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CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

0.1 Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of spatial development plans is a requirement of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) as set out in the amended Habitats Regulations (2007). This report details the HRA Screening for Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan Draft Preferred Strategy. It sets out the methods and findings and the conclusions of the Screening Assessment.

0.2 The Screening Report identified the potential for the Strategy to have a negative impact on 2 European sites identified within close proximity to Blaenau Gwent namely, Cwm Clydach Woodlands and Usk Bat Site.

0.3 This document is subject to Consultation alongside the Draft Preferred Strategy. The consultation commences on **7th November 2008** for a period of **six weeks**. Therefore, please send any comments by **19th December 2008** to the following address:

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adversely affect the integrity[2] of that site. Where significant negative effects are identified, alternative options or mitigation measures should be examined to avoid any potential damaging effects. The scope of the HRA/AA is dependent on the location, size and significance of the proposed plan or project and the sensitivities and nature of the interest features of the European sites under consideration.

Guidance for Habitats Regulations Assessment/Appropriate Assessment

1.7 of Development Plans in Wales under the Provisions of t
(David Tyldesley and Associates, Oc

statutory consultation undertaken with CCW this report is being made available for wider public consultation alongside the Draft Preferred Strategy.

Purpose & Structure of Report

1.10 This report documents the process and the findings from the Screening stages of the HRA for Blaenau Gwent Local Development Plan Draft Preferred Strategy. Following this introductory section the document is organised into a further three sections:

- Section 2 – Methodology used for the Screening process and includes reference to the key information sources used.
- Section 3 – Results and summary findings of the Screening Process and the assessment
- Section 4 – Results including the consultation commentary and how the plan should proceed with reference to the Habitats Regulations.

2.0 METHOD

2.1 In accordance with the official Welsh guidance and current practice, conducting the screening stage of the HRA for Blaenau Gwent Draft Preferred Strategy employed the method outlined below. This approach combines both a plan focus and a site focus.

- The plan focus first screens out those elements of the plan unlikely to affect European site integrity and then considers the impacts of the remaining elements on European site V L Q F O X G L Q J W K H F R P E L Q D W L R Q ¶ L P S D F W V
- The site focus considers the environmental conditions of the site and the factors required to maintain site integrity, and looks at the potential impacts the plan may have.

2.2 HRA experience to date has indicated that maintaining a site based approach as core to the HRA/AA method more closely reflects the intent of the Habitats Directive. This means that subsequent mitigation measures [developed if/as required during the AA stage 2] seek to focus on the conditions necessary to maintain site integrity (e.g. avoiding specific types of development/ activity at or near sensitive areas). This is considered to be a more robust and defensible approach than adding policy caveats at a strategic level and devolving decisions about impacts on site integrity to lower level planning documents. Although, this approach does recognise that some decisions on avoidance and

Table 2 HRA Screening Stage 1: Key Tasks	
Task 1 Identification of Natura 2000 sites & characterisation	ƒ Identification of European sites both within the plan/proposal boundaries and in an area of search extending to 15km [as recommended by extant guidance] around the plan/proposal area. This includes considering hydrological connectivities and the catchment of watercourses relating to identified designations ƒ Information was obtained for each European site, based on publicly available information and consultation with Countryside Council for Wales where appropriate.[5] ƒ 7KLV LQFOXGHG LQIRUPDWLRQ UHODWLQJ FRQVHUYDWLRQ REMHFWLYHV, current conditions, trends & geographical boundaries.
Task 2 Plan review and identification of likely impacts	ƒ Screening of the plan/proposal and the identification of likely LPSDFWV LQFOXGLQJ D UHYLHZ RI WKH objectives, strategic policies, including spatial implications where identified to determine likely impacts).
Task 3 Consideration of other plans and programmes	ƒ Consideration, where appropriate of other plans and programmes that may have in-combination effects with the plan/proposal.
Task 4 Screening Assessment	ƒ Assessment of the potential of identified impacts to affect the designated interest features of European sites ƒ Summary of screening outcomes and recommendations.

[5] Key Information Sources: Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) web resource www.jncc.gov.uk including site details/ character contained on Natura 2000 Standard Data Form. Conservation Objectives, management plan information, Countryside Council for Wales web resource

3.0 SCREENING

Task 1: Identification of European Sites & characterisation

3.1 Blaenau Gwent is an area of contrasting landscapes dominated by rugged mountains looming peacefully over the three valleys and their respective communities. The steeply sloping valley sides with their high ridges and moorland vegetation define the character of the area.

3.2 There are two Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (Statutory National)

3.9 Taking into account the potential for transboundary impacts the screening has identified 9 European Sites that lie within a 15km search area around %*&%&¶V 3ODQQLQJ $UHD.WKHVH VLWHV boundary. These sites are outlined in Table 3 below and detailed information for each designated site including its conservation objectives is provided in Appendix 1.

Table 3 European Sites within Search Area Buffer Zone		
European Sites within a search area of 15km around Plan/Proposal Area	Designation	Distance from Plan/ Proposal Boundary (approx)
Cwm Clydach Woodlands	SAC	Adjacent
Usk Bat Site	SAC	Adjacent

that have the potential to have a significant effect at the sites identified at Task 1.

3.13 The approach taken builds on and is in accordance with screening approaches used in the UK for Regional and Sub-Regional Strategies.[6] Draft Preferred Strategy policies were screened on the basis of the following criteria.

Reasons why a policy will not have an effect on a European Site

1. The policy itself will not lead to development.
2. The location of the development is unknown, and will be selected following consideration of options in lower plans.
3. The policy will have no cf(98(onsider4l0u(criteria.)]TJ /l)1( )-322 1(o)1(

Reasons cThe policy will not hu(an)-2(effect)-a European plans. gnifi147 /ifi14

3.15 The potential impacts arising as a result of these policies are:

- Airborne pollution as a result of increased traffic, new housing development and employment;
- Increased water extraction;
- Increased dumping of domestic and commercial waste; and
- Recreational pressure.

3.16 As part of the HRA requirement it was noted in relation to regulation 85B(1) that the Draft Preferred Strategy and its individual components are not directly connected to or necessary to the management of any European Site and therefore the Draft Preferred Strategy could not be screened out of HRA on this basis.

Task 3: Consideration of other plans and programmes

3.17 It is a requirement of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive that HRA examines the potential for plans and projects to have a significant effect either LQGLYLGXDOO\ RU µLQ FRPELQDWLRQ¶ ZLWK RWKHU SODQV DQG SURMHFWV (WKH Undertaking an assessment of other PPPs for the Draft Preferred Strategy has required a pragmatic approach given the extensive range of PPPs underway in the surrounding region. The approach taken was cognisant of the emphasis in the forthcoming WAG guidance, that considering the potential for in-combination effects is core to delivering robust/ precautionary HRA.[7]

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

- The Wales Spatial Plan (update) 2008
- Local Development Plans in South East Wales neighbouring authorities
- Waste Strategies for South East Wales and neighbouring authorities
- 5HJLRQDO 7UDQVSRUW Relevant and/or major development H schemes
- Catchment Abstraction Management Pl DQV ± ZKHUH UHOHYDQW designated sites under consideration

3.19 The potential effects of these plans are reviewed in detail at Appendix 3 and WKH SRWHQWLDO IRU WKHVH HIIHFWV WR DFW the Draft Preferred Strategy are considered in the screening assessment [Appendix 4]. The range of in-combination impacts considered was focused on the key issues outlined below:

- Airborne pollution as a result of increased traffic, new housing development and employment;
- Increased water extraction;

[7] The review also draws on work being undertaken on behalf of the South East Wales Strategic Planning Group (SEWSPG) to build a resource kit of information and analysis to support HRA in the region.

- Increased dumping of domestic and commercial waste; and
- Recreational pressure.

Task 4: Screening Assessment

3.20 In line with the screening requirement of the Habitats Regulations, an assessment was undertaken to determine the potential significant effects of the Draft Preferred Strategy on the integrity of the 8 European sites that lie outside the plan/proposal boundaries. The screening decision was informed by:

- The information gathered on the (X U R S H D Q V L W H V ± $ S S H (
- The review of the Draft Preferred Strategy policies and their likely impacts $ S S H Q G L [Z K L F K L Q F O X G H G D Q H Q Y L U R Q P H Q W D O impacts generated by the development activities directed by the LDP;
- The review of other relevant pl D Q V D Q G S U R J U D P P H V ± $ S
- WAG guidance which indicates that HRA for plans is typically broader; and more strategic than project level HRA and that it is proportionate to the available detail of the plan.

Screening Assessment Summary

The detail of the main screening H [H U F L V H L V V H W R X W D Q G the result of the assessment is summarised in the paragraphs below and at Table 5.

Table 5 HRA Screening Table Summary			
European Sites outside Plan/proposal boundaries	Designation	AA required alone? 8 No 9 Yes ? Uncertain	AA required in combination? 8 No 9 Yes ? Uncertain
Cwm Clydach Woodlands	SAC	?	9
Usk Bat Site	SAC	?	9
River Usk	SAC	8	8
Aberbargoed Grasslands	SAC	8	8
Sugar Loaf Woodlands	SAC	8	8
Brecon Beacons	SAC	8	8
Llangorse Lake	SAC	8	8
Coed y Cerrig	SAC	8	8
Cwm Cadlan	SAC	8	8

Natural England (NE) - Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI):
http://www.english-nature.org.uk/special/sssi/index.cfm

Air Pollution Information System (APIS):
http://www.apis.ac.uk/

UK Biodiversity Action Plan - Habitat Action Plans:
http://www.ukbap.org.uk/habitats.aspx

UK Biodiversity Action Plan - Species Action Plans:
http://www.ukbap.org.uk/species.aspx

UK Water Company Boundaries:
http://www.water.org.uk/home/our-members/a4-the-uk-water-industry-map.pdf

Natura 2000 Site Specific Information Wales

Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) - Site Management Plans:
http://www.ccw.gov.uk/landscape--wildlife/protecting-our-landscape/special-sites-project-landing.aspx

CCW - Protected Sites Map:
http://www.ccw.gov.uk/interactive-maperatera an rge(a)-2(p)-s-(m)-1(e)-2(p)-2(

GLOSSARY

Definitions

Definitions	
Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI)	A strict test to pass (Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive), which allows in very limited circumstances a plan or project to go ahead even after significant adverse effects have been identified at a European Site.
In-Combination	Cons(i)1(c)1(a)12caa1 rg 7598 713 0 10421(d)1(e)(a)1(d)14 n 07s6y 8the

Appendix 1

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Cwm Clydach Woodlands **Location Grid Ref: SO207123** **JNCC Site Code: UK0030127** **Size: 28.81** **Designation: SAC**	**Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma**
Site Description	The site is situated on the southern side of the River Clydach valley, approximately 2km east, north east of Brynmawr and is in close proximity to the A465 Heads of the Valley Road. The underlying geology varies across the site, consisting of sedimentary rocks that range from Old Red Sandstone through Carboniferous Limestone into shales and sandstones of the Millstone Grit and Coal Measures. Soils mainly consist of typical brown earths and humo-ferric podsols. Altitude ranges from 170m by the River Clydach to 350m in Cwm Llammarch. Cwm Clydach is of special interest for its stands of broadleaved woodland dominated by beech, intergrading with more open habitats, which together support a number of rare and scarce vascular plants including whitebeams *Sorbus spp*. and soft-leaved sedge *Carex montana*. There are important woodland and grassland fungi assemblages with rare species such as *Squamanita paradoxa*.
Qualifying Features	Annex I Habitats primary reason for selection: Á *Asperulo-Fagetum* beech forests Annex I Habitats qualifying feature: Á Atlantic acidophilous beech forests with Ilex and sometimes also Taxus in the shrublayer (*Quercion robori-petraeae or*

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Cwm Clydach Woodlands Location Grid Ref: SO207123 JNCC Site Code: UK0030127 Size: 28.81 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
	Á Regeneration of trees is sufficient to maintain the woodland cover in the long term. Á The shrub layer and ground flora can be quite sparse, but where present consist of locally native plants such as yew, hawthorn, wych elm, ash, hazel, field maple and elder, bramble, dog's mercury, enchanter's-nightshade, lords-and-ladies, woodruff, male fern, sanicle, wood melick, ivy, false brome, violets, herb robert, wood avens, and tufted hair-grass. Á Scarcer plants, such as soft-leaved sedge and bird's-nest orchid are locally frequent and, more rarely, yellow bird's-nest orchid can be found. Á All factors affecting the achievement of the above conditions are under control. Performance indicators for Feature 1 The performance indicators are part of the conservation objective, not a substitute for it. Assessment of plans and projects must be based on the entire conservation objective, not just the performance indicators. The performance indicators can be found within the Cym Clydach Management Plan. **Conservation Objective for Feature 2:** Atlantic *acidophilous* beech forests with *Ilex* and sometimes also *Taxus* in the shrublayer (*Quercion robori-petraeae* or *Ilici-Fagenion* Vision for feature 2 The vision for this feature is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied: At least 75% of the woodland vegetation meets the criteria for intact acid beech wood, where: Á At least 10% of the canopy forming trees are beech. Á The canopy cover is at least 80% and composed of locally native species. Á The woodland has trees of all age classes with a scattering of standing and fallen dead wood.

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Component SSSIs	Á Cym Clydach SSSI is composed of 5 management units of which numbers 1and 5 comprise to form the Cym Clydach Woodlands SAC. A map of the management units can be viewed on the CCW website

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Site Name: Cwm Clydach Woodlands Location Grid Ref: SO207123 JNCC Site Code: UK0030127 Size: 28.81 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
existing pressures and trends)	and the construction of cycle route through the site may have the potential to adversely effect the grassland areas and the fungi in particular. Á **Grazing** - Past grazing has influenced the structure of the woodland, such as the dominance of beech in the canopy. It is therefore likely that occasional light grazing would be beneficial for the woodland habitat, although any increase in grazing pressure could prevent all tree and shrub regeneration and suppress the woodland ground flora. Á **Dumping** - Due to roads passing through the site, parts are accessible to vehicles and the illegal dumping of domestic and commercial waste and abandoned vehicles can be a problem. It is essential that these barriers be maintained to prevent any future occurrences. Á **Invasive alien plants** - Japanese knotweed is a problem in parts of the site, usually having been introduced by illegal dumping of waste material, and this species will be controlled as necessary. Airborne acid and nutrient deposition are not a significant threat here as most of the woodland soils are well-buffered and nutrient-rich.
Landowner/ Management Responsibility	Á Unit 1 is owned by CCW and comprises the bulk of the SAC beech woodland. Most of the acidiophilous beech woodland is found towards the western part of Unit 1. Á Unit 5 is other land within the SAC not owned by CCW.
HRA/AA Studies undertaken that address this site	HRA Screening of the Torfaen Local Development Plan (2006-2021) January 2008. http://www.torfaen.gov.uk/Environm]entAndPlanning/Planning/ForwardPlanning/Publications/HabitatsRegulationAssessment.pdf Á It is considered that the potential impact from development in Torfaen would be negligible. Taking the precautionary approach the HRA Assessment for the LDP has identified the potential for in-combination effects on 4 SAC sites, which includes Cwm Clydach Woodlands SAC.

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EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Usk Bat Sites **Location Grid Ref: SO190145** **JNCC Site Code: UK0014784** **Size: 1686.4** **Designation: SAC**	**Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma**
Site Description	The site encompasses a series of lesser horseshoe bat roosts, upland habitats, woodlands and cave systems located around the valley of the River Usk near to Abergavenny. Mynydd Llangatwg is an area of open moorland and bog, with an impressive limestone escarpment along the northeastern edge, and is one of the largest exposures of upland limestone crag in south Wales. The Craig y Cilau National Nature Reserve (NNR) covers a large proportion of this escarpment area, including most of the unquarried scarp, with areas of limestone grassland, scree and quarry spoil, woodland and scrub. A small raised bog (Waun Ddu) bordered by two small streams has developed below the escarpment. An extensive system of caves lies beneath Mynydd Llangatwg and the plateau is peppered with sinkholes. The main reason for the presence of the NNR is to help control and manage access to the cave system to protect the bat roosts and the underground geology and also the surface habitats, which support an outstanding assemblage of plants. Species include large and small-leaved lime, several species of whitebeam (including least whitebeam (*Sorbus minima*) which is unique to this area of Brecknock), limestone

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Usk Bat Sites Location Grid Ref: SO190145 JNCC Site Code: UK0014784 Size: 1686.4 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma

The performance indicators are part of the conservation objective, not a substitute for it. Assessment of plans and projects must be based on the entire conservation objective, not just the performance indicators. The performance indicators can be found within the Usk Bat Sites Management Plan.

Conservation Objective for Feature 2:
Blanket bog

Vision for Feature 2
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EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Usk Bat Sites Location Grid Ref: SO190145 JNCC Site Code: UK0014784 Size: 1686.4 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma

- There are extensive patches of semi-natural woodland on the cliffs of the Llangatwg escarpment and hillsides in the Clydach gorge.
- The woodland canopy is dominated by locally native species, including lime ash Fraxinus excelsior, Tilia spp., pedunculate oak Quercus robur, hazel Corylus avellana, birch Betula spp., whitebeams Sorbus spp. and, in the Clydach gorge, beech Fagus sylvatica. Rare whitebeams are a significant component of the canopy.
- Saplings of locally native species dominate the tree regeneration and there is evidence of sufficient regeneration to maintain the canopy in the long term.
- There is an accumulation of standing and fallen deadwood as the woodland develops.
- The woodland ground flora is composed of a range of typical native plants including enchanters-nightshade Circaea lutetiana, dog's-mercury Mercurialis perennis, wood-sorrel Oxalis acetosella, hart's-tongue Phyllitis scolopendrium and wood sage Teucrium scorodonia.
- The populations of rare whitebeams are stable or increasing.
- Young sycamore Acer pseudoplatanus trees are rare, as are beech Fagus sylvatica in areas away from the Clydach gorge.
- Plants indicating disturbance and nutrient enrichment, such as nettles, cleavers and weeds, are not dominant in the ground flora of the woodland.
- All factors affecting the achievement of the above conditions are under control.

Performance indicators for Feature 3

The performance indicators are part of the conservation objective, not a substitute for it. Assessment of plans and projects must be based on the entire conservation objective, not just the performance indicators. The performance indicators can be found within the Usk Bat Sites Management Plan.

Conservation Objective for Feature 4:
Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation

Vision for Feature 4

- Sufficient vegetation within crevices remains free from disturbance to support typical plants, including mosses, ferns

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Site Name: Usk Bat Sites Location Grid Ref: SO190145 JNCC Site Code: UK0014784 Size: 1686.4 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma

- Human access to roost area controlled and limited (at Agen Allwedd the number of visitors is already controlled). Lesser horseshoe bats are very sensitive to disturbance and even the presence of a single person in close proximity can cause problems. Cavers and geologists should avoid areas where bats are likely to be disturbed during the winter months. Where there is a risk of disturbance by unauthorised persons, grilling the cave entrances should be considered. Any structures placed at cave entrances to prevent unauthorized access should not hinder the passage of bats.
- Disturbance is kept to a minimum.

Foraging areas and links to roosts

- Habitat Quality:
  - There should be no nett loss of suitable woodland, scrub and hedgerows within the SAC or adjoining areas used by the bats. Lesser horseshoe bats feed on flies (mainly midges), small moths, caddis flies, lacewings, beetles, small wasps and spiders. Suitable foraging habitat includes open broadleaved woodland, scrub, parkland, scrubby wetland and permanent pasture. Lesser horseshoe bats do not normally fly across open land and when foraging, remain close to wooded canopy. The insects they eat, though, may be derived from other unimproved insect rich habitat nearby. Management of foraging habitat should aim to maximise the amount of insect food as well as provide sufficient canopy cover to maximise opportunities for the bats to find their prey.
- Connectivity:
  - Connectivity of woodland, hedgerows, linear habitat and field boundary features should be maintained as lesser horseshoe bats tend to feed in wooded areas and use linear features to navigate their way between roosts and foraging habitat. Some management of woodlands and hedgerows and trees will be necessary to preserve these features in the landscape but such work should be carried out in a sensitive manner, particularly within the SAC itself, so as not to disrupt habitat continuity.

Disturbance - Lesser horseshoe bats are very sensitive to disturbance and even the presence of a single person in close proximity can cause problems. Light and noise pollution
Habitat fragmentation

Key Environmental Conditions for the Blanket Bog:

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Usk Bat Sites Location Grid Ref: SO190145 JNCC Site Code: UK0014784 Size: 1686.4 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma

Á **Drainage** - No new drainage ditches should be dug, and wherever possible old drainage ditches should be allowed to

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Usk Bat Sites Location Grid Ref: SO190145 JNCC Site Code: UK0014784 Size: 1686.4 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma

regeneration. The cliff ledges are inaccessible to stock, have developed naturally and are not actively managed. In units 1 & 2, the woodland has developed on common land and parts are subject to high grazing levels by sheep. The woodland in units 5, 12 & 13 is now largely un-grazed and the ground flora is noticeably more luxuriant in these areas.

- Grazing levels should be sufficient to allow regeneration in the long term.
- On the common (units 1 & 2), maintain grazing at or below the current (2007) levels.
- Un-grazed areas (unit 5, 12, 13) should remain un-grazed.

- **Woodland Management** - Natural ecological processes should be allowed to operate as far as possible. In many areas, these are gradually creating greater structural diversity. Most of the woodland on the site is not actively managed as the woodland occupies cliffs and steeply sloping ground, such that active woodland management is not a practical or desirable option
  - There should be no evidence of tree felling or coppicing within the past five years. (Tree surgery for safety reasons excluded).
  - Dead wood should ideally be left where it falls and standing dead trees should be allowed to fall naturally. Movement and cutting/tidying of dead wood should be avoided and/or limited, unless essential for public safety.

- **Non-native species** - Beech is at the edge of its range in this part of Wales. In units 5, 12 and 13 the beech wood appears to be natural, but the spread of beech over much of Units 1 & 2 may not be desirable, as it would replace the ash woodland. Limits should be met in 70% of the woodland.
  - 5% cover of non-native trees in the canopy.
  - No cotoneaster (or other invasive non-native shrubs) in the understorey or shrub layer.

Key Environmental Conditions for the Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation:

- **Grazing** - Low grazing levels on the more accessible rocky areas in units 1 & 2 in are important in controlling the growth of ground-smothering species such as ivy, which have the potential to smother boulders and cliff faces that are important for their lower plant communities. Tree growth at the base of the cliffs may shade out important calcareous chasmophytic habitat, so should be controlled within limits outside the areas of agreed woodland. Surveillance of grazing levels and type should be maintained so that changes that may influence the features on the

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EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Usk Bat Sites Location Grid Ref: SO190145 JNCC Site Code: UK0014784 Size: 1686.4 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
	Conservation Status of Feature 2: **Blanket bog** The conservation status of this feature within the site is considered to be **Unfavourable** (2006). Assessment carried out in April 2002 indicated that feature condition was: Unfavourable, no change. In many areas there was little or no bog mosses and the cover of dwarf shrubs exceeded the upper limits defined. In other areas the vegetation was dominated by hare's-tail cottongrass and the cover of bog mosses was limited. Past grazing, burning and drainage activity means that some stands of blanket bog have been damaged by deep drainage. There is also concern that the vegetation is being damaged by atmospheric pollution, due to exceedence of many of the critical loads identified for this feature. **Conservation Status of Feature 3:** **Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines** The conservation status of this feature within the site is considered to be **Favourable** (2006). Assessment carried out in August 2004 indicated that feature condition was: Favourable, maintained. All the factors affecting the features appear to be under control. **Conservation Status of Feature 4:** **Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation** The conservation status of this feature within the site is considered to be **Favourable** (2006). Assessment carried out in August 2004 indicated that feature condition was: Favourable, maintained. All the factors affecting the features appear to be under control. **Conservation Status of Feature 5:**

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Site Name: Usk Bat Sites Location Grid Ref: SO190145 JNCC Site Code: UK0014784 Size: 1686.4 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
	Caves not open to the public The conservation status of this feature within the site is considered to be **Favourable** (2006). Based on records of made at all locations between 2000 and 2006, the feature condition is considered to be: Favourable, maintained. All the factors affecting the features appear to be under control. **Conservation Status of Feature 6:** **Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration** The conservation status of this feature within the site is considered to be **Unfavourable** (2006). Assessment carried out in July 2002 indicated that feature condition was: Unfavourable, declining. The feature is currently (2007) too heavily grazed because the most of it is common land and because it is on the sheltered side of the hill, is subject to high levels of grazing, particularly by sheep. There is also concern that the vegetation is being damaged by atmospheric pollution, due to exceedence of many of the critical loads identified for this feature. **Conservation Status of Feature 7:** **European dry heaths** The conservation status of this feature within the site is considered to be **Unfavourable** (2006). Assessment carried out in April 2002 indicated that feature condition was: Unfavourable, no change. Past grazing and burning activity means that some stands of dry heath have insufficient cover of dwarf shrubs. There is also concern that the vegetation is being damaged by atmospheric pollution, due to exceedence of many of the critical loads identified for this feature.
Vulnerabilities (includes existing pressures and trends)	**Lesser Horseshoe bat:** Á **Deterioration of buildings used to roost** - Alterations/neglect to the structure of the buildings could result in the site

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- Eutrophication.

- **Hydrological change** - the blanket bog has been subject to hydrological change as a result of past ditch construction to supply water to reservoirs.

- **Recreational activities** - Unauthorised vehicle use is a threat to the moorland areas. Bog vegetation is easily damaged and may take a long time to recover. Ground nesting birds may be disturbed during the breeding season. Although the common land within the site is subject to a right of public access on foot, such use does not appear to be so intensive as to cause habitat damage or significant disturbance to birdlife.

- **Development** - The ground along the existing pipeline routes, which cross the Llangatwg hill, has been disturbed during the engineering phase. Some habitats naturally recover better than others, whilst some will require specific management to restore it to its natural state. Generally, further pipeline construction or other engineering works affecting sensitive habitats within the site should be avoided. Any future engineering or pipeline works would need to show that the SAC features would not be adversely affected and if any licence was approved then there would be a requirement to restore the vegetation to its original character and quality.

Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines:

- **Grazing** - In the cliff and woodland areas any more than light grazing may prevent tree regeneration and damage the populations of rare and scarce plants that may be accessible to grazing stock.

- **Non-native species** - The ash woodland in units 1 & 2 is vulnerable to the introduction of beech.

Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation:

- **Invasive plants** - Introduced and invasive species such as cotoneaster can smother large areas of grassland and cliff habitats, displacing native species and would need to be controlled. Cotoneaster has spread on the south side of Mynydd Llangatwg above the Clydach gorge and some control is desirable to stop it spreading into feature habitats.

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Usk Bat Sites Location Grid Ref: SO190145 JNCC Site Code: UK0014784 Size: 1686.4 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma

Á **Recreational activities** - Rare plants, and plants in general, on the cliffs and ledges, may be dislodged by climbers and some breeding birds are particularly sensitive to disturbance during the nesting season. Rock climbing at this site should be restricted to suitable areas and be subject to a suitable code of conduct in order to minimise such damage and disturbance.

Degraded raised bogs still capable of natural regeneration:

Á **Air Pollution** - See blanket bog above.

Á **Hydrological Change** - No new drainage ditches should be dug within the bog and outlet and inflow channels must notugsplplnTf m 0 Tc 0 Twd be alcrE3 S8bove.

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Usk Bat Sites **Location Grid Ref: SO190145** **JNCC Site Code: UK0014784** **Size: 1686.4** **Designation: SAC**	**Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma**
	Á **Burning in combination with intense grazing** - can result in the loss of those heathland shrub species that give this habitat its characteristic appearance, and which are so important to the value of these moorland habitats. Á **Dumping** - The plateau areas at Mynydd Llangatwg are easily accessible from nearby population centres, so the illegal dumping of domestic and commercial waste and abandoned vehicles is a problem. Á **Development** - See blanket bog above.
Landowner/ Management Responsibility	Á N/A
HRA/AA Studies undertaken that address this site	HRA Screening of the Torfaen Local Development Plan (2006-2021) January 2008. http://www.torfaen.gov.uk/Environm]entAndPlanning/Planning/ForwardPlanning/Publications/HabitatsRegulationAssessment.pdf Á The Screening concludes that whilst the LDP will not have a direct impact on this SAC in terms of land take, there is the potential however for development of residential and employment uses to increase airborne pollution in Torfaen which could have an impact on this SAC. The Strategic Ecological Corridor of the Afon Llywd is present in Torfaen, which is an important river riparian habitat. This corridor could potentially be used by lesser horseshoe bats although details of the foraging areas from the Usk Valley sites are not known.

Appendix 1

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: River Usk **Location Grid Ref: SO301113** **JNCC Site Code: UK0013007** **Size: 1007.71** **Designation: SAC**	**Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma**
Site Description	The River Usk SAC rises in the Black Mountain range in the west of the Brecon Beacons National Park and flows east and then south, to enter the Severn Estuary at Newport. The overall form of the catchment is long and narrow, with short, generally steep tributaries flowing north from the Black Mountain, Fforest Fawr and Brecon Beacons, and south from Mynydd Epynt and the Black Mountains. The underlying geology consists predominantly of Devonian Old Red Sandstone with a moderate base status, resulting in waters that are generally well buffered against acidity. This geology also produces a generally low to moderate nutrient status, and a moderate base-flow index, intermediate between base-flow dominated rivers and more flashy rivers on less permeable geology. The run-off characteristics and nutrient status are significantly modified by land use in the catchment,

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: River Usk **Location Grid Ref: SO301113** **JNCC Site Code: UK0013007** **Size: 1007.71** **Designation: SAC**	**Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma**
	Á Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* Á Bullhead *Cottus gobio* Á Otter *Lutra lutra* Annex II Species qualifying feature: Á Allis shad *Alosa alosa*
Conservation Objectives	**The ecological status of the water course is a major determinant of Favourable Condition Status (FCS) for all** predo6 omiondi9.1ly unmodified t6v l 04sa e Cc4.Twe Tc

Appendix 1

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: River Usk Location Grid Ref: SO301113 JNCC Site Code: UK0013007 Size: 1007.71 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma

- European otter *Lutra lutra*

Vision for feature 6
The vision for this feature is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied:

Á The population of otters in the SAC is stable or increasing over the long term and reflects the natural carrying capacity of the habitat within the SAC, as determined by natural levels of prey abundance and associated territorial behaviour.

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EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: River Usk Location Grid Ref: SO301113 JNCC Site Code: UK0013007 Size: 1007.71 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma

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EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: River Usk

JNCC Site Code: UK0013007

Appendix 1

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Aberbargoed Grasslands **Location Grid Ref: ST163992** **JNCC Site Code: UK0030071** **Size: 39.78** **Designation: SAC**	**Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma**
Site Description	Aberbargoed Grasslands covers an area of 42.5ha and lies on a southwest facing hillside in the Rhymney Valley, 1km east of Bargoed and adjacent to the A4049. A large and relatively isolated population of marsh fritillary butterfly (*Euphydryas aurinia*) is present on a series of damp pastures and heaths in Gwent, representing the species on the eastern edge of its range in Wales. The fields in the south and west of Aberbargoed Grasslands have impeded drainage and contain a mixture of marshy grassland communities. Areas of particular interest are characterised by abundant purple moor grass *Molinia caerulea* and meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum* with devil's bit scabious *Succisa pratensis* and carnation sedge *Carex panicea*. Other species such as saw-wort *Serratula tinctoria* and lousewort *Pedicularis sylvatica* occur frequently in heavily flushed areas. Associated stands of *Molinia caerulea – Potentilla erecta* mire contain abundant purple moor grass with *tormentil Potentilla erecta*, mat grass *Nardus stricta*, common sedge *Carex nigra* and spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata*. Small stands of rush pasture are scattered across the site, with soft rush *Juncus effuses*, greater bird's foot trefoil *Lotus uliginosus* and marsh bedstraw *Galium palustre*.
Qualifying Features	

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Aberbargoed Grasslands Location Grid Ref: ST163992 JNCC Site Code: UK0030071 Size: 39.78 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma

- The population will be viable in the long term, acknowledging the extreme population fluctuations of the species;
- Habitats on the site will be in optimal condition to support the metapopulation;
- At least 25ha of the total site area will be marshy grassland suitable for supporting marsh fritillary, with *Succisa pratensis* present and only a low cover of scrub;
- At least 6.25ha will be good marsh fritillary breeding habitat, dominated by purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, with *S. pratensis* present throughout and a vegetation height of 10-20cm over the winter period; and
- All factors affecting the achievement of the foregoing conditions are under control.

Conservation Objective for Feature 2:
Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*))

Appendix 1

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Aberbargoed Grasslands
Location Grid Ref: ST163992
JNCC Site Code: UK0030071
Size: 39.78

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Aberbargoed Grasslands **Location Grid Ref: ST163992** **JNCC Site Code: UK0030071** **Size: 39.78** **Designation: SAC**	**Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma**
	too tall, is dominated by Molinia and does not have sufficient *Succisa*. There is only 2.3ha of good condition habitat and 9.7ha of suitable habitat within the site.
Vulnerabilities (includes existing pressures and trends)	**The marsh fritillary butterfly population is under threat from:** Á **Parasites** - Parasitic wasps. **The Molinia meadows is under threat from:** Á **Anti-social behaviours** - In previous years anti-social behaviour such as off-roading and burning have occurred at Aberbargoed grasslands. This issues need to be addressed to prevent the *eu-Molinion* habitat from being damaged. CCW states that work has progressed well on the site in the past few years; the site is now stock-proof and a mixture of Welsh Black and Belted Galloways graze the land with a Limousin bull. Scrub clearance and bracken control has begun and flight lines have been cut to improve the connectivity for the butterflies. A programme has been set up to educate the local community to understand why this area is important. A newsletter has been created detailing activities on the grassland and difficulties the site is facing. This and the presence of staff and stock onsite seem to have halted the illegal burning and off-roading.

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EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Aberbargoed Grasslands
Location Grid Ref: ST163992
JNCC Site Code: UK0030071

Appendix 1

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Sugar Loaf Woodlands **Location Grid Ref: SO295166** **JNCC Site Code: UK0030072** **Size: 173.84** **Designation: SAC**	**Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma**
Site Description	Sugar Loaf Woodlands are the largest example of old sessile oak woods near the south-eastern fringe of the habitat's range in the UK and Europe. The relatively dry situation restricts the development of the Atlantic flora associated with the habitat, but the main floristic components of sessile oak *Quercus petraea* canopy, acidic ground flora (typically of bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillus* and wavy hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*) and extensive fern and bryophyte cover are in place. The woodland is grazed, but regenerates within gaps and at the fringes, where transitions to upland grassland and heath communities occur. The woodland also supports a smaller area of beech woodland and a large colony of red wood ants, which are more commonly found in southern and eastern Britain.
Qualifying Features	Annex I Habitats qualifying feature: Á Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles
Conservation Objectives	**Conservation Objective for Feature:** **Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles** Vision for feature: The vision for this feature is for it to be in favourable conservation status within the site, as a functioning and regenerating* oak wood, where all of the following conditions are satisfied: Á The wooded area is no less than 122 ha; Á The remainder of the site is semi-natural acid grassland, heathland, bracken and scrub, often forming a transition zone at the woodland edge; Á Saplings of birch betula spp, oak Quercus petraea, alder Alnus glutinosa or holly Ilex aquifolium dominate the tree regeneration; Á Young beech Fagus sylvatica and sycamore Acer pseudoplatanus trees are rare; Á The woodland ground flora is composed of a range of typical native plants including bilberry Vaccinium myrtillus, wavy-hair grass Deschampsia flexuosa and the mosses Plagiothecium undulatum, Rhytidiadelphus loreus, Dicranum majus;

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EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Sugar Loaf Woodlands
Location Grid Ref: SO295166
JNCC Site Code: UK0030072
Size: 173.84
Designation: SAC

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EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Sugar Loaf Woodlands **Location Grid Ref: SO295166** **JNCC Site Code: UK0030072** **Size: 173.84** **Designation: SAC**	**Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma**
	Unfavourable (2007), due to: Á Grazing having a strong role in preventing some of the canopy regeneration and in creating a sparser ground flora; Á Some areas within the SAC/SSSI remain as open areas, especially on the fringe of the site. Whilst having some open areas is beneficial for a range of species, not all these open areas are of benefit to either the SAC or SSSI features; Á The even-aged and dense canopy in much of the wooded area. This is creating very densely shaded ground, field and shrub layers and is one of the barriers to regeneration of saplings and ground flora. However, more canopy gaps would be expected in the long term as the canopy trees die, or through storm damage in the more exposed parts of the site.
Vulnerabilities (includes existing pressures and trends)	Á **Innapropriate grazing regime** - The grazing within all 4 units has suppressed the regeneration of native woody species and in combination with past coppicing has resulted in a uniform age structure. The areas of Sugarloaf woodlands not subjected to continuous grazing appear to become densely populated with saplings of all species. This may demonstrate that the main factor restricting natural regeneration of woody species in Sugar Loaf Woodlands

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EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Sugar Loaf Woodlands
Location Grid Ref: SO295166
JNCC Site Code: UK0030072
Size: 173.84
Designation: SAC

Appendix 1

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Brecon Beacons **Location Grid Ref: SO024211** **JNCC Site Code: UK0030096** **Size: 269.67** **Designation: SAC**	**Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma**
Site Description	The Brecon Beacons SAC is located to the south of the town of Brecon and the Old Red Sandstone cliffs and escarpment is typical of the upland scenery within the National Park. The site is comprised of 4 different units contained within Brecon Beacons SSSI. Pen y Fan is the highest peak in South Wales. The site is of particular interest for the arctic-alpine plants and plant communities growing on the sandstone rocks and ledges on its precipitous mostly north and east facing cliffs. The escarpments also support stands of dry heath vegetation. Within the SAC boundary the only significant areas of dry heath are found on the steep slopes of the NNR. The heath is largely dominated by single species stands of heather Calluna vulgaris and bilberry Vaccinium myrtillus, although some stands have crowberry Empetrum nigrum. Heather and biberry also grow on the cliff ledges and are sometimes joined by cowberry (Vaccinium vitis-idaea). Here, there is some gradation into the other Annex I habitat types for which this SAC is designated. On the lower slopes, where grazing levels are higher, heath species become less dominant and are replaced by acid grassland. Bracken is locally abundant both on the steeper slopes, where it grows where the soil is slightly deeper, and on the lower slopes where it is sometimes mixed with scrub. Trees, including endemic whitebeams (Sorbus), and shrubs are an important element of the crag vegetation.
Qualifying Features	Annex I Habitats primary reason for selection: Á Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation Á Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation Annex I Habitats qualifying feature: Á European dry heaths Á Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Brecon Beacons Location Grid Ref: SO024211 JNCC Site Code: UK0030096 Size: 269.67 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma

- The base-rich sandstone cliffs, including crevices, scree and associated patches of thin soil remains free from disturbance and support typical plants, including mosses and liverworts.
- A variety of rare and scarce plants thrive in these areas, including purple saxifrage, green spleenwort, Oeder's apple-moss, lesser rough earwort and several rare hawkweeds.
- Populations of these species are sufficiently large and widespread to be sustained into the future (currently some populations may be critically low[may be criti(itiTJ 0)6(n s751 57. [(Appendi)-5(rqmee, gree)6(n spl)7(een)6(wort, Oed)6(er's a)6(pple)

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EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Brecon Beacons
Location Grid Ref: SO024211

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EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Brecon Beacons

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EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Brecon Beacons
Location Grid Ref: SO024211
JNCC Site Code: UK0030096
Size: 269.67
Designation: SAC

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EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Brecon Beacons Location Grid Ref: SO024211 JNCC Site Code: UK0030096 Size: 269.67 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
HRA/AA Studies undertaken that address this site	Á N/A

Appendix 1

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Llangorse Lake **Location Grid Ref: SO131262** **JNCC Site Code: UK0012985** **Size: 215.64** **Designation: SAC**	**Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma**
Site Description	The site is situated towards the head of the Afon Llynfi between the hills of Mynydd Llangorse and Allt yr Esgair. Llangorse Lake is a large shallow lake with a mean depth of 2-3 metres lying in a natural depression of the Old Red Sandstone drift formed during the last glacial period. It is the largest natural lowland water in South Wales. It is one of the few natural eutrophic lakes in Britain and is of European importance in this context. The combination of the mineral-rich geology and size and shape of the lake encourages the growth of a wide range of aquatic and marginal plants, including several that are rare in this part of Wales. The site also demonstrates a gradation from open water, with submerged and floating plant beds, through marginal swamp and fen vegetation, marshy grassland to drier unimproved grassland, with patches of willow scrub and wet woodland. The lake also has a diverse plankton community and supports a wide variety of invertebrates, including rare and scarce species.

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Llangorse Lake Location Grid Ref: SO131262 JNCC Site Code: UK0012985 Size: 215.64 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
	cyanobacteria or green algae. Á There is a natural hydrological regime. Á The natural shoreline is maintained. Á The natural and characteristic substrate is maintained. Á The natural sediment load maintained. Á All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control. Performance indicators for Feature 1 The performance indicators are part of the conservation objective, not a substitute for it. Assessment of plans and projects must be based on the entire conservation objective, not just the performance indicators. The performance indicators can be found within the Llangorse Lake Management Plan.
Component SSSIs	Llyn Syfaddan (Llangorse Lake) SSSI – is composed of 13 management units, the SAC covers the same area. A map of the site can be viewed on the CCW website.
Key Environmental Conditions (factors that maintain site integrity	Á **Water Quality** - there should be no eutrophication: o Upper limit: Annual mean total phosphorus (TP) of 35 µgl-1 or less. o Lower limit: At least 5 mgl-1 dissolved oxygen (O2) throughout the water column. Á **Hydrology** - No new structures that will reduce inflow or deepening or enlargement of outflow points. Á **Sediment loads and lake substrate** - No extensive poaching of the lake margins by stock. Á **Recreational Disturbance** - No use outside agreed zones and periods of year as described in printed guidance. Á **Development** - No new permanent jetties, slipways or hard bank structures. Á **Non-native species** (Fish) - Any introduction of species that are not native to Llangorse would be highly undesirable.

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Llangorse Lake Location Grid Ref: SO131262 JNCC Site Code: UK0012985 Size: 215.64 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma

- Upper limit: Introduced species should be removed or populations controlled as necessary. This will be guided by regular EA fish sampling.
- Lower limit: Fish are an essential component of the lake ecology. Populations need to be maintained by a sensible fisheries policy/rules and by ensuring other factors such as water quality are under control.

Á **Non-native & Invasive Species** - Canadian and/or Nuttall's waterweed (Elodea spp.) no more than frequent. AND:

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Llangorse Lake
Location Grid Ref: SO131262

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Coed Y Cerrig Location Grid Ref: SO291210 JNCC Site Code: UK0012766 Size: 9.1ha Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
	nutrients. Therefore dead and decaying trees should normally be retained. Wherever possible, standing dead trees should be allowed to decay and fall naturally. Movement and cutting/tidying of fallen trees and dead wood should be avoided unless essential for legal obligations or public safety. Á **Drainage** - hydrology is important in maintaining wet woodland. The alder woodland and associated swamp, marshy grassland and spring-fed mire, as well as the marsh fern, are found in areas of impeded drainage in the valley bottom. There should be no drainage works that could interfere with the springs and the generally waterlogged ground. o No new drainage ditches to be installed within units 2, 4 & 5. Á **Public Access** - Maintain boardwalks and footpaths to minimise trampling damage within the wet woodland. In theory, public access to the Nature Reserve area could cause a lot trampling damage but in practice the ground is so wet that visitors tend to keep to the boardwalks provided. o Upper limits: No more that 30% bare ground with signs of trampling within 10m radius of a sample point;and o No net loss of habitat to provide additional boardwalks.

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Coed Y Cerrig Location Grid Ref: SO291210 JNCC Site Code: UK0012766 Size: 9.1ha Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma

- **Drainage** - There should be no drainage works that could interfere with the springs and the generally waterlogged ground. New drainage ditches could cause drying out of the site, leading to a loss of alluvial forest in favour of drier woodland types. Drainage maintenance along the roads (units 9 & 10) must be undertaken in a very sensitive manner. Maintenance of the road itself need to be carefully considered so as not to affect the drainage and adjoining habitat; CCW needs to be consulted before any materials are brought into maintain the road so that there is no risk of invasive species such as Indian balsam being imported.

- **Nutrient Enrichment** - The wet woodland has developed relatively fertile valley soils because nutrients accumulate here as a result of down-slope water movement and leaf-fall. However, further enrichment from agricultural run-off would promote dominance by weed species, such as nettles.

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Cwm Cadlan **Location Grid Ref: SN961098** **JNCC Site Code: UK0013585** **Size: 83.93** **Designation: SAC**	**Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma**
Site Description	Cwm Cadlan is situated approximately 1km north-east of the village of Penderyn and about 4km north of Hirwaun, near Aberdare. The SAC interests are: 'Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)' - Cwm Cadlan has the largest recorded example of 'Molinia meadows' (or fen-meadow) in Wales. The typical form of purple moor-grass–meadow thistle (*Molinia caerulea - Cirsium dissectum*) fen-meadow is extensively developed, and there are clearly displayed transitions to a range of associated habitats, including base-rich flush and neutral grassland. 'Alkaline Fens' - Cwm Cadlan supports an outstanding suite of flushed short-sedge mire communities on glacial drift overlying Carboniferous limestone within the valley of the Nant Cadlan on the southern fringe of Brecon Beacons National Park. Communities referable to National Vegetation Classification (NVC) type M10 dioecious sedge–common butterwort (*Carex dioica-Pinguicula vulgaris*) mire occur widely, often in close association with flushed examples of M24 fen-meadow. Characteristic species include common butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris*, bog pimpernel *Anagallis tenella*, marsh arrowgrass *Triglochin palustris* and the moss Campylium stellatum. Other sedge-rich swards are also present

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Cwm Cadlan Location Grid Ref: SN961098 JNCC Site Code: UK0013585 Size: 83.93 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma

Feature 3: other non-SAC marshy grassland habitat

Vision for feature 1

The vision for this feature is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- Fen-meadow will occupy at least 26 ha of a total area of marshy grassland habitat which itself will cover at least 42 ha.
- The remainder of the site will mainly consist of other semi-natural habitat, including alkaline fen.
- Typical fen-meadow plants will be common.

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EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Cwm Cadlan
Location Grid Ref: SN961098
JNCC Site Code:

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Cwm Cadlan Location Grid Ref: SN961098 JNCC Site Code: UK0013585 Size: 83.93 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma

years. Light summer grazing is defined as - cattle and/or ponies at a rate of 0.4 LSU/ha/year for the period April to October. Heavy grazing is defined as greater than 1 LSU/ha/year (1 LSU is equivalent to a cow/horse, plus calf/foal).

- Upper limits: No significant grazing outside the growing season or heavy grazing at any time during the summer.

- **Scrub control** - open wetland areas are prone to invasion by alder and willow scrub. Optimum grazing levels should help control spread of scrub, but occasionally active scrub eradication is necessary. Scrub and woodland is also a natural component of such wetland complexes and enhances the site both biologically and visually, therefore older well-established stands will be retained. Scattered scrub will be tolerated within the following limits:
  - Lower limits: Scattered scrub present in defined locations.
  - Upper limits: No scrub covering area greater than 5m

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Cwm Cadlan **Location Grid Ref: SN961098** **JNCC Site Code: UK0013585** **Size: 83.93** **Designation: SAC**	**Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma**
	The conservation status of these features within the site is considered to be **Unfavourable** (2007). Assessment carried out in 2004 indicated that the condition of both was: Unfavourable, no change. White clover, at a low cover and frequency, may be a natural component of the sward. In 2004, the cover and frequency of white clover was a little on the high side in some areas, which detracts somewhat from the quality of the stands of fen-meadow. Part of the site, until purchased by CCW, had been quite heavily grazed by sheep - sometimes throughout the year. Current management by CCW (Unit 1) has returned the grazing to a more cattle-based state and other areas are now in favourable management (units 2, 6 & 7) t

EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Cwm Cadlan Location Grid Ref: SN961098 JNCC Site Code: UK0013585 Size: 83.93 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma

and cover of bare ground and agricultural species. Cessation of cattle farming could affect the vegetation, as sheep are more selective grazers.

- **Scrub encroachment** - woodland and scrub should not encroach further into the unimproved grassland, in particular the communities of highest conservation value (alkaline fen, fen-meadow and neutral grassland).

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EUROPEAN SITE DESCRIPTIONS

Site Name: Cwm Cadlan Location Grid Ref: SN961098 JNCC Site Code: UK0013585 Size: 83.93 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
	appear negligible. For example, the cluster of proposed residential development north of Hirwaun would not result in any foreseeable activities of relevance to Cwm Cadlan.

POLICY SCREENING

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key)	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes **9** Uncertain ?
Strategy Policies		
SP1 Heads of the Valleys Area – Growth and Regeneration	The plan steers a quantum or type of development towards or encourages development in, an area that includes a European site or an area where development may indirectly affect a European site.	?
SP2 South of the Borough - Regeneration	The policy itself will not lead to development.	X
SP3 Creating a network of sustainable linked communities to spread regeneration benefit	The policy itself will not lead to development.	X
SP4 Sustainable Development	The policy is intended to conserve or	

POLICY SCREENING

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key)	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes **9** Uncertain ?
	on implementation of lower tier policies.	
SP8 Housing Provision	The plan steers a quantum or type of development towards or encourages development in, an area that includes a European site or an area where development may indirectly affect a European site.	?
SP9 Affordable Housing	The location of the development is unknown, and will be selected following consideration of options in lower plans.	X
SP10 Gypsy Accommodation	The policy concentrates development in existing urban areas, steering development away from European sites and sensitive areas.	X
SP11 Transport and Infrastructure Improvements	The plan steers a quantum or type of development towards or encourages development in, an area that includes a European site or an area where development may indirectly affect a European site.	?
SP12 Transport Requirements for new Development	The policy itself will not lead to development.	X
SP13 Leisure and Recreation	The policy will have no effect because development is dependent on implementation of lower tier	X

POLICY SCREENING

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key)	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes **9** Uncertain ?
	policies.	
SP14 Health and Education	The policy will have no effect because development is dependent on implementation of lower tier policies.	X
SP15 Planning Obligations	The policy itself will not lead to development.	X
SP16 Environmental Protection	The policy is intended to conserve or	

Appendix 2

POLICY SCREENING

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

National

National	
People, Places, Futures: The Wales Spatial Plan (update) 2008:	
Plan Type	Regional Spatial Strategy
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Welsh Assembly
Currency	Adopted 2004
Region/Geographic Coverage	Wales
Sector	Planning
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	SEA of the Wales Spatial Plan Update 2008: http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/currentconsultation/improveps/wspconsult/?lang=en
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

National
Property Strategy for Employment in Wales 2004- 2008:

Premier Business Park

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

National	
Property Strategy for Employment in Wales 2004- 2008: [illegible]	
City/Town Centre Office Sites [illegible] - [illegible] ƒ [illegible] ƒ [illegible] ƒ [illegible] ƒ [illegible] - [illegible] ƒ [illegible] ƒ [illegible] ƒ [illegible] ƒ [illegible] ƒ [illegible] ƒ [illegible] ƒ [illegible] Industrial Estates/Local Sites [illegible]	

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

National	
Wales Transport Strategy 2006: http://www.wales.gov.uk/topics/transport/publication/wts/?lang=en	
ƒ ƒ ƒ Economic ƒ ƒ ƒ ƒ ƒ ƒ Environmental ƒ ƒ ƒ ƒ	

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

National	
The Trunk Road Forward Programme 2002: http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/tpm/trunkroadforwardprogramme1397701/?page	
2008 The o Ju 2008 No 2008 J 30 to 32 - W id o No 2008 Ap 2009: J 29 to 30 - E id o Ap 2009 - Au 2009: J 29 to 30 - C w o Au 2009 - D 2009: J 29 to 32 - W id Phase 2 (Could be ready to start by April 2010) A465 B ƒ TA465 T N W W y C G R E E R E W N Ju (w http://www.dft.gov.uk/4038/4038831141/4038 21125/4038112415/SB.pdf ?page A465 G ƒ TA465 T N W W G E (w), G M U p c y	

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

National	
The Trunk Road Forward Programme 2002:	http://www.dft.gov.uk/stellent/groups/dft_roads/documents/page/dft_roads_613977.hcsp

Bkd Bym

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

National	
The Trunk Road Forward Programme 2002: [illegible] 1397 7 01/ ?[illegible]	
[illegible] [illegible] A[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] 2008 [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] 2008 T[illegible] [illegible] 2008 [illegible] N[illegible] / [illegible] ?[illegible] A465 [illegible] A470 [illegible] A465 D[illegible] A470 *f* [illegible] D[illegible] T[illegible] ([illegible]) [illegible] P[illegible] G[illegible] U[illegible], G[illegible] C[illegible] C[illegible] A470 J[illegible] [illegible] W[illegible] [illegible] A470. [illegible] 4038[illegible]/ 4038[illegible]31141/ 4038 21125/ R[illegible]/ 4038[illegible]112415/ S[illegible]5. [illegible] ?[illegible] On Hold A4042 P[illegible] A40 A[illegible]	

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

National	
Minerals Planning Policy Wales 2001:	http://www.wales.gov.uk/subiplanningpolicy/mppw/mppwe.htm

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

National
Minerals Planning Policy Wales 2001:

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-
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-

Appendix 3

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

National	
Welsh Coastal Tourism Strategy Draft Final Strategy Document 2007: [illegible]	
[illegible] ƒ [illegible] ƒ [illegible] ƒ [illegible] ƒ [illegible] ƒ [illegible] ƒ [illegible] ƒ [illegible]	

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

National	
'Catching the Wave' - A watersports tourism strategy for Wales 2004: [illegible]	
Plan Type	Tourism Strategy
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Welsh Assembly Government
Currency	2004 - 2010
Region/Geographic Coverage	Wales
Sector	Planning
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	N/A
Document Details	

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Regional

Regional
The South East Wales Consultation Draft Regional Waste Plan 1st Revision Oct 2007:

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Regional	
The South East Wales Consultation Draft Regional Waste Plan 1st Revision Oct 2007: http://www.wlga	
absolute areas of constraint , [illegible]	

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Regional	
South East Wales Transport Alliance: Outline of the Regional Transport Plan Jan 2007 http://www.sewta.gov.uk/PDF/OutlineRTP-Feb07.pdf	
Plan Type	Regional Transport Plan

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Regional	
South East Wales Transport Alliance: Outline of the Regional Transport Plan Jan 2007 http://www.sewta.gov.uk/PDF/OutlineRTP-Feb07.pdf	
Ep f Td jh f Tdg jh f TdVa jh f Tdn f TdVa Odn f Tdfin jh f Pdn Td fn f Wdn tdn Td jh f Cdn dh Odb f Pdfdda jd f Pdn jv f Pd g adn pd pdb pts ytfo	tdda dh	

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Regional

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Regional	
SEWTA Rail Strategy Study Jan 2006:	
Plan Type	Rail Strategy
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	South East Wales Transport Alliance
Currency	2009 - 2018
Region/Geographic Coverage	Wales – with regional sections Including South East Wales Transport Alliance (SEWTA) region
Sector	Transport
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	N/A
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Regional	
SEWTA Rail Strategy Study Jan 2006: [illegible]	
[illegible]	

Appendix 3

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Regional
Turning Heads... A Strategy for the Heads of the Valleys 2020:

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies	
The Taff and Ely Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy 2006	
Plan Type	Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Environment Agency Wales
Currency	2006-2010
Region/Geographic Coverage	Taff and Ely Catchment
Sector	Water
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
[illegible]	[illegible]

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies	
The Ebbw and Lwyd Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy 2006: [illegible]	
Plan Type	Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Environment Agency Wales
Currency	2006-2010
Region/Geographic Coverage	Ebbw and Lwyd Catchment
Sector	Water
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	Details – hyperlink or reference to document
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
[illegible]	[illegible]

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

	T SAC, SPA g i n AlCAMS i SE W t S E y p y

Catchment Abstraction Management Strategies	
The Rhymney Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy 2006: p/ / w n g k 8 1 2 / 1 3 1 7 9 4 4 / 1 3 2 5 2 3 2 / 3 1 5 6 0 5 / ? 1 &	
Plan Type	Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Environment Agency Wales
Currency	2006-2010
Region/Geographic Coverage	Rhymney Catchment
Sector	Water
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	Details – hyperlink or reference to document
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
T W n 2 0 1 0 . T T CAMS a 2 1 2 n, i a 3 n e B k (O l T s a n E y T n p a e p-	U E W y v k y g p a s W E A a v l S A C / S P A E A y n T 4 W M g a (W R M U) . T a W R M U 1 , 2 3 a v a W R M U 6 a A W R M U s h v y

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

[illegible] 2013. [illegible] [illegible] CAMS [illegible] 169 km [illegible] [illegible] CAMS [illegible] W[illegible] [illegible] R[illegible] U[illegible] is a[illegible] [illegible] SAC [illegible]	[illegible] W[illegible] EA [illegible] SAC/SPA [illegible] EA [illegible] [illegible] 3 W[illegible] R[illegible] M[illegible] (WRMU). [illegible] WRMU 1 (S[illegible] B[illegible]) [illegible] WRMU 2 (R[illegible] U[illegible]) is [illegible] WRMU 18 (B[illegible] M[illegible]) [illegible] [illegible] SAC, U[illegible] SAC [illegible] SAC [illegible] WRMU 2, [illegible] CAMS [illegible] [illegible] SAC [illegible] U[illegible] SAC [illegible] H[illegible] A[illegible] [illegible] SAC [illegible] *Alnus glutinosa* [illegible] *Fraxinus excelsior* [illegible].

Appendix 3

CONSIDERATION OF OTHE

	(WFRMU). T WFRMU

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Local Development Plans

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Local Development Plans	
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Interim Unitary Development Plan 2007:	
i D i A Part 1 Policy 12: Policy SS1: Housing Land in the First Tier Settlements	P E i i i iv v

Local Development Plans
Caerphilly County Borough Council Local Development Plan Strategic Options and Preferred Strategy:

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Local Development Plans	
Caerphilly County Borough Council Local Development Plan Strategic Options and Preferred Strategy: http://www.caerphilly.gov.uk/ldp	
Region/Geographic Coverage	Caerphilly County Borough Council administrative boundaries
Sector	Planning

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Local Development Plans

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Local Development Plans	
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Local Development Plan 2006 – 2021 Preferred Strategy 2007	
Region/Geographic Coverage	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council administrative boundary
Sector	Planning
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Local Development Plan 2006 – 2021 Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report 2007:
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
	Overarching Development Pressures SAC Specific Issues

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Local Development Plans

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Local Development Plans	
Monmouthshire County Council Adopted Unitary Development Plan 2006: þ/ / wbngkNR'ý 2 1 4D6B65- 56D6- 4DFC- A62- 42980AAC17 /80/ AdUDPJB6. pl	
	Statement on Appropriate Assessment of the Monmouthshire County Council UDP 2006: þ/ / wbngkNR'ý 7 B7 87 7 - 2E5B- 4FAB- A55A- CA99A06A9E9/80/ HDAStepl
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects

Hg
SP2

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Local Development Plans	
Torfaen County Borough Council Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy 2006-2021 Consultation of Strategic Options and Preferred Strategy:	
Plan Type	Local Development Plan
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Torfaen County Borough Council
Currency	Preferred Strategy January 2008
Region/Geographic Coverage	Torfaen County Borough Council administrative boundaries
Sector	Planning
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	Torfaen County Borough Council Local Development Plan 2006 – 2021

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Local Development Plans
Torfaen County Borough Council Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy 2006-2021 Consultation of Strategic Options and Preferred Strategy:

2006 - 2021

- 900
- 2,
- 3,300
- 2,
- 3,400
- 400
- 400

1.
2.
3.
4.

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Local Development Plans
Torfaen County Borough Council Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy 2006-2021 Consultation of Strategic Options and Preferred Strategy:
[illegible]

12. [illegible]
13. [illegible]

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Local Development Plans	
Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council Local Development Plan Preparation & Deposit: http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/ldp2015	
Plan Type	Local Development Plan
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Currency	Preferred Strategy January 2007
Region/Geographic Coverage	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council administrative boundaries
Sector	Planning
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	Preferred Strategy SA/SEA and Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening http://www.rctcbc.gov.uk/ldp24.pdf

Appendix 3

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Local Development Plans	
Powys Unitary Development Plan Deposit Draft 2004 http://www.powys.gov.uk/uploads/media/written_statement_en.pdf Powys Unitary Development Plan Proposed Modifications Nov 2007 to the Deposit Draft 2004 http://www.powys.gov.uk/uploads/media/Proposed_Modifications_en.pdf	
Plan Type	Unitary Development Plan
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Powys
Currency	2008 - 2016
Region/Geographic Coverage	Powys administrative boundaries
Sector	Planning
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	HRA Screening of the Powys UDP Nov 2007: [illegible] SA/SEA of the Powys UDP Oct 2007: [illegible]
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
Policy SP4 - Economic and Employment Developments [illegible] [illegible] 2001 - 2016. [illegible] [illegible] Policy SP5 - Housing Developments [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Policy HP1 - Shire Housing Allocations	[illegible]

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Local Development Plans	
Powys Unitary Development Plan Deposit Draft 2004 http://www.powys.gov.uk/uploads/media/written_statement_en.pdf Powys Unitary Development Plan Proposed Modifications Nov 2007 to the Deposit Draft 2004 http://www.powys.gov.uk/uploads/media/Proposed_Modifications_en.pdf	
S 6,750 2001-2016 • B (BNP) 1240 • M 100 • R 410 Policy T1 - Highway Improvement Schemes Highway Improvement Schemes N L R N W R L I W A G T R 2002 • R & U S (£M+): A48 E B A470 C P A470 Y A483 P D A458 N D A458 G M • T M 2005: T R • C y p y M 2008 A470 C	

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Local Development Plans	
Powys Unitary Development Plan Deposit Draft 2004 http://www.powys.gov.uk/uploads/media/written_statement_en.pdf Powys Unitary Development Plan Proposed Modifications Nov 2007 to the Deposit Draft 2004 http://www.powys.gov.uk/uploads/media/Proposed_Modifications_en.pdf	
N A47 0 A 48 F F U 2008 A47 0 B W A47 0 P A47 0 A48 / A49 N A458 B C M A458 S C N A47 0 C A47 0 W A48 B	

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Minerals and Waste Strategies

Minerals & Waste
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Waste Strategy 2004:

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Minerals & Waste
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Waste Strategy 2004:

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Minerals & Waste	
Caerphilly County Borough Council Municipal Waste Management Strategy & Litter Plan 2004: [illegible]	
Plan Type	Municipal Waste Strategy
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Currency	2004
Region/Geographic Coverage	Caerphilly County Borough Council administrative boundaries
Sector	Waste
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	N/A
Document Details	**Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects**
[illegible] Strategic aims for the period 2004/05 to 2006/07 1. [illegible] 2. [illegible] 3. [illegible] 25% BMW [illegible] 2010 [illegible] 50% [illegible] 2013 [illegible] 65% [illegible] 2020. 4. [illegible] 15% MSW [illegible] 2003/ 04, 25% [illegible] 2006/ 07 [illegible] 40% [illegible] 2009/ 10. 5. [illegible] 6. [illegible]	Overarching Development Pressures Recycling [illegible] • [illegible] • [illegible] Composting [illegible] • [illegible] • [illegible] 250 [illegible] • [illegible] • [illegible]

Appendix 3

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Minerals & Waste	
Caerphilly County Borough Council Municipal Waste Management Strategy & Litter Plan 2004:	
	f SAC Specific Issues

Minerals & Waste	
Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council Municipal Waste Strategy 2007:	
Plan Type	Municipal Waste Strategy
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council
Currency	
Region/Geographic Coverage	Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council administrative boundaries
Sector	Waste
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
	Overarching Development Pressures Recycling f f Composting

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Minerals & Waste	
Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council Municipal Waste Strategy 2007: [illegible]	
	ƒ Odlegm ƒ Pfa jaka ta 250lgm ƒ Pfl ƒ Pfan Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) APbaHy ƒ Esfaln lgv ƒ Pisl Refuse Derived Fuel (energy from waste) APb ƒ Esfpl Anaerobic Digestion (energy from Waste) Ai WEb ƒ Esd(gp sdep ym ƒ Wdfpsld lgh Incineration with Energy Recovery Ai WEb ƒ Nsfaljh ƒ Dlv ƒ Sdlh ƒ Gsd ild ya m pgh ƒ Alfa jfa jlgh ƒ Cafl

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Minerals & Waste	
Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council Municipal Waste Strategy 2007: [illegible]	
	Landfill & Landraise Air Water Soil Flora • Mineral • Landscape • Archaeology • Transport • Sustainability • Amenity • Climate change • Public health • Infrastructure SAC Specific Issues Site integrity Water

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Other Plans and Programmes

Development Plan	
Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan 2009-2014: [illegible]	
Plan Type	National Park Management Plan
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Currency	2009 - 2014
Region/Geographic Coverage	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority administrative boundary
Sector	Planning
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	N/A
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
[illegible] Twenty-year Aims for Biodiversity Ensure that sustainable management of designated sites maintains habitats and species populations in favourable condition. [illegible] (e.g. SSSIs, SACs, NNRs etc) [illegible]	Overarching Development Pressures ƒ [illegible] ƒ [illegible] ƒ [illegible] SAC Specific Issues ƒ [illegible]

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Development Plan

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Development Plan	
Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan 2009-2014: [illegible]	
4. Allocate sufficient land for the provision of a variety and mix of employment opportunities to encourage a better link between the provision of employment and housing. The NPA [illegible]	
5. Maintain and encourage the vitality and viability of the Park's communities and town centres. For the [illegible] NPA [illegible]	
6. Improve the physical quality, energy efficiency, accessibility and sustainable design and construction of all development throughout the park. [illegible]	
7. Minimise light and noise pollution. [illegible]	

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Development Plan
Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan 2009-2014:

Twenty-year Aims for Transport

1. Reduce the need for travel by controlling the location and design of development.

Appendix 3

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Development Plan	
Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan 2009-2014: [illegible]	[illegible]
8 Support working practices and behaviour change initiatives that reduce the Park's greenhouse gas emissions and reduce people's dependency on fossil fuels for transport. 9. Develop Sustainable Travel Marketing. [illegible] Twenty-year Aims for Waste Management 1. [illegible]	

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Cardiff International Airport Master Plan 2006:	
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
Runway [illegible] Terminal, Aprons, Car Parks and Access Roads [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Highways Access Short-term [illegible]	Overarching Development Pressures • [illegible] • [illegible] SAC Specific Issues • [illegible] • [illegible] • [illegible]

CONSIDERATION OF OTHER PLANS AND PROGRAMMES

Cardiff International Airport Master Plan 2006: [illegible]

[illegible]

Future Opportunities for Rail
[illegible]

Appendix 4

Appendix 4

HABITAT REGULATION ASSESSMENT SCREENING TABLE

River Usk SAC	The River Usk rises in the Black Mountains range in the west of the Brecon Beacons National Park and flows east and then south, to enter the Severn Estuary at Newport. The overall form of the catchment is long and narrow, with short, generally steep tributaries flowing north from the Black Mountains, Forest Fawr and Brecon Beacons, and south from Mynydd Epynt and the Black Mountains. The ecological structure and functions of the site are dependent on hydrological and geomorphological processes, as well as the quality of riparian habitats and connectivity of habitats. Animals that move around and sometimes leave the site, such as migratory fish and otters, may also be affected by factors operating outside the site. The River Usk is also important for its population of sea lamprey Petromyzon marinus. The site also supports a healthy population of brook lamprey Lampetra planeri and river lamprey Lampetra fluviatilis and is considered to provide exceptionally good quality habitat likely to ensure the continued survival of the species in this part of the UK. The site supports a range of Annex II fish species, which includes twaite shad Alosa falla, salmon Salmo sala bullhead Cottus gobi. The River Usk is also an important site for otters Lutra lutra in Wales.
Pre-Screening Assessment	The River Usk SAC is approximately 4km from the BGCBC boundary and is vulnerable to the effects of water abstraction, eutophication, diffuse pollution and barriers to migration. Development proposed in BGCBC LDP has the potential to increase abstraction levels, water pollution and a9(rac)]TJR iore

HABITAT REGULATION ASSESSMENT SCREENING TABLE

	range of issues that are considered to impact on the SAC sensitivities and conservation objectives it is assessed that the BGCBC LDP is unlikely to have a significant effect on this SAC either alone or in combination with neighbouring LDPs.

Aberbargoed Grassland	Aberbargoed Grasslands covers an area of 42.5ha and lies on a southwest facing hillside in the Rhymney Valley, 1km east of Bargoed and adjacent to the A4049. A large and relative

Appendix 4

Appendix 4

HABITAT REGULATION

	air pollution impacts that may arise from traffic (related to the plan) runs within 200m of a European Site. Beyond this distance air pollution impacts that may arise from traffic fall to background levels. Coed y Cerrig SAC is not situated within 200m of any major roads and the policies proposed in the BGCBC LDP will help to mitigate or offset increases in air pollution through reducing the need to travel and promoting a wide range of sustainable transport choices. Taking these factors into account and si gnificant topographical separation it is assessed that the LDP is unlikely to impact significantly at this site.

Appendix 4

HABITAT REGULATION ASSESSMENT SCREENING TABLE

Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Table: Strategic Policies					
Site	Cwm Clydach Woodlands – SAC Brecon Beacons National Park				
Plan policy/ proposal	Potential Effects on SAC:	Risk of Likely Significant Effect (LSE)?	Potential Impacts – other Plans and Programmes:	Risk from 'In Combination' Effects?	AA Required? ?

Appendix 4

HABITAT REGULATION

Appendix 4

HABITAT REGULATION ASSESSMENT SCREENING TABLE

Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Table:					
Site	Usk Bat Site				
Plan policy/ proposal	Potential Effects on SAC:	Risk of Likely Significant Effect (LSE)?	Potential Impacts – other Plans and Programmes:	Risk from 'In Combination' Effects?	AA Required?
SP1 Heads of the Valleys Area – Growth and Regeneration	The vulnerabilities relate to the effects of disturbance, temperature change, habitat fragmentation and the deterioration of buildings used to				

Appendix 4

HABITAT REGULATION ASSESSMENT SCREENING TABLE

Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Table:					
Site	Usk Bat Site				
Plan policy/ proposal	Potential Effects on SAC:	Risk of Likely Significant Effect (LSE)?	Potential Impacts – other Plans and Programmes:	Risk from 'In Combination' Effects?	AA Required?

Appendix 4

HABITAT REGULATION ASSESSMENT SCREENING TABLE

Habitat Regulations Assessment Screening Table:
Site