

Clyst Honiton Neighbourhood Plan Habitats Regulations Assessment

Clyst Honiton Parish Council

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Quality information

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1. Introduction

Background to the Project

- 1.1 AECOM has been appointed by Clyst Honiton Parish Council to assist in producing a report to inform the Local Planning Authority's (East Devon District Council) Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of the potential effects of the Clyst Honiton Neighbourhood Plan on internationally designated wildlife sites. The objectives of the assessment are to:
- Identify any aspects of the Neighbourhood Plan/Order that would cause an adverse effect on the integrity of international sites (Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs)) including, as a matter of Government policy, Ramsar sites, either in isolation or in combination with other plans and projects, and
 - To advise on appropriate policy mechanisms for delivering mitigation where such effects were identified.
- 1.2 The HRA of the Clyst Honiton Neighbourhood Plan/Order is required to determine if there are any realistic linking pathways present between an international site and the Neighbourhood Plan/Order and where Likely Significant Effects cannot be screened out, an analysis to inform Appropriate Assessment to be undertaken to determine if adverse effects on the integrity of the international sites will occur as a result of the Neighbourhood Plan alone or in combination.

Legislation

- 1.3 The need for HRA is set out within the Conservation of Habitats & Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and concerns the protection of European sites. European sites can be defined as actual or proposed/candidate Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Areas (SPA). It is also Government policy for sites designated under the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) to be treated as having equivalent status to European sites.
- 1.4 The HRA process applies the precautionary principle to protected areas. Plans and projects can only be permitted having ascertained that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the site(s) in question. Plans and projects may still be permitted if there are no alternatives to them and there are Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) as to why they should go ahead. In such cases, compensation would be necessary to ensure the overall integrity of the site network.

Figure 1: The legislative basis for Appropriate Assessment

Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended)

The Regulations state that:

“A competent authority, before deciding to ... give any consent for a plan or project which is likely to have a significant effect on a European site ... shall make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that sites conservation objectives... The authority shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the European site”.

With specific reference to Neighbourhood Plans, Regulation 106(1) states that:

“A qualifying body which submits a proposal for a neighbourhood development plan must provide such information as the competent authority [the Local Planning Authority] may reasonably require for the purpose of the assessment under regulation 105... [which sets out the formal process for determination of ‘likely significant effects’ and the appropriate assessment’].”

- 1.5 It is therefore important to note that this report has two purposes:

- To assist the Qualifying Body (Clyst Honiton Parish Council) in preparing their plan by recommending (where necessary) any adjustments required to protect international sites, thus making it more likely their plan will be deemed compliant with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended); and
 - On behalf of the Qualifying Body, to assist the Local Planning Authority to discharge their duty under Regulation 105 (in their role as 'plan-making authority' within the meaning of that regulation) and Regulation 106 (in their role as 'competent authority').
- 1.6 As 'competent authority', the legal responsibility for ensuring that a decision of 'likely significant effects' is made, for ensuring an 'appropriate assessment' (where required) is undertaken, and for ensuring Natural England are consulted, falls on the local planning authority and the Neighbourhood Plan examiner. However, they are entitled to request from the Qualifying Body the necessary information on which to base their judgment and that is a key purpose of this report.
- 1.7 The Habitats Regulations applies the precautionary principle¹ to international sites SAC, SPA, and Ramsar. For the purposes of this assessment candidate SACs (cSACs), proposed SPAs (pSPAs) and proposed Ramsar (pRamsar) sites are all treated as fully designated sites.
- 1.8 Plans and projects can only be permitted having ascertained that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the site(s) in question. This contrasts with the SEA Directive which does not prescribe how plan or programme proponents should respond to the findings of an environmental assessment; merely that the assessment findings (as documented in the 'environmental report') should be 'taken into account' during preparation of the plan or programme. In the case of the Habitats Directive, plans and projects may still be permitted if there are no alternatives to them and there are Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) as to why they should go ahead. In such cases, compensation would be necessary to ensure the overall integrity of the site network.
- 1.9 In 2018, the 'People Over Wind' European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruling² determined that 'mitigation' (i.e. measures that are specifically introduced to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of a plan or project on international sites) should not be taken into account when forming a view on likely significant effects. Mitigation should instead only be considered at the appropriate assessment stage. Appropriate assessment is not a technical term: it simply means 'an assessment that is appropriate' for the plan or project in question. As such, the law purposely does not prescribe what it should consist of or how it should be presented; these are decisions to be made on a case by case basis by the competent authority. An amendment was made to the Neighbourhood Planning Regulations in late 2018 which permitted Neighbourhood Plans to be made if they required appropriate assessment.
- 1.10 Over the years the phrase 'Habitats Regulations Assessment' has come into wide currency to describe the overall process set out in the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations from screening through to Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI). This has arisen in order to distinguish the process from the individual stage described in the law as an 'Appropriate Assessment'. Throughout this report we use the term Habitats Regulations Assessment for the overall process.

Report Layout

- 1.11 **Chapter 2** of this report explains the process by which the HRA has been carried out. **Chapter 3** explores the relevant pathways of impact. **Chapter 4** summarises the Test of Likely Significant Effects of the policies and site allocations of the Plan considered 'alone' and 'in-combination'. (The Test of Likely Significant Effects itself is undertaken in **Appendix B**). **Chapter 5** contains the Appropriate Assessment for any linking impact pathways that could not be screened out from potentially resulting in a Likely Significant Effect. **Chapter 6** contains the conclusion and a summary of recommendations.

¹ The Precautionary Principle, which is referenced in Article 191 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, has been defined by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO, 2005) as: "When human activities may lead to morally unacceptable harm [to the environment] that is scientifically plausible but uncertain, actions shall be taken to avoid or diminish that harm. The judgement of plausibility should be grounded in scientific analysis".

People Over Wind and Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta (C-323/17)

² Case C-323/17

2. Methodology

Introduction

- 2.1 This section sets out the approach and methodology for undertaking the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). HRA itself operates independently from the Planning Policy system, being a legal requirement of a discrete Statutory Instrument. Therefore, there is no direct relationship to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) and the 'Tests of Soundness'.

A Proportionate Assessment

- 2.2 Project-related HRA often requires bespoke survey work and novel data generation in order to accurately determine the significance of effects. In other words, to look beyond the risk of an effect to a justified prediction of the actual likely effect and to the development of avoidance or mitigation measures.
- 2.3 However, the draft Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) guidance³ (described in greater detail later in this chapter) makes it clear that when implementing HRA of land-use plans, the Appropriate Assessment (AA) should be undertaken at a level of detail that is appropriate and proportional to the level of detail provided within the plan itself:
- 2.4 *"The comprehensiveness of the [Appropriate] assessment work undertaken should be proportionate to the geographical scope of the option and the nature and extent of any effects identified. An AA need not be done in any more detail, or using more resources, than is useful for its purpose. It would be inappropriate and impracticable to assess the effects [of a strategic land use plan] in the degree of detail that would normally be required for the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of a project."*
- 2.5 More recently, the Court of Appeal⁴ ruled that providing the Council (competent authority) was duly satisfied that proposed mitigation could be *"achieved in practice"* then this would suffice to meet the requirements of the Habitat Regulations. This ruling has since been applied to a planning permission (rather than a Plan document)⁵. In this case the High Court ruled that for *"a multistage process, so long as there is sufficient information at any particular stage to enable the authority to be satisfied that the proposed mitigation can be achieved in practice it is not necessary for all matters concerning mitigation to be fully resolved before a decision maker is able to conclude that a development will satisfy the requirements of reg 61 of the Habitats Regulations"*.
- 2.6 In other words, there is a tacit acceptance that AA can be tiered and that all impacts are not necessarily appropriate for consideration to the same degree of detail at all tiers as illustrated in Figure 2 overleaf.

³ Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC), was CLG (2006) Planning for the Protection of European Sites, Consultation Paper

⁴ No Adastral New Town Ltd (NANT) v Suffolk Coastal District Council Court of Appeal, 17th February 2015

⁵ High Court case of R (Devon Wildlife Trust) v Teignbridge District Council, 28 July 2015

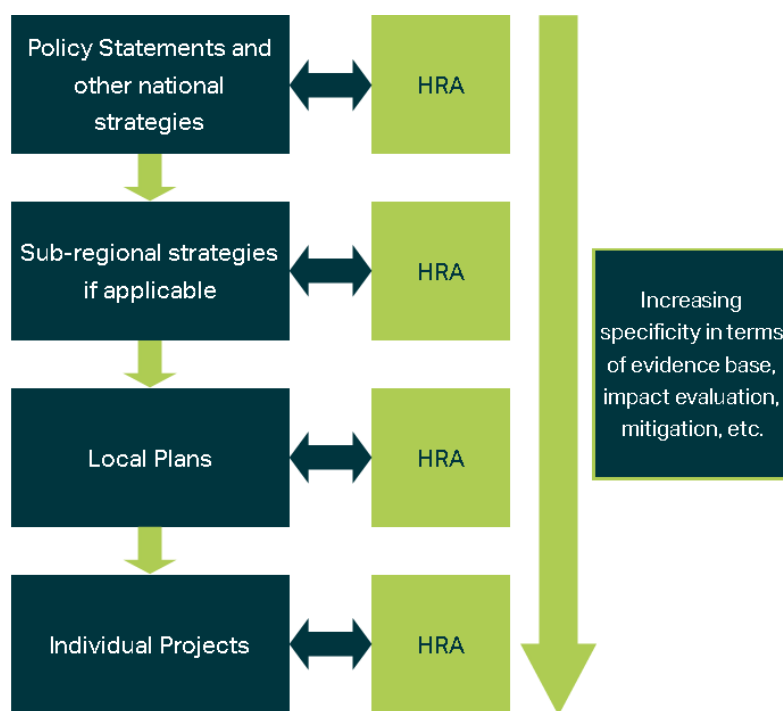


Figure 2: Tiering in HRA of Land Use Plans

- 2.7 For a plan the level of detail concerning the developments that will be delivered is usually insufficient to make a highly detailed assessment of significance of effects. For example, precise and full determination of the impacts and significant effects of a new settlement will require extensive details concerning the design of the new housing sites, including layout of greenspace and type of development to be delivered in particular locations, yet these data will not be decided until subsequent stages.
- 2.8 The most robust and defensible approach to the absence of fine grain detail at this level is to make use of the precautionary principle. In other words, the plan is never given the benefit of the doubt (within the limits of reasonableness); it must be assumed that a policy/measure is likely to have an impact leading to a significant adverse effect upon an internationally designated site unless it can be clearly established otherwise.

The Process of HRA

- 2.9 The former DCLG (now DLUHC) released a consultation paper on AA of Plans in 2006⁶. As yet, no further formal guidance has emerged specifically from DLUHC. However, in 2021 the government published advice on undertaking Habitats Regulations Assessments⁷. That advice has been taken into account in producing this HRA.
- 2.10 **Figure 3** outlines the stages of HRA according to the draft DLUHC guidance. The stages are essentially iterative, being revisited as necessary in response to more detailed information, recommendations and any relevant changes to the plan until no likely significant effects remain.

⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/habitats-regulations-assessments-protecting-a-european-site>

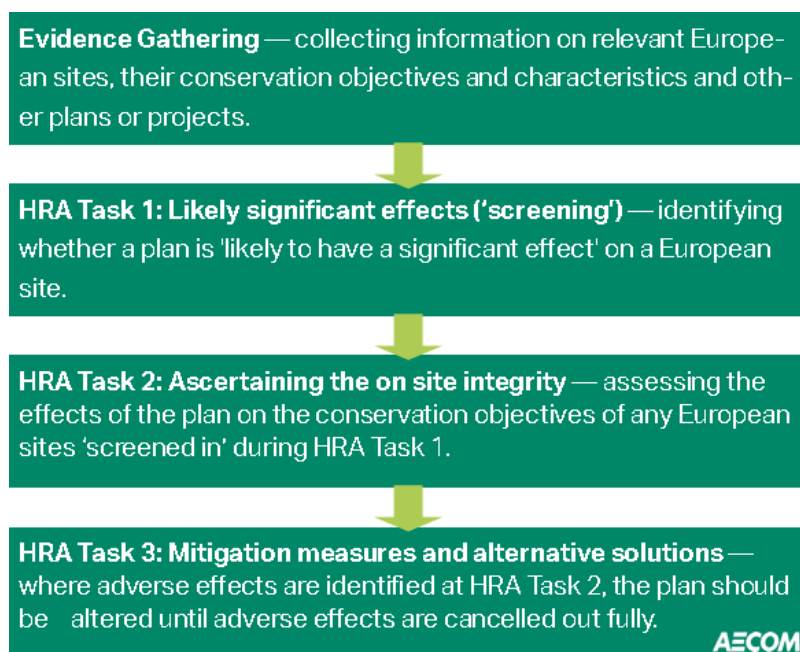


Figure 3: Four-Stage Approach to Habitats Regulations Assessment

2.11 The following process has been adopted for carrying out the subsequent stages of the HRA.

Task One: Test of Likely Significant Effect

- 2.12 Following evidence gathering, the first stage of any Habitats Regulations Assessment is a Likely Significant Effect (LSE) test - essentially a risk assessment to decide whether the full subsequent stage known as Appropriate Assessment is required. The essential question is:
- 2.13 *“Is the Plan, either alone or in combination with other relevant projects and plans, likely to result in a significant effect upon European sites?”*
- 2.14 The objective is to ‘screen out’ those plans and projects that can, without any detailed appraisal, be said to be unlikely to result in significant adverse effects upon European sites, usually because there is no mechanism for an adverse interaction with European sites. This stage is undertaken in Chapter 4 of this report.
- 2.15 In evaluating significance, AECOM have relied on professional judgment and experience of working with the other local authorities on similar issues. The level of detail concerning developments that will be permitted under land use plans is rarely sufficient to make a detailed quantification of effects. Therefore, a precautionary approach has been taken (in the absence of more precise data) assuming as the default position that if a likely significant effect (LSE) cannot be confidently ruled out, then the assessment must be taken the next level of assessment Task Two: Appropriate Assessment. This is in line with the April 2018 court ruling relating to ‘People Over Wind’ where mitigation and avoidance measures are to be included at the next stage of assessment.

Task Two: Appropriate Assessment

- 2.16 Where it is determined that a conclusion of ‘no likely significant effect’ cannot be drawn, the analysis has proceeded to the next stage of HRA known as Appropriate Assessment. Case law has clarified that ‘appropriate assessment’ is not a technical term. In other words, there are no particular technical analyses, or level of technical analysis, that are classified by law as belonging to appropriate assessment rather than determination of likely significant effects.
- 2.17 During July 2019 the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government published guidance for Appropriate assessment⁸. Paragraph: 001 Reference ID: 65-001-20190722m explains: *‘Where the potential for likely significant effects cannot be excluded, a competent authority must make an appropriate*

⁸Available at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/appropriate-assessment#what-are-the-implications-of-the-people-over-wind-judgment-for-habitats-regulations-assessments> [Accessed: 020/01/2022].

assessment of the implications of the plan or project for that site, in view of the site's conservation objectives. The competent authority may agree to the plan or project only after having ruled out adverse effects on the integrity of the habitats 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'.

- 2.18 As this analysis follows on from the screening process, there is a clear implication that the analysis will be more detailed than undertaken at the Screening stage and one of the key considerations during appropriate assessment is whether there is available mitigation that would entirely address the potential effect. In practice, the appropriate assessment takes any policies or allocations that could not be dismissed following the high-level screening analysis and analyses the potential for an effect in more detail, with a view to concluding whether there would be an adverse effect on integrity (in other words, disruption of the coherent structure and function of the European site(s)).
- 2.19 A decision by the European Court of Justice⁹ concluded that measures intended to avoid or reduce the harmful effects of a proposed project on a European site may no longer be taken into account by competent authorities at the Likely Significant Effects or 'screening' stage of HRA. The UK is no longer part of the European Union. However, as a precaution, it is assumed for the purposes of this HRA that EU case law regarding Habitat Regulations Assessment will still be considered informative jurisprudence by the UK courts. That ruling has therefore been considered in producing this HRA.
- 2.20 Also, in 2018 the Holohan ruling¹⁰ was handed down by the European Court of Justice. Among other provisions paragraph 39 of the ruling states that '*As regards other habitat types or species, which are present on the site, but for which that site has not been listed, and with respect to habitat types and species located outside that site, ... typical habitats or species must be included in the appropriate assessment, if they are necessary to the conservation of the habitat types and species listed for the protected area*' [emphasis added]. This has been taken into account in the HRA process.

Task Three: Avoidance and Mitigation

- 2.21 Where necessary, measures are recommended for incorporation into the Plan in order to avoid or mitigate adverse effects on European sites. There is considerable precedent concerning the level of detail that a Neighbourhood Plan document needs to contain regarding mitigation for recreational impacts on European sites. The implication of this precedent is that it is not necessary for all measures that will be deployed to be fully developed prior to adoption of the Plan, but the Plan must provide an adequate policy framework within which these measures can be delivered.
- 2.22 In evaluating significance, AECOM has relied on professional judgement and the LP HRA regarding development impacts on the European sites considered within this assessment.
- 2.23 When discussing 'mitigation' for a Neighbourhood Plan document, one is concerned primarily with the policy framework to enable the delivery of such mitigation rather than the details of the mitigation measures themselves since the Local Development Plan document is a high-level policy document. A Neighbourhood Plan is a lower level constituent of a Local Development Plan.

The Scope

- 2.24 There is no guidance that dictates the physical scope of an HRA of a plan. Therefore, in considering the physical scope of the assessment we were guided primarily by the identified impact pathways rather than by arbitrary "zones", i.e. a source-pathway-receptor approach. Current guidance suggests that the following international sites be included in the scope of assessment:
- All sites within the Neighbourhood Area (the area covered by the Neighbourhood Plan); and
 - Other sites shown to be linked to development within the Neighbourhood Area through a known "pathway" (discussed below).
- 2.25 Briefly defined, pathways are routes by which a change in activity within the plan area can lead to an effect upon an international site. In terms of the second category of international site listed above, DLUHC

⁹ People Over Wind and Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta (C-323/17)

¹⁰ Case C-461/17

guidance states that the AA should be “*proportionate to the geographical scope of the [plan policy]*” and that “*an AA need not be done in any more detail, or using more resources, than is useful for its purpose*” (DLUHC was CLG), 2006, p.6).

- 2.26 The full details of all international designated sites discussed in this document along with specifying their qualifying features, conservation objectives and threats to integrity can be found in **Appendix A**, whilst their locations are illustrated in **Appendix A, Figure A1**.
- 2.27 **Table 1** below lists all those international designated sites included in this HRA.
- 2.28 **Note** that the inclusion of an international sites or pathway below does not indicate that an effect is expected but rather that these are pathways that will be investigated.

Table 1: Physical Scope of the HRA

International Designated Site	Location	Reason for Inclusion/ Exclusion (pressures/ threats ¹¹ associated with the International site that could link to the Plan)	Other site vulnerabilities from the Natural England Site Improvement Plan
Exe Estuary Ramsar site	At its closest 3.2 km South West of the Neighbourhood Area	- Public access / disturbance	- Changes in species distributions
Exe Estuary SPA	At its closest 3.2 km South West of the Neighbourhood Area		- Coastal squeeze - Changes in land management - Fisheries: commercial marine and estuarine
East Devon Pebblebed Heaths SAC	At its closest 4.2km South East of the Neighbourhood Area	- Public access/ disturbance	- Inappropriate scrub control
East Devon Heaths SPA	At its closest 4.2km South East of the Neighbourhood Area	- Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition - Water pollution - Hydrological changes	- Undergrazing - Change in land management
Dawlish Warren Heath SAC	At its closest 10.5 km South from the Neighbourhood Area.	- Public access / disturbance	- Changes in species distributions - Coastal squeeze - Changes in land management - Fisheries: commercial marine and estuarine

¹¹ As identified in the Site Improvement Plans or RAMS for European sites.

The ‘in Combination’ Scope

- 2.29 It is a requirement of the Regulations that the impacts and effects of any land use plan being assessed are not considered in isolation but in combination with other plans and projects that may also be affecting the internationally designated site(s) in question.
- 2.30 When undertaking this part of the assessment it is essential to bear in mind the principal intention behind the legislation i.e. to ensure that those projects or plans which in themselves have minor impacts are not simply dismissed on that basis but are evaluated for any cumulative contribution they may make to an overall significant effect. In practice, in combination assessment is therefore of greatest relevance when the plan would otherwise be screened out because its individual contribution is inconsequential. The overall approach is to exclude the risk of there being unassessed likely significant effects in accordance with the precautionary principle. This was first established in the seminal Waddenzee¹² case.
- 2.31 For the purposes of this assessment, we have determined that, due to the nature of the identified impacts, the key other plans and projects with potential for in combination likely significant effects are those schemes that have the following impact pathways: Disturbance (including urbanisation and recreational pressure), changes in hydraulic conditions and loss of functionally linked land. The following plans have been assessed for their in-combination impact to interact with the Neighbourhood Plan:
- East Devon District Council Local Plan (2013 to 2031); the consultation on the East Devon Draft Local Plan 2020-2040 ran from November 2022 until January 2023.
 - East Devon AONB Partnership Plan (2019 to 2024)
 - Exeter City Council Core Strategy Development Plan (2012 to 2026); the Outline Draft Exeter Plan was consulted on between September 2022 and December 2022.
 - Teignbridge District Council Local Plan (2013 to 2033); the Regulation 19 Proposed Submission Local Plan 2020-2040 will supersede the adopted Local Plan
 - Mid Devon District Council Local Plan Review (2013 to 2033); the Council went to consultation on an Issues and Options Local Plan early in 2022
 - Clyst Honiton Neighbourhood Development Order Regulation 21 Pre-submission consultation version, June 2023
 - Taunton Deane Borough Council Core Strategy (2011 to 2028); this will be replaced by the Somerset Local Plan once the latter is produced
 - South Somerset Local Plan (2008 to 2028); this will be replaced by the Somerset Local Plan once the latter is produced
 - West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan (2015 to 2031); this will be replaced in time by the Dorset Local Plan on which an issues and options consultation was undertaken in 2021
 - Devon Minerals Plan (2011-2033)
 - South West Water Drought Plan 2018
 - South West Water Water Resource Management Plan 2019
 - Devon County Council Transport Infrastructure Plan (March 2020)
- 2.32 It should be noted that, while the broad potential impacts of these other projects and plans will be considered, we do not propose carrying out full HRA on each of these plans – we will however draw upon existing HRA that have been carried out for surrounding regions and plans.

¹² Waddenzee case (Case C-127/02, [2004] ECR-I 7405)

3. Pathways of Impact

3.1 The HRAs¹³ of the East Devon District Council Local Plan and the new draft Local Plan 2040 have been referenced in producing this HRA and identifying the potential pathways of impact. The following pathways of impact are considered relevant to the HRA of the Plan:

- Recreational pressure
- Atmospheric pollution from atmospheric nitrogen deposition
- Water pollution
- Hydrological changes

Recreational Pressure

3.2 Development near to international sites has the potential to result in increased recreational use of these sites. Impacts of recreational use may include:

- Mechanical/ abrasive damage and nutrient enrichment;
- Disturbance to sensitive species, particularly ground-nesting birds and wintering wildfowl; and
- Prevention of appropriate management or exacerbation of existing management difficulties.

3.3 Different internationally designated sites are subject to different recreational pressures and have different vulnerabilities. Studies across a range of species have shown that the effects of recreation can be complex.

Mechanical and Abrasive Damage

3.4 Most types of terrestrial internationally designated site can be affected by trampling, which causes soil compaction and erosion. Motorcycle scrambling and off-road vehicle use are particularly significant contributors to erosion. There have been several papers published that empirically demonstrate that damage to vegetation in woodlands and other habitats can be caused by vehicles, walkers, horses and cyclists:

- Wilson and Seney¹⁴ examined the degree of track erosion caused by hikers, motorcycles, horses and cyclists from 108 plots along tracks in the Gallatin National Forest, Montana. Although the results proved difficult to interpret, it was concluded that horses and hikers disturbed more sediment on wet tracks, and therefore caused more erosion, than motorcycles and bicycles.
- Cole^{15,16} conducted experimental off-track trampling in 18 closed forest, dwarf scrub and meadow and grassland communities (each tramped between 0–500 times) over five mountain regions in the US. Vegetation cover was assessed two weeks and one year after trampling, and an inverse relationship with trampling intensity was discovered, although this relationship was weaker after one year than two weeks, indicating some vegetation recovery. Differences in plant morphological characteristics were found to explain more variation in response between different vegetation types than soil and topographic factors. Low-growing, mat-forming grasses regained their cover best after two weeks and were considered most resistant to trampling, while tall forbs (non-woody vascular plants other than grasses, sedges, rushes and ferns) were considered least resistant. Cover of hemicryptophytes and geophytes (plants with buds below the soil surface) was heavily reduced after two weeks but recovered well after one year, indicating that these were most resilient to trampling in

¹³ Land Use Consultants (2010) East Devon Local Development Framework Issues And Options Consultation Report. Habitats Regulations Assessment: Screening Report

Liley, D. & Underhill- Day, J. (2012) Habitats Regulations Assessment of the East Devon Local Plan Submission for Examination. Footprint Ecology <https://eastdevon.gov.uk/planning-libraries/evidence-document-library/chapter8.4-environment/env025-habitatsregulationsassessmentoftheedlp2012.pdf> [accessed 22/07/2022]

¹⁴ Wilson, J.P. & Seney, J.P. (1994) Erosional impact of hikers, horses, motorcycles and off road bicycles on mountain trails in Montana. *Mountain Research and Development* 14:77-88.

¹⁵ Cole, D.N. (1995a) Experimental trampling of vegetation. I. Relationship between trampling intensity and vegetation response. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 32: 203-214.

¹⁶ Cole, D.N. (1995b) Experimental trampling of vegetation. II. Predictors of resistance and resilience. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 32: 215-224.

the long-term. Chamaephytes (plants with buds above the soil surface) were least resilient to trampling, and it was concluded that these would be the least tolerant of a regular cycle of disturbance.

- Cole¹⁷ conducted a follow-up study (in four vegetation types) in which shoe type (trainers or walking boots) and trampler weight were varied. Although immediate damage was greater with walking boots, there was no significant difference after one year. Heavier trampers caused a greater reduction in vegetation height than lighter trampers, but there was no difference in effect on cover.
- Cole and Spildie¹⁸ experimentally compared the effects of off-track trampling by hiker and horse (at two intensities – 25 and 150 passes) in two woodland vegetation types (one with an erect forb understorey and one with a low shrub understorey). Horse traffic was found to cause the largest reduction in vegetation cover. The forb-dominated vegetation suffered greatest disturbance but recovered rapidly. Higher trampling intensities caused more disturbance.

Nutrient Enrichment

- 3.5 Walkers with dogs can contribute to pressure on sites through nutrient enrichment via dog fouling. The implications are particularly significant for habitats characterised by low nutrient levels (e.g. heathland)¹⁹. The total volume of dog faeces deposited on sites can be surprisingly large. For example, at Burnham Beeches National Nature Reserve over one year Barnard²⁰ estimated the total amounts of urine and faeces from dogs to be 30,000 litres and 60 tonnes respectively.

Disturbance

- 3.6 Disturbance causes birds to expend energy unnecessarily and reduce time spent feeding²¹. Disturbance therefore risks increasing energetic output while reducing energetic input, which can adversely affect the condition and ultimately the survival of birds. In addition, displacement of birds from one feeding site to others can increase the pressure on the resources available within the remaining sites, as they have to sustain a greater number of birds²².
- 3.7 The potential for disturbance may be lower in winter than in summer due to the reduction in recreational users. In addition, the consequences of disturbance at a population level may be reduced because birds are not breeding. However, winter activity can still cause disturbance, especially as birds are particularly vulnerable at this time of year due to food shortages, such that disturbance which results in abandonment of suitable feeding areas can have severe consequences. Several empirical studies have, through correlative analysis, demonstrated that out-of-season (October-March) recreational activity can result in quantifiable disturbance:
- Underhill *et al.*²³ counted waterfowl and all disturbance events on 54 water bodies within the South West London Waterbodies SPA and clearly correlated disturbance with a decrease in bird numbers at weekends in smaller sites and with the movement of birds within larger sites from disturbed to less disturbed areas.
 - Evans & Warrington²⁴ found that on Sundays total water bird numbers (including northern shoveler *Anas clypeata* and gadwall *Anas strepera*) were 19% higher on Stocker's Lake LNR in Hertfordshire,

¹⁷ Cole, D.N. (1995c) Recreational trampling experiments: effects of trampler weight and shoe type. Research Note INT-RN-425. U.S. Forest Service, Intermountain Research Station, Utah.

¹⁸ Cole, D.N. & Spildie, D.R. (1998) Hiker, horse and llama trampling effects on native vegetation in Montana, USA. *Journal of Environmental Management* 53: 61-71.

¹⁹ Shaw, P.J.A., Lankey, K. & Hollingham, S.A. (1995) Impacts of trampling and dog fouling on vegetation and soil conditions on Headley Heath. *The London Naturalist*, 74, 77-82.

²⁰ Barnard, A. (2003) Getting the Facts - Dog Walking and Visitor Number Surveys at Burnham Beeches and their Implications for the Management Process. *Countryside Recreation*, 11, 16-19.

²¹ Riddington, R., Hassall, M., Lane, S. J., Turner, P. A., & Walters, R. (1996) The impact of disturbance on the behaviour and energy budgets of Brent geese. *Bird Study* 43:269-279.

²² Gill, J.A., Sutherland, W.J. & Norris, K. (1998) The consequences of human disturbance for estuarine birds. *RSPB Conservation Review* 12: 67-72.

²³ Underhill, M. C., Kirby, J. S., Bell, M. C. & Robinthwaite, J. (1993) Use of Waterbodies in South West London by Waterfowl. An Investigation of the Factors Affecting Distribution, Abundance and Community Structure. Report to Thames Water Utilities Ltd. and English Nature. Wetlands Advisory Service, Slimbridge.

²⁴ Evans, D.M. & Warrington, S. (1997) The effects of recreational disturbance on wintering waterbirds on a mature gravel pit lake near London. *International Journal of Environmental Studies* 53: 167-182.

and attributed this to displacement of birds resulting from greater recreational activity on surrounding water bodies at weekends relative to week days.

- Tuite *et al.*²⁵ used a large (379 site), long-term (ten-year) dataset (September-March species counts) to correlate seasonal changes in wildfowl abundance with the presence of various recreational activities. They found that on inland water bodies northern shoveler was one of the most sensitive species to disturbance. The greatest impact on winter wildfowl numbers was associated with sailing/windsurfing and rowing.
- Pease *et al.*²⁶ investigated the responses of seven species of dabbling duck to a range of potential causes of disturbance, ranging from pedestrians to vehicle movements. They determined that walking and biking created greater disturbance than vehicles and that gadwall were among the most sensitive of the species studied.
- During a three-year study of wetland birds at the Stour and Orwell SPA, Ravenscroft²⁷ found that walkers, boats and dogs were the most regular source of disturbance. Despite this, the greatest responses came from relatively infrequent events, such as gun shots and aircraft noise. Birds seemed to habituate to frequent 'benign' events such as those involving vehicles, sailing and horses, but there was evidence that apparent habituation to more disruptive events related to reduced bird numbers (i.e. birds were avoiding the most frequently disturbed areas). Disturbance was greatest at high tide on the Orwell, but birds on the Stour showed greatest sensitivity.

3.8 A number of studies have shown that birds are affected more by dogs and people with dogs than by people alone, with birds flushing more readily, more frequently, at greater distances and for longer. Dogs move more erratically and are less likely to keep to marked footpaths. In addition, dogs, rather than people, tend to be the cause of many management difficulties, notably by worrying grazing animals and causing eutrophication near paths. Underhill-Day²⁸ summarises the results of visitor studies that have collected data on the use of semi-natural habitat by dogs. In surveys where 100 observations or more were reported, the mean percentage of visitors who were accompanied by dogs was 54.0%.

3.9 The outcomes of many of these studies need to be treated with care. For instance, the effect of disturbance is not necessarily correlated with the impact of disturbance (i.e. the most easily disturbed species are not necessarily those that will suffer the greatest impacts). It has been shown that, in some cases, the most easily disturbed birds simply move to other feeding sites, whilst others may remain (possibly due to an absence of alternative sites) and thus suffer greater impacts on their populations²⁹. A literature review undertaken for the RSPB³⁰ also urges caution when extrapolating the results of one disturbance study because responses differ between species and the response of one species may differ according to local environmental conditions. These factors have to be taken into account when attempting to predict the impacts of future recreational pressure on internationally designated sites.

3.10 Disturbing activities are on a continuum. The most disturbing activities are likely to be those that involve irregular, infrequent, unpredictable loud noise events, movement or vibration of long duration, such as construction activities. Birds are least likely to be disturbed by activities that involve regular, frequent, predictable, quiet patterns of sound or movement or minimal vibration. The further any activity is from the birds, the less likely it is to result in disturbance. Construction-related disturbance (e.g. through noise and vibration) has the potential to affect animal species within international sites if construction activities occur within 400m of the site boundary.

3.11 The factors that influence a species' response to a disturbance are numerous, but the three key factors are species sensitivity, proximity of disturbance sources and timing/duration of the potentially disturbing activity.

²⁵ Tuite, C.H., Hanson, P.R. & Owen, M. (1984) Some ecological factors affecting winter wildfowl distribution on inland waters in England and Wales and the influence of water-based recreation. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 21: 41-62.

²⁶ Pease, M.L., Rose, R.K. & Butler, M.J. (2005) Effects of human disturbances on the behavior of wintering ducks. *Wildlife Society Bulletin* 33 (1): 103-112.

²⁷ Ravenscroft, N. (2005) Pilot study into disturbance of waders and wildfowl on the Stour-Orwell SPA: analysis of 2004/05 data. Era report 44, Report to Suffolk Coast & Heaths Unit.

²⁸ Underhill-Day, J.C. (2005). A literature review of urban effects on lowland heaths and their wildlife. Natural England Research Report 623.

²⁹ Gill, J.A., Norris, K. & Sutherland, W.J. (2001) Why behavioural responses may not reflect the population consequences of human disturbance. *Biological Conservation*, 97, 265-268.

³⁰ Woodfield, E. & Langston, R. (2004) Literature review on the impact on bird population of disturbance due to human access on foot. RSPB research report No. 9.

3.12 With respect to heathland birds specifically, Liley and Clarke^{31,32} found that the density of European nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* was directly related to the amount of surrounding development, with sites surrounded by higher levels of development supporting fewer nightjars. The species' breeding success appears to be much higher at less visited sites³³, with path proximity correlating strongly with nest failure, up to 225m from the path edge. Similarly, woodlark *Lullula arborea* and Dartford warbler *Sylvia undata* are also affected significantly by disturbance. Mallord estimated that, for 16 sites in southern England, 34% more woodlark chicks would be raised if all sites were free from disturbance^{34,35}. Although Dartford warblers do not appear to be as sensitive to human disturbance (possibly as they are not ground-nesting), their breeding parameters are still affected by disturbance levels from humans and their pets³⁶.

Air Quality

3.13 The main pollutants of concern for international sites are oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), ammonia (NH₃) and sulphur dioxide (SO₂). Ammonia can be directly toxic to vegetation, and research suggests that this may also be true for NO_x at very high concentrations. More significantly, greater NO_x or ammonia concentrations within the atmosphere lead to greater rates of nitrogen deposition to vegetation and soils. An increase in the deposition of nitrogen from the atmosphere is generally regarded to increase soil fertility, which can have a serious deleterious effect on the quality of semi-natural, nitrogen-limited terrestrial habitats.

Table 2: Main sources and effects of air pollutants on habitats and species

Pollutant	Source	Effects on habitats and species
Acid deposition	SO ₂ , NO _x and ammonia all contribute to acid deposition. Although future trends in SO ₂ emissions and subsequent deposition to terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems will continue to decline, it is likely that increased NO _x emissions may cancel out any gains produced by reduced SO ₂ levels.	Can affect habitats and species through both wet (acid rain) and dry deposition. Some sites will be more at risk than others depending on soil type, bed rock geology, weathering rate and buffering capacity.
Ammonia (NH ₃)	Ammonia is released following decomposition and volatilisation of animal wastes. It is a naturally occurring trace gas, but levels have increased considerably with the expansion in agricultural livestock numbers. Ammonia reacts with acid pollutants such as the products of SO ₂ and NO _x emissions to produce fine ammonium (NH ₄ ⁺) - containing aerosol which may be transferred much longer distances (and can therefore be a significant trans-boundary issue).	Adverse effects are as a result of nitrogen deposition leading to eutrophication. As emissions mostly occur at ground level in the rural environment and NH ₃ is deposited rapidly, some of the most acute problems of NH ₃ deposition are for small relict nature reserves located in intensive agricultural landscapes.
Nitrogen oxides (NO _x)	Nitrogen oxides are mostly produced in combustion processes. About one quarter of the UK's emissions are from power stations, one half from motor vehicles, and the rest from other industrial and domestic combustion processes.	Deposition of nitrogen compounds (e.g. nitrates (NO ₃), nitrogen dioxide (NO ₂) and nitric acid (HNO ₃)) can lead to soil and freshwater acidification. In addition, NO _x can cause eutrophication of soils and water. This alters the species composition of plant communities and can eliminate sensitive species.
Nitrogen (N) deposition	The pollutants that contribute to nitrogen deposition derive mainly from NO _x and NH ₃ emissions. These pollutants cause acidification (see also acid deposition) as well as eutrophication.	Species-rich plant communities with relatively high proportions of slow-growing perennial species and bryophytes are most at risk from nitrogen eutrophication, due to its promotion of competitive and invasive species which can respond readily to elevated nitrogen levels. Nitrogen deposition can also increase the risk of damage

³¹ Liley, D. & Clarke, R.T. (2003) The impact of urban development and human disturbance on the numbers of nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* on heathlands in Dorset, England. *Biological Conservation*, 114: 219-230.

³² Liley, D. & Clarke, R.T. (2002) The impact of human disturbance and human development on key heathland bird species in Dorset. Sixth National Conference (eds Underhill, J.C. & Liley, D.). RSPB, Bournemouth.

³³ Murison, G. (2002) The Impact of Human Disturbance on the Breeding Success of the Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus* on Heathlands in South Dorset, England. *English Nature*.

³⁴ Mallord, J. (2005) Predicting the consequences of human disturbance, urbanisation and fragmentation for a woodlark *Lullula arborea* population. PhD Thesis, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK.

³⁵ Liley, D. (2005) A summary of the evidence base for disturbance effects to Annex 1 bird species on the Thames Basin Heaths & research on human access patterns to heathlands in southern England. *Footprint Ecology/English Nature*.

³⁶ Murison, G.C. (2007) *The impact of human disturbance, urbanisation and habitat type on a Dartford warbler *Sylvia undata* population* (Doctoral dissertation, University of East Anglia).

		from abiotic factors (e.g. drought, frost).
Ozone (O ₃)	A secondary pollutant generated by photochemical reactions from NO _x and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). These are mainly released by the combustion of fossil fuels. The increased combustion of fossil fuels in the UK has led to a large rise in background ozone concentration, increasing the number of days when levels across the region are above 40ppb. Reducing ozone pollution is believed to require action at an international level to reduce levels of the precursors that form ozone.	Concentrations of O ₃ above 40ppb can be toxic to humans and wildlife and can affect buildings. Increased ozone concentrations may lead to a reduction in growth of agricultural crops, decreased forest production and altered species composition in semi-natural plant communities.
Sulphur dioxide (SO ₂)	Main sources of SO ₂ emissions are electricity generation, industry and domestic fuel combustion. May also arise from shipping and increased atmospheric concentrations in busy ports. Total SO ₂ emissions have decreased substantially in the UK since the 1980s.	Wet and dry deposition of SO ₂ acidifies soils and freshwater, and alters the species compositions of plant and associated animal communities. The significance of impacts depends deposition levels and the buffering capacity of soils.

3.14 Sulphur dioxide emissions are overwhelmingly influenced by the output of power stations and industrial processes that require the combustion of coal and oil. Ammonia emissions are dominated by agriculture, with some chemical processes also making notable contributions. Emissions of nitrogen oxides are dominated by the output of vehicle exhausts. Within a 'typical' housing development, by far the largest contribution to nitrogen oxides (92%) will be made by the associated road traffic. Other sources, although relevant, are of minor importance in comparison³⁷. Emissions of nitrogen oxides could therefore be reasonably expected to increase as a result of greater vehicle use as an indirect effect of the Plan.

3.15 According to the Department of Transport's Transport Analysis Guidance, "beyond 200m, the contribution of vehicle emissions from the roadside to local pollution levels is not significant"³⁸. This distance has therefore been used in this HRA to determine whether international sites are likely to be significantly affected by development under the Local Plan (Figure 4).

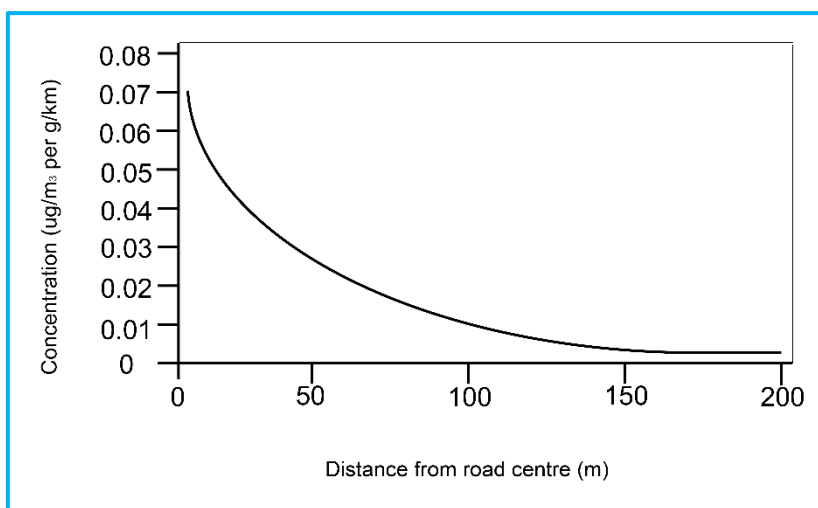


Figure 4: Traffic contribution to pollutant concentrations in relation to the distance from a road (DfT)

3.16 According to the World Health Organisation, the critical NO_x concentration (critical threshold) for the protection of vegetation is 30 µgm⁻³; the threshold for sulphur dioxide is 20 µgm⁻³. In addition, ecological studies have determined 'critical loads'³⁹ of atmospheric nitrogen deposition (that is, NO_x combined with ammonia NH₃).

3.17 Whilst the allocations provided within the Neighbourhood Plan are not identified in the overarching East Devon Local Plan, the fact that Clyst Honiton Neighbourhood Plan will be making allocations is discussed in the Local Plan 2040 and the quantum of development has been included within the 'Windfalls and

³⁷ Proportions calculated based upon data presented in Dore *et al.* 2005. UK Emissions of Air Pollutants 1970 – 2003. UK National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory. <http://www.airquality.co.uk/archive/index.php>

³⁸ www.webtag.org.uk/archive/feb04/pdf/feb04-333/pdf

³⁹ The critical load is the rate of deposition beyond which research indicates that adverse effects can reasonably be expected to occur.

Neighbourhood Plan allocations' allowance within the Plan. Effects attributable to the total amount of growth in East Devon were therefore subject to assessment within the HRA for the adopted East Devon Local Plan (the Local Plan 2040 does not currently appear to have a published HRA), which concluded no adverse effect on the integrity on international sites from air quality issues. Impact pathways relating to air quality provided by development identified in the Neighbourhood Plan, that could adversely affect air quality have thus already been addressed at the higher tier level within the East Devon Local Plan. Since this is a strategic issue that has already been examined across East Devon as a whole, and no need for specific mitigation has been identified, it is considered that the precise location of any allocation within Clyst Honiton will not alter the effect on European sites.. **This impact pathway is not investigated further.**

Water Quality

- 3.18 Increased amounts of housing or business development can lead to reduced water quality of rivers and estuarine environments. Sewage and industrial effluent discharges can contribute to increased nutrients on international sites leading to unfavourable conditions. In addition, diffuse pollution, partly from urban run-off has been identified during an Environment Agency Review of Consents process and a joint Environment Agency and Natural England evidence review, as being a major factor in causing unfavourable condition of international sites.
- 3.19 The quality of the water that feeds international sites is an important determinant of the nature of their habitats and the species they support. Poor water quality can have a range of environmental impacts:
- At high levels, toxic chemicals and metals can result in immediate death of aquatic life, and can have detrimental effects even at lower levels, including increased vulnerability to disease and changes in wildlife behaviour. Eutrophication, the enrichment of plant nutrients in water, increases plant growth and consequently results in oxygen depletion. Algal blooms, which commonly result from eutrophication, increase turbidity and decrease light penetration. The decomposition of organic wastes that often accompanies eutrophication deoxygenates water further, augmenting the oxygen depleting effects of eutrophication. In the marine environment, nitrogen is the limiting plant nutrient and so eutrophication is associated with discharges containing available nitrogen;
 - Some pesticides, industrial chemicals, and components of sewage effluent are suspected to interfere with the functioning of the endocrine system, possibly having negative effects on the reproduction and development of aquatic life; and
 - Increased discharge of treated sewage effluent can result both in high levels of macroalgal growth, which can smother the mudflats of value to SPA birds and in greater scour (as a result of greater flow volumes).
- 3.20 At sewage treatment works, additional residential development increases the risk of effluent escape into aquatic environments in addition to consented discharges to the catchment. Greater pressure on water treatment services due to new development, especially housing, may increase the risk of effluent escape into aquatic environments. Wastewater generated within the Plan area is currently handled by South West Water. The Water Cycle Study⁴⁰ that incorporates the Neighbourhood Area identifies that the River Clyst (within which wastewater from the Neighbourhood Area would drain), has 'poor' biological and ecological status. Further, the River Clyst drains into the Exe Estuary which is known to have elevated nutrient levels due to point source discharges from wastewater treatment works and diffuse agricultural inputs. However, no requirement for nutrient neutrality has been introduced by Natural England regarding the Exe Estuary. A nutrient neutrality requirement has been identified for the River Axe SAC but Clyst Honiton lies well outside the surface water catchment of that SAC and the wastewater treatment works that serve the parish do not discharge into the SAC catchment.
- 3.21 Whilst the allocations provided within the Neighbourhood Plan are not specifically identified in the overarching East Devon Local Plan or Local Plan 2040, the quantum of development has been included and was subject to assessment within the HRA for the adopted East Devon Local Plan (which concluded no adverse effect on the integrity on international sites) as part of the overall quantum of growth expected within the district over the plan period. Since this is a strategic issue that has already been examined across East Devon as a whole, and no need for specific mitigation has been identified, it is considered that the

⁴⁰ Halcrow (2010) Exeter and East Devon Water Cycle Study <https://exeter.gov.uk/media/1697/exeter-and-east-devon-water-study.pdf> [accessed 30/10/2020]

precise location of any allocation within Clyst Honiton will not alter the effect on European sites. **This impact pathway is not investigated further**

Water Quantity, Level and Flow

- 3.22 Housing growth has the potential to increase regional water abstraction rates, which can have serious negative impacts on international sites. Over-abstraction from rivers can reduce water levels, causing flow velocity to fall. This can have wide ranging effects on river parameters, including increased temperatures and nutrient concentrations and reduced oxygen concentrations. Such impacts can be significantly detrimental to rivers' floristic characteristics and to notable species.
- 3.23 Changes in the use of water sources at the Plan level also have the potential to affect terrestrial habitats. According to the Joint Nature Conservation Committee⁴¹, lowland heaths (especially those supporting bog and mire habitats) are especially vulnerable to abstraction, insertion of drainage ditches and peat cuttings within or around raised bogs. Excessive abstraction from underlying aquifers can cause a lowering of the water table and affect the water quality of sensitive habitats. When wet heathland habitats become too dry they are susceptible to invasion by successional woodland, which risks habitat becoming unsuitable for the priority species that rely on these specialised lowland heathland habitats.
- 3.24 Within the Planning Authority area, water demands are supplied by South West Water. However, water abstractions are managed by the Environment Agencies Catchment Abstraction Management Strategy (CAMS) and associated licensing and consents systems (which are in themselves subject to assessment against the Habitats Regulations).
- 3.25 Whilst the allocations provided within the Neighbourhood Plan are not identified in the overarching East Devon Local Plan or Local Plan 2040, the quantum of development has been included and was subject to assessment within the HRA for the adopted East Devon Local Plan (which concluded no adverse effect on the integrity on international sites) as part of the overall quantum of growth expected within the district over the plan period. Impact pathways relating to water quality, level and flow provided by the quantum of development identified within the Neighbourhood Plan have already been addressed at the higher tier level within the East Devon Local Plan. Further to this, the adopted South West Water and Bournemouth Water's Water Resource Management Plan 2019 (WRMP19)⁴² was subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment which enabled to conclude that even with the forecast water supply needs as a result of the planned population growth, no adverse effects on the integrity of international sites would result.
- 3.26 Since this is a strategic issue that has already been examined across East Devon as a whole, and no need for specific mitigation has been identified, it is considered that the precise location of any allocation within Clyst Honiton will not alter the effect on European sites.. **This impact pathway is not investigated further.**

⁴¹ JNCC. (2016) Threats to UK Lowland Wetland Habitats. Available at <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-5856-theme=default> [Accessed 30/11/18].

⁴² South West Water Bournemouth Water Final Water Resources Management Plan August 2019 https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/siteassets/document-repository/environment/sww-bw-wrmp19---finalplan_aug2019.pdf [accessed 04/11/2020]

4. Test of Likely Significant Effects

4.1 **Table B1 in Appendix B** identifies potential impact pathways that could link Neighbourhood Plan policies to internationally designated sites. Policies that could not be screened out in **Table B1, Appendix B** are as follows:

- E1: Supporting the rural economy - potential linking impact pathways are tourism: recreational pressure;
- E2: Rural economy: live-work units - potential linking impact pathways are tourism: recreational pressure;
- E3: Local priority development areas for business and enterprise - potential linking impact pathways are tourism: recreational pressure;
- SA1: Slating and Tiling Site, York Terrace - potential linking impact pathways are tourism: recreational pressure;

4.2 It should be noted that for completeness **Table B1, Appendix B** includes pathways that have been identified to not be realistic impact pathways (as detailed in **Chapter 3**). These include air quality, water quality and water quantity, level and flow. These impact pathways do not provide a realistic link to an internationally designated site due to the existence of a Local Plan HRA that considered the 'in combination' effects of all planned growth in the East Devon district over the plan period, and overarching policy framework provided by the East Devon Local Plan, the only realistic linking impact pathway that could result in likely significant effects upon an international site and which requires further consideration in this HRA is **recreational pressure** due to the fact that the Neighbourhood Plan goes beyond a simple quantum of growth and makes specific allocations. Recreational pressure is the subject of the subsequent chapter.

Recreational Pressure

East Devon Context

4.3 To support the production of the East Devon Local Plan, and those of neighbouring authorities (Exeter City Council and Teignbridge District Council), surveys and assessments were undertaken of sensitive international sites that have the potential to be affected by increases in recreational pressure. These include (but not exclusively):

- The Exe Disturbance Study⁴³
- The Exe Visitor Survey⁴⁴
- Devon Household Survey⁴⁵
- Exe Estuary SPA and Dawlish Warren SAC Interim Overarching Report Relating to Strategic Planning and Impacts from Recreation⁴⁶
- An Assessment of Recreational Impacts on Dawlish Warren SAC⁴⁷

⁴³ Liley, D., Cruickshanks, K., Waldon, J. & Fearnley, H. (2011). Exe Estuary Disturbance Study. Footprint Ecology <https://www.footprint-ecology.co.uk/reports/Liley%20et%20al.%20-%202011%20-%20Exe%20Disturbance%20Study.pdf> [accessed 29/10/2020]

⁴⁴ Liley, D., Fearnley, H. & Cruickshanks, K. (2010). Exe Visitor Survey, 2010. Teignbridge District Council / Footprint Ecology <https://www.footprint-ecology.co.uk/reports/Liley%20et%20al.%20-%202010%20-%20Exe%20Visitor%20Survey,%202010.pdf> [accessed 29/10/2020]

⁴⁵ Cruickshanks, K. & Liley, D. (2012) East Devon, Exeter and Teignbridge Household Survey and Predictions of Visitor Use of Greenspaces. Footprint Ecology. <https://www.footprint-ecology.co.uk/reports/Cruickshanks%20and%20Liley%20-%202012%20-%20East%20Devon,%20Exeter%20and%20Teignbridge%20household%20survey.pdf> [accessed 29/10/2020]

⁴⁶ Liley, D. & Hoskin, R. (2011) Exe Estuary SPA and Dawlish Warren SAC Interim Overarching Report Relating to Strategic Planning and Impacts from Recreation. Footprint Ecology / East Devon District Council / Exeter City Council / Teignbridge District Council. <https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/media/4055/exe-interim-report-sept-2011.pdf> [accessed 29/10/2020]

⁴⁷ Lake, S. (2010) Assessment of recreational impacts on Dawlish Warren Special Area of Conservaton. Teignbridge District Council/Footprint Ecology <https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/media/4051/assessment-of-recreational-impacts-at-dawlish-warren-sac.pdf> [accessed 29/10/2020]

- Tourist Use of the Exe Estuary, Dawlish Warren and the East Devon Heaths⁴⁸
- 4.4 These studies identified that both the Exe Estuary international sites (including Dawlish Warren SAC), and the East Devon Heathland sites have a core recreational catchment of 10km. As detailed in Chapter 2, all international sites (the Exe Estuary Ramsar site and SPA and the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths SAC and East Devon Heaths SPA) are located at their closest within 10km of the Clyst Honiton Parish Boundary, with the exception of Dawlish Warren SAC, which at its closest is located 10.5km south of the Neighbourhood Area. As such, it can be concluded that dependant on the exact location of the development, any net new residential development within the Neighbourhood Area, could result in an adverse effect on the integrity of these international sites, and an appropriate assessment is required.
- 4.5 The Test of Likely Significant Effects **Appendix B (Table B-1)**, identifies that the following policies and site allocations could potentially contain a linking impact pathway to an internationally designated site via increased recreational pressure stemming from new residential development and tourist accommodation.

Neighbourhoods Plan Policies

Table 3: Residential Site Allocations Located within 10km of International Designated Sites.

Policy	Type and Quantum of Development	Distance from the Exe Estuary International Sites	Distance from the East Devon Heathland International Sites
E1: Supporting the rural economy	Holiday accommodation – no quantum given	A Parish wide policy (at its closest 3.2 km)	A Parish wide policy (at its closest 4.2 km)
E2: Rural economy: live-work units	Work live units accommodation – no quantum given	A Parish wide policy (at its closest 3.2 km)	A Parish wide policy (at its closest 4.2 km)
E3: Local priority development areas for business and enterprise	Hotel accommodation – no quantum given	5.4 km	6.7 km
Policy SA1: Slating and Tiling Site, York Terrace	(9 net new dwellings)	5.5 km	6.6 km

- 4.6 Whilst the quantum of dwellings identified to be delivered is small (a total of 9 net new dwellings to be provided within the 10km Zone of Influence of the Exe Estuary or East Dorset Heathland international sites within the Neighbourhood Area) and is not likely to result in a likely significant effect in isolation, there is potential for a likely significant effect in combination with other projects and plans. As such it is this in combination affect that is discussed further.

5. Appropriate Assessment

Recreational Pressure

- 5.1 The Neighbourhood Plan is to provide a total of 9 net new dwellings within 10km of the Exe Estuary and East Devon Heathlands international sites, a quantum of residential development that is unlikely to result in material recreational pressure effects alone. However, these nine dwellings should be placed in context of the cumulative housing growth projected for the timescales of the relevant Local Plan periods. The South-East Devon European Site (SEDES) Mitigation Strategy⁴⁹ identifies that there are approximately 99,107 residential properties within 10km of the Exe Estuary international sites (located within East Devon,

⁴⁸ Panter, C. & Liley, D. (2016). Tourist use of the Exe Estuary, Dawlish Warren and East Devon Heaths. Report by Footprint Ecology for East Devon District Council and Teignbridge District Council <https://www.teignbridge.gov.uk/media/7177/exe-tourism-report-final-20-mar-17.pdf> [accessed 22/07/2022]

⁴⁹ Liley, D., Hoskin, R., Lake, S., Underhill-Day, J. & Cruickshanks, K. (2013). South-east Devon European Site Mitigation Strategy. Footprint Ecology. Unpublished report for East Devon District Council, Exeter City Council and Teignbridge District Council. <https://www.southeastdevonwildlife.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/SEDESMS-June-2014.pdf> [accessed 22/07/2022]

- Teignbridge and Exeter authorities), and that there is due to be an increase of 29% during the Local Plan periods (i.e. an increase of 28,785 net new dwellings).
- 5.2 The SEDES Mitigation Strategy also identifies that there are approximately 54,895 residential properties within 10km of the East Devon Heathland international sites (located within East Devon, Teignbridge and Exeter authorities), and that there is due to be an increase of 35% during the Local Plan periods (i.e. 19,309 net new dwellings). As such, the increase in residential development identified within the Neighbourhood Plan within 10km of these international sites (a total of nine net new dwellings), requires consideration in combination with this quantum of growth. Tourism accommodation is also included within the SEDES Mitigation Strategy.
- 5.3 In consultation with Natural England, the SEDES Mitigation Strategy⁵⁰ and East Devon Pebblebed Heaths Management Plans⁵¹ were developed. These detail the joint strategic approach between the three local authorities as to how to avoid and mitigate any adverse effects from increased recreational pressure in combination with other plans and projects, thus ensuring no adverse effects on the integrity of the international sites result. By definition, any strategic mitigation approaches cover all allocated residential growth, including that detailed in Neighbourhood Plans. The content of the SEDES Mitigation Strategy is reflected in the overarching East Devon Local Plan Policy: Strategy 47 – Nature Conservation and Geology, to be replaced by Policy 86 (Habitats Regulations Assessment) of the Local Plan 2040 (policies to which the Neighbourhood Plan in its role as a lower-tier planning document will need to abide). The text of the latter is as follows:

“The South-East Devon European Sites Mitigation Strategy (SEDESMS)

Of particular note is SEDESMS. In respect of the Exe Estuary SPA and the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths SPA/SAC (and Dawlish Warren SAC in Teignbridge District) an over-arching strategic approach to HRA mitigation has been established. All residential development schemes within a straight line 10 kilometers distance of any part of the European sites will be required to provide mitigation to offset increased recreational pressure associated with new development. Developers must clearly demonstrate that mitigation can and will be provided to ensure no adverse effect on the integrity of the European sites, and identify and secure mechanisms through which delivery will be achieved, secured in perpetuity, and delivered within agreed timescales. All mitigation is to be delivered in accordance with the latest version of the strategy and supporting guidance.

Mitigation will include on-site and off-site measures, to include:

Improved wardening and management of sites;

Information and education;

Changes to access arrangements and points;

Habitat improvements and provision ; and

Provision of Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANGS).

Current key EDDC policy requirements for SANGS are

8ha of SANGS are required to be provided per 1000 new population

SANGS are required to be provided and fully operational in advance of housing occupation

Securement of financial contributions in perpetuity are required from the developer to ensure ongoing maintenance and replacement of SANGS infrastructure, to ensure continued functioning of the SANGS in perpetuity’.

⁵⁰ Liley, D., Hoskin, R., Lake, S., Underhill-Day, J. & Cruickshanks, K. (2013). South-east Devon European Site Mitigation Strategy. Footprint Ecology. Unpublished report for East Devon District Council, Exeter City Council and Teignbridge District Council. <https://www.southeastdevonwildlife.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/SEDESMS-June-2014.pdf> [accessed 22/07/2022]

⁵¹ Liley, D., Panter, C., Underhill-Day, J. (2015). East Devon Pebblebed Heaths Visitor Management Plan. Unpublished report by Footprint Ecology for East Devon Council <https://www.southeastdevonwildlife.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/Pebblebed-Heaths-Visitor-Management-Plan.pdf> [accessed 22/07/2022]

- 5.4 Of particular relevance to the in-combination assessment of recreational pressure is the housing development adjacent to the Clyst Honiton Bypass, a site that is no longer allocated in the Neighbourhood Plan but covered by the Clyst Honiton Neighbourhood Development Order⁵². The order stipulates planning conditions in relation to the site, identifies the need for mitigation to be provided concerning the East Devon Pebblebed Heaths and the Exe Estuary and outlines the mitigation requirements for this specific development, notably a financial contribution of £367.62 per residential unit to be paid to East Devon District Council to fund habitat management at Pebblebed Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA, SAC & SSSI) and the Exe Estuary (SPA, Ramsar and SSSI). This commitment is explicitly referenced in the Neighbourhood Development Order. Policy 86 of the Local Plan 2040 indicates that some developments will need to provide their own SANG as well as making a financial contribution. Generally, there is no formal size threshold published for when a development must provide SANG. At present, there is no indication from the Council that a SANG will be required to mitigate this development. Given the financial contributions secured in the Neighbourhood Development Order, it is concluded that there is no potential for in-combination recreational pressure impacts with the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 5.5 Overall, it is concluded that, in-combination with growth allocated across adjoining authorities, the Clyst Honiton Neighbourhood Plan, in consideration of the mitigation measures outlined in the overarching East Devon Local Plan, will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of international designated sites.

⁵² Clyst Honiton Neighbourhood Development Order: Regulation 21 Pre-submission consultation version, March 2023.

6. Conclusions

6.1 This assessment undertook both Screening and Appropriate Assessment of the policies and any allocations within the Clyst Honiton Neighbourhood Plan.

- The international designated sites considered within the Appropriate Assessment for impact pathways that could not be screened out at the screening stage were:
- Exe Estuary Ramsar site
- Exe Estuary SPA
- East Devon Pebblebed Heaths SAC
- East Devon Heaths SPA
- Dawlish Warren Heath SAC

6.2 Impact pathways considered during the screening were: recreational pressure, water quality, water quantity, level and flow and air pollution. Water quality, water quantity, level and flow and air pollution were screened out at the Screening stage due to a lack of linking impact pathways. Recreational pressure could not be screened out at the Screening stage and was therefore further discussed within the Appropriate Assessment.

6.3 One residential site allocation and three additional policies have been identified to provide net new residential development and tourism accommodation. They were subject to Appropriate Assessment as they were located within 10 km of the Exe Estuary international sites and / or the East Devon Heathland international sites and could result in adverse effects on the integrity of an international site in combination with other projects and plans. These were:

- Policy E1: Supporting the rural economy
- Policy E2: Rural economy: live-work units
- Policy E3: Local priority development areas for business and enterprise
- Policy SA1: Slating and Tiling Site, York Terrace

6.4 Following Appropriate Assessment, it was concluded that, considering the protective policy mechanism contained in the overarching East Devon Local Plan, the Clyst Honiton Neighbourhood Plan will not result in adverse effects on the integrity of international designated sites in combination with other projects and plans.

Appendix A Background to International Designated Sites

A.1 Figure A1: Location of Internationally Designated Sites.

Exe Estuary Ramsar Site and SPA

Introduction

6.5 The Estuary is located in Devon. It extends 10 km south from Exeter to the open sea at Dawlish Warren. It comprises the waters, foreshore, low-lying land, three saltmarshes and an unusual double spit across the mouth of the estuary, and the sand dunes of Dawlish Warren. The mud- and sand-flats support Eelgrass *Zostera spp.* and *Enteromorpha* beds, and contain an abundance of invertebrates including extensive Mussel *Mytilus edulis* beds, which together provide rich feeding habitats for wintering waders and wildfowl. This complex of coastal habitats supports internationally important numbers of wintering and passage waterbirds.

Reason for Designation: Ramsar⁵³

6.6 This site is designated by the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (1971) under the following criteria:

- Ramsar criterion 5: importance for over wintering waterfowl
- Ramsar criterion 6: overwintering Dark-bellied brent goose *Branta bernicula*, and Black-tailed godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*.

Reason for Designation: SPA⁵⁴

6.7 The site is designated under Article 4.1 for the following avian species:

- Pied avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta* (Non-breeding)
- Slavonian grebe *Podiceps auritus* (Non-breeding)

6.8 The site is designated under Article 4.2 for the following over wintering assemblages:

- Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa islandica*,
- Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*,
- Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*,
- Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*
- Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*,
- Redbreasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*,
- Wigeon *Anas penelope*,
- Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla*,
- Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*,
- Avocet *Recurvirostra avosetta*,
- Slavonian Grebe *Podiceps auritus*.

Conservation Objectives for the SPA⁵⁵

"With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

⁵³ <https://jncc.gov.uk/jncc-assets/RIS/UK11025.pdf> [accessed 23/10/2020]

⁵⁴ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6304440713740288> [accessed 23/10/2020]

<https://data.jncc.gov.uk/data/3634580a-cabc-4218-872f-8660a1760ad8/uk-spa-vol3-web.pdf> [accessed 23/10/2020]

⁵⁵ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5807908071931904> [accessed 23/10/2020]

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;

- *The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features*
- *The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features*
- *The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely*
- *The population of each of the qualifying features, and,*
- *The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.”*

Environmental Vulnerabilities⁵⁶

- Public access/ disturbance
- Changes in species distributions
- Coastal squeeze
- Changes in land management
- Fisheries: commercial marine and estuarine

East Devon Pebblebed Heaths SAC and East Devon Heaths SPA

Introduction

6.9 These heathland sites, are the largest block of lowland heathland in Devon. Its lowland Atlantic heathland are in international importance and support a diverse heathland ecosystem, including birds and invertebrates. The higher slopes that are dry are dominated by heather *Calluna vulgaris*, bell heather *Erica cinerea*, western gorse *Ulex gallii*, bristle bent grass *Agrostis curtisii* and purple moor-grass *Molina caerulea*. The shallow valleys contain wet heath and flushes and are dominated by ross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* and characteristic species are common sedge *Carex nigra*, meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum*, lousewort *Pedicularis sylvatica*, bogbean *Menyanthes trifoliata*, heath spotted orchid *Dactylorhiza maculata*, lesser butterfly orchid *Platanthera bifolia* and sharp-flowered rush *Juncus acutiflorus*. Other species associated with the wetter areas are bog asphodel *Narthecium ossifragum*, sundews *Drosera spp.*, pale butterwort *Pinguicula lusitanica*, bog pimpernel *Anagallis tenella*, common cottongrass *Eriophorum angustifolium* and the club-moss *Lycopodiella inundata*.

6.10 Over 70 breeding bird species have been recorded notably nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*, hobby *Accipiter nisus* and in most years Dartford warbler *Sylvia undata*. Among the 21 breeding dragonfly species are the small red damselfly *Ceragrion tenellum*, southern Coenagrion *Coenagrion mercuriale* and the downy emerald *Cordulea aenea*. The bog bush cricket *Metrioptera brachyptera* has been recorded.

Reason for Designation

6.11 East Devon Pebblebed Heaths SAC is designated for its⁵⁷:

- Annex I habitats:
 - Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*
 - European dry heaths
- Annex II species:
 - Southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercurial*

⁵⁶ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6369979498758144> [accessed 23/10/2020]

⁵⁷ <https://jncc.gov.uk/jncc-assets/SAC-N2K/UK0012602.pdf> [accessed 28/10/2020]

6.12 East Devon Heaths SPA is designated for its⁵⁸:

- Annex I Species:
 - Dartford Warbler *Sylvia undata*
 - Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*

Conservation Objectives

6.13 Conservation Objectives for East Devon Pebblebeds Heaths SAC⁵⁹:

“With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the ‘Qualifying Features’ listed below), and subject to natural change;

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;

- *The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species*
- *The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats*
- *The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species*
- *The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely*
- *The populations of qualifying species, and,*
- *The distribution of qualifying species within the site.”*

6.14 Conservation Objectives for the East Devon Heaths SPA⁶⁰:

“With regard to the SPA and the individual species and/or assemblage of species for which the site has been classified (the ‘Qualifying Features’ listed below), and subject to natural change;

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the aims of the Wild Birds Directive, by maintaining or restoring;

- *The extent and distribution of the habitats of the qualifying features*
- *The structure and function of the habitats of the qualifying features*
- *The supporting processes on which the habitats of the qualifying features rely*
- *The population of each of the qualifying features, and,*
- *The distribution of the qualifying features within the site.”*

Environmental Vulnerabilities⁶¹

6.15 The site vulnerabilities identified in the Site Improvement Plan (SIP) for both the SAC and SPA are as follows:

- Inappropriate scrub control
- Undergrazing
- Change in land management
- Public access/ disturbance
- Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition

⁵⁸ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6521699319152640> [accessed 28/10/2020]

⁵⁹ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6288275761528832> [accessed 28/10/2020]

⁶⁰ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5439795618906112> [accessed 28/10/2020]

⁶¹ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/5150221705150464> [accessed 28/10/2020]

- Water pollution
- Hydrological changes

Dawlish Warren Heath SAC

Introduction

6.16 This site consists of a large sand-spit with adjoining tidal land at the mouth of the Exe Estuary, an area of international importance for several species of wildfowl and wading birds. It is particularly noted for its flora and over-wintering and migratory bird populations. A wide variety of habitats is present, including saltmarsh, sand-dune, dune grassland and heath, scrub and freshwater marsh. The flora includes Orchids and several other plants of local distribution, along with many alien and invasive species. Short sward grassland on the warren supports the only mainland British population of the Warren Crocus *Romulea columnae var occidentalis*. The saltmarsh flora includes Eel-grass *Zostera spp*, which is an important food for Wigeon *Anas Penelope*, Dark-bellied Brent Goose *Branta bernicla bernicla* and other species of wildfowl. The estuary also supports nationally important numbers of wintering Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*. Several insects recorded from the warren have a limited distribution in mainland Britain. These include the Sand Wasp *Ammophila sabulosa*, which occurs on undisturbed, exposed sand-faces. The sand-spit and the estuary which it protects also display features of geological and physiographical interest

Reason for Designation

6.17 The SAC is designated for its⁶²:

- Annex I habitats:
 - Humid dune slacks
 - Shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* ('White dunes')
 - Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation ('Grey dunes')
- Annex II species:
 - Petalwort *Petalophyllum ralfsii*

Conservation Objectives⁶³

"With regard to the SAC and the natural habitats and/or species for which the site has been designated (the 'Qualifying Features' listed below), and subject to natural change;

Ensure that the integrity of the site is maintained or restored as appropriate, and ensure that the site contributes to achieving the Favourable Conservation Status of its Qualifying Features, by maintaining or restoring;

- *The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species*
- *The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats*
- *The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species*
- *The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and the habitats of qualifying species rely*
- *The populations of qualifying species, and,*
- *The distribution of qualifying species within the site"*

⁶² <https://jncc.gov.uk/jncc-assets/SAC-N2K/UK0030130.pdf> [accessed 28/10/2020]

⁶³ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/file/6666843641348096> [accessed 28/10/2020]

Environmental Vulnerabilities⁶⁴

- Public access/ disturbance
- Changes in species distributions
- Coastal squeeze
- Changes in land management
- Fisheries: commercial marine and estuarine

⁶⁴ <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6226792973074432> [accessed 28/10/2020]

Appendix B Test of Likely Significant Effects

6.18 Where a policy is identified in orange in the last column, a potential linking impact pathway between the Plan Policy and an international designated site exists, and as such will be investigated further within this document. Where a policy is identified in green in the last column, there are no potential impact pathways linking the Plan Policy to an international site, and as such, this Policy can be 'screened out' from further consideration and will not be discussed further within this report. Note that where potential pathways are identified in this table they are then considered, first in **Chapter 3** of the main body of this report (to determine whether the issue is already covered by the Local Plan and its HRA) and then in **Chapter 4** of the main body of this report (to conduct the actual assessment of Likely Significant Effects). If required, Appropriate Assessment is undertaken in **Chapter 6** of this report.

Table B-1: Potential for impacts on European sites from the Clyst Honiton Neighbourhood Plan Policies

Policy	Policy Description	HRA Implications
Policy C1: Community facilities and services	Identifies four community facilities and provides development management guidance regarding enhancement and criteria where the loss of facilities will be supported.	No HRA implications. This is a development management policy relating to existing community facilities and services. There are no linking impact pathways present.
Policy C2: New Community Building	Provides development management policies in relation to the provision of a new community building facility. A residential development scheme will be supported as part of this policy under certain conditions.	No HRA implications. This is a development management policy relating to a new community building. The provision of a residential development scheme could be supported by this policy, but it is not directly allocated. There are no linking impact pathways present.
Policy C3: New community facilities and services	Provides development management policies in relation to the provision of new community facilities, and criteria under which new facilities will be supported.	No HRA implications. This is a development management policy relating to new community facilities and services. There are no linking impact pathways present.
Policy DS1: Development of high-quality design	Provides development management policy under which development will be supported in relation to high-quality design.	No HRA implications. This is a development management policy relating to high quality design. There are no linking impact pathways present.
Policy DS2: Sustainable design and construction of buildings	Details that the design and standard of any new development should aim to meet a high level of sustainable design and construction and be optimised for energy efficiency,	No HRA implications. This is a development management policy relating to sustainable design of buildings. By definition sustainable development would not result in a likely

		targeting zero carbon emissions. It provides development management policy with regards to appropriate standards and requirements.	significant effect on a designated site. There are no linking impact pathways present.
Policy DS3: Communications Infrastructure		Details that development proposals across the Plan Area that provide new communications infrastructure, including access to superfast fibre-optic broadband and the latest mobile technologies, will be supported	No HRA implications. This is a development management policy relating to communications infrastructure. No type or location of development is outlined. There are no linking impact pathways present.
Policy DS4: Sustainable Drainage		Details that development proposals should demonstrate a net reduction in surface water to minimise the impact of development upon the drainage regime of the River Clyst and help to reduce incidents of localised flooding. Details those proposals to retrofit, convert or extend existing properties are to include sustainable water management and recycling design features to minimise the impact of development upon the drainage regime of the River Clyst, reduce incidents of localised flooding and to maximise water storage and release.	No HRA implications. This is a development management policy relating to sustainable development and surface water management of existing properties. No type or location of development is outlined. There are no linking impact pathways present.
Policy DS5: Flood management	risk	Proposals for new flood defences that will help to improve river water quality and management and reduce flooding in Plan Area will be supported.	No HRA implications. This is a development management policy relating to flood defences. No type or location of development is outlined. There are no linking impact pathways present.
DS6: Storage spaces		To encourage occupants to use carbon low and widen transport choices, and to recycle waste adequate storage areas should be designed within each new residential unit	No HRA implications. This is a development management policy relating to storage at residential developments. No type or location of development is outlined. There are no linking impact pathways present.
Policy DS7: charging points.	Provision of	All new housing development proposals, in which dedicated parking per house is provided are required to provide appropriately located charging points for electric or low emission vehicles and bicycles.	No HRA implications. This is a development management policy relating to the provision of electric charging points. No type or location of development is outlined.

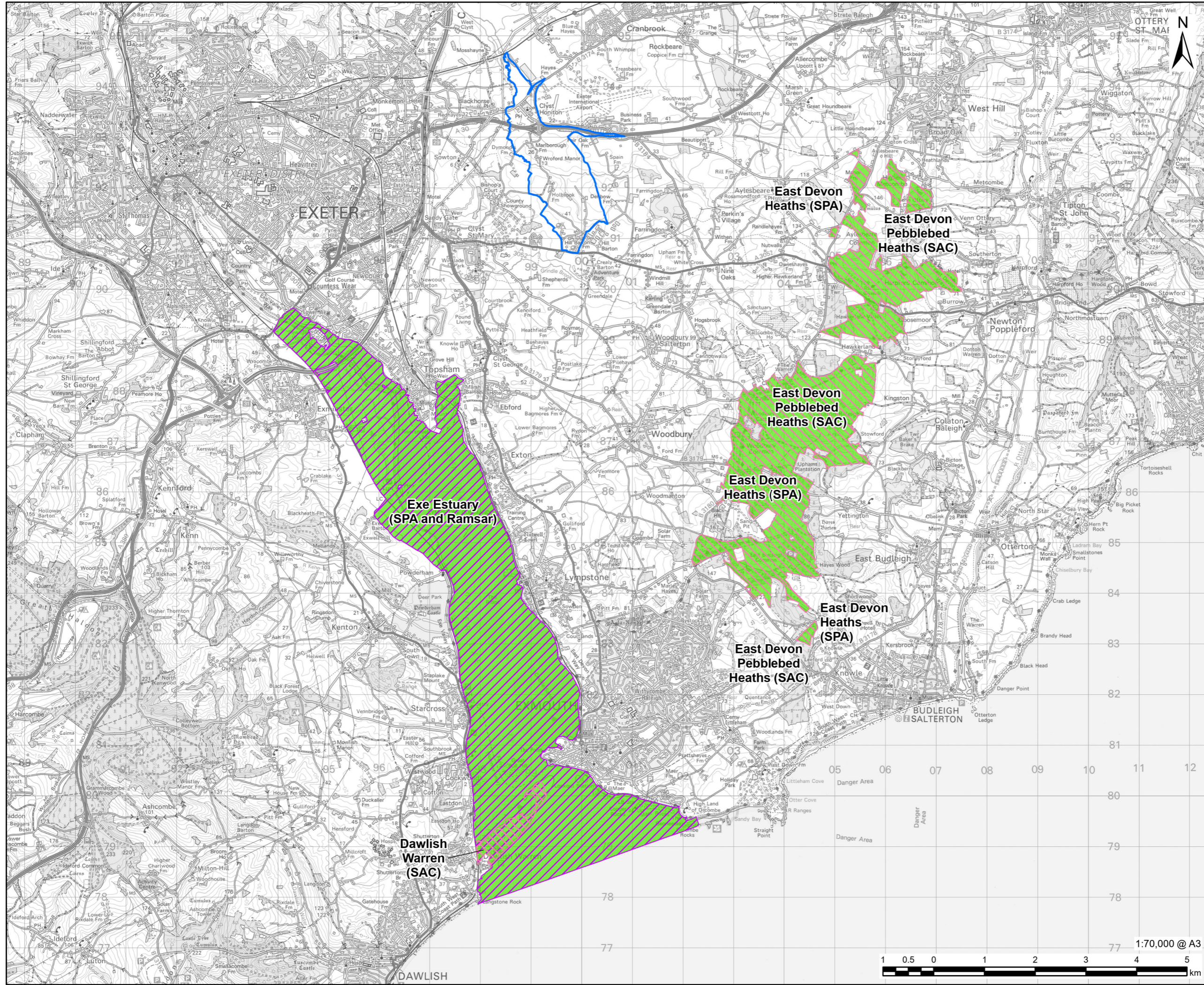
	All new employment, commercial, leisure and retail developments, in which cycle/scooter parking is provided, are required to include secure covered cycle parking with charging points.	There are no linking impact pathways present.
Policy DS8: Provision and use of renewable energy	The design and standard of any new development should aim to meet a high level of sustainable design and be optimised for renewable energy, to comply with zero-carbon emissions.	No HRA implications. This is a development management policy relating to the provision of renewable energy in new buildings, and conversion of existing buildings. No type or location of development is outlined. There are no linking impact pathways present.
Policy DS9: Community led renewable energy production	Development proposals for renewable energy schemes which are community led, or are promoted in partnership with a community organisation and a developer will be supported. Six design requirements for developments are specified.	No HRA implications. This is a development management policy relating to increase the community use and production of renewable and low carbon energy. No location of development is outlined. There are no linking impact pathways present.
Policy E1: Supporting a rural economy	Aims to support the rural economy by offering opportunities for rural diversification through the establishment of holiday accommodation and small-scale business enterprises at sites outside the village of Clyst Honiton.	Potential HRA implications. This policy provides for new holiday and business development outside of the village. No quantum or location of development is outlined. Potential linking impact pathways are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recreational pressure (located within the 10km Zone of Influence for both the Exe Estuary and East Devon Heathland sites)
Policy E2: Rural economy: live-work units	Aims to support the rural economy and protect the open countryside by offering opportunities for rural diversification through the establishment of work live units at sites outside the village of Clyst Honiton. Work live units can be converted to fully residential units under strict criteria.	Potential HRA implications. This is a development management policy relating to supporting the rural economy. No quantum or location of development is outlined. Potential linking impact pathways are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition • Recreational pressure (located within the 10km Zone of Influence for both the Exe Estuary and East Devon Heathland sites)

<p>Policy E3: Opportunities for new and/or improved business development in Zone A</p>	<p>Aims to support the local economy and encourage job creation through the establishment of new and/or expansion of existing business premises in Clyst Honiton Village.</p>	<p>No HRA implications. This is a development management policy supporting opportunities for new and/or improved business development in the village. Three potential sites for development are provided. There are no linking impact pathways present.</p>
<p>Policy SA1: Slate and Tile Site</p>	<p>Allocates the development of up to nine, one and two-bedroom dwellings fronting on to York Terrace.</p>	<p>Potential HRA implications. This policy provides for new residential development. Potential linking impact pathways are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Air pollution: impact of atmospheric nitrogen deposition • Hydrological changes • Recreational pressure (located within the 10km Zone of Influence for both the Exe Estuary and East Devon Heathland sites)
<p>Policy H1: Self-Build and Custom Build Houses.</p>	<p>Development of self-build dwellings will be supported where they are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - on single plots where the dwelling is a conversion of an existing building, or - on single infill plots in which the new build is in scale with the surrounding properties and is located within the plot or adjoining an existing dwelling. 	<p>No HRA implications. This is a development management policy relating to self-build housing. No type or location of development is outlined. There are no linking impact pathways present.</p>
<p>Policy NE1: Landscape and biodiversity</p>	<p>Aims to ensure that new development responds positively to Clyst Honiton's existing landscape setting whilst, at the same time, protecting and enhancing local wildlife habitats.</p>	<p>No HRA implications. This is a development management policy relating to landscape and biodiversity. No type or location of development is outlined. There are no linking impact pathways present.</p>
<p>Policy NE2: Green Landscaped Corridor</p>	<p>Recognises and safeguards the importance of the planted stretch of landscape to the south of Clyst Honiton and seeks to safeguard it against development and other inappropriate works.</p>	<p>No HRA implications. This is a development management policy relating to the green landscape corridor. No type or location of development is outlined. There are no linking impact pathways present.</p>

<p>Policy NE3: River Clyst Park</p>	<p>Safeguards land donated in Figure 48 as a public amenity space. Proposals relating to the enhancement of the River Clyst Park Community Green Space will be supported, if the developments are to provide: Easy access to the site for those walking and using mobility vehicles; Information boards; Litter bins; Cycle stands. Proposals for alternative development of this area will not be supported.</p>	<p>No HRA implications. This is a development management policy relating to River Clyst Park Community Local Green Space. No type or location of development is outlined. Retention and enhancement of green space as the potential to divert recreational pressure away from sensitive designated sites. There are no linking impact pathways present.</p>
<p>Policy NE4: Local Green Spaces</p>	<p>Identifies accessible community green spaces, which have been demonstrated to be of significance to the local community, that are designated as Local Green Spaces (LGS). Inappropriate forms of development within any area of LGS will not be permitted unless justified by very special circumstances.</p>	<p>No HRA implications. This is a development management policy relating to Local Green Community Spaces. No type or location of development is outlined. Retention and enhancement of green space as the potential to divert recreational pressure away from sensitive designated sites. There are no linking impact pathways present.</p>
<p>Policy AC1 Parking provision</p>	<p>Sets parking provision requirements to include non-residential development proposals. Ten non-residential development proposals must address are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Type and mix of development; 2. Parking areas are to provide maximum surface permeability; 3. The accessibility of the location; 4. Projected staff and visitor numbers 5. Off-road space for turning and drop off 6. Disabled parking provision 7. A covered and secure area for bike storage. 8. Electric charge point provision 9. Provision for peak visiting times 10. Security <p>Additional off-street parking for village residents will be supported provided they do not have an unacceptable impact on four areas of concern:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. local character; 2. residential amenity; 3. highway safety; 4. flood risk (including local surface water flooding). 	<p>No HRA implications. This is a development management policy relating to improved car parking provision. No type or location of development is outlined. There are no linking impact pathways present.</p>
<p>Policy AC2 Public realm improvements to Clyst Honiton</p>	<p>Support will be given to proposals that improve or add to safe community use</p>	<p>No HRA implications. This is a development management policy relating to</p>

<p>Village Road and its road junctions</p>	<p>and movement along Clyst Honiton Road.</p>	<p>public realm improvements to Clyst Honiton Village Road, junctions, and enhancement of the historic core. No type or location of development is outlined. There are no linking impact pathways present.</p>
<p>Policy AC3 Active Transport Provision</p>	<p>Promotes the retention and enhancement of key pedestrian routes, and the expansion of the permissive and rights of way network.</p> <p>Development proposals which provide for new, extended or improved routes for active travel will be supported on specified routes.</p>	<p>No HRA implications. This is a development management policy relating to bike and scooter movement. No type or location of development is outlined. Encouraging carbon free travel is a positive that has the potential to reduce atmospheric nitrogen emissions and thus deposition. There are no linking impact pathways present.</p>

Appendix C Figure C1: European sites



PROJECT
 Clyst Honiton
 Neighbourhood Plan
 Habitats Regulations
 Assessment

CLIENT
 Clyst Honiton Parish
 Council

CONSULTANT
 AECOM Limited
 2 City Walk
 Holbeck, Leeds
 LS11 9AR
 www.aecom.com

- LEGEND**
- Clyst Honiton Neighbourhood Plan Area
 - Special Area of Conservation
 - Ramsar
 - Special Protection Area

NOTES
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ISSUE PURPOSE
 FINAL
PROJECT NUMBER
 60571087
FIGURE TITLE
 Clyst Honiton Neighbourhood Plan
 European Sites

FIGURE NUMBER
 Figure 1



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