



**Wye Valley**  
**Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)**  
**Management Plan**  
**2020-2025**

**Habitats Regulations Assessment**  
**Screening Report**

**July 2020**

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## Section 1 – Introduction

### 1. Introduction

Under the provisions of the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000), the Forest of Dean District Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Herefordshire Council and Monmouthshire County Council are required to jointly publish a Management Plan for the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Beauty (AONB) at least every 5 years. They have delegated production of the AONB Management Plan to the Wye Valley AONB Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) and AONB Unit on behalf of the AONB Partnership. The AONB Management Plan sets out how the AONB Partnership will manage the landscape features and natural beauty of the nationally designated area.

A Strategic Environment Assessment (SEA) Screening Report is being undertaken in relation to the AONB Management Plan which will determine whether this new Plan will need to be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment. There is also a requirement under European and UK legislation to undertake a Habitats Regulations Assessment on the Plan. The Habitats Regulations Assessment is a test of the effect of the plan on the integrity of European nature conservation sites (referred to from this point on as ‘European sites’)<sup>1</sup>. In this sense the objectives of the Habitats Regulations Assessment process initiated by this report are simply to test whether the AONB Management Plan will have a significant effect on European Nature Conservation Sites and, if it does, if that effect can be reduced to levels that are below ‘significant’.

This report sets out the methodology for undertaking the Habitats Regulations Assessment, and it also sets out to describe which European sites will be considered in this assessment and the ways in which they may be sensitive to changes in the environment. This report also establishes whether the AONB Management Plan is likely to have a significant effect on European sites and establishes whether it is possible to reduce impacts on those Sites to non-significant levels.

### 2. Habitats Regulations Assessment

The European Union (EU) designates a group of protected sites for their exceptionally important (rare, endangered or vulnerable) species and/or habitats. Grouped under the Natura 2000 network, these protected sites together provide important ecological infrastructure across Europe. EU protected sites in England include:

- Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)
- Special Protection Areas (SPA)
- Ramsar Sites (Internationally important wetlands)
- Marine Protected Areas (MPA) [sometimes termed Offshore Marine Sites]

Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (known as the Habitats Directive), requires that any plan not directly connected with or necessary to the management of Natura 2000 Site but likely to give rise to a significant effect, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, should be subject to appropriate assessment. The plan should only be adopted after it is ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned.

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<sup>1</sup> In this report European Nature Conservation Sites, namely Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation, are considered alongside international Ramsar Wetland Sites, consistent with UK Government Policy (see section 3).

The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994, as amended, transposes this European legislation into national legislation. The national legislation reflects the European Directive, although it further prescribes that the plan-making authority shall consult the appropriate nature conservation body, and have regard to any representations made within such reasonable time as the authority specifies.

This paper documents the initial stages of assessment described as 'screening', which determines whether specific European sites require the application of Appropriate Assessment in the plan making process. As part of the screening process, the plans and strategies considered in combination with the Core Strategy are documented as well as:

- the scope of the study area;
- characteristics of the European Sites;
- possible impacts;
- the determination as to whether the Wye Valley AONB Management Plan Review will have a significant in combination effects; and
- whether further Appropriate Assessment is required in relation to the European Sites Identified.

The European Sites which are in or close to the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) are:

- River Wye Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Wye Valley Woodlands Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar
- River Usk Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Walmore Common Special Protection Area (SPA) (SPA and Ramsar)

### **3. Appropriate Assessment**

The Habitats Directive does not specify how the stages of the Appropriate Assessment should be undertaken, although it confirms that the Appropriate Assessment must be recorded and carried out with a view to informing decisions in the plan. It is recognised that the assessment should be proportionate to the geographical scope of the option and the nature and extent of any effects identified.

There are four key stages of Appropriate Assessment as defined in the European Commission guidance 'Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43 EEC' (November 2001). The stages are described below:

#### **Stage One: (Commonly known as 'Screening')**

Examination of the likely effects of the plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, upon a Natura 2000 site and consideration whether it can be concluded that these effects will not be significant.

#### **Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment**

If it is considered that the plan will have a likely significant effect on a Natura 2000 site it is necessary to undertake an appropriate assessment to determine the implications for the site, alone or in combination with other projects or plans, in view of the site's conservation objectives. If the plan has an adverse effect on the integrity of the European site then mitigation will need to be considered.

### **Stage Three: Assessment of Alternative Solutions**

Where a plan is considered to have an adverse effect on the integrity of a European site, and it is not possible to mitigate against those effects, then it is necessary to assess alternative ways of implementing the plan.

### **Stage Four: Assessment where no Alternative Solutions Exist and where Adverse Impacts Remain**

In exceptional circumstances, where an alternative solution has not been found the plan may commence in light of 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI)' or, in certain circumstances, where there are human health or safety considerations or important environmental benefits. In such cases compensatory measures must have to be put in place to offset the negative impacts.

This paper implements the screening element (stage 1) of the Appropriate Assessment process, as described in relevant European and Government guidance.

## **Section 2 – Screening Assessment**

### **4. Introduction**

In terms of screening Article 6(3) the Habitats Directive states 'Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.'

European Commission guidance<sup>12</sup> suggests a four stage process in undertaking screening involving:

**Step One:** Determination of whether the plan is directly connected or necessary to the management of the Site;

**Step Two:** Description of the Project or Plan;

**Step Three:** Characteristics of the Site; and

**Step Four:** Assessment of significance.

The European Commission publication, Managing Natura 2000 Sites – The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC (2000) provides guidance on the terminology used in the Habitats Directive to ensure that, in legal terms, the provisions of the Habitats Directive are met. In terms of screening the phrase 'likely significant effect' has been defined. It is considered that, "The notion of what is 'significant' needs to be interpreted objectively. At the same time, the significance should be determined in relation to the specific features and environmental conditions of the protected site concerned by the plan or project, taking into particular account the site's conservation objectives." In addition, it is necessary to consider the 'likely' significant effect,

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<sup>2</sup> Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43 EEC (November 2001)  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/natura\\_2000\\_assess\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/natura_2000_assess_en.pdf)

which is in essence adopts the precautionary principle<sup>3</sup>. Therefore it is essential that, in terms of Appropriate Assessment, if the effects are unknown, the European Site is screened in and further appropriate assessment (Stage 2) is undertaken.

### **Step One: Determination of whether the plan is directly connected or necessary to the management of the Site**

The Wye Valley AONB Management Plan Review 2020-2025 is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of any Natura 2000 Site. For a project or plan to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of such a site it must refer to management measures that are solely for conservation purposes of that specific site. The Wye Valley AONB Management Plan is a strategic (i.e. not site specific) landscape management plan and its objectives are concerned with the protection and enhancement of natural beauty. This requires a broader approach; consequently the objectives reflect this and are primarily concerned with conserving and enhancing landscape features.

### **Step Two: Description of the Project or Plan**

#### The Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Beauty (AONB)

The Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) is regarded as one of the finest lowland landscapes in Britain, with the River Wye one of the nation's favourite rivers. The AONB, straddling the English Welsh border, with the river as the centrepiece, is an area of striking contrasts. In the north, the river meanders through the broad meadows of the Herefordshire lowlands. The more dramatic scenery, including famous spots like Symonds Yat and Tintern Abbey, lie downstream from Ross-on-Wye. Here the river has cut dramatic gorges with sheer cliffs and steep wooded slopes, interspersed with broader valley reaches, with rounded hills and bluffs.

The rich combination of breath taking views, impressive geology, historic legacies and diverse wildlife in the valley of the River Wye between Hereford and Chepstow led to the designation, in 1971, of the valley and adjoining plateaux and hills as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The Wye Valley AONB covers 92km (58 miles) of the lower reaches of the River Wye totalling an area of 327km<sup>2</sup> (128 square miles), being 45km North to South and 11.3 km at its widest (East - West) point. It stretches from Mordiford in the north, just east of the city of Hereford, southwards to the outskirts of Chepstow.

The Wye Valley AONB is unique among the 46 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and 14 National Parks in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland in being the only protected landscape to straddle a national boundary; being 64% in England and 36% in Wales. The constituent local authorities are the Forest of Dean District Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Herefordshire Council and Monmouthshire County Council.

#### Wye Valley AONB Management Plan

The Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, sets a requirement for the Forest of Dean District Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Herefordshire Council and Monmouthshire County

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<sup>3</sup> The precautionary principle is defined as “where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation” (1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development).

Council to jointly produce a Management Plan for the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Beauty (AONB). The AONB Management Plan will set out how the local authorities and the AONB Partnership will manage the landscape features and natural beauty of the area. The constituent local authorities agreed that the Wye Valley AONB Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) should co-ordinate preparation of the Management Plan on their behalf, through the Wye Valley AONB Unit.

The Wye Valley AONB Management Plan sets out a Vision, together with a set of Strategic Objectives and Actions which, together, formulate the local authority policies for the AONB and define key partners' functions in relation to the AONB. The Management Plan aims to provide a framework for partnership working with all stakeholders who have an interest or involvement in the AONB's management.

### Scope of Management Plan Review

This is the fourth statutory 5 year Management Plan following the earlier non-statutory Plans of 1992 and 1981. The JAC, in November 2018, endorsed the conclusion that the 2015-2020 Management Plan remained a sound foundation on which to base this Plan. The core of the last Plan was still robust and the timetable difference with other strategies & legislation would seem to make a 'full review' more applicable to the preparation of the subsequent Plan (2025-2030). Therefore a proportionate and balanced 'light touch' review was proposed which modifies and updates the Plan, but retains tried and tested policies and content as appropriate.

A Consultation Draft AONB Management Plan 2020-25 was published in September 2019 with a 12 week public consultation period. Following Covid-19 lockdown the compilation and assimilation of consultation comments is commencing and will be combined with the HRA & Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening into a finalised AONB Management Plan for adoption later in the year. The Management Plan has also been subject to a Future Generations Evaluation, which includes Equalities and Sustainability Impact Assessments.

### **Step Three: Characteristics of the Sites**

The Plan Area of the Wye Valley AONB is shown at Figure 1. This map also shows any European and Ramsar Sites<sup>4</sup> in the area.

The European Sites which are in or close to the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) are:

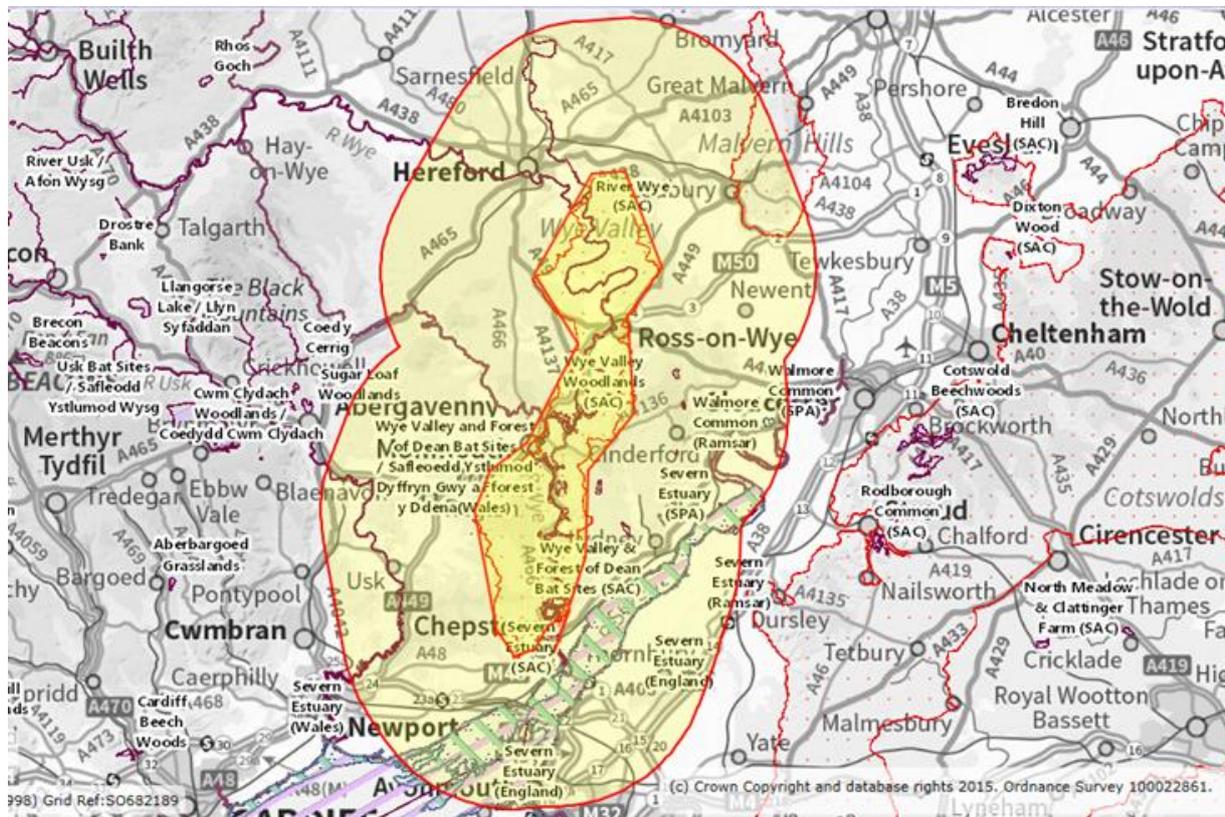
- River Wye Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Wye Valley Woodlands Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar
- River Usk Special Area of Conservation (SAC)
- Walmore Common Special Protection Area (SPA) (SPA and Ramsar)

Table 2 and Appendix 1 list the European and Ramsar Sites identified which fall within or close to the Wye Valley AONB. The 'key threats to site integrity column' in Appendix 1 is a summary of information provided in the 'vulnerabilities' section of the Joint Nature Conservation Committee's Standard Data Forms for the each site as well as other data gathered from, for example

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<sup>4</sup> See section 1.2.3 for a full list of designations considered in this assessment.

'Operations Likely Damage' lists and other Habitats Regulations Assessments<sup>5</sup>. This provides a summary of the processes that may cause damage to a site and prevent conservation objectives being achieved.



**Figure 1: The area of coverage of the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan and distribution of European Sites within the AONB and a 15km buffer<sup>6</sup>.**

**Table 2: European Sites situated within and around the Wye Valley AONB.**

Type	Name of Site	Qualifying features & Link to Site Improvement Plan
SAC	River Wye	<p>Primary reason - Annex I habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculus fluitans</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation</li> </ul> <p>Qualifying feature- Annex I habitats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transition mires and quaking bogs</li> </ul> <p>Primary reason - Annex II species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish</li> <li>Sea lamprey</li> <li>Brook lamprey</li> <li>River lamprey</li> <li>Twaite shad</li> <li>Atlantic salmon</li> <li>Bullhead</li> <li>Otter</li> </ul>

<sup>5</sup> These include documents including: Improvement Programme for England's Natura 2000 sites (IPENS) and Site Improvement Plans (SIPs).

<sup>6</sup> SAC, SPA and AONB boundary map layers are copyright Natural England 2013, issued under Open Government Licence v1.0 ([http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/open-government-licence-NE\\_tcm6-30744.pdf](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/Images/open-government-licence-NE_tcm6-30744.pdf)).

Type	Name of Site	Qualifying features & Link to Site Improvement Plan
		Qualifying feature - Annex II species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allis shad</li> </ul> SIP: <a href="http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5550181483282432">http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5550181483282432</a>
SAC	Wye Valley & Forest of Dean Bat Sites	Primary reason -Annex II species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lesser horseshoe bat</li> <li>Greater horseshoe bat</li> </ul> SIP: <a href="http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5483403396775936">http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5483403396775936</a>
SAC	Wye Valley Woodlands	Primary reason -Annex I habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines * Priority feature</li> <li>Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles * Priority feature</li> <li>Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests</li> </ul> Qualifying feature-Annex II species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lesser horseshoe bat</li> </ul> SIP: <a href="http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/4985420184027136">http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/4985420184027136</a>
SAC	Severn Estuary	Primary reason -Annex I habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Estuaries</li> <li>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</li> <li>Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>)</li> </ul> Qualifying feature- Annex I habitats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time</li> <li>Reefs</li> </ul> Primary reason -Annex II species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sea lamprey</li> <li>River lamprey</li> <li>Twaite shad</li> </ul> SIP: <a href="http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/4856107648417792">http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/4856107648417792</a>
SAC	River Usk	Primary reason - Annex I habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation</li> </ul> Primary reason - Annex II species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sea lamprey</li> <li>Brook lamprey</li> <li>River lamprey</li> <li>Twaite shad</li> <li>Atlantic salmon</li> <li>Bullhead</li> <li>Otter</li> </ul> Qualifying feature - Annex II species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allis shad</li> </ul> SIP:
SPA	Walmore Common	Annex I birds and regularly occurring migratory birds not listed on Annex I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bewick's swans</li> </ul> SIP: <a href="http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6299182977515520">http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6299182977515520</a>
SPA	Severn Estuary	Annex I birds and regularly occurring migratory birds not listed on Annex I <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bewick's swans</li> <li>Greater white-fronted goose</li> <li>Common shelduck</li> <li>Gadwall</li> <li>Dunlin</li> <li>Common redshank</li> </ul>
Ramsar	Walmore Common	Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species with peak counts in winter: <i>Tundra swan</i> , <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>
Ramsar	Severn Estuary	Ramsar criterion 1: Due to immense tidal range (second-largest in world), this affects both the physical environment and biological communities. Habitats Directive Annex I features present on the SAC include:

Type	Name of Site	Qualifying features & Link to Site Improvement Plan
		<p>H1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time</p> <p>H1130 Estuaries</p> <p>H1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</p> <p>H1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 3: Due to unusual estuarine communities, reduced diversity and high productivity.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 4: This site is important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>, sea trout <i>S. trutta</i>, sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>, river lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>, allis shad <i>Alosa alosa</i>, twaite shad <i>A. fallax</i>, and eel <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>. It is also of particular importance for migratory birds during spring and autumn.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 8: The fish of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded. Salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>, sea trout <i>S. trutta</i>, sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>, river lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>, allis shad <i>Alosa alosa</i>, twaite shad <i>A. fallax</i>, and eel <i>Anguilla Anguilla</i> use the Severn Estuary as a key migration route to their spawning grounds in the many tributaries that flow into the estuary. The site is important as a feeding and nursery ground for many fish species particularly allis shad <i>Alosa alosa</i> and twaite shad <i>A. fallax</i> which feed on mysid shrimps in the salt wedge.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 5: Assemblages of international importance: Species with peak counts in winter: 70919 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species with peak counts in winter: Tundra swan , <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>, Greater white-fronted goose , <i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i>, Common shelduck , <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>, Gadwall , <i>Anas strepera strepera</i>, Dunlin , <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>, Common redshank , <i>Tringa totanus totanus</i>, Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6. Species regularly supported during the breeding season: Lesser black-backed gull , <i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>, Species with peak counts in spring/autumn: Ringed plover , <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>, Species with peak counts in winter: Eurasian teal , <i>Anas crecca</i>, Northern pintail , <i>Anas acuta</i>,</p>

#### Step Four: Assessment of Significance

This section considers any implications the Management Plan review may have ‘in combination’ with other plans and/or projects. Only other key plans and projects which are most relevant should be collected for the ‘in combination’ test.

The Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2020-2025 has been screened under the Habitats Regulations, including in combination with the following plans:

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and Planning Policy Wales (PPW);
- Local Plans for the local authority areas within the AONB;
- Local Transport Plans for Herefordshire and Gloucestershire and
- Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales River Catchment Flood Management Plans.

Whilst the Management Plan has been reviewed in the context of the increased development pressure proposed in these plans and others, it does not in itself determine the amount of development or where sites should be located. Rather it sets objectives that should be taken into account by those taking decisions that affect the AONB, including those taking decisions about how much and where development should take place. Since these objectives are intended to conserve and enhance the natural beauty of the AONB, provided the objectives themselves do not conflict with the conservation objectives of the European sites then the Management Plan will not have a significant effect on these sites.

#### Proposed Changes to the Management Plan Aims & Strategic Objectives

Outlined below are the Aims of the Wye Valley AONB Management Plan to which changes were made from the 2015-2020 Plan to the 2015-2020 draft. These identify changes as ~~deletions~~ and additions. Table 5 lists the Strategic Objectives of the AONB Management Plan 2020-2025, with the changes from the previous Plan identified (similarly as ~~deletions~~ and additions), assessed against the conservation objectives of the European sites.

**Development AONB Aim:** Ensure all development within the AONB and its setting conserves and enhances ~~is compatible with the aims of AONB designation~~

**Minerals AONB Aim:** Ensure all minerals development ~~within the AONB~~ and its setting is compatible with the aims of AONB designation

#### **In Combination Impacts: Consideration of other Plans and Projects in this Assessment**

Table 4 shows the plans that will be considered for in combination impact in this assessment. These plans will only be considered where relevant to the objectives and actions being assessed. This list is not exhaustive as other plans not listed in the table may be seen to be relevant to individual elements of the AONB Management Plan. However, it gives an indicative illustration of the types of plans that are most likely to be considered.

**Table 4: Plans to be reviewed for possible in combination effects where necessary**

<b>Name of Plan</b>	<b>Plan Type</b>	<b>HRA Impact</b>
Forest of Dean Core Strategy: Adopted Version (2012) 2012 - 2026	Land use plan	HRA Findings: HRA for the adopted Core Strategy was undertaken and is reported in Appendix 10 of the SA Report for the Adopted Core Strategy (February 2012). The HRA screening concluded that the Core Strategy will not result in any significant negative impacts on identified sites <a href="https://www.fdean.gov.uk/media/x3ohyk5i/environmental-report-adoption-statement.pdf">https://www.fdean.gov.uk/media/x3ohyk5i/environmental-report-adoption-statement.pdf</a>
Gloucestershire Minerals Local Plan (MLP) 2018 - 2032	Minerals Local Plan	HRA Findings: it is likely that the majority of developments will not be near enough to the SACs to have significant effects. Natural England noted that nearby mineral workings could have an adverse effect through dust deposition. <a href="http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/extra/mcs">www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/extra/mcs</a>
Gloucestershire Local Transport Plan (2011-2026)	Transport Plan	HRA Findings: No projects or programmes were identified that could have in-combination effects with the LTP3. <a href="http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/extra/ltp3">http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/extra/ltp3</a>
Herefordshire Local Plan - Core Strategy	Land use plan	HRA Findings: •significant effects on the Wye Valley Woodlands SAC and the Wye Valley and Forest of Dean Bat Sites SAC due to noise, vibration and light pollution on bat

		<p>species associated with development at Ross-on-Wye are considered to be unlikely. •Significant effects on River Wye SAC are considered unlikely due to recreation pressure and activities associated with increased housing development across the county. •It is possible to reasonably ascertain no adverse effects upon the integrity of the River Wye SAC in relation to development which cannot be accommodated within existing water discharge permits due to the measures set out in the emerging Nutrient Management Plan, as well as the protection afforded in policies SS3 and SD4. • No potential in-combination effects with the Herefordshire Core Strategy were identified.</p> <p><a href="https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/4852/habitats_regulations_assessment_september_2014_amended_formatting_per_natural_england_statement_of_common_ground.pdf">https://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/4852/habitats_regulations_assessment_september_2014_amended_formatting_per_natural_england_statement_of_common_ground.pdf</a></p>
<p>Monmouthshire Local Development Plan: adopted February 2014</p>	<p>Land use plan</p>	<p>HRA Findings: The October 2012 HRA Report for the LDP describes the screening and Appropriate Assessment (AA) work that was undertaken. The AA concluded that the LDP will not have adverse effects on the integrity of European sites as the recommended mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Plan.</p> <p>A screening of the key changes concluded that the LDP, as modified by the Inspector, will not have significant effects either alone or in combination on European sites, given the mitigation proposed in the HRA (AA) Report (Oct 2012) and through LDP Policies.</p> <p><a href="https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/monmouthshire-local-development-plan/">https://www.monmouthshire.gov.uk/planning-policy/monmouthshire-local-development-plan/</a></p>

## Recording the Results of the Screening Assessment and Appropriate Assessment

All objectives and actions will be screened for their likely impacts alone or in combination with European and Ramsar Sites. This will be tabulated in the table shown below. Potential effects from all objectives and actions will also be categorised as follows, following Tyldesley, 2009:

-No negative effect: these are element of the plan that would have no negative effect on any European Site;

-No significant negative effect: these are elements of the plan that could have an effect, but the likelihood is there would be no significant negative effect on a European Site either alone or in combination with other plans or projects. This category of effects includes trivial and ‘*de minimus*’<sup>7</sup> impacts;

-Likely significant effect alone: these elements of the plan will require full appropriate assessment unless the plan can be modified in a way that reduces the effect to no significant negative effect or no negative effect;

<sup>7</sup> Insignificant, negligible or of minor importance.

-Likely to have a significant effect in combination: as with the above category, elements of the strategy categorised in this way will be subject to appropriate assessment unless the effect made by the strategy alone can be reduced to no significant negative effect or no negative effect.

Uncertain: this is where it is not possible to make a judgement on the likelihood of significant effects occurring. These impacts will require further investigation via an appropriate assessment.

Table 5 is the matrix which lists the Strategic Objectives of the Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2020-2025, assessed against the conservation objectives of the European sites. The assessment is designed to determine whether or not a Management Plan Strategic Objective is likely to have a significant effect on a European Site.

## 5. Conclusion of Screening Report

**This screening assessment showed that the proposed changes to the Management Plan Strategic Objectives will not result in the Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2020-2025 having a likely significant effect on the European Sites either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.**

## Section 3 – Consultation

The statutory bodies for the purposes of HRA screening are Natural England and Natural Resources Wales respectively. However, as this report accompanies a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report, Cadw and the Welsh Government, in Wales, and the Environment Agency and Historic England, in England, (also statutory bodies for the SEA) will also be consulted. In addition, this report will be placed on the AONB website alongside the Post Consultation Draft Management Plan, which will be circulated to a list of stakeholders. The consultation on the screening report will take place from Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July to Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020.

Following consultation an HRA screening statement will be published to show the conclusions of the screening exercise.

### Further Information

Further information on this screening statement can be obtained from:

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**Table 5: Assessment of Likely Significant effects from the AONB Management Plan in relation to SACs**

<b>Wye Valley AONB Management Plan 2020-2025 Strategic Objective, with the changes from the previous Plan identified (similarly as deletions and additions)</b>	<b>Possible impact of objective/action on European Site (sources/pathways)</b>	<b>Which European Sites could be affected (receptors)</b>	<b>Is the impact significant?</b>	<b>Other plans and projects which might act in combination</b>	<b>Risk of a significant in combination effect</b>
<p><b>WV-L1</b> Promote and develop policies and initiatives to conserve, enhance, restore or create the features and elements that maintain the Special Qualities, landscape character and natural beauty of the AONB. Ensure their sustainable management and mitigate, reduce or remove detrimental features [see also WV-L2, WV-P3, WV-P4 and WV-P5]</p>	<p>Focus is around improvement of special landscape and ecosystems features in a sustainable manner, which is likely to enhance the landscape and biodiversity and thus buffer European sites, or connect them to the wider landscape.</p>	<p>All.</p>	<p>No negative effect. This will help create a landscape that is more 'permeable' for species movement, which is likely to benefit European Sites.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No negative effect.</p>
<p><b>WV-L2</b> Encourage and enhance appropriate landscape scale and green infrastructure action by all particularly on consolidating ecosystem services and positively contributing to habitat connectivity that allows wildlife to adapt to the effects of climate change [see also WV-L1, WV-B2, WV-B3 , WV-P3, WV-P4, WV-P5 and WV-P7]</p>	<p>Focus is around improvement of green infrastructure and landscape scale ecosystems in a sustainable manner, which is likely to enhance the landscape and biodiversity and thus buffer European sites, or connect them to the wider landscape.</p>	<p>All.</p>	<p>No significant negative effect as the wider landscape is likely to benefit, buffering and connecting European sites to other features inside and outside of the AONB.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No negative effect.</p>
<p><b>WV-L3</b> Promote and encourage the use of the Landscape Character Assessments and Historic Landscape Characterisation to inform local distinctiveness in development plans, strategies, guidance and landscaping schemes [see also WV-D2, WV-D3, WV-M2, WV-U4, WV-C3 and WV-S4]</p>	<p>This objective seeks to ensure that the landscape is conserved and enhanced so land management practices do not have a detrimental impact on the AONB's landscape character.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No negative effect.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No negative effect.</p>
<p><b>WV-L4</b> Ensure the establishment and collection of</p>	<p>Relates to information gathering only.</p>	<p>All.</p>	<p>No negative effect.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No negative effect.</p>

sufficiently comprehensive baseline data to monitor landscape condition and direction of change [see also WV-H2, WV-P8]					
<b>WV-L5</b> Support measures which increase public awareness and appreciation of the natural beauty and importance of the Wye Valley AONB [see also WV-A1]	This objective seeks to ensure that public understanding and awareness about the landscape is enhanced so land management practices do not have a detrimental impact on the AONB's landscape character.	All.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-B1</b> Contribute to the delivery of national, regional and local Biodiversity targets and priorities for key habitats and species relevant to the AONB, in partnership with relevant organisations [see also WV-P4 and WV-P7]	Through this objective, certain priority habitats would be enhanced. This will help create a landscape that is more 'permeable' for species movement, and therefore make habitats more resistant to other potential negative impacts.	All.	No negative effect as the objective is likely to provide additional supporting habitat to many European sites.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-B2</b> Encourage and support measures that contribute to the management of all statutory designated sites and County local/key wildlife sites so that they are in favourable condition and within robust ecological networks [see also WV-L2, WV-B3 and WV-P5]	Policy is focussed around appropriate conservation of the best nature sites in the AONB, thus restoring and enhancing their features, this could have a knock-on positive effect to Natura 2000 sites through the provision of supporting habitat outside of the Natura 2000 network.	All.	No negative effect as the priority species within Natura 2000 / Ramsar sites can only be assisted by conforming to the management plans / conservation objectives of those sites.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-B3</b> Promote the adoption of schemes and initiatives that sustain, enhance and/or <del>recover</del> <del>restore</del> the characteristic biodiversity of	Through this objective, characteristic biodiversity including priority species &	All.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.

the AONB, and that enable ecological systems and natural processes to accommodate and adapt to climate and other environmental change, including through landscape scale habitat connectivity [see also WV-L2, WV-B2, WV-T3 and WV-P5]	habitats would be targeted for conservation action which would help to make a more biodiverse AONB.				
<b>WV-B4</b> Identify species and diseases considered to be detrimental to the biodiversity value of the AONB and encourage their monitoring, management and, where appropriate, their control [see also WV-F6 and WV-W4]	This objective seeks to ensure that species alien to the AONB will be controlled, thus limiting their potential negative effects on species native to the AONB. This will have a net positive effect on Natura 2000 sites	All	No negative effect as the objective will help prevent threats from invasive species across the AONB.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-B5</b> Support the identification and monitoring of key indicator species and priority species and habitats, in partnership with conservation organisations, relevant individuals and the Local Biological Record Centres [see also WV-P8]	Relates to information gathering only.	All.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-B6</b> Promote awareness, sources of advice and involvement in biodiversity conservation by landowners, land managers, businesses, local communities, schools and the public including of impacts from outside the AONB [see also WV-A1]	This objective seeks to ensure that public understanding and awareness about biodiversity is enhanced so land management practices do not have a detrimental impact on the AONB's landscape character.	None.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-G1</b> Support the identification and monitoring of significant geodiversity conservation features (SSSIs & LGS/RIGS), in partnership with geoconservation organisations and the local Record Centres. [see also WV-P7 and WV-P8]	This objective essentially ensures that several other objectives cannot have impacts on geological sites by promoting identification and conservation of these features.	None.	No negative effect	None.	No negative effect.

<b>WV-G2</b> Contribute to the conservation and enhancement of the geodiversity resource in line with Geodiversity Action Plans (GAPs) [see also WV-P5]	Relates to information gathering only.	None.	No negative effect.	None	No negative effect.
<b>WV-G3</b> Encourage and support measures that create and/or maintain the accessibility and conservation interest of sites of geological importance [See also WV-M2 and WV-M3]	This objective essentially ensures that virtual and physical access is maintained to geological sites by promoting identification and conservation of these features.	None.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-G4</b> Promote increased understanding and opportunities to appreciate the significance of the geodiversity of the AONB and the need for its protection and management [see also WV-A1]	Objective is about promoting appreciation and understanding	None.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-H1</b> Initiate and encourage schemes, policy development, advice and sympathetic management through partnerships and positive action to conserve, enhance and promote the historic environment, in conjunction with landowners, national agencies and other relevant organisations [see also WV-P4, WV-P5 and WV-P7]	Objective is about sustaining and enhancing historic assets and is likely to have no effect on Natura 2000 sites.	None.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-H2</b> Promote establishment of baseline data to monitor change and improve the local databases of historic landscape assessments, conservation areas, locally important buildings, & buildings at risk, ancient trees, heritage features and sites in the AONB in conjunction with Local Planning Authorities, local archaeological trusts and individuals [see also WV-L4, WV-P8]	Relates to information gathering only.	None.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-H3</b> Promote the understanding and enjoyment of	Objective is about promoting appreciation	None.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.

the cultural heritage and historic environment [see also WV-A1]	and understanding				
<b>WV-F1</b> Encourage farmers and landowners to develop and adopt sustainable management practices that conserve or enhance the features, Special Qualities and natural beauty of the Wye Valley AONB [see also WV-E2 and WV-P5]	This objective seeks to ensure that land management practices do not have a detrimental impact on the AONB's landscape character.	All	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-F2</b> Influence policy on, and encourage the maximum uptake of, agri-environment and other appropriate schemes, including support for small-holders, where they progress the conservation or enhancement of the natural beauty, biodiversity, historic environment and Special Qualities of the AONB, particularly through Catchment Sensitive Farming and mixed farming of resilient, sustainable and low-GHG emission systems [see also WV-P3, WV-P4, WV-P5 and WV-P7]	Objective promotes positive benefits on the viability of farming practices (which in effect must be consistent with AONB purposes so is unlikely to have negative environmental effects).	All	No significant negative effect as assistance must be 'appropriate' and therefore in line with the requirements of Natura 2000 sites and AONB purposes.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-F3</b> Seek to mitigate &/or reduce, or as a last resort remove, agricultural activity which significantly diminishes or destroys the Special Qualities, natural beauty and landscape character of the AONB [see also WV-D3]	This objective seeks to ensure that land management practices do not have a detrimental impact on the AONB's landscape character.	None.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-F4</b> Support the development of and funding for new skills, farming practices and farm-based activities that are compatible with the aims of AONB designation, and encourage and support traditional skills such as hay making, hedge laying, dry stone walling, woodland and coppice management, riparian tree works etc. that contribute to the maintenance of the Special Qualities of the AONB [see also WV-W3, WV-E1 and WV-E3]	This objective will ensure that land management and the necessary skills to maintain natural features are continued sustainably.	All.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-F5</b>	Objective is about	None.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative

Promote a wider understanding of the value of farming to the landscape and economy of the AONB [see also WV-A1]	promoting appreciation and understanding				effect.
<b>WV-F6</b> Support all appropriate measures to control diseases of agricultural crops, trees and livestock, which threaten the commercial viability of farming systems that conserve the landscape character, ensuring that the measures remain compatible with the conservation and enjoyment of natural beauty [see also WV-B4 and WV-W4]	This objective relates to monitoring and management of pests and diseases that affect farming within & around the AONB. It is likely to allow early warning and the possibility of containment, but pest control sometimes has a mixed record in terms of success.	None.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-F7</b> Encourage and support local producers to supply local food and promote and encourage the use of local produce by public bodies, consumers, accommodation providers and local food outlets. [see also WV-E1]	Objective promotes positive benefits on the viability of farm businesses (which in effect must be consistent with AONB purposes so is unlikely to have negative environmental effects).	All.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-W1</b> Provide best practice advice to woodland owners and managers on sustainable multipurpose management of the Wye Valley woodlands, including sensitive PAWS restoration, encouraging 'the right tree in the right place' and the ecosystems approach [see also WV-P4, WV-P5 and WV-P7]	This objective will ensure that woodland management is carried out in a way that benefits AONB habitats. This could have a net positive effect on Natura 2000 sites through creation of new and supporting habitat.	All	No negative effect. This should ensure that appropriate management only is adopted for the Wye Valley Woodlands SAC.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-W2</b> Develop and support tree, woodland and forestry initiatives and policy that conserve, restore and/or enhance the Special Qualities, biodiversity and natural beauty of the area, ensuring no net loss of semi-natural woodland	This objective can only have positive effects on the AONB.	All.	No negative effect. This should ensure that appropriate management only is adopted for the Wye Valley Woodlands	None.	No negative effect.

cover and better, bigger and more joined up woodland habitats unless there are overriding nature or heritage conservation benefits [see also WV-P3, WV-P4 and WV-P5]			SAC.		
<b>WV-W3</b> Support the development of employment and skills and markets for local timber and woodland produce [see also WV-F4, WV-E1 and WV-E3]	This objective relates to the market development of wood from the AONB. If successful this may increase the rate of management activity within woodlands and the planting of additional woodland, with site and management specific local environmental effects	Wye Valley Woodlands SAC.	No negative effect. This should ensure that appropriate skills are available for sustainable management of the Wye Valley Woodlands SAC.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-W4</b> Support the monitoring, management and where appropriate, control of diseases, pests and other threats, which may cause substantial mortality in tree species and woodland habitats and seek to mitigate the landscape impact of any loss. [see also WV-B4, WV-F6 and WV-P8]	This objective relates to monitoring and management of pests and diseases that affect woodland within the AONB. It is likely to allow early warning and the possibility of containment, but pest control generally has a mixed record in terms of success.	All	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-W5</b> Increase understanding, awareness and enjoyment of trees and the special nature of the Wye Valley woodlands and promote them as a resource for appropriate educational, recreational and health opportunities [see also WV-A1]	Objective is about promoting appreciation and understanding	All	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-D1</b> Ensure a consistent and coherent framework of planning policies relating to the AONB is fully reflected in the statutory land use planning documents and their effectiveness	This objective will ensure that land use planning management is carried out sustainably.	All	No significant negative effect	Forest of Dean Core Strategy / Herefordshire Local Plan - Core Strategy /	No negative effect.

monitored [see also WV-D4 and WV-P4]				Monmouthshire Local Development Plan	
<b>WV-D2</b> Encourage and support high standards of design, materials, energy efficiency, drainage and landscaping in all developments, including Permitted Development, to ensure greater sustainability and <u>decarbonisation</u> , and that they complement, <u>conserve</u> and enhance the local landscape character and distinctiveness including scale and setting and <del>minimise the impact on</del> <u>benefit or enhance</u> the natural environment [see also WV-L3, WV-D4, WV-U1, WV-U3, WV-T2, WV-S4 and WV-P5]	This objective relates to aesthetic and sustainability qualities of the built environment to ensure that factors do not impact upon land and landscape.	All	No negative effect	Forest of Dean Core Strategy / Herefordshire Local Plan - Core Strategy / Monmouthshire Local Development Plan	No negative effect.
<b>WV-D3</b> Resist inappropriate development which will create a persistent and dominant feature out of keeping with the landscape of the AONB and/or if it damages Special Qualities in the AONB, including through high levels of noise and/or light pollution or any SAC, SPA or Ramsar site or other sites designated as environmentally important [see also WV-L3, WV-F3, WV-U1, WV-U3, WV-T2 and WV-S4]	This objective relates to aesthetic qualities of the built environment to ensure that factors do not impact upon land and landscape.	All	No negative effect	Forest of Dean Core Strategy / Herefordshire Local Plan - Core Strategy / Monmouthshire Local Development Plan	No negative effect.
<b>WV-D4</b> Encourage the use of Section 106 or Section 38 Agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy to provide opportunities for developments to contribute to enhancing or conserving the natural beauty of the AONB [see also WV-D1, WV-D2 and WV-P4]	This policy relates to design rather than factors that impact upon land.	All	No negative effect	Forest of Dean Core Strategy / Herefordshire Local Plan - Core Strategy / Monmouthshire Local Development Plan	No negative effect.
<b>WV-D5</b> Encourage and support public involvement in the future planning of settlements and the countryside throughout the AONB for example through <u>Neighbourhood Development Plans</u> subject to Habitat Regulation Assessment	Development of new housing in the AONB, although likely to be at a small-scale and outside of protected sites (in keeping with	All	No significant negative affect as housing levels within the AONB are likely to be at a low level, with	Forest of Dean Core Strategy / Herefordshire Local Plan - Core Strategy / Monmouthshire	No negative effect.

(HRA) being carried out at appropriate plan or project level as set in the HRA document. [see also WV-C4, WV-P6 and WV-P7]	development limits set out in the Core Strategies / Local Development Plans) could potentially have negative impacts on habitats and species through disturbance if new housing is incorrectly placed.		insignificant effects on disturbance. Appropriate HRA will prevent in-combination effects on the Sites.	Local Development Plan	
<b>WV-M1</b> Encourage a consistent and coherent framework of mineral planning policies that recognise the AONB and SACs as primary constraints to new quarries and extensions to existing quarries subject to Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) being carried out at appropriate plan or project level as set in the HRA document. [see also WV-P4]	This objective relates to minerals development in the AONB, This can have significant environmental effects ranging from hydrological changes to transportation impacts.	All.	No significant negative effect. The specification of appropriate HRA will ensure that the Natura 2000 network is not affected.	Gloucestershire Minerals Local Plan (MLP) / Herefordshire Local Plan - Core Strategy / Monmouthshire Local Development Plan	No negative effect.
<b>WV-M2</b> Encourage quarries to be operated and restored to a standard that is appropriate to the landscape character, geodiversity and biodiversity of the AONB [see also WV-L3, WV-G3, WV-P4 and WV-P5]	This objective is primarily on design but also benefits landscape and biodiversity	All	No negative effect.	Gloucestershire Minerals Local Plan (MLP) / Herefordshire Local Plan - Core Strategy / Monmouthshire Local Development Plan	No negative effect.
<b>WV-M3</b> Support the working of building stone where there is a clear need for local conservation and heritage purposes where the scale and nature of extraction is not seriously damaging to the Special Qualities, landscape character or natural beauty of the AONB [see also WV-G3, WV-E1 and WV-P5]	This objective promotes economic activity that does not have a significant detrimental impact on the AONB.	All	No significant negative affect as objective only supports economic activity that would not have adverse impacts on the Special Qualities	Gloucestershire Minerals Local Plan (MLP) / Herefordshire Local Plan - Core Strategy / Monmouthshire Local Development Plan	No negative effect.
<b>WV-U1</b>	Inappropriately placed	All	No significant	Forest of Dean	No negative

Support and promote the development of renewable forms of energy generation that do not impact negatively on the landscape features and Special Qualities of the AONB [see also WV-D2, WV-D3 and WV-P5]	schemes, such as small scale wind power or hydropower could have negative impacts on bird and bat populations or aquatic and riparian habitats. Effects would be unlikely as the policy only supports energy installations that would not have adverse impacts on the special qualities of the AONB.		negative effect. Effects would be unlikely as the policy only supports energy installations that would not have adverse impacts on the special qualities of the AONB	Core Strategy / Herefordshire Local Plan - Core Strategy / Monmouthshire Local Development Plan	effect.
<b>WV-U2</b> Encourage further under-grounding of existing and proposed power and telephone lines, where these do not conflict with any SAC, and resist new overhead lines where skylines or important views are affected [see also WV-D3 and WV-P4]	Undergrounding of overhead wires has the potential to have a negative effect on European Sites within the AONB. However, the objective also states that the SACs should be protected whilst this is implemented.	All	No negative effect.	none	No negative effect.
<b>WV-U3</b> Encourage the highest standards of equipment design and siting for high-speed broadband and mobile phone installations and resist new structures that either do not share masts and / or do not utilise appropriate designs at suitable locations subject to Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) being carried out at appropriate plan or project level as set in the HRA document. [see also WV-D2 and WV-P5]	Expansion of communications infrastructure has the potential to have a negative effect on European Sites within the AONB. However, the objective also states that the AONB landscape should be protected whilst this is implemented.	None.	No significant negative effect. The specification of appropriate HRA will ensure that the Natura 2000 network is not affected.	Forest of Dean Core Strategy / Herefordshire Local Plan - Core Strategy / Monmouthshire Local Development Plan	No negative effect.
<b>WV-U4</b> Encourage the use and supply of resources, including water abstraction and investment in infrastructure, that is consistent with the Special Qualities, SACs, landscape character and natural beauty of the AONB, and monitor	This objective will ensure that natural resource use and management is carried out sustainably.	All	No negative effect.	none	No negative effect.

any adverse impacts [see also WV-L3 and WV-P5]					
<b>WV-T1</b> Encourage and promote greater use of more sustainable and smarter forms of transport in the AONB and for accessing the area, including from railway station, so as to afford modal shift from the car for visitors and residents, subject to WV-D2 and WV-D3 [see also WV-R1, WV-P3 and WV-P5]	This objective seeks to discourage use of the car through promotion of alternative and more sustainable forms of transport.	None.	No negative effect.	Local Transport Plans.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-T2</b> Ensure the design of transport infrastructure and traffic management and control schemes are consistent with the Special Qualities, landscape character and natural beauty of the AONB, and monitor their effectiveness [see also WV-D2, WV-D3 and WV-P5]	This objective seeks to ensure transport infrastructure would only have positive implications across the AONB.	None.	No negative effect.	Local Transport Plans.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-T3</b> Conserve the character of rural roads in the AONB by conserving existing traditional features, reducing excessive signage and lighting and sympathetically managing verges for biodiversity, unless there are proven public safety grounds [see also WV-B3, WV-D2, WV-D3, WV-P3 and WV-P5]	This objective seeks to ensure that the character of roads is in keeping with the AONB's rural character.	None.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-C1</b> Encourage community led initiatives that maintain the diversity, sustainability and quality of rural community life and/or that stimulate investment, local employment, <u>decarbonisation</u> and retain or improve facilities and services for local people, subject to WV-D2 and WV-D3 [see also WV-P3, WV-P5 and WV-P7]	Objective promotes positive benefits from the viability of community enterprise (which in effect must be consistent with AONB purposes so is unlikely to have negative environmental effects).	All.	No negative effect.	Forest of Dean Core Strategy / Herefordshire Local Plan - Core Strategy / Monmouthshire Local Development Plan	No negative effect.
<b>WV-C2</b> Promote awareness, appreciation of, and pride in the lower Wye Valley, the Special Qualities and features of the Wye Valley AONB and the beneficial aspects for local	Objective is about promoting appreciation and understanding	None.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.

people of living and working in a nationally protected landscape [see also WV-A1 and WV-P7]					
<b>WV-C3</b> Support the development of affordable housing appropriate to local need in the AONB, subject to WV-D2 and WV-D3 subject to Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) being carried out at appropriate plan or project level as set in the HRA document. [see also WV-L3 and WV-P5]	Development of new housing in the AONB, although likely to be at a small-scale and outside of protected sites (in keeping with development limits set out in the Core Strategies / Local Development Plans) could potentially have negative impacts on habitats and species through disturbance if new housing is incorrectly placed.	All	No significant negative affect as housing levels within the AONB are likely to be at a low level, with insignificant effects on disturbance. The specification of appropriate HRA will ensure that the Natura 2000 network is not affected.	Forest of Dean Core Strategy / Herefordshire Local Plan - Core Strategy / Monmouthshire Local Development Plan	No negative effect.
<b>WV-C4</b> Encourage and promote local community plans and strategies to contain coherent objectives relating to the protection, conservation, <u>enhancement</u> and management of the AONB and monitor their effectiveness [see also WV-D5 and WV-P6]	Objective will encourage local people to undertake projects that add to the AONB's character and sustainability.	None.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-E1</b> Support initiatives that improve the market for products which conserve or enhance the AONB's distinctive landscape, Special Qualities and strengthens the sense of place of the AONB [see also WV-F7, WV-W3, WV-M3 and WV-P7]	Objective promotes positive benefits of businesses (which in effect must be consistent with AONB purposes so is unlikely to have negative environmental effects).	All.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-E2</b> Raise awareness of good practice and encourage local businesses in the AONB to take opportunities to become more environmentally, socially and economically sustainable, particularly in ways that sustain the natural beauty of the area [see also WV-	Objective will encourage local businesses to add to the AONB's character and sustainability.	None.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.

F1, WV-P5 and WV-P7]					
<b>WV-E3</b> Support the delivery of local co-operative schemes, advice and training programmes that support the development and expansion of rural micro-businesses, subject to WV-D2 and WV-D3 [see also WV-F4, WV-W3 and WV-P5]	Objective promotes positive benefits of businesses (which in effect must be consistent with AONB purposes so is unlikely to have negative environmental effects).	All.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-E4</b> Raise awareness of the value of the AONB and the importance of retaining a high quality environment in attracting and retaining entrepreneurs, relocating businesses, inward investment and skilled personnel [see also WV-A1 and WV-P7]	Objective is about promoting appreciation and understanding	None.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-S1</b> Encourage and promote the AONB as a sustainable tourism destination with forms of tourism activity and development that are based on the conservation, enhancement and enjoyment of the Special Qualities and features of the AONB [see also WV-P5 and WV-P7]	This objective seeks to encourage sustainable tourism within the AONB. Although increased footfall could lead to a detrimental impact on Natura 2000 sites, the proviso that activity must not conflict with the Special Qualities of the AONB and that the activities should inhibit any negative effects.	All	No significant negative effect as the proviso in the objective that activity must not conflict with the Special Qualities of the AONB and that the activities should be sustainable should inhibit any negative effects.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-S2</b> Promote the improvement of the visitor experience, particularly at the most heavily visited sites, and facilitate the opportunity for visitors to explore and discover other appropriate but less used locations throughout the AONB, thus spreading demand and balancing pressures across sites where this does not conflict with the Special Qualities of the AONB and the SACs [see also WV-A1, WV-P3 and WV-P7]	This objective seeks to promote the Special Qualities of the AONB. Although increased footfall could lead to a detrimental impact on Natura 2000 sites, the proviso should inhibit any negative effects.	None.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.

<p><b>WV-S3</b> Ensure adequate provision of co-ordinated tourism data and visitor engagement to inform strategic and practical decision making on conserving or enhancing the Special Qualities of the AONB [see also WV-P8]</p>	<p>This objective relates to information gathering only.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No negative effect.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No negative effect.</p>
<p><b>WV-S4</b> Encourage the mitigation and/or reduction of the adverse impacts of existing tourism activity and attractions, particularly where they are concentrated around certain locations or sites, and/or those that fall outside the aim of conservation, enhancement and enjoyment of the Special Qualities and features of the AONB <u>and decarbonisation</u>. Highest priority will be given to addressing the issues in the Symonds Yat and Tintern areas [see also WV-L3, WV-D2 and WV-D3]</p>	<p>This objective relates to aesthetic and sustainability qualities of the tourism industry to ensure that factors do not impact upon the landscape.</p>	<p>All</p>	<p>No negative effect</p>	<p>Forest of Dean Core Strategy / Herefordshire Local Plan - Core Strategy / Monmouthshire Local Development Plan</p>	<p>No negative effect.</p>
<p><b>WV-R1</b> Encourage and promote recreational pursuits and responsible access compatible with the AONB purposes, particularly linking sustainable transport and town and village facilities. Associated development and new access to land should be subject to WV-D2 and WV-D3 [see also WV-T1, WV-A1 and WV-P3]</p>	<p>Recreational management will include small-scale projects with unknown but very small scale environmental effects.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No significant negative effect as objective WV-D2 and WV-D3 ensure additional protection.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No negative effect.</p>
<p><b>WV-R2</b> Assist the resolving of conflicts, real and perceived, between recreation, conservation and local interests, including other economic activities, and between different recreation interest groups in relation to the purposes of the AONB designation [see also WV-P1 and WV-P5]</p>	<p>Objective will encourage people to enjoy the AONB's character sustainably.</p>	<p>All.</p>	<p>No negative effect.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No negative effect.</p>
<p><b>WV-R3</b> Support appropriate levels of sustainable design, repair, signage and maintenance on public rights of way, recreational trails and sites, using materials in keeping, in order to conserve <del>or</del> <u>and</u> enhance the character and</p>	<p>Maintenance of the PROW network will include small-scale projects that are likely to prevent wider environmental damage</p>	<p>All.</p>	<p>No negative effect.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>No negative effect.</p>

natural beauty of the AONB [see also WV-P4 and WV-P5]	through erosion and disturbance.				
<b>WV-R4</b> Assist in identifying gaps in access and recreational provision, including for under-represented and minority groups, and work with appropriate bodies and stakeholders to support and promote access improvements & even access for all, where this does not conflict with the Special Qualities of the AONB and the SACs [see also WV-P5, WV-P7 and WV-P8]	This objective seeks to promote access to the Special Qualities of the AONB. Although increased footfall could lead to a detrimental impact on Natura 2000 sites, the proviso should inhibit any negative effects.	None.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-A1</b> Increase the profile of the Wye Valley AONB, promoting awareness and understanding of the designation and the Special Qualities of the AONB, through communication with, and interpretation for, residents, visitors, organisations and businesses, including embedding cultural and artistic activities into the conservation and enhancement of the AONB and measure effectiveness [See also WV-L5, WV-B6, WV-G4, WV-H3, WV-F5, WV-W5, WV-C2, WV-E4, WV-S2, WV-R1, WV-P5, WV-P6, WV-P7 and WV-P8]	Objective is about promoting appreciation and understanding	None.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-P1</b> Maintain and develop effective partnerships and administrative arrangements to lead and co-ordinate the management of the AONB and develop the AONB Partnership as an effective forum for initiating and promoting discussion on important issues affecting the AONB [see also WV-R2, WV-P5, WV-P6, WV-P7 and WV-P9]	Objective is about promoting appreciation and understanding	None.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-P2</b> Sustain and enhance local and national government funding and support for the AONB Unit to add value to delivery of the AONB	This would help support conservation action within the AONB, helping to create a	None.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.

purposes [see also WV-P3 and WV-P4]	more permeable landscape for desirable biodiversity as a whole.				
<b>WV-P3</b> Encourage and assist partners with initiatives that deliver the Management Plan, or other initiatives where the objectives are consistent with the purposes of the AONB designation, and utilise existing resources and seek new resources to implement the AONB Management Plan [see also WV-L1, WV-L2, WV-B1, WV-B2, WV-B3, WV-B4, WV-G1, WV-G2, WV-G3, WV-F2, WV-W2, WV-T1, WV-T3, WV-C1, WV-S2, WV-R1 and WV-P2]	This would help support conservation action within the AONB, helping to create a more permeable landscape.	None.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-P4</b> Encourage Section 85 organisations, under the CRoW Act, to have co-ordinated policies to progress the purposes of the AONB designation and to make commitments in their annual business plans to specific delivery contributions that enable the AONB 3-year work programme [see also WV-L1, WV-L2, WV-B1, WV-B2, WV-B3, WV-B4, WV-H1, WV-F2, WV-W1, WV-W2, WV-D1, WV-D4, WV-M1, WV-M2, WV-U2, WV-R3 and WV-P2]	Objective relates to creation of funding opportunities only. In addition, the funding referred to is to be used as a means to achieve the Management Plan objectives, which have been found to have no significant effect on Natural 2000 sites.	None.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-P5</b> Develop and promote the AONB as a model of sustainable development, landscape management, transportation, access and rural regeneration through exemplary initiatives setting standards for other areas [see also WV-L1, WV-L2, WV-B2, WV-B3, WV-G2, WV-H1, WV-F1, WV-F2, WV-W1, WV-W2, WV-D2, WV-M2, WV-M3, WV-U1, WV-U3, WV-U4, WV-T1, WV-T2, WV-T3, WV-C1, WV-C3, WV-E2, WV-E3, WV-S1, WV-R2, WV-R3, WV-R4, WV-A1 and WV-P9]	This objective relates to the sustainable development of the AONB and will have no significant effect on Natura 2000 sites.	None.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-P6</b> Inform and engage all relevant interests, especially local communities, in issues and	This objective will enable people to become engaged in	None.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.

decisions affecting the AONB [see also WV-D5, WV-C4, WV-P1 and WV-P9]	work to protect the natural environment of the AONB.				
<b>WV-P7</b> Encourage partners to be champions and ambassadors for the AONB in their contact with other interests, and ensure those interests recognise and consider the Management Plan and AONB work programme when relating to the area [see also WV-L2, WV-B1, WV-G1, WV-H1, WV-F2, WV-W1, WV-D5, WV-C1, WV-C2, WV-E1, WV-E2, WV-S1, WV-S2, WV-R4, WV-A1 and WV-P1]	This objective will enable people to become engaged in work to protect the natural environment of the AONB.	None.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-P8</b> Develop and co-ordinate the acquisition and analysis of data across the AONB, to inform priority setting, planning, implementation and monitoring of change affecting the natural beauty, including developing a better understanding of the likely impacts of climate change on the landscape of the Wye Valley AONB and supporting mitigation and adaption actions [see also WV-L4, WV-B5, WV-G1, WV-H2, WV-W4, WV-S3 and WV-R4]	This objective relates to information gathering only.	None.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.
<b>WV-P9</b> Share knowledge and skills in protected area management locally, regionally, nationally and globally as appropriate [see also WV-P5 and WV-P6]	This objective relates to information gathering only.	None.	No negative effect.	None.	No negative effect.

## Appendix 1:

### Conservation Objectives and Threats to Site Integrity

Name of Site, [and JNCC Site Code]	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key Threats to Site Integrity
River Wye / Afon Gwy SAC [UK0012642]	<p>Primary reason - Annex I habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation</li> </ul> <p>Qualifying feature- Annex I habitats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transition mires and quaking bogs</li> </ul> <p>Primary reason - Annex II species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) crayfish</li> <li>Sea lamprey</li> <li>Brook lamprey</li> <li>River lamprey</li> <li>Twaite shad</li> <li>Atlantic salmon</li> <li>Bullhead</li> <li>Otter</li> </ul> <p>Qualifying feature - Annex II species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allis shad</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacse/lection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0012642">http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacse/lection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0012642</a></p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The populations of qualifying species, and,</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Water quality</b> impacts arising from changing agricultural land-use within the catchment are having direct and indirect effects on the SAC interests through effects of diffuse pollution such as nutrient run-off and increased siltation. Natural England (NE) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW) are seeking to address such issues through improved targeting of existing and new agri-environment schemes and through improvements in compliance with agricultural Codes of Practice. Water quality is also affected by synthetic pyrethroid sheep-dips and by point-source discharges within the catchment. The impact of sewage treatment works on the SAC is being addressed through the Asset Management Plan process and review under the Habitats Regulations.</p> <p><b>Loss of riparian habitat</b> is occurring as a result of changes in agricultural land-use practices and other factors, including riverside development and the loss of alder tree-cover through disease. These impacts and concerns over water quality will be identified and actions recommended within the joint NE / Environment Agency / NRW conservation strategy for the river.</p> <p><b>Fishing</b> activities are implicated in the decline of the salmon; initiatives such as the Wye Salmon Action Plan will help to address this issue.</p> <p><b>Water quantity:</b> There is increasing demand</p>

Name of Site, [and JNCC Site Code]	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key Threats to Site Integrity
			<p>for abstraction from the river for agriculture and potable water. The impact of this is still being investigated by the Environment Agency, but maintenance of water levels and flow will be addressed under the review of consents under the Habitats Regulations.</p> <p><b>Recreation:</b> Demand for increased recreational activities is a source of potential concern for the future. Regularisation of the functions of the competent authorities, currently being sought, should reduce the risk of damage to the SAC as a result of developments for such activities.</p> <p><b>Site Improvement Plan Priority &amp; Issue</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Water Pollution</li> <li>2 Physical modification</li> <li>3 Invasive species</li> <li>4 Hydrological changes</li> <li>5 Forestry and woodland management</li> <li>6 Fisheries: Freshwater Pressure</li> <li>7 Fisheries: Fish stocking</li> <li>8 Water abstraction</li> <li>9 Public Access/Disturbance</li> <li>10 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition</li> <li>11 Inappropriate scrub control</li> <li>12 Under grazing</li> <li>13 Transportation and service corridors</li> </ol> <p><a href="http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5550181483282432">http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5550181483282432</a></p>
<p>Wye Valley &amp; Forest of Dean Bat Sites / Safleoedd Ystlumod Dyffryn Gwy</p>	<p>Primary reason -Annex II species:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lesser horseshoe bat</li> <li>• Greater horseshoe bat</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacse/lection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0014794">http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacse/lection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0014794</a></p>	<p>Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> The extent and distribution of the habitats of</p>	<p><b>Site Improvement Plan Priority &amp; Issue</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Physical modification</li> <li>2 Public Access/Disturbance</li> <li>3 Habitat connectivity</li> </ol> <p><a href="http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5483403396775936">http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5483403396775936</a></p>

Name of Site, [and JNCC Site Code]	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key Threats to Site Integrity
a Fforest y Ddena SAC [UK0014794]		qualifying species <input type="checkbox"/> The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species <input type="checkbox"/> The supporting processes on which the habitats of qualifying species rely <input type="checkbox"/> The populations of qualifying species, and <input type="checkbox"/> The distribution of qualifying species within the site.	
Wye Valley Woodlands/ Coetiroedd Dyffryn Gwy SAC [UK0012727]	Primary reason -Annex I habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines * Priority feature</li> <li>• Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles * Priority feature</li> <li>• Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests</li> </ul> Qualifying feature-Annex II species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lesser horseshoe bat</li> </ul> <a href="http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacse/lection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0012727">http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacse/lection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0012727</a>	Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The populations of qualifying species, and,</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> The distribution of qualifying species within the site.</li> </ul>	<b>Site Improvement Plan Priority &amp; Issue</b> 1 Deer 2 Forestry and woodland management 3 Invasive species 4 Habitat connectivity 5 Species decline 6 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition 7 Disease 8 Public Threat Access/Disturbance <a href="http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/4985420184027136">http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/4985420184027136</a>
Severn Estuary / Môr Hafren SAC [UK0013030]	Primary reason -Annex I habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estuaries</li> <li>• Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</li> <li>• Atlantic salt meadows (Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae)</li> </ul> Qualifying feature- Annex I habitats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time</li> </ul>		<b>Site Improvement Plan Priority &amp; Issue</b> 1 Public Access/Disturbance 2 Physical modification 3 Impacts of development 4 Coastal squeeze 5 Change in land management 6 Changes in species distributions 7 Water Pollution 8 Air Pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen

Name of Site, [and JNCC Site Code]	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key Threats to Site Integrity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reefs</li> </ul> Primary reason -Annex II species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea lamprey</li> <li>• River lamprey</li> <li>• Twaite shad</li> </ul> <a href="http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0013030">http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/protectedsites/sacselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0013030</a>		deposition 9 Marine consents and permits: minerals and waste 10 Fisheries: Recreational marine and estuarine 11 Fisheries: Commercial marine and estuarine 12 Invasive species 13 Marine litter 14 Marine pollution incidents <a href="http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/4856107648417792">http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/4856107648417792</a>
River Usk / Afon Wysg SAC [UK0013007]	Primary reason - Annex I habitats: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculus fluitans and Callitriche-Batrachium vegetation</li> </ul> Primary reason - Annex II species: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sea lamprey</li> <li>• Brook lamprey</li> <li>• River lamprey</li> <li>• Twaite shad</li> <li>• Atlantic salmon</li> <li>• Bullhead</li> <li>• Otter</li> </ul> Qualifying feature - Annex II species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allis shad</li> </ul> <a href="http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0013007">http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0013007</a>	<input type="checkbox"/> The conservation objective for the water course as defined in 4.1 [in *] must be met <a href="http://www.wyeuskfoundation.org/problems/River_Usk%20SAC%20Core%20Management%20Plan.pdf">*http://www.wyeuskfoundation.org/problems/River_Usk%20SAC%20Core%20Management%20Plan.pdf</a> <input type="checkbox"/> The population of the feature in the SAC is stable or increasing over the long term. <input type="checkbox"/> The natural range of the feature in the SAC is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future. The natural range is taken to mean those reaches where predominantly suitable habitat for each life stage exists over the long term. Suitable habitat is defined in terms of near-natural hydrological and geomorphological processes and forms eg. suitable flows to allow upstream migration, depth of water and substrate type at spawning sites, and ecosystem structure and functions eg. food supply (as described in sections 2.2 [of *] and 5 [of *]). Suitable habitat need not be present throughout the SAC but where present must be secured for the foreseeable future. Natural	The River Usk is an excellent habitat for six Annex II freshwater fish. There are some concerns over longterm aquatic and riparian habitat degradation but these are being addressed in the Usk Catchment Management Plan, the Conservation Strategy, the River SSSI Management Plan, and by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) encouraging owners and occupiers to carry out positive habitat management through agreements and agri-environment schemes. There are few barriers to migration for the anadromous species and where barriers exist, investigation is proposed to analyse for potential impacts and remedy them through multi-species fish passes. Water quality is good throughout the main river, except for localised enrichment from sewage discharges, the effects of which, along with the more significant water abstractions, are being closely monitored by NRW.

Name of Site, [and JNCC Site Code]	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key Threats to Site Integrity
		<p>factors such as waterfalls may limit the natural range of individual species. Existing artificial influences on natural range that cause an adverse effect on site integrity, such as physical barriers to migration, will be assessed in view of 4.2.4 [of *]</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 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.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 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.</p>	
<p>Walmore Common SPA [UK9007051]</p>	<p>Annex I birds and regularly occurring migratory birds not listed on Annex I</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bewick's swans</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/SPA/UK9007051.pdf">http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/SPA/UK9007051.pdf</a></p>		<p>Bewick's swans are attracted for feeding and roosting by the grassland, which is maintained by grazing and the natural winter flooding which is in turn determined by rainfall, run-off and river levels. A water level management plan, currently in preparation, will ensure appropriate conditions are retained for wintering bird interest. The marshy grassland and ditches will be maintained and enhanced by maintaining high water levels from spring to autumn through the implementation of a water level management plan.</p> <p><a href="http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6299182977515520">http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6299182977515520</a></p>
<p>Severn Estuary SPA</p>	<p>Annex I birds and regularly occurring migratory birds not listed on Annex I</p>		<p>The conservation of the site features is dependent on the tidal regime. The range is</p>

Name of Site, [and JNCC Site Code]	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key Threats to Site Integrity
[UK9015022]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bewick's swans</li> <li>• Greater white-fronted goose</li> <li>• Common shelduck</li> <li>• Gadwall</li> <li>• Dunlin</li> </ul> Common redshank		<p>the second highest in the world and the scouring of the seabed and strong tidal streams result in natural erosion of the habitats. The estuary is therefore vulnerable to large scale interference, including human actions. These include land-claim, aggregate extraction/dredging, physical developments such as barrage construction flood defences, pollution (industrial, oil spillage), eutrophication and tourism based activities and disturbance. These issues are being addressed through existing control measures and as part of the Severn Estuary Strategy.</p> <p>Since June 1995 the Severn Estuary Strategy has been working towards the sustainable management of the site, through the involvement of local authorities, interested parties and local people. This integrated approach is being further developed in conjunction with the SAC management scheme for the nature conservation interest of the estuary.</p>
Walmore Common Ramsar site [UK11076]	Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance. Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): Species with peak counts in winter: Tundra swan , <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i> <a href="http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/RIS/UK11076.pdf">http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/RIS/UK11076.pdf</a>		No factors reported
Severn Estuary Ramsar site	Ramsar criterion 1 Due to immense tidal range (second-largest in world), this affects both the physical		Dredging Erosion Recreational / tourism disturbance

Name of Site, [and JNCC Site Code]	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key Threats to Site Integrity
[UK11081]	<p>environment and biological communities. Habitats Directive Annex I features present on the SAC include:</p> <p>H1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time</p> <p>H1130 Estuaries</p> <p>H1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide</p> <p>H1330 Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>)</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 3</p> <p>Due to unusual estuarine communities, reduced diversity and high productivity.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 4</p> <p>This site is important for the run of migratory fish between sea and river via estuary. Species include Salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>, sea trout <i>S. trutta</i>, sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>, river lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>, allis shad <i>Alosa alosa</i>, twaite shad <i>A. fallax</i>, and eel <i>Anguilla anguilla</i>. It is also of particular importance for migratory birds during spring and autumn.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 8</p> <p>The fish of the whole estuarine and river system is one of the most diverse in Britain, with over 110 species recorded. Salmon <i>Salmo salar</i>, sea trout <i>S. trutta</i>, sea lamprey <i>Petromyzon marinus</i>, river lamprey <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i>, allis shad <i>Alosa alosa</i>, twaite shad <i>A. fallax</i>, and eel <i>Anguilla Anguilla</i> use the Severn Estuary as a key migration route to their spawning grounds in the many tributaries that flow into the estuary. The site is important as a feeding and nursery ground for many fish species particularly allis shad <i>Alosa alosa</i> and twaite</p>		

Name of Site, [and JNCC Site Code]	Qualifying Features	Conservation Objectives	Key Threats to Site Integrity
	<p>shad <i>A. fallax</i> which feed on mysid shrimps in the salt wedge.</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 5</p> <p>Assemblages of international importance:</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter: 70919 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 1998/99-2002/2003)</p> <p>Ramsar criterion 6 – species/populations occurring at levels of international importance.</p> <p>Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation):</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <p>Tundra swan , <i>Cygnus columbianus bewickii</i>,</p> <p>Greater white-fronted goose , <i>Anser albifrons albifrons</i>,</p> <p>Common shelduck , <i>Tadorna tadorna</i>,</p> <p>Gadwall , <i>Anas strepera strepera</i>,</p> <p>Dunlin , <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>,</p> <p>Common redshank , <i>Tringa totanus totanus</i>,</p> <p>Species/populations identified subsequent to designation for possible future consideration under criterion 6.</p> <p>Species regularly supported during the breeding season:</p> <p>Lesser black-backed gull , <i>Larus fuscus graellsii</i>,</p> <p>Species with peak counts in spring/autumn:</p> <p>Ringed plover , <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>,</p> <p>Species with peak counts in winter:</p> <p>Eurasian teal , <i>Anas crecca</i>,</p> <p>Northern pintail , <i>Anas acuta</i>,</p> <p><a href="http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/RIS/UK11081.pdf">http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/RIS/UK11081.pdf</a></p>		

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