

## Non-Technical Summary

Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) is a requirement of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the Habitats Regulations)<sup>1</sup> that transpose the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) to determine whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on sites designated for their European importance for nature conservation – Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs). This document reports the HRA process of the Pembrokeshire County Council Local Development Plan (LDP). HRA has been undertaken at every stage in Plan preparation.

HRA screening of the likely significant effects of the LDP policies included the identification of European sites, a description of the Plan and identification of potential effects of the Plan, alone and in-combination with other Plans. The policies were screened with reference to the management plans for the European sites for likely significant effects.

An initial screening<sup>2</sup> of the Preferred Strategy concluded that there was potential for likely significant effects at 9 European sites, and the potential for 'in-combination' effects was identified at 3 European sites:

Potential likely significant effects at:

- Carmarthen Bay and Estuaries SAC
- Pembrokeshire Marine SAC
- North West Pembrokeshire Commons SAC
- North West Pembrokeshire Woodlands SAC
- Pembrokeshire Bat Sites and Bosherton Lakes SAC
- Preseli SAC
- Afon Teifi SAC
- Afonydd Cleddau SAC
- Yerboston Tops SAC.

Potential for in-combination effects at:

- Cardigan Bay SAC
- Carmarthen Bay SPA
- Carmarthen Bay Dunes SAC.

The main impacts of the Preferred Strategy and the subsequent LDP Deposit may arise as a result of the housing and employment policies, and specific land allocations.

The LDP Deposit policies and allocations have been assessed and the Plan has been revised to ensure that there would be no likely significant effect on SACs and SPAs. LDP policies were strengthened in relation to the Protection and Enhancement of Biodiversity (GN 36), and other policies were also

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<sup>1</sup> Which consolidate and update the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) (Amendments) Regulations 1994, as amended which were amended in 2007 and again in 2009.

<sup>2</sup> PCC LDP Paper: Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report Preferred Strategy, August 2009 available at:  
<http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/content.asp?id=14098&nav=109,141,1014>

reinforced to provide effective policy mitigation to address issues which arose at the various stages throughout the development of the plan and associated HRA. The adopted Plan will be monitored annually and subject to four year review, with provision for more frequent review if required, therefore any likely significant effects can be identified and the Plan modified if necessary.

### **Commenting on this report**

This report will be subject to consultation from 26 January 2011 to 5.00 p.m. on 9 March 2011. Please comment on this HRA Report using the response form in Appendix 5 of this report.