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# HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT (APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT) REPORT



Rhondda Cynon Taf County  
Borough Council

Deposit Local Development Plan

January 2010



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Deposit Local Development Plan

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# Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

## Deposit Local Development Plan

### Habitats Regulations Assessment (Appropriate Assessment) Report

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## 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 Appropriate Assessment stage for Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's (RCT) Local Development Plan (LDP) - It sets out the methods and findings and the conclusions of the Appropriate Assessment.
- 0.2 The Appropriate Assessment took forward the findings of the Screening Assessment (December 2006) and considered the potential for adverse effects arising from the implementation of the LDP at one European Site, Blaen Cynon SAC. The AA concluded that there will not be an adverse effect on the integrity of the Blaen Cynon SAC from the plan alone or in-combination with other plans, when the proposed: avoidance and mitigation measures; recommendations for LDP policy; and specific plan monitoring measures are put in place. The conclusions and recommendations reflect the advice received from the Statutory Body, the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) throughout the HRA process.
- 0.3 The recommendations also note that HRA is an ongoing process and that this plan level assessment should be supported by site level assessment for the strategic allocations that relate to Blaen Cynon SAC. In addition, it is noted that ongoing evidence gathering and reevaluation at appropriate stages in the life of the plan may be necessary to ensure that water resources are protected, and that water can be supplied to any new development in compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.
- 0.4 The Welsh Assembly Government (WAG) guidance notes that it is good practice to make information on HRA available to the public at each formal development plan consultation stage. Therefore, in addition to the statutory consultation undertaken with CCW on this report, it is being made available for wider public consultation alongside the Deposit Plan.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 RCT is currently developing its LDP and is undertaking Habitats Regulations Assessment in line with the requirements set by the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) (Amendment) Regulations 2007.
- 1.2 A HRA Screening Report was produced and consulted on alongside the LDP Preferred Strategy in December 2006. This HRA report takes forward the findings of the HRA Screening report and addresses the Appropriate Assessment stage of HRA which considers how the likely significant effects of the Deposit LDP on the Blaen Cynon SAC identified at screening may affect site integrity.
- 1.3 Habitats Regulations Assessment is also commonly referred to as Appropriate Assessment (AA) although the requirement for AA is first determined by an initial 'screening' stage undertaken as part of the full HRA. This report addresses the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA; it outlines the key tasks undertaken and the key findings/ recommendations emerging from the assessment.

### Requirement for Habitats Regulations Assessment

- 1.4 The European Directive (92/43/EEC) on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Wild Flora and Fauna (the Habitats Directive) protects habitats and species of European nature conservation importance. The Habitats Directive establishes a network of internationally important sites designated for their ecological status. These are referred to as Natura 2000 (N2K) sites or European Sites, and comprise Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs) [which are classified under the Council Directive 79/409/EEC on the conservation of wild birds, the 'Birds Directive'].
- 1.5 Articles 6 (3) and 6 (4) of the Habitats Directive require AA to be undertaken on proposed plans or projects which are not necessary for the management of the site but which are likely to have a significant effect on one or more European sites either individually, or in combination with other plans and projects.<sup>1</sup> In 2007, this requirement was transposed into UK law in Part IVA of the Habitats Regulations (The Conservation (Natural Habitats, & c.)(Amendment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007). These regulations require the application of HRA to all land use plans. Welsh Assembly Government guidance also requires that Ramsar sites (which support internationally important wetland habitats) and are listed under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention 1971) are included

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<sup>1</sup> Determining whether an effect is 'significant' is undertaken in relation to the designated interest features and conservation objectives of the Natura 2000 sites. If an impact on any conservation objective is assessed as being adverse then it should be treated as significant. Where information is limited the precautionary principle applies and significant effects should be assumed until evidence exists to the contrary.

within HRA/AA and that candidate SACs and proposed SPAs are treated as 'designated' sites in the context of HRA.

- 1.6 The purpose of HRA/AA is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan, in combination with the effects of other plans and projects, against the conservation objectives of a European Site and to ascertain whether it would adversely affect the integrity<sup>2</sup> 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. If it is not possible to avoid or remove the identified effects assessed as arising from the plan implementation, then [if the plan makers wish to proceed with the policies/ proposals as set] it must be demonstrated that there are Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) to continue with the plan [(Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive).

#### Guidance for Habitats Regulations Assessment/Appropriate Assessment

- 1.7 The Appropriate Assessment of RCT's LDP was informed by the draft guidance for HRA 'The Assessment of Development Plans in Wales under the Provisions of the Habitats Regulations' has been produced by WAG, (David Tyldesley and Associates, October 2006). This guidance has now been formalised: 'The Appraisal of Development Plans in Wales under the Provisions of the Habitats Regulations', Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning (WAG, September 2009).
- 1.8 The methods and approach used for this Appropriate Assessment conform to the approach set out in the draft and final formal Welsh guidance as well as emergent practice, which recommends that HRA is approached in three main stages – outlined in Table 1. This report outlines the method and findings for stage 2 of the HRA process – the Appropriate Assessment.

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<sup>2</sup> Integrity is described as the sites' coherence, ecological structure and function across the whole area that enables it to sustain the habitat, complex of habitats and/or levels of populations of species for which it was classified, (ODPM, 2005).

Table 1	
Habitats Regulations Assessment: Key Stages	
Stage 1	
Screening for likely significant effect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Identify international sites in and around the plan/ strategy area in search area/ buffer zone agreed with the Statutory Body the Countryside Council for Wales</li> <li>▪ Examine conservation objectives of the interest feature(s)(where available)</li> <li>▪ Review plan policies and proposals and consider potential effects on European sites (magnitude, duration, location, extent)</li> <li>▪ Examine other plans and programmes that could contribute to 'in combination' effects</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If no effects likely – report no significant effect (taking advice from CCW as necessary).</li> <li>▪ If effects are judged likely or uncertainty exists – the precautionary principle applies proceed to stage 2</li> </ul>
Stage 2	
Appropriate Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Complete additional scoping work including the collation of further information on sites as necessary to evaluate impact in light of conservation objectives</li> <li>▪ Agree scope and method of AA with CCW</li> <li>▪ Consider how plan 'in combination' with other plans and programmes will interact when implemented (the Appropriate Assessment)</li> <li>▪ Consider how effect on integrity of site could be avoided by changes to plan and the consideration of alternatives</li> <li>▪ Develop mitigation measures (including timescale and mechanisms)</li> <li>▪ Report outcomes of AA including mitigation measures, consult with CCW and wider [public] stakeholders as necessary</li> <li>▪ If plan will not significantly effect European site proceed without further reference to Habitats Regs</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ If effects or uncertainty remain following the consideration of alternatives and development of mitigations proceed to stage 3</li> </ul>
Stage 3	
Procedures where significant effect on integrity of international site remains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consider alternative solutions, delete from plan or modify</li> <li>▪ Consider if priority species/ habitats affected</li> <li>▪ Identify 'imperative reasons of overriding public interest' (IROPI) economic, social, environmental, human health, public safety</li> <li>▪ Notify Assembly Government</li> <li>▪ Develop and secure compensatory measures</li> </ul>



## Consultation

- 1.9 The Habitats Regulations require the plan making/competent authority to consult the appropriate nature conservation statutory body the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW). Consultation with CCW was undertaken at each of the key stages of the HRA: at the scoping stage to determine the extend/ number of European Sites to be considered by the assessment; at the Screening Report stage to consider the conclusions and the approach to Appropriate Assessment and; at Appropriate Assessment Report stage to consider the findings, conclusions and recommendations arising. Full details of comments and responses provided by CCW, and wider stakeholders including the Environment Agency Wales, are set out in Appendix 1. Further details of the consultation comments and how these have been taken forward in the HRA recommendations are set out in Section 4 of this report (tasks 5 & 6)
- 1.10 The Habitats Regulations leave consultation with other bodies and the public to the discretion of the plan making authority. WAG guidance notes that it is good practice to make information on HRA available to the public at each formal development plan consultation stage. Therefore, in addition to the statutory consultation undertaken with CCW this report will accompany the LDP for wider public consultation.

## Purpose & Structure of Report

- 1.11 This report documents the process and the findings from the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA for RCT's Draft Deposit LDP. Following this introductory section the document is organised into a further three sections:
- Section 2 - outlines the method used for the Appropriate Assessment and includes reference to the key information sources used and the consultation comments received to date.
  - Section 4 - outlines the process and summary findings of the Appropriate Assessment. This section also summarises the key consultation comments arising from CCW and recommendations for the plan.
  - Section 5 - outlines the conclusions and how the plan should now proceed with reference to the Habitats Regulations.

## 2.0 METHOD

### Re – evaluation of Screening Findings

- 2.1 The first Screening Stage report of the HRA for RCT's Preferred Strategy LDP (December, 2006) considered, in consultation with CCW, which European sites within and around the plan area should be considered in further detail as part of an Appropriate Assessment. The assessment considered the environmental conditions of four European Sites scoped into the HRA: Cwm Cadlan SAC; Coedydd Nedd y Mellte SAC; Cardiff Beech Woods SAC; and Blaen Cynon SAC. The screening examined the conservation objectives and the factors required to maintain site integrity, and then considered the potential impacts the plan may have [including in-combination impacts with other plans] and whether any of the impacts arising could have likely significant effects on the conservation objectives of the European Sites.
- 2.2 The results of the screening identified that the following European site may be potentially affected by activities/ impacts arising from the plan:
- Blaen Cynon SAC.
- 2.3 The HRA Screening assessed that there was also potential for significant impact on the Cardiff Beech Woods SAC, in-combination with development proposed in Cardiff. It recommended that further information and discussion was needed to decide whether the site should be considered as part of the AA. Since the Screening Report for RCT's Preferred Strategy LDP was completed in December 2006 a wide range of further information has become available relating not only to the Natura 2000 sites themselves but the environmental conditions of the area which play a role in supporting site integrity. HRA is an iterative process which provides the opportunity to revisit previous assessments when additional information becomes available and therefore the AA revisited the screening assessment for Cardiff Beech Woods SAC, which can be found in Section 3.
- 2.4 As the LDP was in its early stages of development when the HRA Screening was carried out - policies were still being formed - as a result a policy screening could not be completed. The screening therefore took a high level strategic approach when assessing the Preferred Strategy LDP. The AA has therefore also revisited this task and carried out a policy screening (Appendix 3), that has considered and identified which policies have the potential (in implementation) to affect the integrity of the Blaen Cynon SAC within the plan's area of influence.

### Appropriate Assessment

- 2.5 Assessing the impacts of plans, policies and proposals against the Natura 2000 site conservation objectives is required by Regulation 85(B) of the Amended Habitats Regulations 2007. This 'appropriate

assessment' is the core part of the HRA process and involves the key tasks set in Table 2.

2.6 The results of the screening identified that the following European site may be potentially affected by activities/ impacts arising from the plan:

- Blaen Cynon SAC.

2.7 A consultation response to the Screening Report from CCW noted concerns regarding a strategic site allocation to the south of Hirwaun, as there is potential for loss of suitable habitat used by the Marsh Fritillary a qualifying feature of the Blaen Cynon SAC. A full record of the consultation commentary received is provided at Appendix 1.

Table 2	
Appropriate Assessment Stage 1: Key Tasks	
Task 1 Scoping and Additional Information Gathering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Gathering additional information on European sites</li> <li>■ Gathering additional data on background environmental conditions</li> <li>■ Further analysis of plans/ projects that have the potential to generate 'in-combination' effects</li> </ul>
Task 2 Assessing the Impacts (in-combination) Appropriate Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Examination of the policies and proposals identified during the screening phase and their likely significant effects on European sites</li> <li>■ Consideration of whether effects are direct/ indirect/ cumulative</li> <li>■ Consideration of whether other plans and programme are likely to generate effects that have the potential to act cumulatively with those arising from the plan</li> </ul>
Task 3 Developing Mitigation Measures (including initial avoidance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ If effects identified – either arising from the plan alone and/or 'in-combination' with other plans – consider initial opportunities to avoid (e.g. delete/ remove or amend policy from plan)</li> <li>■ Develop mitigation measures – must be deliverable by the plan and have clear delivery/ monitoring responsibilities</li> </ul>
Task 4 Findings & Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Conclude the assessment, explain key findings and analysis informing conclusions.</li> </ul>
Task 5 Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Undertaken further consultation with CCW (assumes that consultation has also been an iterative process throughout the HRA/AA).</li> </ul>

- 2.8 As part of the AA process consideration was also given to the concurrent Sustainability Appraisal (SA)/ Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) work which has informed the development of the LDP Deposit Plan as well as related HRA work undertaken at a strategic level (the HRA of the Wales Spatial Plan Update) and neighbouring authorities' HRAs, where available.

### 3.0 Re-screening of Cardiff Beech Woods SAC

3.1 Cardiff Beech Woods lies to the north east of Cardiff and is intersected by the A4054 and the A470. The site contains one of the largest concentrations of Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests in Wales, and represents the habitat close to the western limit of its past native range in both the UK and Europe. The woods show mosaics and transitions to other types, including more acidic beech woodland and oak *Quercus* and ash *Fraxinus excelsior* woodland.

#### Recreation

3.2 Cardiff Beech Woods SAC is comprised of three component SSSIs, which are used to a greater or lesser extent for recreation purposes. Castel Coch Woodlands SSSI and Fforestganol a Chwm Nofydd SSSI experience the most recreation pressure and are popular for walking, climbing and mountain biking. The Core Management Plan for Cardiff Beech Woods SAC (CMP) identifies that the site is still recovering from undesirable effects of past management, which is why feature 1 (Asperulo-Fagetum Beech Forests) received a condition status of Unfavourable and feature 2 (Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines) Unfavourable Recovering. Based on information provided in the CMP it appears that the management of recreational use of the woodlands comes down to the site level, through maintaining the network of public footpaths and access routes.

3.3 There are three Strategic Sites proposed in the Southern Strategy Area, which are all over 5km away from Cardiff Beech Woods. An outdoor recreation survey for Wales<sup>3</sup> found that approximately 49% of recreational visits involved journeys of less than 4.7km. Whilst it is recognised that residents may travel further afield the proposed Strategic Sites also contain provisions for open space and recreational areas and there is plenty of land available for recreation in the surrounding area, including public footpaths and alternative woodland, such as Llantrisant Forest. The majority of people take short recreational walks and these will often stay relatively close to the settlement in which they live. The A470 runs between the development proposed in the LDP and Castel Coch Woodlands SSSI and Fforestganol a Chwm Nofydd SSSI (which are the most heavily recreated areas) acting as a barrier. Walkers and cyclists from the proposed developments are unlikely to cross a busy main road when there are suitable alternatives in the surrounding area, such as Llantrisant Common.

3.4 The development proposed in the Cardiff LDP is not likely to have significant in-combination effects on the SAC through increased recreational activity as the majority of proposed development is

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<sup>3</sup> TNS Travel and Tourism, (Sept, 2006) An outdoor recreation survey for Wales Recommended survey methods and pilot survey results.

situated located away from the site<sup>4</sup>. Given the location of the proposed development within RCT's Deposit LDP and the availability of alternative recreation space, the Draft Deposit LDP is not likely to have significant effects on Cardiff Beech Woods SAC through increased recreational activity either alone or in-combination.

#### Air Quality

- 3.5 The level of development proposed within the LDP has the potential to increase levels of traffic along the M4 and A470, which both come within 200m of Cardiff Beech Woods SAC. This could lead to a potential increase in airborne pollutants at the SAC. The LDP contains a number of policies that will assist in mitigating any potential increase in traffic and therefore airborne pollutants in this area, such as ensuring improvements and encouraging the use of public transport and walking and cycling routes. The proposed level of employment development will also help to reduce daily out-commuting by private car, which is a known sustainability issue for the County Borough. The number of people travelling outside the County Borough for their retail needs will also be reduced through the level of proposed retail development in the plan.
- 3.6 Information provided by the Welsh Air Quality Forum<sup>5</sup> shows an overall long-term decline in nitrogen dioxide (emitted from combustion processes) concentrations in urban areas throughout Wales. On average the concentrations of ozone in rural areas appear to be showing a gradually increasing trend, which according to APIS<sup>6</sup> could be related to warmer summers. In urban background areas the increase is much more dramatic as concentrations of total NOx (product of combustion of fossil fuels; a major contributor to the formation of ozone in the troposphere and acid deposition) are decreasing. Ozone (not emitted directly from any man-made source in any significant quantities) in these areas is now much more similar to the rural concentrations. PM10 Particulate concentrations (solid or liquid particles of soot, dust, smoke, fumes, and aerosols) show a decrease up until 2004, but then a slight increase over recent years.
- 3.7 The CMP identifies that "there is no evidence to date that atmospheric pollution has an adverse impact on the features<sup>7</sup>". It also states that this issue may need to be addressed in more detail in the future. Once the sensitivity of the SAC to atmospheric pollution is known it would be more appropriate to assess the significant effects of potential traffic increases along the M4 and A470. A precautionary approach emphasises the need for the sustainable transport solutions proposed in the plan to be effectively implemented.

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<sup>4</sup> Consultation with Cardiff Council (January 2009)

<sup>5</sup> Air Quality in Wales (Accessed on 04/09/08) Trends – Air Quality Indicators. Available online: <http://www.welshairquality.co.uk/trend.php>

<sup>6</sup> UK Air Pollution Information Systems. Available online: <http://www.apis.ac.uk/>

<sup>7</sup> CCW (2008) Core Management Plan Including Conservation Objectives for Blaen Cynon SAC. Available online: <http://www.ccw.gov.uk/landscape-wildlife/protecting-our-landscape/special-sites-project-landing.aspx>

- 3.8 Based on information from the JNCC (Protected Sites Information) and CCW (Core Management Plan for Cardiff Beech Woods SAC) it assessed that site level management of the SAC and surrounding woodland are the most important factors in to achieving a favourable status for the features. This includes the maintenance of public footpaths and access routes and the management of commercial forestry and limestone quarries in the area. CCW identifies that most if not all aspects of the component sites are heading in the right direction although the status is still short of favourable. "Implementation of appropriate management will be addressed but in our view there is no urgent or immediate need for action<sup>8</sup>". Taking these factors into account it is not likely that RCT's LDP will have significant effects either alone or in-combination with Cardiff's LDP on the Cardiff Beech Woods SAC in relation to airborne pollution.

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<sup>8</sup> CCW (2008) Core Management Plan Including Conservation Objectives for Blaen Cynon SAC. Available online: <http://www.ccw.gov.uk/landscape-wildlife/protecting-our-landscape/special-sites-project-landing.aspx>

#### 4.0 APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

##### Task 1: Scoping and Additional Information Gathering

- 4.1 As noted in Section 2 of this report, the HRA Screening Report for the Preferred Strategy LDP (Dec 2006) set out details of the European Sites and the types of impact to be considered in the more detailed Appropriate Assessment work.
- 4.2 To support the Appropriate Assessment additional evidence was gathered. This included air quality data and trends provided by the Welsh Air Quality Forum and UK Air Pollution Information System (APIS) and research studies carried out on the Marsh Fritillary. Further information was also sought on the amount of available suitable habitat for the Marsh Fritillary using the Phase 1 Habitat Survey for Wales and Landmap<sup>9</sup>.

##### Task 2: Assessing the Impacts (in-combinati) Appropriate Assessment

- 4.3 As previously noted the LDP was in its early stages of development when the HRA Screening was carried out with policies under development. It was therefore not possible to complete a policy screening and the assessment took a high level strategic approach when assessing the LDP. The AA has subsequently revisited this task and carried out a policy screening (Appendix 3), that has considered and identified which policies have the potential (in implementation) to affect the integrity of the Blaen Cynon SAC within the plan's area of influence. This section considers in more detail where the impacts identified are likely to have a significant effect on site integrity either alone or in-combination with other plans and projects.
- 4.4 An initial policy screening of the Deposit Draft Plan identified that there was potential for significant effects in relation to Strategic Site 5 (land south of Hirwaun/ Penywaun) as it contained a section of the Blaen Cynon SAC within its boundary. As a result of these findings, the Council was advised to amend the strategic site boundary so that it not only excluded the designated area of land, but that an appropriate buffer zone would also be included. The Council considered and acted on this advice and the boundary of Strategic Site 5 was then modified to reflect these recommendations. The policy screening presented at Appendix 3 has also been updated to reflect this change.
- 4.5 The consideration and assessment (AA) of potential effects at Blaen Cynon SAC was informed by the information provided by the Site Characterisation, (Appendix 2) the Plans and Projects Review (Appendix 3) and the additional information provided through the Scoping work (Task 1 of the AA). The detailed analysis is captured in

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<sup>9</sup> Landmap. Available online: <http://landmap.ccw.gov.uk/>



the Appropriate Assessment Proforma (Appendix 5), and the key issues arising are summarised below. The assessment focused on those impacts arising from the plan, identified through the screening and subsequent scoping work, as being most significant at this SAC.

## Blaen Cynon SAC

### Air Quality

- 4.6 The LDP has the potential to increase levels of traffic along the A465 and A4059 through the development of Strategic Site 5: Land South of Hirwaun/Penywaun and Employment allocation 9 (North of Fifth Avenue, Hirwaun Ind Estate, Hirwaun). Increased traffic could lead to an increase in airborne pollutants at Blaen Cynon SAC as the A465 and A4059 are within 200m. The plans and programs that have the potential for in-combination effects in relation to increased traffic along the A465 and A4059 are:
- The Trunk Road Forward Programme 2002 proposes the dualling of the A465 from Abergavenny to Hirwaun. Section 7 (A465:A470 to Hirwaun) is in close proximity to the SAC. This in-combination with the development proposed in the LDP has the potential to increase levels of airborne pollutants through increased traffic.
  - The Brecon Beacons National Park (BBNP) Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy identifies the potential for a small amount of growth in Peneryn, the precise location and size of development is as yet not unknown, however allocations outside the main settlement of Brecon are likely to be small in number. There is a small likelihood that development in this area may increase levels of traffic along the A4059 which is within 200m of Blaen Cynon SAC. The BBNP Preferred Strategy contains strong policies in regard to environmental protection and climate change (minimise greenhouse emissions).
- 4.7 RCT's Deposit Draft Plan contains a number of policies that will assist in mitigating any potential increase in traffic and therefore airborne pollutants, such as ensuring improvements to and encouraging the use of public transport, walking and cycling routes. The proposed level of employment development will also help to reduce daily out-commuting to work from RCT by private car. The Core Management Plan for the Blaen Cynon SAC (CMP) does not identify air pollution as being a significant issue at this site. "There are no known off-site factors, such as pollution, that are affecting the marsh fritillary to any significant extent, although there is still much industry in the localityError! Bookmark not defined.". The CMP also states that as management of the SAC habitat improves, off-site factors could become more apparent. Based on information provided in the CMP and from the JNCC; site level management issues (grazing and scrub management) are currently the most important factor in terms of maintaining and improving the marsh fritillary habitat. Taking these factors into account it is assessed that the LDP will not have significant effects on Blaen

Cynon SAC either alone or in-combination in regards to airborne pollution.

#### Hydrological Regime

- 4.8 Marsh fritillaries are essentially grassland butterflies and although populations may occur occasionally on wet heath, bog margins and woodland clearings, most colonies are found in damp acidic or dry calcareous grasslands. The drainage and hydrological conditions on the site should be maintained to favour the habitats that support the marsh fritillary and their management - Devil's-bit scabious prefers moist soils. Blaen Cynon SAC is situated close to the source of the Afon Cynon. Therefore, the development proposed in the LDP is unlikely to adversely affect water levels through increased abstraction as it is focused in areas further downstream.
- 4.9 There is potential however for Strategic Site 5 to influence the hydrological regime at management units 5 and 6 of the SAC, as they are situated on the valley floor and are therefore susceptible to alterations in surface and groundwater flow from areas at higher altitudes. In addition, Employment allocation 9 (North of Fifth Avenue, Hirwaun Ind Estate, Hirwaun) is situated to the south of SAC units 2 & 3 - although it is separated by existing industrial development. This area currently supports a mix of neutral and marshy grassland and any affects on the hydrological regime here could potentially influence retained habitats and/or the nearby SAC units. The Trunk Road Forward Programme 2002 has the potential to contribute to impacts on the hydrological regime as it proposes the dualling of the A465 from Abergavenny to Hirwaun. Section 7 (A465:A470 to Hirwaun) is in close proximity to management units 5 and 6. There is potential for development proposed in the LDP (Policy NSA 8 & Policy NSA 14) and the Trunk Road Forward Programme to have significant effects on Blaen Cynon SAC through changes to the hydrological regime in management units 2, 3, 5 and 6.

#### Habitat Loss and Fragmentation

- 4.10 It has been noted that Marsh fritillaries are essentially grassland butterflies and although populations may occur occasionally on wet heath, bog margins and woodland clearings, most colonies are found in damp acidic or dry calcareous grasslands. Approximately 50ha of habitat is required to maintain the population in the long-term; with at least 10ha [of the overall area] in good condition. These operational limits reflect the minimum contribution of the Blaen Cynon SAC towards the favourable conservation status of the species in the Hirwaun/Penderyn area. As noted previously, the SAC only includes the core of the marsh fritillary habitat (and hence core of the metapopulation). There are likely to be other small areas of habitat outside the SAC boundary which are used by the butterfly only occasionally, but which may have a role in contributing to the long-term success of the metapopulation.

- 4.11 Strategic site 5 Land South of Hirwaun/Penywaun and Employment allocation 9 (North of Fifth Avenue, Hirwaun Ind Estate, Hirwaun) are adjacent to Blaen Cynon SAC. The sites will not lead to direct loss of designated habitat but could lead to the loss and fragmentation of important surrounding habitat. One of the conservation objectives for the SAC identifies that not all habitat used by the Marsh Fritillary is expected to be found within the SAC, "some will be on nearby land within a radius of about 2km<sup>10</sup>".
- 4.12 Policy NSA 14 puts forward a site that is situated north of Fifth Avenue in Hirwaun and is allocated for 4.17ha of B2 (general industry) and B8 (storage and distribution) employment use (Employment Allocation 9). The site is within 200m of Blaen Cynon SAC - separated by an area of industrial land - and has the potential to lead to loss of suitable habitat for the Marsh Fritillary. The Phase 1 Habitat Survey of Wales (CCW 2005) shows that this site, if developed, will lead to the loss of a small area of marshy grassland although a greater area than that lost would be retained to the west of the development. It is assessed that to the north of the site there is enough space and suitable habitat - between the site and Penderyn Reservoir - to act as a corridor, allowing marsh fritillary to access retained marshy grassland and other similar habitats to the west. Given the size of the allocation and the availability of suitable habitat in the surrounding areas to the north and west, it is not likely that this allocation will have significant effects on Blaen Cynon SAC through loss of suitable habitat for the Marsh Fritillary.
- 4.13 Policy NSA 8 identifies land South of Hirwaun/ Penywaun for the provision of 1000 dwellings (400 during the life of the plan), 36ha of employment and 2,000m<sup>2</sup> of retail use. The site is approximately 175ha, which includes the provision of 45ha of open space to the south of the site. It is within 300m of Blaen Cynon SAC - separated [from the SAC] by the A465 and the settlement of Hirwaun. There is potential for development at this site to lead to loss of suitable habitat for the Marsh Fritillary (The Phase 1 Habitat Survey of Wales (2005) shows that this site, if developed, will lead to the loss of a substantial area of marshy grassland). The marshy grassland does not cover the entire site; the majority is concentrated in the north west from the A4061 to Tower Road, while there is also a smaller area within the eastern section of the site. The Trunk Roads Forward Programme also has the potential to act in-combination with the developments previously mentioned as the dualling of the A465 from Abergavenny to Hirwaun has the potential to increase habitat loss and fragmentation, although this issue would require consideration as part of the separate HRA/EIA for the A465 dualling.
- 4.14 During years with a high Marsh Fritillary count it is possible that the combined loss of such a large area of marshy grassland could have

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<sup>10</sup> CCW (2008) Core Management Plan Including Conservation Objectives for Blaen Cynon SAC. Available online: <http://www.ccw.gov.uk/landscape-wildlife/protecting-our-landscape/special-sites-project-landing.aspx>

significant effects on the availability of suitable habitat. If the majority of land to the south of Rhigos Road (A4061) were to be developed there would not only be a loss of suitable habitat, there would also be fragmentation as access to marshy grassland to the south of the site would be restricted due to development. As the majority of development is situated to the south of the marshy grassland comprising SAC units 5 and 6, with other similar habitat present to the north and west of Units 1 to 4, development south of Rhigos Road (A4061) is not likely to have a significant effect on the core metapopulation of Marsh Fritillary. However, there is potential for significant effects on the wider metapopulation during years with a high count as the ability of the Marsh Fritillary to disperse will be restricted due to the loss of the potential habitat corridor between the Hirwaun Industrial Estate and Hirwaun itself, which allows access to marshy grassland in the south.

### Task 3: Developing Avoidance and Mitigation Measures

- 4.15 The AA has identified a number of potentially significant effects on Blaen Cynon SAC which result from policies proposed within the Deposit Draft Plan. The policies in question generally support or propose development in close proximity to the SAC. Specifically it was assessed that impacts could arise in regard to policies proposing development on Strategic Site 5 (land south of Hirwaun/Penywaun) and employment allocation 9 (north of Fifth Avenue, Hirwaun). It was also identified that there is potential for in-combination effects with these proposed developments with the Trunk Roads Forward Programme 2002, as it proposes the dualling of the A465 from Abergavenny to Hirwaun.
- 4.16 It has therefore been necessary to consider avoidance and mitigation measures for these policies, which when applied are capable of reducing the effects to a level where they are negligible and will not adversely affect the integrity of the site. The avoidance and mitigation measures considered and the likelihood of residual effect following their application is detailed in the Appropriate Assessment Proforma (Appendix 5) with the key conclusions summarised below.

### Local Development Plan

- 4.17 The LDP must ensure policy measures are robust in the protection of designated sites. The LDP should avoid development on marshy grassland in the north west area of Strategic Site 5. The provision of open space in this area with appropriate management would help to retain connectivity of suitable habitats to the north and south. Within the supporting text of Policy NSA 8 it should be made clear that there are constraints to the location of development in relation to the marshy grassland in the north west (of Strategic Site 5) and that development should be focused in the east/ south east of the site. This would help to retain a significant proportion of marshy grassland and would retain the connectivity of existing habitats.

## Individual Site Level

- 4.18 Ensure that development within Strategic Site 5 and at Employment Allocation 9 is designed, constructed and operated so as to avoid risks of impacts on the Blaen Cynon SAC. This may include the need for site specific HRA where necessary. Specifically, development would need to ensure and demonstrate that there would be no adverse impacts on the hydrological regime of Blaen Cynon SAC. Specifics of such mechanisms would be taken from mitigation strategies developed from the conclusions of site specific HRA/EIA Reports.

## Task 4: Findings and Recommendations

- 4.19 The current condition status of all management units within the SAC are assessed as unfavourable. This is predominantly due to past and present site level management issues, such as grazing and scrub control, and as such the LDP is unlikely to have direct significant effects on the condition status of Blaen Cynon SAC. As the site level management of the SAC habitat improves, off-site factors should become more apparent and will therefore give a greater understanding of the vulnerability and sensitivity of the SAC. The SAC is also vulnerable to a number of factors that are outside the influence of the site manager, such as parasitic wasps and weather conditions.
- 4.20 It is anticipated that, unmitigated, there is potential for significant impacts to the integrity of Blaen Cynon SAC from development proposed in Policy NSA 8 alone and in-combination with the A465 dualling scheme. The development from the plan is not likely to have direct significant effects on the SAC but does have the potential to indirectly have significant effects on the SAC through the loss and fragmentation of surrounding suitable habitat. The magnitude of this impact will be greater during years when the metapopulation of Marsh Fritillary is high, as the ability of the butterfly to disperse will be restricted due to the loss of the potential habitat corridor between the Hirwaun Industrial Estate and Hirwaun itself, which allows access to marshy grassland in the south.
- 4.21 There is also the potential for the developments mentioned above to have significant effects on the hydrological regime in management units 5 and 6 of the SAC. Given that management units 5 and 6 lie at the bottom of the valley there is the potential for the developments to alter surface and groundwater flow which could have implications for the marshy grassland habitat. Employment Allocation 9 also has the potential to affect the hydrological regime as it lies in close proximity to SAC management units 2 and 3.
- 4.22 If the avoidance and mitigation measures proposed earlier in this section (paras 4.17-4.18) are effectively implemented the Deposit Plan is unlikely to have adverse effects on the Blaen Cynon SAC either alone or in-combination.

## Task 5: Consultation

- 4.23 This report, incorporating the avoidance and mitigations recommendations, was provided to CCW and wider stakeholders for comments alongside the draft deposit LDP consultation (Dec, 2008). All comments, including the supplementary advice provided by CCW on water supply issues, are set out in Appendix 1.
- 4.24 Overall CCW's comments support the approach taken to the AA and the key conclusions. Specific recommendations relate to the inclusion of air quality monitoring for Blaen Cynon SAC and a greater assurance that individual developments in proximity to the SAC would sufficiently take account of water resources, design and monitoring issues to ensure no significant effect on the integrity of the site. In addition, CCW also provided clarification on their suggested approach for the LDP to address any uncertainties for European site integrity that may arise as a result of increased water resource demand development. Further recommendations arising from the commentary received are outlined below.

## Task 6: Further Recommendations

- 4.25 In line with CCW's comments, summarised above and detailed at Appendix 1, the AA proposes several additional recommendations.
- 4.26 To ensure that potential adverse effects to the site integrity of Blaen Cynon SAC from air quality changes are avoided, the Council should seek to incorporate air quality monitoring at this site as part of its overall air quality monitoring strategy for the LDP. This recommendation can be usefully incorporated into the proposed Air Quality Target and Indicator proposed for the LDP through the SA/SEA.<sup>11</sup>
- 4.27 To ensure that the developments proposed by strategic allocations in the vicinity of Blaen Cynon do not have adverse effects on the conservation objectives of the site, the Council should ensure that detailed project level HRA is required to consider specific issues identified through this plan level HRA, in particular, the potential fragmentation of habitat and any possible changes to water supply.

This recommendation has been taken forward by the Council and is now included in the focused proposed changes to the Draft Deposit Plan provided ahead of the plan examination.

- 4.28 The AA of RCT's LDP did not identify any constraints to water supply or delivery in a manner that is compliant with the requirements of the Habitats Directive. However, in line with advice received from CCW it is noted that any future uncertainties regarding water resources should be addressed through ongoing evidence gathering during the first four

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<sup>11</sup> SA/SEA Target 17: Air Quality. Chapter 6: Implementation and Monitoring. SA/SEA of Rhondda Cynon Taf Deposit Draft Plan (January 2009).

years of the plan following adoption. In particular, as part of the Council's ongoing consultation with water companies and the Environment Agency Wales, RCT may (in collaboration with neighbouring authorities as appropriate) undertake a water cycle study or equivalent evidence gathering exercise, to ensure that any information uncertainties relating to sustainable (HRA compliant) water supply are addressed. If necessary this would support any future [policy<sup>12</sup>] changes to the LDP<sup>13</sup> to ensure continued compliance with the requirements as set out in Habitats Regulations.

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<sup>12</sup> For example, changes to policy wording based on emergent evidence that allows for adjustments to housing allocations in order to fit available resources (an approach supported by CCW and implemented in the West Midlands RSS).

<sup>13</sup> Regulation 41 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan (Wales) Regulations 2005, which requires a LPA to carryout a full review of its LDP every four years from the date of its initial adoption.

## 5.0 CONCLUSIONS/ FUTURE WORK

- 5.1 This report outlines the methods used and the findings arising from the Appropriate Assessment stage of the Habitats Regulations Assessment for RCT's Deposit Draft Plan. The AA considered 1 European site within RCT's plan boundaries and around the plan area.
- 5.2 The AA concluded that the risk of a significant effect on the integrity of the Blaen Cynon SAC was unlikely, when the avoidance and mitigation measures have been taken into account and the additional policy recommendations provided by the HRA for the LDP are in place. These conclusions reflect the consultation advice received from CCW throughout the HRA process.
- 5.3 As noted in the policy recommendations arising from the HRA, the finding of no significant effect for the Blaen Cynon SAC in relation to RCT's Deposit Plan does not obviate the need for lower level, project scale/ implementation plans to undertake HRA/AA where it is considered there is potential for significant effect on the SAC. The findings of this plan level HRA/AA, including the site analysis and the assessment of in-combination effects, should support this future assessment work.

### Monitoring and Review

- 5.4 Monitoring is a central requirement of the new planning system and monitoring for biodiversity is an integral part of WAG Environment Strategy (2006) and wider UK biodiversity targets. Natura 2000 sites are, by definition, the key biodiversity resource within the plan area and monitoring should be employed in support to ensure that the core designation is supported. The SA/SEA of the Deposit Draft Plan sets out suggested indicators for biodiversity monitoring and it is appropriate that monitoring for HRA is aligned with the SA/SEA requirement and linked to Annual Monitoring Reports as appropriate. In particular, it has been recommended that the proposed indicator for Air Quality includes focused monitoring for the Blaen Cynon SAC.
- 5.5 This HRA report is presented alongside the Deposit Plan as part of the evidence base for examination where it serves to provide a record of how the plan is consistent with Welsh Assembly and wider UK government/EU policy on biodiversity protection. The assessment should be revisited in the light of any significant changes to the plan.



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environmental planning and management for sustainability



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## Appendix 1: Consultation Commentary

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Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report Consultation: Dec 2006

Ref No.	Date	Consultee	Consultee Comments	Response (record of amendment to HRA)
	11/06/07	CCW	<p>1. Introduction Amend 'Appropriate Assessment' to read 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' (HRA). HRA covers the whole process of assessment as required by the Habitat Regulations, and is an iterative process that will need to be undertaken at most stages of preparation of the LDP. Appropriate assessment is just one stage of that process, and is undertaken when it is considered that actions being undertaken in the preparation of the LDP, such as identifying the vision, site allocation etc are considered to have a significant effect on a European site, or where it cannot be demonstrated that the proposal will not have a significant effect on the site.</p> <p>2. Appropriate Assessment Amend AA to read HRA Replace the phrase 'protects habitats and species of European nature conservation importance' to read 'promotes the maintenance of biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora'. Amend the next sentence to read 'The Habitats Directive requires Member States to designate nature conservation sites to form part of the EC "Natura 2000" network, to protect the designated sites from deterioration or disturbance and take steps to conserve the interest.'</p> <p>Para 2.2 (CCW numbering as paragraphs have no numbers) At the end of the first sentence add</p>	Comments noted and taken forward in Appropriate Assessment Report.

		<p>'that are likely to have a significant effect on a European site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects.'</p> <p>4<sup>th</sup> line of that paragraph, amend AA to read HRA.</p> <p>3. Welsh Assembly Guidance on Appropriate Assessment Amend AA in the paragraph title to read HRA.</p> <p>Para 3.2 Amend AA to read HRA</p> <p>Para 3.4 Welcome the recognition that HRA is part of an iterative process that needs to be revisited at each stage of the plan process. However, it is not clear how this has been taken on board so far in the LDP process, and there are several paragraphs in the screening report where the impression is given that HRA is a one off process.</p> <p>4. Methodology 4.1 Amend AA to read HRA</p> <p>Step 3 What about the Plan's vision and aims? Are they likely to have any impacts on European sites? Also need to consider the implications of the stages that come before the preparation of policies. It is important that the process is undertaken iteratively throughout the plan process, rather than trying to retrofit HRA to decisions.</p> <p>Should there be a step 4?</p> <p>6. Appropriate Assessment Screening Step 2 Presumably as this is an AA scoping report, we assume that the Authority are erring on the side of caution, and assuming that it cannot</p>	<p>The HRA process has informed the development of the plan, with regard to location, scale of strategic sites, for example near Blaen Cynon.</p> <p>HRA has been undertaken iteratively and in consultation with CCW.</p> <p>Noted. An Appropriate Assessment Report will follow the</p>
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			<p>be demonstrated that there will not be a significant effect on N2K sites, and that an AA will therefore be required.</p> <p>Step 3 Policies Review</p> <p>Blaen Cynon CCW have concerns about the location of 120 houses next to or overlapping the SAC which supports a population of Marsh fritillary butterfly, with the resultant loss of habitat due to direct and indirect damage.</p> <p>Following discussions with the Project manager and engineer for the dualling of the A465 trunkroad, and given the timetable for the works, the WAG Transport Division will not have undertaken a HRA of the dualling of the Hirwaun section in time for it to be considered by RCT during the preparation of the LDP. RCT will therefore have to consider the proposal as part of the HRA of the plan.</p> <p>Is there supposed to be a Step 4?</p> <p>Step 5 Assessment of 'in combination' effects Consideration should also be given to checking the content of Neath and Port Talbot's emerging UDP to make sure that there are no implications for RCT.</p> <p>Step 6 Assessment of likely significant effects 6.1 As stated above the HRA is an iterative process throughout the plan, not a one off assessment. Recommend that the wording of the text in this paragraph is amended to reflect this, as currently this is not evident. Last sentence, amend AA to read HRA.</p> <p>7. Summary and Conclusions CCW notes the potential for RCT's LDP to have significant effects on the</p>	<p>screening.</p> <p>Noted. Further consideration of the Blaen Cynon SAC is provided in the Appropriate Assessment Report.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted, see comments on</p>
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			Blaen Cynon SAC. We strongly recommend that alternative sites are considered to provide the 120 houses. As for Blaen Cynon, are there any other sites where housing could be allocated to overcome any impacts on the Cardiff Beechwoods SAC? What alternatives have been considered?	regarding AA of Blaen Cynon SAC and alternations to the plan.
	Unknown	CCW	<p>CCW is aware that there is a significant amount of semi natural habitat within the boundary of this large strategic allocation to the south of Hirwaun. In particular we are aware that habitat exists on the proposed allocation which is suitable for use by the marsh fritillary butterflies, a qualifying feature of the nearby Blaen Cynon Special Area of Conservation (SAC), see <a href="http://www.jncc.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0030092">http://www.jncc.gov.uk/ProtectedSites/SACselection/sac.asp?EUCode=UK0030092</a> for further information.</p> <p>We therefore have concerns regarding this allocation given the proximity to the SAC and the possible impacts upon breeding habitat that are likely to contribute to the maintenance of the marsh fritillary metapopulation in this area. We would welcome sight of any test of likely significant effect that your authority has undertaken as required by regulation 48 of the Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) you are required to carry out for the LD. We would welcome urgent discussions regarding this matter.</p>	Noted. Issues regarding Blaen Cynon SAC taken forward in the Appropriate Assessment.

## Habitats Regulations Assessment Appropriate Assessment Report Consultation: Dec 2008

PRE-DEPOSIT CONSULTATION (2008) HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT	
Organisation/ Comment	Response (record of amendment to HRA)
Fernhill Rhondda Conservation Group	
<p>1 Representation Text</p> <p>6. Habitats Regulations Assessment Para' no' item 6</p> <p>Item 6 - Habitat Regulation Assessment The Strategic Environmental Assessment is a lengthy document at 784 pages and any attempt to simplify or condense its contents should be made. This section, whilst important for the Environmental Sustainability Issues is much better suited to stand alone for use as a reference document.</p> <p>2 Changes Sought</p> <p>This document must be a REFERENCE document and as such should be presented in its own right.</p>	Noted.
Environment Agency Wales	
<p>1 Representation Text</p> <p>6. Habitat Regulations Assessment</p> <p>The HRA has not considered impacts to Special Area of Conservation (SAC) sites on the outskirts of the county boundary: Cwm Cadlan and Coedydd Nedd Mellte, located approximately 1km away. There was an assessment of the Blaen Cynon SAC and Cardiff</p>	The HRA Screening Report (Dec 2006) assessed the potential for likely significant effects on Cwm Cadlan SAC and Coedydd Nedd a Mellte SAC



PRE-DEPOSIT CONSULTATION (2008) HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT	
Organisation/ Comment	Response (record of amendment to HRA)
<p>Beech Woods within RCT. The assessment found there is a likely significant effect on the Blaen Cynon site, therefore the impacts to Cwm Cadlan and Coedydd Nedd Mellte should be assessed. This is because we would also expect these sites to be impacted by any additional development in the area, as any development, including the proposals in the Hirwaun and Penywaun areas in the Plan, would have stand alone and potential in combination effects upon these SACs.</p> <p>2 Changes Sought</p> <p>The HRA should assess and consider potential impacts to the Cwm Cadlan and Coedydd Nedd Mellte SAC sites on the outskirts of the county boundary.</p> <p>The HRA has identified impacts from air quality, any additional development and additional transport emissions within the proximity of the SAC sites that would cause additional impacts upon the SAC features. The Environment Agency has undertaken a review of all EAW consents under the Habitats Directive, and our 'Review of Consents Appropriate Assessments' information can be requested. This provides information on local impacts on the sites and any potential in combination effects.</p>	<p>as a result of the RCT LDP both alone and in combination with surrounding plans and programmes. These sites were scoped into the screening in consultation with CCW. The screening assessment concluded that there were no likely significant effects on these European sites and as a result, these sites were not carried forward to the Appropriate Assessment stage of the HRA process.</p> <p>The findings of the HRA Screening Report (Dec 2006) were consulted on and agreed with the Countryside Council for Wales (See first section [above] of this Consultation Comments Appendix 1).</p>
Countryside Council for Wales	
<p>Executive summary Paragraph 0.2</p> <p>We particularly draw your attention to the requirements of regulation 85 of the Regulations and the necessity to demonstrate, after consultation, how the assessment has been amended to take on board the comments made by CCW and, how they are to be incorporated into the plan itself. This amended record of the assessment will then form part of the suite of documents submitted to the inspector. It should also note that where the</p>	<p>Noted. Appropriate Assessment report notes the iterative nature of HRA and the ongoing requirement to consider HRA at site/ project level where directed by the plan level assessment.</p>

PRE-DEPOSIT CONSULTATION (2008) HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT	
Organisation/ Comment	Response (record of amendment to HRA)
<p>assessment for particular policies has been deferred to lower tier plans or project implementation, this needs to be clearly justified. In addition, the Assessment should also acknowledge the authority's general duties to have regard to the manner in which the plan would be carried out, and to any conditions or restrictions which could avoid adverse impacts on the European site(s) (Regulation 48(6) of the Conservation (Natural Habitats &amp;c) Regulations 1994). Given both of these points, it is clear that the RCT Local Development Plan will need to continue to make reference to the Habitats Regulations regardless of the completion of this element of the HRA process.</p>	
<p>2.0 Method Paragraph 2.3 In general, CCW commends RCT on the positive iterative way it has approached the HRA process. We agree with Blaencynon SAC being identified as requiring further appropriate assessment but we are still unclear why some European and international sites outside the County boundary were excluded on the basis of an arbitrary 5km "buffer zone". This is inappropriate and, as illustrated in the evaluation of significant effects on the Cardiff Beech Woods SAC, artificially excludes potential impacts from the Plan on sites considerably further afield.</p> <p>For example, the plan will require additional water resources, some of which may come from designated SAC Rivers such as the Usk and Wye. While we are not suggesting that the screening exercise is repeated, it would be a suitably precautionary approach for the local authority to satisfy itself that there are no impacts on these sites inherent to the plan.</p>	<p>The identification of an appropriate search area for European Sites outside the plan boundary was subject to consultation with CCW and supported by statutory body advice at the screening stage. (Dec 2006, see Appendix 1 above). The additional screening assessment for Cardiff Beech Woods SAC undertaken alongside the Appropriate Assessment was provided in response to CCW commentary and issues identified by the first screening.</p> <p>Issues regarding water resources have been subject to further advice from CCW. (see</p>
<p>3.0 Re-screening of Cardiff Beech Woods SAC. Paragraph 3.3 While we agree that, when considered alone, the proposals contained within the RCT LDP</p>	<p>Noted. The distance limitations for recreation</p>

PRE-DEPOSIT CONSULTATION (2008) HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT	
Organisation/ Comment	Response (record of amendment to HRA)
are unlikely to have a significant effect through increased recreation pressure on the Cardiff Beech Woods SAC, we feel this is primarily due to the provision of adequate alternatives supported and encouraged by the plans various health, access and biodiversity polices. We do not feel that the distance limitation is a valid justification, as while it states that 49% of recreational visits involve journeys less than 4.7 km, the corollary is that 51% of journeys are over this distance which might include considerable new developments identified in the plan.	are presented as supporting evidence, and assessment considered that the provision of appropriate alternative recreational space by the plan provides mitigation, as supported by CCW comments.
Paragraph 3.4 There may be in-combination effects relating to recreational impacts on the site from, for example, visitors from Cardiff City Council and Caerphilly CBC areas. It is unclear how the plan could be effectively amended to avoid such in-combination effects, as the main points of concern are outwith the plan area (Castell Coch and Cwm Nofydd), thus making obvious mitigation measures, such as implementing effective visitor management, beyond the scope of the plan. We, therefore, concur with the assessment within the report in relation to this aspect.	Noted.
Paragraph 3.5 We concur with the assessment made in relation to air quality and providing there is effective implementation of the positive sustainable transport measures. We also note the positive commitment towards implementing suitable air quality monitoring (potentially in conjunction with other competent authorities). We look forward to seeing this being incorporated in the plan itself and would welcome the opportunity to work with the Authority to re-appraise it should any negative effects be identified as a consequence of the monitoring. Providing these recommendations are complied with then we concur that the plan is unlikely to have a significant effect on the Cardiff Beech Woods SAC through the vector of increased localised air pollution.	Noted.

PRE-DEPOSIT CONSULTATION (2008) HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT	
Organisation/ Comment	Response (record of amendment to HRA)
4.0 Appropriate Assessment – Blaen Cynon SAC  CCW notes the changes made to the preferred strategy to ensure that the allocations within the deposit plan no longer include an area of the Blaencynon SAC and also incorporate certain mitigation and avoidance measures. However, as discussed below, we feel that additional measures would be appropriate to ensure the Plan takes a suitably precautionary approach to this site.	Noted.
Paragraph 4.6 Air Quality. While it is correct that the Blaen Cynon Management Plan and Conservation Objectives do not currently identify air quality as a significant factor affecting the favourable condition of the marsh fritillary feature, it does have the potential to have some impact on the site, particularly as the key pollutants such as nitrogen oxides are already at or close to their critical load for the marshy grassland supporting habitat. We concur with the assessment that, providing the general policy implications are complied with in relation to air quality and sustainable transport support, there are unlikely to be significant impacts alone from the proposals within the plan. However, given the significant proposed upgrading to the trunk road network (A465 duelling) and the unknown nature of the proposed developments surrounding the site, there may be potential in-combination effects, which are likely to become more clear as our understanding of the site improves and the proposed management actions implemented. Therefore, we think it would be a suitable precautionary approach for the plan to incorporate appropriate air quality monitoring for the site to ensure that impacts over the timescale of the plan, in combination with other plans and projects, do not lead to an exceedence of the critical loads for the site and consequently lead to significant adverse effects. We look forward to seeing this being incorporated in the plan itself and would welcome the opportunity to work with the Authority to re-appraise it should	Noted, the HRA will recommend that air quality monitoring at Blaen Cynon SAC is incorporated into the LDP monitoring and review framework.

PRE-DEPOSIT CONSULTATION (2008) HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT	
Organisation/ Comment	Response (record of amendment to HRA)
any negative effects be identified as a consequence of the monitoring.	
<p>Paragraph 4.8 Hydrological Regime.</p> <p>The maintenance of the hydrological regime is critical to the favourable conservation status of the site. While it is correct to state that the site is near the headwaters of the River Cynon we are unsure of how the surface and groundwater systems within the site interact and, therefore, it is incautious to assume that abstractions from near the site will not have any impact on the water levels on the site, even if it is focused further downstream. Any abstraction associated with proposed developments within the plan should be clearly identified as needing further detailed appropriate assessment at the detailed proposal stage (ie at the lower tier planning stage). In addition, if any of the proposals are likely to require on-site abstractions as a requirement of their implementation, then this should be assessed further prior to plan adoption.</p> <p>This is particularly important for the developments associated with strategic site 5 and potentially employment allocation 9 and some of the housing allocation within strategic site 4. These potential impacts have been effectively identified in the assessment, however, we are unconvinced that the proposed avoidance and mitigation measures are sufficiently precautionary to ensure the framework for development that is being set by the plan will not be compromised at the project implementation stage. The addition of suitable caveats relating to water resources, site design and, potentially, monitoring should provide sufficient confidence for an assessment of no likely significant effect to be reached. We look forward to seeing these measures incorporated into the final report and plan.</p>	<p>Noted, the HRA report has recommend that the following text be incorporated into the LDP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ 'In line with the Habitats Regulations, it will be necessary for project level assessments to be undertaken for development associated with employment allocation 9 and strategic sites 4 and 5, to ensure that Blaen Cynon SAC will not be adversely affected by any development proposals. Development which cannot demonstrate no adverse effect will not be permitted by this Plan.</li> </ul>
<p>Paragraph 4.10 Habitat loss and Fragmentation.</p> <p>The assessment correctly identifies the importance of suitable habitat outside the site boundary to achieving favourable conservation status for the marsh fritillary feature. We also</p>	<p>Noted, this will be addressed through the requirement for project level HRA (please see</p>

PRE-DEPOSIT CONSULTATION (2008) HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT	
Organisation/ Comment	Response (record of amendment to HRA)
<p>note that, following the earlier screening and consultation exercise, development allocations proposed within the boundary of the SAC itself have been amended. The role of the assessment, therefore, is to ensure that the plan policies and allocations do not set the framework for development that may compromise the integrity of the SAC, and consequently, lead to complications, or even refusal of permission, at the detailed implementation stage. To ensure this is the case, any proposed development affecting suitable habitat to support the marsh fritillary feature (ie policy allocations NSA 14, strategic site 5; Land South of Hirwaun and Employment allocation 9 (north of Fifth Avenue, Hirwaun industrial estate)) should clearly identify the potential for adverse effects and must include clear mitigation or avoidance measures. We note that some justification is given as to why the impact from some of these developments will be lessened, however, the loss of only small areas of land may still be significant in the context of maintaining favourable conservation status. Similarly, separation of the proposed development site from the SAC needs to be considered carefully as marsh fritillaries are a mobile feature and while dispersal is limited, they can (as the assessment notes) travel up to 2km. The potential in-combination effects that may result from the proposed duelling of the A465 which will further complicate any proposed mitigation and avoidance measures.</p>	<p>response above), which will ensure that development will either avoid these key habitat areas or provide appropriate mitigation prior to development progressing.</p>
<p>Developing avoidance and Mitigation measures. Paragraph 4.17. We welcome and support the proposed mitigation outlined in this and the following paragraphs. However, we feel it falls somewhat short in ensuring that significant adverse effect will be avoided. Our understanding of the ecological requirements of marsh fritillaries is continuously improving, but current evidence suggests that a minimum of 50ha of suitable habitat is required and potentially as much as 100ha is desirable to ensure the maintenance of favourable conservation status. We would draw your attention to the draft report "Strategic Assessment of the Marsh Fritillary Butterfly and its Habitat in Rhondda Cynon Taff –</p>	<p>Noted, this will be addressed through the requirement for project level HRA (please see response to paragraph 4.8), which will ensure that development will either avoid these key habitat areas or provide appropriate mitigation prior to development progressing.</p>

PRE-DEPOSIT CONSULTATION (2008) HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT	
Organisation/ Comment	Response (record of amendment to HRA)
<p>Document Ref 2132c/1027, 2005" prepared for RCT CBC by Richard Smith on behalf of the Earth Science Partnership. This report identifies the key marsh fritillary habitat around Blaencynon and this should be used to inform and guide the mitigation and avoidance measures contained within the key policies listed above. In particular, the strategic policies should clearly state that proposed development will either avoid these key habitat areas or acknowledge the necessity for full mitigation (including like for like replacement or securing suitable habitat management of alternative areas of habitat), subject to detailed site evaluation, prior to development progressing. This will not fully address the issue of habitat fragmentation or loss of connectivity between areas of suitable habitat. However, a suitably worded change to the policies (particularly those relating to strategic site 5), along the lines indicated, should ensure that such connections are fully considered and accommodated for at the detailed project implementation stage. Providing these steps, and the ones outlined with respect to air quality and hydrology, are taken, then we feel that the overall assessment is a reasonable conclusion.</p>	

## Habitats Regulations Assessment Appropriate Assessment Report Consultation: Dec 2008

PRE-DEPOSIT CONSULTATION (2008) HABITATS REGULATIONS ASSESSMENT	
Organisation/ Comment	Response (record of amendment to HRA)
<u>Countryside Council for Wales – supplementary advice October 2009 (Maggie Hill)</u>	
<p>Apologies for the delay in responding to your recent query on the water resource issues contained in the HRA for the Rhondda Cynon Taf LDP. CCW have been in internal discussions to ensure that our advice is consistent with the recent Inspector's Report for the EiP of the Phase 2 of the West Midlands Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS), notably in the context of water resources. This issue has been further complicated by difficulties in obtaining information on supply and ongoing discussions over the results of Stage 4 of the Environment Agency's Review of Consents process for the Wye and Usk.</p> <p>We appreciate that this uncertainty leaves partners, who are writing plans likely to involve water supply/discharge from or into a European Site, in the position of having to apply the Precautionary Principle, as embedded within the Habitats Directive, fairly stringently. Our recommended position is, therefore, as follows;</p> <p>Firstly, RCT should continue to engage in consultation with water companies, the Environment Agency and CCW on proposed allocations to enable development to be appropriately located and phased, for example within Water Resource Zones where a sustainable water supply is available and can be secured without adverse effects upon a European site. Development should be avoided where a water deficit has been identified and there are potential likely significant effects on a European site(s) If this information is not currently available, and there is the potential for likely significant effects on a European site(s), we would encourage the local authority to consider undertaking an exercise such as a Water Cycle Study (appropriate to the issues raised in the Water Resources Management Plan and LDP) to inform the evidence base for the LDP. The information that such a study could provide could also enable consideration of alternative</p>	<p>Issues noted and discussed further with CCW by telecom (Dec 2009).</p> <p>Advice reflected in recommendations provided by HRA to the plan (Section 4 of Appropriate Assessment Report).</p>



distributions and phasing of development to ensure that the Plan will not be proposing development of such a scale or in a location that will result in adverse effects on a European site. If adverse effects cannot be prevented through avoidance, then the local authority would need to show how it might mitigate any potential impacts so that no adverse effect on the integrity of any European site will occur (alone or in combination with other plans and projects). This may require policy wording similar to that set out in the EIP Report on the West Midlands RSS Phase 2, where the Inspector suggested that; in exceptional circumstances, actual housing allocations may need to be adjusted to fit the available resources.

Where there is any doubt, the HRA should ensure that the LDP contains suitable policies, caveats and conditions to ensure that any development is conditional on assured and sustainable water supplies from sources that would not have an adverse effect on European sites.

Similarly, though of less relevance for RCT, a clear understanding is required of the relationship between water treatment works, drainage area networks and international or European sites. Specific local issues should be considered through the LDP process, both in the SA/SEA and HRA where appropriate. The local authority should engage in early consultation with water companies, the Environment Agency and the HRA statutory consultation bodies in relation to site allocations to ensure that development is located and appropriately phased and that there is capacity available in the waste water treatment works and sewerage network in order to ensure there will be no adverse effects on a European site.

The Authority should link delivery of all new housing with a review of the capacity of Sewage Treatment Works (STWs) and sewerage infrastructure and work with the water companies to identify improvements to these to ensure water quality in the European sites is not compromised. Finally, detailed assessment should be carried out at scheme implementation level and you should consider including a policy allowing for lower housing allocations where it is the only effective mitigation to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the European and international sites.

Given the stage of RCT's LDP, completing anything other than a very basic water cycle study within the agreed delivery timetable is unlikely to be feasible. Therefore, it may be appropriate for the HRA to recommend that further information should be obtained, such as carrying out a more detailed study (possibly in combination with neighbouring authorities) within the first five year review period. This should be combined with suitable policy caveats, as outlined above, in the LDP to ensure that any development that

comes forward in the interim period will not have any adverse effects. On the completion of the more detailed analysis, any changes to the Plan, allocations etc. that may be subsequently required can then be made as part of the review cycle.

I hope you find this helps clarify the issue. Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact Alison Brown or Kerry Rogers at the address below.

## Appendix 2: European Site Characterisation

Site Name: Blaen Cynon Location Grid Ref: SN946066 JNCC Site Code: <a href="#">UK0030092</a> Size: 66.83 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
Site Description	<p>This site lies adjacent to a housing estate, approximately 1 km south of the village of Penderyn, at an altitude of 220-265 m. Blaen Cynon contains an extensive complex of damp pastures and heaths supporting the largest metapopulation of marsh fritillary <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> on the southern edge of the Brecon Beacons National Park. The marsh fritillary butterfly <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> is found in a range of habitats in which its larval food plant, devil's-bit scabious <i>Succisa pratensis</i>, occurs. Marsh fritillaries are essentially grassland butterflies in the UK, and although populations may occur occasionally on wet heath, bog margins and woodland clearings, most colonies are found in damp acidic or dry calcareous grasslands. Populations of marsh fritillary vary greatly in size from year to year, and, at least in part, this is related to cycles of attack from parasitic wasps. Adults tend to be sedentary and remain in a series of linked metapopulations, forming numerous temporary sub-populations, which frequently die out and recolonise.</p> <p>Blaen Cynon also supports a range of habitats. Marshy grassland, and flush and spring are of particular importance as they provide habitat for the marsh fritillary. Also present are areas of raised bog, species-rich neutral grassland, acid grassland and semi-natural broadleaved woodland.</p>
Qualifying Features	Annex II Species primary reason for selection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="#">Marsh fritillary butterfly</a> <i>Euphydryas</i> (<i>Eurodryas</i>, <i>Hypodryas</i>) <i>aurinia</i></li> </ul>
Conservation Objectives	Conservation Objective for Feature 1: Marsh fritillary butterfly <i>Euphydryas</i> ( <i>Eurodryas</i> , <i>Hypodryas</i> ) <i>aurinia</i> <p>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:</p>

Site Name: Blaen Cynon Location Grid Ref: SN946066 JNCC Site Code: <a href="#">UK0030092</a> Size: 66.83 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The site will contribute towards supporting a sustainable metapopulation of the marsh fritillary in the Penderyn/Hirwaun area. This will require a minimum of 50ha of suitable habitat, of which at least 10ha must be in good condition, although not all is expected to be found within the SAC. Some will be on nearby land within a radius of about 2km.</li> <li>■ The population will be viable in the long term, acknowledging the extreme population fluctuations of the species.</li> <li>■ A minimum of 30% of the total site area will be grassland suitable for supporting marsh fritillary. (As the total area of the SAC is 66.62 ha, 30% represents approximately 20 ha.)</li> <li>■ At least 40% of the suitable habitat (approximately 8 ha) must be in optimal condition for breeding marsh fritillary.</li> <li>■ Suitable marsh fritillary habitat is defined as stands of grassland where <i>Succisa pratensis</i> is present and where scrub more than 1 metre tall covers no more than 10% of the stands</li> <li>■ Optimal marsh fritillary breeding habitat will be characterised by grassland where the vegetation height is 10-20 cm, with abundant purple moor-grass <i>Molinia caerulea</i>, frequent "large-leaved" devil's-bit scabious <i>Succisa pratensis</i> suitable for marsh fritillaries to lay their eggs and only occasional scrub. In peak years, a density of 200 larval webs per hectare of optimal habitat will be found across the site.</li> </ul> <p>Performance indicators for Feature 1</p> <p>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 <a href="#">Blaen Cynon SAC Management Plan</a>.</p>
Component SSSIs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Cors Bryn-y-Gaer SSSI</li> <li>■ Woodland Park and Pontpren SSSI</li> </ul>

Site Name: Blaen Cynon Location Grid Ref: SN946066 JNCC Site Code: <a href="#">UK0030092</a> Size: 66.83 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
	The SAC is composed of 13 management units with Cors Bryn-y-Gaer containing units 1 to 6 and Woodland Park and Pontpren containing units 7 to 13. A map of the management units can be viewed on the <a href="#">CCW website</a> .
Key Environmental Conditions (factors that maintain site integrity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Grazing - Without an appropriate grazing regime, the grassland will become rank and eventually turn to scrub and woodland. Conversely, overgrazing, or grazing by inappropriate stock (particularly sheep) will also lead to unwanted changes in species composition, through selective grazing, increased nutrient inputs and poaching. Balancing grazing is the single most important issue in the management of this site.</li> <li>■ Extent and quality of the marshy grassland as habitat for marsh fritillary. Approximately 50ha of habitat is required to maintain the population in the long-term, with at least 10ha in good condition. Not all is expected to be within the SAC. The operational limits reflect the minimum contribution of the Blaen Cynon SAC towards the favourable conservation status of the species in the Hirwaun/Penderyn area.</li> <li>■ Maintain population of devil's-bit scabious <i>Succisa pratensis</i> - Marsh Fritillary Butterfly's larval food plant.</li> <li>■ Hydrological Regime - the drainage and hydrological conditions on the site should be maintained to favour the habitats that support the marsh fritillary and their management. Devil's-bit scabious prefers moist soils.</li> <li>■ Conserve a cluster of sites in close proximity - existing SAC boundary does not take in all areas of suitable habitat in the surrounding area.</li> </ul>
SAC Condition Assessment	Conservation Status of Feature 1 Marsh fritillary butterfly <i>Euphydryas</i> ( <i>Eurodryas</i> , <i>Hypodryas</i> ) <i>aurinia</i>

Site Name: Blaen Cynon Location Grid Ref: SN946066 JNCC Site Code: <a href="#">UK0030092</a> Size: 66.83 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
	<p>Counts of marsh fritillary larval webs have been undertaken regularly since 1999. Numbers of webs have not achieved the levels required by the performance indicators. Monitoring has also concluded that there is insufficient good and available habitat. The assessment for both component SSSIs was that they were in unfavourable condition, and in this case we can give condition information at the unit level.</p> <p>Cors Bryn-y-Gaer SSSI and Woodland Park and Pontpren SSSI failed due to insufficient good quality marsh fritillary habitat. In addition, counts of marsh fritillary larval webs have not reached the required 200 per hectare of available habitat. Balancing grazing across the site with the right livestock is the key to successful management for this species. It involves using cattle or horses, and avoiding sheep. It also needs the level of grazing right to create the tussocky structure the butterfly requires, whilst avoiding over or under-grazing.</p>
Vulnerabilities (includes existing pressures and trends)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Scrub encroachment - Scrub encroachment is an issue, particularly on some wet grassland areas. A programme of scrub control is currently (2008) being undertaken, but it is likely that even with the ideal grazing management, a more or less continuous programme of scrub control will be required at this site. It is clear from aerial photographs and from discussions with landowners, that many areas that are currently covered in alder and willow woodland were formerly wet pasture. Therefore a long-term aim would be to investigate returning some of this to wet pasture that would likely increase the availability of marsh fritillary habitat.</li> <li>■ Grazing - suitable areas of grassland are overgrazed while others are undergrazed.</li> <li>■ Inappropriate tree planting - Parts of Woodland Park and Pontpren, notably units 3 and 4 have been subject to improvement in preparation for tree planting, including draining, planting with trees and use of fertiliser.</li> <li>■ Parasites - the larvae of marsh fritillaries can be parasitised by species of braconid wasp of the Cotesia genus. The parasites can have good years and infect a large number of larval webs, causing a crash in the</li> </ul>

Site Name: Blaen Cynon Location Grid Ref: SN946066 JNCC Site Code: <a href="#">UK0030092</a> Size: 66.83 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
	<p>subsequent adult population of marsh fritillary. This factor is outside the influence of the site manager; and an operational limit is not required.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Weather conditions - Weather conditions have an effect on the breeding success of the marsh fritillary. In particular, poor weather conditions during the adult flight period will reduce opportunities for mating, egg-laying and dispersal from core areas. Weather conditions during early spring influence the rate of larval development of the marsh fritillary and the effects of the parasitic wasp. This site is situated in an area of relatively high rainfall, which will have a large influence on the population dynamics of the marsh fritillary. This factor is outside the influence of the site manager and an operational limit is not required.</li> <li>■ Management of surrounding habitats - The SAC only includes the core of the marsh fritillary habitat (and hence core of the metapopulation). There are likely to be other small areas of habitat outside the SAC boundary which are used by the butterfly only occasionally, but which likely contribute to the long-term success of the metapopulation. Efforts should be made to encourage better management of these areas of land through schemes such as Tir Gofal or through specific grazing projects.</li> <li>■ Owner/occupier objectives - the owners/occupiers of the land typically have an interest in securing some financial/agricultural benefit from the land. This return could be optimised by the agricultural improvement of the land, e.g. by installing new drainage, fertiliser application, or re-seeding; however these operations would cause significant long-term damage to the marsh fritillary habitat, namely the marshy grassland. Additionally unimproved marshy grasslands that are waterlogged for much of the year are difficult to manage for many landowners, possibly resulting in a mixture of over- and under- grazing, with a tendency for scrub to spread. Because of the wet nature of some of the ground, some landowners may be reluctant to graze large stock. This factor will be controlled through management agreements and the SSSI legislation. An operational limit is not required.</li> </ul> <p>There are no known off-site factors, such as pollution, that are affecting the marsh fritillary to any significant extent, although there is still much industry in the locality. The two overwhelming issues of grazing and scrub</p>

Site Name: Blaen Cynon Location Grid Ref: SN946066 JNCC Site Code: <a href="#">UK0030092</a> Size: 66.83 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
	encroachment would probably obscure any off-site issues. As management of the site improves off-site factors may become more apparent.
Landowner/ Management Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ N/A</li> </ul>
HRA/AA Studies undertaken that address this site	<p>AA Screening of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council's Local Development Plan (2006-2021): Preferred Strategy January 2007 (<a href="http://www.rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk/stellent/groups/Public/documents/RelatedDocuments/012830.pdf">http://www.rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk/stellent/groups/Public/documents/RelatedDocuments/012830.pdf</a>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The residential development proposed to the south and west of Blaen Cynon is identified as a potential source of adverse impacts on the Blaen Cynon SAC. Taken in conjunction with the plan to upgrade the A465 Abergavenny / Hirwaun to a dual carriageway, there is potential for significant adverse effects on this SAC.</li> </ul> <p>HRA &amp; AA of the Wales Spatial Plan Update June 2008. <a href="http://wales.gov.uk/about/strategy/spatial/hra/download/?lang=en">http://wales.gov.uk/about/strategy/spatial/hra/download/?lang=en</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The HRA Screening concludes that the WSPU and other plans have the potential to give rise to adverse effects at this site.</li> <li>■ The AA states that it is not possible to predict in specific terms whether the WSPU would or would not give rise to significant adverse effects either alone or in combination with other plans/ strategies and projects upon specific European sites. However, it does identify that this site is likely to come under increasing risk of adverse effects from urban and economic development and recreation and tourism as a result of the WSPU.</li> </ul>



Site Name: Cardiff Beech Woods Location Grid Ref: ST118824 JNCC Site Code: <a href="#">UK0030109</a> Size: 115.62 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
Site Description	Cardiff Beech Woods lies to the north east of Cardiff and is intersected by the A4054 and the A470. The site contains one of the largest concentrations of Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests in Wales, and represents the habitat close to the western limit of its past native range in both the UK and Europe. The woods show mosaics and transitions to other types, including more acidic beech woodland and oak Quercus and ash Fraxinus excelsior woodland. Characteristic and notable species in the ground flora include ramsons Allium ursinum, sanicle Sanicula europaea, bird's-nest orchid Neottia nidus-avis and yellow bird's-nest Monotropa hypopitys.
Qualifying Features	Annex I Habitats primary reason for selection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <a href="#">Asperulo-Fagetum beech forests</a></li> </ul> Annex I Habitats qualifying feature: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <a href="#">Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines</a>* Priority feature</li> </ul>
Conservation Objectives	Conservation Objective for Feature 1: Aperulo-Fagetum beech forest  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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ At least 85% of the site will continue to be covered by semi-natural broadleaved woodland.</li> <li>■ The range of woodland communities within the site will be maintained - including both of the woodland types considered to be of international importance - Asperulo-Fagetum and Tilio Acerion.</li> <li>■ At least 95% of canopy forming trees will be locally native species such as beech, ash and oak.</li> <li>■ The tree canopy will not be completely closed; approximately 10% of the canopy will include a dynamic</li> </ul>

Site Name: Cardiff Beech Woods Location Grid Ref: ST118824 JNCC Site Code: <a href="#">UK0030109</a> Size: 115.62 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
	<p>shifting pattern of gaps encouraging natural regeneration of tree species of all ages.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Dead wood, standing and fallen, will be maintained where possible to provide habitat for invertebrates, fungi and other woodland species.</li> <li>■ The ground flora will comprise species typical of lime-rich beech wood, including indicators of ancient woodland, such as wood anemone, ramsons and sanicle.</li> <li>■ There is little evidence of browsing.</li> <li>■ Recreational use of the site will continue to be managed so it does not damage the wildlife interest of the site.</li> <li>■ All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.</li> </ul> <p>Performance indicators for feature 1</p> <p>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 <a href="#">Cardiff Beech Woods SAC Management Plan</a>.</p> <p>Conservation Objective for Feature 2: Tilio-Acerion forest of slopes, screes and ravines</p> <p>Vision for feature 2</p> <p>The vision for this feature is for it to be in a favourable conservation status, where all of the following conditions are satisfied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ At least 85% of the site will continue to be covered by semi-natural broadleaved woodland.</li> <li>■ The range of woodland communities within the site will be maintained, as for feature 1</li> </ul>

Site Name: Cardiff Beech Woods Location Grid Ref: ST118824 JNCC Site Code: <a href="#">UK0030109</a> Size: 115.62 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ At least 95% of canopy forming trees will be locally native species (sycamore included).</li> <li>■ The tree canopy will not be completely closed; approximately 10% of the canopy will include a dynamic shifting pattern of gaps encouraging natural regeneration of tree species of all ages.</li> <li>■ Dead wood, standing and fallen, will be maintained where possible to provide habitat for invertebrates, fungi and other woodland species.</li> <li>■ The ground flora will comprise species typical of lime-rich beech wood, including indicators of ancient woodland, such as wood anemone, ramsons and sanicle.</li> <li>■ There is little evidence of browsing.</li> <li>■ Recreational use of the site will continue to be managed so it does not damage the wildlife interest of the site.</li> <li>■ All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.</li> </ul> <p>Performance indicators for feature 2 (see performance indicators for feature 1)</p>
Component SSSIs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Fforestganol, Tongwynlais a Cwm Nofydd (units 1-5)</li> <li>■ Castell Coch Woodlands and Road Section (units 6-9)</li> <li>■ Garth Wood (units 10-12)</li> </ul> <p>There are 12 management units of which numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9 and 10 comprise to form the Cardiff Beech Woods SAC. A map showing the management units can be viewed on the <a href="#">CCW website</a>.</p>
Key Environmental Conditions (factors that maintain site integrity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Maintain/manage the surrounding woodland - Commercial forestry in the vicinity of Castell Coch may have implications for surface water supply and quality. There are also a number of active and disused limestone quarries in the area. Garth Wood surrounds Taff's Well Quarry but there are other, smaller quarries in and around all component SSSIs. Quarrying can lead to direct loss of the feature together with indirect impacts</li> </ul>

Site Name: Cardiff Beech Woods Location Grid Ref: ST118824 JNCC Site Code: <a href="#">UK0030109</a> Size: 115.62 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
	<p>from issues such as access. There are also a number of impacts arising from restoration at the end of a quarry's working life.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Manage public access - Management of the recreational use of the woodlands should focus on maintaining the network of public footpaths and access routes. Regular maintenance of the footpaths and bridleways is essential to stop them spreading onto the adjacent woodland habitat. By restricting recreational use of the woodlands to certain areas and paths, natural woodland processes can be left to occur away from these areas of recreational use and without the need for intervention from a public health and safety perspective.</li> </ul>
SAC Condition Assessment	<p>Conservation Status of Feature 1 Aperulo-Fagetum beech forest</p> <p>The sites were monitored in March 2004 to gather the extent or condition of the habitat. The current feature status for the Asperulo-fagetum beech forest is Unfavourable - Unclassified (March 2004).</p> <p>The justification for the above feature status (March 2004) is as follows:</p> <p>CCW view is that the site is still recovering from undesirable effects of past management. Although most if not all aspects of the component sites are heading in the right direction the status is still short of favourable. Implementation of appropriate management will be addressed but in our view there is no urgent or immediate need for action.</p> <p>The Garth Wood component is thought to be 'unfavourable recovering' although a management plan has not been prepared to date so its status has not been fully assessed. The management is mostly limited intervention and for most of the site there is good age structure and gap regeneration. Natural processes could be enhanced by localised intervention and this will be addressed through management</p>

Site Name: Cardiff Beech Woods Location Grid Ref: ST118824 JNCC Site Code: <a href="#">UK0030109</a> Size: 115.62 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
	<p>recommendations.</p> <p>Fforestganol a Chwm Nofydd is thought to be 'unfavourable recovering', although a management plan has not been prepared to date so its status has not been fully assessed. Although there are small areas of even age structure there is generally a diverse age structure. This, together with concerns at the percentage of beech at some locations, will be addressed through management recommendations.</p> <p>Castell Coch Woodlands and Road Section is thought to be 'unfavourable recovering'. A full management plan has not been prepared to date so its status has not been fully assessed. There is generally an even age structure with low canopy cover. However, there is evidence of natural woodland processes, with good regeneration within the pattern of gaps. Recovery is expected over time and this could be hastened with increased localised intervention. This, together with concerns over the species composition (particularly ash and sycamore) at some locations will be addressed through management recommendations.</p> <p>Conservation Status of Feature 2 Tilio-Acerion forest of slopes, screes and ravines</p> <p>The sites were monitored in February 2004 to gather the extent or condition of the habitats and the species. The current feature status for the Tilio-Acerion forest of slopes, screes and ravines is Unfavourable - Recovering (February 2004).</p> <p>The justification for the above feature status (February 2004) is as follows:</p> <p>CCW view is that the site is still recovering from undesirable effects of past management. Although most if not all aspects of the component sites are heading in the right direction the status is still short of favourable. Implementation of appropriate management will be addressed but in our view there is no urgent or immediate need for action.</p>

Site Name: Cardiff Beech Woods Location Grid Ref: ST118824 JNCC Site Code: <a href="#">UK0030109</a> Size: 115.62 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
	<p>The Garth Wood component is thought to be 'unfavourable recovering' although a management plan has not been prepared to date so its status has not been fully assessed. The management is mostly limited intervention and for most of the site there is good age structure and gap regeneration. Natural processes could be enhanced by localised intervention and this will be addressed through management recommendations.</p> <p>Fforestganol a Chwm Nofydd is thought to be 'unfavourable recovering', although a management plan has not been prepared to date so its status has not been fully assessed. Although there are small areas of even age structure there is generally a diverse age structure. This, together with concerns at the percentage of beech at some locations, will be addressed through management recommendations.</p>
Vulnerabilities (includes existing pressures and trends)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Atmospheric Pollution - its location in industrialised South Wales, together with the presence of nearby quarrying and associated activities, means that there is the potential for localised atmospheric pollution. Quarry dust deposition is an issue that occasionally comes up.           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Nitrogen deposition.</li> <li>○ Photochemical oxidants (ozone).</li> <li>○ Acidification.</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Recreational pressure - All component SSSIs are used to a greater or lesser extent for recreation purposes. Castell Coch Woodlands and Fforestganol a Chwm Nofydd experience the most recreation pressure, and are popular for walking, climbing and mountain biking. The Taff train runs through part of the Castell Coch Woodlands site and the historic building of Castell Coch attracts many visitors, which increases the access pressure on the woodlands. The road section is becoming increasingly popular for climbing, and this is unlikely to be a problem for the geological interest of the site. However, climbing could be potentially damaging to trees at the top of the crag and needs to be kept under review. Management of access is nominally through the individual site owners but there are potential conflicts between different users which</li> </ul>

Site Name: Cardiff Beech Woods Location Grid Ref: ST118824 JNCC Site Code: <a href="#">UK0030109</a> Size: 115.62 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
	<p>to date have been addressed through the Local Authority Access Forum. Recreation within the areas supporting this habitat feature is restricted due to the steep and rocky nature of the terrain. Therefore the recreational pressure on areas of Tilio-acerion is less than on areas of Asperulo-fagetum habitat. Nonetheless, given the high recreation pressure experienced by Fforestganol a Chwm Nofydd, which supports areas of Tilio-acerion habitat, aspects of recreational management still apply to this feature.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Mineral extraction and related activities - There are a number of active and disused limestone quarries in the area. Garth Wood surrounds Taff's Well Quarry but there are other, smaller quarries in and around all component SSSIs. Quarrying can lead to direct loss of the feature together with indirect impacts from issues such as access. There are also a number of impacts arising from restoration at the end of a quarry's working life.</li> <li>■ Development - Its location in the populated South Wales area means that there is considerable development pressure in the vicinity including associated infrastructure on land adjacent to the site. There is the potential for a range of impacts arising from increasing urbanisation.</li> <li>■ Commercial Forestry - Commercial forestry in the vicinity of Castell Coch may have implications for surface water supply and quality.</li> <li>■ Non-native species - The presence of a number of species considered to be non-native e.g. sycamore and Japanese knotweed, is currently under review to determine any detrimental effects on the woodland communities of special interest.</li> </ul>
Landowner/ Management Responsibility	The majority of the woodlands are owned, or in the guardianship of government agencies, with most of the remainder of the woodland covered by a Section 106 agreement. Cardiff County Council, Cadw and Forestry Commission carry out woodland management for conservation purposes and occasionally health and safety

Site Name: Cardiff Beech Woods Location Grid Ref: ST118824 JNCC Site Code: <a href="#">UK0030109</a> Size: 115.62 Designation: SAC	Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma
	purposes.
HRA/AA Studies undertaken that address this site	<p>AA Screening of the Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy Dec 07.  <a href="http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/files/Living/Planning/Policy/LDP/Appropriate_Assessment_Screening_Report.pdf">http://www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/files/Living/Planning/Policy/LDP/Appropriate_Assessment_Screening_Report.pdf</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The screening report concluded that there is unlikely to be any significant impact on the Cardiff Beech Woods SAC.</li> </ul> <p>AA Screening of the Rhondda Cynon Taff County Borough Council's Local Development Plan (2006-2021): Preferred Strategy Jan 2007  <a href="http://www.rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk/stellent/groups/Public/documents/RelatedDocuments/012830.pdf">http://www.rhondda-cynon-taff.gov.uk/stellent/groups/Public/documents/RelatedDocuments/012830.pdf</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ There is potential for significant impact on the Cardiff Beech Woods SAC, primarily in-combination with development proposed in the Cardiff's Development Plan.</li> </ul> <p>HRA Screening of the County Council of the City and County of Cardiff Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy Sept 2007.  <a href="http://www.cardiff.gov.uk/ObjView.asp?Object_ID=9788">www.cardiff.gov.uk/ObjView.asp?Object_ID=9788</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Policies to deliver economic growth and the provision for up to 24750 new dwellings in the preferred strategy could lead to an increase in traffic volume and may well result in increased deposition of airborne pollutants at this site. The screening report identified that there is the potential for significant effects on the Cardiff Beech Woods SAC.</li> </ul> <p>HRA &amp; AA of the Wales Spatial Plan Update June 2008.  <a href="http://wales.gov.uk/about/strategy/spatial/hra/download/?lang=en">http://wales.gov.uk/about/strategy/spatial/hra/download/?lang=en</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The HRA Screening concludes that the WSPU and other plans have the potential to give rise to adverse effects at this site.</li> </ul>



<p>Site Name: Cardiff Beech Woods                  Location Grid Ref: ST118824                  JNCC Site Code: <a href="#">UK0030109</a>                  Size: 115.62                  Designation: SAC</p>	<p>Habitats Regulations Assessment: Data Proforma</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The AA states that it is not possible to predict in specific terms whether the WSPU would or would not give rise to significant adverse effects either alone or in combination with other plans/ strategies and projects upon specific European sites.</li> </ul>

## Appendix 3: Policy Screening

Policy Screening: Categorising the Potential Effects of the Plan (Tyldesley, 2008)	
Criteria Category	Rationale
<b>Category A: No negative effect</b>	
A1	Options/ policies that will not themselves lead to development e.g. because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria for development, or they are not a land use planning policy.
A2	Options/ policies intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity.
A3	Options/ policies intended to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any negative effect on a European site.
A4	Options/ policies that positively steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas.
<b>Category B: No significant effect</b>	
B	Options/ policies that could have an effect but would not be likely to have a significant (negative) effect on a European site (alone or in-combination with other plans or projects) because the effects are trivial or 'de minimis' even if combined with other effects. Adopt a cautionary approach
<b>Category C: Likely significant effect alone</b>	
C1	Option/policy could directly affect a European site because it provides for or steers a quantity or type of development onto a European site or adjacent to it.
C2	Option/ policy could indirectly affect a European site e.g. because it provides for or steers a quantity or type of development that may be very close to it, or ecologically, hydrologically or physically connected to it.
C3	Proposals for a quantity of development that, no matter where it is located, the development would be likely to have a significant effect on a European site.
C4	Options/ policies/proposals for developments or infrastructure projects that could block options or alternatives for the provision of other development or projects in the future, which will be required in the public interest, that may lead to adverse effects on European sites, which would otherwise be avoided.
C5	Any other options, policies or proposals that would be vulnerable to failure under the Habitats Regulations at project assessment stage; to include them in the plan would be regarded by the EC as 'faulty planning'.
C6	Any other proposals that may have an adverse effect on a European site, which might try to pass the tests of Habitats Regulations at project assessment stage by arguing that the plan provides the imperative reasons of

Policy Screening: Categorising the Potential Effects of the Plan (Tyldesley, 2008)	
Criteria Category	Rationale
	overriding public interest to justify its consent despite a negative assessment.
<b>Category D: Likely significant effects in combination</b>	
D1	The option, policy or proposal alone would not be likely to have significant effects but if its effects are combined with the effects of other policies or proposals provided for or coordinated by the Local Development Document (internally) the cumulative effects would be likely to be significant.
D2	Options/ policies or proposals that alone would not be likely to have significant effects but if their effects are combined with the effects of other plans and projects and possibly the effects of other developments provided for in the Local Development Document as well, the combined effects are likely to be significant.
D3	Options or proposals that are, or could be, part of a programme or sequence of development delivered over a period, where the implementation of the early stages would not have a significant effect on European sites, but which would dictate the nature, scale, duration, location, timing of the whole project, the later stages of which could have adverse effects on such sites.
<b>Category E: Lower tier assessment</b>	
E1	An option, policy or proposal would have not effect where no development could occur through the policy itself because it is implemented through later policies in the Development Plan Document (DPD) itself, which are more detailed and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects on European sites and sensitive areas. These kinds of policies may be found in Preferred Strategies where a broad quantum of development may be specified as being delivered through a more specific policy in a later chapter or section of the DPD.
E2	An option, or policy that make provision for a quantum/ type of development (and may indicate one or more broad locations e.g. a particular part of the plan area) but the detailed location of the development is to be selected following consideration of options in later, more site specific DPD. The consideration of options in the later DPD will need to assess the potential effects on European sites.
<b>Category F: Depending on implementation</b>	
F	<p>Cases where the effects of particular options, policies or proposals depend entirely on how they are implemented in due course, through the development management process. There is a theoretical possibility that if implemented in one or more particular ways, the proposal could possibly have a significant effect on a European site.</p> <p>It is reasonable to assume that a proposal would not be implemented in a way that is contrary to nation planning policy. If the proposal were likely to have a significant effect it would be subject to assessment under Reg 48 at</p>

Policy Screening: Categorising the Potential Effects of the Plan (Tyldesley, 2008)	
Criteria Category	Rationale
	<p>project stage.</p> <p>In these specific circumstances, where there is uncertainty about the way in which aspects of a plan may be implemented, it may be appropriate for policies to contain restrictions or caveats in order to exclude support for potentially damaging proposals, without reiterating the requirements of the statutory protection regime.</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
Strategy Policies		
<p>Spatial Vision</p> <p>“Rhondda Cynon Taf will be a community where everyone who lives, works in or visits the area will enjoy the benefits of a better quality of life, achieving their potential, whilst helping to develop and protect the area for future generations”.</p>	Sets overarching/ Strategic Framework for development – issues addressed as part of preferred policy screening assessment below.	
<p>Objectives</p> <p>Communities</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide for the County Borough’s overall housing requirement through a mix of dwelling types catering for all needs to promote integrated and thriving communities and reinforce the roles of Principal Towns and Key Settlements in the north and south of the County Borough</li> <li>2. Promote integrated communities within the Principal Towns, Key Settlements and other settlements by ensuring the development of a high quality built environment that provides opportunities for living, working and socialising for all.</li> </ol> <p>Achieving Potential</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Develop a sustainable economy in Rhondda Cynon Taf that provides a diverse range of job opportunities in locations that reinforce the roles of Principal Towns and Key Settlements in the north and south of the County Borough.</li> </ol> <p>Better Quality of Life</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Promote and protect the rich culture and heritage of the County Borough by protecting and enhancing the historic landscape of the Rhondda, the historic parks and gardens in the south and the built heritage of the County Borough as a whole.</li> <li>5. Provide an environment in Rhondda Cynon Taf that encourages a healthy</li> </ol>	Sets overarching/ Strategic Framework for development – issues addressed as part of preferred policy screening assessment below.	

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<p>and safe lifestyle and promotes well-being through improvement in access to green space in the north, provision of open space in the south, and the protection of recreational space through out the County Borough.</p> <p>6. Reduce the need to travel by car within Rhondda Cynon Taf by promoting residential and commercial development in the Principal Towns and Key Settlements in the north and south of the County Borough where there is a choice of sustainable modes of transport.</p> <p>Develop and Protect the Borough for Future Generations</p> <p>7. Improve, protect and enhance the glacial valley landscapes of the north, undulating countryside of South and the diverse and abundant of wildlife habitats and native species which exist throughout Rhondda Cynon Taf</p> <p>8. Manage the effects of climate change by focusing development away from areas in the north and south which are vulnerable to flooding, increase the supply of renewable energy from a range of sources available throughout the County Borough, by reducing energy consumption through improved design and by promoting development in the Principal Towns and Key Settlements in the north and south of the County Borough.</p> <p>9. Minimise waste, especially waste to landfill by making adequate provision for waste and community recycling facilities in Principal Towns, Key Settlements and Smaller Settlements in the County Borough in a way that meets the needs of Rhondda Cynon Taf and in accordance with the requirements of the Regional Waste Plan.</p>		
<p>Policy CS 1 - Development In The North</p> <p>In the northern strategy areas the emphasis will on building strong, sustainable communities. This will be achieved the development of a land use framework that:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Focuses residential and commercial development in locations which will support and reinforce the roles of Principal Towns and Key Settlements;</li> <li>2. Provides high quality, affordable accommodation that promotes diversity in the residential market;</li> <li>3. Ensures the removal of dereliction by promoting the reuse of under used and derelict land and buildings;</li> </ol>	<p>E1</p> <p>The policy is implemented through later policies in the Plan, which are more detailed and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects on European sites and sensitive areas.</p>	<p>X</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Promotes large scale regeneration schemes in the Principal Town of Aberdare and in the Key Settlements of Mountain Ash, Ferndale and Treorchy;</li> <li>5. Promotes accessibility by securing investment in new roads, public transport improvements, walking and cycling;</li> <li>6. Encouraging a strong, diverse economy which supports traditional employment and promotes new form of employment in the leisure and tourism sectors; and</li> <li>7. Protects the cultural identity of the Strategy Area by protecting built heritage and the natural environment.</li> </ol>		
<p>Policy CS 2 - Development In The South</p> <p>In the Southern Strategy Area the emphasis will be on sustainable growth that benefits Rhondda Cynon Taf as a whole. This will be achieved by the development of a land use framework that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Promotes residential development with a sense of place which respects the character and context of the Principal Towns and Key Settlements of the Southern Strategy Area;</li> <li>2. Protects the culture and identity of communities by focusing development within defined residential settlements boundaries;</li> <li>3. Promotes large scale regeneration schemes in the Principal Town of Pontypridd and Key Settlement of Tonyrefail;</li> <li>4. Realise the importance of the Principal Town of Llantrisant/ Talbot Green as an area of social and economic growth;</li> <li>5. Provides opportunities for significant inward investment, in sustainable locations, that will benefit the economy of Rhondda Cynon Taf and the Capital Network Region;</li> <li>6. Reduces daily out commuting by private car and promotes sustainable forms of transport; and</li> <li>7. Protects the cultural identity of the Strategy Area by protecting built heritage and the natural environment.</li> </ol>	<p>E1</p> <p>The policy is implemented through later policies in the Plan, which are more detailed and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects on European sites and sensitive areas.</p>	<p>X</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?												
<p>Policy CS 3 – Strategic Sites</p> <p>In order to promote sustainable growth within Rhondda Cynon Taf the following sites are allocated for the development of a mixture of large-scale residential, employment, retail and recreational purposes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Former Maerdy Colliery Site, Rhondda Fach;</li> <li>2. Former Fernhill Colliery Site, Blaenrhondda;</li> <li>3. Former Phurnacite Plant, Abercwmbai;</li> <li>4. Land at Robertstown / Abernant, Aberdare;</li> <li>5. Land South of Hirwaun;</li> <li>6. Cwm Colliery and Coking Works, Beddau;</li> <li>7. Mwyndy/Talbot Green Area; and</li> <li>8. Former OCC Site Llanilid, Llanharan.</li> </ol> <p>Proposals for the development of the Strategic Sites must have regard to the indicative concept plans identified on the proposals map.</p>	<p>C1</p> <p>Strategic site 5 (Land South of Hirwaun) is adjacent to Blaen Cynon SAC. Effects from development (employment and residential) include air/ water/ noise pollution, recreational pressure, water abstraction issues as well as wider urbanisation effects (waste/ traffic/ transport increases etc). Given the location of the site there is also the potential for habitat loss and fragmentation. The magnitude of impact will be dependent the level of development proposed and implementation.</p>	<p>?</p>												
<p>Policy CS 4 – Housing Requirements</p> <p>Land will be made available for the construction of between 9,900 and 14,850 new dwellings in sustainable locations during the plan period. Provision will be met by a combination of strategic sites and non strategic sites as defined by AW1.</p> <p>a) Land for the residential development is allocated on the following strategic sites:-</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="331 1166 1093 1399"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Site</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Dwellings</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Former Fernhill Colliery Site, Blaenrhondda</td> <td>400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Former Phurnacite Plant Site, Abercwmbai</td> <td>500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Land at Robertstown Strategic Site, Aberdare</td> <td>600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Land South of Hirwaun</td> <td>1000 (400 within plan period)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. Former Cwm Colliery and Coking Works,</td> <td>800</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Site	Dwellings	1. Former Fernhill Colliery Site, Blaenrhondda	400	2. Former Phurnacite Plant Site, Abercwmbai	500	3. Land at Robertstown Strategic Site, Aberdare	600	4. Land South of Hirwaun	1000 (400 within plan period)	5. Former Cwm Colliery and Coking Works,	800	<p>C1 &amp; C2</p> <p>Potential impacts arising from residential and wider mixed use development include: urbanisation and its associated effects (e.g. fly tipping, dog fouling, cat predation), recreational impacts, atmospheric pollution, water abstraction and pollution and noise/ disturbance effects. Concentration of development may also lead to an overall increase in harmful air pollutants, e.g. through increased traffic movements.</p> <p>Site 4 (Strategic site 5 Land South of Hirwaun) is adjacent to Blaen Cynon SAC. Effects from development</p>	<p>✓</p>
Site	Dwellings													
1. Former Fernhill Colliery Site, Blaenrhondda	400													
2. Former Phurnacite Plant Site, Abercwmbai	500													
3. Land at Robertstown Strategic Site, Aberdare	600													
4. Land South of Hirwaun	1000 (400 within plan period)													
5. Former Cwm Colliery and Coking Works,	800													



Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<p>Beddau</p> <p>6. Mwyndy/Talbot Green Area, and 500</p> <p>7. Former OCC Site Llanilid, Llanharan 1700</p> <p>b) Land for residential development intended to meet local need is allocated on the following non-strategic sites: See LDP</p>	<p>SAC. Effects from development (employment and residential) include air/ water/ noise pollution, recreational pressure, water abstraction issues as well as wider urbanisation effects (waste/ traffic/ transport increases etc). Given the location of the site there is also the potential for habitat loss and fragmentation. The magnitude of impact will be dependent on implementation.</p> <p>The Core Management Plan for the Blaen Cynon SAC indicates that there "are no known off-site factors, such as pollution, that are affecting the marsh fritillary to any significant extent, although there is still much industry in the locality". It also states that as management of the SAC habitat improves, off-site factors could become more apparent. Site level management issues (grazing and scrub management) are currently the most important factor in terms of maintaining and improving the marsh fritillary habitat.</p>	
<p>Policy CS 5 – Affordable Housing</p> <p>The housing requirements identified in policy CS3, will be expected to contribute to established community housing need by providing 3000 affordable units over the plan period.</p>	<p>E1</p> <p>The policy itself does not propose development but rather identifies the required level of affordable units based on the development proposed in other policies.</p>	<p>X</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?									
<p>Policy CS 6 – Employment Requirements</p> <p>In order to maximise the opportunities presented by the Capital Network Region and to ensure that Rhondda Cynon Taf achieves its economic potential land will be allocated to meet strategic and local employment needs.</p> <p>1. Land for the provision of 68 hectares of new B1, B2 and B8 strategic employment development is allocated at the following locations:-</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="257 630 996 798"> <thead> <tr> <th>Site</th> <th>Use</th> <th>Size</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Strategic Site 5: Land South of Hirwaun, and</td> <td>(B1, B2 &amp; B8)</td> <td>36 h</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Strategic Site 7: Land at Mwyndy/Talbot Green</td> <td>(B1)</td> <td>32 h</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>2. Land for the provision of 50 hectare of new B1, B2 and B8 local employment development is allocated in accordance with policies. NSA4, NSA6, NSA7, NSA14, SSA 7 and SSA14.</p>	Site	Use	Size	1. Strategic Site 5: Land South of Hirwaun, and	(B1, B2 & B8)	36 h	2. Strategic Site 7: Land at Mwyndy/Talbot Green	(B1)	32 h	<p>C1 &amp; C2</p> <p>Potential impacts of employment development include: direct land take/ habitat fragmentation, water abstraction, air/ land/ water and noise pollution.</p> <p>Site 1 (Strategic site 5) and Site 9 (North of Fith Avenue, Hirwaun) are adjacent to Blaen Cynon SAC. Effects from development include air/ water/ noise pollution, recreational pressure, water abstraction issues as well as wider urbanisation effects (waste/ traffic/ transport increases etc). Given the location of the site there is also the potential for habitat loss and fragmentation. The magnitude of impact will be dependent on implementation.</p> <p>The Core Management Plan for the Blaen Cynon SAC indicates that there "are no known off-site factors, such as pollution, that are affecting the marsh fritillary to any significant extent, although there is still much industry in the locality". It also states that as management of the SAC habitat improves, off-site factors could become more apparent. Site level management issues (grazing and scrub management) are currently the most important factor in terms of maintaining</p>	<p>✓</p>
Site	Use	Size									
1. Strategic Site 5: Land South of Hirwaun, and	(B1, B2 & B8)	36 h									
2. Strategic Site 7: Land at Mwyndy/Talbot Green	(B1)	32 h									

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	and improving the marsh fritillary habitat.																									
<p>Policy CS 7 – Retail Development</p> <p>Land will be allocated for the development of 33,500 m<sup>2</sup> of new retail floorspace. Provision will be a combination of convenience goods (7,175 m<sup>2</sup>) and comparison goods (26,223 m<sup>2</sup>) on sites intended to meet strategic and local retail need.</p> <p>1. Land for the residential development is allocated on the following strategic sites:-</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="257 702 1086 790"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Site</td> <td>Floorspace</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Strategic Site 7: Land at Mwyndy / Talbot Green</td> <td>23,200 m<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> </table> <p>2. Land for the provision of local retail development will be allocated at the following locations:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="302 941 1086 1173"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Site</td> <td>Floorspace</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Land Adjacent To Pontypridd Retail Park, Pontypridd</td> <td>5,500m<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>Strategic Site 8: Former OCC Site, Llanilid, Llanharan</td> <td>2,000m<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td>Land East Of Mill Street, Tonyrefail</td> <td>2,000m<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4.</td> <td>Land at Oxford Street, Mountain Ash</td> <td>950m<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5.</td> <td>Strategic Site 5: Land South of Hirwaun</td> <td>2,000m<sup>2</sup></td> </tr> </table> <p>Development proposals which effect the core retail centers and hierarchy will be assessed in accordance with NSA 17 and SSA15</p>		Site	Floorspace	1	Strategic Site 7: Land at Mwyndy / Talbot Green	23,200 m <sup>2</sup>		Site	Floorspace	1.	Land Adjacent To Pontypridd Retail Park, Pontypridd	5,500m <sup>2</sup>	2.	Strategic Site 8: Former OCC Site, Llanilid, Llanharan	2,000m <sup>2</sup>	3.	Land East Of Mill Street, Tonyrefail	2,000m <sup>2</sup>	4.	Land at Oxford Street, Mountain Ash	950m <sup>2</sup>	5.	Strategic Site 5: Land South of Hirwaun	2,000m <sup>2</sup>	<p>C1 &amp; C2</p> <p>Potential impacts arising from retail development include: urbanisation and its associated effects (e.g. fly tipping, dog fouling, cat predation), recreational impacts, atmospheric pollution, water abstraction and pollution and noise/ disturbance effects. Concentration of development may also lead to an overall increase in harmful air pollutants, e.g. through increased traffic movements.</p> <p>Site 5 (Strategic site 5 Land South of Hirwaun) is adjacent to Blaen Cynon SAC. Effects from development include air/ water/ noise pollution, recreational pressure, water abstraction issues as well as wider urbanisation effects (waste/ traffic/ transport increases etc). Given the location of the site there is also the potential for habitat loss and fragmentation. The magnitude of impact will be dependent on implementation.</p> <p>The Core Management Plan for the Blaen Cynon SAC indicates that there "are no known off-site factors, such as pollution, that are affecting the marsh fritillary to any significant extent, although there is still much industry in the locality".</p>	<p>✓</p>
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	It also states that as management of the SAC habitat improves, off-site factors could become more apparent. Site level management issues (grazing and scrub management) are currently the most important factor in terms of maintaining and improving the marsh fritillary habitat.	
<p>Policy CS 8 – Transportation</p> <p>Improvements to the strategic transportation network in Rhondda Cynon Taf will be secured through a combination of the of the following:-</p> <p>1 The safeguarding and provision of land for the improvement of the strategic highway network, including development of :-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Church Village Bypass;</li> <li>2. The Gelli / Treorchy Relief Road;</li> <li>3. The Ynysmaerdy to Talbot Green Relief Road</li> <li>4. The A4059 Aberdare Bypass Extension,</li> <li>5. Dualling of the A465</li> </ol> <p>2 The Implementation of a strategic transport corridor management system in the following strategic corridor areas;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A4119 / A473 Corridor;</li> <li>2. A470 / A4059 Corridor, or</li> <li>3. A4059 / A465 Corridor</li> </ol> <p>Provision of additional improvements in the highway network, public transport improvements and walking and cycling provision will be sought in accordance with NSA20 to NSA 23 and SSA18 to SSA21.</p>	<p>C2</p> <p>Blaen Cynon SAC is less than 200m from Section 7 of the A465 dualling scheme and has the potential to lead to habitat loss and fragmentation, increased levels of air pollution and disturbance.</p> <p>The A46 dualling scheme is part of the Trunk Road Forward Programme (2002) and is subject to HRA. An Appropriate Assessment of the A465 dualling scheme will be carried out.</p>	<p>?</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<p>Policy CS 9 – Waste Management</p> <p>In order to meet the capacity requirements identified in the South East Wales Regional Waste Plan, the following Strategic Waste sites are identified to provide for a range of waste management options, including recycling and composting, on a regional basis in the following locations:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Bryn Pica (including landfilling of residual wastes);</li> <li>2. Treforest Industrial Estate;</li> <li>3. Hirwaun Industrial Estate; and</li> <li>4. On B2 employment sites as appropriate.</li> </ol> <p>Provision for community recycling facilities will be made in accordance with NSA28 to SSA25.</p>	<p>E2</p> <p>Potential impacts from waste sites/ management facilities include: air pollution, disturbance, land take, hydrological impacts, water pollution, introduced/ invasive species.</p> <p>Site 3 is situated on previously developed industrial land and is in close proximity to Blaen Cynon SAC. Given that the site is located on previously developed land it is unlikely that it will lead to habitat loss/ fragmentation. There is the potential for increased levels of airborne pollutants as a result of increased traffic along the A465.</p> <p>The Core Management Plan for the Blaen Cynon SAC indicates that there “are no known off-site factors, such as pollution, that are affecting the marsh fritillary to any significant extent, although there is still much industry in the locality”. It also states that as management of the SAC habitat improves, off-site factors could become more apparent. Site level management issues (grazing and scrub management) are currently the most important factor in terms of maintaining and improving the marsh fritillary habitat.</p>	<p>?</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<b>Area Wide Policies</b>		
<p>Policy AW 1 – New Housing</p> <p>Provision will be made for the development of 14,850 new dwellings in Rhondda Cynon Taf during the period 2006 –2021.This will be met by:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) The allocations of this plan;</li> <li>ii) The development of sites in Rhondda Cynon Taf which have planning permission for housing;</li> <li>iii) The development of unallocated land within the defined residential settlement boundaries of the principal towns, key settlements and smaller settlements;</li> <li>iv) The provision of affordable housing;</li> <li>v) The replacement of unfit and substandard housing;</li> <li>vi) The maintenance, rehabilitation and improvement of existing stock and the conversion of suitable structures to provide households; and</li> <li>vii) The development of land at density levels which accord with the requirements of the NSA10 and SSA11</li> </ul> <p>Residential development proposals will be expected to contribute to the local housing needs. Where a community housing need has been established, the local planning authority will seek:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) The provision of an appropriate proportion of affordable housing on sites over 30 units;</li> <li>b) Contributions for the reuse / rehabilitation of existing older housing stock on sites under 30 units, and</li> <li>c) The development of sites in rural area.</li> </ul>	<p>E1</p> <p>The potential for significant impact is contingent on the location of housing development. The policy is implemented through later policies in the Plan, which are more detailed and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects on European sites and sensitive areas.</p> <p>Impacts arising from housing development may include: direct land take and physical disturbance of habitats, recreational impacts, water abstraction/ pollution, associated effects of urbanisations (fly tipping, cat predation, dog fouling), air pollution from increased traffic/ transport.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Policy AW 2 Sustainable Locations</p> <p>In order to ensure that development proposals on non-allocated sites support the objectives of the plan, development proposals will only be supported in sustainable locations. Sustainable locations are defined as sites that -</p>	<p>A4</p> <p>The policy steers development away from European sites and associated</p>	<p>X</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. are within the defined settlement boundary;</li> <li>ii. would not unacceptably conflict with surrounding uses;</li> <li>iii. have good accessibility by a range transport options;</li> <li>iv. have good access to key services and facilities;</li> <li>v. are not within the Zone C floodplain unless it can be justified on the grounds that:-               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) it is necessary to assist the regeneration of a principal town or key settlement, or where development involves a large brownfield site</li> <li>b) the potential consequences of a flooding event have been considered and found to be acceptable in accordance with national guidance</li> </ul> </li> <li>vi. support the roles &amp; functions of the principal towns, key settlements, small settlements</li> <li>vii. support the development of the 8 strategic sites</li> <li>viii. are not in areas of identified environmental importance such as SINCs, SLAs, SSSIs or green wedges;</li> <li>ix. are well related to existing water, sewerage, electrical, gas and telecommunications infrastructure.</li> </ul>	sensitive areas, by ensuring non-allocated sites are within settlement boundaries and are not within SSSIs.	
<p>Policy AW 3 – Exception Sites For Affordable Housing In The Countryside</p> <p>Development proposals for the provision of affordable housing outside and adjoining the identified residential settlement boundaries will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The proposed development cannot be accommodated within the defined residential settlement boundaries;</li> <li>ii. The proposed development is solely for the provision of affordable housing to meet an identified local need;</li> <li>iii. The proposed development is not within a green wedge or a internationally, nationally or locally designated nature conservation site.</li> </ul>	<p>A1 &amp; A4</p> <p>The policy in itself will not lead to development and also ensures that development proposals for affordable housing are not within designated nature conservation sites.</p>	X
Policy AW 4 - Community Infrastructure & Planning Obligations	A1	X

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<p>Planning obligations will be sought where development proposals require the provision of new, improved or rely on existing services, facilities, infrastructure and related works, to make the proposal acceptable in land use planning terms.</p> <p>Contributions will be sought in respect of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Affordable housing</li> <li>ii. Physical infrastructure works;</li> <li>iii. Open space, sport/play space and access to natural green space.</li> <li>iv. Educational facilities;</li> <li>v. Recreational and leisure facilities;</li> <li>vi. Management of Strategic Transport Corridors</li> <li>vii. Public transport facilities and services;</li> <li>viii. Travel plan initiatives;</li> <li>ix. Highway infrastructure works;</li> <li>x. Walking and cycling schemes;</li> <li>xi. Waste management and recycling;</li> <li>xii. Renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives;</li> <li>xiii. Environmental and landscape improvements;</li> <li>xiv. Habitat conservation and biodiversity;</li> <li>xv. Cultural and community facilities; and</li> <li>xvi. Any other contribution the Council considers appropriate to the development.</li> </ul>	<p>The policy will not lead to development and also seeks contributions in respect to habitat conservation and biodiversity.</p>	
<p>Policy AW 5 - New Development</p> <p>Development proposals will be supported where:-</p> <p>A. Amenity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The scale, form and design of the development make a positive contribution to the character and appearance of the site and the surrounding area;</li> <li>ii. Existing site features of built and natural environmental value are retained;</li> <li>iii. There would be no unacceptable impact upon the amenities of neighbouring occupiers;</li> <li>iv. The development would be compatible with other uses in the locality;</li> </ul>	<p>A1</p> <p>The policy itself will not lead to development as it relates to design and other criteria for development.</p>	<p>X</p>



Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>v. Multi-functional use of existing and new buildings is encouraged;</li> <li>vi. The development designs out the opportunity for crime and anti social behaviour;</li> </ul> <p>B. Sustainable Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The design minimises energy loss and use;</li> <li>ii. Commercial schemes of 1000m2 and over, achieve as a minimum the Very Good Breeam (or equivalent) standard</li> <li>iii. Residential schemes of 10 or more units, achieve as a minimum the Very Good Eco-Homes (or equivalent) target: and</li> <li>iv. Commercial Schemes with a floor-space of 1000m2 and residential schemes of ten or more units provide at least 10% of predicted energy requirements from on site renewable sources;</li> </ul> <p>C. Accessibility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The development is accessible to the local and wider community by public transport, walking, cycling and car;</li> <li>ii. The site layout and mix of uses maximises opportunities to reduce dependence on cars;</li> <li>iii. The development has safe access to the highway network and would not cause traffic congestion or exacerbate existing traffic congestion;</li> <li>iv. Car parking is provided in accordance with the Council's approved standards;</li> </ul>		
<p>Policy AW 6 - Design and Placemaking</p> <p>Development Proposals will be supported where:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. They are of a high standard of design, which reinforces attractive qualities and local distinctiveness and improves areas of poor design and layout;</li> <li>ii. They are appropriate to the local context in terms of siting, appearance, scale, height, massing, elevational treatment, materials and detailing;</li> <li>iii. In the case of extensions to buildings, they reflect, complement or enhance the form, siting, materials, details and character of the original building, its curtilage and the wider area</li> </ul>	<p>A1</p> <p>The policy itself will not lead to development as it relates to design and placemaking.</p>	<p>X</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iv. In the case of proposals for new and replacement shopfronts and signage, they make a positive contribution to the street scene.</li> <li>v. In the public realm and key locations such as town centres, major routes, junctions and public spaces, the character and quality of the built form is to a high standard of design;</li> <li>vi. Public art, landscaping and planting is integral to the scheme and enhances the site and the wider context;</li> <li>vii. They propose an integrated mixture of uses appropriate to the scale of the development;</li> <li>viii. They propose an efficient use of land, especially high-density residential development on sites in proximity to local amenities and public transport;</li> <li>ix. Open space is provided in accordance with the National Playing Field Association Standards;</li> <li>x. A high level of connectivity and accessibility to existing centers, by a wide range of travel modes is supported;</li> <li>xi. Schemes incorporate a flexibility in design to allow changes in use of buildings and spaces as requirements and circumstances change;</li> <li>xii. The development reflects the cultural heritage of Rhondda Cynon Taf.</li> </ul> <p>Proposals for 5 dwellings and over; commercial schemes of 1000m2 and over; and any other scheme, regardless of size, where the Council consider there are design implications, must be accompanied by a Design Statement.</p> <p>Developers will be required to submit comprehensive masterplans for the development (or part development) of the 8 Strategic Sites; for residential proposals of 50 dwellings and over; for commercial developments of 10,000m2 and over; and for schemes where the Council considers the issue of place making can only be fully considered through the submission of a masterplan. Masterplans must have regard to the need to create high quality, sustainable and locally distinct places.</p>		
<p>Policy AW 7 - Protection And Enhancement Of The Built Environment</p> <p>Development proposals which impact upon sites of architectural and/or historical merit and sites of archaeological importance will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposal would preserve or enhance the character and</p>	<p>A3</p> <p>The policy is intended to conserve or enhance the built environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely</p>	<p>X</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<p>appearance of the site.</p> <p>Development proposals which affect areas of public open space, allotments, public rights of way, bridleways and cycle tracks will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. There is a surplus of such facilities in the locality, or;</li> <li>ii. The loss can be replaced with an equivalent or greater provision in the immediate locality; or</li> <li>iii. The development proposes enhancement of the existing facility.</li> </ul>	<p>enhancement measures will not be likely to have any negative effect on a European site.</p>	
<p>Policy AW 8 - Protection And Enhancement Of The Natural Environment</p> <p>Rhondda Cynon Taf's distinctive rural character will be preserved and enhanced by the protection of the natural environment, countryside and landscape from inappropriate development; and through appropriate management programmes.</p> <p>Development proposals will not be permitted where:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. They would cause unacceptable harm to the features of a Site of Importance for Nature conservation (SINC) or other locally designated site unless it can be demonstrated that:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. The proposal is directly necessary for the positive management of the site, or;</li> <li>b. The benefits of the proposed development clearly outweigh the nature conservation value of the site or;</li> <li>c. The proposal would not have an unacceptably adverse effect on the attributes of the site for which it has been designated, or;</li> <li>d. The development could not reasonably be located elsewhere.</li> </ul> </li> <li>ii. In Special Landscape Areas, they do not conform to the highest standards of design, siting, layout and materials appropriate to the character of the area</li> <li>iii. They would be prejudicial to the open nature of an identified green wedge.</li> <li>iv. There would be an unacceptable impact upon features of importance to landscape or nature conservation.</li> </ul>	<p>A2</p> <p>The policy is intended to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity.</p>	<p>X</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<p>The development of Ecological Networks will be supported.</p> <p>Development proposals must be accompanied by appropriate ecological surveys and appraisals, as requested by the Council.</p>		
<p>Policy AW 9 - Buildings in the Countryside</p> <p>In the case of the alteration, renovation or conversion of existing buildings outside the defined settlement boundary for residential, employment or tourism uses, development proposals will be supported where:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. the existing building is structurally sound or is capable of being made so without substantial major external alteration or reconstruction;</li> <li>ii. in the case of residential use, it can be demonstrated that there are no viable alternative uses to secure the retention of the building and that the building is of architectural and/or historical merit</li> </ul>	<p>E2</p> <p>The policy itself does not propose development as it makes provision for the alteration, renovation or conversion of existing buildings in the countryside. The locations of development are unknown, therefore the potential effects of a proposed development on European sites would be considered at a later stage once further detail is available.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Policy AW 10 - Public Health and Protection</p> <p>Development proposals will not be permitted where they would cause or result in unacceptable harm to health and/or local amenity because of:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. air pollution;</li> <li>ii. noise pollution;</li> <li>iii. light pollution;</li> <li>iv. contamination;</li> <li>v. landfill gas;</li> <li>vi. land instability;</li> <li>vii. flooding;</li> <li>viii. or any other identified risk to public health or safety;</li> </ul>	<p>A1</p> <p>The policy will not lead to development but rather seeks to reduce the impacts of development on public health.</p>	<p>X</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<p>unless it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Council that measures can be taken to overcome any danger to public health and/or impact upon local amenity.</p> <p>Development proposals must be accompanied by appropriate technical assessments, as requested by the Council.</p>		
<p>Policy AW 11 - Existing Employment and Retail Uses</p> <p>Development proposals promoting alternative uses for existing employment sites and retail units identified with the defined retail centres, will be permitted where:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The site is not identified by policies AW xx and AW xx of this plan; (Allocating policies)</li> <li>ii. The retention of the site for employment/retail purposes has been fully explored without success by way of marketing for employment/retail purposes at reasonable market rates for minimum of 12 months;</li> <li>iii. Within the identified primary retail frontage, the proposal accords with policy AW xx of this plan.</li> <li>iv. In the case of employment sites:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. a landbank of employment sites suitable to accommodate a range of employment uses across the plan area is maintained;</li> <li>b. the alternative use would not prejudice adjoining employment land;</li> <li>c. the proposed use is for a sui generis use, which exhibits the characteristics of B1, B2, and B8 uses and which could appropriately be accommodated on an employment site;</li> <li>d. the proposed use is a small, ancillary use which falls outside the B-Class uses but which supports the wider function of an employment site without affecting the integrity of the sites;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>A1</p> <p>The policy itself will not lead to development as it sets out criteria for the alternative use of existing employment and retail uses.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Policy AW Policy 12 – Renewable Energy</p> <p>Development proposals which promote the provision of renewable energy such as schemes for energy from biomass, hydro-electricity, anaerobic digestion and small/medium sized wind turbines, will be permitted where it can be demonstrated</p>	<p>A2</p> <p>Policy states clear intent that renewables development must support wider/ existing natural environment and</p>	<p>X</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<p>that there is no unacceptable effect upon the interests of agriculture, conservation, areas of ecological, wildlife natural heritage and landscape importance and residential amenity</p> <p>Development proposals should be designed to minimise resource use during construction, operation and maintenance.</p>	<p>conservation interests and will be permitted if there is no unacceptable effect upon the interests of conservation, areas of ecological and wildlife heritage.</p>	
<p>Policy AW 13 - Large Wind Farm Development</p> <p>Proposals for wind farm developments of 25mw and over will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Is within the boundary of the refined strategic search area and required to meet the indicative generating capacity;</li> <li>ii. Is sited on a predominantly flat, extensive area of upland land</li> <li>iii. Will benefit from a good wind resource;</li> <li>iv. Is located a minimum of 500 metres away from the nearest residential property;</li> <li>v. Will not because of its siting, scale or design have an unacceptable effect on the visual quality of the wider landscape;</li> <li>vi. Will not result in a loss of public accessibility to the countryside,</li> </ul> <p>Where development proposals are acceptable applicants will be required to enter into and implement appropriate land management agreements.</p>	<p>A1</p> <p>The policy itself does not propose the development of a large wind farm but rather sets out criteria for any proposals. The potential effects of a large wind farm development on European sites would be assessed once the proposal has been submitted.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Policy AW 14 - Minerals</p> <p>Rhondda Cynon Taf will seek to contribute to the regional and national demand for a continuous supply of minerals, without compromising environmental and social issues, by;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Maintaining a 20 year landbank of permitted aggregate reserves and protecting future resources;</li> <li>ii. Safeguarding other mineral resources, including coal, high quality hard rock</li> </ul>	<p>E1</p> <p>This policy has the potential for significant effect - contingent on the location of minerals extraction and the nature of processing/ transportation. Potential impacts associated with minerals extraction include: land take, habitat loss and fragmentation, disturbance, water</p>	<p>?</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<p>and sand and gravel, taking into account the range and extent of resources and environmental, planning and transportation considerations. Where proven reserves are under threat from sterilisation by necessary development, the pre-working of the mineral resource will be encouraged;</p> <p>iii. Ensuring that adequate restoration and aftercare measures are incorporated;</p> <p>iv. Promoting efficient usage, minimising production of waste, and promoting alternatives to primary won aggregates;</p> <p>v. Ensuring that impacts upon residential areas from mineral operations and the transportation of minerals are limited to an acceptable proven safe limit through an Amenity Protection Buffer Zones.</p>	<p>pollution, air pollution, dust, hydrological impacts, introduced/ invasive species.</p>	
<p>Policy AW 15 – Community Amenity Protection Buffer Zones</p> <p>a) No mineral extraction or activity directly related to the extraction of minerals will be permitted within the defined residential settlement boundaries.</p> <p>b) No sand and gravel extraction or activity directly related to the extraction of sand and gravel will be permitted within 100 metres of defined settlement boundaries or other established settlements.</p> <p>c) No sandstone or limestone extraction or activity directly related to the extraction of sandstone or limestone will be permitted within 200 metres of defined settlement boundaries, or other established settlements.</p> <p>d) No coal extraction or activity directly related to the extraction of coal will be permitted within 500 metres of defined settlement boundaries, or other established settlements.</p>	<p>A1</p> <p>The policy itself will not lead to development as it seeks to provide amenity protection buffer zones around residential areas.</p>	<p>X</p>
<b>Northern Strategy Area</b>		
<p>Policy NSA 1 – Development in the Principal Town of Aberdare</p> <p>Proposals for residential and commercial development within the defined town centre of Aberdare will be permitted where the development:</p>	<p>E2</p> <p>The policy itself does not propose development but rather sets out criteria</p>	<p>X</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reinforces the role of Aberdare as a Principal Town</li> <li>2. Respects the culture and heritage of Aberdare;</li> <li>3. Is of a high standard of design and makes a positive contribution to the townscape in the defined town centre;</li> <li>4. Integrates positively with existing development;</li> <li>5. Promotes opportunities for new retail, tourism and leisure development; and</li> <li>6. Promotes accessibility to services by a range of modes of transport.</li> </ol>	<p>for the permission of proposed development within the town centre of Aberdare. The locations of development are unknown, therefore the potential effects of a proposed development on European sites would be considered at a later stage once further detail is available.</p>	
<p>NSA 2 – Development in the Town Centres of Key Settlements</p> <p>Proposals for residential and commercial development within the defined town centres of the Key Settlements of Tonypany, Mountain Ash, Porth, Ferndale and Treorchy will be permitted where the development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Supports and reinforces the role of the centres as Key Settlements;</li> <li>2. Is of a high standard of design and integrates positively with existing development;</li> <li>3. Promotes the beneficial reuse of vacant and underused floorspace;</li> <li>4. Supports the provision of local services; and</li> <li>5. Promotes accessibility to services by a range of modes of transport.</li> </ol> <p>Non A-Class uses will not be permitted at ground floor level within the defined Primary Retail Frontage Areas.</p>	<p>E2</p> <p>The policy itself does not propose development but rather sets out criteria for the permission of proposed development within town centres and key settlements. The locations of development are unknown, therefore the potential effects of a proposed development on European sites would be considered at a later stage once further detail is available.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Policy NSA 3 - Development in the Key Settlement of Hirwaun</p> <p>Proposals for residential, commercial and community development within Hirwaun will be permitted where the development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is of a high standard of design and integrates positively with existing development;</li> <li>2. Makes a positive contribution to the provision and improvement of community</li> </ol>	<p>E2</p> <p>The policy itself does not propose development but rather sets out criteria for the permission of proposed development within Hirwaun. The locations of development are unknown, therefore the potential effects of a</p>	<p>X</p>



Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<p>and educational facilities;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Promotes opportunities for new retail and tourism development;</li> <li>4. Promotes accessibility to services by a range of modes of transport.</li> <li>5. Does not result in the loss of local retail or community facilities; and</li> <li>6. Does not result in the loss of important open space within the settlement</li> </ol>	<p>proposed development on European sites would be considered at a later stage once further detail is available.</p>	
<p>Policy NSA 4 - Former Maerdy Colliery Site, Rhondda Fach</p> <p>In accordance with policy CS 3 land is allocated at the Former Meardy Colliery Site for the construction of 1 hectare of employment land ( B1 and/ or B2), Visitor Centre and and an area of informal recreation contained in a historic landscape. Development on the strategic site will be subject to a large-scale reclamation scheme.</p>	<p>B</p> <p>This site lies approximately 6km south of Blaen Cynon SAC. Given the location of the site and the size of development it is not likely that this policy will have significant effects on European sites.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Policy NSA 5 - Former Fernhill Colliery Site, Blaenrhondda</p> <p>In accordance with policy CS 3 land is allocated at the Former Fernhill Colliery Site, Blaenrhondda for the construction of 400 dwellings, a local retail centre and associated public open space. Development on the strategic site will be subject to a large-scale reclamation scheme.</p>	<p>B</p> <p>This site lies approximately 6 km from Blaen Cynon SAC. Impacts associated with tourism, housing development are not considered significant given the distance between the sites and the alternative recreational facilities available in close proximity.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Policy NSA 6 - Former Phurnacite Plant, Abercwmboi</p> <p>In accordance with policy CS 3 land is allocated at the Former Phurnacite Plant, Abercwmboi for the construction of 500 dwellings, 5.9 hectares of employment, a new primary school and associated public open space. Development on the strategic site will be subject to a large-scale reclamation scheme.</p>	<p>B</p> <p>This site is over 8km from Blaen Cynon SAC. Impacts associated with tourism, housing development are not considered significant given the distance between the sites and the alternative recreational facilities available in close proximity.</p>	<p>X</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<p>Policy NSA 7 - Land at Robertstown / Abernant, Aberdare</p> <p>In accordance with policy CS 3 land is allocated at Robertstown / Abernant, Aberdare for the construction of 600 dwellings, 3.7 hectares of employment / leisure, a new primary school, medical centre and associated public open space.</p>	<p>B</p> <p>This site is approximately 5km from Blaen Cynon SAC. The site is proximal to an established urban centre, focusing development away from sensitive sites.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Policy NSA 8 - Land South of Hirwaun</p> <p>In accordance with policy CS 3 land is allocated South of Hirwaun for the construction of 400 dwellings, 36 hectares of employment, a new primary school, 2000m2 retail floorspace store, medical / community centre and associated public open space. Development on the strategic site will be subject to a large-scale reclamation scheme.</p>	<p>The policy proposes strategic development to Land South of Hirwaun, which is adjacent to Blaen Cynon SAC. Effects from development (employment and residential) include air/ water/ noise pollution, recreational pressure, water abstraction issues as well as wider urbanisation effects (waste/ traffic/ transport increases etc). Given the location of the site there is also the potential for habitat loss and fragmentation. The reclamation of land would need to be carried out with care to ensure that the hydrological conditions are maintained. The magnitude of impact will be dependent on implementation.</p> <p>The Core Management Plan for the Blaen Cynon SAC indicates that there "are no known off-site factors, such as pollution, that are affecting the marsh fritillary to any significant extent, although there is still much industry in the locality". It also states that as management of the SAC habitat improves, off-site factors could become more apparent. Site level</p>	<p>✓</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
	management issues (grazing and scrub management) are currently the most important factor in terms of maintaining and improving the marsh frillary habitat.	
Policy NSA 9 - Housing Allocations  In accordance with policy CS 4 land is allocated in the Northern Strategy Area for residential development on non strategic sites in the following locations:	Large allocations removed from LDP/ strategic allocations considered at NSA14.	?
Policy NSA 10 – Housing Density  Proposals for residential development will be permitted where the net residential density level is a minimum of 30 dwellings per hectare. Variation in density levels may be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development:  1. Does not adversely effect the character of the site or surrounding area; 2. Makes efficient use of the site, and 3. Has regard to the amenity of existing and future residents.	A1  The policy itself does not propose development as it sets out criteria for density levels.	X
Policy NSA 11 – Affordable Housing  The provision of 25% affordable housing will be sought on sites of 30 units or more. On sites under 30 units, contributions will be sought for the reuse / rehabilitation of existing older housing stock in the County Borough.	A1  The policy itself does not propose development but rather sets out the affordable housing requirement for proposed development.	X
Policy NSA 12 – Housing Development Within or Adjoining Settlement Boundaries  Development in the Northern Strategy Area, will be permitted within or adjoining the defined settlement boundaries where it can be demonstrated that:  1. The size of the site does not exceed 0.3 hectares on sites outside the defined settlement boundary;	E2  The policy itself does not propose development but rather sets out criteria for the permission of proposed development within or adjoining settlement boundaries in the Northern	X

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<p>2. The site is bounded on at least one side by the defined settlement boundary;</p> <p>3. The proposed development does not adversely effect the provision of open space;</p> <p>4. The proposed development is accessible to local services by a range of modes of transport, on foot or by cycle;</p> <p>5. The proposed development does not adversely effect the provision of car parking in the surrounding area;</p> <p>6. Where sites are contaminated or subject to land instability, adequate remediation can be achieved;</p> <p>Development proposals in the identified area of Aberdare will only be permitted within the defined settlement boundary. Development proposals adjoining the defined settlement boundary of Aberdare will not be permitted.</p> <p>Development proposals within and/or adjoining the defined settlement boundaries around the Strategic Sites defined by policy CS 3 will only be permitted where they will not prejudice the development of the Strategic Sites</p>	<p>Strategy Area. The locations of development are unknown, therefore the potential effects of a proposed development on European sites would be considered at a later stage once further detail is available.</p>	
<p>Policy NSA 13 – Rehabilitation / Conversion of Large Buildings</p> <p>The rehabilitation and conversion of large buildings for residential purposes within the Northern Strategy Area will be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The building is located within a settlement identified in Policy NSA 1</li> <li>2. The building is of historic or architectural importance or is prominent and makes a valuable contribution the townscape of the settlement;</li> <li>3. There is no economically viable alternative use for the building;</li> </ol>	<p>E2</p> <p>The policy itself does not propose development as it makes provision for the conversion of large buildings for residential purposes. The locations of development are unknown, therefore the potential effects of a proposed development on European sites would be considered at a later stage once further detail is available.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Policy NSA 14 - Employment Allocations</p> <p>In accordance with policy CS 6 land is allocated in the Northern Strategy Area for employment development on non-strategic sites in the following locations:</p>	<p>C1 &amp; C2</p> <p>Potential impacts of employment</p>	<p>✓</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?															
<p>employment development on non strategic sites in the following locations:-</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="264 427 1003 689"> <thead> <tr> <th>Site</th> <th>Use</th> <th>Size</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Ferndale &amp; Highfield Ind Estate, Maerdy</td> <td>(B1, B2 &amp; B8)</td> <td>8.38h</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Caemawr Ind Estate, Treorchy</td> <td>(B1, B2)</td> <td>3.6h</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Former Mayhew Chicken Factory, Trecynon</td> <td>(B1, B2 &amp; B8)</td> <td>2.88h</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. North of Fifth Avenue, Hirwaun Ind Estate, Hirwaun, and</td> <td>(B2,B8)</td> <td>4.17h</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Site	Use	Size	1. Ferndale & Highfield Ind Estate, Maerdy	(B1, B2 & B8)	8.38h	2. Caemawr Ind Estate, Treorchy	(B1, B2)	3.6h	3. Former Mayhew Chicken Factory, Trecynon	(B1, B2 & B8)	2.88h	4. North of Fifth Avenue, Hirwaun Ind Estate, Hirwaun, and	(B2,B8)	4.17h	<p>development include: direct land take/ habitat fragmentation, water abstraction, air/ land/ water and noise pollution.</p> <p>Site 7 (North of Fith Avenue, Hirwaun) is adjacent to the Blaen Cynon SAC. Effects from development include air/ water/ noise pollution, recreational pressure, water abstraction issues as well as wider urbanisation effects (waste/ traffic/ transport increases etc). Given the location of the site there is also the potential for habitat loss and fragmentation. The magnitude of impact will be dependent on implementation.</p> <p>The Core Management Plan for the Blaen Cynon SAC indicates that there "are no known off-site factors, such as pollution, that are affecting the marsh fritillary to any significant extent, although there is still much industry in the locality". It also states that as management of the SAC habitat improves, off-site factors could become more apparent. Site level management issues (grazing and scrub management) are currently the most important factor in terms of maintaining and improving the marsh fritillary habitat.</p>	
Site	Use	Size															
1. Ferndale & Highfield Ind Estate, Maerdy	(B1, B2 & B8)	8.38h															
2. Caemawr Ind Estate, Treorchy	(B1, B2)	3.6h															
3. Former Mayhew Chicken Factory, Trecynon	(B1, B2 & B8)	2.88h															
4. North of Fifth Avenue, Hirwaun Ind Estate, Hirwaun, and	(B2,B8)	4.17h															
Policy NSA 15 - Small Industrial and Business Sites	A1	X															

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<p>Small industrial and business sites (Use Classes B1, B2 and B8) will be retained for employment purposes unless it can be demonstrated that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Suitable alternative sites are available elsewhere in the locality at a comparable rental; or</li> <li>2. The premises have been assessed and are genuinely redundant i.e. they are vacant and have been marketed locally at a price that reflects their condition and commercial value and for a period of time that reflects the likely demand for the size of premises;</li> </ol> <p>Where the Council considers that the continued use of the premises for business purposes would cause undue disturbance to residential neighbours; or where access to the site does not meet an acceptable safety standard and cannot reasonably be improved, the above criteria will not be applied.</p>	<p>The policy itself does not propose development but rather sets out criteria for the retention of small industrial and business sites.</p>	
<p>Policy NSA 16 – Re-development of Vacant/Redundant Industrial Sites</p> <p>Proposals for the conversion or redevelopment of redundant and/or vacant industrial sites will be supported where it can be demonstrated that:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) The premises and/or site has been assessed and is genuinely redundant i.e. In terms of the current and future needs of the employment market;</li> <li>ii) That it has been marketed locally at a price that reflects its condition and commercial value and for a period of time that reflects the likely demand for the size of premises;</li> <li>iii) The development is compatible with other uses in the locality and there are no significant adverse impacts on the amenities enjoyed by local residents;</li> <li>iv) The redevelopment of derelict, unsightly, underused and vacant land for new mixed uses will have a positive effect in regeneration terms.</li> <li>v) The Site is not allocated in NSA14</li> </ol>	<p>E2</p> <p>The policy itself does not propose development but rather makes provision for the conversion or redevelopment of redundant and/or vacant industrial sites. The locations of development are unknown, therefore the potential effects of a proposed development on European sites would be considered at a later stage once further detail is available.</p>	<p>X</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?									
<p>Policy NSA 17 - Retail Allocations</p> <p>In accordance with policy CS7 land is allocated in the Northern Strategy Area for retail development at the following locations:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="302 512 1093 603"> <tr> <td></td> <td>Site</td> <td>Floorspace</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Land at Oxford Street, Mountain Ash</td> <td>950m2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>Strategic Site 5: Land South of Hirwaun</td> <td>2,000m2</td> </tr> </table>		Site	Floorspace	1.	Land at Oxford Street, Mountain Ash	950m2	2.	Strategic Site 5: Land South of Hirwaun	2,000m2	<p>D2</p> <p>The proposed 2,000m2 retail allocation (site 2) to the land south of Hirwaun has the potential to increase the level of traffic along the A465 and A4059, which are in close proximity to Blaen Cynon SAC. There is the potential for significant effects as a result of increased levels of diffuse air pollution.</p>	<p>?</p>
	Site	Floorspace									
1.	Land at Oxford Street, Mountain Ash	950m2									
2.	Strategic Site 5: Land South of Hirwaun	2,000m2									
<p>Policy NSA 18 - The Retail Hierarchy</p> <p>The hierarchy of retail centres in the Northern Strategy Area is defined as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Principal Town Centres: Aberdare;</li> <li>2. Key Settlements: Ferndale; Hirwaun; Mountain Ash; Porth; Treorchy; and Tonypany;</li> <li>3. Local And Neighbourhood Centres: Church Village (Centre); Llantrisant Old Town, Pontyclun, Rhydyfelin, Taffs Well, Tonteg (Precinct), Treforest, Tynant</li> </ol> <p>Proposals for retail development or changes of use to retail uses inside the defined boundaries which would maintain or enhance a centres position in the retail hierarchy will be permitted.</p>	<p>A1</p> <p>The policy itself does not propose development but rather sets out the retail hierarchy in the Northern Strategy Area.</p>	<p>X</p>									
<p>Policy NSA 19 – Retail Development in Principal Towns and Key Settlements</p> <p>New and improved retail (Class A) facilities and other uses that are appropriate within the town centre will be permitted within the core retail area of Aberdare where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The proportion of other Class A2 or A3 units does not rise above 25% of frontage length;</li> <li>2. The number, frontage lengths and distribution of other Class A 2 or A3 uses in the frontage do not create an over-concentration of uses detracting from its</li> </ol>	<p>E2</p> <p>The policy itself does not propose development but rather sets out criteria for the permission of proposed retail development within town centres of principal towns and key settlements in the Northern Strategy Area. The locations of development are unknown,</p>	<p>X</p>									

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<p>established retail character;</p> <p>3. The proposed use will provide a direct service to visiting members of the general public and generate sufficient day time and evening pedestrian activity to avoid creating an area of relative inactivity in the shopping frontage;</p> <p>4. The proposal does not prejudice the effective use of upper floors, retaining any existing separate access to upper floors; and</p> <p>5. The proposal will retain or provide a shop front with a display function and entrances which relate well to the design of the host building and to the streetscene and its setting, in terms of its materials, form and proportion.</p> <p>Within the defined retail centres of Ferndale Hirwaun Mountain Ash Porth Treorchy and Tonypany development proposals for Class A1, A2, A3 and other uses that will add vitality and viability to the retail centre by attracting foot fall that benefits the daytime and evening economy will be permitted.</p>	<p>therefore the potential effects of a proposed development on European sites would be considered at a later stage once further detail is available.</p>	
<p>Policy NSA 20 - Major Road Schemes</p> <p>In addition to those schemes identified in policy CS ??? land will be safeguarded and provision made for the development of the strategic highway network in the Northern Strategy Area, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mountain Ash Southern Cross Valley Link</li> <li>2. Upper Rhondda Fach Relief Road</li> <li>3. Upper Rhondda Fach Relief Road Extension (Beyond Maerdy)</li> <li>4. Mountain Ash Northern Cross Valley Link</li> </ol>	<p>A1</p> <p>The policy itself does not propose development but rather seeks to safeguard land for the future development of the strategic highway network.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Policy NSA 21 – Park and Ride (Bus) / Park and Share Provision</p> <p>Provision for park and ride (bus) / park and share facilities will be provided within the following developments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strategic Site 5: Land South of Hirwaun.</li> <li>2. Land south of Ty Trevithick, adjacent to A470, Abercynon</li> <li>3. Land adjacent to Penrhos roundabout, Penrhos</li> </ol>	<p>D1</p> <p>The development of park and ride facilities on Strategic Site 5 alone is not likely to have significant effects on Blaen Cynon SAC. However, in-combination with the other development proposed on this site there is the potential for habitat</p>	<p>?</p>



Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
	loss and reduced connectivity.	
<p>Policy NSA 22 - Rail Network And Station Improvements</p> <p>Land will be safeguarded for rail network improvements along the route of;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The former rail freight line between Aberdare and the former Tower Colliery, Hirwaun; and</li> </ol> <p>and for the provision of station improvements at:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. The former Railway Site, Hirwaun</li> <li>3. The Former Freight Line, Hirwaun</li> </ol>	<p>B</p> <p>Given the size and location of the development there is not likely to be any significant effects on European sites as a result of this policy.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Policy NSA 23 - Cycle Network Improvements</p> <p>The existing network of cycle paths and community routes will be extended improved and enhanced to include schemes at:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Rhondda Community Route Network;</li> <li>2. The Cynon Valley Cycle Route</li> <li>3. The Heads of the Valley Cycleway &amp; links to Hirwaun Industrial Estate</li> <li>4. Pontygwaith to Maerdy</li> <li>5. Cwmaman to Aberaman</li> <li>6. Lady Windsor to Llanwonno</li> <li>7. Gyfeillion to Llanwonno route</li> </ol>	<p>B</p> <p>This policy is unlikely to have significant effects on European sites. Blaen Cynon SAC is in close proximity to Hirwaun Industrial Estate, however, recreational disturbance is not an issue at this site and the improvements of the cycle path are not likely to have significant effects.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Policy NSA 24 – Green Wedges</p> <p>Green wedges have been identified in order to prevent coalescence between and within settlements at the following locations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Land north of Tonyrefail (Trane Farm, Cae'r-lan Farm) and Penrhiwfer (Mynydd y Gilfach)</li> </ol>	<p>A1</p> <p>The policy does not propose development but rather identifies green wedges and restricts development within them to prevent coalescence.</p>	<p>X</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Land between Penrhys (including Penrhys Cemetery) and Tylorstown</li> <li>3. Land between Penrhys and Llwynypia</li> <li>4. Land between Abernant (including Abernant Golf Course) and Cwmbach</li> <li>5. Land between Fernhill and Mountain Ash, including Victoria Pleasure Park</li> <li>6. Land north-east of Coed y Cwm and Grover's Field (Abercynon)</li> <li>7. Land between Penywaun and Cwmdare / Trecynon</li> </ol> <p>Within these areas development which prejudices the open nature of the land, will not be permitted.</p>		
<p>Policy NSA 25 - Special Landscape Areas</p> <p>Special landscape areas are identified at the following locations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mynydd y Cymmer</li> <li>2. Mynydd Troed y Rhiw Slopes</li> <li>3. Llwyncelyn Slopes</li> <li>4. Cwm Clydach</li> <li>5. Cynon Valley Northern Slopes</li> <li>6. Cwm Orci</li> <li>7. Rhondda Fawr Northern Cwm &amp; Slopes</li> <li>8. Hirwaun Common, Cwm Dare &amp; Cwm Aman, and</li> <li>9. Brecon Beacons Edge at Llwydcoed</li> </ol> <p>Development within the defined special landscape areas will be expected to conform to the highest standards of design, siting, layout and materials appropriate to the character of the area.</p>	<p>A1</p> <p>The policy relates to design and other criteria for development and will therefore not have significant effects on European sites.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Policy NSA 26 – Cynon Valley River Park</p> <p>Development that would contribute to the protection, enhancement, enlargement, connectivity and management of important wildlife sites, species and features of nature conservation within the Cynon Valley River Park area will be supported.</p>	<p>A2</p> <p>The policy ensures that development will help to protect and enhance the Cynon Valley River Park.</p>	<p>X</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<p>Policy NSA 27 – Land Reclamation Schemes</p> <p>Land reclamation schemes are proposed at the following locations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Aberman land reclamation scheme;</li> <li>2. Tylorstown and Llanwonno land reclamation scheme;</li> <li>3. Lewis Merthyr land reclamation scheme, Trehafod;</li> <li>4. Gelli land reclamation scheme;</li> <li>5. Graig-y-Dyffryn land reclamation scheme, Cwmpennar / Cefnpennar, Mountain Ash,</li> <li>6. Cefnpennar land reclamation scheme, Mountain Ash;</li> <li>7. Danylan land reclamation scheme, and</li> <li>8. Albion Lower Tips land reclamation scheme, Cilfynydd</li> </ol>	<p>B</p> <p>Given the location of the proposed sites it is not likely that there will be significant effects on European sites.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Policy NSA 28 - Provision Of Community Recycling Facilities</p> <p>Sites in the following locations will be safeguarded for the continuation of or provision for the future use as community recycling centres:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dinas;</li> <li>2. Treorchy;</li> <li>3. Ferndale;</li> <li>4. Aberdare (Bryn Pica); and</li> <li>5. Gelli.</li> </ol>	<p>B</p> <p>Given the location and size of development proposed it is not likely that there will be significant effects on European sites.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Policy NSA 32 - Safeguarding of Sandstone (now AW 14&amp; 15)</p> <p>The deposits of Pennant Sandstone, as shown on the proposals map, shall be safeguarded from any development, which would sterilise them or hinder their extraction.</p> <p>The identified areas of safeguarding on the proposals map include a 200 metres buffer zone.</p>	<p>E2</p> <p>The policy itself does not propose development but rather seeks to safeguard deposits of sandstone from development that would sterilise them or hinder their extraction. It would be more appropriate to assess significant effects once a proposal for extraction has been</p>	<p>X</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
	submitted.	
<p>Policy NSA 33 – Safeguarding of Coal Reserves (now AW 14&amp; 15)</p> <p>The deposits of primary and secondary coal reserves, as shown on the proposals map, shall be safeguarded from any development, which would sterilise them or hinder their extraction.</p> <p>The identified areas of safeguarding on the proposals map include a 500 metres buffer zone.</p>	<p>E2</p> <p>The policy itself does not propose development but rather seeks to safeguard deposits of coal from development that would sterilise them or hinder their extraction. It would be more appropriate to assess significant effects once a proposal for extraction has been submitted.</p>	<p>X</p>
<b>Southern Strategy Area</b>		
<p>Policy SSA 1 – Development in the Principal Town of Pontypridd</p> <p>Proposals for residential and commercial development within the defined town centre of Pontypridd will be permitted where the development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reinforces the role of Pontypridd as a Principal Town;</li> <li>2. Respects the culture and heritage of Pontypridd;</li> <li>3. Is of a high standard of design and makes a positive contribution to the townscape in the defined town centre;</li> <li>4. Contributes to the enhancement of Ynysangharad Park;</li> <li>5. Integrates positively with the existing built form;</li> <li>6. Promotes opportunities for new retail, tourism and leisure development;</li> <li>7. Promotes walking and cycling;</li> <li>8. Promotes accessibility to services by a range of modes of transport, and</li> <li>9. Improves the provision of Car Parking.</li> </ol>	<p>E2</p> <p>The policy itself does not propose development but rather sets out criteria for the permission of proposed development within the town centre of Pontypridd. The locations of development are unknown, therefore the potential effects of a proposed development on European sites would be considered at a later stage once further detail is available.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Policy SSA 2 - Pontypridd Town Centre Enhancement</p> <p>In order to improve the streetscape and retail environment in Pontypridd Town Centre, parts of Taff Street, Mill Street and High Street will be pedestrianised.</p>	<p>A4</p> <p>This site is within an established urban</p>	<p>X</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
parts of Taff Street, Mill Street and High Street will be pedestrianised.	centre, focusing development away from sensitive sites. Therefore this policy is not likely to have significant effects on European sites either alone or in-combination.	
<p>Policy SSA 3 – Development in the Principal Town of Llantrisant / Talbot Green</p> <p>Proposals for residential and commercial development within the defined town centre of Llantrisant / Talbot Green will be permitted where the development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reinforces the role of Llantrisant / Talbot Green as a Principal Town;</li> <li>2. Respects the culture and heritage of Llantrisant / Talbot Green;</li> <li>3. Is of a high standard of design and makes a positive contribution to the townscape in the defined town centre;</li> <li>4. Integrates positively with existing development;</li> <li>5. Promotes opportunities for new retail, tourism and leisure development;</li> <li>6. Protects important area nature conservation; and</li> <li>7. Makes a positive contribution to the reduction of congestion by promoting accessibility to services by a range of modes of transport.</li> </ol>	<p>E2</p> <p>The policy itself does not propose development but rather sets out criteria for the permission of proposed development within the town centres of Llantrisant and Talbot Green. The locations of development are unknown, therefore the potential effects of a proposed development on European sites would be considered at a later stage once further detail is available.</p>	X
<p>Policy SSA 4 – Development in the Key Settlement of Tonyrefail</p> <p>Proposals for residential and commercial development within the defined town centre of the Key Settlement of Tonyrefail will be permitted where the development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Supports and reinforces the role of the centre as a Key Settlement;</li> <li>2. Is of a high standard of design and integrates positively with existing development;</li> <li>3. Promotes the beneficial reuse of vacant and underused floorspace;</li> <li>4. Supports the provision of local services; and</li> <li>5. Promotes accessibility to services by a range of modes of transport.</li> </ol>	<p>E2</p> <p>The policy itself does not propose development but rather sets out criteria for the permission of proposed development within the town centre of Tonyrefail. The locations of development are unknown, therefore the potential effects of a proposed development on European sites would be considered at a later stage once further detail is available.</p>	X

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<p>Policy SSA 5 – New Educational Facilities in Tonyrefail</p> <p>Land will be made available within the proposed residential development at Trane Farm, Tonyrefail as defined by policy SSA4 for the provision of new educational facilities.</p>	<p>A4</p> <p>Given the location and size of the proposed development this policy is not likely to have significant effects on European sites either alone or in-combination.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Policy SSA 6 – Development in the Key Settlement of Llanharan</p> <p>Proposals for residential, commercial and community development within Llanharan will be permitted where the development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is of a high standard of design and integrates positively with existing development;</li> <li>2. Makes a positive contribution to the provision and improvement of community and educational facilities;</li> <li>3. Promotes opportunities for new retail and tourism development;</li> <li>4. Promotes accessibility to services by a range of modes of transport.</li> <li>5. Does not result in the loss of local retail or community facilities; and</li> <li>6. Does not result in the loss of important open space within the settlement</li> </ol>	<p>E2</p> <p>The policy itself does not propose development but rather sets out criteria for the permission of proposed development within the town centre of Llanharan. The locations of development are unknown, therefore the potential effects of a proposed development on European sites would be considered at a later stage once further detail is available.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Policy SSA 7 – Former Cwm Colliery and Coking Works, Beddau</p> <p>In accordance with policy CS 3 land is allocated at the Former Cwm Colliery and Coking Works, Beddau for the construction of 800 dwellings, 1.9 hectares of employment, local retail centre, a new primary school and associated public open space. Development on the strategic site will be subject to a large-scale reclamation scheme</p>	<p>B</p> <p>The site is over 20km away from Blaen Cynon SAC. Given the location of the site in the Southern Strategy Area it is not likely that there will be significant effects on Blaen Cynon SAC.</p> <p>The Core Management Plan for the</p>	<p>X</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
	<p>Blaen Cynon SAC indicates that there "are no known off-site factors, such as pollution, that are affecting the marsh fritillary to any significant extent, although there is still much industry in the locality". It also states that as management of the SAC habitat improves, off-site factors could become more apparent. Site level management issues (grazing and scrub management) are currently the most important factor in terms of maintaining and improving the marsh fritillary habitat.</p>	
<p>Policy SSA 8 - Mwyndy/Talbot Green Area</p> <p>In accordance with policy CS 3 land is allocated at Mwyndy/Talbot Green Area for the construction of 8500 dwellings, 32 hectares of employment, 23,200m2 new retail floorspace, 10,000m2 of leisure floorspace, a primary school, library / community facility and associated public open space.</p>	<p>B</p> <p>The site is approximately 25km away from Blaen Cynon SAC. Given the location of the site in the Southern Strategy Area it is not likely that there will be significant effects on Blaen Cynon SAC.</p> <p>The Core Management Plan for the Blaen Cynon SAC indicates that there "are no known off-site factors, such as pollution, that are affecting the marsh fritillary to any significant extent, although there is still much industry in the locality". It also states that as management of the SAC habitat improves, off-site factors could become more apparent. Site level management issues (grazing and scrub management) are currently the most important factor in terms of maintaining and improving the marsh fritillary habitat.</p>	<p>X</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<p>Policy SSA 9 - Former OCC Site Llanilid, Llanharan</p> <p>In accordance with policy CS 3 land is allocated at the Former OCC Site Llanilid, Llanharan for the construction of 1700 dwellings, 2000m2 retail floorspace, a medical centre, library / community facility, a new primary school and associated public open space. Development on the strategic site will be subject to a large-scale reclamation scheme in Access to the site will be provided by the construction of the Llanharan Bypass as defined policy SSA 18.</p>	<p>B</p> <p>The site is over 20km away from Blaen Cynon SAC. Given the location of the site in the Southern Strategy Area it is not likely that there will be significant effects on Blaen Cynon SAC.</p> <p>The Core Management Plan for the Blaen Cynon SAC indicates that there "are no known off-site factors, such as pollution, that are affecting the marsh fritillary to any significant extent, although there is still much industry in the locality". It also states that as management of the SAC habitat improves, off-site factors could become more apparent. Site level management issues (grazing and scrub management) are currently the most important factor in terms of maintaining and improving the marsh fritillary habitat.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Policy SSA 11 – Housing Density</p> <p>Proposals for residential development will be permitted where the net residential density level is a minimum of 35 dwellings per hectare. Variation in density levels may be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposed development:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Does not adversely effect the character of the site or surrounding area;</li> <li>2. Makes efficient use of the site, and</li> <li>3. Has regard to the amenity of existing and future residents.</li> </ol>	<p>A1</p> <p>The policy itself does not propose development as it sets out criteria for density levels.</p>	<p>X</p>



Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?												
<p>Policy SSA 12 – Affordable Housing</p> <p>The provision of 40% affordable housing will sought on sites of 30 units or more. On sites under 30 units contributions will be sought for the reuse / rehabilitation of existing older housing stock in the County Borough</p>	<p>A1</p> <p>The policy itself does not propose development but rather sets out the affordable housing requirement for proposed development in the Southern Strategy Area.</p>	<p>X</p>												
<p>Policy SSA 13 – Housing Development Within Settlement Boundaries</p> <p>Development will be permitted within the defined settlement boundaries where it can be demonstrated that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The proposed development does not adversely effect the provision of open space;</li> <li>2. The proposed development is accessible to local services by a range of modes of transport, on foot or by cycle;</li> <li>3. The proposed development does not adversely effect the provision of car parking in the surrounding area;</li> <li>4. The site is not contaminated or subject to land instability;</li> </ol> <p>Development proposals within and/or adjoining the defined settlement boundaries only be permitted where they will not prejudice the development of the Strategic Sites</p>	<p>E2</p> <p>The policy itself does not propose development but rather sets out criteria for the permission of proposed development within or adjoining settlement boundaries in the Southern Strategy Area. The locations of development are unknown, therefore the potential effects of a proposed development on European sites would be considered at a later stage once further detail is available.</p>	<p>X</p>												
<p>Policy SSA 14 - Employment Allocations</p> <p>In accordance with policy CS 7 land is allocated in the Southern Strategy Area for employment development on non strategic sites in the following locations:-</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="264 1230 1010 1374"> <thead> <tr> <th>Site</th> <th>Use</th> <th>Size</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1. Strategic Site 6: Former Cwm Colliery and Coking works, Beddau</td> <td>(B1, B2)</td> <td>1.9h</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Coed Ely, Tonyrefail</td> <td>(B1, B2)</td> <td>10.66h</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Land to south of Llantrisant Business</td> <td>(B1, B2 &amp;</td> <td>5.5h</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Site	Use	Size	1. Strategic Site 6: Former Cwm Colliery and Coking works, Beddau	(B1, B2)	1.9h	2. Coed Ely, Tonyrefail	(B1, B2)	10.66h	3. Land to south of Llantrisant Business	(B1, B2 &	5.5h	<p>B</p> <p>Given the location of the proposed development it is not likely that this policy will have significant effects on European sites.</p>	<p>X</p>
Site	Use	Size												
1. Strategic Site 6: Former Cwm Colliery and Coking works, Beddau	(B1, B2)	1.9h												
2. Coed Ely, Tonyrefail	(B1, B2)	10.66h												
3. Land to south of Llantrisant Business	(B1, B2 &	5.5h												

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?												
4. Park, Llantrisant B8) Gellihiron South, Rhydfelin (B2, B8) 1.47h														
<p>Policy SSA 15 - Retail Allocations</p> <p>In accordance with policy CS 7land is allocated in the Southern Strategy Area for retail development at the following locations:</p> <table border="0" data-bbox="302 662 1086 837"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Site</th> <th>Floorspace</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.</td> <td>Land Adjacent To Pontypridd Retail Park, Pontypridd</td> <td>5,500m2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2.</td> <td>Strategic Site 8: Former OCC Site, Llanilid, Llanharan</td> <td>2,000m2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3.</td> <td>Land East Of Mill Street, Tonyrefail</td> <td>2,000m2</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Site	Floorspace	1.	Land Adjacent To Pontypridd Retail Park, Pontypridd	5,500m2	2.	Strategic Site 8: Former OCC Site, Llanilid, Llanharan	2,000m2	3.	Land East Of Mill Street, Tonyrefail	2,000m2	<p>B</p> <p>Given the location of the proposed development it is not likely that this policy will have significant effects on European sites.</p>	<p>X</p>
	Site	Floorspace												
1.	Land Adjacent To Pontypridd Retail Park, Pontypridd	5,500m2												
2.	Strategic Site 8: Former OCC Site, Llanilid, Llanharan	2,000m2												
3.	Land East Of Mill Street, Tonyrefail	2,000m2												
<p>Policy SSA 16 - The Retail Hierarchy</p> <p>The hierarchy of retail centres in the Southern Strategy Area is defined as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Principal Town Centres: Pontypridd and Llantrisant (Including Talbot Green);</li> <li>2. Key Settlements: Llanharan and Tonyrefail;</li> <li>3. Local And Neighbourhood Centres: Gelli, Maerdy, Pentre (Queens), Penygraig, Ton Pentre, Trebanog, Treherbert, Tynwydd, Williamstown, Ynyshir, Ystrad (Star), Aberaman, Abercynon, Gadlys, Penrhiwceiber, Trecynon and Ynysybwl</li> </ol> <p>Proposals for retail development or changes of use to retail uses inside the defined boundaries which would maintain or enhance a centres position in the retail hierarchy will be permitted.</p>	<p>A1</p> <p>The policy itself does not propose development but rather sets out the retail hierarchy in the Southern Strategy Area.</p>	<p>X</p>												

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<p>Policy SSA 17 – Retail Development in Principal Towns and Key Settlements.</p> <p>New and improved retail (Class A) facilities and other uses that are appropriate within the town centre will be permitted within the core retail area of Pontypridd where:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The proportion of other Class A2 or A3 units does not rise above 25% of frontage length;</li> <li>2. The number, frontage lengths and distribution of other Class A 2 or A3 uses in the frontage do not create an over-concentration of uses detracting from its established retail character;</li> <li>3. The proposed use will provide a direct service to visiting members of the general public and generate sufficient day time and evening pedestrian activity to avoid creating an area of relative inactivity in the shopping frontage;</li> <li>4. The proposal does not prejudice the effective use of upper floors, retaining any existing separate access to upper floors; and</li> <li>5. The proposal will retain or provide a shop front with a display function and entrances which relate well to the design of the host building and to the streetscene and its setting, in terms of its materials, form and proportion.</li> </ol> <p>Within the defined retail centres of Llanharan and Tonyrefail development proposals for Class A1, A2, A3 and other uses that will add vitality and viability to the retail centre by attracting foot fall that benefits the daytime and evening economy will be permitted.</p>	<p>E2</p> <p>The policy itself does not propose development but rather sets out criteria for the permission of proposed retail development within town centres of principal towns and key settlements in the Southern Strategy Area. The locations of development are unknown, therefore the potential effects of a proposed development on European sites would be considered at a later stage once further detail is available.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Policy SSA 18 - Major Road Schemes</p> <p>In addition to those schemes identified in policy CS 8 land will be safeguarded and provision made for the development of the strategic highway network in the Southern Strategy Area, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Tonyrefail Bypass and Ynysmaerdy to Coed Ely Dualling</li> <li>2. A473 Llanharan Bypass, and</li> <li>3. A473 Talbot Green Bypass</li> </ol>	<p>B</p> <p>Given the location of the proposed development it is not likely that this policy will have significant effects on European sites.</p>	<p>X</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<p>Policy SSA 19 - Rail Network And Station Improvements</p> <p>Land will be safeguarded for rail network improvements along the route of;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The former rail freight line between Pontyclun and Beddau</li> </ol> <p>And for the provision of station improvements at:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cowbridge Road, Talbot Green</li> <li>2. Cardiff Road, Llantrisant</li> <li>3. Llantrisant Road, Gwaun Miskin, And</li> <li>4. Parish Road, Tynant</li> </ol>	<p>B</p> <p>Given the location and size of the proposed development it is not likely that this policy will have significant effects on European sites.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Policy SSA 20 – Park and Ride (Bus) / Park and Share Provision</p> <p>Provision for park and ride (bus) / park and share facilities will be provided within the following developments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strategic Site 7: Mwyndy / Talbot Green</li> <li>2. Brown Lennox Site, Pontypridd</li> <li>3. Land south of Makro, Parc Nantgarw</li> <li>4. Land adjacent to A4119 &amp; B4264 School Road</li> </ol>	<p>B</p> <p>Given the location and type of development proposed it is not likely that there will be significant effects on Blaen Cynon SAC as a result of this policy.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Policy SSA 21 - Cycle Network Improvements</p> <p>The existing network of cycle paths and community routes will be extended improved and enhanced to include schemes at:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Church Village Bypass Community Route</li> <li>2. Treforest Connect 2</li> <li>3. Extension of Connect 2 scheme to Pontypridd</li> <li>4. Maesycoed to Porth</li> <li>5. Glyntaff to Nantgarw</li> <li>6. Trallwn to Cilfynydd, and</li> </ol>	<p>B</p> <p>Given the location and type of development proposed it is not likely that there will be significant effects on Blaen Cynon SAC as a result of this policy.</p>	<p>X</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
7. Pontypridd to Tonyrefail via Llantrisant		
<p>Policy SSA 22 – Green Wedges</p> <p>Green wedges have been identified in order to prevent coalescence between and within settlements at the following locations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Land between Gilfach Goch / Hendreforgan and Parc Eirin (Tonyrefail)</li> <li>2. Land between Parc Eirin (Tonyrefail) and Ty'n y Bryn / Gelli Seren (Tonyrefail)</li> <li>3. Land between Llanharan, Llanharry and Pontyclun</li> <li>4. Land between Llantrisant and Beddau (Brynteg)</li> <li>5. Land between Beddau / Tynant and Llantwit Fardre (Crown Hill) / Church Village</li> <li>6. Land between Efail Isaf and Llantwit Fardre</li> <li>7. Land between Glyncoch and Ynysybwl</li> </ol> <p>Within these areas development which prejudices the open nature of the land, will not be permitted.</p>	<p>A1</p> <p>The policy does not propose development but rather identifies green wedges and restricts development within them to prevent coalescence.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Policy SSA 23 - Special Landscape Areas</p> <p>Special landscape areas are identified at the following locations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Llanharry Surrounds</li> <li>2. Talygarn Surrounds</li> <li>3. Ely Valley at Miskin</li> <li>4. Coed-yr-Hendy &amp; Mwyndy</li> <li>5. Llantrisant Surrounds</li> <li>6. Mynydd y Glyn &amp; Nant Muchudd Basin</li> <li>7. Mynydd Hugh &amp; Llantrisant Forest</li> <li>8. Efail Isaf, Garth &amp; Nantgarw Western Slopes</li> <li>9. Craig yr Allt</li> <li>10. Taff Vale Eastern Slopes, and</li> <li>11. Treforest Western Slopes</li> </ol>	<p>A1</p> <p>The policy relates to design and other criteria for development and will therefore not have significant effects on European sites.</p>	<p>X</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
Development within the defined special landscape areas will be expected to conform to the highest standards of design, siting, layout and materials appropriate to the character of the area.		
<p>Policy SSA 24 – Land Reclamation Schemes</p> <p>Land reclamation schemes are proposed at the following locations;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Danylan land reclamation scheme, and</li> <li>2. Coed Ely land reclamation aftercare scheme, Tonyrefail.</li> </ol>	<p>B</p> <p>Given the location of the proposed sites it is not likely that there will be significant effects on European sites.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Policy SSA 25 - Provision Of Community Recycling Facilities</p> <p>Sites in the following locations will be safeguarded for the continuation of or provision for the future use as community recycling centres:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Pontyclun</li> </ol>	<p>B</p> <p>This policy is not likely to have significant effects on European sites either alone or in-combination.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Policy SSA 30 - Safeguarding of High Purity Carbonate and Carboniferous Limestone. (now AW 14&amp; 15)</p> <p>The deposits of High Purity and Carboniferous Limestone, as shown on the proposals map, shall be safeguarded from any development, which would sterilise them or hinder their extraction.</p> <p>The identified areas of safeguarding on the proposals map include a 200 metres buffer zone.</p>	<p>E2</p> <p>The policy itself does not propose development but rather seeks to safeguard deposits of limestone from development that would sterilise them or hinder their extraction. It would be more appropriate to assess significant effects once a proposal for extraction has been submitted.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Policy SSA 31 - Safeguarding of Sandstone(now AW 14&amp; 15)</p> <p>The deposits of Pennant Sandstone, as shown on the proposals map, shall be safeguarded from any development, which would sterilise them or hinder their</p>	<p>E2</p> <p>The policy itself does not propose development but rather seeks to</p>	<p>X</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<p>extraction.</p> <p>The identified areas of safeguarding on the proposals map include a 200 metres buffer zone.</p>	<p>safeguard deposits of sandstone from development that would sterilise them or hinder their extraction. It would be more appropriate to assess significant effects once a proposal for extraction has been submitted.</p>	
<p>Policy SSA 32 – Preferred Area of Known Mineral Resource(now AW 14&amp; 15)</p> <p>Land adjacent to Craig yr Hesg Quarry, Pontypridd is identified as a Preferred Area of Known Mineral Resource.</p>	<p>E2</p> <p>The policy seeks to extend the mineral resource area of the already operational Craig yr Hesq sandstone quarry. It would be more appropriate to assess significant effects once a more detailed proposal for extraction has been submitted.</p>	<p>X</p>
<p>Policy SSA 33 - Safeguarding of Sand and Gravel Resources(now AW 14&amp; 15)</p> <p>The following sites contain resources of sand and gravel and will be safeguarded from any development, which would sterilise them or hinder their extraction.</p> <p>The identified areas of safeguarding on the proposals map include a 100 metres buffer zone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Llanilid, East of Felindre Road</li> <li>ii) Brynsadler, North of Llanharry Road</li> <li>iii) South of Tylegarw, Pontyclun</li> <li>iv) Ceulan Farm, Miskin</li> <li>v) Pant Marsh, Talbot Green</li> <li>vi) Llantrisant and Pontyclun golf course</li> <li>vii) Rhiwsaeson Road, Cross Inn</li> <li>viii) Heol y Creigiau, Rhiwsaeson</li> </ul>	<p>E2</p> <p>The policy itself does not propose development but rather seeks to safeguard deposits of sand and gravel from development that would sterilise them or hinder their extraction. It would be more appropriate to assess significant effects once a proposal for extraction has been submitted.</p>	<p>X</p>

Policy References: Plan/ Proposal	Potential effects (Criteria 1-9, see key) Rationale/ Comments	Likely Significant Effect (LSE) No X Yes ✓ Uncertain ?
<p>Policy SSA 34 – Safeguarding of Coal Reserves(now AW 14&amp; 15)</p> <p>The deposits of primary and secondary coal reserves, as shown on the proposals map, shall be safeguarded from any development, which would sterilise them or hinder their extraction.</p> <p>The identified areas of safeguarding on the proposals map include a 500 metres buffer zone.</p>	<p>E2</p> <p>The policy itself does not propose development but rather seeks to safeguard deposits of coal from development that would sterilise them or hinder their extraction. It would be more appropriate to assess significant effects once a proposal for extraction has been submitted.</p>	<p>X</p>



## Appendix 4: Plans and Programmes Review

### 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 HRA and AA of the Wales Spatial Plan Update (June 2008)
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>The Wales Spatial Plan sets out an agenda for the sustainable development of Wales over the next 20 years. The purpose of the update is to reflect new drivers of change and to give status to the Area work which has developed over the past two years. The plan aims to make South East Wales a networked city-region able to provide quality of life for the population and to be able to compete with comparable areas in the UK and the EU for investment and growth.</p> <p>The pattern of housing development across South East Wales is seen as developing a greater mix and balance of housing in the Heads of the Valleys and Connections Corridor whilst ensuring that development in the Coastal Belt of South East Wales does not undermine this housing market. There should also be a targeted action to secure a supply of affordable housing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Direct loss of habitat through development - One of the three Strategic Opportunity Areas identified is 'the area around Llantrisant and North West Cardiff'; Cardiff Beech Woods SAC is in close proximity to this.</li> <li>▪ Housing and employment growth may lead to increased transport movements - the potential for in-combination effect is greater where housing sites are in close proximity to Natura 2000 sites.</li> <li>▪ New communities require increased infrastructure – potential for land take, pollution increase, disturbance/ severance of habitats and species.</li> <li>▪ Growth in the requirement for waste management/ transport disposal from new communities and businesses has the potential to increase pollution, and introduce land take issues.</li> <li>▪ Recreation pressures may result from housing developments near/ adjacent to Natura 2000 sites.</li> <li>▪ Atmospheric pollution generated as a result of housing, employment and transport growth.</li> </ul>

National	
People, Places, Futures: The Wales Spatial Plan (update) 2008	
<p>Three Strategic Opportunity Areas (SOA) were identified as offering potential regional benefits from their sustainable development. These areas are: developments linked to the dualling of the Heads of the Valleys road (A465); the area around Llantrisant and North West Cardiff which has seen major growth over the past 30 years; and development in the Vale of Glamorgan linked to the proposed St Athan military training academy.</p> <p>The Plan states that improvements to transport are essential to making the city-region work, and to the regeneration of Valleys communities, highlighting the importance of external transport links, such as the M4, east/west rail links and Cardiff International Airport.</p>	

National	
Property Strategy for Employment in Wales 2004- 2008	
Plan Type	Employment Strategy
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Welsh Development Agency
Currency	2004 - 2008
Region/Geographic Coverage	Wales
Sector	Planning
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	N/A
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects

National	
Property Strategy for Employment in Wales 2004- 2008	
<p>The Property Strategy for Employment in Wales 2004-2008 sets out the Welsh Assembly Government’s approach for employment sites and buildings across Wales. The document aims to provide a framework to ensure that Wales can provide high quality employment sites and premises in the right locations for inward investors and indigenous businesses.</p> <p>Premier Business Park (1) - focused on M4/capital of Wales One park is needed for Wales as a whole, with a land requirement of some 100-300 acres (40-121 hectares). The current lack of such a premier business park is a major weakness in Wales’ current property armoury and investor offer. Only the “Greater Cardiff” area can in principle meet the criteria set out in the strategy.</p> <p>Business Parks (6) - 2/3 on M4 Corridor.</p> <p>Strategic Sites (15/20) -concentrated on large centres of population with proximity to the primary road network.</p> <p>Strategic Mixed Use Sites (5-10) - to complement the business parks and strategic sites network.</p> <p>Special Category Sites (1) - but with other sites having ‘key’ sector roles</p> <p>City/Town Centre Office Sites</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Direct loss of habitat through development - There are 4 SACs in close proximity to the M4, these are:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cardiff Beech Woods SAC;</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Employment growth may lead to increased transport movements.</li> <li>▪ New development requires increased infrastructure - potential for land take, pollution increase, disturbance/ severance of habitats and species.</li> <li>▪ Growth in the requirement for waste management/ transport disposal from new businesses has the potential to increase pollution, and introduce land take issues.</li> <li>▪ Recreation pressures may result from developments near/ adjacent to Natura 2000 sites.</li> <li>▪ Atmospheric pollution generated as a result of employment and transport growth.</li> </ul>

National	
Property Strategy for Employment in Wales 2004- 2008	
<p>Extensive network based on the main centres of population and existing critical mass, supplemented by smaller scale opportunities</p> <p>The following areas are recommended for early consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- major settlements                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cardiff/Cardiff Bay</li> <li>▪ Swansea</li> <li>▪ Newport</li> <li>▪ Wrexham</li> </ul> </li>   <li>- other settlements                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Caerphilly</li> <li>▪ Cwmbran</li> <li>▪ Merthyr Tydfil</li> <li>▪ Carmarthen</li> <li>▪ Newtown</li> <li>▪ Bangor</li> <li>▪ Colwyn Bay</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Industrial Estates/Local Sites 50-70 – to serve essentially sub-regional and local markets.</p>	

National	
One Wales: Connecting the Nation. The Wales Transport Strategy 2008	
Plan Type	Transport
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Welsh Assembly Government - Transport Wales
Currency	2008
Region/Geographic Coverage	Wales
Sector	Transport
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	N/A
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>The goal of One Wales: Connecting the nation is to promote sustainable transport= networks that safeguard the environment while strengthening our country's economic and social life. Our transport strategy identifies a series of high-level outcomes and sets out the steps to their delivery.</p> <p>One Wales: Connecting the nation long-term outcomes:</p> <p>Social</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improve access to healthcare</li> <li>▪ Improve access to education, training and lifelong learning</li> <li>▪ Improve access to shopping and leisure facilities</li> <li>▪ Encourage healthy lifestyles</li> <li>▪ Improve the actual and perceived safety of travel</li> </ul> <p>Economic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improve access to employment opportunities</li> <li>▪ Improve connectivity within Wales and internationally</li> <li>▪ Improve the efficient, reliable and sustainable movement of people</li> <li>▪ Improve the efficient, reliable and sustainable movement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improving the efficient, reliable and sustainable movement of people and freight as well as reducing the contribution of transport to greenhouse gas emissions will help to mitigate or offset any increase in diffuse air pollution as a result of this Strategy.</li> </ul>

National	
One Wales: Connecting the Nation. The Wales Transport Strategy 2008	
<p>of freight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improve access to visitor attractions</li> </ul> <p>Environmental</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increase the use of more sustainable materials</li> <li>▪ Reduce the contribution of transport to greenhouse gas emissions</li> <li>▪ Adapt to the impacts of climate change</li> <li>▪ Reduce the contribution of transport to air pollution and other harmful emissions</li> <li>▪ Improve the impact of transport on the local environment</li> <li>▪ Improve the impact of transport on our heritage</li> <li>▪ Improve the impact of transport on biodiversity</li> </ul> <p>The strategic priorities to focus work cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other environmental impacts;</li> <li>▪ Integrating local transport;</li> <li>▪ Improving access between key settlements and sites;</li> <li>▪ Enhancing international connectivity; and</li> <li>▪ Increasing safety and security.</li> </ul>	

National	
The Trunk Road Forward Programme 2002 (including 2004 supplement)	
Plan Type	Transport
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Welsh Assembly Government - Transport Wales
Currency	2002

National	
The Trunk Road Forward Programme 2002 (including 2004 supplement)	
Region/Geographic Coverage	Wales
Sector	Transport
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	N/A
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>Phase 1 (Start March 2007)</p> <p>A465 Abergavenny to Gilwern</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The scheme comprises the on-line widening of some 6km of the A465 between the existing Hardwick Roundabout and Glanbaiden junction, and then continues for just under 1km to Gilwern. Includes the areas: Hardwicke roundabout, Llanfoist, West of Llanfoist, Govilon and Gilwern East.</li> </ul> <p>M4 Castleton to Coryton Widening</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A 13.5km (8.0 mile) long scheme to widen from dual two lane to dual three lane motorway standard at an estimated cost of £71m. The main programme of construction work started in May 2007. Reconstruction and realignment of the motorway within the central reserve is currently underway between Junctions 30 and 32. This will continue until June 2008. The main widening will then follow in core phases: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ June 2008 - November 2008: J30 to J32 - Westbound widening.</li> <li>○ November 2008 - April 2009: J29 to J30 - Eastbound widening.</li> <li>○ April 2009 - August 2009: J29 to J30 - Central Reserve works.</li> <li>○ August 2009 - December 2009: J29 to J32 - Westbound widening.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A465: A470 to Hirwaun is in close proximity to Blaen Cynon SAC and has the potential to increase levels of airborne pollutants, recreation and disturbance.</li> <li>▪ All the development proposed has the potential to increase levels of traffic and therefore contribute to an increase in diffuse air pollution.</li> </ul>

National	
The Trunk Road Forward Programme 2002 (including 2004 supplement)	
<p>Phase 2 (Could be ready to start by April 2010)</p> <p>A465 Brynmawr to Tredegor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The A465 Trunk Road is part of the Trans European Road Network and is an important strategic route in South Wales, linking the Midlands and Northern England to West Wales and Ireland. Includes the areas: The Dingle, Blaen-y-Cwm Reservoir, Garn Lydan, Rassau Industrial Estate East, Rassau Industrial Estate West and Nantybawch Junction (phase two).</li> </ul> <p>A465 Gilwern to Brynmawr</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The A465 Trunk Road is part of the Trans European Road Network and is an important strategic route in South Wales, linking the Midlands and Northern England to West Wales and Ireland. Includes the areas: Gilwern East (phase two), Gilwern West, Maesygartha, Upper Clydach, Blackrock and Brynmawr.</li> </ul> <p>New M4 Magor to Castleton</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Welsh Assembly Government has proposed a new dual 3-lane motorway link between Magor and Castleton as part of the optimum long-term wider integrated transport strategy for South-East Wales. The new dual 3-lane motorway will be 15 miles (24 km) long, linking Junction 23A at Magor and Junction 29 at Castleton. The route crosses the Gwent Levels, including several Sites of Special Scientific Interest (or SSSIs), so great care will be taken to minimise the effects on the SSSIs by using previous industrial land where feasible.</li> </ul> <p>Phase 3 (Unlikely to start before April 2010)</p>	



National	
The Trunk Road Forward Programme 2002 (including 2004 supplement)	
<p>A4042 Llanellen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A narrow bridge crossing with limited pedestrian facilities and narrow winding approach from the south.</li> </ul> <p>Cardiff International Airport Access</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The scheme is proposed to address access problems to Cardiff International Airport and Culverhouse Cross. Detailed investigations are underway to ascertain how well various options address the identified issues whilst taking into account environmental, social and economic considerations. As part of the ongoing study traffic surveys and roadside interviews with travellers on roads in the Vale of Glamorgan area will be carried out in early March 2008. It is anticipated that solutions which are considered to best address the issues will be the subject of a public consultation planned to start in July 2008. The study is expected to be complete by the end of 2008.</li> </ul> <p>A465:A470 to Hirwaun</p> <p>A465 Dowlais Top to A470</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Includes the areas: Dowlais Top Junction (phase two), Penywern, Galon Uchaf, Gurnos, Cefn Coed, A470 Junction and West of A470.</li> </ul> <p>On Hold A4042 Penperlleni A40 Abergavenny</p>	

<b>National</b>	
<b>Minerals Planning Policy Wales 2001</b>	
Plan Type	Minerals & Waste
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Welsh Assembly Government
Currency	2001
Region/Geographic Coverage	Wales
Sector	Minerals
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	N/A
<b>Document Details</b>	<b>Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects</b>
<p>Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar Sites</p> <p>23. Minerals proposals within or likely to significantly affect potential and classified SPAs, designated, candidate or proposed SACs or Ramsar sites must be carefully examined in relation to the site's conservation objectives in order to ascertain whether or not they are likely to be significant in terms of the ecological objectives of the site. For the purpose of considering development proposals affecting them, potential SPAs and candidate SACs should be given the same protection and treated as classified SPAs and designated SACs. As a matter of policy, the Assembly has chosen to apply the same considerations to Ramsar sites. If a proposal individually or in combination with other proposals and sites with extant planning permission is likely have a significant effect on such a site, an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site must be made by the planning authority. If the proposal would adversely affect the integrity of the site (taking into account advice from the Countryside Council for Wales) and conditions would not remove this effect, planning permission will not be granted unless there are:</p>	<p>No locations are specified. The document contains strong policies in regard to the protection of Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites.</p>

National	
Minerals Planning Policy Wales 2001	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ no alternative solutions (i.e. alternative supplies cannot be made available at reasonable cost; and there is no scope for meeting the need in some other way); and,</li> <li>▪ imperative reasons of overriding public interest – including those of a social and economic nature. In determining this, authorities should have regard to considerations such as the need for the development in terms of UK mineral supply; and, the impact of permitting the development or refusing it on the local economy. The Assembly would consider the question of whether there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the development, taking account of advice from the Countryside Council for Wales, and bearing in mind the views of any other competent authority.</li> </ul> <p>Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and National Nature Reserves (NNRs)</p> <p>25. Minerals proposals within SSSIs or likely to affect them should be very carefully considered, and where the impact is likely to be significant they should be subject to the most rigorous examination, and the need for the mineral must be balanced against environmental and other relevant considerations. Particular care should be taken in assessing proposals that are likely to affect an SSSI which has been designated an NNR24. Consideration must always include an assessment of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the need for the development in terms of UK considerations of mineral supply;</li> <li>▪ the impact of permitting the development or refusing it on</li> </ul>	

National	
Minerals Planning Policy Wales 2001	
<p>the local economy;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ whether alternative supplies can be made available at reasonable cost; and the scope for meeting the need in some other way;</li> <li>▪ any detrimental effect of the proposals on the nature conservation interest of the site in terms of habitat, protected species, bio-diversity, environment and landscape, and the extent to which that should be moderated; and,</li> <li>▪ in the case of extensions to existing quarries and other mineral extraction sites, the extent to which the proposal would achieve an enhancement to the nature conservation and biodiversity interest of the site.</li> </ul> <p>Proposals for opencast or deep-mine development or colliery spoil disposal will be expected to meet the following requirements otherwise they should not be approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ within or likely to affect Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), National Nature Reserves (NNRs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Ramsar Sites must meet the additional tests set out in paragraphs 23 and 25 above;</li> </ul>	

## Regional

<b>Regional</b>	
<b>The South East Wales Consultation Draft Regional Waste Plan 1<sup>st</sup> Revision Oct 2007</b>	
Plan Type	Waste & Minerals
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	South East Wales Regional Waste Group
Currency	Consultation document (ended Dec 2007) Final document due 2008
Region/Geographic Coverage	Wales
Sector	Waste
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	Sustainability Appraisal & Life Cycle Analysis of the Strategic Waste Management Options (Environment Agency Wales, 2007).
<b>Document Details</b>	<b>Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects</b>
<p>The estimated total land area required in South East Wales for new in-building facilities by 2013 for the seven sub-Options ranges from between 48 hectares to 108 hectares. An analysis of the potentially available land area on existing B2 or major industry sites and B2 sites that have already been allocated in development plans has shown that in each UA area for which data is available there is, at the current time, a clear surplus of developable land with a B2 planning permission or proposed use to accommodate the highest estimate of the total land area required for new in-building waste management facilities. In South East Wales there is a total of 734 developable hectares of land with a B2 planning permission or proposed use.</p> <p>Biodiversity - The footprint of statutory designated sites, including Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves and Special Protection Areas have all been designated as absolute areas of constraint, constituting areas that are unsuitable for waste management facilities. These have subsequently been</p>	<p>Natura 2000 sites have designated as absolute areas of constraint, constituting areas that are unsuitable for waste management facilities. In addition, impacts on designated sites as a result of placing waste management facilities nearby have been considered.</p>

Regional	
The South East Wales Consultation Draft Regional Waste Plan 1 <sup>st</sup> Revision Oct 2007	
<p>omitted from the search. In addition, impacts on designated sites as a result of placing waste management facilities nearby have been considered. This has been undertaken by applying buffer areas around the footprint of designated sites, which present areas of some constraint. As the distance from the designated sites increases, the level of constraint decreases as reflected by the lowering weighting. The buffer zones vary depending on the importance of the designated site; buffers have been derived from information held within current planning policy regarding siting development near such sites, the weightings are appropriate to this and reflect the distance from the designated site, as well as the type of waste facility. For biodiversity issues, the Areas of Search subsequently reflect areas that are considered to be constrained by virtue of planning policy, reflected at the broad, national level. By excluding sites of nature conservation importance and applying buffers around them representing constraints, the permanent negative effects on biodiversity, including flora and fauna, are minimised.</p>	

Regional	
South East Wales Transport Alliance: Regional Transport Plan Consultative Draft July 2008	
Plan Type	Regional Transport Plan
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	South East Wales Transport Alliance
Currency	Consultation Draft due to be submitted to WAG before 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2008
Region/Geographic Coverage	South East Wales Transport Alliance (SEWTA) region

Regional	
South East Wales Transport Alliance: Regional Transport Plan Consultative Draft July 2008	
Sector	Transport
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	SEA Environmental Report June 2008
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>The aim of this RTP is to improve regional transport in South East Wales and help deliver the social, economic and environmental objectives of the Wales Spatial Plan and the Wales Transport Strategy.</p> <p>The RTP vision is: To provide a modern, integrated and sustainable transport system for South East Wales that increases opportunity, promotes prosperity and protects the environment; where public transport, walking, cycling and sustainable freight provide real travel alternatives.</p> <p>Sewta's priorities build on the RTP's vision. They tackle Sewta's main problems and they set the general direction of the RTP, as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To improve access to services, facilities and employment, particularly by public transport, walking and cycling;</li> <li>2. To provide a transport system that increases the use of sustainable modes of travel;</li> <li>3. To reduce the demand for travel;</li> <li>4. To develop an efficient and reliable transport system with reduced levels of congestion and improved transport links within the Sewta region and to the rest of Wales, the UK and Europe;</li> <li>5. To provide a transport system that encourages healthy and active lifestyles, is safer and supports local communities;</li> <li>6. To reduce significantly the emission of greenhouse gases</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The key focus of the regional transport plan is to rebalance capital investment away from road building towards public transport, walking and cycling, this includes investment in travel planning measures.</li> <li>■ The overarching aim of this plan is to seek long term sustainable transport solutions. Key objectives include seeking a modal shift for private and freight transports onto more sustainable modes, reducing the impact of the transport system on the natural environment, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from transport, and reducing traffic growth and congestion.</li> <li>■ The in-combination effects of the Regional Transport Plan with Local Development Plans are likely to be positive in the long-term.</li> <li>■ The shared approach of these plans to deliver more sustainable transport and travel solutions for commercial and private traffic provides strong support for overarching aims to reduce air pollution which can contribute to the reduction of damaging effects to habitats and species.</li> </ul>

Regional	
South East Wales Transport Alliance: Regional Transport Plan Consultative Draft July 2008	
<p>and air pollution from transport;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. To ensure that land use development in South East Wales is supported by sustainable transport measures;</li> <li>8. To make better use of the existing transport system;</li> <li>9. To play a full role in regenerating South East Wales.</li> </ol> <p>The document identifies a number of specific core activities and interventions that according to SEWTA are absolutely critical to achieving its vision.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continuing investment into the regional rail system.</li> <li>2. Improving quality of the bus services.</li> <li>3. Developing of public transport integration.</li> <li>4. Making better use of the existing road system.</li> <li>5. Development of a Smarter Choice programme (including walking and cycling).</li> </ol> <p>"Three 'Strategic Opportunity Areas' (SOAs) have been identified. These areas are: Development linked to the dualling of the Heads of the Valleys Road (A465); The area around Llantrisant and North West Cardiff; and The development in the Vale of Glamorgan linked to the proposed St Athan military training academy.</p> <p>The RTP objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To ensure that communities have access to a good range of employment opportunities, particularly by public transport, walking and cycling</li> <li>▪ To improve access to services and facilities, particularly by public transport, walking and cycling</li> <li>▪ To achieve seamless interchange within and between</li> </ul>	



Regional	
South East Wales Transport Alliance: Regional Transport Plan Consultative Draft July 2008	
<p>modes of transport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To achieve a modal shift towards more sustainable forms of transport for moving both people and freight</li> <li>▪ To improve actual and perceived levels of personal security when travelling</li> <li>▪ To improve the efficiency and reliability of the transport system</li> <li>▪ To improve connections between the SEWTA region and the rest of Wales, the UK and Europe by improving transport links that do not have an adverse impact on climate change</li> <li>▪ To reduce traffic growth and traffic congestion</li> <li>▪ To make better use of the existing road system</li> <li>▪ To ensure that land use developments in South East Wales are supported by sustainable transport measures</li> <li>▪ To regenerate town centres, brown-field sites and local communities through appropriate transport provision</li> <li>▪ To reduce the number and severity of road traffic casualties</li> <li>▪ To promote travel modes that provide for healthier lifestyles</li> <li>▪ To reduce the dominance of motor traffic on the local street scene to the benefit of residents, pedestrians and cyclists</li> <li>▪ To reduce the impact of the transport system on the natural and built environment</li> <li>▪ To make the transport system more robust with respect to the consequences of climate change</li> <li>▪ To reduce significantly the emission of greenhouse gases from transport</li> <li>▪ To make the public more aware of the consequences of their travel choices on climate, the environment and health</li> </ul>	

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
<p>In summary the strategy includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Additional rolling stock to strengthen peak trains to provide for passenger growth and to avoid overcrowding and rolling stock renewal;</li> <li>▪ Station improvements including improved station facilities, information, security and access - including additional parking;</li> <li>▪ Reliability and capacity improvements; changes to the network to reduce delays and improve the ability to cope with performance problems; specifically at Cardiff Central, Cardiff Queen Street, Barry, Cogan Junction and Llandaff;</li> <li>▪ Frequency enhancements on existing lines; improving the levels of service on selected routes to meet passengers' expectations and increase the transfer of car trips to rail; specifically new services on the Abergavenny, Chepstow, Ebbw Vale, Rhymney Valley, Taff Vale and Vale of Glamorgan Lines. Additional services to the north of Cardiff are required to cope with the growth in passenger demand</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improvements to the rail network could lead to a reduction in car use and improvements to air quality in the region.</li> </ul>

Regional	
SEWTA Rail Strategy Study Jan 2006	
<p>and will require a significant investment in the capacity of the network at and between Cardiff Queen Street and Cardiff Central stations;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New stations on existing lines; improving access to the rail network and integrated with the development of improved services; specifically at Caerleon, Magor with Undy, Llanwern, Coedkernew and St Mellons. With those on the main line between Cardiff and Severn Tunnel sited on the Relief Lines;</li> <li>▪ Network extensions and new stations; to investigate further improving access to the rail network through extending to Ebbw Vale Town and from Pontyclun to Beddau (with stations at Talbot Green, Llantrisant, Gwaun Meisgyn &amp; Beddau); and</li> <li>▪ Rail - Link Bus Services; to extend the reach of the rail services to communities remote from the network, specifically providing access to the Valleys to the north of Cardiff and Newport.</li> </ul>	

Regional	
Turning Heads... A Strategy for the Heads of the Valleys 2020	
Plan Type	Regional Spatial Planning and Regeneration Strategy
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Welsh Assembly Government
Currency	June 2006
Region/Geographic Coverage	Heads of the Valleys covering parts of the administrative areas of (Rhondda Cynon Taf, Merthyr Tydfil, Caerphilly, Blaenau Gwent)

Regional	
Turning Heads... A Strategy for the Heads of the Valleys 2020	
Sector	Planning/ Regeneration
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	SA/SEA Report
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>Strategy set within context of Wales Spatial Plan - sets a shared vision for planning for the Heads of the Valleys.</p> <p>Preferred Approach - Option A 'Developing Balanced Communities'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ mix strong employment opportunities with distinctive communities.</li> <li>▪ provide mix of housing, retail, leisure/ tourism.</li> <li>▪ exploit internal and external employment opportunities including along M4 corridor.</li> </ul> <p>Public Sector Investment for 2006-09 includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Environment c£300m, including improvements to Merthyr Tydfil, Ebbw Vale, Bargoed, Abertillery, Blaenavon and Mountain Ash Town Centres.</li> <li>▪ Economy c£500m including the next phase of the A465(T) dualling.</li> <li>▪ Tourism and leisure - c£50m, including local authority investment in community facilities.</li> <li>▪ Continued major public investment in the area, including the regeneration of the former Ebbw Vale Steelworks site.</li> <li>▪ Housing renewal £0.6billion investment in social housing stock between now and 2012.</li> </ul> <p>Key Strategic Goals include:</p> <p>SP2: A Perception Changing Landscape With stakeholders, we will develop and implement a number</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Direct loss of habitat through development - One of the three Strategic Opportunity Areas identified is 'the area around Llantrisant and North West Cardiff'; Cardiff Beech Woods SAC is in close proximity to this.</li> <li>▪ Housing and employment growth may lead to increased transport movements - the potential for in-combination effect is greater where housing sites are in close proximity to Natura 2000 sites.</li> <li>▪ Atmospheric pollution generated as a result of housing, employment and transport growth.</li> <li>▪ The A465 runs in close proximity to Blaen Cynon SAC. There is the potential for direct land take, increased disturbance and increased levels of diffuse air pollution.</li> <li>▪ Employment development along the M4 could have implications for Cardiff Beech Woods SAC. There is the potential for direct land take, increased disturbance and increased levels of diffuse air pollution.</li> </ul>

Regional	
Turning Heads... A Strategy for the Heads of the Valleys 2020	
<p>of key strategic landscape-scale environmental enhancements, concentrating on key corridors and gateways such as the A465(T) Heads of the Valleys Road, and approaches to the former Ebbw Vale Steelworks and Hirwaun.</p> <p>SP5: Joined-Up Solutions for Business Informed by market demand, we will actively encourage developers to improve and expand the range of business premises in the area, including within town centres, to help the Heads of the Valleys become a realistic investment option alongside centres such as Newport and Cardiff. This will be supported by good community and public transport links connecting people with jobs and services - integrated into the wider South East Wales Transport Plan.</p>	

## Regional outside SE Wales

Regional	
The Consultation Draft Transport Plan for South West Wales, 2008	
Plan Type	Regional Transport Plan
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	South West Wales Integrated Transport Consortium (SWWITCH)
Currency	2008-2013
Region/Geographic Coverage	South West Wales
Sector	Transport
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	SEA Scoping of the South West Wales Transport Plan HRA Screening
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>The RTP replaces county-level Local Transport Plans. The Vision for South West Wales is 'to improve transport and access within and beyond the region to facilitate economic development and the development and use of more sustainable and healthier modes of transport'.</p> <p>The RTP reiterates national strategy (above), which sees the ports of Milford Haven, Pembroke and Fishguard as 'key gateways to and from Wales'.</p> <p>The 'network of towns' concept is also cascaded downwards to the region from national strategy; this sees the Haven Waterway towns of Milford Haven, Pembroke/Pembroke Dock and Haverfordwest as supporting each other by offering complementary functions and being better linked (unspecified).</p> <p>The Strategy sets out outcomes to influence travel behaviour, which will have beneficial effects overall.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ No specific locations for new development identified though it is possible that the plan could lead to increase in diffuse air pollution.</li> <li>■ Policies within the Plan will help to mitigate or offset any increase in diffuse air pollution as a result of this Strategy. These include improving the quality, affordability and awareness of public transport, walking, cycling and car sharing and making the movement of people and freight more sustainable, safer and more secure, reliable and efficient.</li> </ul>

Regional	
The Consultation Draft Transport Plan for South West Wales, 2008	
HRA Screening of SWWITCH has been indicated on the website, but has not yet been made available.	

Regional	
Regional Transport Plan for Mid Wales 2006	
Plan Type	Regional Transport Plan
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Mid Wales Transport Consortium (TraCC)
Currency	2008 - 2013
Region/Geographic Coverage	South West Wales
Sector	Transport
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	N/A
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>The Vision for TraCC's RTP is:</p> <p>'To plan for and deliver an integrated transport system in Mid Wales that facilitates economic development, ensures access for all to services and opportunities, sustains and improves the quality of community life and respects the environment.'</p> <p>TraCC RTP Objectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To improve safety for all transport users;</li> <li>▪ To improve accessibility to services, jobs and facilities for all sectors of society;</li> <li>▪ To improve the quality and integration of the public</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ No specific locations for new development identified though it is possible that the plan could lead to increase in diffuse air pollution.</li> </ul>

Regional	
Regional Transport Plan for Mid Wales 2006	
<p>transport system including the role of community transport;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ To provide, promote and improve sustainable forms of transport;</li> <li>▪ To improve the efficiency and use of the highway network including connectivity to other regions;</li> <li>▪ To maintain and improve the existing highway and transport infrastructure;</li> <li>▪ To minimise the impact of movement on the local and global environment; and</li> <li>▪ To ensure that transport, the need to travel and accessibility issues are paramount in land use decisions.</li> </ul>	

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	N/A
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
The document sets out how the Environment Agency Wales will manage water abstraction from the Taff and Ely catchment until 2010. The strategy provides the framework for any decision on an abstraction license application.	Under the Habitats Regulations the Environment Agency Wales has a duty to assess the effects of existing abstraction licences and any new applications to make sure they are not impacting on internationally important nature conservation sites. Water efficiency is also tested by the EA before a new



<p>The Taff and Ely have a total catchment area of approximately 576 km<sup>2</sup>, which encompasses the River Taff, the River Ely and their respective tributaries. A large groundwater abstraction occurs at Ely Wells (in the lower Ely catchment) providing water for operations at Aberthaw Power Station. In the upper areas of the catchment there are carboniferous limestone and sandstone units (capable of supporting significant yields), which are currently not being used to their full potential.</p>	<p>license is granted. If the assessment of a new application shows that it could have an impact on a SAC/SPA the EA will have to follow strict rules in setting a time limit for that license.</p> <p>The catchment has been split into 3 Water Resource Management Units (WRMU) and 1 Groundwater Management Unit (GWMU). The document states that two of the WRMUs and the GWMU are over licensed. The WRMU that contains the River Ely has water available for abstraction.</p> <p>Blaen Cynon SAC falls within WRMU 6 which according to the CAMS is over licensed. The Resource availability status of WRMU 6 is that there will be no water available by 2016. A reduction in the water table could affect the devil's-bit scabious, which prefers moist soils. The Marsh Fritillary Butterfly requires this plant species as it is their larval food.</p>
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## Local Development Plans

Local Development Plans	
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy	
Plan Type	Local Development Plan
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority
Currency	15 years
Region/Geographic Coverage	Brecon Beacons National Park Authority administrative boundaries
Sector	Planning
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	SA/ SEA of the LDP Preferred Strategy HRA Screening of the LDP Preferred Strategy
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>The BBNPA LDP is the Development Plan for the Authority over a 15 year period during which it will provide the framework for development within the National Park administrative boundaries, whilst also seeking to minimise projects that do not meet with the aims and objectives of the overarching National Park Management Plan. Accordingly, the LDP is closely connected to the National Park Management Plan through a linked vision and related objectives. The final LDP will comprise a strategy and integrated set of policies and site specific proposals to guide development.</p> <p>The Preferred Strategy details the strategic spatial options considered and outlines the preferred approach for strategic sites, non-strategic sites and strategic planning policies. The strategic planning policies are organised into four main categories:</p>	<p>Overarching Development Pressures</p> <p>Generic effects related to development/ growth scenarios include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Potential for land take/ habitat fragmentation</li> <li>■ Increased demand for water resources/ abstraction/ hydrological impacts</li> <li>■ Increased traffic movements, contributions to atmospheric pollution loading</li> <li>■ Growth in requirements for waste management facilities, increased demand for minerals</li> <li>■ Increased recreational pressure from existing/ new populations</li> </ul> <p>SAC Specific Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Part of the Blaen Cynon SAC is situated within BBNP. The Preferred Strategy identifies that there will be some growth in Penderyn which is in close proximity to the SAC. The LDP does not yet specify the level of growth or</li> </ul>

Local Development Plans	
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy	
<p>1. Overarching Policies 2. Topic Specific Policies 3. Spatial Distribution of Development 4. Requirements for Sustainable Development</p> <p>The key implications of the plan are likely to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Continued support for, protection and enhancement of the landscape, cultural and environmental heritage of the Park.</li> <li>■ A growth in the provision and use of sustainable energy sources, focused on small scale generation as part of new developments at source.</li> <li>■ Promotion of development on previously developed land.</li> <li>■ Development of housing and employment focused on key settlements with mix allocations.</li> <li>■ Small scale allocations of housing at non-strategic sites where it supports regeneration, identified need in rural communities, including through the provision of affordable housing.</li> </ul> <p>Overall the LDP's strategy reflects the wider criteria and aims of National Park designation in only allowing for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ moderate housing development: 1,506 – 1.664 new houses over the period of the plan and</li> <li>■ one strategic employment site at the Key Settlement of Brecon, for 'knowledge based' educational and commercial uses.</li> </ul>	<p>location in Penderyn. There is potential for development in this area to lead to habitat loss and fragmentation.</p>

Local Development Plans	
Brecon Beacons National Park Authority Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy	

Local Development Plans	
Bridgend County Borough Council Local Development Plan Strategic Options and Preferred Strategy:	
Plan Type	Local Development Plan
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Bridgend County Borough Council
Currency	Draft Preferred Options May/June 2007 Deposit LDP April 2008- May 2009
Region/Geographic Coverage	Bridgend County Borough Council administrative boundaries
Sector	Planning
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	SA/SEA Report
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>Spatial Assessment of Draft Strategic Growth Options – Nov 2007.</p> <p>Two Draft Strategic Growth Options recommended by the Council (June 2007).</p> <p>Trends-Based Growth Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Produces a dwelling requirement up to 2021 of 8,100 dwellings. Includes an implicit commitment to 6,930 dwellings.</li> <li>▪ A 217ha supply of employment land is currently available</li> </ul>	<p>Overarching Development Pressures</p> <p>LDP impacts will be dependant on the final Preferred Strategy option.</p> <p>Generic effects related to development/ growth scenarios include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Potential for land take/ habitat fragmentation</li> <li>▪ Increased demand for water resources/ abstraction/ hydrological impacts</li> <li>▪ Increased traffic movements, contributions to atmospheric pollution loading</li> <li>▪ Growth in requirements for waste management facilities, increased</li> </ul>

Local Development Plans	
Bridgend County Borough Council Local Development Plan Strategic Options and Preferred Strategy:	
<p>(applies to both strategy options). UDP Growth Strategy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Produces a dwelling requirement of 7,470 dwellings between 2006 and 2021.</li> </ul> <p>Options for pursuing the Trend Based Growth Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 1. Economic led – focusing development on Bridgend and other main settlements with available employment opportunities to optimise their locational economic advantages whilst reducing the need to travel. Dwellings accommodated within existing settlement boundaries.</li> <li>▪ 2. Regeneration Led – focusing development with the Valleys and Valley Gateway north of the M4 to promote the regeneration priorities of the County Borough. Development can be accommodated within existing settlement boundaries in Llynfi Valley and the Valleys gateway but may need relaxing in the Ogmore and Garw Valleys.</li> <li>▪ 3. Population Led – a dispersed pattern of development with in the main urban areas optimizing the use of committed sites and allocating new development relative to the existing size of the settlement. Dwellings can be accommodated within existing settlement boundaries.</li> </ul>	<p>demand for minerals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased recreational pressure from existing/ new populations</li> </ul> <p>SAC Specific Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Blaen Cynon SAC and Cardiff Beech Woods SAC are approximately 12km from Bridgend County Borough administrative boundary, therefore there are unlikely to be any direct impacts as a result of the plan. There is however the potential for the development proposed to increase levels of diffuse air pollution and recreation.</li> </ul>

Local Development Plans	
Caerphilly County Borough Council Deposit LDP Consultation October 2008	
Plan Type	Local Development Plan

Local Development Plans	
Caerphilly County Borough Council Deposit LDP Consultation October 2008	
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Currency	Deposit Plan Consultation (finished on 16 <sup>th</sup> November 2008)
Region/Geographic Coverage	Caerphilly County Borough Council administrative boundaries
Sector	Planning
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	SA/ SEA of the Deposit Plan HRA/ AA of the Deposit Plan
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>The Deposit LDP is comprised of three parts, the first of which is the Development Strategy which sets the strategic framework and policies necessary to deliver land use planning in the County Borough. The Development Strategy splits the County Borough into three parts; The Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area, the Northern Connections Corridor and the Southern Connections Corridors. Part two of the Deposit LDP comprises the criteria based policies (Countywide Policies) against which development proposals will be determine and part three contains the allocations where development is expected to be located and where areas of land use protection are to be found (Area Specific Policies).</p> <p>Development Strategy for the LDP is based on three broad areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area (HOVRA)</li> <li>▪ The Northern Connections Corridor (NCC)</li> <li>▪ The Southern Connections Corridor (SCC)</li> </ul> <p>The Deposit LDP is underpinned by eight components which set a framework for the approach to - and the nature of - land use development. They are:</p>	<p>Overarching Development Pressures</p> <p>Generic effects related to development/ growth scenarios include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Potential for land take/ habitat fragmentation</li> <li>▪ Increased demand for water resources/ abstraction/ hydrological impacts</li> <li>▪ Increased traffic movements, contributions to atmospheric pollution loading</li> <li>▪ Growth in requirements for waste management facilities, increased demand for minerals</li> <li>▪ Increased recreational pressure from existing/ new populations</li> </ul> <p>SAC Specific Issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Cardiff Beech Woods is within 500m and is vulnerable to air pollution and recreational pressure.</li> <li>▪ Blaen Cynon SAC is approximately 13km from Caerphilly County Borough administrative boundary, therefore there are unlikely to be any direct impacts as a result of plan. There is however the potential for the development proposed to increase levels of diffuse air pollution and recreation.</li> </ul>

Local Development Plans	
Caerphilly County Borough Council Deposit LDP Consultation October 2008	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Target development to reflect the roles and functions of individual settlements</li> <li>2. Allow for development opportunities in the Heads of the Valleys Regeneration Area</li> <li>3. Promote a balanced approach to managing future growth</li> <li>4. Exploit brownfield opportunities where appropriate</li> <li>5. Promote resource efficient settlement patterns</li> <li>6. Ensure development contributes towards necessary infrastructure improvements</li> <li>7. Ensure development provides necessary community facilities</li> <li>8. Reduce the impact of development upon the countryside</li> </ol> <p>Settlement Strategy SP4 The Council will support existing settlements, which will be enhanced based on their role and function in the settlement strategy:</p> <p>Principal Towns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bargoed (HOVRA)</li> <li>▪ Blackwood (NCC)</li> <li>▪ Ystrad Mynach (NCC)</li> <li>▪ Caerphilly (SCC)</li> <li>▪ Risca / Pontymister (SCC)</li> </ul> <p>Key Settlements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Rhymney (HOVRA)</li> <li>▪ Nelson (NCC)</li> <li>▪ Newbridge (NCC)</li> <li>▪ Bedwas (SCC)</li> </ul>	

Local Development Plans	
Caerphilly County Borough Council Deposit LDP Consultation October 2008	
<p>Residential Areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ All other villages within settlement limits</li> </ul> <p>Total Housing Requirements SP16 The Council has made provision for the development of 8,625 new dwellings in the County Borough between 2006 and 2021.</p> <p>Managing Employment Growth SP18 The Council has made provision for the development of 104.3 hectares of employment land in the County Borough between 2006 and 2021. This requirement will be met principally through the development of a range of employment sites including the following:</p> <p>A Business Parks B Primary Industrial Estates C Secondary Industrial Estates</p>	

Local Development Plan	
Cardiff Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy 2006-2021	
Plan Type	Local Development Plan
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Cardiff Council
Currency	2006-2021
Region/Geographic Coverage	Cardiff Council administrative boundary
Sector	Planning
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	Cardiff Council Local Development Plan 2006 - 2021 Initial Sustainability



Local Development Plan	
Cardiff Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy 2006-2021	
	Appraisal Report 2007: HRA Screening of the County Council of the City and County of Cardiff Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy Sept 2007.
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>The document sets out the Council's objectives for the development and use of land in Cardiff and policies to implement them. It also presents the key strategic growth and spatial options available.</p> <p>Provision will be made for between 22,750 and 24,750 new dwellings in Cardiff over the plan period (2006-21).</p> <p>The LDP will accommodate 23,200 new jobs in Cardiff between 2006 and 2021.</p> <p>The City Centre and Bay Waterfront areas will be the main focus for leisure and tourism development, which includes the International Sports Village.</p> <p>In terms of transport the LDP will give priority to developing an efficient, integrated and sustainable transport system for Cardiff and linking to its hinterland. Proposals identified as a means to achieve this are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Additional park &amp; ride facilities;</li> <li>▪ New public transport interchange beside Cardiff Central Station;</li> <li>▪ New station to serve the St Mellons area;</li> <li>▪ A major extension to the segregated public transport network; and</li> <li>▪ Strategic highway improvements.</li> </ul>	<p>Overarching Development Pressures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Housing and employment growth may lead to increased transport movements - the potential for in-combination effect is greater where housing sites are in proximity to Natura 2000 sites.</li> <li>▪ Atmospheric pollution is likely to be the main impact of the Preferred Strategy on sites outside of Cardiff.</li> </ul> <p>SAC Specific Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased transport movements and therefore increased emissions have the potential for in-combination effects on Cardiff Woods SAC as the site is sensitive to atmospheric pollution.</li> <li>▪ Increased recreational pressure on Cardiff Woods SAC. The woodland is easily accessible to the public and some places are subject to significant visitor pressure.</li> </ul>

<b>Local Development Plans</b>	
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Local Development Plan 2006 – 2021 Deposit Plan 2008	
Plan Type	Local Development Plan
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
Currency	2006-2021
Region/Geographic Coverage	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council administrative boundary
Sector	Planning
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	SA of the Deposit Plan September 2008 HRA Screening of the Deposit Plan August 2008
<b>Document Details</b>	<b>Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects</b>
<p>This document outlines the main development issues to be addressed in Merthyr Tydfil and sets out a vision and objectives for tackling these issues. It considers the spatial strategy options available and considers the development implications of following this particular route, including the major sites on which the strategy will depend.</p> <p>The LDP is pursuing an Enhanced Growth Strategy that aims to “facilitate a reduction in current levels of out migration from the County Borough so that population levels stabilise by 2011 and a 10- year period of enhanced growth is achieved thereafter”.</p> <p>Overall, the deposit plan aims to provide the basis for meeting the economic, social and environmental needs of the County Borough in order that they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Reflect local aspirations for Merthyr Tydfil based on the vision agreed by the local community and other stakeholders</li> </ul>	<p>Overarching Development Pressures</p> <p>Generic effects related to development/ growth scenarios include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Potential for land take/ habitat fragmentation</li> <li>▪ Increased demand for water resources/ abstraction/ hydrological impacts</li> <li>▪ Increased traffic movements, contributions to atmospheric pollution loading</li> <li>▪ Growth in requirements for waste management facilities, increased demand for minerals</li> <li>▪ Increased recreational pressure from existing/ new populations</li> </ul> <p>SAC Specific Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Blaen Cynon SAC (approx 5km) and Cardiff Beech Woods SAC (12.1km) are situated adjacent to major transport routes (A 470, A465) which intersect within the County Borough. LDP policies seek to reduce road based transportation, and air quality assessments in the County Borough (2004 most recent figures) show that no air quality objectives are being</li> </ul>

Local Development Plans	
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Local Development Plan 2006 – 2021 Deposit Plan 2008	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Provide a basis for rational and consistent development decisions</li> <li>▪ Guide growth and change, while protecting local diversity, character and sensitive environments.</li> </ul> <p>The three spatial zones have been directly translated in the Enhanced Growth Strategy into the following growth areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Primary Growth Area comprising the northern sector communities of Pant, Dowlais, Penydarren, Galon Uchaf, Gurnos, Swansea Road, Heolgerrig, Cefn coed, Twynyrodyn, Town Centre, Georgetown, Abercanaid and Pentrebach.</li> <li>▪ Secondary Growth Area comprising the southern sector communities of Edwardsville, Treharris, Trelewis and Quakers Yard.</li> <li>▪ Other Growth Areas comprising the mid valley communities of Troedyrhiw, Aberfan, Merthyr Vale and Bedlinog.</li> </ul> <p>Merthyr Tydfil is identified as a Primary Growth Area and will form the focus for the majority of development, with the town centre acting as the lynchpin for regeneration.</p> <p>Policy BW13: Managing Housing Growth During the plan period 2006-2021, land is allocated for the provision of approximately 3990 new dwellings in order to accommodate the anticipated needs of the population.</p> <p>Policy BW14: Managing Employment Growth During the plan period 2006-2021, 40 hectares of land is allocated to provide a suitable range of sites to</p>	<p>exceeded.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improved emissions standards/ greater use of public transport likely to contribute to improvements in air quality - lessens likelihood of cumulative impacts at sensitive sites.</li> <li>▪ The HRA screening concluded that the LDP Preferred Strategy policies in implementation will not have a significant effect on the N2K sites considered in the assessment.</li> </ul>

Local Development Plans	
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council Local Development Plan 2006 – 2021 Deposit Plan 2008	
accommodate the anticipated business and employment needs of the County Borough.	

Local Development Plans	
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Unitary Development Plan (adopted March 2008)	
Plan Type	Unitary Development Plan
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Currency	Adopted March 2008 (Work on the LDP is programmed to start in September 2008)
Region/Geographic Coverage	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council administrative boundaries
Sector	Planning
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	AA of the Neath Port Talbot UDP June 2007 SEA of the Neath Port Talbot UDP
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>The majority of significant development will be concentrated in the Port Talbot- Neath urban area and to a lesser extent Pontardawe.</p> <p>The main new housing allocation will result in the creation of the Urban Village at Llandarcy on the site of the former BP refinery. It will form an extension to the Greater Neath urban area at Skewen. Llandarcy will be a sustainable, fine grained, mixed-use community. Through its internal and external transport links it will encourage the use of public transport,</p>	<p>Overarching Development Pressures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Housing and employment growth – direct land take and increased transport movements and associated air pollutants.</li> <li>▪ Water abstraction for expanding communities - potential to impact surface and groundwater.</li> <li>▪ Recreational pressures from housing/ development that is close to European sites.</li> </ul> <p>SAC Specific Issues</p>

Local Development Plans	
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Unitary Development Plan (adopted March 2008)	
<p>cycling and walking rather than the car and make an important contribution to helping reduce overall traffic generation within the area. The Baglan Bay development will accommodate a substantial portion of the Port Talbot area's housing needs in an extension to the main urban area that is well located and maximises the use of brownfield land.</p> <p>The Urban Village and Baglan Bay allocations will make important contributions in terms of housing and employment and will have important implications throughout the Plan. In order that the proposals can be fully explained and considered they are addressed in separate chapters in addition to the specific allocations contained in the relevant topic chapters.</p> <p>Housing Policy 7 In order to meet the County Borough's new housing needs, land will be made available for the development of approximately 6155 houses during the period mid 2001- mid 2016, distributed as follows:</p> <p>Port Talbot - 1954 Greater Neath - 3335 Neath &amp; Dulais - Valley 308 Upper Afan Valley - 35 Swansea Valley - 523 An overall capacity for the Llandarcy Urban Village of 4,000 dwellings is allocated, this will extend beyond the plan period.</p> <p>Economy and Employment Policy 8</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The AA Screening concludes that the sites that lie entirely outside the County Borough are unlikely to be significantly affected by any proposals in the Unitary Development Plan alone or in-combination.</li> </ul>

Local Development Plans	
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Unitary Development Plan (adopted March 2008)	
<p>The main sources of employment will be concentrated along the coastal belt within the urban area of Jersey Marine - Neath - Port Talbot.</p> <p>Transport Policy 12 Improvements to the transport system will concentrate on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) improving accessibility and highway safety and reducing congestion, pollution and disturbance generated by traffic;</li> <li>b) encouraging travel by public transport, cycling and walking as alternatives to the car; and</li> <li>c) encouraging the movement of freight by rail and sea as alternatives to road.</li> </ul> <p>Retail Policy 15 Neath, Port Talbot and Pontardawe, as the primary town centres, providing retail, leisure, commercial and cultural facilities serving the County Borough's communities will be protected and enhanced.</p> <p>Minerals Policy 20 A) Proposals for coal extraction will be favoured where they contribute to the County Borough's share of local, regional or national production subject to: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) ensuring that the impacts on the environment and local communities are acceptable; and</li> <li>b) securing appropriate, high quality and prompt restoration and aftercare to provide a beneficial after-use.</li> </ul>	

Local Development Plans	
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Unitary Development Plan (adopted March 2008)	
<p>B) Aggregates and dimension stone production will be catered for by the expansion of the Gilfach and Cwm Nant Lleuci quarries.</p> <p>Waste Policy 25 The creation of a network of waste management facilities will be promoted through the plan in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) meet the existing and future needs of the County Borough; and</li> <li>b) contribute to meeting the needs and potential new demands of the region.</li> </ul> <p>Llandarcy Urban Village Policy 27 A new urban village will be created at Llandarcy providing a mixed use development on brownfield land as an extension to the Neath urban area at Skewen.</p> <p>Port Talbot Docks and Industrial Estate Policy 28 The potential of the Port Talbot Docks and adjacent areas as a key regeneration area for the County Borough will be promoted.</p> <p>Baglan Bay Development Policy 29 The potential of the Baglan Bay area as a key regeneration area for the County Borough will be promoted.</p>	

<b>Local Development Plans</b>	
Powys Unitary Development Plan Deposit Draft 2004 Powys Unitary Development Plan Proposed Modifications Nov 2007 to the Deposit Draft 2004	
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 SA/SEA of the Powys UDP Oct 2007
<b>Document Details</b>	<b>Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects</b>
<p>Policy SP4 - Economic and Employment Developments Up to 55 hectares of land is allocated for employment related developments during the plan period, 2001-2016 and developments for these purposes on such allocated sites will be acceptable.</p> <p>Policy SP5 - Housing Developments Sufficient land is allocated, including appropriate existing allocations and commitments, to accommodate up to approximately 6140 additional dwellings (410 per annum) during the plan period mid 2001 - mid 2016, in accordance with the Council's strategic settlement hierarchy.</p> <p>Policy HP1 - Shire Housing Allocations Sufficient land is allocated to the three shires to accommodate 6750 new dwellings in the Powys UDP area between 2001-2016 as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Brecknockshire (ex BBNP) 1240</li> <li>▪ Montgomeryshire 4100</li> </ul>	<p>The HRA Screening of the Powys UDP (Oct 2007) concludes that the policies and proposals contained in the Powys UDP are not likely to give rise to any significant effects either alone or in-combination on any European site in Powys. It is therefore considered that a detailed appropriate assessment of the Powys UDP, or of any part of it, is not necessary.</p>



Local Development Plans	
Powys Unitary Development Plan Deposit Draft 2004	
Powys Unitary Development Plan Proposed Modifications Nov 2007 to the Deposit Draft 2004	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Radnorshire 1410</li> </ul> <p>Policy T1 - Highway Improvement Schemes The council will protect programmed routes from development that would obstruct the undertaking of the planned highway improvement scheme,</p> <p>Highway Improvement Schemes</p> <p>The following major improvements to the County Highway Network are proposed by the Council: Canal Road / Llanllwchaiani Road, Newtown; Waterloo Road Link, Llandrindod. In addition to these, the Welsh Assembly Government in their Trunk Road Forward Programme 2002 has identified the following Trunk Road improvement schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Repair &amp; Upgrade Schemes (£1M+): A483 Esgairdraenllwyn Bends; A470 Christmas Pitch; A470 Ysgiog; A487 Pont ar Ddyfi; A458 Nant y Dugoed; A458 Garreg Bank – Middletown.</li> <li>▪ Technically ready for delivery before March 2005: Talgarth Relief Road.</li> <li>▪ Could be ready to proceed by March 2008: A470 Cwmbach – Newbridge, A470 Alltmawr, and A483 Four Crosses Relief Road.</li> <li>▪ Unlikely to proceed before April 2008: A470 Builth Wells; A470 Rhayader; A470 Llandinam; A483/A489 Newtown; A458 Buttington Cross – Middletown; A458 Sylfaen – Cyfronydd.</li> <li>▪ No ranking applied: A470 Commins Coch; A470 Llangurig – Wern Villa; A483 Brynsadwrn improvement</li> </ul>	

Local Development Plans	
The Vale of Glamorgan Council Local Development Draft Preferred Strategy Dec 2007	
Plan Type	Local Development Plan
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	The Vale of Glamorgan Council
Currency	Preferred Strategy January 2008
Region/Geographic Coverage	The Vale of Glamorgan Council administrative boundaries
Sector	Planning
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	The Vale of Glamorgan Council Local Development Plan 2006 – 2021 Initial Sustainability Appraisal Report 2007 AA Screening of the Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy Dec 2007
Document Details	
<p>The document sets out the Vale of Glamorgan Council's strategic priorities for development between 2011 and 2026. It outlines a range of key issues affecting the Vale that the Draft Preferred Strategy will need to address and defines a vision of how the Vale of Glamorgan should develop. It identifies the general location of development, sets objectives and establishes a series of strategic policies that will guide future growth and development.</p> <p>The Draft Preferred Spatial Strategy "To concentrate development opportunities in Barry and the South East Zone. The St Athan area to be a key development opportunity. Other sustainable settlements to accommodate further housing and associated development"</p> <p>CSP4: Housing Need</p>	<p>Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects</p> <p>The Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening for the Vale of Glamorgan LDP Draft Preferred Strategy has identified the potential for the Strategy to have a negative impact on 2 of the 6 European Sites identified within or in close proximity to the Vale of Glamorgan namely, the Severn Estuary SPA/cSAC/RAMSAR and the Kenfig SAC. In addition, it is concluded that a precautionary approach be undertaken in respect of the other 4 sites and that further investigations be undertaken.</p>

Local Development Plans	
The Vale of Glamorgan Council Local Development Draft Preferred Strategy Dec 2007	
<p>Provision for the development of 7500 new dwellings during the period 2011-2026. This provision will be met through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ existing committed sites with planning permission</li> <li>▪ the development of a range of strategic sites that accord with the council's strategic settlement hierarchy, and</li> <li>▪ the subdivision of suitable dwellings, the appropriate reuse of vacant dwellings and buildings, and appropriate infill development.</li> </ul> <p>To ensure a sustainable supply of housing land is maintained during the plan period, housing development will be phased as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 2011-2016 2500 dwellings</li> <li>▪ 2016-2021 2500 dwellings</li> <li>▪ 2021-2026 2500 dwellings</li> </ul> <p>The phasing of sites will be considered in accordance with the council's strategic settlement hierarchy.</p> <p>CSP8: Employment The employment needs of the Vale of Glamorgan will be met through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the enhancement and improvement of existing employment sites;</li> <li>▪ suitable extensions to existing employment sites;</li> <li>▪ the safeguarding of existing employment sites from non-employment uses, and</li> <li>▪ favouring farm diversification, and tourism initiatives.</li> </ul> <p>CSP11: Strategic Transport Improvements</p>	

Local Development Plans	
The Vale of Glamorgan Council Local Development Draft Preferred Strategy Dec 2007	
<p>Strategic transport improvements that serve the economic, social and environmental needs of the Vale of Glamorgan and the objectives of the South East Wales Regional Transport Plan will be favoured. In support of these objectives land will be safeguarded for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the Barry Waterfront to Cardiff Link Road.</li> <li>▪ Llysworney Bypass</li> </ul> <p>Priority will be given to schemes that improve safety and accessibility, public transport, walking and cycling.</p> <p>CSP12: Sustainable Waste Management Proposals for the sustainable management of waste will be favoured where they support the objectives of the South East Wales Regional Waste Plan and the Council's Local Waste Management Strategy. In support of these objectives the following locations have been identified as being suitable for waste management facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Atlantic trading estate.</li> <li>▪ the operational Port of Barry Docks.</li> </ul>	

## Minerals and Waste Strategies

Minerals & Waste	
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Waste Strategy 2004	
Plan Type	Municipal Waste Strategy
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Currency	2004
Region/Geographic Coverage	Blaenau Gwent 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
<p>Vision Statement The Council's vision statement is "to provide economic, efficient and effective public services which seek to enhance the quality of life of the people of Blaenau Gwent".</p> <p>Objective Blaenau Gwent undertakes to provide all waste management services in line with Best Available Technology, having evaluated each process for Best Practicable Environmental Option, Proximity Principle and Environmental Impact Assessment. Furthermore, any such technologies employed shall comply with the principle of value for money delivery of services and take into account the wishes of the authority's stakeholders.</p> <p>Future Options for Waste Management Diversion of wastes will play a key role in our future waste management activities under the Landfill Directive, Article 5.</p>	<p>Overarching Development Pressures</p> <p>Recycling</p> <p>Air Pollution/ Disturbance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transport and energy emissions generated by collection, sorting and processing</li> <li>▪ Dust, noise and odour associated with industrial process</li> </ul> <p>Composting</p> <p>Air/ Water Pollution, Introduced/Invasive Species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Odour, litter, possible vermin generation</li> <li>▪ Release of spores [non-native], requirement for buffer zones (at least 250 metres between composting operations and sensitive receptors)</li> <li>▪ Production of liquid pollutant</li> <li>▪ Potential for combustion</li> </ul> <p>Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT)</p> <p>Air Pollution, Land Take, Hydrology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emissions, traffic impacts, land take and wider environmental impacts analogous with industrial process</li> <li>▪ Processes produce residue</li> </ul> <p>Refuse Derived Fuel (energy from waste)</p>

Minerals & Waste	
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Waste Strategy 2004	
<p>Blaenau Gwent will need to achieve diversion rates of biodegradable municipal wastes (BMW), as a percentage, based on total 1995 municipal waste figures.</p> <p>This equates to a diversion from landfill of 2,606 tonnes (assuming BMW composition at 30%) in 2010. Simultaneously, they will need to achieve a 40% recycling/composting rate (with at least 15% composting) by 2009/10.</p> <p>The public consultation exercise carried out under the Technical Advice Note (TAN) Group, has identified the preferred option as Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) with more Recycling and Composting. This is, therefore, likely to be the option selected under partnership arrangements.</p>	<p>Air Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emission concerns, particulates and potentially dioxins</li> </ul> <p>Anaerobic Digestion (energy from Waste)</p> <p>Air/Water Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emissions to air – odour (during collection, transport and pre-treatment)</li> <li>▪ Wastewater – potential for high concentrations of metals, dissolved nitrogen and organic material</li> </ul> <p>Incineration with Energy Recovery</p> <p>Air/ Water Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Noise, dust, traffic, visual amenity, potential to impact fauna and flora</li> <li>▪ Deposition of substances on surface water</li> <li>▪ Solid, liquid emissions</li> <li>▪ Gaseous emissions include odour, acid gas, heavy metals, particulates, organic compounds</li> <li>▪ Ash residues comprising fine particles, [need to landfill ash/ scrap] dioxins, heavy metals salts, unreacted lime and carbon</li> <li>▪ Contamination, accumulation of toxic substance (food chain)]</li> </ul> <p>Landfill &amp; Landraise</p> <p>Air/ Water Pollution, Invasive Species, Land Take</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Methane and carbon monoxide emissions</li> <li>▪ Leachate, salts, heavy metals, biodegradable and persistent organics</li> <li>▪ Accumulation of hazardous substances in soil</li> <li>▪ Topography alteration, visual intrusion</li> <li>▪ Soil occupancy, prevention of other land uses</li> <li>▪ Attraction of vermin</li> <li>▪ Contamination, accumulation of toxic substances</li> <li>▪ Potential exposure to hazardous substances</li> <li>▪ Impact on surface water runoff, flood risk</li> </ul> <p>SAC Specific Issues</p>

Minerals & Waste	
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council Waste Strategy 2004	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specific potential in-combination impacts cannot be explored in absence of specific waste locations.</li> </ul>

Minerals & Waste	
Bridgend County Borough Council Municipal Waste Strategy 2003	
Plan Type	Municipal Waste Strategy
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Bridgend County Borough Council
Currency	2003 - 2010
Region/Geographic Coverage	Bridgend 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
<p>The strategic objectives underpinning the Municipal Waste Management Strategy are:</p> <p>a) To set standards and targets and to monitor performance in implementing the Council's Municipal Waste Management Strategy and to review and update the Strategy on a regular basis.</p> <p>b) To promote waste minimisation to householders and local business through the provision of information, advice, education and awareness raising campaigns and, where appropriate, to provide support for local schemes to reduce waste through such measures as home composting, re-use of waste and reduction of</p>	<p>Overarching Development Pressures</p> <p>Recycling</p> <p>Air Pollution/ Disturbance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transport and energy emissions generated by collection, sorting and processing</li> <li>Dust, noise and odour associated with industrial process</li> </ul> <p>Composting</p> <p>Air/ Water Pollution, Introduced/Invasive Species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Odour, litter, possible vermin generation</li> <li>Release of spores [non-native], requirement for buffer zones (at least 250 metres between composting operations and sensitive receptors)</li> <li>Production of liquid pollutant</li> </ul>

Minerals & Waste	
Bridgend County Borough Council Municipal Waste Strategy 2003	
<p>waste at source.</p> <p>c) To promote the principles of sustainable waste management and waste minimisation, re-use and recycling by adopting and developing 'good practice' in the management and delivery of the Council's services and purchasing systems.</p> <p>d) To increase the amount of municipal waste that is recovered for re-use, particularly where such re-use creates employment and training opportunities locally.</p> <p>e) To increase the segregation at source of municipal waste for recycling and composting, with due regards to the benefits and costs and to ensure that further value is recovered from residual waste either for recycling, mixed waste composting or energy recovery.</p> <p>f) To ensure that contractors carry out the treatment or disposal of waste in a manner that minimises risks to the environment or health.</p> <p>g) To take measures to prevent the illegal disposal of waste through litter, fly-tipping or abandoned vehicles, and that to ensure that where it does occur, that due consideration is given to taking appropriate enforcement action against identified offenders.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Potential for combustion</li> </ul> <p>Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) Air Pollution, Land Take, Hydrology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emissions, traffic impacts, land take and wider environmental impacts analogous with industrial process</li> <li>▪ Processes produce residue</li> </ul> <p>Refuse Derived Fuel (energy from waste) Air Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emission concerns, particulates and potentially dioxins</li> </ul> <p>Anaerobic Digestion (energy from Waste) Air/Water Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emissions to air – odour (during collection, transport and pre-treatment)</li> <li>▪ Wastewater – potential for high concentrations of metals, dissolved nitrogen and organic material</li> </ul> <p>Incineration with Energy Recovery Air/ Water Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Noise, dust, traffic, visual amenity, potential to impact fauna and flora</li> <li>▪ Deposition of substances on surface water</li> <li>▪ Solid, liquid emissions</li> <li>▪ Gaseous emissions include odour, acid gas, heavy metals, particulates, organic compounds</li> <li>▪ Ash residues comprising fine particles, [need to landfill ash/ scrap] dioxins, heavy metals salts, unreacted lime and carbon</li> <li>▪ Contamination, accumulation of toxic substance (food chain)]</li> </ul> <p>Landfill &amp; Landraise Air/ Water Pollution, Invasive Species, Land Take</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Methane and carbon monoxide emissions</li> <li>▪ Leachate, salts, heavy metals, biodegradable and persistent organics</li> <li>▪ Accumulation of hazardous substances in soil</li> <li>▪ Topography alteration, visual intrusion</li> </ul>



Minerals & Waste	
Bridgend County Borough Council Municipal Waste Strategy 2003	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Soil occupancy, prevention of other land uses</li> <li>▪ Attraction of vermin</li> <li>▪ Contamination, accumulation of toxic substances</li> <li>▪ Potential exposure to hazardous substances</li> <li>▪ Impact on surface water runoff, flood risk</li> </ul> <p>SAC Specific Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Specific potential in-combination impacts cannot be explored in absence of specific waste locations.</li> </ul>

Minerals & Waste	
Caerphilly County Borough Council Municipal Waste Management Strategy & Litter Plan 2004	
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
The Strategy describes the current waste situation within the authority, what targets and objectives the authority needs to achieve and how it proposes to achieve them.	Overarching Development Pressures
Strategic aims for the period 2004/05 to 2006/07	Recycling Air Pollution/ Disturbance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transport and energy emissions generated by collection, sorting and processing</li> </ul>

Minerals & Waste	
Caerphilly County Borough Council Municipal Waste Management Strategy & Litter Plan 2004	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continually improve the services we provide in terms of efficiency, reliability and customer focus.</li> <li>2. Adhere to the waste hierarchy in our management of waste issues.</li> <li>3. Divert 25% BMW from landfill by 2010 and start to make preparations for the later Landfill Directive targets of 50% diversion by 2013 and 65% diversion by 2020.</li> <li>4. Recycle and compost a minimum of 15% MSW by 2003/04, 25% by 2006/07 and 40% by 2009/10.</li> <li>5. Improve awareness raising programmes to reach a greater proportion of the population of Caerphilly County Borough.</li> <li>6. Increase participation rates in the kerbside recycling scheme and boost capture rates.</li> <li>7. Reduce the amount of waste that CCBC generates and set up schemes for the recycling and composting of council waste.</li> <li>8. Make provision for the collection of special wastes at civic amenity sites.</li> <li>9. Work closely with partners in all sectors to attain sustainable waste management.</li> <li>10. Continue to consult and communicate with residents and other stakeholders on matters of service delivery.</li> </ol>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Dust, noise and odour associated with industrial process</li> </ul> <p>Composting</p> <p>Air/ Water Pollution, Introduced/Invasive Species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Odour, litter, possible vermin generation</li> <li>▪ Release of spores [non-native], requirement for buffer zones (at least 250 metres between composting operations and sensitive receptors)</li> <li>▪ Production of liquid pollutant</li> <li>▪ Potential for combustion</li> </ul> <p>Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT)</p> <p>Air Pollution, Land Take, Hydrology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emissions, traffic impacts, land take and wider environmental impacts analogous with industrial process</li> <li>▪ Processes produce residue</li> </ul> <p>Refuse Derived Fuel (energy from waste)</p> <p>Air Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emission concerns, particulates and potentially dioxins</li> </ul> <p>Anaerobic Digestion (energy from Waste)</p> <p>Air/Water Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emissions to air – odour (during collection, transport and pre-treatment)</li> <li>▪ Wastewater – potential for high concentrations of metals, dissolved nitrogen and organic material</li> </ul> <p>Incineration with Energy Recovery</p> <p>Air/ Water Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Noise, dust, traffic, visual amenity, potential to impact fauna and flora</li> <li>▪ Deposition of substances on surface water</li> <li>▪ Solid, liquid emissions</li> <li>▪ Gaseous emissions include odour, acid gas, heavy metals, particulates, organic compounds</li> <li>▪ Ash residues comprising fine particles, [need to landfill ash/ scrap] dioxins, heavy metals salts, unreacted lime and carbon</li> </ul>

Minerals & Waste	
Caerphilly County Borough Council Municipal Waste Management Strategy & Litter Plan 2004	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Contamination, accumulation of toxic substance (food chain)]</li> </ul> <p>Landfill &amp; Landraise Air/ Water Pollution, Invasive Species, Land Take</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Methane and carbon monoxide emissions</li> <li>▪ Leachate, salts, heavy metals, biodegradable and persistent organics</li> <li>▪ Accumulation of hazardous substances in soil</li> <li>▪ Topography alteration, visual intrusion</li> <li>▪ Soil occupancy, prevention of other land uses</li> <li>▪ Attraction of vermin</li> <li>▪ Contamination, accumulation of toxic substances</li> <li>▪ Potential exposure to hazardous substances</li> <li>▪ Impact on surface water runoff, flood risk</li> </ul> <p>SAC Specific Issues Specific potential in-combination impacts cannot be explored in absence of specific waste locations.</p>

Minerals & Waste	
Cardiff Council Local Development Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2005	
Plan Type	Municipal Waste Strategy
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Cardiff Council
Currency	2005 - 2010
Region/Geographic Coverage	Cardiff Council administrative boundaries
Sector	Waste
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	N/A
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects

Minerals & Waste	
Cardiff Council Local Development Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2005	
<p>This strategy provides a detailed plan for managing Cardiff's municipal waste to 2010, although consideration is also given to the requirements to 2020. Changes in legislation, taxation and attitudes to waste, dictate that a regular review of detail will be necessary every 3 years, with the first review to be undertaken in 2007.</p> <p>The strategy for Cardiff is as follows:</p> <p>Expansion of recycling, composting and reuse schemes for municipal waste such that the Welsh Assembly Government targets for each of the target years of 2006/07 and 2009/10 are met. Recycling and composting levels will increase to 50% by the year 2013, with significant recovery of value from energy from waste. Continued landfill of final residues will be required. Energy from Waste can be a standalone dedicated process itself, or part of other residual treatment technologies such as Mechanical Biological Treatment leading to the production of a refuse derived fuel.</p> <p>Predicted Land Requirements and Timescales for Delivery of the Municipal Waste Management Infrastructure</p> <p>The Strategy provides an indication of the likely land requirements for the principal elements of waste management infrastructure that will be required to deliver this strategy for Cardiff. These should be seen as being indicative only at this stage since there will be a number of site specific design issues that influence the actual requirements for each element.</p>	<p>Overarching Development Pressures</p> <p>Recycling</p> <p>Air Pollution/ Disturbance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transport and energy emissions generated by collection, sorting and processing</li> <li>▪ Dust, noise and odour associated with industrial process</li> </ul> <p>Composting</p> <p>Air/ Water Pollution, Introduced/Invasive Species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Odour, litter, possible vermin generation</li> <li>▪ Release of spores [non-native], requirement for buffer zones (at least 250 metres between composting operations and sensitive receptors)</li> <li>▪ Production of liquid pollutant</li> <li>▪ Potential for combustion</li> </ul> <p>Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT)</p> <p>Air Pollution, Land Take, Hydrology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emissions, traffic impacts, land take and wider environmental impacts analogous with industrial process</li> <li>▪ Processes produce residue</li> </ul> <p>Refuse Derived Fuel (energy from waste)</p> <p>Air Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emission concerns, particulates and potentially dioxins</li> </ul> <p>Anaerobic Digestion (energy from Waste)</p> <p>Air/Water Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emissions to air – odour (during collection, transport and pre-treatment)</li> <li>▪ Wastewater – potential for high concentrations of metals, dissolved nitrogen and organic material</li> </ul> <p>Incineration with Energy Recovery</p> <p>Air/ Water Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Noise, dust, traffic, visual amenity, potential to impact fauna and flora</li> </ul>

Minerals & Waste	
Cardiff Council Local Development Municipal Waste Management Strategy 2005	
<p>Indicative Land Requirements for Waste Infrastructure Technology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Replacement Landfill                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Approx. 25 hectares over a life of (say) 10 year</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Mechanical Biological Treatment Plant                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2ha</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Energy from Waste Plant                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2ha</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Materials Reclamation Facility extension                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sufficient land available at existing site at Lamby Way</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Household Waste Recycling Centre (2 No. required)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 1 each site</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Compost processing, in-vessel (including maturation area)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2ha</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ Additional compost processing, open windrow                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 2ha</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ 'Bring' points (approximately 35 required)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 0.15-0.25ha each site (nominal area only)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Deposition of substances on surface water</li> <li>▪ Solid, liquid emissions</li> <li>▪ Gaseous emissions include odour, acid gas, heavy metals, particulates, organic compounds</li> <li>▪ Ash residues comprising fine particles, [need to landfill ash/ scrap] dioxins, heavy metals salts, unreacted lime and carbon</li> <li>▪ Contamination, accumulation of toxic substance (food chain)]</li> </ul> <p>Landfill &amp; Landraise Air/ Water Pollution, Invasive Species, Land Take</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Methane and carbon monoxide emissions</li> <li>▪ Leachate, salts, heavy metals, biodegradable and persistent organics</li> <li>▪ Accumulation of hazardous substances in soil</li> <li>▪ Topography alteration, visual intrusion</li> <li>▪ Soil occupancy, prevention of other land uses</li> <li>▪ Attraction of vermin</li> <li>▪ Contamination, accumulation of toxic substances</li> <li>▪ Potential exposure to hazardous substances</li> <li>▪ Impact on surface water runoff, flood risk</li> </ul> <p>SAC Specific Issues Specific potential in-combination impacts cannot be explored in absence of specific waste locations.</p>

Minerals & Waste Strategies	
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Municipal Waste Strategy 2004	
Plan Type	Municipal Waste Strategy

Minerals & Waste Strategies	
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Municipal Waste Strategy 2004	
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Currency	2004
Region/Geographic Coverage	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council administrative boundary
Sector	Waste
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	N/A
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p>The preferred strategy for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council is as follows:</p> <p>Continuation of the treatment of municipal solid waste at the Materials Recovery and Energy Centre alongside the kerbside recycling and composting scheme; and the improved facilities for the collection of source segregated green waste at the Household Waste and Recycling Centres.</p> <p>The strategy, which is currently in place for the management of municipal solid waste (MSW), comprises the following key elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continuation of the number of waste minimisation and awareness issues, for example, multimedia campaigns, schools' schemes, home-composting and the commissioning of a waste audit to measure Council derived waste and identify areas for waste minimisation initiatives.</li> <li>▪ Continuation and review of the recently introduced kerbside recycling and composting scheme. The scheme presently serves the majority of the households in County Borough. It is the intention to expand the service to all suitable properties, including flats and sheltered housing.</li> </ul>	<p>Overarching Development Pressures</p> <p>Recycling Air Pollution/ Disturbance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transport and energy emissions generated by collection, sorting and processing</li> <li>▪ Dust, noise and odour associated with industrial process</li> </ul> <p>Composting Air/ Water Pollution, Introduced/Invasive Species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Odour, litter, possible vermin generation</li> <li>▪ Release of spores [non-native], requirement for buffer zones (at least 250 metres between composting operations and sensitive receptors)</li> <li>▪ Production of liquid pollutant</li> <li>▪ Potential for combustion</li> </ul> <p>Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) Air Pollution, Land Take, Hydrology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emissions, traffic impacts, land take and wider environmental impacts analogous with industrial process</li> <li>▪ Processes produce residue</li> </ul> <p>Refuse Derived Fuel (energy from waste) Air Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emission concerns, particulates and potentially dioxins</li> </ul>

Minerals & Waste Strategies	
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Municipal Waste Strategy 2004	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continual review of the HWRC's improvements, which consisted of:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The re-branding of Civic Amenity Centres to Household Waste and Recycling Centres to remove ambiguity as to the purpose of such facilities.</li> <li>○ The provision of containers for the collection of source segregated green garden waste. Previously this waste was co-collected with residual waste. The new arrangement allows this waste to be accounted for achieving composting targets.</li> <li>○ The provision of facilities for the collection of hazardous waste, such as used paint (redistributed via the Re&gt;Paint Scheme), fluorescent tubes, asbestos, oils and solvents.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ The treatment of all municipal solid waste at the Materials Recovery and Energy Centre (MREC) located within the County Borough. This facility has the ability to treat both mixed waste and source segregated waste via separate unit processes (kerbside collected recyclate and materials from the Household Waste and Recycling Centres etc). The facility has the capacity to compost 20% to 28% of the MSW, recycle 19% to 22% of the MSW and recover energy from 31% to 33% of the MSW. These levels of recycling and composting achieve the Welsh Assembly Government's targets. Green waste is composted off-site elsewhere to ensure a quality product.</li> </ul> <p>The County Borough's waste management solution is to treat all MSW at the Materials Recovery and Energy Centre (MREC). The MREC is a form of MBT and is a fully integrated facility located at Crymyln Burrows designed to process the waste of</p>	<p>Anaerobic Digestion (energy from Waste) Air/Water Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emissions to air – odour (during collection, transport and pre-treatment)</li> <li>▪ Wastewater – potential for high concentrations of metals, dissolved nitrogen and organic material</li> </ul> <p>Incineration with Energy Recovery Air/ Water Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Noise, dust, traffic, visual amenity, potential to impact fauna and flora</li> <li>▪ Deposition of substances on surface water</li> <li>▪ Solid, liquid emissions</li> <li>▪ Gaseous emissions include odour, acid gas, heavy metals, particulates, organic compounds</li> <li>▪ Ash residues comprising fine particles, [need to landfill ash/ scrap] dioxins, heavy metals salts, unreacted lime and carbon</li> <li>▪ Contamination, accumulation of toxic substance (food chain)]</li> </ul> <p>Landfill &amp; Landraise Air/ Water Pollution, Invasive Species, Land Take</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Methane and carbon monoxide emissions</li> <li>▪ Leachate, salts, heavy metals, biodegradable and persistent organics</li> <li>▪ Accumulation of hazardous substances in soil</li> <li>▪ Topography alteration, visual intrusion</li> <li>▪ Soil occupancy, prevention of other land uses</li> <li>▪ Attraction of vermin</li> <li>▪ Contamination, accumulation of toxic substances</li> <li>▪ Potential exposure to hazardous substances</li> <li>▪ Impact on surface water runoff, flood risk</li> </ul>

Minerals & Waste Strategies	
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council Municipal Waste Strategy 2004	
Neath Port Talbot and Bridgend County Borough Councils. The facility has the ability to handle both segregated and non-segregated wastes and aims to divert in the order of 75% of waste away from landfill through recycling, composting and the production of fuel.	<p>SAC Specific Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Materials Recovery and Energy Centre (MREC) at Crymlyn Burrows is in close proximity to Crymlyn Bog SA and Ramsar site. The Neath Port Talbot UDP proposes a new urban village at Llandarcy which is also close to Crymlyn Bog providing a mixed use development on brownfield land as an extension to the Neath urban area at Skewen.</li> <li>An Appropriate Assessment was carried out in regard to the likely effects of the Unitary Development Plan on the Crymlyn Bog SAC and Ramsar site and Kenfig SAC. The AA concluded that the application of regulatory policies within the respective UDPs, together with the Appropriate Assessment procedure provide a secure mechanism to ensure that allocations neither individually or in-combination would create an adverse effect on the integrity of Crymlyn Bog SAC/ Ramsar and Kenfig SAC.</li> </ul>

Minerals & Waste	
Vale of Glamorgan Council Municipal Waste Strategy 2004	
Plan Type	Municipal Waste Strategy
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Currency	2004 - 2010
Region/Geographic Coverage	Vale of Glamorgan Council administrative boundaries
Sector	Waste
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	N/A
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects



Minerals & Waste	
Vale of Glamorgan Council Municipal Waste Strategy 2004	
<p>The preferred strategy is as follows:</p> <p>Expansion of recycling and reuse schemes for municipal waste such that the waste strategy targets for each of the target years of 2006/07 and 2009/10 are met and in fact exceeded. All residual waste would be sent to a Mechanical Biological Treatment plant. Continued landfill of waste residues will be required.</p> <p>The strategy for the Vale of Glamorgan will comprise a number of key elements, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Waste minimisation is central to reducing the amount of waste produced in the Vale, and this will be a priority for the Council over the next few years.</li> <li>▪ Continued development of the kerbside collection scheme for dry recyclable and organic (compostable) materials. It will be necessary to develop the scheme over the period up to 2009/10 in order to achieve the level of diversion required to meet the targets.</li> <li>▪ Enhancement of the Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) provision across the Authority to facilitate improved access to the principal population centres and increased diversion of materials for recycling and reuse. This will include replacement of the two existing civic amenity sites in Sully and Llandow.</li> <li>▪ Enhancement of the existing network of 'Bring Sites', to include the provision of a number of strategically located community based recycling centres.</li> <li>▪ Development of waste handling and treatment facilities within the context of a 'Waste Resource Park', to include</li> </ul>	<p>Overarching Development Pressures</p> <p>Recycling</p> <p>Air Pollution/ Disturbance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Transport and energy emissions generated by collection, sorting and processing</li> <li>▪ Dust, noise and odour associated with industrial process</li> </ul> <p>Composting</p> <p>Air/ Water Pollution, Introduced/Invasive Species</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Odour, litter, possible vermin generation</li> <li>▪ Release of spores [non-native], requirement for buffer zones (at least 250 metres between composting operations and sensitive receptors)</li> <li>▪ Production of liquid pollutant</li> <li>▪ Potential for combustion</li> </ul> <p>Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT)</p> <p>Air Pollution, Land Take, Hydrology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emissions, traffic impacts, land take and wider environmental impacts analogous with industrial process</li> <li>▪ Processes produce residue</li> </ul> <p>Refuse Derived Fuel (energy from waste)</p> <p>Air Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emission concerns, particulates and potentially dioxins</li> </ul> <p>Anaerobic Digestion (energy from Waste)</p> <p>Air/Water Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Emissions to air – odour (during collection, transport and pre-treatment)</li> <li>▪ Wastewater – potential for high concentrations of metals, dissolved nitrogen and organic material</li> </ul> <p>Incineration with Energy Recovery</p> <p>Air/ Water Pollution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Noise, dust, traffic, visual amenity, potential to impact fauna and flora</li> </ul>

Minerals & Waste	
Vale of Glamorgan Council Municipal Waste Strategy 2004	
<p>the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provision of a Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) to deal with recyclable materials diverted at the kerbside and at HWRCs and 'Bring Sites'.</li> <li>○ Development of an 'in-vessel' composting facility for the treatment of kerbside segregated organic materials (including green waste and organic kitchen wastes).</li> <li>○ This will need to be in place to meet the 2006/07 and 2009/10 composting targets of 10% and 15%, respectively.</li> <li>○ Provision of facilities for the local reuse and reprocessing of materials segregated from the municipal waste stream.</li> <li>○ Provision of a new Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) to replace the existing civic amenity site in Sully.</li> <li>○ Provision of a waste transfer facility for residual waste (i.e. materials that are not segregated for recycling or composting).</li> <li>○ Possible provision, in the medium to long term (by 2010, or soon thereafter), of a residual waste treatment facility.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The continued use of small scale farm-based open windrow composting in the short term for green wastes. Open windrow techniques will also be required for further maturation of the product from the 'in-vessel' facility.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Deposition of substances on surface water</li> <li>▪ Solid, liquid emissions</li> <li>▪ Gaseous emissions include odour, acid gas, heavy metals, particulates, organic compounds</li> <li>▪ Ash residues comprising fine particles, [need to landfill ash/ scrap] dioxins, heavy metals salts, unreacted lime and carbon</li> <li>▪ Contamination, accumulation of toxic substance (food chain)]</li> </ul> <p>Landfill &amp; Landraise</p> <p>Air/ Water Pollution, Invasive Species, Land Take</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Methane and carbon monoxide emissions</li> <li>▪ Leachate, salts, heavy metals, biodegradable and persistent organics</li> <li>▪ Accumulation of hazardous substances in soil</li> <li>▪ Topography alteration, visual intrusion</li> <li>▪ Soil occupancy, prevention of other land uses</li> <li>▪ Attraction of vermin</li> <li>▪ Contamination, accumulation of toxic substances</li> <li>▪ Potential exposure to hazardous substances</li> <li>▪ Impact on surface water runoff, flood risk</li> </ul> <p>SAC Specific Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Specific potential in-combination impacts cannot be explored in absence of specific waste locations.</li> </ul>

## Other Plans and Programmes

Development Plan	
Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan 2009-2014	
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
<p>The Plan sets a vision for the future of the Park and specifies actions and outcomes to pursue in the next five years to bring the Park closer to this shared vision. The Plan promotes coordinated implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of these activities collectively across a wide range of partners and stakeholders. In essence, it creates a framework for Park management, guiding decision-making and developing priorities.</p> <p>Twenty-year Aims for Biodiversity</p> <p>4. Ensure that sustainable management of designated sites maintains habitats and species populations in favourable condition. As examples of the best habitats and species within the National Park, it is critical to ensure designated sites (e.g., SSSIs, SACs, NNRs, etc.) are brought into, or remain, in favourable condition. The designations provide the means to ensure that these sites are managed with special regard to biodiversity conservation. However, these sites still need to be managed in a wider context, to be</p>	<p>Overarching Development Pressures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Housing and employment growth - direct land take and increased transport movements and associated air pollutants.</li> <li>▪ Water abstraction for expanding communities - potential to impact surface and groundwater.</li> <li>▪ Recreational pressures from housing/ development that is close to European sites.</li> </ul> <p>SAC Specific Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Specific potential in-combination impacts cannot be explored in absence of specific development locations.</li> </ul>

Development Plan	
Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan 2009-2014	
<p>considered as the focal sites of developing functional ecosystems at a landscape scale. Their sustainable management can be a catalyst to achieving better habitat condition in the surrounding land.</p> <p>Twenty-year Aims for Planning and Development</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prepare an LDP which is responsive to drivers of change and enables development to meet identified needs. The NPA will prepare an LDP which is resilient and responsive to drivers of change and which is proactive in mitigating the effects of climate change where possible.</li> <li>2. Provide a first class planning service. In order to make its services first class, the NPA will strive to improve consistency of decision making, increase public engagement in, understanding of, and satisfaction with the NPA's planning service, and improve relationships with partner organisations.</li> <li>3. Ensure that there is sufficient land for market and affordable housing to meet the identified need. The NPA is not a housing authority; this is the role of the unitary authorities. Nonetheless the NPA works closely with the relevant Housing Authorities in the preparation of the Local Housing Market Assessments and Local Housing Strategies.</li> <li>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 and its partners will ensure the availability of land and</li> </ol>	

Development Plan	
Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan 2009-2014	
<p>investment in the Park is consistent with the special qualities of the area and avoids damage to important nature conservation sites and species.</p> <p>5. Maintain and encourage the vitality and viability of the Park's communities and town centres. From the standpoint of local communities, this means that the NPA and its partners should encourage development which contributes to the creation of sustainable places, promotes integrated communities, with opportunities for living, working and socialising for all, and enables development that encourages a healthy and safe lifestyle and promotes well being.</p> <p>6. Improve the physical quality, energy efficiency, accessibility and sustainable design and construction of all development throughout the park. In keeping with the National Park's commitments to sustainability and the climate change agenda, the NPA is producing up-to-date guidance on sustainable building design and materials in the National Park. This Sustainable Design Guide will become an exemplar in sustainable design.</p> <p>7. Minimise light and noise pollution. Despite its proximity to urban centres such as Cardiff, Bristol, and Swansea, the Park boasts a dark night sky year round where, on clear nights, a plethora of stars can be seen. Similarly, its low population density and lack of major motorways limit light and noise pollution. These factors contribute significantly to the sense of tranquillity and remoteness so often cited as a key special quality of the Brecon Beacons National Park.</p>	

Development Plan	
Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan 2009-2014	
<p>The NPA and its partners will seek to maintain and enhance these attributes.</p> <p>Twenty-year Aims for Transport</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduce the need for travel by controlling the location and design of development. The NPA works closely with highway authorities in the production of integrated transport and land-use strategies and will be considering these factors as part of the development of the Park's forthcoming Local Plan.</li> <li>2. Provide an integrated transport system that encourages healthy and active lifestyles, and supports local communities. The need to travel should be reduced, and the attractiveness of public transport increased, without adversely affecting the overall quality of people's lives. Better links between public transport, recreational travel, and access to the countryside would benefit tourists and residents alike.</li> <li>3. Maintain and develop Beacons Bus as key delivery mechanism for visitor transport. The project should continue to grow in time and space with the aim of covering as much of the summer season as possible and increasing routes to meet demand.</li> <li>4. Encourage and support use of the weekday service network. Achievable only by partnership working, this process needs to ensure that best use is made of existing services by ensuring that journeys are made easier for</li> </ol>	

Development Plan	
Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan 2009-2014	
<p>visitors with high quality marketing, information, and service provision including excellent customer care from transport operators.</p> <p>5. Encourage the development of new services aimed at the visitor market. Partnership working to develop and market services with the needs of visitors in mind to provide transport to those attractions and outdoor activity locations that would especially benefit.</p> <p>6. Facilitate sustainable long distance transport to the National Park. The key to this process is integration with a need for rail/coach/bus interchanges to work efficiently for visitors.</p> <p>7. Work with Transport Generators on Green Travel Plans. Public and private sector attractions, festivals, tourism businesses, and other organisations can minimise their impacts through the adoption of Green Travel Plans.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>9. Develop Sustainable Travel Marketing. Whatever mechanisms are adopted, it is essential that they are attractively and consistently marketed to the visiting public.</p> <p>Twenty-year Aims for Waste Management</p> <p>1. Promote the waste hierarchy of reduce, reuse, and recycle</p>	

Development Plan	
Brecon Beacons National Park Management Plan 2009-2014	
across all sectors of the National Park. The NPA and its partners should seek to minimize the production of waste and seek to contribute to sustainable waste solutions.	

Development Plan	
Cardiff International Airport Master Plan 2006	
Plan Type	Masterplan
Plan Owner/ Competent Authority	Cardiff International Airport
Currency	2006
Region/Geographic Coverage	administrative boundary
Sector	Planning
Related work SA/SEA HRA/AA	N/A
Document Details	Potential impacts that could cause 'in-combination' effects
<p><b>Runway</b> It is not envisaged that any runway extension is required to meet the traffic forecasts; a taxiway extension would satisfy this increased traffic. The taxiway extension would provide a parallel route running right to the end of the runway pavement.</p> <p><b>Terminal, Aprons, Car Parks and Access Roads</b> It is likely that, in addition to a reorganisation of the existing stand layout, additional stands and parking areas will be required within this time frame.</p> <p>There is no requirement for a new terminal at any time in the planned period. It is anticipated that all the growth forecast</p>	<p><b>Overarching Development Pressures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Increased air traffic - increased levels of disturbance (noise), emissions and recreational pressure.</li> <li>▪ Improvements to highways access - increase in recreational pressure as a result of improved access.</li> </ul> <p><b>SAC Specific Issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A greater number of planes and improved highways access has the potential to increase the levels of recreational pressure at Cardiff Beech Woods SAC.</li> <li>▪ Cardiff Beech Woods SAC - All component SSSIs are used to a greater or lesser extent for recreation purposes. Castell Coch Woodlands and</li> </ul>



Development Plan	
Cardiff International Airport Master Plan 2006	
<p>can be accommodated by modest extensions and re-organisations of the existing terminal building. The floor space of the Terminal totals at approximately 47,800 sq m. in 2030. Based on 6000 sq m per million passengers, which is an accepted standard, this would provide for projected passenger numbers of 7.9million for 2030.</p> <p>Car parking will be accommodated by structural car parking on the existing car parking sites. This will minimise land take but may lead to a slight increase in visual intrusion.</p> <p>Highways Access</p> <p>Short-term It was proposed in the Culverhouse Cross Study to implement a range of public transport and highway improvements, including the 'trunking' of the existing A48 between Culverhouse Cross and Bonvilston and the A4226 (Five Mile Lane) to the airport. Following the trunking of the route, highway improvements to the existing route were proposed, largely to improve safety.</p> <p>Medium Term In the Culverhouse Cross Study it is proposed to improve the A48/ Five Mile Lane route from the Culverhouse Cross junction to the airport, providing an alternative route to the current signed route via Wenvoe and north Barry. This would involve the following proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Junction capacity enhancement, (junction at south end A4226 Five Mile Lane / Waycock Road with A4050 in north Barry at Green Farm);</li> </ul>	<p>Fforestganol a Chwm Nofydd experience the most recreation pressure, and are popular for walking, climbing and mountain biking. The Taff train runs through part of the Castell Coch Woodlands site and the historic building of Castell Coch attracts many visitors, which increases the access pressure on the woodlands. The road section is becoming increasingly popular for climbing, and this is unlikely to be a problem for the geological interest of the site. However, climbing could be potentially damaging to trees at the top of the crag.</p>

Development Plan	
Cardiff International Airport Master Plan 2006	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Safety enhancements on Five Mile Lane / Waycock Road;</li> <li>▪ Junction capacity and safety enhancements at the Five Mile Lane junction with A48 (Sycamore Cross).</li> </ul> <p>Longer Term In the longer-term, further improvements of this route to allow airport traffic to avoid Culverhouse Cross were to be considered. The preferred option involved a new link to the airport from the M4 at Junction 34 to the A48 at Sycamore Cross. In conjunction with the new highway link, it would be possible to provide a strategic park and ride/modal interchange at Junction 34 of the M4.</p> <p>These longer-term proposals are referred to in Phase 3 of the Trunk Road Forward Programme of the Welsh Assembly Government, which indicates a commencement of work after March 2010.</p> <p>Future Opportunities for Rail A number of options for introducing enhanced services to Rhoose Cardiff International Airport station have been considered. The options generally revolve around the basic principle of two all-station Valley Lines services per hour on the Vale of Glamorgan line and at least one interurban service from Bristol.</p>	

## Appendix 5: Appropriate Assessment Data Proforma

Site Name: Blaen Cynon Location: SN946066 Size: 66.83 ha	Appropriate Assessment Data Proforma
Designation:	SAC
Qualifying Features	Annex II Species primary reason for selection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ <a href="#">Marsh fritillary butterfly</a> Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia</li> </ul>
Conservation Objectives (As defined by CCW, 2008). <sup>1</sup>	<p>Conservation Objective for Feature 1: Marsh fritillary butterfly Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia</p> <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The site will contribute towards supporting a sustainable metapopulation of the marsh fritillary in the Penderyn/Hirwaun area. This will require a minimum of 50ha of suitable habitat, of which at least 10ha must be in good condition, although not all is expected to be found within the SAC. Some will be on nearby land within a radius of about 2km.</li> <li>■ The population will be viable in the long term, acknowledging the extreme population fluctuations of the species.</li> <li>■ A minimum of 30% of the total site area will be grassland suitable for supporting marsh fritillary. (As the total area of the SAC is 66.62 ha, 30% represents approximately 20 ha.)</li> <li>■ At least 40% of the suitable habitat (approximately 8 ha) must be in optimal condition for breeding marsh fritillary.</li> <li>■ Suitable marsh fritillary habitat is defined as stands of grassland where <i>Succisa pratensis</i> is present and where</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> Countryside Council for Wales (CCW). 2008. Core Management Plan including conservation objectives for Blaen Cynon Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Version1, February 2008.

Site Name: Blaen Cynon Location: SN946066 Size: 66.83 ha	Appropriate Assessment Data Proforma
Designation:	SAC
	<p>scrub more than 1 metre tall covers no more than 10% of the stands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Optimal marsh fritillary breeding habitat will be characterised by grassland where the vegetation height is 10-20 cm, with abundant purple moor-grass <i>Molinia caerulea</i>, frequent “large-leaved” devil’s-bit scabious <i>Succisa pratensis</i> suitable for marsh fritillaries to lay their eggs and only occasional scrub. In peak years, a density of 200 larval webs per hectare of optimal habitat will be found across the site.</li> </ul>
Key Environmental Conditions (factors that maintain site integrity)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Grazing - Without an appropriate grazing regime, the grassland will become rank and eventually turn to scrub and woodland. Conversely, overgrazing, or grazing by inappropriate stock (particularly sheep) will also lead to unwanted changes in species composition, through selective grazing, increased nutrient inputs and poaching. Balancing grazing is the single most important issue in the management of this site.</li> <li>■ Extent and quality of the marshy grassland as habitat for marsh fritillary. Approximately 50ha of habitat is required to maintain the population in the long-term, with at least 10ha in good condition. Not all is expected to be within the SAC. The operational limits reflect the minimum contribution of the Blaen Cynon SAC towards the favourable conservation status of the species in the Hirwaun/Penderyn area.</li> <li>■ Maintain population of devil’s-bit scabious <i>Succisa pratensis</i> - Marsh Fritillary Butterfly’s larval food plant.</li> <li>■ Hydrological Regime - the drainage and hydrological conditions on the site should be maintained to favour the habitats that support the marsh fritillary and their management. Devil’s-bit scabious prefers moist soils.</li> <li>■ Conserve a cluster of sites in close proximity - existing SAC boundary does not take in all areas of suitable habitat in the surrounding area. Information available via the Phase I of Wales (CCW 2005)<sup>2</sup> indicates extensive areas of marshy grassland habitat (within 1 km) to the south and north west of the largest SAC parcel (Units 1-4). The condition of these and other smaller habitat parcels within 2 km of the SAC are currently unknown.</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> Countryside Council for Wales CCW. 2005. Habitats of Wales. Phase I Data 1979-1997. Lowlands and Uplands. CD ROM available from CCW, Bangor.

Site Name: Blaen Cynon Location: SN946066 Size: 66.83 ha	Appropriate Assessment Data Proforma
Designation:	SAC
Vulnerabilities (includes existing pressures and trends)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Scrub encroachment - Scrub encroachment is an issue, particularly on some wet grassland areas. A programme of scrub control is currently (2008) being undertaken, but it is likely that even with the ideal grazing management, a more or less continuous programme of scrub control will be required at this site. It is clear from aerial photographs and from discussions with landowners, that many areas that are currently covered in alder and willow woodland were formerly wet pasture. Therefore a long-term aim would be to investigate returning some of this to wet pasture that would likely increase the availability of marsh fritillary habitat.</li> <li>■ Grazing - suitable areas of grassland are overgrazed while others are undergrazed.</li> <li>■ Inappropriate tree planting - Parts of Woodland Park and Pontpren, notably units 3 and 4 have been subject to improvement in preparation for tree planting, including draining, planting with trees and use of fertiliser.</li> <li>■ Parasites - the larvae of marsh fritillaries can be parasitised by species of braconid wasp of the Cotesia genus. The parasites can have good years and infect a large number of larval webs, causing a crash in the subsequent adult population of marsh fritillary. This factor is outside the influence of the site manager; and an operational limit is not required.</li> <li>■ Weather conditions - Weather conditions have an effect on the breeding success of the marsh fritillary. In particular, poor weather conditions during the adult flight period will reduce opportunities for mating, egg-laying and dispersal from core areas. Weather conditions during early spring influence the rate of larval development of the marsh fritillary and the effects of the parasitic wasp. This site is situated in an area of relatively high rainfall, which will have a large influence on the population dynamics of the marsh fritillary. This factor is outside the influence of the site manager and an operational limit is not required.</li> <li>■ Management of surrounding habitats - The SAC only includes the core of the marsh fritillary habitat (and hence core of the metapopulation). There are likely to be other small areas of habitat outside the SAC boundary which are used by the butterfly only occasionally, but which likely contribute to the long-term success of the</li> </ul>

Site Name: Blaen Cynon Location: SN946066 Size: 66.83 ha	Appropriate Assessment Data Proforma
Designation:	SAC
	<p>metapopulation. Efforts should be made to encourage better management of these areas of land through schemes such as Tir Gofal or through specific grazing projects.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Owner/occupier objectives - the owners/occupiers of the land typically have an interest in securing some financial/agricultural benefit from the land. This return could be optimised by the agricultural improvement of the land, e.g. by installing new drainage, fertiliser application, or re-seeding; however these operations would cause significant long-term damage to the marsh fritillary habitat, namely the marshy grassland. Additionally unimproved marshy grasslands that are waterlogged for much of the year are difficult to manage for many landowners, possibly resulting in a mixture of over- and under- grazing, with a tendency for scrub to spread. Because of the wet nature of some of the ground, some landowners may be reluctant to graze large stock. This factor will be controlled through management agreements and the SSSI legislation. An operational limit is not required.</li> <li>■ There are no known off-site factors, such as pollution, that are affecting the marsh fritillary to any significant extent, although there is still much industry in the locality. The two overwhelming issues of grazing and scrub encroachment would probably obscure any off-site issues. As management of the site improves off-site factors may become more apparent. Recreational pressure is not considered a significant issue on the site as the majority of management units are privately owned and have restricted access.</li> </ul>
Predicted Impacts.	<p>Air Quality</p> <p>The LDP has the potential to increase levels of traffic along the A465 and A4059 through the development of Strategic Site 5: Land South of Hirwaun and Employment allocation 9 (North of Fifth Avenue, Hirwaun Ind Estate, Hirwaun). Increased traffic could lead to an increase in airborne pollutants at Blaen Cynon SAC as the A465 and A4059 are within 200m. The LDP contains a number of policies that will assist in mitigating any potential increase in traffic and therefore airborne pollutants in this area, such as ensuring improvements and encouraging the use of public transport and walking and cycling routes. The proposed level of employment development will also help to reduce daily out-commuting to larger settlements by private car.</p>

Site Name: Blaen Cynon Location: SN946066 Size: 66.83 ha	Appropriate Assessment Data Proforma
Designation:	SAC
	<p>Information provided by the Welsh Air Quality Forum<sup>3</sup> shows an overall long-term decline in nitrogen dioxide (emitted from combustion processes) concentrations in urban areas throughout Wales. On average the concentrations of ozone in rural areas appear to be showing a gradually increasing trend, which according to APIS<sup>4</sup> could be related to warmer summers. In urban background areas the increase is much more dramatic as concentrations of total NO<sub>x</sub> (product of combustion of fossil fuels; a major contributor to the formation of ozone in the troposphere and acid deposition) are decreasing. Ozone (not emitted directly from any man-made source in any significant quantities) in these areas is now much more similar to the rural concentrations. PM<sub>10</sub> Particulate concentrations (solid or liquid particles of soot, dust, smoke, fumes, and aerosols) show a decrease up until 2004, but then a slight increase over recent years.</p> <p>The Core Management Plan for the Blaen Cynon SAC (CMP) does not identify air pollution as being a significant issue at this site. "There are no known off-site factors, such as pollution, that are affecting the marsh fritillary to any significant extent, although there is still much industry in the locality<sup>5</sup>". It also states that as management of the SAC habitat improves, off-site factors could become more apparent. Based on information provided in the CMP and from the JNCC site level management issues (grazing and scrub management) are currently the most important factor in terms of maintaining and improving the marsh fritillary habitat. With these factors in mind it is assessed that the LDP alone will not have significant effects on Blaen Cynon SAC in relation to air quality.</p> <p>Hydrological Regime</p> <p>Marsh fritillaries are essentially grassland butterflies and although populations may occur occasionally on wet heath, bog margins and woodland clearings, most colonies are found in damp acidic or dry calcareous grasslands. The drainage and hydrological conditions on the site should be maintained to favour the habitats that support the marsh fritillary and their management - Devil's-bit scabious prefers moist soils. Blaen Cynon SAC is situated close to the source of the Afon Cynon. Therefore the development proposed in the LDP is unlikely to</p>

<sup>3</sup> Air Quality in Wales (Accessed on 04/09/08) Trends – Air Quality Indicators. Available online: <http://www.welshairquality.co.uk/trend.php>

<sup>4</sup> UK Air Pollution Information Systems. Available online: <http://www.apis.ac.uk/>

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	<p>adversely affect water levels through increased abstraction as it is focused in areas further downstream. There is potential however for Strategic Site 5 to influence the hydrological regime at management units 5 and 6 of the SAC, as they are situated on the valley floor and are therefore susceptible to alterations in surface and groundwater flow from areas at higher altitudes. In addition, Employment allocation 9 (North of Fifth Avenue, Hirwaun Ind Estate, Hirwaun) is situated to the south of SAC units 2 &amp; 3 although is separated by existing industrial development. This area currently supports a mix of neutral and marshy grassland and any affects on the hydrological regime here could potentially influence retained habitats and/or the nearby SAC units. There is potential for development proposed in Policy NSA 8 and Employment Allocation 9 to have significant effects on Blaen Cynon SAC through changes to the hydrological regime in management units 2,3 5 and 6.</p> <p>Habitat loss/ fragmentation</p> <p>The marsh fritillary butterfly <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> is found in a range of habitats in which its larval food plant, devil's-bit scabious <i>Succisa pratensis</i>, occurs. Marsh fritillaries are essentially grassland butterflies and although populations may occur occasionally on wet heath, bog margins and woodland clearings, most colonies are found in damp acidic or dry calcareous grasslands. Approximately 50ha of habitat is required to maintain the population in the long-term; with at least 10ha is good condition. The operational limits reflect the minimum contribution of the Blaen Cynon SAC towards the favourable conservation status of the species in the Hirwaun/Penderyn area. As mentioned previously the SAC only includes the core of the marsh fritillary habitat (and hence core of the metapopulation). There are likely to be other small areas of habitat outside the SAC boundary which are used by the butterfly only occasionally, but which likely contribute to the long-term success of the metapopulation. This is recognised throughout the AA and is identified earlier in the table as a key factor in maintaining site integrity (conserving a cluster of sites in close proximity).</p> <p>Strategic site 5 Land South of Hirwaun and Employment allocation 9 (North of Fifth Avenue, Hirwaun Ind Estate, Hirwaun) are adjacent to Blaen Cynon SAC. The sites will not lead to direct loss of designated habitat but could</p>

<sup>5</sup> CCW (2008) Core Management Plan Including Conservation Objectives for Blaen Cynon SAC. Available online: <http://www.ccw.gov.uk/landscape-wildlife/protecting-our-landscape/special-sites-project-landing.aspx>



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	<p>lead to the loss and fragmentation of important surrounding habitat. One of the conservation objectives for the SAC identifies that not all habitat used by the Marsh Fritillary is expected to be found within the SAC, "some will be on nearby land within a radius of about 2km<sup>5</sup>".</p> <p>Policy NSA 14 puts forward a site that is situated north of Fifth Avenue in Hirwaun and is allocated for 4.17ha of B2 (general industry) and B8 (storage and distribution) employment use (Employment Allocation 9). The site is within 200m of Blaen Cynon SAC - separated by an area of industrial land - and has the potential to lead to loss of suitable habitat for the Marsh Fritillary. The Phase 1 Habitat Survey of Wales (CCW 2005) shows that this site, if developed, will lead to the loss of a small area of marshy grassland although a greater area than that lost would be retained to the west of the development. It is assessed that to the north of the site there is enough space and suitable habitat - between the site and Penderyn Reservoir - to act as a corridor, allowing marsh fritillary to access retained marshy grassland and other similar habitats to the west. Given the size of the allocation and the availability of suitable habitat in the surrounding areas to the north and west, it is not likely that this allocation will have significant effects on Blaen Cynon SAC through loss of suitable habitat for the Marsh Fritillary.</p> <p>Policy NSA 8 identifies land South of Hirwaun for the provision of 1000 dwellings (400 during the life of the plan), 36ha of employment and 2,000m<sup>2</sup> of retail use. The site is approximately 175ha, which includes the provision of 45ha of open space to the south of the site. It is within 300m of Blaen Cynon SAC - separated by the A465 and the settlement of Hirwaun - and has the potential to lead to loss of suitable habitat for the Marsh Fritillary.</p> <p>The Phase 1 Habitat Survey of Wales (2005) shows that this site, if developed, will lead to the loss of a substantial area of marshy grassland. The marshy grassland does not cover the entire site; the majority is concentrated in the north west from the A4061 to tower road, while there is also a smaller area within the eastern section of the site. During years with a high Marsh Fritillary count it is possible that the loss of such a large area of marshy grassland could have significant effects on the availability of suitable habitat. Development could also have the potential to alter the hydrological regime of the area, which could lead to the drying out of marshy grassland and therefore loss of suitable habitat. If the majority of land were to be developed not only would there be a loss of suitable habitat there would also be fragmentation as access to marshy grassland to the south of the site would be restricted due to the development. As the site is situated to the south of the marshy grassland comprising SAC</p>

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	<p>units 5 &amp; 6, with other similar habitat present to the north and west of Units 1-4, , development south of Rhigos Road (A4061) is not likely to have a significant effect on the core metapopulation of Marsh Fritillary. However, there is potential for significant effects on the wider metapopulation during years with a high count as the ability of the Marsh Fritillary to disperse will be restricted due to the loss of the potential habitat corridor between the Hirwaun Industrial Estate and Hirwaun itself, which allows access to marshy grassland in the south.</p>
Potential In-combination effects (screening)	<p>Air Quality</p> <p>These plans and programmes have the potential to contribute to increased levels of traffic along the A465 and A4059 as identified previously:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The Trunk Road Forward Programme 2002 proposes the dualling of the A465 from Abergavenny to Hirwaun. Section 7 (A465:A470 to Hirwaun) is in close proximity to the SAC. This in-combination with the development proposed in the LDP has the potential to increase habitat loss/ fragmentation and increase levels of airborne pollutants through increased traffic.</li> <li>■ The Brecon Beacons National Park Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy identifies the potential for a small amount of growth in Peneryn, the precise location and size of development is as yet not known. Development in this area has the potential to increase levels of traffic along the A4059 which is within 200m of Blaen Cynon SAC. The Preferred Strategy contains strong policies in regard to environmental protection and climate change (minimise greenhouse emissions).</li> </ul> <p>As mentioned previously air pollution is not identified as being a significant issue for site integrity at this SAC. Based on information provided in the CMP and from the JNCC, site level management issues (grazing and scrub management) are currently the most important factor in terms of maintaining and improving the marsh fritillary habitat. With these factors in mind it is assessed that the LDP in-combination with other plans and programmes will not have significant effects on Blaen Cynon SAC. The CMP states that as management of the SAC habitat improves, off-site factors could become more apparent, with this in mind air quality should be monitored at the site during the life of the plan to ensure that this issue does not begin to adversely affect habitat integrity. It is</p>

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	<p>worth noting that air quality is almost certainly a consideration in the A465 dualling project and that this would be subject to its own Environmental Impact Assessment that would need to consider the SAC and identify any mitigation/monitoring requirements.</p> <p>Hydrological Regime</p> <p>These plans and programmes have the potential to contribute to adverse impacts on the hydrological regime at management units 5 and 6:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The Trunk Road Forward Programme 2002 proposes the dualling of the A465 from Abergavenny to Hirwaun. Section 7 (A465:A470 to Hirwaun) is in close proximity to management units 5 and 6. This in-combination with the development proposed in the LDP has the potential to have adverse effects on surface and groundwater flow to management units 5 and 6. As indicated for Air Quality, water quality and drainage would require specific consideration as part of the A465 dualling, with due consideration given to any possible impacts on the SAC.</li> </ul> <p>Habitat Loss and Fragmentation</p> <p>These plans and programmes have the potential to contribute to the loss and fragmentation of suitable habitat for the Marsh Fritillary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The Trunk Road Forward Programme 2002 proposes the dualling of the A465 from Abergavenny to Hirwaun. Section 7 (A465:A470 to Hirwaun) is in close proximity to the SAC. This in-combination with the development proposed in the LDP has the potential to increase habitat loss and fragmentation although this issue would require consideration as part of the separate HRA/EIA for the A465 dualling.</li> <li>■ The Brecon Beacons National Park Local Development Plan Preferred Strategy identifies the potential for a small amount of growth in Peneryn, the precise location and size of development is as yet not unknown. Development in this area has the potential to lead to direct habitat loss and fragmentation. Specific potential</li> </ul>

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	<p>in-combination impacts cannot be explored in absence of specific development locations. The Preferred Strategy contains a strong policy in regard to environmental protection.</p> <p>The A465 dualling has the potential to act in-combination with development proposed within the LDP (as discussed above) through habitat loss and fragmentation. It is unlikely that the dualling alone would lead to significant effects on the SAC as there are already a number of roads for the Marsh Fritillary to cross in order to reach habitat to the south of the A465 and the amount of potentially suitable habitat lost (outside the SAC boundary) would be minimal. However, the dualling will lead to the loss of marshy grassland on either side of the A465 contributing to the loss of suitable habitat on Strategic Site 5: south of Hirwaun. There is therefore potential for significant in-combination effects on Blaen Cynon SAC through habitat loss and fragmentation.</p>
Appropriate Assessment Likelihood of adverse effect on integrity:	<p>The current condition status of all management units within the SAC are assessed as unfavourable. This is predominantly due to past and present site level management issues, such as grazing and scrub control, and as such the LDP is unlikely to have direct significant effects on the condition status of Blaen Cynon SAC. As the site level management of the SAC habitat improves, off-site factors should become more apparent and will therefore give a greater understanding of the vulnerability and sensitivity of the SAC. The SAC is also vulnerable to a number of factors that are outside the influence of the site manager, such as parasitic wasps and weather conditions.</p> <p>It is anticipated that, unmitigated, there is potential for significant impacts to the integrity of Blaen Cynon SAC from development proposed in Policy NSA 8 alone and in-combination with the A465 dualling scheme. The development is not likely to have direct significant effects on the SAC but does have the potential to indirectly have significant effects on the SAC through the loss and fragmentation of surrounding suitable habitat. The magnitude of this impact will be greater during years when the metapopulation of Marsh Fritillary is high, as the ability of the butterfly to disperse will be restricted due to the loss of the potential habitat corridor between the Hirwaun Industrial Estate and Hirwaun itself, which allows access to marshy grassland in the south.</p> <p>There is also the potential for the developments mentioned above to have significant effects on the hydrological regime in management units 5 and 6 of the SAC. Given that management units 5 and 6 lie at the bottom of the valley there is the potential for the developments to alter surface and groundwater flow which could have</p>

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	implications for the marshy grassland habitat. Employment Allocation 9 also has the potential to affect the hydrological regime as it lies in close proximity to SAC management units 2 and 3.
Possible Avoidance and Mitigation Measures – includes recommendations for policy/proposals	<p>Local Development Plan</p> <p>Ensure policy measures are robust in the protection of designated sites. The LDP should avoid development on marshy grassland in the north west area of Strategic Site 5. The provision of open space in this area would help to retain connectivity of suitable habitats to the north and south. Within the supporting text of Policy NSA 8 it should be made clear that there are constraints to the location of development in relation to the marshy grassland in the north west (of Strategic Site 5) and that development should be focused in the east/ south east of the site. This would help to retain a significant proportion of marshy grassland and would retain the connectivity of existing habitats.</p> <p>Individual Site Level</p> <p>Ensure that development within Strategic Site 5 and at Employment Allocation 9 is designed, constructed and operated so as to avoid risks of impacts on the Blaen Cynon SAC. Specifically, development would need to ensure that there would be no adverse impacts on the hydrological regime of Blaen Cynon SAC. Specifics of such mechanisms would be taken from mitigation strategies developed from the conclusions of site specific HRA/EIA Reports.</p>
Conclude no adverse effect on integrity?	No adverse effects as long as avoidance and mitigation measures are adhered to. The LDP would not result in any direct impacts to the SAC and the CMP clearly states that site management is the key factor in achieving favourable conservation status.
Recommendations for Policy/ Proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Ensure policy measures are robust in the protection of designated sites.</li> <li>■ LDP should avoid development on marshy grassland in the north west area of Strategic Site 5. The provision of open space in this area would help to retain connectivity of suitable habitats to the north and south.</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Supporting text of Policy NSA 8 should make clear that there are constraints to the location of development in this strategic site and that development should be focused in the east/ south east of the site.</li> <li>■ Air quality should be monitored at Strategic Site 5 during the life of the plan and take account of monitoring occurring on the SAC to ensure that this issue does not begin to adversely affect habitat integrity.</li> </ul>