act 1995

<sup>17</sup> Refer section 62 (11A(1)) of the Environment Act 1995

### 4.3 The need for further assessment in combination with other plans and projects

- 4.3.1 Following initial screening 10 policies were screened out against categories which conclude no likely significant effect either alone or in combinations. This is on the basis that the policies will have no effects (or no conceivable effects) *at all* and such policies cannot therefore act in combination with other plans and projects meaning no in combination assessment work is required.
- 4.3.2 This appropriate assessment has concluded that, on the basis of the incorporated plan-wide European site policy E1(q), the Management Plan will have no adverse effect on the integrity of any European sites. The plan wide nature of this policy is such that its incorporation into the plan was not required to address any specific adverse effect that was predicted to arise. Instead it provides a precautionary approach to ensure that the implementation of the generic plan wide policies within the plan will not, inadvertently, result in any unforeseen harmful effects to European sites.
- 4.3.3 As recognised at section 1.2 above, the inherent nature of a plan will necessarily limit the extent to which its effects can be subject to assessment under the Habitats Regulations. In this regard, the Advocate General’s opinion in case C-6/04<sup>18</sup> acknowledged the difficulties associated with an assessment of a plan. In paragraph 49 of her opinion Advocate General Kokott stated that adverse effects:
- ‘...must be assessed at every relevant stage of the procedure to the extent possible on the basis of the precision of the plan. This assessment is to be updated with increasing specificity in subsequent stages of the procedure.’*
- Consistently, in the UK High Court case of Feeney<sup>19</sup> the judge said:
- ‘Each appropriate assessment must be commensurate to the relative precision of the plans at any particular stage and no more. There does have to be an appropriate assessment at the Core Strategy stage, but such an assessment cannot do more than the level of detail of the strategy at that stage permits.’*
- 4.3.4 This assessment has identified the potential for adverse effects from the management plan and has mitigation measures incorporated into the plan itself with a view to avoiding such effects.
- 4.3.5 The potential for in combination effects to arise with other plans and projects cannot be subject to any meaningful assessment at this stage, as there is no information as to where within the plan area the proposals provided for under the general plan wide policies will come forwards. The new European site policy explicitly requires assessment ‘either alone or in combination with other plans and projects’ as such the potential for in combination effects will be subject to assessment as necessary when any proposals come forwards under the plan which might have a likely significant effect on a European site. On the basis of the precision of the plan at this stage, in the absence of any information as to where within the National Park potentially damaging proposals might come forwards, in combination effects are taken into account and excluded on the basis of insufficient information and a lack of credibility as to any real risks.

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<sup>18</sup> Opinion of Advocate General Kokott, 9<sup>th</sup> June 2005, Case C-6/04. Commission of the European Communities v United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

<sup>19</sup> Sean Feeney v Oxford City Council and the Secretary of State CLG para 92 of the judgment dated 24 October 2011 Case No CO/3797/2011, Neutral Citation [2011] EWHC 2699 Admin

## 5 Conclusions

### 5.1 Overall conclusion

- 5.1.1 The Management Plan has been subject to screening under the Habitats Regulations. All policies have been considered in respect of the potential for likely significant effects upon any European site from the document, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects.
- 5.1.2 Following a preliminary screening, 10 policies were screened as having no likely significant effect, either alone or in combination and 2 policies were identified as having a potential likely significant effect 'alone'. One policy E1(q) was recognised as a 'mitigation measures' and was not taken into account at screening.
- 5.1.3 When the mitigation policy E1(q) was taken into account as part of the appropriate assessment it was possible to ascertain that the plan would have no adverse effect on the integrity of any European sites.
- 5.1.4 This outcome is not surprising given:
- The statutory purpose of the National Park and its Management Plan
  - The statutory obligations of the National Park Authority
  - The low level of development expected and provided for in the National Park; and
  - The exceptionally high development management standards applied by the National Park Authority

## Appendix 1: European sites and qualifying features

European Sites *	SAC habitat features	SAC species features	SPA features
<b>Within plan area</b>			
Bristol Channel Approaches SAC		Harbour porpoise	
Cardigan Bay SAC	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater at all times Reefs Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	Bottlenose dolphin Sea lamprey River lamprey Grey seal	
Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries SAC/SPA/Ramsar	Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater at all times Estuaries Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide Large shallow inlets and bays Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand Atlantic salt meadows	Twaite shad Sea lamprey River lamprey Allis shad Otter	
Castlemartin Coast SPA			Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax (Chough)
Cleddau Rivers SAC	Watercourses of plain to montane levels with Ranunculus and Callitricho vegetation Active Raised bogs Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior	Brook lamprey River lamprey Bullhead Otter	
Gweunydd Blaencleddau SAC	North Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clay laden soils Blanket bogs Transition mires and quaking bogs Alkaline fens	Marsh fritillary butterfly Southern damselfly	
Grassholm SPA			Morus bassanus (Gannet)
Limestone Coast of South West Wales SAC	Vegetated sea cliffs of the atlantic and Baltic coasts Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes")* European dry heaths Semi-natural dry grassland and scrubland facies on calcareous substrate Caves not open to the public	Greater horseshoe bat Early gentian Petalwort	

European Sites *	SAC habitat features	SAC species features	SPA features
	Submerged or partially submerged sea caves		
North Pembrokeshire Woodlands SAC	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior*	<b>Barbastelle</b>	
North West Pembrokeshire Commons SAC	European dry heaths Transition mires and quaking bogs Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clay laden soils	Floating water plantain	
Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes SAC	Hard oligo-mesotrophic waters with benthic vegetation of Chara spp.	Greater horseshoe bat Lesser horseshoe bat Otter	
Pembrokeshire Marine SAC	Estuaries Large shallow inlets and bays Reefs Sandbanks which are slightly covered by seawater at all times Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide Coastal lagoons Atlantic salt meadows Submerged or partially submerged sea caves	Grey seal Shore dock Sea lamprey River lamprey Allis shad Twaite shad Otter	
Preseli SAC	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix European dry heaths Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion Alkaline fens	Marsh fritillary butterfly Southern damselfly Slender green feather-moss	
Ramsey and St David's Peninsula Coast SPA			Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax (Chough)
Skomer, Skokholm and the Seas off Pembrokeshire Coast SPA			Asio flammeus (Short-eared owl) Fratricula arctica (Puffin) Hydrobates Pelagicus (Storm petrel) Larus Fuscus (Lesser black-backed gull) Puffinus puffinus (Manx Shearwater)

European Sites *	SAC habitat features	SAC species features	SPA features
			Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax (Chough)
St David's SAC	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts European dry heaths	Floating water-plantain	
West Wales Marine SAC		Harbour porpoise	
<b>Outside Plan Area</b>			
Carmarthen Bay Dunes SAC	Embryonic shifting dunes Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> ("white dunes") Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation ("grey dunes") Dunes with <i>salix repens</i> spp. <i>argentea</i> Humid dune slacks	Narrow mouthed whorl snail Petalwork Fen orchid	
River Teifi SAC	Watercourses of plain to montane levels with <i>Ranunculus</i> and <i>Callitriche</i> vegetation Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletea uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i>	Brook lamprey River lamprey Atlantic samlon Bullhead Otter Floating water plantain Sea lamprey	
Yerbeston Tops SAC	<i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clay laden soils	Marsh fritillary butterfly	

\*The conservation objectives for all the sites listed can be found within the relevant Site Management Plans which are available on the NRW website<sup>20</sup>.

<sup>20</sup> <https://naturalresources.wales/guidance-and-advice/environmental-topics/wildlife-and-biodiversity/protected-areas-of-land-and-seas/find-protected-areas-of-land-and-sea/?lang=en>

# Addendum to the Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment to the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Management Plan 2020-2024

1. This section sets out how amendments arising from public consultation on the Management Plan, Sustainability Appraisal and Equality Impact Assessment have been considered in terms of the Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Management Plan 2020-2024.
2. The Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment, prepared by DTA Ecology Ltd, screened a draft of the Consultation draft National Park Management Plan 2020-2024 under the Habitats Regulations. The recommendations were incorporated into the final Consultation draft National Park Management Plan 2020-2024, enabling the conclusion to be drawn that the Management Plan would have no adverse effect on the integrity of any European sites.
3. The amendments proposed as a result of public consultation have also been screened for likely effect in the final Report of Engagement and Consultation (Annexes 11,12,13, and 14). None of the proposed amendments are considered to result in any likely significant effects on European protected sites and no further assessment is considered necessary.