

Habitats Regulation Assessment Statement for the Draft Local Plan 2020-2040

In accordance with the [Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 \(as amended\)](#), A Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) Screening of the Local Plan will be required to consider whether the plan is likely to have significant effects on a protected habitats site. Protected habitats sites for the purposes of HRA include designated and candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Sites of Community Importance, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and any relevant Marine Sites.

If, following the HRA Screening, the potential for likely significant effects cannot be excluded, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) as the 'competent authority' must make an appropriate assessment of the implications of the plan for that site, in view of the site's conservation objectives. The LPA may agree to the plan or project only after having ruled out adverse effects on the integrity of the protected site. Where an adverse effect on the site's integrity cannot be ruled out, and where there are no alternative solutions, the plan or project can only proceed if there are imperative reasons of over-riding public interest and if the necessary compensatory measures can be secured.

Protected Habitats Sites in Teignbridge

There are seven protected habitats sites, designated for their core breeding, feeding and resting habitats for rare and threatened species whose boundaries fall wholly or partly within a 10km radius of the Teignbridge Local Plan boundary. These are detailed in Table 1. These sites are the 'top tier' of protected nature conservation sites, and subject to strict legal protection. They are afforded the highest level of protection and any development proposals within or affecting these must satisfy the requirements of the EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (74/409/EEC) and the EU Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats (92/43/EEC).

| Site Name/NGR | Features for which the site is designated (* - Priority habitat or species) |
|--|--|
| <p>Dartmoor SAC SX590864 South of Okehampton, Devon</p> | <p><u>Annex I Habitats</u> Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> European dry heaths Blanket bogs Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles</p> <p><u>Annex II Species</u> Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercuriale</i> Atlantic salmon <i>Salmo salar</i> Otter <i>Lutra lutra</i></p> |
| <p>Dawlish Warren SAC SX984792</p> | <p><u>Annex I Habitats</u> Humid dune slacks</p> |

| Site Name/NGR | Features for which the site is designated (* - Priority habitat or species) |
|--|---|
| <p>At the mouth of the Exe estuary on the south coast of Devon</p> | <p>Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (`white dunes`) Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (`grey dunes`) <u>Annex II Species</u> Petalwort <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i></p> |
| <p>East Devon Pebblebed Heaths SAC / SPA SY040868 East of Woodbury, Devon</p> | <p><u>Annex I Habitats</u> Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> European dry heaths <u>Annex II Species</u> Southern damselfly <i>Coenagrion mercurial</i> <u>Article 4.1</u> European nightjar <i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i> Dartford warbler <i>Sylvia undata</i></p> |
| <p>Exe Estuary SPA SX981840</p> | <p><u>Article 4.1</u> Slavonian grebe <i>Podiceps auritus</i> Pied Avocet <i>Recurvirostra avosetta</i> <u>Article 4.2</u> Dark-bellied brent goose <i>Branta bernicla bernicla</i> Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i> Eurasian oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i> Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa limosa islandica</i> Grey plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> Over winter the area regularly supports:23811 waterfowl (5 year peak mean 01/04/1998 (at designation))</p> |
| <p>Lyme Bay and Torbay SCI SY31583 Reefs offshore from Lyme Bay and the coastline + subtidal areas between Mackerel Cove and Dartmouth.</p> | <p><u>Annex I Habitats</u> Reefs Submerged or partially submerged sea caves</p> |

| Site Name/NGR | Features for which the site is designated (* - Priority habitat or species) |
|--|--|
| <p>South Dartmoor Woods SAC SX710701 South of New Bridge, nr Ashburton, Devon</p> | <p><u>Annex I Habitats</u> Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles European dry heaths <u>Annex II Species</u> -</p> |
| <p>South Hams SAC SX942565</p> | <p><u>Annex I Habitats</u> European dry heaths Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland faces: on calcareous substrates (<i>Festuco-Brometalia</i>) Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts Caves not open to the public *Tilio-Acerion forests of slopes, screes and ravines <u>Annex II Species</u> Greater horseshoe bat <i>Rhinolophus ferrumequinum</i></p> |

Table 1: SPAs, SPAs and Ramsar Sites within 10km of Teignbridge boundaries

HRA Screening and Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan (Part 1) 2020-2040

There are no site specific proposals contained within the Local Plan (Part 1) 2020-2040 as these will be contained within the Local Plan (Part 2) 2020-2040 and the Greater Exeter Strategic Plan. As such, there are no potential development sites which will need assessing for HRA purposes. However, there are a number of policies contained within the draft Local Plan (Part 1) which may permit unplanned development in locations where there might be a likely significant effect on a protected habitats site. For all relevant policies, the draft Local Plan (Part 1) has therefore followed the advice from the Appropriate Assessment on the current Local Plan (2013-2033) which includes a specific clause requiring that the proposed development will need to ensure that it does not have an adverse effect on the integrity of a protected habitats site.

It should be noted that the draft Local Plan refers to these sites as “European Protected Wildlife Sites”.

An HRA screening, and Appropriate Assessment of the Local Plan will be undertaken prior to the next stage of consultation on the Proposed Submission (i.e. the final draft version) of the Local Plan.