

Habitats Regulations Assessment

Addendum Report for:

Almeley Neighbourhood Area

June 2018



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Appendix 1: Revised screening of policy matrix

Appendix 2: Feedback on Habitat Regulation Assessment (HRA) Report consultation

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 To ensure that the requirements of the Habitats Directive and Regulations are met, it is necessary to consider the proposed Main Modifications through the HRA process to the Almeley NDP; the NDP was refined by the NDP steering group to reflect feedback from consultation on the Draft Plan and Draft Environmental and Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Reports, refer to Appendix 2.
- 1.2 The purpose of this further HRA Addendum Report is to detail the findings of the screening of proposed changes to policies and consider if they significantly affect the conclusions of the earlier HRA Report (December 2017).
- 1.3 The vast majority of refinements are not considered to significantly affect the conclusions of the earlier HRA report, as they did not involve the introduction of new policies or change the overall aims and objectives of the existing planning policies, despite the addition or amendment of criteria in certain places.

2.0 Screening of proposed modifications to the NDP

- 2.1 Regulation 102 of the Habitats Regulations 2010 requires that a Screening Assessment be undertaken, in order to identify the 'likely significant effects' of a NDP. Accordingly, a screening matrix was prepared and this determined the extent to which any of the policies and site allocations in the Almeley NDP would be likely to have a significant effect on the River Wye SAC.
- 2.2 The findings of the screening matrix can be found in Appendices 1 and 2 of that report.
- 2.3 The screening matrix took the approach of screening each policy, objective and site allocation individually, which is consistent with current guidance. The results from the HRA reports for the Pre-submission version of the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the proposed Main Modifications were also taken into consideration.
- 2.4 None of Almeley NDP objectives and policies (December 2017) were concluded to be likely to have a significant effect on the European site. This conclusion is based on assumptions and information contained within the Almeley NDP, the proposed Main Modifications to the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the latest version of the HRA for the Local Plan (Core Strategy), updated in April 2015 in light of the said modifications and published on the Council's website.
- 2.5 In many cases this is because the policies themselves would not result in development, i.e. they related instead to criteria for development. But where policies did lead to development, the policies also included mitigation measures to help support the natural environment including biodiversity, and therefore no significant effect conclusion could be reached. These policies have the potential to mitigate some of the possible adverse effects arising from other policies and site allocations.
- 2.6 It was also concluded that the Almeley NDP will unlikely have any in-combination effect with any plans from neighbouring parishes.
- 2.7 Therefore it was concluded that the **Almeley NDP will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC.**
- 2.8 The proposed amendments to the draft NDP have been minor wording changes, but policies ALM9 and ALM19 have been rescreened due to the changes post reg 14 consultation.

3.0 Summary of main findings

- 3.1 The Submission NDP incorporates suggestions made by consultees during the Regulation 14 Draft Plan consultation, by adding clarity and emphasis throughout the document. There have been some additions to the criteria in some of the policies which are strengthening up the protection of the area, promoting sustainable transport measures and utilising existing development in order to reduce unnecessary development.
- 3.2 One comment was received as part of the consultation to the HRA report and the Almeley Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) is unlikely to have significant effect on the River Wye SAC. This conclusion is reached on the basis that the NDP is in line with the Herefordshire Local Plan and the NDP can rely on the policies within to ensure no likely significant effect.
- 3.3 Three policies have been amended for the Submission NDP following the Regulation 14 Draft Plan consultation.
- 3.4 The revised NDP policies are unlikely to result in significant effects on the European sites, a conclusion of which is based on assumptions and information contained within the Almeley NDP, the proposed Main Modifications to the Herefordshire Local Plan (Core Strategy) and the latest version of the HRA for the Local Plan (Core Strategy), updated in April 2015 in light of the modifications. This is published on the Council's website.

4.0 Conclusion

- 4.1 With reference to section 3 above, the additional criteria and amendments to Policy ALM9 and ALM19 are not considered to affect the findings of the previous HRA report. On the contrary; they strengthen the likelihood of there being no adverse impacts.
- 4.2 Therefore the earlier conclusion that the **Almeley NDP will not have a likely significant effect on the River Wye SAC** remains valid.

5.0 Next steps

- 5.1 This Addendum Report will be published alongside both the Submission NDP and earlier HRA Report for consultation. Any changes to the plan that arise from this consultation will be subject to further screening, in order to consider their impact on protected sites.

Appendix 1

Table 3: HRA Screening of Significant Changes (Objectives, Options and Policies) following Draft Plan Consultation

Parish Council Name: Almeley

NDP Title: Almeley NDP

Date undertaken: May 2018

NDP objectives, options and policies significantly changed following Draft Plan Consultation	HRA Screening of significant changes (objectives, options and policies) following Draft Plan Consultation				
	Likely activities (operations) to result as a consequence of the significant change to the objective, option or policy	Likely effect if changed objective, option or policy is implemented. Could it have LSE on any European Site? (Yes/No, with reasons) <i>(If no, progress onto next objective/option/policy. If yes, progress onto next set of columns in row)</i>	European Sites potentially affected (Refer to Initial Screening)	Potential mitigation measures to be considered through redraft of changed objective, option or policy and as necessary, to be considered as part of Appropriate Assessment of these changes	If recommendations are implemented, would it be possible that the changes would result in no likely significant effect? (Yes/No, with reasons)
	General purpose agricultural buildings and intensive livestock units	New development of infrastructure and or environmental impacts as a result of increased agricultural activity. Possible increase in vehicular movements, business activity and demand for water abstraction and treatment.	River Wye (including River Lugg) SAC.	This policy potentially should help to reduce the impact of intensive farming on the parish. Policies LD2, SD1, SD3 and SD4 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and FW1 within the NDP will aim to help avoid any	No, this policy works to mitigate against any specific harm as a result of intensive livestock farming. It could result in the development of new uses, which depending on location could have potential effect on the River Wye, sufficient

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		<p>Uncertain as to the impact on the River Wye SAC as dependant on specific location of the development, size and type.</p>		<p>adverse impacts on the River Wye from any new employment or business uses.</p> <p>Whilst the Local Plan (Core Strategy) has yet to be adopted and cannot, therefore, be relied upon in too much detail, the implications of the Main Modifications to its policies, for the earlier HRA findings, are set out in an addendum report, prepared in April 2015 and published on the Council's website. This addendum report reveals that none of the changes proposed to the policies through the Main Modifications would affect the conclusions set out in the September 2014 HRA Report. It also makes clear that the roll out of the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) should avoid adverse effects.</p>	<p>policy safeguards are in place within both the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and NDP policy to avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects on the River Wye.</p>
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				Improved water efficiency measures, metering and addressing leakages in the supply may help to mitigate any additional pressures on the water supply as a result of new development.	
ALM19:	Protection and enhancement of community facilities and services	<p>Possible new community facilities.</p> <p>Possible vehicular movements and demand for water abstraction and treatment.</p> <p>Uncertain as to the impact on the River Wye SAC as dependant on the location of the development.</p>	River Wye (including the River Lugg) SAC	<p>Policies LD2, SD1, SD3 and SD4 of the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and FW1 within the NDP will aim to help avoid any adverse impacts on the River Wye from new community uses.</p> <p>Whilst the Local Plan (Core Strategy) has yet to be adopted and cannot, therefore, be relied upon in too much detail, the implications of the Main Modifications to its policies, for the earlier HRA findings, are set out in an addendum report, prepared in April 2015 and published on the Council's website. This</p>	No, although this policy could result in the development of new community facilities or the loss of existing provision to new uses, which depending on location could have potential effect on the River Wye, sufficient policy safeguards are in place within both the Local Plan (Core Strategy) and NDP policy to avoid or mitigate any likely significant effects on the River Wye.

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				<p>addendum report reveals that none of the changes proposed to the policies through the Main Modifications would affect the conclusions set out in the September 2014 HRA Report. It also makes clear that the roll out of the Nutrient Management Plan (NMP) should avoid adverse effects.</p> <p>Improved water efficiency measures, metering and addressing leakages in the supply may help to mitigate any additional pressures on the water supply as a result of new development.</p>	
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Appendix 2

Appendix 2: HRA Consultation Feedback

This consultation feedback is **only** for comments received on the HRA of the Neighbourhood Development Plan

Parish Council Name: Almeley

Neighbourhood Development Plan Name: Almeley NDP

Details of consultation: *Regulation 14 Draft Plan consultation*

Consultation date: 19 February 2018 – 29 March 2018

Response Date	Consultee	Summary of Comments	Response to Comments
9/4/18	Natural England	Notes the screening process applied to this Neighbourhood plan. We agree with the Council's conclusion of no likely significant effect upon the named European designated sites: <input type="checkbox"/> River Wye SAC	N/A

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