

Barrow Borough Local Plan: Habitats Regulations Assessment

August 2018 Update

Screening and Appropriate Assessment Reports: Barrow
Borough Local Plan Submission Draft – Main Modifications



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1. Background

- 1.1.1. Barrow Borough Council (the Council) produced the latest draft of its new Local Plan (the Submission Draft) in December 2017. The purpose of the Local Plan is to provide an overarching development strategy for the area over the period 2016-2031. The Plan also identifies suitable locations for new development and sets out the necessary standards and requirements for such development.
- 1.1.2. The Submission Draft is the fifth draft of the Local Plan. The first four drafts: the Issues and Options, Preferred Options, Publication and Pre-submission Drafts were all subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment in accordance with The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007 and European Communities (1992) Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.
- 1.1.3. The majority of policies remained the same between the Pre-Submission and Submission drafts, however any amended policies were also assessed through the HRA process. The Local Plan was submitted for independent examination in February 2018.
- 1.1.4. A list of previous HRA documents and how they link with each previous draft of the Plan be found in Appendix A.
- 1.1.5. The Local Plan examination hearing sessions took place in June 2018 where the soundness of the plan was considered. During the hearing sessions it came to light that a number of modifications would be required to the Plan. The modifications fall into two categories: minor modifications such as minor wording changes and factual updates and main modifications such as the introduction of new policies and those which affect how a policy is implemented.
- 1.1.6. A schedule of all the main modifications can be found in the Barrow Borough Local Plan Examination Library, August 2018.
- 1.1.7. The Council has considered whether each of the proposed main modifications will require a HRA and has carried out a screening assessment (stage one of the HRA process) of any *significant* main modifications.
- 1.1.8. Changes to wording in the supporting text in the Plan, or in correcting typographical errors, are not considered to present any implications for the Local Plan as a whole to impact on European sites. Neither are changes which reduce the amount of development proposed from that previously assessed in earlier HRA documents. Only proposed modifications which introduce new policies or allocations, or those which affect the meaning or implementation of a policy have therefore been assessed at this stage (these are referred to in the document as amended or new policies). The full wording of new/amended policies can be found in Table 4.

- 1.1.9. The first stage in the HRA process, the Screening stage, ascertains whether the policies and proposals within the Plan would have a likely significant adverse effect on Natura 2000 sites both inside and outside the Borough.
- 1.1.10. Where the screening assessment concludes that there is a likelihood that amended policies and proposals will have significant adverse effects, the Council has carried out an Appropriate Assessment (stage two of the HRA process) of those specific policies. The AA is a detailed consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European site of the Plan, either alone or in combination with other plans, with respect to the site's conservation objectives.
- 1.1.11. The methodology used to assess the new or amended policies follows that set out in the HRA Report March 2017 which should be viewed alongside this Update.
- 1.1.12. Only when the 'competent authority' (in this case the Council) is satisfied that there will be no adverse effect on the integrity of the relevant nature sites (referred to as Natura 2000 sites) as a result of interventions proposed as part of the Local Plan, will the Local Plan be permitted.

Stage One: Screening

2. Screening Methodology

- 2.1.1. The Screening process identifies the likely impacts of a proposal or policy upon a European site, either alone or in-combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts may have a significant effect on the integrity of the site's qualifying habitats and/or species.
- 2.1.2. It is important to note that the burden of evidence is to show, on the basis of objective information that there will be no significant effect. If the effect may be significant, or is not known, that would trigger the need for an Appropriate Assessment. There is European Court of Justice case law to the effect that unless the likelihood of a significant effect can be ruled out on the basis of objective information, and adopting the precautionary principle, then an Appropriate Assessment must be made.
- 2.1.3. Previous screening assessments of the emerging Local Plan have identified the need for an appropriate assessment as a number of the policies and proposals within it would have likely significant adverse effects on Natura 2000 Sites. The purpose of additional screening at this stage is to identify whether those conclusions are still valid following modifications to the Plan.
- 2.1.4. A standard methodology has been used to screen amended policies and proposals within the Local Plan and this is set out in Section 5 of the HRA March 2017 document. The March 2017 document identifies the legislative background (Section 2), Natura 2000 Sites in and outside the Borough which could be affected (Section 4) potential impacts and pathways (Section 4). This information remains relevant¹ and forms the basis of the screening of policies post modification.
- 2.1.5. As part of the Screening process, each of the modified policies have been assessed to determine whether or not they lead directly to some form of development that may have a potential impact on the identified Natura 2000 sites. If no direct development can occur as a result of the policy then it can be screened out. If the policy itself does or could lead to some form of direct development then it needs to be assessed to see if there are likely to be any impacts in relation to the Natura 2000 sites and the significance of these.
- 2.1.6. The screening of the policies has been completed in the form of a matrix as shown in Table 1. The traffic light assessment criteria through which policies are screened and colour-coded in the screening matrices is detailed within Table 2.

¹ The only significant difference relates to the fact that the Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary Special Protection Areas (SPA) have merged following the production of the March 2017 HRA document. Although the proposal to merge the SPAS was discussed in the March document, the change has now been implemented. An update to the SPA characteristics table can be found in Appendix B and has been taken into account when assessing impacts at both screening and Appropriate Assessment stages.

Table 1 – Screening Matrix

| Policies | Policy Wording | Screening Appraisal | |
|----------|----------------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| | | Potential Effects Category A-D | Rationale |
| | | | |

Table 2 – Criteria for Screening Local Plan Policies

| Criteria Category | Rationale |
|--|--|
| Category O: Unknown Effect | |
| O | Further details of option required. |
| Category A: No Negative Effect on Natura 2000 Site | |
| Policies/proposals that are assigned category 'A' and highlighted in green as part of the screening assessment have been screened out from any further assessment, as they are deemed as having no effects on the network of Natura sites. | |
| A1 | Policies that will not themselves lead to development e.g. because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria for development, or they are not a land use planning policy. |
| A2 | Policies intended to conserve or enhance the natural environment, including biodiversity where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any negative effect on a European site. |
| A3 | Policies intended to conserve or enhance the built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any negative effect on a European site. |
| A4 | Policies that would have no effect because no development could occur through the option itself, as development would be implemented through other policies within the Local Plan, which are more specific and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects on European Sites and associated sensitive areas. |
| A5 | Policies which make provision for change but which could have no foreseeable direct or indirect effect on a European site, because of one of the following reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The type of development • The quantum of development • The proposed location of development and the fact that there is no link or pathway between them and the qualifying interests. • The policy contains criteria to prevent adverse effects on European sites. |
| A6 | Policies that positively steer development away from European sites and associated sensitive areas. |
| Category B: No Significant Effect on Natura 2000 Site | |
| Policies/proposals that are assigned 'category B' and highlighted yellow are deemed as having no significant effects on the network of Natura sites and have therefore been screened out. | |
| B1 | Policies that could have an effect but would not be likely to have a significant |

| | |
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| | (negative) effect on a European site (alone or in-combination with other plans or projects) because the effects are trivial or 'de minimis'. |
| <p>Category C: Possible Adverse Effect on Natura 2000 Site Policies/proposals highlighted in orange are identified as having the potential to generate adverse effects. For these modifications, a further assessment has been undertaken to determine the nature of the impact and identify the potential pathways for such impacts to travel to the Natura 2000 sites. This assessment has been completed in the form of a matrix as shown in table 6</p> | |
| C1 | Policies steer a quantum or type of development that could have a direct adverse effect upon the European site, although the effect would be dependent upon how the option is implemented in the future e.g. location and scale of development brought forward. |
| C2 | Policies steer a quantum or type of development that could have an indirect adverse effect upon the European site, if sites which are brought forward for development have either ecological or hydrological links to a European site. |
| <p>Category D: Adverse Effect on Natura 2000 Site Policies/proposals highlighted in red have been identified as being likely to generate significant adverse effects on the Natura 2000 sites. These modifications have been subject to the same further assessment as the category C policies, as detailed in table 5.3. Any assigned to this category trigger the need to undertake the next stage of the HRA process 'Appropriate Assessment'.</p> | |
| D1 | The policy could directly affect a European site because it provides for, or steers, a quantity or type of development onto a European site, or adjacent to it. |
| D2 | The policy could indirectly affect a European site e.g. because it provides for, or steers, a quantity or type of development that may be very close to it, or ecologically, hydrologically or physically connected to it or it may increase disturbance as a result of recreational pressure. |

2.2. In-Combination Effects of Policy

- 2.2.1. In order to confirm whether the impacts of the policies within category B, C and D policies are likely to be any more significant when considered in combination with the other Local Plan policies, these policies have been assessed against one another to determine in-combination effects.
- 2.2.2. The assessment of the in-combination effects has been undertaken in the form of a matrix as shown in table 3, allowing for the policies along the vertical axis to be assessed in combination with the policies along the horizontal axis.

Table 3 – Matrix for Screening In-Combination Effects of Policy

| Local Plan Policies (Categories B, C and D) | Example Policy A xx: | Example Policy B xx: | Example Policy C xx: |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Example Policy A: xx | | | |
| Example Policy B: xx | | | |
| Example Policy C: xx | | | |

- 2.2.3. For each of the possible policy combinations, a category has been assigned as detailed in Table 4. This exercise has enabled an understanding of whether the policy’s likely impact on the network of Natura 2000 sites would be greater, if implemented in combination with the policies along the horizontal axis.

Table 4 – Assessing the In-Combination Effects

| Category | Rationale |
|----------|---|
| ○ | The effect of the policy in combination with other policies within the plan will not increase the overall impact of the policy. |
| - | The effect of the policy in combination with other policies within the plan will increase the overall impact of the policy slightly. |
| -- | The effect of the policy in combination with other policies within the plan will increase the overall impact of the policy significantly. |

3. Screening Results

- 3.1.1. 7 amended/new policies have been reviewed and assessed against the criteria listed in table 2, one of which results in a change to the Local Plan Proposals Map. The results are shown in table 5 below. The results of the in-combination screening can be found in Table 8.

Table 5 – Results of Screening Appraisal: Proposed Modifications

| Amended/new Policy | Policy/Proposal Post-Modification | Potential Effect of policy/proposal post-modification |
|---|---|--|
| <p>Policy C6 (Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Proposals) AMENDED POLICY</p> | <p>In order to contribute towards the achievement of national renewable energy targets the Council will support development of renewable energy provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Measures are taken to avoid and where appropriate mitigate any unacceptable negative impacts of the effects on local amenity resulting from development, construction and operation of the renewable energy schemes; b) The proposal on its own, or in combination with other development, will not unduly impact on the landscape or seascape and the development would not give rise to an unacceptable adverse cumulative impact when considered in the context of other existing or consented installations; c) Large scale renewable energy developments (i.e. development that generates more than 10 MW), where appropriate make provision for community benefits over the period of the development. Such benefits will directly relate to the development; d) For proposals involving Wind Energy developments, the development is located in a 'suitable area' (identified on the Proposals Map), considers the issues set out in the Suitable Areas for Wind Energy Technical Document and following consultation, it can be demonstrated that the planning impacts identified by affected local communities have been fully addressed; and e) The proposal complies with the relevant policies in the Development Plan. | <p style="text-align: center;">Category: C1</p> <p>This policy will lead to development, although it does not specify where the specific sites will be located, the type of renewable energy proposed or the scale of renewable energy operation, therefore, there is the potential for this policy to have a significant adverse effect on one or more of the Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>An amendment has been made to the associated layer on the Proposals Map which increases the extent of the Suitable Areas for Wind Energy. The map identifies broad areas where wind developments may be acceptable, however Natura 2000 sites are excluded from such areas. Specific sites which will be developed within the broad areas are unknown at this stage.</p> |
| <p>Policy P1 (The Port of Barrow) NEW POLICY</p> | <p>Within the Port Area identified on the Proposals Map, development proposals for port and port related use, including those linked to the 'Energy Coast', will be supported and where appropriate approved by the Council if the submitted scheme accords with other relevant policies in the Development Plan, and can pass the tests of the Habitat Regulations.</p> <p>Areas that benefit from existing or potential access from deep water will be protected for port and port related uses.</p> <p>Any proposals for new development on land in close proximity to the Port Area will be</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">Category D1</p> <p>The policy could directly affect a European site because it provides for, or steers, a quantity or type of development onto a European site, or adjacent to it.</p> |

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| | <p>required to fully assess the potential impact on the Port of the proposed use and where necessary, provide mitigation as part of the new development.</p> | |
| <p>Policy EC3 (Managing Development of Employment Land) AMENDED POLICY</p> | <p>Proposals for new employment uses (classes B1, B2 and B8), or the extension of existing premises used for employment uses, will be approved subject to meeting all of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The site is located within or directly adjoining the built up area of Barrow or Dalton, or within the development cordons identified in the housing chapter; b) Site planning, layout and servicing arrangements are developed comprehensively; c) The use will not unduly impact upon the residential amenities of those living nearby due to noise, disturbance from traffic, hours of operation, external storage, light pollution, vibration or airborne emissions including odours; d) Traffic generated by the proposal is capable of being satisfactorily accommodated within the highway network, e) A Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) will be required for proposals for major sites (sites over 5,000 m²), schemes likely to generate in excess of 100 HGV movements daily, or any development that may impact on the Trunk Road network; f) The site has been designed to promote user accessibility by walking, cycling and public transport; g) The layout of the site has suitable space for landscaping, parking (including for large vehicles where appropriate), loading and unloading and any other operational requirements, and responds to natural drainage flow patterns; h) Development must create safe and secure environments that minimise opportunities for crime and promote community safety; i) The development is sustainable in its energy usage, environmental impact, waste management, flood risk and transport implications; j) Adequate protection of groundwater from pollution from the storage, handling or use of chemicals can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Local Planning Authority; especially on sites within the St. Bees Sandstone Major Aquifer as shown on the Proposals Map; k) The proposal does not use the best and most versatile agricultural land (grades 3a and above), unless it is demonstrated that the loss is outweighed by other planning considerations; l) The proposal complies with the relevant policies in the Development Plan; and m) The proposal should make effective use of previously developed land where possible. | <p style="text-align: center;">Category C1</p> <p>This policy will lead to development, although it does not specify where the sites will be located, the type of employment use proposed or the scale of the operation, therefore, there is the potential for this policy to have a significant adverse effect on one or more of the Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>This policy, post-modification, allows for development on suitable sites on the edges of <i>built up areas</i> of Barrow and Dalton rather than limiting development to within and adjoining the <i>urban area</i> (i.e. excluding suburban areas) as it did previously. This could allow more peripheral sites, some of which may be closer to Natura 2000 Sites, to be developed.</p> |

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| | <p>Trade counters and retailing from employment premises will be restricted to those which are ancillary for the main operation of the B1/B2/B8 business.</p> <p>Where the development cordon directly adjoins a neighbouring Local Planning Authority (LPA), the adjoining LPA's planning policies will apply on land within their boundary.</p> | |
| <p>Policy EC7 (Energy Uses Opportunity Area) AMENDED POLICY</p> | <p>The area identified on the Proposals Map around and including the North and South Morecambe Gas Terminal and former Roosecote Power Station is considered to have specific potential and suitability for uses related to and supporting management of the exploration, production generation and transmission of energy. Existing energy industry and related development will be protected and new energy industry and related development will be encouraged in this area subject to meeting the criteria in Policy EC3 and the requirements of any accompanying environmental assessments.</p> | <p>Category D1</p> <p>The policy could directly affect a European site because it provides for, or steers, a quantity or type of development onto a European site, or adjacent to it.</p> |
| <p>Policy EC11 (Catering Holiday Accommodation) AMENDED POLICY</p> | <p>Proposals for new self catering holiday accommodation, or extensions of existing units, will be approved within the urban-boundaries built-up area of Barrow and Dalton and the development cordons identified, providing the design, siting, layout and access are satisfactory. Conditions will be attached to any planning permission to ensure that letting is on a short term basis.</p> <p>In urban fringe or rural areas, proposals for the conversion of existing buildings to self catering accommodation will be approved where they meet all of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The building is structurally sound and capable of conversion without major rebuilding, extension or modification to the existing structure; b) The building is served by a satisfactory access; c) Services are readily available on site; d) The buildings are well related to existing buildings or uses on the site where appropriate; e) The number of units is appropriate to its surroundings; f) The proposal will not have an adverse impact on local amenities by virtue of noise and disturbance; and g) The proposal complies with the relevant policies in the Development Plan <p>New build self-catering holiday accommodation within urban fringe or rural areas will be accepted where it meets criteria b-g above.</p> | <p>Category A5</p> <p>Policies which make provision for change but which could have no foreseeable direct or indirect effect on a European site, because of one of the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The policy contains criteria to prevent adverse effects on European sites. ▪ This policy has been screened out from further assessment. |
| <p>Policy H7</p> | <p>Applications for residential development will be permitted where they satisfy all of the following criteria:</p> | <p>Category C1</p> |

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| <p>(Housing Development)</p> <p>AMENDED POLICY</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The site is located within or adjoining the built up areas of Barrow and Dalton or within a development_cordon identified in Policy H4; b) Site planning, layout and servicing arrangements are developed comprehensively; c) Buildings are well designed in terms of siting, grouping, scale, orientation, detailing, external finishes, security and landscaping in response to the form, scale, character , environmental quality and appearance of the site and the surrounding area; d) An acceptable standard of amenity is created for future residents of the property in terms of sunlighting, daylighting, privacy, outlook, noise and ventilation; e) The site is served by a satisfactory access that would not impact unduly on the highway network; f) The site has been designed to promote accessibility by walking, cycling and public transport, as opposed to the private car; g) The development is sustainable in its energy usage, environmental impact, drainage, waste management, transport implications and is not at risk of flooding; h) The capacity of the current and proposed infrastructure to serve the development is adequate taking into account committed and planned housing development; i) Where spare infrastructure capacity is not available, the site has the ability to provide for the infrastructure requirements it generates, subject to criterion f); j) Within rural settlements the applicant will be expected to demonstrate how the development will enhance or maintain the vitality of the rural community where the housing is proposed; k) Where the site is located on the edge of Barrow and Dalton, the applicant will be required to demonstrate how the development integrates within existing landscape features and is physically linked to the settlement and does not lead to an unacceptable intrusion into the open countryside or would result in the visual or physical coalescence of settlements; l) The proposal will not harm the historic environment, heritage assets or their setting; m) There would be no unacceptable effects on the amenities and living conditions of surrounding properties from overlooking, loss of light, the overbearing nature of the proposal or an unacceptable increase in on-street parking; and n) The development must comply with Policy N3 and the design principles set out in the Development Strategy chapter should be followed. <p>The site should make effective use of previously developed land where possible.</p> | <p>The effects would largely be dependent upon the location of sites brought forward for housing growth and the quantum of development permitted in such locations.</p> <p>This policy, pre-modification, originally fell within the category A5, however the policy is now less restrictive allowing development adjoining the built up areas of Barrow and Dalton, rather than just the urban areas as it did previously, which could allow development in more peripheral areas closer to Natura 2000 Sites.</p> |
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| <p>Policy H10 (Empty Homes) NEW POLICY</p> | <p>The Council will maximise the use of the existing housing stock by working with developers and partners through the production of an Empty Homes Strategy to increase the number of empty homes being brought back into use.</p> | <p>Category A1</p> <p>No development could occur through these policies alone, because they are implemented through other strategies and Local Plan policies, which are more detailed and therefore more appropriate to assess for their effects on Natura 2000 sites.</p> |
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3.2. Policy In-Combination Effects

- 3.2.1. This section of the report considers the in-combination effects of all the Local Plan policies previously identified as being either category B, C or D; this includes unchanged policies in this category identified in the previous HRA . The results of this assessment are presented in Table 8 which notes whether the policy is brought forward from the Submission Draft of whether it has been subsequently amended or introduced. The conclusions derived from this assessment are discussed in Table 9, as follows.
- 3.2.2. The assessment identifies the in-combination effects of policies to determine if the impacts of the policies are more significant in combination with other Local Plan policies in those categories.
- 3.2.3. As Table 8 confirms, the impact of the policies which are largely proposing growth, whether residential or employment led growth or policies relating to the introduction of renewable energy installations are considered greater if considered in combination with other Local Plan policies. Table 9 provides further commentary on the potential in-combination impacts of policy.

Table 6 – Assessing the in-combination Effects of Local Plan Policies

| Policies (Categories B, C and D Policies identified in this or previous Screening Reports) | Policy DS4: Opportunity Areas | Policy C1: Flood Risk and Erosion | Policy C5: Promotion of Renewable Energy | Policy C6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Proposals | Policy I7: Transport Links | Policy EC1: Waterfront Business Park Strategic Employment Opportunity Area | Policy P1: Port of Barrow | Policy EC2: Provision of Employment Land | Policy EC3: Managing Development of Employment Land | Policy EC6: Conversions for employment use in rural locations | Policy EC7: Energy Uses Opportunity Area | Policy H1: Annual Housing Target | Policy H2: Distribution of Housing | Policy H3: Allocated Housing Sites | Policy H4: Development Cordons | Policy H7: Housing Development | Policy R4: Sequential Test for retail developments in Barrow | Policy HC6: New Leisure Facilities | Policy HC12: Equestrian Development | Policy HC15: Education Provision |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|---|---|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Policy DS4: Opportunity Areas (Cat C) | | - | ○ | ○ | ○ | - | - | - | ○ | ○ | ○ | - | - | - | ○ | - | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Policy C1: Flood Risk and Erosion (Cat C) | - | | ○ | ○ | ○ | - | - | - | ○ | ○ | ○ | - | - | - | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Policy C5: Promotion of Renewable Energy (Cat B) | ○ | ○ | | ○ | ○ | - | - | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Policy C6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Proposals | ○ | ○ | ○ | | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | - | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| AMENDED POLICY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Policy I7: Transport Links | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |

| Policies (Categories B, C and D Policies identified in this or previous Screening Reports) | Policy DS4: Opportunity Areas | Policy C1: Flood Risk and Erosion | Policy C5: Promotion of Renewable Energy | Policy C6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Proposals | Policy I7: Transport Links | Policy EC1: Waterfront Business Park Strategic Employment Opportunity Area | Policy P1: Port of Barrow | Policy EC2: Provision of Employment Land | Policy EC3: Managing Development of Employment Land | Policy EC6: Conversions for employment use in rural locations | Policy EC7: Energy Uses Opportunity Area | Policy H1: Annual Housing Target | Policy H2: Distribution of Housing | Policy H3: Allocated Housing Sites | Policy H4: Development Cordons | Policy H7: Housing Development | Policy R4: Sequential Test for retail developments in Barrow | Policy HC6: New Leisure Facilities | Policy HC12: Equestrian Development | Policy HC15: Education Provision | |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|---|---|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| (Cat B) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Policy EC1: Waterfront Business Park Strategic Employment Opportunity Area (Cat D) | - | ○ | - | ○ | ○ | ■ | ■ | - | - | ○ | ○ | - | - | - | ○ | - | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | |
| Policy P1: Port of Barrow (Cat D) | - | ○ | - | ○ | ○ | ■ | ■ | - | - | ○ | ○ | - | - | - | ○ | - | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | |
| NEW POLICY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Policy EC2: Provision of Employment Land (Cat C) | - | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ■ | - | ○ | ○ | - | - | - | ○ | - | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | |
| Policy EC3: Managing Development of Employment Land | - | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | - | ■ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | - | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | |

| Policies (Categories B, C and D Policies identified in this or previous Screening Reports) | Policy DS4: Opportunity Areas | Policy C1: Flood Risk and Erosion | Policy C5: Promotion of Renewable Energy | Policy C6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Proposals | Policy I7: Transport Links | Policy EC1: Waterfront Business Park Strategic Employment Opportunity Area | Policy P1: Port of Barrow | Policy EC2: Provision of Employment Land | Policy EC3: Managing Development of Employment Land | Policy EC6: Conversions for employment use in rural locations | Policy EC7: Energy Uses Opportunity Area | Policy H1: Annual Housing Target | Policy H2: Distribution of Housing | Policy H3: Allocated Housing Sites | Policy H4: Development Cordons | Policy H7: Housing Development | Policy R4: Sequential Test for retail developments in Barrow | Policy HC6: New Leisure Facilities | Policy HC12: Equestrian Development | Policy HC15: Education Provision |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|---|---|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| (Cat C) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| AMENDED POLICY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Policy EC6: Conversions for employment use in rural locations (Cat B) | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Policy EC7: Energy Uses Opportunity Area (Cat D) | ○ | ○ | ○ | ■ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| AMENDED POLICY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Policy H1: Annual Housing Target (Cat C) | - | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | - | - | - | - | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | - | - | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Policy H2: Distribution of Housing | - | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | - | - | - | - | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | - | ○ | - | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |

| Policies (Categories B, C and D Policies identified in this or previous Screening Reports) | Policy DS4: Opportunity Areas | Policy C1: Flood Risk and Erosion | Policy C5: Promotion of Renewable Energy | Policy C6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Proposals | Policy I7: Transport Links | Policy EC1: Waterfront Business Park Strategic Employment Opportunity Area | Policy P1: Port of Barrow | Policy EC2: Provision of Employment Land | Policy EC3: Managing Development of Employment Land | Policy EC6: Conversions for employment use in rural locations | Policy EC7: Energy Uses Opportunity Area | Policy H1: Annual Housing Target | Policy H2: Distribution of Housing | Policy H3: Allocated Housing Sites | Policy H4: Development Cordons | Policy H7: Housing Development | Policy R4: Sequential Test for retail developments in Barrow | Policy HC6: New Leisure Facilities | Policy HC12: Equestrian Development | Policy HC15: Education Provision |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|---|---|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| (Cat C) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Policy H3: Allocated Housing Sites (Cat C) | - | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | - | - | - | - | ○ | ○ | ○ | - | | ○ | - | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Policy H4: Development Cordons (Cat B) | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | | | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Policy H7: Housing Development (Cat C) | - | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | - | - | - | - | ○ | ○ | ○ | - | - | ○ | | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| AMENDED POLICY | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Policy R4: Sequential test for new retail developments in Barrow (Cat B) | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | | ○ | ○ | ○ |
| Policy HC6: New | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | | ○ | ○ |

| Policies (Categories B, C and D Policies identified in this or previous Screening Reports) | Policy DS4: Opportunity Areas | Policy C1: Flood Risk and Erosion | Policy C5: Promotion of Renewable Energy | Policy C6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Proposals | Policy I7: Transport Links | Policy EC1: Waterfront Business Park Strategic Employment Opportunity Area | Policy P1: Port of Barrow | Policy EC2: Provision of Employment Land | Policy EC3: Managing Development of Employment Land | Policy EC6: Conversions for employment use in rural locations | Policy EC7: Energy Uses Opportunity Area | Policy H1: Annual Housing Target | Policy H2: Distribution of Housing | Policy H3: Allocated Housing Sites | Policy H4: Development Cordons | Policy H7: Housing Development | Policy R4: Sequential Test for retail developments in Barrow | Policy HC6: New Leisure Facilities | Policy HC12: Equestrian Development | Policy HC15: Education Provision |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------|--|---------------------------|--|---|---|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Leisure Facilities (Cat B) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Policy HC12: Equestrian Development (Cat B) | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | | ○ |
| Policy HC15: Education Provision (Cat C) | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | ○ | |

Table 7 – Potential Impact of In-Combination Policies (updated to include new or amended policies post Local Plan Submission Draft)

| Policy | Category | In-Combination Policies | Potential Impacts |
|--|----------|--|--|
| Policy DS4: Opportunity Areas | C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy C1: Flood Risk and Erosion ▪ Policy EC1: Waterfront Business Park Strategic Employment Opportunity Area ▪ Policy P1: Port of Barrow ▪ Policy EC1: Waterfront Business Park Strategic Employment Opportunity Area ▪ Policy EC2: Provision of Employment Land ▪ Policy H1: Annual Housing Target ▪ Policy H2: Distribution of Housing ▪ Policy H3: Allocated Housing Sites ▪ Policy H7: Housing Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposing opportunity areas in close proximity to Natura 2000 sites together with an improved housing and employment offer could encourage more people to work in the borough, which could have a greater impact particularly in terms of air quality and disturbance to the Morecambe Bay sites in terms of noise and activity. ▪ Proposing growth near to coastal areas could result in the provision of more coastal defences to prevent flooding. If natural defences are not viable, new defence structures may be considered. |
| Policy C1: Flood Risk and Erosion | C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy DS4: Opportunity Areas ▪ Policy EC1: Waterfront Business Park Strategic Employment Opportunity Area ▪ Policy P1: Port of Barrow ▪ Policy EC1: Waterfront Business Park Strategic Employment Opportunity Area ▪ Policy EC2: Provision of Employment Land ▪ Policy H1: Annual Housing Target ▪ Policy H2: Distribution of Housing ▪ Policy H3: Allocated Housing Sites ▪ Policy H7: Housing Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposing housing and employment growth near to coastal areas could result in the provision of more coastal defences to prevent against flooding. If natural defences are not viable, new defence structures may be considered. |
| Policy C5: Promotion of Renewable Energy | B | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy EC1: Waterfront Business Park Strategic Employment Opportunity Area ▪ Policy P1: Port of Barrow | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy C5 encourages all new developments to incorporate renewable energy production equipment. Depending upon the type of renewable energy sources selected, this policy could have a greater impact at the Waterfront Business Park if it was implemented on account of the Business Park’s adjacency to the Morecambe Bay sites and size of site. |
| Policy C6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Proposals | C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy EC7: Energy Uses Opportunity Area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy EC7 notes that the area identified around the North and South Morecambe Gas Terminal is considered to have specific potential and suitability for uses related to the generation and transmission of energy. As a result, the potential impact on the Morecambe Bay sites could therefore be greater. |

| Policy | Category | In-Combination Policies | Potential Impacts |
|--|----------|--|--|
| AMENDED POLICY | | | |
| Policy EC1: Waterfront Business Park Strategic Employment Opportunity Area | D | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy DS4: Opportunity Areas ▪ Policy C5: Promotion of Renewable Energy ▪ Policy EC1: Waterfront Business Park ▪ Policy P1: Port of Barrow ▪ Policy EC2: Provision of Employment Land ▪ Policy EC3: Managing Development of Employment Sites ▪ Policy H1: Annual Housing Target ▪ Policy H2: Distribution of Housing ▪ Policy H3: Allocated Housing Sites | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposing a strategic employment area in close proximity to the Morecambe Bay sites together with an improved housing and employment offer could encourage more people to work in the borough, which could have a greater impact particularly in terms of air quality and disturbance to the Morecambe Bay sites in terms of noise and activity. |
| Policy P1: Port of Barrow NEW POLICY | D | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy DS4: Opportunity Areas ▪ Policy C5: Promotion of Renewable Energy ▪ Policy EC2: Provision of Employment Land ▪ Policy EC3: Managing Development of Employment Sites ▪ Policy H1: Annual Housing Target ▪ Policy H2: Distribution of Housing ▪ Policy H3: Allocated Housing Sites ▪ Policy H7: Housing Development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supporting further development of the port area in close proximity to the Morecambe Bay sites together with an improved housing and employment offer could encourage more people to work in the borough, which could have a greater impact particularly in terms of air quality and disturbance to the Morecambe Bay sites in terms of noise and activity. |
| Policy EC2: Provision of Employment Land | C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy DS4: Opportunity Areas ▪ Policy P1: Port of Barrow ▪ Policy EC3: Managing Development of Employment Sites ▪ Policy H1: Annual Housing Target ▪ Policy H2: Distribution of Housing ▪ Policy H3: Allocated Housing Sites | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Housing growth together with employment growth is likely to encourage more people to live and work in the Borough, which could have a greater impact particularly in terms of air quality. It is not envisaged that this level of growth will lead to increased recreational / visitor pressure on the Natura 2000 sites. |
| Policy EC3: Managing Development of Employment Sites | C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy DS4: Opportunity Areas ▪ Policy P1: Port of Barrow ▪ Policy EC2: Provision of Employment Land ▪ Policy H1: Annual Housing Target | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Employment growth together with housing growth is likely to encourage more people to live and work in the borough, which could have a greater impact particularly in terms of air quality. It is not envisaged that this level of growth will lead to increased recreational / visitor pressure on the Natura 2000 sites. |

| Policy | Category | In-Combination Policies | Potential Impacts |
|--|----------|--|---|
| AMENDED POLICY | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy H2: Distribution of Housing ▪ Policy H3: Allocated Housing Sites | |
| Policy EC7: Energy Uses Opportunity Area AMENDED POLICY | D | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy C6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Proposals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy EC7 notes that the area identified around the North and South Morecambe Gas Terminal is considered to have specific potential and suitability for uses related to the generation and transmission of energy. The impact on the Morecambe Bay sites could therefore be significant. |
| Policy H1: Annual Housing Target | C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy DS4: Opportunity Areas ▪ Policy EC1: Waterfront Business Park Strategic Employment Opportunity Area ▪ Policy P1: Port of Barrow ▪ Policy EC3: Managing Development of Employment Sites ▪ Policy H2: Distribution of Housing ▪ Policy H3: Allocated Housing Sites | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Housing growth together with employment growth is likely to encourage more people to live and work in the borough, which could have a greater impact particularly in terms of air quality. It is not envisaged that this level of growth will lead to increased recreational / visitor pressure on the Natura 2000 sites. |
| Policy H2: Distribution of Housing | C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy DS4: Opportunity Areas ▪ Policy EC1: Waterfront Business Park Strategic Employment Opportunity Area ▪ Policy P1: Port of Barrow ▪ Policy EC3: Managing Development of Employment Sites ▪ Policy H1: Annual Housing Target ▪ Policy H3: Allocated Housing Sites | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Housing growth together with employment growth is likely to encourage more people to live and work in the borough, which could have a greater impact particularly in terms of air quality. It is not envisaged that this level of growth will lead to increased recreational / visitor pressure on the Natura 2000 sites. |
| Policy H3: Allocated Housing Sites | C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy DS4: Opportunity Areas ▪ Policy EC1: Waterfront Business Park Strategic Employment Opportunity Area ▪ Policy P1: Port of Barrow ▪ Policy EC3: Managing Development of Employment Sites ▪ Policy H1: Annual Housing Target ▪ Policy H2: Distribution of Housing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Housing growth together with employment growth is likely to encourage more people to live and work in the borough, which could have a greater impact particularly in terms of air quality. It is not envisaged that this level of growth will lead to increased recreational / visitor pressure on the Natura 2000 sites. |
| Policy H7: Housing Development AMENDED | C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy DS4: Opportunity Areas ▪ Policy EC1: Waterfront Business Park Strategic Employment Opportunity Area ▪ Policy P1: Port of Barrow ▪ Policy EC3: Managing Development of | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Housing growth together with employment growth is likely to encourage more people to live and work in the borough, which could have a greater impact particularly in terms of air quality. |

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| Policy | Category | In-Combination Policies | Potential Impacts |
|--------|----------|---|-------------------|
| POLICY | | Employment Sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy H1: Annual Housing Target ▪ Policy H2: Distribution of Housing | |

4. Screening Summary

4.1. New/amended policies with No Negative Effect (Category A)

4.1.1. Two of the new or amended policies fall into Category A and can therefore be screened out as they are unlikely, either alone or in combination with other plans, to have any effect on the Natura 2000 sites.

4.2. New/amended policies with Possible Adverse Effect (Category C)

4.2.1. Four of the policies post-modification have been identified as having potentially adverse effects on the Natura 2000 Sites. As a result these have been assessed further in Table 6 to what the potential impacts would be and the likely pathways that these impacts may spread to the Natura 2000 sites. Impacts have been assessed in terms of whether they are direct e.g. land take from site or related e.g. causing pollution, noise or fragmentation.

Table 8 – New/amended Policies with Possible Adverse Effects (Category C)

| Policies | Policy Summary | Potential Impacts | Potential Pathways |
|--|--|--|-------------------------------|
| Climate Change and Pollution | | | |
| Policy C6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Proposals AMENDED POLICY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for the development of new sources of renewable energy provided that certain criteria are met. <p><i>Unknowns:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location of development Scale of development Type of renewable energy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Related - the development of biomass could have an impact on air quality. Related - wind development could affect migration patterns for certain species. | Wind Species Movement |
| Proposals Map (Policy C6): Area Suitable for Wind Energy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies areas suitable in principle for wind turbines linked to Policy C6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Related - wind development could affect migration patterns for certain species. | Wind Species Movement |
| Economy | | | |
| Policy EC3: Managing Development of Employment Land AMENDED POLICY | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals for new employment uses (classes B1, B2 and B8), or the extension of existing premises used for employment uses, will be approved subject to meeting specific criteria. Trade counters and retailing from employment premises will be restricted to that ancillary for the main operation of the B1/B2/B8 business. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct - the loss of land for development could affect species movement / migration patterns. Related – new employment uses could result in increased levels of commuting or a change in the type of traffic on these key routes i.e. increased number of HGVs which would have an impact | Roads Species Movement |

| Policies | Policy Summary | Potential Impacts | Potential Pathways |
|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| | | <p>on air quality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Related - increased surface water runoff with more hard standing cover. | |
| Housing | | | |
| <p>Policy H7: Housing Development</p> <p>AMENDED POLICY</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports housing development and sets criteria for such development | <p>Direct - the loss of land for development could affect species movement / migration patterns.</p> <p>Related - increased surface water runoff with more hard standing cover</p> <p>NB: The impact of each site would depend upon its location and the scale of development</p> | <p>Species Movement</p> <p>Roads</p> |

4.3. New/amended policies with Adverse Effect (Category D)

- 4.3.1. Two of the new or modified policies have been identified through the screening process as having adverse effects on the Natura 2000 sites. These policies have been further assessed to determine what the potential impacts would be and identify potential pathways to the Natura 2000 sites.

Table 9 – New/amended Policies with Adverse Effects (Category D)

| Policy | Policy Summary | Potential Impacts | Potential Pathways |
|---|---|--|---|
| Economy | | | |
| <p>Policy P1: The Port of Barrow</p> <p>NEW POLICY</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals seeking to expand the port including in supporting the development of the 'Energy Coast' will be supported subject to certain criteria. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct – potential destruction of key habitats. Direct - the loss of land for development could affect species movement / migration patterns. Related – disturbance from noise / activity. | <p>Species Movement</p> <p>Rivers</p> <p>Water Supply</p> |
| <p>Policy EC7: Energy Uses Opportunity Area</p> <p>AMENDED POLICY</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy industry development will be encouraged in the area around the North and South Morecambe Gas Terminal. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Direct – potential destruction of key habitats. Direct - the loss of land for development could affect species movement / migration patterns. Related – disturbance from noise / activity. | <p>Species Movement</p> <p>Rivers</p> <p>Water Supply</p> |

4.4. Likely Potential Impacts of Local Plan Policies

4.4.1. To summarise, the potential impacts arising from the category C and D policies include:

Direct:

- Loss of land for development could affect species movement / migration patterns.

Related:

- Air pollution could arise from construction activity associated with development.
- Increased surface water runoff with more hard standing cover.
- The development of biomass could have an impact on air quality.
- Wind development could affect migration patterns for certain species.
- Improved external transport links could result in increased levels of commuting which would have an impact on air quality.
- Increase in vehicular traffic or change in the type of traffic on the road could have an impact on air quality.
- Improvements to transport links may make the borough more accessible to visitors. More people could result in disturbance of habitats whether direct or indirect related to noise and air quality changes.
- Change in travel patterns could cause increased congestion on key routes.

4.5. Potential in-combination effects with other Plans

4.5.1. As part of the HRA process, it is important to consider in-combination effects with other plans. Plans under consideration may range from neighbouring authorities' Local Plan Documents down to specific strategic plans on topics such as regeneration or renewable energy.

4.5.2. The methodology for assessing in-combination effects is set out in section 9 of the HRA March 2017 and the results are found in Appendix F of that document. The results of the assessment carried out at that time are still considered to be valid.

Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment

5. Appropriate Assessment Methodology

- 5.1.1. The first stage of the HRA process has identified a number of new/amended policies which have the potential to result in significant effects, including potential direct and indirect adverse impacts, on the Natura 2000 Sites. It is therefore necessary to consider those policies through an appropriate assessment.
- 5.1.2. An Appropriate Assessment provides a detailed consideration of potential impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 sites with respect to the site’s conservation objectives and its structure and function.
- 5.1.3. In order for impacts to be considered as being likely to have a *significant* effect on a Natura 2000 site, then a clear pathway must exist between the impact source and the Natura 2000 site. Such pathways can be in the form of wind, river network, water supply, roads and species movement.
- 5.1.4. The initial stage of Appropriate Assessment involves taking the likely impacts to arise from each of the amended policies and considering whether pathways exist for these impacts to travel to the identified Natura 2000 sites. This exercise has been undertaken in the form of a matrix as shown in Table 10, setting out the Natura 2000 sites along the horizontal axis and the identified policies along the vertical axis.
- 5.1.5. The confirmation of a pathway has been denoted by a simple Y for yes and coloured red to indicate there may be an impact and N for no and coloured green to indicate sites would be unaffected. To assist with this exercise, a plan was produced identifying the road and river networks and the key settlements within the Borough. This can be found in the March 2017 HRA document.

Table 10 – Identifying affected Natura 2000 Sites

| Category C and D Policies | Likely Pathway to Natura 2000 Sites | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Nature and extent of impact | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| | Morecambe Bay SAC | Morecambe Bay SPA | Morecambe Bay Ramsar | Duddon Estuary SPA | Duddon Estuary Ramsar | Duddon Mosses SAC | Subberthwaite, Blawith & Torver Low Commons SAC | Roudsea Wood and Mosses SAC | Yewbarrow Woods SAC | Witherslack Mosses SAC | Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC | Esthwaite Water Ramsar | Drigg Coast SAC | Leighton Moss SPA | | Leighton Moss Ramsar |
| Policy xx | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ▪ |

- 5.1.6. Any Natura 2000 sites identified as having no known pathways for the policy impacts to travel to have at this stage been ruled out from any further assessment.
- 5.1.7. Each of the Natura 2000 sites likely to be effected by potential impacts of the Local Plan were then taken in turn and analysed further. This involved understanding the characteristics and vulnerabilities of the sites, before considering in more detail the potential likely effects of policy and measures to prevent, reduce or offset any significant effects. The detailed information compiled for each of the sites has been taken from the data sheets provided on each of the sites which are accessible from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) website.
- 5.1.8. Initially, for each individual site, a breakdown of the potential likely effects were provided presented in tabular format (Table 11), with impacts denoted by a simple Y to indicate yes an impact of this nature would be likely for this site and N to indicate no an impact of this nature would not be possible for this site.

Table 11 – Understanding Potential Likely Effects

| Policies | Potential Likely Effects | | | | |
|-----------|--|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| | Habitat (& Species) Loss & Fragmentation | Disturbance | Recreational Pressure | Water Levels & Quality | Air Quality |
| Policy xx | | | | | |

- 5.1.9. The next stage of the Appropriate Assessment further interrogates the likely policy impacts and proposes measures which aim to prevent, reduce or offset any significant effects. Following the adoption of such mitigation, a judgement is then made to determine whether there are likely to be any residual effects of the policy. This exercise has been undertaken in the form of a matrix as shown in table 12.

Table 12 – Analysing Potential Impacts

| Local Plan Policy | Likely Policy Impacts | Proposed Mitigation | Residual Impact following Mitigation |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | ▪ | ▪ | |

- 5.1.10. If residual effects are at this stage likely, then it will be necessary to progress to Stage 3 of the HRA process 'Assessment of Alternative Solutions'.
- 5.1.11. Amended policies C6, EC3, EC7, H7 and new policy P1 (known from hereon in as the identified policies) have been taken forward to the appropriate assessment stage.
- 5.1.12. Although the policies listed above have been identified as likely to have an adverse effect on account of the nature or proposed quantum of development, if no pathways exist to the Natura 2000 sites, any potential impacts can be ruled out as they will not have a likely *significant* effect on the site.

- 5.1.13. Further detail regarding pathways can be found in Section 4.3 of the March 2017 HRA document which provides further clarification on the types of pathways which should be considered (i.e. wind, river network, water supply, roads and species movement). Figure 11.1 from that document also locates key settlements within the Borough and identifies the road and river networks. These can then be seen in relation to the immediate Natura 2000 sites which are within and adjacent to the Borough boundary.

Table 13 – Effect of new/ amended Local Plan Policies on Natura 2000 Sites

| Category C and D Policies | Likely Pathway to Natura 2000 Sites | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Nature and extent of impact | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| | Morecambe Bay SAC | Morecambe Bay SPA | Morecambe Bay Ramsar | Duddon Estuary SPA | Duddon Estuary Ramsar | Duddon Mosses SAC | Subberthwaite, Blawith & Torver Low Commons SAC | Roudsea Wood and Mosses SAC | Yewbarrow Woods SAC | Witherslack Mosses SAC | Morecambe Bay Pavements SAC | Esthwaite Water Ramsar | Drigg Coast SAC | Leighton Moss SPA | | Leighton Moss Ramsar |
| Policy C6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Proposals | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat (& Species) Loss & Fragmentation ▪ Disturbance ▪ Water Levels & Quality ▪ Air Quality |
| Policy P1: Waterfront Business Park Strategic Employment Opportunity Area | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat (& Species) Loss & Fragmentation ▪ Disturbance ▪ Air Quality |
| Policy EC3: Managing Development of Employment Land | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat (& Species) Loss & Fragmentation ▪ Disturbance ▪ Air Quality |
| Policy EC7: Energy Uses Opportunity Area | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat (& Species) Loss & Fragmentation ▪ Disturbance ▪ Air Quality |
| Policy H7: Housing Development | Y | Y | Y | Y | Y | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | N | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat (& Species) Loss & Fragmentation ▪ Disturbance ▪ Recreational Pressure ▪ Air Quality |

5.2. Affected Natura 2000 Sites

5.2.1. Section 12 of the March 2017 HRA document considers the following Natura 2000 Sites:

- Morecambe Bay;
- Duddon Estuary;
- Duddon Mosses;
- Subberthwaite, Blawith & Torver Low Commons SAC; and
- Roudsea Wood and Mosses SAC.

5.2.2. The document gives a description of each Site along with information regarding its vulnerabilities. It then considers the specific effects of the identified policies on each site.

5.2.3. The only change to the Natura sites since the March 2017 HRA document relates to the Duddon Estuary and Morecambe Bay Special Protection Areas which have been combined and extended to increase protection to the Little Tern (*Sternula Albifrons*) breeding colony in the Duddon Estuary and to extend the combined SPA in order to protect foraging areas of Sandwich Terns (*Sterna Sandvicensis*) and little terns. The amended boundary is shown within Appendix B along with an update to the Characteristics of the identified Special Protection Areas (SPA) table found within the March 2017 HRA document.

5.2.4. The new and amended policies have been assessed taking into account the information as previously updated in light of changes to the SPA boundaries. The results of the assessment are shown in Tables 14, 16, 18, 20 and 22 below, with the impact on each Natura 2000 Site being shown in turn.

5.2.5. As likely impacts exist in terms of habitats (and species) loss and fragmentation, disturbance, recreational pressure and air quality on all Natura 2000 Sites, mitigation measures have been recommended in Tables 15, 17, 19, 21 and 23 to prevent, reduce or offset any significant effects.

5.2.6. Following the adoption and implementation of appropriate policy and other mitigation measures to minimise the impact of habitat (& species) loss & fragmentation, disturbance, recreational pressure, water levels & quality and air quality, the potential likely effects arising from the new or amended policies are not considered to have any residual impacts, as confirmed in the tables below.

5.3. Morecambe Bay – Potential Likely effects and suggested mitigation

Table 14 – Morecambe Bay - Potential Likely Effects of new/amended Policies

| Policies | Potential Likely Effects | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| | Habitat (& Species) Loss & Fragmentation | Disturbance | Recreational Pressure | Water Levels & Quality | Air Quality |
| Policy C6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Proposals | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| Policy P1: Port of Barrow | Y | Y | N | N | Y |
| Policy EC3: Managing Development of Employment Land | Y | Y | N | N | Y |
| Policy EC7: Energy Uses Opportunity Area | Y | Y | N | N | Y |
| Policy H7: Housing Development | Y | Y | Y | N | Y |

Table 15 – Morecambe Bay - Analysing Local Plan Policy Impacts following main modifications and Suggested Mitigation

| Local Plan Policy | Likely Policy Impacts | Proposed Mitigation | Residual Impact following Mitigation |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| <p>Policy C6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Proposals</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The construction of renewable and low carbon systems for the production of energy could cause temporary disturbance to the Natura 2000 site’s bird communities, in particular the breeding populations of terns. ▪ The change in land use as a result of the construction of renewable and low carbon energy systems could lead to long-term change in existing habitats in the areas where the renewable and low carbon energy systems are provided. ▪ Wind energy is known to have detrimental effects to bird populations. The impacts could include direct mortality from collisions with rotor blades and other associated structures, displacement due to disturbance from areas surrounding potential wind farms and barrier effect as the turbines cause the birds to alter their flight paths. ▪ Biomass energy is known to emit particulates into the atmosphere. The | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The temporary impacts from the construction of new energy developments could be managed through appropriate Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs). ▪ The Council has produced a Biodiversity and Development SPD which provides further guidance on the avoidance, mitigation and compensation principle and the need for development specific HRAs and CEMPs. ▪ The need for a CEMP would be imposed via a pre-commencement planning condition, which would allow the council to exercise effective control over the level of detail suitable to the specifics of any given scheme. The potential sensitive receptors, the environmental considerations and potential impacts should be discussed and agreed with the Council’s Environmental Health Officer. ▪ A CEMP should as a minimum include details of how specific environmental issues will be monitored and mitigated. This should address topics such as water quality, air quality and dust, noise and vibration, hazardous substances, soil, waste management, lighting, ecology, cultural heritage, sustainability and resource usage. ▪ Policy C6 requires compliance with all other relevant Local Plan policies, including Policy N3. ▪ Policy N3 ensures that where an adverse impact on the Natura 2000 site is likely to result from the development, avoidance measures are first considered, followed by mitigation measures and, only as a last resort, compensatory measures. ▪ A number of avoidance/mitigation measures are listed in the natural environment chapter of the Local Plan. The most appropriate measures | <p>None</p> |

| Local Plan Policy | Likely Policy Impacts | Proposed Mitigation | Residual Impact following Mitigation |
|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| | <p>impacts could include reduction in air and water quality within and adjacent to the Natura 200 site which could have a direct effect on the habitats and species for which the Natura 2000 site is qualified.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potential marine energy technologies such as tidal, wave and hydro within the Morecambe Bay estuary could cause direct impacts with the Natura 2000 site's bird communities such as direct mortality from collisions with rotor blades and displacement due to disturbance and change in water levels and quality. There could also be indirect impacts such as a reduction of food resources for the Natura 2000 site's bird communities as a result of the marine energy technology. | <p>will be dependent upon the specific development and location.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Council has identified areas suitable for wind energy in principle which excludes Natura 2000 Sites through the production of a Wind Energy Technical Document. These areas are identified on the updated Proposals Map. ▪ The Wind Energy Technical Document makes applicants aware of the requirements in terms of biodiversity and encourages them to take these into account when determining the location of wind energy developments prior to submitting a planning application. The document also identifies other relevant policy and guidance documents such as the Cumbria Wind Energy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). ▪ Part 1 Section 2 of the Cumbria Wind Energy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) provides guidance for wind energy development and requires new schemes to demonstrate that they will not adversely affect the conservation value of international sites. ▪ It is felt that these two documents and the other documents listed within them provide robust guidance for applicants which will help prevent/minimise any impacts of wind developments on Natura 2000 Sites. | |
| <p>Policy P1: Port of Barrow</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Additional development in the Port area currently surrounded by residential and commercial industry could cause temporary disturbance to the Natura 2000 site's bird communities. ▪ The land take as a result of port | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The temporary impacts from the construction of new development in an area currently surrounded by residential and commercial industry is likely to be low, however, any impacts could be managed through appropriate Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs). • The Council has produced a Biodiversity and Development SPD which provides further guidance on the avoidance, mitigation and compensation principle and the need for development specific HRAs | <p>None</p> |

| Local Plan Policy | Likely Policy Impacts | Proposed Mitigation | Residual Impact following Mitigation |
|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| | <p>development could lead to long-term change in existing habitats as they will become surrounded by further residential and commercial industry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The increased employee commuting journeys as a result of additional port development could lead to a reduction of air quality within and adjacent to the Natura 200 site which could have a direct effect on the habitats and species for which the Natura 2000 site is qualified. | <p>and CEMPs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for a CEMP would be imposed via a pre-commencement planning condition, which would allow the council to exercise effective control over the level of detail suitable to the specifics of any given scheme. The potential sensitive receptors, the environmental considerations and potential impacts should be discussed and agreed with the Council's Environmental Health Officer. • A CEMP should as a minimum include details of how specific environmental issues will be monitored and mitigated. This should address topics such as water quality, air quality and dust, noise and vibration, hazardous substances, soil, waste management, lighting, ecology, cultural heritage, sustainability and resource usage. • Policy P1 requires compliance with all other relevant Local Plan policies, including Policy N3. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy N3 ensures that where an adverse impact on the Natura 2000 site is likely to result from the development, avoidance measures are first considered, followed by mitigation measures and, only as a last resort, compensatory measures. ▪ A number of avoidance/mitigation measures are listed in the natural environment chapter of the Local Plan. The most appropriate measures will be dependent upon the specific development and location. ▪ Policy I4 promotes sustainable travel choices for all developments which will in turn reduce the amount of car journeys and associated reduction in air quality related to port development. | |
| <p>Policy EC3: Managing Development of</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The construction of new employment sites on sites currently unallocated for employment could cause temporary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This policy directs new employment development to sites within and adjacent to existing built up areas, the temporary impacts from the construction of new employment development is therefore likely to be | <p>None</p> |

| Local Plan Policy | Likely Policy Impacts | Proposed Mitigation | Residual Impact following Mitigation |
|-------------------------------|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| <p>Employment Land</p> | <p>disturbance to the Natura 2000 site’s bird communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The land take as a result could lead to long-term change in existing habitats on sites currently unallocated for employment which could include sites which are within sensitive bird areas. ▪ The increased employee commuting journeys as a result of the new employment sites could lead to a reduction of air quality within and adjacent to the Natura 200 site which could have a direct effect on the habitats and species for which the Natura 2000 site is qualified. | <p>low however, any impacts could be managed through appropriate Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Council has produced a Biodiversity and Development SPD which provides further guidance on the avoidance, mitigation and compensation principle and the need for development specific HRAs and CEMPs. ▪ The need for a CEMP would be imposed via a pre-commencement planning condition, which would allow the council to exercise effective control over the level of detail suitable to the specifics of any given scheme. The potential sensitive receptors, the environmental considerations and potential impacts should be discussed and agreed with the Council’s Environmental Health Officer. ▪ A CEMP should as a minimum include details of how specific environmental issues will be monitored and mitigated. This should address topics such as water quality, air quality and dust, noise and vibration, hazardous substances, soil, waste management, lighting, ecology, cultural heritage, sustainability and resource usage. ▪ Policy EC3 requires compliance with all other relevant Local Plan policies, including Policy N3. ▪ Policy N3 ensures that where an adverse impact on the Natura 2000 site is likely to result from the development, avoidance measures are first considered, followed by mitigation measures and, only as a last resort, compensatory measures. ▪ A number of avoidance/mitigation measures are listed in the natural environment chapter of the Local Plan. The most appropriate measures will be dependent upon the specific development and location. ▪ Policy I4 promotes sustainable travel choices for all developments which | |

| Local Plan Policy | Likely Policy Impacts | Proposed Mitigation | Residual Impact following Mitigation |
|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| | | will in turn reduce the amount of car journeys and associated reduction in air quality related to new employment sites. | |
| <p>Policy EC7: Energy Uses Opportunity Area</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The development of the energy industry development around the North and South Morecambe Gas Terminal could cause temporary disturbance to the Natura 2000 site's bird communities. ▪ The land take as a result of the development of the energy industry development could lead to long-term change in existing habitats in areas adjacent to the North and South Morecambe Gas Terminal. ▪ The increased employee commuting journeys as a result of the development of the energy industry development around the North and South Morecambe Gas Terminal could lead to a reduction of air quality within and adjacent to the Natura 2000 site which could have a direct effect on the habitats and species for which the Natura 2000 site is qualified. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The temporary impacts from the construction of energy developments around the North and South Morecambe Gas Terminal could be managed through appropriate Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs). ▪ The Council has produced a Biodiversity and Development SPD which provides further guidance on the avoidance, mitigation and compensation principle and the need for development specific HRAs and CEMPs. ▪ The need for a CEMP would be imposed via a pre-commencement planning condition, which would allow the council to exercise effective control over the level of detail suitable to the specifics of any given scheme. The potential sensitive receptors, the environmental considerations and potential impacts should be discussed and agreed with the Council's Environmental Health Officer. ▪ A CEMP should as a minimum include details of how specific environmental issues will be monitored and mitigated. This should address topics such as water quality, air quality and dust, noise and vibration, hazardous substances, soil, waste management, lighting, ecology, cultural heritage, sustainability and resource usage. ▪ Policy EC7 requires compliance with all other relevant Local Plan policies, including Policy N3. ▪ Policy N3 ensures that where an adverse impact on the Natura 2000 site is likely to result from the development, avoidance measures are first considered, followed by mitigation measures and, only as a last resort, compensatory measures. | None |

| Local Plan Policy | Likely Policy Impacts | Proposed Mitigation | Residual Impact following Mitigation |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A number of avoidance/mitigation measures are listed in the natural environment chapter of the Local Plan. The most appropriate measures will be dependent upon the specific development and location. ▪ Policy I4 promotes sustainable travel choices for all developments which will in turn reduce the amount of car journeys and associated reduction in air quality related to the development of the energy industry development around the North and South Morecambe Gas Terminal. | |
| <p>Policy H7: Housing Development</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The construction of housing development in and around adjoining settlements could cause temporary disturbance to the Natura 2000 site's bird communities. ▪ The land take as a result of the construction of housing development adjoining Barrow could lead to long-term change in existing habitats. ▪ Any increased commuting journeys as a result of new housing development could lead to a reduction of air quality within and adjacent to the Natura 200 site which could have a direct effect on the habitats and species for which the Natura 2000 site is qualified. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This policy supports housing development in the Borough and directs this to areas in and adjoining the built up areas of Barrow and Dalton and within Development Cordons therefore the temporary impacts from constructing housing to meet the requirement is likely to be low. Any temporary construction impacts however, could be managed through appropriate Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs). ▪ The Council has produced a Biodiversity and Development SPD which provides further guidance on the avoidance, mitigation and compensation principle and the need for development specific HRAs and CEMPs. ▪ The need for a CEMP would be imposed via a pre-commencement planning condition, which would allow the council to exercise effective control over the level of detail suitable to the specifics of any given scheme. The potential sensitive receptors, the environmental considerations and potential impacts should be discussed and agreed with the Council's Environmental Health Officer. ▪ A CEMP should as a minimum include details of how specific environmental issues will be monitored and mitigated. This should address topics such as water quality, air quality and dust, noise and vibration, hazardous substances, soil, waste management, lighting, | <p>None</p> |

| Local Plan Policy | Likely Policy Impacts | Proposed Mitigation | Residual Impact following Mitigation |
|-------------------|-----------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| | | <p>ecology, cultural heritage, sustainability and resource usage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy N1 promotes the improved access to the landscape for recreation and tourism, including managed access to the undeveloped coast. Which will dilute pressure on the Natura 2000 site by spreading recreation and tourist opportunities throughout the borough. ▪ Policy EC7 requires compliance with all other relevant Local Plan policies, including Policy N3. ▪ Policy N3 ensures that where an adverse impact on the Natura 2000 site is likely to result from the development, avoidance measures are first considered, followed by mitigation measures and, only as a last resort, compensatory measures. ▪ A number of avoidance/mitigation measures are listed in the natural environment chapter of the Local Plan. The most appropriate measures will be dependent upon the specific development and location. | |

5.4. Duddon Estuary– Potential Likely effects and suggested mitigation

Table 16 – Duddon Estuary - Potential Likely Effects of new/amended Policies

| Policies | Potential Likely Effects | | | | |
|---|--|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| | Habitat (& Species) Loss & Fragmentation | Disturbance | Recreational Pressure | Water Levels & Quality | Air Quality |
| Policy C6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Proposals | Y | Y | N | Y | Y |
| Policy P1: Waterfront Business Park Strategic Employment Opportunity Area | Y | Y | N | N | Y |
| Policy EC3: Managing Development of Employment Land | Y | Y | N | N | Y |
| Policy EC7: Energy Uses Opportunity Area | Y | Y | N | N | Y |
| Policy H7: Housing Development | Y | Y | Y | N | Y |

Table 17 – Duddon Estuary - Analysing Local Plan Policy Impacts

| Local Plan Policy | Likely Impacts resulting from Allocations | Proposed Mitigation | Residual Impact following Mitigation |
|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| <p>Policy C6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Proposals</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The construction of renewable and low carbon energy systems for the production of energy could cause temporary disturbance to the Natura 2000 site’s bird communities, in particular the breeding populations of terns. ▪ The change in landuse as a result of the construction of renewable and low carbon energy systems could lead to a long-term change in existing habitats in the areas where the renewable and low carbon energy systems are provided which could impact. This could have a detrimental impact on the qualifying features of the Natura 2000 site such as the loss of potential habitat for the natterjack toad (<i>Bufo calamita</i>). ▪ Wind energy is known to have detrimental effects to bird populations. As the bird communities of Duddon Estuary are a primary qualification of the site as a Natura 2000 site wind energy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The temporary impacts from the construction of new energy developments could be managed through appropriate Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs). ▪ The Council has produced a Biodiversity and Development SPD which provides further guidance on the avoidance, mitigation and compensation principle and the need for development specific HRAs and CEMPs. ▪ The need for a CEMP would be imposed via a pre-commencement planning condition, which would allow the council to exercise effective control over the level of detail suitable to the specifics of any given scheme. The potential sensitive receptors, the environmental considerations and potential impacts should be discussed and agreed with the Council’s Environmental Health Officer. ▪ A CEMP should as a minimum include details of how specific environmental issues will be monitored and mitigated. This should address topics such as water quality, air quality and dust, noise and vibration, hazardous substances, soil, waste management, lighting, ecology, cultural heritage, sustainability and resource usage. ▪ Policy C6 requires compliance with all other relevant Local Plan policies, including Policy N3. ▪ Policy N3 ensures that where an adverse impact on the Natura 2000 site is likely to result from the development, avoidance measures are first considered, followed by mitigation measures and, only as a last resort, compensatory measures. ▪ A number of avoidance/mitigation measures are listed in the natural environment chapter of the Local Plan. The most appropriate measures | <p>None</p> |

| Local Plan Policy | Likely Impacts resulting from Allocations | Proposed Mitigation | Residual Impact following Mitigation |
|-------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| | <p>could directly affect the site as follows; direct mortality from collisions with rotor blades and other associated structures, displacement due to disturbance from areas surrounding potential wind farms and barrier effect as the turbines cause the birds to alter their flight paths.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Biomass energy is known to emit particulates into the atmosphere. The impacts could include reduction in air and water quality within and adjacent to the Natura 2000 site could have a direct effect on the habitats that the bird communities for which the Natura 2000 site is qualified depend. ▪ Potential marine energy technologies such as tidal, wave and hydro within the Duddon Estuary could cause direct impacts with the Natura 2000 site's bird communities such direct mortality from collisions with rotor blades and displacement due to disturbance. There could also be indirect impacts | <p>will be dependent upon the specific development and location.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Council has identified areas suitable for wind energy in principle which excludes Natura 2000 Sites through the production of a Wind Energy Technical Document. These areas are identified on the updated Proposals Map. ▪ The Wind Energy Technical Document makes applicants aware of the requirements in terms of biodiversity and encourages them to take these into account when determining the location of wind energy developments prior to submitting a planning application. The document also identifies other relevant policy and guidance documents such as the Cumbria Wind Energy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). ▪ Part 1 Section 2 of the Cumbria Wind Energy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) provides guidance for wind energy development and requires new schemes to demonstrate that they will not adversely affect the conservation value of international sites. ▪ It is felt that these two documents and the other documents listed within them provide robust guidance for applicants which will help prevent/minimise any impacts of wind developments on Natura 2000 Sites. | |

| Local Plan Policy | Likely Impacts resulting from Allocations | Proposed Mitigation | Residual Impact following Mitigation |
|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| | <p>such as a reduction of food resources for the Natura 2000 site's bird communities as a result of the marine energy technology.</p> | | |
| <p>Policy P1: Port of Barrow</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The construction of additional port development in an area currently surrounded by residential and commercial industry could cause temporary disturbance to the Natura 2000 site's bird communities. ▪ The land take as a result of additional port development could lead to long-term change in existing habitats, as they will become surrounded by residential and commercial industry. In particular, it is likely to impact on the qualifying features of the Natura 2000 site, such as the loss of potential feeding areas for the site's bird communities. ▪ The increased employee commuting journeys as a result of any additional port development could lead to a reduction of air quality within and adjacent to the Natura 2000 site which could have a direct | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The temporary impacts from the construction of new development in an area currently surrounded by residential and commercial industry is likely to be low, however, any impacts could be managed through appropriate Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs). • The Council has produced a Biodiversity and Development SPD which provides further guidance on the avoidance, mitigation and compensation principle and the need for development specific HRAs and CEMPs. • The need for a CEMP would be imposed via a pre-commencement planning condition, which would allow the council to exercise effective control over the level of detail suitable to the specifics of any given scheme. The potential sensitive receptors, the environmental considerations and potential impacts should be discussed and agreed with the Council's Environmental Health Officer. • A CEMP should as a minimum include details of how specific environmental issues will be monitored and mitigated. This should address topics such as water quality, air quality and dust, noise and vibration, hazardous substances, soil, waste management, lighting, ecology, cultural heritage, sustainability and resource usage. • Policy P1 requires compliance with all other relevant Local Plan policies, including Policy N3. ▪ Policy N3 ensures that where an adverse impact on the Natura 2000 site is likely to result from the development, avoidance measures are | <p>None</p> |

| Local Plan Policy | Likely Impacts resulting from Allocations | Proposed Mitigation | Residual Impact following Mitigation |
|---|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| | <p>effect on the habitats and species for which the Natura 2000 site is qualified depend.</p> | <p>first considered, followed by mitigation measures and, only as a last resort, compensatory measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A number of avoidance/mitigation measures are listed in the natural environment chapter of the Local Plan. The most appropriate measures will be dependent upon the specific development and location. ▪ Policy I4 promotes sustainable travel choices for all developments which will in turn reduce the amount of car journeys and associated reduction in air quality related to port development. | |
| <p>Policy EC3: Managing Development of Employment Land</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The construction of new employment sites on sites currently unallocated for employment could cause temporary disturbance to the Natura 2000 site's bird communities, in particular the breeding populations of terns. ▪ The land take as a result could lead to a long-term change in existing habitats on sites currently unallocated for employment which could include sites which are within sensitive bird areas for which the Natura 2000 site has been qualified. ▪ The increased employee commuting journeys as a result of the new employment sites could lead to a reduction of air quality within and adjacent to the Natura 2000 site | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This policy directs new employment development to sites within and adjacent to existing built up areas, the temporary impacts from the construction of new employment development is therefore likely to be low however, any impacts could be managed through appropriate Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs). ▪ The Council has produced a Biodiversity and Development SPD which provides further guidance on the avoidance, mitigation and compensation principle and the need for development specific HRAs and CEMPs. ▪ The need for a CEMP would be imposed via a pre-commencement planning condition, which would allow the council to exercise effective control over the level of detail suitable to the specifics of any given scheme. The potential sensitive receptors, the environmental considerations and potential impacts should be discussed and agreed with the Council's Environmental Health Officer. ▪ A CEMP should as a minimum include details of how specific environmental issues will be monitored and mitigated. This should address topics such as water quality, air quality and dust, noise and vibration, hazardous substances, soil, waste management, lighting, | <p>None</p> |

| Local Plan Policy | Likely Impacts resulting from Allocations | Proposed Mitigation | Residual Impact following Mitigation |
|--|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| | <p>which could have a direct effect on the habitats that the bird communities for which the Natura 2000 site is qualified depend.</p> | <p>ecology, cultural heritage, sustainability and resource usage.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy C6 requires compliance with all other relevant Local Plan policies, including Policy N3. ▪ Policy N3 ensures that where an adverse impact on the Natura 2000 site is likely to result from the development, avoidance measures are first considered, followed by mitigation measures and, only as a last resort, compensatory measures. ▪ A number of avoidance/mitigation measures are listed in the natural environment chapter of the Local Plan. The most appropriate measures will be dependent upon the specific development and location. ▪ Policy I4 promotes sustainable travel choices for all developments which will in turn reduce the amount of car journeys and associated reduction in air quality related to new employment sites. | |
| <p>Policy EC7: Energy Uses Opportunity Area</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The energy industry development around the North and South Morecambe Gas Terminal could cause temporary disturbance to the Natura 2000 site's bird communities. ▪ The increased employee commuting journeys as a result of the development of the energy industry development around the North and South Morecambe Gas Terminal could lead to a reduction of air quality within and adjacent to the Natura 2000 site which could have a direct effect on the habitats and | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The temporary impacts from the construction of energy developments around the North and South Morecambe Gas Terminal could be managed through appropriate Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs). ▪ The Council has produced a Biodiversity and Development SPD which provides further guidance on the avoidance, mitigation and compensation principle and the need for development specific HRAs and CEMPs. ▪ The need for a CEMP would be imposed via a pre-commencement planning condition, which would allow the council to exercise effective control over the level of detail suitable to the specifics of any given scheme. The potential sensitive receptors, the environmental considerations and potential impacts should be discussed and agreed with the Council's Environmental Health Officer. | <p>None</p> |

| Local Plan Policy | Likely Impacts resulting from Allocations | Proposed Mitigation | Residual Impact following Mitigation |
|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| | <p>species for which the Natura 2000 site is qualified such as the Atlantic salt meadows</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A CEMP should as a minimum include details of how specific environmental issues will be monitored and mitigated. This should address topics such as water quality, air quality and dust, noise and vibration, hazardous substances, soil, waste management, lighting, ecology, cultural heritage, sustainability and resource usage. ▪ Policy EC7 requires compliance with all other relevant Local Plan policies, including Policy N3. ▪ Policy N3 ensures that where an adverse impact on the Natura 2000 site is likely to result from the development, avoidance measures are first considered, followed by mitigation measures and, only as a last resort, compensatory measures. ▪ A number of avoidance/mitigation measures are listed in the natural environment chapter of the Local Plan. The most appropriate measures will be dependent upon the specific development and location. ▪ Policy I4 promotes sustainable travel choices for all developments which will in turn reduce the amount of car journeys and associated reduction in air quality related to the development of the energy industry development around the North and South Morecambe Gas Terminal. | |
| <p>Policy H7: Housing Development</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The construction of housing development in and around adjoining settlements could cause temporary disturbance to the Natura 2000 site's bird communities. ▪ The land take as a result of the construction of housing development adjoining Barrow could lead to long-term change in existing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ This policy supports housing development in the Borough and directs this to areas in and adjoining the built up areas of Barrow and Dalton and within Development Cordons therefore the temporary impacts from constructing housing to meet the requirement is likely to be low. Any temporary construction impacts however, could be managed through appropriate Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs). ▪ The Council has produced a Biodiversity and Development SPD which provides further guidance on the avoidance, mitigation and compensation principle and the need for development specific HRAs | <p>None</p> |

| Local Plan Policy | Likely Impacts resulting from Allocations | Proposed Mitigation | Residual Impact following Mitigation |
|-------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| | <p>habitats.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Any increased commuting journeys as a result of new housing development could lead to a reduction of air quality within and adjacent to the Natura 200 site which could have a direct effect on the habitats and species for which the Natura 2000 site is qualified. | <p>and CEMPs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The need for a CEMP would be imposed via a pre-commencement planning condition, which would allow the council to exercise effective control over the level of detail suitable to the specifics of any given scheme. The potential sensitive receptors, the environmental considerations and potential impacts should be discussed and agreed with the Council's Environmental Health Officer. ▪ A CEMP should as a minimum include details of how specific environmental issues will be monitored and mitigated. This should address topics such as water quality, air quality and dust, noise and vibration, hazardous substances, soil, waste management, lighting, ecology, cultural heritage, sustainability and resource usage. ▪ Policy N1 promotes the improved access to the landscape for recreation and tourism, including managed access to the undeveloped coast. Which will dilute pressure on the Natura 2000 site by spreading recreation and tourist opportunities throughout the borough. ▪ Policy EC7 requires compliance with all other relevant Local Plan policies, including Policy N3. ▪ Policy N3 ensures that where an adverse impact on the Natura 2000 site is likely to result from the development, avoidance measures are first considered, followed by mitigation measures and, only as a last resort, compensatory measures. ▪ A number of avoidance/mitigation measures are listed in the natural environment chapter of the Local Plan. The most appropriate measures will be dependent upon the specific development and location. | |

5.5. Duddon Mosses– Potential Likely effects and suggested mitigation

Table 18 – Duddon Mosses - Potential Likely Effects of new/amended Policies

| Policies | Potential Likely Effects | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| | Habitat (& Species) Loss & Fragmentation | Disturbance | Recreational Pressure | Water Levels & Quality | Air Quality |
| Policy C6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Proposals | N | N | N | Y | Y |

Table 19 – Duddon Mosses - Analysing Local Plan Policy Impacts

| Local Plan Policy | Likely Impacts resulting from Allocations | Proposed Mitigation | Residual Impact following Mitigation |
|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| <p>Policy C6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Proposals</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Biomass energy is known to emit particulates into the atmosphere. The impacts including reduction in air and water quality could impact the active raised bogs and degraded raised bogs which are the primary habitats for qualification as a Natura 2000 site. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The temporary impacts from the construction of new energy developments could be managed through appropriate Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs). ▪ The Council has produced a Biodiversity and Development SPD which provides further guidance on the avoidance, mitigation and compensation principle and the need for development specific HRAs and CEMPs. ▪ The need for a CEMP would be imposed via a pre-commencement planning condition, which would allow the council to exercise effective control over the level of detail suitable to the specifics of any given scheme. The potential sensitive receptors, the environmental considerations and potential impacts should be discussed and agreed with the Council’s Environmental Health Officer. ▪ A CEMP should as a minimum include details of how specific environmental issues will be monitored and mitigated. This should address topics such as water quality, air quality and dust, noise and vibration, hazardous substances, soil, waste management, lighting, ecology, cultural heritage, sustainability and resource usage. ▪ Policy C6 requires compliance with all other relevant Local Plan policies, including Policy N3. ▪ Policy N3 ensures that where an adverse impact on the Natura 2000 site is likely to result from the development, avoidance measures are first considered, followed by mitigation measures and, only as a last resort, compensatory measures. | <p>None</p> |

| Local Plan Policy | Likely Impacts resulting from Allocations | Proposed Mitigation | Residual Impact following Mitigation |
|-------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A number of avoidance/mitigation measures are listed in the natural environment chapter of the Local Plan. The most appropriate measures will be dependent upon the specific development and location. | |

5.6. Subberthwaite, Blawith and Torver Low Commons – Potential Likely effects and suggested mitigation

Table 20 – Subberthwaite, Blawith and Torver Low Commons - Potential Likely Effects of new/amended Policies

| Policies | Potential Likely Effects | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| | Habitat (& Species) Loss & Fragmentation | Disturbance | Recreational Pressure | Water Levels & Quality | Air Quality |
| Policy C6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Proposals | N | N | N | Y | Y |

Table 21 – Subberthwaite, Blawith and Torver Low Commons - Analysing Local Plan Policy Impacts

| Local Plan Policy | Likely Impacts resulting from Allocations | Proposed Mitigation | Residual Impact following Mitigation |
|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| <p>Policy C6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Proposals</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Biomass energy is known to emit particulates into the atmosphere. The impacts including reduction in air and water quality could impact the transition mires and quaking bogs which is the primary habitat for qualification as a Natura 2000 site. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The temporary impacts from the construction of new energy developments could be managed through appropriate Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs). ▪ The Council has produced a Biodiversity and Development SPD which provides further guidance on the avoidance, mitigation and compensation principle and the need for development specific HRAs and CEMPs. ▪ The need for a CEMP would be imposed via a pre-commencement planning condition, which would allow the council to exercise effective control over the level of detail suitable to the specifics of any given scheme. The potential sensitive receptors, the environmental considerations and potential impacts should be discussed and agreed with the Council's Environmental Health Officer. ▪ A CEMP should as a minimum include details of how specific environmental issues will be monitored and mitigated. This should address topics such as water quality, air quality and dust, noise and vibration, hazardous substances, soil, waste management, lighting, ecology, cultural heritage, sustainability and resource usage. ▪ Policy C6 requires compliance with all other relevant Local Plan policies, including Policy N3. ▪ Policy N3 ensures that where an adverse impact on the Natura 2000 site is likely to result from the development, avoidance measures are first considered, followed by mitigation measures and, only as a last resort, | <p>None</p> |

| Local Plan Policy | Likely Impacts resulting from Allocations | Proposed Mitigation | Residual Impact following Mitigation |
|-------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| | | <p>compensatory measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A number of avoidance/mitigation measures are listed in the natural environment chapter of the Local Plan. The most appropriate measures will be dependent upon the specific development and location. | |

5.7. Roudsea Wood and Mosses – Potential Likely effects and suggested mitigation

Table 22 – Roudsea Wood and Mosses - Potential Likely Effects of new/amended Policies

| Policies | Potential Likely Effects | | | | |
|--|--|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| | Habitat (& Species) Loss & Fragmentation | Disturbance | Recreational Pressure | Water Levels & Quality | Air Quality |
| Policy C6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Proposals | N | N | N | Y | Y |

Table 23 – Roudsea Wood and Mosses - Analysing Local Plan Policy Impacts

| Local Plan Policy | Likely Impacts resulting from Allocations | Proposed Mitigation | Residual Impact following Mitigation |
|--|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| <p>Policy C6: Renewable and Low Carbon Energy Proposals</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Biomass energy is known to emit particulates into the atmosphere. The impacts including reduction in air and water quality could impact the active raised bogs and degraded raised bogs which are the primary habitats for qualification as a Natura 2000 site. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The temporary impacts from the construction of new energy developments could be managed through appropriate Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs). ▪ The Council has produced a Biodiversity and Development SPD which provides further guidance on the avoidance, mitigation and compensation principle and the need for development specific HRAs and CEMPs. ▪ The need for a CEMP would be imposed via a pre-commencement planning condition, which would allow the council to exercise effective control over the level of detail suitable to the specifics of any given scheme. The potential sensitive receptors, the environmental considerations and potential impacts should be discussed and agreed with the Council’s Environmental Health Officer. ▪ A CEMP should as a minimum include details of how specific environmental issues will be monitored and mitigated. This should address topics such as water quality, air quality and dust, noise and vibration, hazardous substances, soil, waste management, lighting, ecology, cultural heritage, sustainability and resource usage. ▪ Policy C6 requires compliance with all other relevant Local Plan policies, including Policy N3. ▪ Policy N3 ensures that where an adverse impact on the Natura 2000 site is likely to result from the development, avoidance measures are first considered, followed by mitigation measures and, only as a last resort, | <p>None</p> |

| Local Plan Policy | Likely Impacts resulting from Allocations | Proposed Mitigation | Residual Impact following Mitigation |
|-------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| | | <p>compensatory measures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A number of avoidance/mitigation measures are listed in the natural environment chapter of the Local Plan. The most appropriate measures will be dependent upon the specific development and location. | |

5.8. Potential In-Combination Effects

- 5.8.1. As stated in March 2017 HRA, the following plans have been identified as having the potential to generate in-combination effects with the Barrow Local Plan.
- Barrow Port Area Action Plan
 - Wyre Borough Council Fleetwood Thornton Area Action Plan
- 5.8.2. Table 24 below considers whether the modifications change this conclusion by identifying the significance of the effects and whether any in-combination effects can be negated through the implementation of mitigation measures.
- 5.8.3. Where the above plans have been subject to the process of HRA, the conclusions derived from either the Screening or Appropriate Assessment stages have informed which elements of the plan are likely to have an impact.
- 5.8.4. As Table 24 confirms, none of the plans are likely to generate any significant impacts.

Table 24 – Understanding the Significance of Potential In-Combination Effects

| Plans | Elements of plan likely to have an impact | Barrow Local Plan policies which may have in-combination impact | Likely Natura 2000 Sites to be impacted | Comment | Likely Impacts | Proposed Mitigation | Residual Impact following Mitigation |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| Barrow Port Area Action Plan (AAP) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposed marina related development - key impacts are a limited amount of habitat loss and temporary alterations in water quality. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy H3: Allocation of Sites for Housing Development - SHL001 Marina Village ▪ Policy P1: Port of Barrow (new policy) ▪ Policy EC2: Provision of employment land ▪ Policy EMR03 Waterfront Business Park, Barrow (amended policy) ▪ Policy DS4: Opportunity Areas-OPP3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Morecambe Bay ▪ Duddon Estuary | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Collectively these sites if all brought forward could place increased pressure on the Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary sites. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat (& Species) Loss & Fragmentation ▪ Disturbance ▪ Recreational Pressure ▪ Water Levels & Quality ▪ Air Quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It will be important to ensure that the proposed mitigation for Policy H3, Policy P1 and Policy EC2 identified in sections 2.12-2.16 is adopted along with the proposed mitigation measures identified within the HRA of the Barrow Port AAP for the Cruise Facility which included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Using booms and sediment curtains during dredge operations to constrain sediment loss. - Creation of compensatory habitat; - Dredging during minimal tidal periods to minimise dispersion of sediment; - Controlled methods of dredging, reducing the potential for sediment dispersion; - Construction best practice such as outlined within CIRIA and PIANC guidance. and | None |

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|---|--|--|------|
| | | | | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring of operations and levels of sediment in water linked to baseline conditions. This would enable trigger levels where dredging ceases if suspended sediment levels become too high. ▪ The Local Plan contains a list of monitoring proposals which will identify the effect of the plan on the Natura 2000 sites and on the environment in general. Indicators will be reviewed on an annual basis through the Council's Annual Monitoring Report. | |
| <p>Wyre Borough Council Fleetwood and Thornton Area Action Plan (AAP)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased development around Fleetwood Docks including employment and residential. ▪ Extension of Fleetwood Marina. ▪ Waste treatment facility. ▪ Former railway line to Fleetwood Town Centre to be brought back into use with a potential rail freight link. ▪ A new housing development areas of up to 380 dwellings plus | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy H3: Allocation of Sites for Housing Development - SHL001 Marina Village ▪ Policy EC2: Provision of employment land ▪ EMR03 Waterfront Business Park, Barrow (amended policy) ▪ Policy P1: Port of Barrow (new | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Morecambe Bay | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction of flood defence measures in Barrow and increased development within Fleetwood could impact on water levels. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat (& Species) Loss & Fragmentation ▪ Water Levels & Quality | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It will be important to ensure that the proposed mitigation for Policy H3, Policy P1, Policy EC2 and Policy C1 identified in Sections 2.12-2.16 is adopted along with the proposed mitigation measures identified within section 6 of the Appropriate Assessment of the Fleetwood and Thornton AAP (September 2009). | None |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | <p>up to 120 dwellings within Fleetwood Docks (to the north of the area) and up to 700 dwellings (to the south).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ New office development adjacent to the existing Lancashire Waste Technology Park. ▪ Intensification of operations on secure employment site; ▪ Provision of a continuous riverside multi-user recreational route (walkers, cyclists, horse-riders) from Stanah to Fleetwood Town Centre. ▪ Reclamation of a large area of landfill for nature conservation, and recreation with maximum restoration in the long-term. | <p>policy)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Policy DS4: Opportunity Areas-OPP3 ▪ Policy C1: Flood Risk and Erosion | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|

6. Conclusions

6.1. Overview

- 6.1.1. This report presents the results of both the Screening and Appropriate Assessment stages of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) process for the Barrow Local Plan: Submission Draft once the main modifications have been made.

6.2. Screening

- 6.2.1. Seven new/amended policies have been screened along with an alteration to the Suitable Areas for wind energy identified on the proposals map. Two of the policies were screened out during this initial stage due to the fact that they would not have any effect on the Natura 2000 Sites. This was on account of one of the following reasons:

- the policy would not lead to development
- the policy would have no foreseeable direct or indirect effect on account of the type, quantum or location of development proposed
- the policy was designed to conserve or enhance the natural environment
- the policy was designed to conserve or enhance the built and /or historic environment
- the policy contained criteria to prevent adverse effects

- 6.2.2. There were three new/amended policies that were identified as having potentially adverse effects and a further two new/amended policies identified as having an adverse effect on the Natura 2000 Sites. These are:

- Policy C6 (and associated mapping changes)
- Policy P1
- Policy EC3
- Policy EC7
- Policy H7

- 6.2.3. For these policies an exercise was undertaken to determine what the potential impacts would be, and the likely pathways that these impacts may spread to the Natura 2000 sites.

6.3. Appropriate Assessment

- 6.3.1. As the screening stage concluded that there were policies and allocated sites considered to have the potential to cause significant effects, including the potential to result in direct and indirect adverse impacts on the Natura 2000 sites, the stage of Appropriate Assessment was instigated, to ensure full consideration of the likely impacts. The policies listed in paragraph 3.2.1 above were subject to this stage of assessment.
- 6.3.2. In order for impacts to be considered as being likely to have a *significant* effect on a Natura 2000 site, then a clear pathway must exist between the impact source and the Natura 2000 site, whether the pathway is in the form of wind, river network, water supply, roads and species movement. An exercise was undertaken investigating potential pathways and any Natura 2000 sites identified as having no known pathways for the policy impacts to travel to were ruled out from any further assessment. As a result, the Appropriate Assessment focused upon the following Natura 2000 sites, taking each of the sites in turn and providing a detailed consideration of the potential impacts on the integrity of the site with respect to its conservation objectives and its structure and function.
- Morecambe Bay;
 - Duddon Estuary;
 - Duddon Mosses;
 - Subberthwaite, Blawith & Torver Low Commons SAC; and
 - Roudsea Wood and Mosses SAC.
- 6.3.3. In order to prevent, reduce or offset any likely *significant* effects, a series of mitigation measures were suggested. As a result of these measures being adopted and implemented by the Council, a judgement was then made to determine whether there were likely to be any residual impacts. For all of the policies and allocated sites, no residual impacts were identified.
- 6.3.4. The assessment in table 24 also confirms there will be no in combination residual impacts.
- 6.3.5. As no residual impacts were identified for any of the policies following the adoption and implementation of the suggested mitigation measures, it is not considered necessary to progress to Stage 3 of the HRA process 'Assessment of Alternative Solutions' for the Barrow Local Plan, provided that the Council do adopt the suggested mitigation measures.

7. Appendix A

Habitat Regulations Assessment Timeline

| <u>HRA Document</u> | <u>Local Plan doc assessed</u> | <u>Date Produced/received</u> |
|---|--|-------------------------------|
| First Draft HRA Pre-Screening Report | Issues & Options Draft | October 2014 |
| Natural England Response 13 th January 2015 | | |
| HRA Screening and AA Draft Report Rev A | Preferred Options Draft | August 2015 |
| Natural England Response 6 th November 2015 | | |
| HRA Screening and AA Draft Report Rev B | Preferred Options Draft | April 2016 |
| HRA Screening and AA Addendum | New sites and policies which have emerged since PO Draft | July 2016 |
| Natural England Response 1 st November 2016 | | |
| HRA Screening and AA Report Final Draft | Publication Draft | December 2016 |
| Natural England Response 19 th January 2017 | | |
| HRA Screening And AA Report | Pre-submission Draft | March 2017 |
| HRA Screening and AA Report Update | Submission Draft (changes made since the Pre-Submission Draft only) | November 2017 |
| HRA Screening and AA Report Update | Submission Draft (significant main modifications only) | This document – August 2018 |

8. Appendix B

Characteristics of the Identified Special Protection Areas (SPA) (UPDATE FOLLOWING THE CREATION OF COMBINED MORECAMBE BAY AND DUDDON ESTUARY SPA²)

| | Site | Area (ha) | Distance from Plan Area (km) | Qualifying feature(s): |
|---|---|-----------|------------------------------|---|
| 1 | <p>Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary (UK9020326)</p> <p>Morecambe Bay and Duddon Estuary SPA largely overlaps with Morecambe Bay SAC. The SPA replaces two individual sites – Morecambe Bay SPA (UK9005081) and Duddon Estuary SPA (UK9005031)</p> <p>In the Borough it includes areas of terrestrial coastal habitat at North and South Walney, lagoons at South Walney and Cavendish Dock</p> | 66899 | Within Plan Area | <p>ARTICLE 4.1 QUALIFICATION (2009/147/EC)</p> <p>During the breeding season the area regularly supports 40672 seabirds including:</p> <p>Over winter the site regularly supports:</p> <p>Whooper Swan <i>Cygnus Cygnus</i>: 1% of Great Britain population Little Egret <i>Egretta Garzetta</i>: 3% of Great Britain population European Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis Apricaria</i>: 1% of Great Britain population Ruff <i>Caldaris Pugnax</i>: 1% of Great Briain population Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa Lapponica</i>: 8% of Great Britain population Mediterranean gull <i>Larus melancephalus</i>: 1% of Great Britain population</p> <p>During the breeding season the site supports:</p> <p>Sandwich Tern <i>Sterna sandvicensis</i>: 5.7% of Great Britain population Little Tern <i>Sternula Albifrons</i>: 2.2% of Great Britain population Common Tern <i>Sterna Hirundo</i>: 2% of Great Britain population</p> <p>ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (79/409/EEC)</p> <p>The site supports the following regularly occurring migratory species:</p> |

² https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/641980/morecambe-duddon-citation.pdf
<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/pdf/SPA/uk9020326.pdf>

| Site | Area (ha) | Distance from Plan Area (km) | Qualifying feature(s): |
|--|-----------|------------------------------|---|
| | | | <p>Pink-footed Goose <i>Anser brachyrhynchus</i>: 4.5% of biogeographic population Common Shelduck <i>Tadorna Tadorna</i>: 2% of biogeographic population Eurasian Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>: 6.8% of biogeographic population Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>: 1.4% of biogeographic population Grey Plover <i>Pluvialis squatarola</i> : 1% of biogeographic population Red knot <i>Calidris canutus</i> : 7.3% of biogeographic population Sanderling <i>Calidris Alba</i>: 3% of biogeographic population Dunlin <i>Calidris alpina alpina</i>: 2% of biogeographic population Black-tailed godwit <i>Limosa Limosa</i> : 4% of biogeographic population Eurasian Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>: 1.5% of biogeographic population Northern Pintail <i>Anas Acuta</i> : 4.2% of biogeographic population Ruddy Turnstone <i>Arenaria Interpres</i>: 1% of biogeographic population Lesser Black Backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i> : 1.7% of biogeographic population</p> <p>During the breeding season:</p> <p>Lesser Black Backed Gull <i>Larus Fuscus</i>: 2.7% of biogeographic population European Herring Gull <i>Larus argentatus argentatus</i>: 1% of biogeographic population</p> <p>ARTICLE 4.2 QUALIFICATION (2009/147/EC)</p> <p>During any season the site is regularly used by over 20,000 seabirds and over 20,000 waterbirds including those species above.</p> |
| Conservation Objectives | | | |
| <p>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;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. | | | |
| Factors which may affect the qualifying features | | | |

| Site | Area (ha) | Distance from Plan Area (km) | Qualifying feature(s): |
|------|-----------|------------------------------|--|
| | | | <p>There are a wide range of pressures on Morecambe Bay section of the site however it is relatively robust and many of these pressures have only slight or local effects on its interests. The interests depend largely upon the coastal processes operating within the Bay, which have been affected historically by human activities including coastal protection and flood defence works. Opportunities to reverse coastal squeeze are being explored. The saltmarsh is traditionally grazed and is generally in favourable condition for its bird interest. Most of the saltmarsh is traditionally grazed and is utilised by breeding, wintering and migrating birds for feeding, roosting and nesting purposes. Positive management is being secured through NGO reserve management plans, Natural England's Site Management Statements and Coastal Wildlife Enhancement Scheme, the European Marine Site Management Schemes for the Duddon Estuary and Morecambe Bay, and the Duddon Estuary and Morecambe Bay Partnerships. These aim for sustainable use of the site, taking account of other potential threats including commercial fisheries, aggregate extraction, gas exploration, recreation and other activities.</p> <p>The Duddon Estuary is a diverse estuarine system dependent on the physical processes that dominate the natural system: consequently the vulnerability of habitats is linked to changes in the physical environment. The intertidal zone is being threatened by coastal squeeze as a result of land claim and coastal defence works as well as sea level rise and storm surges. Many of the saltmarshes are grazed by agricultural stock, sometimes at a high level. These issues are being addressed through the Shoreline Management Plan and more locally, Site Management Statements/Positive Management Schemes. Waterfowl wintering on estuaries are vulnerable to loss of feeding areas through disturbance, land claim and development. The Duddon Estuary partnership is addressing some of the threats arising from recreational pressure and bait digging. Feasibility studies are being carried out for a bridge across the estuary, any such proposals will be subject to assessment under the Habitats Regulations, 1994. There are various developments for housing, amenity and industry adjacent to the site, however to date there has been no significant effect on the nature conservation interest of the estuary.</p> |

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Working together to support sustainable development within the Borough of Barrow-in-Furness

