

Barrow Borough Local Plan: Habitats Regulations Assessment

November 2017 Update

Screening and Appropriate Assessment Report:
Barrow Borough Local Plan Submission Draft



Habitats Regulations Assessment: November 2017 Update

1. Background

- 1.1. Barrow Borough Council produced the Pre-Submission Draft of its emerging Local Plan in March 2017.
- 1.2. A full screening and appropriate assessment was carried out at pre-submission stage and the results were contained within the Habitats Regulations Assessment March 2017 document.
- 1.3. The Council proposes a number of changes to the Pre-submission Draft in light of new evidence and consultation responses. These changes will be incorporated into the emerging plan to form the Submission Draft.
- 1.4. Barrow Borough Council intends to submit the Local Plan Submission Draft to the Planning Inspectorate in January 2018 following a round of consultation.
- 1.5. This HRA document screens the proposed modifications in order to assess whether they would alter any of the conclusions previously reached in the March HRA, or introduce any new impacts or effects.
- 1.6. 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. Only amendments to policies (including any draft allocation site boundaries) have therefore been assessed at this stage.
- 1.7. A full list of modifications can be found in the Barrow Borough Local Plan Submission Draft Schedule of Proposed Major Modifications document, November 2017.
- 1.8. Changes which relate to policies or draft allocated sites are assessed below in Table 1.

2. Summary of Results

- 2.1 Taking into account the March 2017 HRA and the results in Table 1 below, the policies and sites within the Submission Draft of the Local Plan will not result in any likely significant effects on any European Sites.

Table 1: Results of Screening Appraisal: Proposed Policy Modifications

Mod Ref	Policy	Change	Original Screening Assessment in March 2017 HRA	Potential Effect post-modification	Summary
MAJ 1.	EC7	<p>Policy EC7 Energy Uses Opportunity Area.</p> <p>Boundary of Energy Uses Opportunity Area amended and site extended to include the decommissioned South Morecambe Bay Gas Terminal and the now closed Roosecote Power Station.</p>	D1	D1	<p>The amendment involves an increase to the size of the energy uses opportunity area, bringing it closer to the SSSI. The majority of the additional land included is brownfield, industrial land.</p> <p>The policy continues to fall into the D1 category as it 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. This policy has previously undergone an “appropriate assessment” through the March 2017 HRA and the results of the AA remain valid.</p> <p>The AA concludes that there will be no residual impacts on European Sites following mitigation.</p>
MAJ 2.	GI4	<p>Policy GI4: Green Space.</p> <p>Additional area designated as green space and identified on the Local Plan Proposals Map: Land at Walker Street/James Street, Askam</p>	A2	A2	<p>The amendment involves increasing the number of draft green space allocations in the Borough.</p> <p>The policy continues to fall into the A2 category as it is policy 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.</p>
MAJ 3.	H1	<p>Reduction in housing requirement in light of new evidence and amendment to plan period.</p> <p>“...at least 133 net additional dwellings per year over the Plan period 2014/15...” replaced with “at least 119 net additional dwellings per year over the Plan period</p>	C1	C1	<p>The amendment involves reducing the number of homes required over a revised plan period. The policy continues to fall into the C1 category as it is one which steers 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 policy is implemented in the future e.g. location and scale of development brought forward.</p>

		2016/17...			A further assessment has been undertaken to determine the nature of the impact and identify the nature of the impact and identify the potential pathways for such impacts to travel to the Natura 2000 sites. The results of this are set out in the March 2017 HRA and remain valid. They conclude that there will be no residual impacts on European sites following mitigation.
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