Habitat Regulations Assessment – Screening Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Carmarthenshire County Council

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

This document has been produced by Arcadis Consulting UK for Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) in relation to their Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS). CCC has requested Arcadis undertake a high-level Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) Screening exercise to determine whether the LFRMS will have any likely significant effects upon relevant European Designated Sites. This document sets out the findings of this HRA Screening exercise.

1.2 Carmarthenshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires all 22 Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFAs) in Wales to produce a LFRMS. The Welsh Government's National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) in Wales (National Strategy) sets out that over 245,000 properties across Wales are at risk of flooding from rivers, the sea and surface water, with almost 400 properties also at risk from coastal erosion. The National Strategy explains that, as the climate changes, we can expect those risks to increase, with more frequent and severe floods, rising sea levels and faster rates of erosion of the coast.

The National Strategy sets out the legislative context to FCERM activities in Wales. In certain cases, Local Authorities are also required to produce Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP), under the 2009 Flood Risk Regulations.

1.3 Requirement for a Habitat Regulations Assessment

A HRA is a requirement under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as amended. The competent authority producing a plan or proposal is obligated to undertake a HRA to determine whether any part of the plan or proposal is likely to affect protected sites. Therefore, this LFRMS requires a HRA screening at the very least.

2 The Habitat Regulations Assessment Process

2.1 Legislation and Guidance

This HRA is being made in accordance with the requirements of the following legislation and guidance:

- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017, as amended.
- European Commission, Managing Natura 2000 sites: The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.
- European Commission, Guidance document on Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.
- Department for Communities and Local Government (2006) Planning for the Protection of European Sites: Appropriate Assessment. Guidance for Regional Spatial Strategies and Local Development Documents.
- Tyldesley D. and Chapman, C (2013) The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook.

2.2 Background to Habitats Regulations Assessment

Under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (and Regulation 105 of the Habitats Regulations):

> *Where a land use plan—(a)is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and (b)is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site, the plan-making authority for that plan must, before the plan is given effect, make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives.*

In addition, it is a matter of law that candidate SACs (cSACs) and Sites of Community Importance (SCI) are considered in this process; furthermore, it is Government policy that sites designated under the 1971 Ramsar Convention for their internationally important wetlands (Ramsar sites) and potential SPAs (pSPAs) are also considered.

The requirements of the Habitats Directive are transposed into law and implemented by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, 2017, as amended).

Regulation 63, Part 1 of the Habitats Regulations states that:

> '*A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which (a) is likely to have a significant effect on a European site or a European offshore marine site (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and (b) is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site, must make an appropriate assessment of the implications for that site in view of that site's conservation objectives*.'

Regulation 64, Part 1 of the Habitats Regulations states that:

> '*If the competent authority are satisfied that, there being no alternative solutions, the plan or project must be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (which, subject to paragraph (2), may be of a social or economic nature), they may agree to the plan or project notwithstanding a negative assessment of the implications for the European site or the European offshore marine site (as the case may be).*'

Regulation 68, Part 6 of the Habitats Regulations states that:

> '*Where, in accordance with regulation 64 (considerations of overriding public interest)— (a) a plan or project is agreed to, notwithstanding a negative assessment of the implications for a European site or a European offshore marine site, or (b) a decision, or a consent, permission or other authorisation, is affirmed on review, notwithstanding such an assessment,— the appropriate authority must secure that any necessary compensatory measures are taken to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected*.'

The overarching aim of HRA is to determine, in view of a site's conservation objectives and qualifying interests, whether a project, either in isolation and/or in combination with other projects, would have a significant adverse effect on the European site. If the Screening (the first stage of the process, see Section 2.3 for details) concludes that significant effects are likely, then Appropriate Assessment must be undertaken to determine whether there will be adverse effects on the site's integrity.

It should be noted that where the need for mitigation is identified to reduce a likely significant effect, then such measures cannot be included at the Screening Stage and the potential effects must be considered at within an Appropriate Assessment (Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) judgement (People over Wind & Sweetman v Coillte Teoranta Case C-323/17)).

2.3 Stages in HRA

The requirements of the Habitats Directive comprise four distinct stages:

Stage 1: Screening is the process which initially identifies the likely impacts upon a European site of a project or plan, 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. 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. The April 2018 CJEU judgement determined that mitigation to avoid or reduce harmful effects of the plan or project on a European site cannot be taken into account at the screening stage (Stage 1). Where such measures are required, a plan or project will require Appropriate Assessment to be undertaken (Stage 2).

Stage 2: Appropriate Assessment is the detailed consideration of the impact on the integrity of the European site of the project or plan, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, with respect to the site's conservation objectives and its structure and function. This is to determine whether or not there will be adverse effects on the integrity of the site. This stage also includes the development of mitigation measures to avoid or reduce any possible impacts.

Stage 3: Assessment of alternative solutions is the process which examines alternative ways of achieving the objectives of the project or plan that would avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the European site, should avoidance or mitigation measures be unable to cancel out adverse effects.

Stage 4: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain. At Stage 4, an assessment is made with regard to whether or not the development is necessary for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI). If it is, this stage also involves detailed assessment of the compensatory measures needed to protect and maintain the overall coherence of the Natura 2000 network.

2.4 In Combination Effects

As outlined in Section 2.2 above, it is necessary for HRA to consider in combination effects with other projects or plans.

Where an aspect of a project could have some effect on the qualifying feature(s) of a European site, but the effects of that aspect of the project alone would not be significant, the effects will need to be checked in combination, firstly with other effects of the same project, and then with the effects of any other plans and projects.

If the prospect of cumulative effects cannot be eliminated, it is necessary to consider how the addition of effects from other projects or plans may produce a combined adverse effect on a European site that would be significant. Taking the effects which would not be likely to be significant alone, it is necessary to make a judgement as to whether these effects would be made more likely or more significant if the effects of other projects or plans are added to them. Most cumulative effects can be identified by way of the following characteristics.

This HRA Report takes into account the requirements of the Habitats Regulations and relevant guidance produced by David Tyldesley (Tyldesley D. and Chapman, C (2013) The Habitats Regulations Assessment Handbook.

Policies screened out in the initial screening were generally those that could not lead to 'direct development' or could have no impact pathway to any of the European sites identified. This included policies which directly seek to protect the local historic and natural environment, or those which support the implementation of other policies and therefore could not directly affect European sites. All of the policies screened out of the detailed assessment are not directly linked to allocation sites.

As set out with the DTA HRA Guidance, each of the polices within the Local Development Plan (LDP) have been reviewed against the following list of screening categories.

Table 2-1 HRA Guidance Categorisation

Category	Description
Category A:	General statements of policy/general aspirations. Policies which are no more than general statements of policy or general political aspirations should be screened out because they cannot have a significant effect on a site.
Category B:	Policies listing general criteria for testing the acceptability/sustainability of proposals. These general policies cannot have any effect on a European site and should be screened out.
Category C:	Proposal referred to but not proposed by the plan. Screen out any references to specific proposals for projects, such as those which are identified, for example, in higher policy frameworks such as the Wales Spatial Plan or National Policy Statements, relating perhaps to nationally significant infrastructure projects. These will be assessed by the Secretary of State or Welsh Ministers. A useful 'test' as to whether a project should be screened out in this step is to ask the question: 'Is the project provided for/proposed as part of another plan or programme and would it be likely to proceed under the other plan or programme irrespective of whether this subject plan is adopted with or without reference to it?' If the answer is 'yes' it will normally be appropriate to screen the project out in this step.
Category D:	General plan-wide environmental protection/site safeguarding/ threshold policies. These are policies, the obvious purpose of which is to protect the natural environment, including biodiversity, or to conserve or enhance the natural, built or historic environment, where enhancement measures will not be likely to have any adverse effect on a European Site. They can be screened out because the implementation of the policies is likely to protect rather than adversely affect European sites and not undermine their conservation objectives.
Category E:	Policies or proposals that steer change in such a way as to protect European sites from adverse effects. These types of policies or proposals will have the effect of steering change away from European sites whose qualifying features may be affected by the change and they can therefore be screened out.
Category F:	Policies or proposals that cannot lead to development or other change. Policies that do not themselves lead to development or other change, for example, because they relate to design or other qualitative criteria for development, such as materials for

Category	Description
	new development. They do not trigger any development or other changes that could affect a European site and can be screened out.
Category G:	Policies or proposals that could not have any conceivable adverse effect on a site. Policies which make provision for change, but which could have no conceivable effect on a European site, because there is no causal connection or link between them and the qualifying features of any European site and can therefore be screened out.
Category H:	Policies or proposals the (actual or theoretical) effects of which cannot undermine the conservation objectives (either alone or in combination with other aspects of this or other plans or projects). Policies or proposals which make provision for change but which could have no significant effect on a European site, either alone or in combination with other aspects of the same plan, or in combination with other plans or projects, can be screened out. These may include cases where there are some potential effects which (and theoretically even in combination) would plainly be insignificant and could not undermine the conservation objectives.
Category I:	Policies or proposals which may have a significant effect on a site alone. Policies or proposals which are likely to have a significant effect on a European site alone, should be screened in.
Category J:	Policies or proposals unlikely to have a significant effect alone. These aspects of the plan would have some effect on a site, but the effect would not be likely to be a significant effect; so they must be checked for in combination (cumulative) effects. They will then be re-categorised as either Category K (no significant effect in combination) or Category L (likely to have a significant effect in combination), as explained below.
Category K and L:	Policies or proposals unlikely to have a significant effect either alone or in combination (K) or likely to have a significant effect in combination (L) after the in-combination test. Where an aspect of a plan could have some effect on the qualifying feature(s) or a European site, but the effects of that aspect of the plan alone would not be significant, the effects of that aspect of the plan will need to be checked in combination firstly, with other effects of the same plan, and then with the effects of other plans and projects. i.e. policies or proposals which will have no likely significant effect alone or in combination are classified as Category K. Policies or proposals which are likely to have a significant effect in combination are classified as Category L. Category L policies or proposals will require further consideration in terms of potential in combination effects. Firstly, this will be with regard to other aspects of the Plan itself, and subsequently with other separate plans or projects, for example neighbouring Local Plans.
Category M:	Bespoke area, site or case specific policies or proposals intended to avoid or reduce harmful effects on European sites. Policies or proposals which have been included in the plan with the intension of avoiding or reducing effects on specific European

Category	Description
	site(s) whose qualifying features may otherwise be affected by the plan being implemented.

Plans under consideration may range from neighbouring authorities' planning documents down to sector-specific strategic plans on such topics as flood risk.

A review has been undertaken of projects and plans with the potential for an in-combination effect with the proposed development.

2.5 Definition of Significant Effects

A critical part of the HRA screening process is determining whether or not the proposals are likely to have a significant effect on European sites and, therefore, if they will require an Appropriate Assessment. Judgements regarding significance should be made in relation to the qualifying interests for which the site is of European importance and also its conservation objectives. A useful definition of 'likely' significant effects is as follows: '…likely means readily foreseeable not merely a fanciful possibility; significant means not trivial or inconsequential but an effect that is potentially relevant to the site's conservation objectives' (Welsh Assembly Government, 2006).

In considering whether the project is likely to have a significant effect on a European site, a precautionary approach must be adopted:

- The project should be considered 'likely' to have such an effect if the applicant is unable (on the basis of objective information) to exclude the possibility that the project could have significant effects on any European site, either alone or in combination with other plans or projects.
- An effect will be 'significant' in this context if it could undermine the site's conservation objectives. The assessment of that risk must be made in the light of factors such as the characteristics and specific environmental conditions of the European site in question.

2.6 Approach to the HRA Report

The following stages have been completed:

- Identification of all European sites potentially affected (including those outside of the proposed development boundary);
- A review of each European site, including the features for which the site is designated, the Conservation Objectives, and an understanding of the current conservation status and the vulnerability of the individual features to threats;
- A review of the proposals which have the potential to affect the European sites, and whether the sites are vulnerable to these effects; and
- A consideration of any potential impacts in combination with other projects (or plans).

3 Review of Carmarthenshire County Council Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Objectives & High- Level Measures

The CCC LFRMS identifies the relevant sources of local flood risk:

- Surface water runoff
- Groundwater
- Ordinary watercourses; and the LFRMS has also taken into consideration:
- Coastal flooding due to its 90km of coastline.

3.1 The Purpose of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

The LFRMS document sets out the overarching approach to managing flood risk in Carmarthenshire and will be formally published alongside the publication of the Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP). These documents will detail how flooding across the county will be management and will align with local objectives, measures, policies and national strategies.

3.2 Carmarthenshire's Strategic Objectives

For the LFRMS the following objectives have been devised which also align with the National Strategy objectives:

A. Modernise and develop a risk based, thematic approach to flood and coast erosion risk management.
B. Become data and information rich.
C. Champion NFM, sustainable drainage and nature-based solutions.
D. Educate, advise and empower our communities to become more resilient.
E. Promote and support community adaptation and partnership working.

The strategic objectives identified within the LFRMS will be delivered through a series of 10 high-level measures including:

1. Thematic Incident Management.
2. Maintain a pipeline of capital works business cases.
3. Increase community resilience.
4. Increase public engagement and consultation.
5. Champion innovation and technology.
6. Development a catchment- based approach to FCERM.
7. Provide expert advice and counsel.
8. Manage FCERM permitting and consenting.
9. Adopt and designate drainage systems and FCERM features.
10. Enforcement.

Many of the objectives identified within the LFRMS will not involve the direct development of flood risk measures or involve works requiring land-take. However, the objectives will drive localised prioritisation of development measures which will alleviate flood risk and will also identify the risks of flooding impacts upon relevant European Protected Sites.

As part of the LFRMS 2024 document, the county has been divided into seven separate River Basin Districts (RBD), across which key flood risk receptors have been identified which has included European Designated Sites.

3.3 The Sites and River Basin Districts

The RBDs have been identified as:

- The Teifi RBD.
- The Upper Towy RBD.
- The Lower Towy RBD.
- The Western Valleys RBD.
- The Amman and Lough RBD.
- The Llanelli RBD.
- The Gwendraeth and Burry Port RBD.

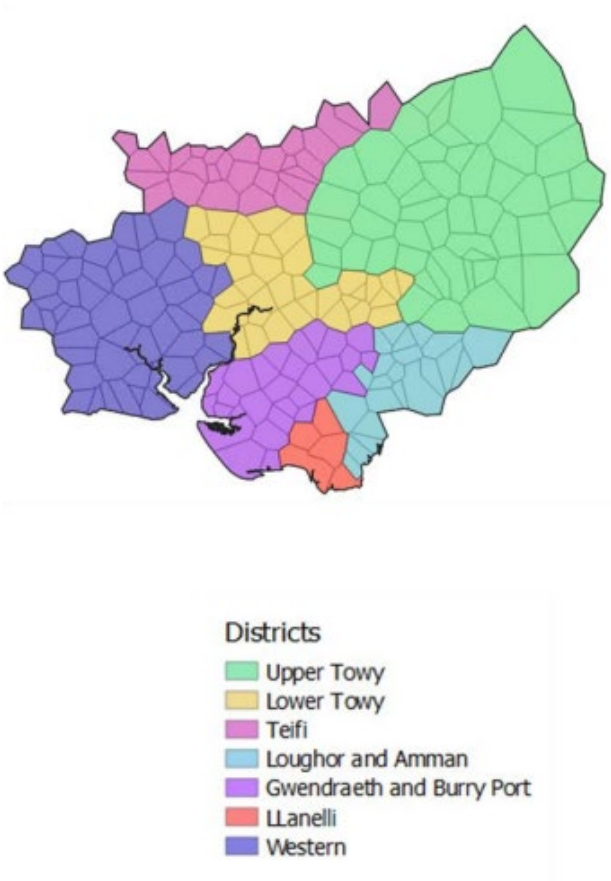

Figure 3-1 River Basin District Areas across Carmarthenshire which are identified within the LFRMS

4 Identification of European Designated Sites

Table 4-1 below identifies the different RBDs within the LFRMS and the 12 designated sites within the CCC boundary which falls within the LFRMS area. Some of the designated sites are present across multiple RBD areas.

Table 4-1 Designated Sites Distribution Throughout the River Basin Districts

River Basin District	Afon Teifi SAC	Cwm Doethie – Mynydd Mallaen SAC	Elenydd – Mallaen SPA	Afon Tywi/ River Towy SAC	Cernydd Carmel SAC	Caeau Mynydd Mawr SAC	Carmarthen Bay & Estuary SAC	Burry Inlet SPA	Burry Inlet Ramsar	Bristol Channel Approaches SAC	Carmarthen Bay SPA	Afonydd Cleddau/ Cleddau Rivers SAC
Teifi	✓											
Upper Towy		✓	✓	✓								
Lower Towy				✓								
Western Valleys							✓			✓	✓	✓
Amman and Lough					✓	✓						
Llanelli							✓	✓	✓			
Gwendraeth and Burry Port							✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

As identified in Table 4-1 above, a number of the designated sites fall within the boundaries of multiple RBDs. Table 4-2 to Table 4-9 below provide a high-level descriptor of the qualifying features of the designated sites located within the CCC boundary which is covered by the LFRMS.

Table 4-2 Teifi RBD and designated sites present.

Designated Site	High-level Description
Teifi Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	The Afon Teifi SAC is 122km in length and runs through Ceredigion, Caerfyrddin/ Carmarthenshire and Penfro/ Pembrokeshire and is approximately 715.58 ha. Its source is situated in the Teifi Pools within the Cambrian Mountains and then descends into upland pastures and into lowland farmland. The SAC geology is largely Ordovician and Silurian mudstones, siltstones and sandstones, that are mantled by Quaternary deposits. Important qualifying species of the SAC include Otter; Atlantic Salmon; Bullhead; and various Lamprey species. The Afon Teifi also has Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) status, with the boundaries of this being concurrent with the SAC boundaries. (NRW, 2022)

Table 4-3 Upper Towy RBD and designated sites present.

Designated Site	High-level Description
Afon Tywi/ River Tywi SAC	The Afon Tywi SAC is 80 km in length and runs through Caerfyrddin/ Carmarthenshire, covering an area of approximately 363.45 ha. Its source is situated in the Cambrian Mountains to the Llyn Brianne reservoir. From here, it flows through mountain valleys and eventually terminates in Carmarthen Bay & Estuaries SAC. The geology consists of alluvium, glacial sands and gravels. Important qualifying species of the SAC include Twaite shad; Otter; Allis shad; Bullhead; and various Lamprey species. The Afon Tywi SAC has overlapping boundaries with the Afon Tywi SSSI. (NRW, 2022)
Cwm Doethie – Mynydd Mallaen SAC	This SAC is situated within the Powys, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire local authorities in the southern part of the Cambrian Mountains and comprises of steep valleys and upland tracts. It is noteworthy for its heath and woodland habitats and wildlife, especially its birdlife. This includes breeding Red Kite, which is one of the site's qualifying species, in addition to the presence of European dry heaths and old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum*. (CCW, 2008)
Elenydd – Mallaen SPA	This SPA is situated within the Powys, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire local authorities in the southern region of the Cambrian Mountains. This spans the upper Cothi and Tywi valleys

Designated Site	High-level Description
	north-west of Llandovery to the Ystwyth, Elan and Wye valleys in the north. The geology is mainly rocks of Silurian and Ordovician age and the landforms are typical of the 'slate uplands' of south-central Wales, with plateaux separated by steep-sided valleys. Important qualifying species include breeding Red Kite and Floating Water-plantain. Key habitats include blanket bogs, European dry heaths, old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum*; Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae; and Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters of the Isoeto-Nanojuncetea (CCW, 2008)

Table 4-4 Lower Towy RBD and designated sites present.

Designated Site	High-level Description
Afon Tywi/ River Tywi SAC	See description above Table 4-3 for the designated site as presented for the Upper Towy RBD.

Table 4-5 Western Valleys RBD and designated sites present.

Designated Site	High-level Description
Afonydd Cleddau/ Cleddau Rivers SAC	This SAC covers approximately 751.71 ha in total and comprises of the Eastern Cleddau and the Western Cleddau. The catchment is predominantly agricultural land with significant areas of permanent pasture, broadleaved woodland and other semi-natural vegetation. Most of the soils are of clay-rich acidic brown earth type, developed under former and surviving woodland cover, although there are also peaty deposits and peaty soils in some areas. (CCW, 2021)
Bristol Channel Approaches SAC	This SAC is situated across the Welsh inshore waters (NRW), the English inshore waters (NE), and the UK offshore waters (JNCC), covering a total area of 584994 ha. The water depths within the site range between the Mean Low Water Tide (MLWT) level and 70m. The majority of the site is approximately 50m deep and the depth decreases towards the coastline. The qualifying feature for the SAC is the Harbour porpoise. (JNCC, 2015; JNCC, 2019).
Carmarthen Bay & Estuary SAC	This SAC includes the estuaries of the Rivers Loughor, Tâf and Tywi (coastal plain estuaries) and the Gwendraeth (a bar-built estuary). The bay consists of shallow seabed types including mud, sand and rock. Important qualifying features of the SAC include estuaries, mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*);

	Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand; large shallow inlets and bays; sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time; Allis shad (*Alosa alosa*); and Twaite shad (*Alosa fallax*). (NRW, 2018)
Carmarthen Bay SPA	This SPA was the first fully marine SPA designated in the UK in June 2003. The geology of the site includes sand, mud, sedimentary and gravel. This in addition to the presence of subtidal rock (including rocky reefs), open coast (including bay), enclosed coast (including embayment), subtidal sediments (including sandbank/mudbank), and estuary. The main qualifying feature of the SAC is the wintering Common scoter, with the SPA being one of the most important wintering sites in Britain and Ireland for this species. Habitat connectivity is an important property of river ecosystem structure and function. Many of the fish that spawn in the river are migratory, depending on the maintenance of suitable conditions on their migration routes to allow the adults to reach available spawning habitat and juvenile fish to migrate downstream. (JNCC, 2015; NRW, 2018)

Table 4-6 Amman and Lough RBD and designated sites present.

Designated Site	High-level Description
Caeau Mynydd Mawr SAC	This SAC covers 25.06ha and is situated within Carmarthenshire. It comprises of Molina meadows along with areas of wet heath, acidic and dry neutral grassland. It contains three SSSIs (Caeau Ffos Fach; Broad Oak & Thornhill Meadows; and Caeau Lotwen) within. This site is the only SAC selected for the Marsh fritillary butterfly. The SAC qualifying features are the aforementioned Molinia meadows and Marsh fritillary butterfly. (CCW, 2012)
Cernydd Carmel SAC	The SAC covers an area of 361.14 ha within Caerfyrddin / Carmarthenshire, overlapping boundaries with the Carmel National Nature Reserve and sharing coincident boundaries with the Cernydd Carmel SSSI. The area consists of a range of habitats including woodland, grassland heathland and bog, with turlough (seasonal lake) of notable interest. The habitat distribution is dependent on the underlying geology, which consists of Carboniferous Limestone overlain by acidic Millstone Grit. The primary qualifying habitat of the site is turloughs (CCW, 2011)

Table 4-7 Llanelli RBD and designated sites present.

Designated Site	High-level Description
Burry Inlet Ramsar	This Ramsar site consists of a large estuarine complex and is situated between the Gower Peninsular and Llanelli in South Wales. Within are large areas of intertidal sand and mud flats, as well as large sand dune systems at the mouth of the estuary. It covers a total area of approximately 6,672 ha and the site contains the largest continuous area of saltmarsh in Wales (2,200 ha). Nationally and internationally important numbers of several species of wintering waterbirds are supported by this site (Ramsar Sites Information Service, 2005)
Burry Inlet SPA	This SPA is a large estuarine complex of intertidal sand and mudflats along with large sand dune systems. The shores of the Burry Inlet are mainly mobile fine and medium sands while the mudflats and sandflats of the Burry Inlet and is mostly sandy gravel or muddy sand. The SPA is important for its use by overwintering wildfowl and waders that feed in the intertidal areas. Qualifying features include Knot, Oystercatcher, Pintail, and Redshank. (CCW, 2009)
Carmarthen Bay & Estuary SAC	See description above in Table 4-5 under the Western Valley RBD.

Table 4-8 Gwendraeth and Burry Port

Designated Site	High-level Description
Bristol Channel Approaches SAC	See description above in Table 4-5 under the Western Valley RBD.
Burry Inlet SPA	See description above Table 4-7 for the Llanelli RBD.
Burry Inlet Ramsar	See description above Table 4-7 for the Llanelli RBD.
Carmarthen Bay & Estuary SAC	See description above Table 4-5 for the Western Valleys RBD.
Carmarthen Bay SPA	See description above Table 4-5 for the Western Valleys RBD.

In addition to the sites identified above, which fall within the boundary of CCC, there is the potential for designated sites which fall outside the CCC boundary but are hydrologically linked to the LFRMS Area that could also be affected. A 15km search buffer has been applied to the LFRMS Area/ CCC boundary and eight sites have also been included as part of this screening exercise given the potential for hydrological linkages. See Table 4-9 below:

Table 4-9 Designated sites outside the CCC boundary

Designated Sites	CCC boundary/ Distance from LFRMS Area	High-level Description
Cardigan Bay SAC	11.6 km	General site character comprising marine areas, sea inlets, coastal sand dunes, sand beaches, Machair, shine, sea cliffs, islets, inland water bodies (standing and running water) heath, scrub, Maquis, and Garrigue, Phygrana, broad – leaved and deciduous woodland. Qualifying features include sandbanks, reefs, submerged or partially submerged sea caves, bottle nose dolphin, sea lamprey, river lamprey grey seal. (JNCC 2024)
Gweunydd Blaencleddau SAC	2.1km	Qualifying features include Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*, Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae)*, Blanket bogs, Transition mires and quaking bogs, Alkaline fens, Marsh fritillary butterfly, Southern damselfly (JNCC 2024)
North Pembrokeshire Woods SAC	10.3km	Qualifying features include Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles. Alluvia forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior*. Barbastelle bats. (JNCC 2024)
Pembrokeshire Marine SAC	14.6km	Qualifying features include Estuaries, large shallow inlets and bays, reefs, sandbanks, mudflats and sandflats, coastal lagoons, Atlantic salt meadows, sea caves, grey seal, shore duck, sea lamprey, river lamprey, allis shad, twaite shad, and otter (JNCC 2024)
Preseli SAC	1.5km	General site character comprising Bogs, Marshes, Water fringed vegetation, Fens, Heath, Scrub, Maquis and Garrigue, Phygrana, Dry grassland, Steppes, Inland rocks, Screes, Sands, Permanent Snow and ice. Qualifying features include Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix*, European dry heaths, Depressions on peat substrate of the *Rhynchosporion*, alkaline fens, southern damselfly, marsh fritillary butterfly, slender green feather-moss (JNCC 2024)
River Usk SAC	240m	With its source, the Usk reservoir being located within the LFRMS Area, the designated site does not commence until beyond the county boundary. Qualifying features include Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation, Sea lamprey, Brook lamprey, River lamprey, Twaite shad, Atlantic salmon, Bullhead, Otter, Allis shad (JNCC 2024)
River Wye SAC	2.6km	With its source being located in West Wales. The SACs qualifying features include Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation, Transition mires and

Designated Sites	CCC boundary/ Distance from LFRMS Area	High-level Description
		quaking bogs, Sea lamprey, Brook lamprey, River lamprey, Twaite shad, Atlantic salmon, Bullhead, Otter, Allis shad (JNCC 2024)

Note that for the detailed screening of the above designated sites to refer to Appendix A.

4.1 Assessing Likely Significant Effects – Screening Sites

As part of the HRA process, the first step of "Screening" is undertaken to identify which proposed plans or projects require further assessment. The purpose of this document is Screening and will identify whether the Plan needs to be considered further in relation to the Habitat Regulations and whether an Appropriate Assessment is required. The sites identified above have been considered in relation to the LFRMS and screened in relation to the following criteria:

- RBD and Size
- Hydrological Connectivity
- Nature of Qualifying Features
- Existing Pressures
- Conservation Objectives

The detailed screening of the criteria above has been presented in Appendix A. Presented in Table 4-10Table 4-11 below is a high-level summary of which sites have been screened in. The table in Appendix A provides a detailed screening exercise and includes the rational/ justification for the screening in/ out decision.

Of the 12 sites identified that are within CCC RBDs and LFRMS boundaries, all have been screened in for assessment due to their hydrological linkage and/or topography/ location which provide potential impact pathways for future projects within the RBDs. Of the seven sites identified outside of CCC RBDs and LFRMS Area, two sites were screened in for further assessment, they are the Cardigan Bay SAC, and the River Usk SAC. The remaining five sites (Gweunydd Blaencleddau SAC; North Pembrokeshire Woods SAC; Pembrokeshire marine SAC; Preseli SAC; River Wye SAC) were screened out from further assessment. The justification for the screening in/out is displayed in Appendix A. The 14 sites in total are presented in Table 4-10 below, and these will be considered in relation to the LFRMS strategic objectives and screened against the designated sites identified as relevant.

Table 4-10 Designated Sites Screening Summary

Designated Site	RBD	Screened In (including high-level rational)
Afon Teifi SAC	• Teifi	Screened in- located within the LFRMS Area and hydrologically linked.
Afon Tywi/ River Towy SAC	• Upper Towy • Lower Towy	Screened in- located within the LFRMS Area and hydrologically linked.

Designated Site	RBD	Screened In (including high-level rational)
Afonydd Cleddau/ Cleddau Rivers SAC	• Western Valleys	Screened in - this SAC is on the boundary of the LFRMS Area and there are tributaries to this SAC within the LFRMS so therefore it has been included as within the LFRMS Area.
Bristol Channel Approaches SAC	• Gwendraeth and Burry Port • Western Valleys	Screened in- located within the LFRMS Area/CCC boundary and hydrologically linked.
Burry Inlet Ramsar	• Llanelli • Gwendraeth and Burry Port	Screened in- located within the LFRMS Area and hydrologically linked.
Burry Inlet SPA	• Llanelli • Gwendraeth and Burry Port	Screened in- located within the LFRMS Area and hydrologically linked.
Caeau Mynydd Mawr SAC	• Amman and Lough	Screened in- located within the LFRMS Area and hydrologically linked.
Cardigan Bay SAC	Outside LFRMS but hydrologically linked.	Screened in- although outside the LFRMS Area/ CCC boundary, hydrologically linked to LFRMS/ CCC.
Carmarthen Bay and Estuary SAC	• Llanelli • Western Valleys • Gwendraeth and Burry Port	Screened in- located within the LFRMS Area and hydrologically linked.
Carmarthen Bay SPA	• Gwendraeth and Burry Port • Western Valleys	Screened in- located within the LFRMS Area and hydrologically linked.
Cernydd Carmel SAC	• Amman and Lough	Screened in- located within the LFRMS Area and hydrologically linked.
Cwm Doethie – Mynydd Mallaen SAC	• Upper Towy	Screened in- located within the LFRMS Area and hydrologically linked.
Elenydd- Mallaen SPA	• Upper Towy	Screened in- located within the LFRMS Area and hydrologically linked.

Designated Site	RBD	Screened In (including high-level rational)
River Usk SAC	Outside LFRMS but hydrologically linked.	Screened in- although outside the LFRMS Area/ CCC boundary, hydrologically linked to LFRMS/ CCC.

4.2 Screening of LFRMS Strategic Objectives

Table 4-11 considers the LFRMS Strategic Objectives against the screened in HRA sites which are identified as of relevance.

The strategic policies in relation to the designated sites have been considered with regards to the Categories as presented in the DTA Handbook as follows:

- No Likely Significant Effect (LSE) on the conservation status/ qualifying features of the Designated Site.
- Potential Effect on the conservation status/ qualifying features of the Designed Site.
- Significant Potential Effect on the conservation status/ qualifying features of the Designated Site.
- Uknown Effect on the conservation status/ qualifying features of the Designated Sites.
- No in-combination effects with other strategies or policies.

Table 4-11 LFRMS Objectives and Designated Site Screening

	LFRMS Strategic Objectives				
Screened In Designated Sites	A*	B**	C***	D****	E*****
Afon Teifi SAC	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects
Afon Tywi/ River Towy SAC	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects
Afonydd Cleddau/ Cleddau Rivers SAC	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects
Bristol Channel Approaches SAC	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects
Burry Inlet Ramsar	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects

	LFRMS Strategic Objectives				
Screened In Designated Sites	A*	B**	C***	D****	E*****
Burry Inlet SPA	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects
Caeau Mynydd Mawr SAC	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects
Cardigan Bay SAC	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects
Carmarthen Bay and Estuary SAC	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects
Carmarthen Bay SPA	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects
Cernydd Carmel SAC	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects
Cwm Doethie – Mynydd Mallaen SAC	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects
Elenydd- Mallaen SPA	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects
River Usk SAC	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects	No LSE or in-combination effects

A* Modernise and develop a risk based, thematic approach to flood and coast erosion risk management.
B** Become data and information rich.
C*** Champion NFM, sustainable drainage and nature-based solutions.
D**** Educate, advise and empower our communities to become more resilient.
E***** Promote and support community adaptation and partnership working.

5 In-combination Effects with Other Strategies and Plans

At this stage, no in-combination effects with other strategies and plans are anticipated which would have an adverse effect on the conservation status/ qualifying features of the designated sites. The LFRMS in isolation, is anticipated to have potential long-term beneficial effects on the designated sites. In-combination with other local strategies and plans, these are anticipated to have a positive long-term affect.

The objectives of the LFRMS align with those in the National Strategy. Furthermore, the LFRMS has been developed in coordination with the following strategic planning process and plans:

- West Wales River Basin Management Plan
- Natural Resources Wales FRMP
- Water Resources Management Plan
- Welsh Water's Drainage and Wastewater Management Plan
- Network Rail's Asset Management Plan

6 Screening Assessment of the Effects of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategic Objectives

Following a review of the sites located within the LFRMS Area and within the boundary of CCC as well as those which are anticipated to be hydrologically linked beyond the county boundary, the outcome of this screening exercise is that the LFRMS will have no adverse effects on any of the designated sites identified.

All of the Strategic Objectives are general statements of policy/general aspirations which call into Category A of the DTA categories. Policies which are no more than general statements of policy or general political aspirations should be screened out because they cannot have a significant effect on a site.

However, at the implementation stage of the Strategy these would require rescreening with regards to the 14 sites screened into this assessment. Table 6-1 below provides the outcomes of the LFRMS strategic objective screening and its rational.

Table 6-1 Outcomes of the LFRMS strategic objective screening

Objective	Outcome Summary/ Discussion
A	
Objective:	Modernise and develop a risk based, thematic approach to flood and coast erosion risk management
Outcome:	No negative effect
Justification of outcome:	The implementation of a risk based, strategic approach can encourage targeted focus on key areas requiring management.
B	

Objective	Outcome Summary/ Discussion
Objective:	Become data and information rich
Outcome:	No negative effect
Justification of outcome:	The obtaining of data and information will improve knowledge and understanding of flood risk within CCC and enable better management and reduce potential negative effects of flooding as well as secondary effects.
C	
Objective:	Champion NFM, sustainable drainage and nature-based solutions
Outcome:	No negative effect
Justification of outcome:	Sustainable approaches reduces and removes in some instances the need for the use of less sustainable more environmentally invasive techniques. By implementing more natural approaches to water management there will be longer-term benefits.
D	
Objective:	Educate, advise and empower our communities to become more resilient
Outcome:	No negative effect
Justification of outcome:	Improved knowledge can result in better management and more targeted approaches. Community empowerment can increase resilience and result in grassroot changes.
E	
Objective:	Promote and support community adaptation and partnership working
Outcome:	No negative effect
Justification of outcome:	Collaborative working and knowledge sharing across community groups can empower and increase greater involvement within the community. Partnership working and knowledge sharing on funding opportunities can also make positive localised benefits too.

7 HRA Screening Conclusions

The LFRMS policies have been screened considering the different RBDs and the designated sites present within the LFRMS Area for CCC. In summary, the strategic objectives are not envisaged at this stage to have any adverse negative effects upon the designed sites present. In the long-term through implementation, the LFRMS is anticipated to have a positive effect on the designated sites and contribute to the long-term protection and improvement of their conservation status and qualifying features present.

The strategic objectives align with the protection and enhancement of the sites and natural environments of CCC and will provide improved protection measures. Based on the screening exercise undertaken and presented above it is concluded that the LFRMS does not need to progress through to the Appropriate Assessment Stage. However, when the LFRMS is progressed to its implementation stage (the FRMP), a further HRA screening exercise should be undertaken of the next stages.

Appendix A

Designed Sites Screening Exercise

Table Appendix 1a Screening Assessment – Designated Sites

Designated Site	RBD	Hydrological connectivity	Qualifying Features	Existing Pressures	Conservation Objectives	Screened in/out	Justification
Afon Teifi SAC	Teifi	Yes	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site: • 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site: • 3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the *Littorelletea uniflorae* and/or of the *Isoëto-Nanojuncetea* Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: • 1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* • 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* • 1106 Atlantic salmon *Salmo salar* • 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* • 1355 Otter *Lutra lutra* • 1831 Floating water-plantain *Luronium natans* Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: • 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*	• Mining and quarrying (Medium risk, C01) • Invasive non-native species (High risk, I01) • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions (Medium risk, J02) • Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources (Medium risk, F02) • Other human intrusions and disturbances (Medium risk, G05) • Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities (Low risk, G01) • Air pollution, air borne pollutants (High risk, H04) • Other ecosystem modifications (Medium risk, J03) • Changes in abiotic conditions (High risk, M01) • Mowing/cutting of grassland (Low risk, A03) • Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine &brackish) (High risk, H01)	For all of the qualifying features to be in a favourable conservation status, including: • The natural range of the plant communities represented within the water courses of plain to montane levels feature should be stable or increasing in the SAC. • For the Lamprey species, Atlantic Salmon and Bullhead species populations in the SAC to be stable or increasing over the long term • For the population of Otter in the SAC to be stable or increasing over the long term and reflects the natural carrying capacity of the habitat within the SAC, as determined by natural levels of prey abundance, and associated territorial behaviour. For the Floating water-plantain populations to be viable throughout their current distribution in the SAC (maintaining themselves on a long-term basis). Each floating water-plantain population must be able to complete sexual and/or vegetative reproduction successfully. Potential for genetic exchange between floating water-plantain populations, in and/or outside the SAC, must be evident in the long-term. Dispersal of floating water-plantain must be unhindered.	Screened in.	Located within the RBD and therefore hydrologically linked.
Afon Tywi/ River Towy SAC	Upper Towy Lower Towy	Yes	Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: • 1308 Barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus* • 1355 Otter *Lutra lutra* Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: • 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* • 1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* • 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* • 1102 Allis shad *Alosa alosa*	• Pollution to surface water (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish) (High risk H01) • Grazing (High risk A04) • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions (High risk J02) • Changes in abiotic conditions (High risk M01) • Invasive non-native species (Medium risk I01) • Mining and quarrying (Medium risk C01)	As part of the 4 Rivers for LIFE project to improve the conservation status of 4 SAC rivers in Wales, the specific objectives of the project include: • Improve the conservation status of all the Natura 2000 features across the 4 SACs to either favourable or recovering status, by addressing factors causing unfavourable condition, with a focus on the following target features: Water courses with *Ranunculion fluitantis* & *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation or aquatic mosses, Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*), bullhead (*Cottus gobio*), allis shad (*Alosa alosa*), twaite shad (*Alosa fallax*) and freshwater pearl mussels (*Margaritifera margaritifera*).	Screened in.	Located within the RBD and therefore hydrologically linked.

Designated Site	RBD	Hydrological connectivity	Qualifying Features	Existing Pressures	Conservation Objectives	Screened in/out	Justification
			• 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio*				
Afonydd Cleddau/ Cleddau Rivers SAC	Western Valleys (this SAC is on the boundary of the LFRMS Area and there are tributaries of this SAC within the LFRMS, therefore it has been included as within the LFRMS Area)	Yes	Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site: • 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation • 7110 Active raised bogs ***Priority feature** • 91E0 Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae*) ***Priority feature** Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: • 1096 Brook lamprey *Lampetra planeri* • 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* • 1163 Bullhead *Cottus gobio* • 1355 Otter *Lutra lutra* Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: • 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*	• Grazing (Medium risk, A04) • Other ecosystem modifications (Medium risk, J03) • Interspecific floral relations (Medium risk, K04) • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions (High risk, J02) • Changes in abiotic conditions (High risk, M01) • Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish) (High risk, H01) • Invasive non-native species (Medium risk, I01) • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants (High risk, H04)	For the Sea lamprey, Brook lamprey, River lamprey, Bullhead, Alluvial forests, Active raised bogs and Otter, their objective is to be favourable conservation status where all of the conditions outlined in the management plan are satisfied. This includes: • For all three species of lamprey populations to be stable or increasing over the long term and for the natural range of the features in the SAC neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future. • For Bullhead, the population of the feature in the SAC must be stable or increasing over the long term and the natural range of the feature in the SAC is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future. • For the population of otters in the SAC to be stable or increasing over the long term and reflects the natural carrying capacity of the habitat within the SAC, as well as having sufficient habitat to support the population in the long term. • For the water courses of plain to montane levels feature having stable or increasing area covered by the feature and their associated plant communities within the SAC. • For the alluvial forests feature to have a canopy dominated by single stands of alder *Alnus glutinosa* or willow *Salix spp*. In alluvial woods with free draining soils there may be ash or oak in the canopy, but in the wetter alluvial woodlands, ash *Fraxinus excelsior* is more likely to be limited to areas of relatively drier ground. • For the active raised bogs to have at least 3 of *Calluna vulgaris*, *Erica tetralix*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *E.vaginatum* & *Trichophorum cespitosum* constant, with a combined cover not exceeding 80% for the mire expanse. Also, no single species will have greater than 50% cover.	Screened in.	Hydrologically linked. Cleddau has tributaries within the CCC LFRMS Area boundary.
Bristol Channel Approaches SAC	Gwendraeth and Burry Port Western Valleys	Yes	Annex II Species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: • 1351 Harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*)	• Other ecosystem modifications (Low risk J03) • Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources (High risk F02) • Marine water pollution (Medium risk H03) • Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions (Low risk D03) • Exploration and extraction of oil or gas (Low risk C02) • Renewable abiotic energy use (Low risk C03)	• Conservation objective 1: Harbour porpoise is a viable component of the site. The intent of this objective is to minimise the risk of injury and killing or other factors that could restrict the survivability and reproductive potential of harbour porpoise using the site. This objective is concerned with operations that would result in unacceptable levels and can be defined as those having an impact on the FCS of the populations of the species in their natural range. • Conservation objective 2: There is no significant disturbance of the species: Disturbance of harbour porpoise typically originates from operations that cause underwater noise including, as examples, seismic surveys, pile driving and sonar. Responses to	Screened in.	Located within the CCC RBDs and therefore hydrologically linked.

Designated Site	RBD	Hydrological connectivity	Qualifying Features	Existing Pressures	Conservation Objectives	Screened in/out	Justification
				• Military use and civil unrest (Medium risk G04)	noise can be psychological and/ or behavioural. Disturbance is primarily a behavioural response to noise and may, lead to porpoises being displaced from the affected area. • Conservation objective 3: The condition of supporting habitats and processes, and the availability of prey is maintained. Supporting habitats, means the characteristics of the seabed and water column. The maintenance of supporting habitats and processes contributes to ensuring that prey is maintained within the site and is available to harbour porpoises using the site. Harbour porpoises are highly dependent on year-round on proximity to food sources and its distribution and condition may strongly reflect the availability and energy density of its prey.		
Burry Inlet Ramsar	Llanelli Gwendraeth and Burry Port	Yes	Qualifying Species/populations (as identified at designation): • **Species with peak counts in spring/autumn**: Common redshank, *Tringa totanus totanus*, 857 individuals, representing an average of 0.7% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) • **Species with peak counts in winter:** Northern pintail, *Anas acuta*, NW Europe 2687 individuals, representing an average of 4.4% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) • Eurasian oystercatcher, *Haematopus ostralegus ostralegus*, Europe & NW Africa -wintering 14861 individuals, representing an average of 1.4% of the population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3) • Red knot, *Calidris canutus islandica*, W & Southern Africa (wintering) 3618 individuals, representing an average of 1.2% of the GB population (5 year peak mean 1998/9-2002/3)	• Military use and civil unrest (Medium risk, G04) • Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities (Medium risk G01) • Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources (Medium risk, F02) • Marine water pollution (Medium risk, H03) • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants (Low risk,H04) • Changes in abiotic conditions (High risk, M01)	None available for the Ramsar site. Note that sites designated as wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention are subject to the same provisions as UK National Site Network sites.	Screened in.	Located within the RBD and therefore hydrologically linked.
Burry Inlet SPA	Llanelli Gwendraeth and Burry Port	Yes	Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: • A054 *Anas acuta* • A056 *Anas ciypeata*	• Military use and civil unrest (Medium risk G04) • Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities (Medium risk G01)	• The numbers of all SPA bird species are stable or increasing. • The abundance and distribution of suitable prey are sufficient and appropriate to support the numbers of all SPA bird species.	Screened in.	Located within the RBD and therefore hydrologically linked.

Designated Site	RBD	Hydrological connectivity	Qualifying Features	Existing Pressures	Conservation Objectives	Screened in/out	Justification
			• A052 *Anas crecca* • A050 *Anas penelope* • A169 *Arenaria interpres* • A672 *Calidris alpina alpina* • A1473 *Calidris canutus* • A130 *Haematopus ostralegus* • A160 *Numenius arquata* • A141 *Pluvalis squatarola* • A048 *Tadorna tadorna* • A162 *Tringa totanus*	• Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources (Medium risk F02) • Marine water pollution (Medium risk H03) • Air pollution, air borne pollutants (Low risk H04) • Changes in abiotic conditions (High risk M01)	• All SPA birds are allowed to inhabit their feeding grounds and resting areas with minimum disturbance and are allowed to move unhindered between them. • All states of the Conservation Objectives for the supporting habitats and species, subject to natural processes, are fulfilled and maintained in the long-term. • The management and control of activities or operations likely to be of significant effect to the oystercatchers, is appropriate for maintaining the feature at FCS and is secure in the long-term.		
Caeau Mynydd Mawr SAC	Amman and Lough	Yes	Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: • 1065 Marsh fritillary butterfly (*Eurodryas aurinia)* Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site: • 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silitsilt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)	• Mowing/ cutting of grassland (High risk A03) • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants (High risk H04) • Soil pollution and solid waste (excluding discharges) (Medium risk H05) • Grazing (High risk A04) • Biocenotic evolution, succession (High risk K02) • Other ecosystem modifications (Medium risk J03)	Conservation objective for Marsh fritillary butterfly (*Eurodryas aurinia*): • The population will be viable in the long term, acknowledging the extreme population fluctuations of the species. • Habitats on the site will be in optimal condition to support the metapopulations. • The SAC populations will be the core of the metapopulation. The metapopulation will consist of the SAC populations plus populations breeding on land within c. 2 kilometres of the SAC boundary. • At least 13ha across the three component SSSIs will be marshy grassland suitable for supporting marsh fritillary, with *Succisa pratensis* present and only a low cover of scrub. • At least 6ha of this will be good condition marsh fritillary breeding habitat, where, for at least 80% of sample points, the tussocky vegetation is within the range of 12-25cms tall and *Succisa pratensis* is present within a 50cm radius sample point. Scrub (<0.5m tall) covers no more than 10% of area. • At least another 7ha of this will be suitable condition marsh fritillary breeding habitat where *Succisa pratensis* is occasional/frequent / abundant and vegetation height is usually 12-25cm scrub (>0.5m tall) will cover no more than 10% of the total area. • The marshy grassland will be well sheltered by hedgerows and mature trees. • All factors affecting the achievement of the foregoing conditions are under control. Conservation objective 6410 European *Molinia* meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt laden soils: • The Molinia meadow feature will occupy between 25% and 80% of the total site area. • The remainder of the site will be other semi-natural habitat. • The following plants will be common in the Molinia meadows: purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*; meadow thistle *Cirsium dissectum*; devil's bit scabious *Succisa pratensis*; carnation sedge *Carex panicea* and tormentil *Potentilla erecta*.	Screened in.	Located within the RBD and therefore hydrologically linked.

Designated Site	RBD	Hydrological connectivity	Qualifying Features	Existing Pressures	Conservation Objectives	Screened in/out	Justification
					• Cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix* and common heather *Calluna vulgaris* will also be common in some areas. • Rushes should not be allowed to spread and species indicative of agricultural modification, such as perennial rye grass *Lolium perenne* and white clover *Trifolium repens*, will be largely absent from the Molinia meadow. • Scrub species such as willow *Salix* and birch *Betula* will also be largely absent from the Molinia meadow. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.		
Cardigan Bay SAC	N/A	Yes	Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site: • 1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time • 1170 Reefs • 8330 Submerged or partially submerged sea caves Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: • 1349 Bottlenose dolphin *Tursiops truncates* Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: • 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* • 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis* • 1364 Grey seal *Halichoerus grypus*	• Soil pollution and solid waste (excluding discharges) (Medium risk, H05) • Other human intrusions and disturbances (Medium risk, G05) • Marine water pollution (Medium risk, H03) • Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources (Medium risk, F02) • Invasive non-native species (Medium risk, I01)	(I) For each habitat feature: • Natural range and area it covers within that range: - stable or increasing - total extent of the feature - distribution of the feature within the site • Specific structure and functions necessary for long term maintenance: exist and are likely to continue to exist for the foreseeable future: - physical structure of the habitat - fundamental physiochemical processes - biotic assemblages - overall ecological integrity - management to be of an appropriate type, and secure in the long term • Conservation status of typical species: favourable as defined for species features below: - species which typify (characterise) the habitat, either generally (i.e. form part of its definition), or specifically on this site (i.e. those that contribute to local distinctiveness of the habitat) (II) For each species feature • Population: maintaining itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitat: - population size - population structure (e.g. age structure where relevant) - population to be self-maintaining in the long term, including where vulnerable to factors outside the site	Screened in.	Hydrologically linked. Afon Teifi discharges into Cardigan Bay SAC.

Designated Site	RBD	Hydrological connectivity	Qualifying Features	Existing Pressures	Conservation Objectives	Screened in/out	Justification
					- management to be of an appropriate type, and secure in the long term • Natural range: not being reduced nor likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future: - all areas of the site which the population uses - if restricted distribution is undermining long term maintenance of the population, range may need to be increased - management must be of the appropriate type and secure in the long term • Supporting habitat: large enough to maintain populations on a long-term basis: - extent of habitat of the appropriate quality - structure and functions (as for habitat features above)		
Carmarthen Bay & Estuary SAC	Llanelli Western Valleys Gwendraeth and Burry Port	Yes	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site: • 1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time • 1130 Estuaries • 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide • 1160 Large shallow inlets and bays • 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand • Atlantic salt meadows Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: • 1103 Twaite shad (*Alosa fallax*) Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: • 1095 Sea lamprey (*Petromyzon marinus*) • 1099 River Lamprey (*Lampetra fluviatilis*) • 1102 Allis shad (*Alosa alosa*) • 1355 Otter (*Lutra Lutra*)	• Invasive non-native species (Medium risk I02) • Pollution to surface waters (limnic and terrestrial, marine and brackish) (High risk H02) • Hunting, fishing or collecting activities not referred to above (Medium risk F06) • Air pollution, air borne pollutants (Low risk H04) • Changes in abiotic conditions (Medium risk M01) • Marine water pollution (Medium risk H03) • Soil pollution and solid waste (excluding discharges) (Low risk H05) • Other urbanisation, industrial and similar activities (High risk E06) • Marine and Freshwater Aquaculture (Medium risk F01) • Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions (Medium risk D03) • Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources (Medium risk F02) • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions (High risk J02) • Grazing (High risk A04)	Conservation objective 2110 European Embryonic shifting dunes: • Natural processes will be allowed to determine the time and place when embryonic dunes exist. These processes will not be impeded by direct or indirect human intervention. • A strandline will be present at least one year in every five within the areas identified. • Embryonic dunes will be present on the seaward side of the mobile frontal dune ridge at least one year in every three. • All of the factors affecting the feature are under control. Conservation objective 2120 European shifting dunes along the shoreline with *Ammophila arenaria* (white dunes): • Shifting dunes will exist as part of the dynamic natural processes which create the dune systems. • There will be an interaction between the three dune systems such that the natural process of erosion in some parts and accretion in others will continue without direct or indirect human disturbance. • Shifting dunes will comprise a significant part of the dune system but will increase and decrease in extent and location as natural processes determine the landscape of the dune systems. • At least two of the three sites in the SAC satisfy the limits outlines in the performance indicator below. • All of the factors affecting the feature are under control. Conservation objective 2130 European fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation: • Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) will occur where older, shifting dunes become more stabilised and in early successional stages become colonised by lichens and other species indicative of transition from less mobile habitat.	Screened in.	Located within the RBD and therefore hydrologically linked.

Designated Site	RBD	Hydrological connectivity	Qualifying Features	Existing Pressures	Conservation Objectives	Screened in/out	Justification
				• Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities (Medium risk G01)	• The habitat will encompass a range of successional stages throughout the area, determined by patterns of natural factors and grazing. • Grey dunes will comprise a significant part of the dune system but will increase and decrease in extent and location as natural processes determine the landscape of the dune systems. • All factors are under management control. Conservation objectives 2170 European dunes with *Salix repens ssp. Argentea* and 2190 European humid dune slacks: • Dunes with Salix repens and humid dune slacks will occur as part of the dune system, their location will be determined by natural processes and appropriate grazing management. • A range of successional stages will be found in both features. • Factors affecting the features will be under control. Conservation objective 1014 European Narrow-mouthed whorl snail *Vertigo angusitor*: • Sufficient suitable habitat is present to support the populations. • The factors affecting the feature are under control. Conservation objective 1395 European Petalwort *Petalophyllum ralfsii*: • The species will be found where conditions are suitable in sufficient numbers to form a viable and sustainable population. • The population will vary from year to year depending on conditions, especially in drier years, but the long-term population will remain steady and sustainable. • Suitable dune slacks will have patches of bare ground that is being colonised by jelly lichens (*Collema spp.*) and Barbula mosses. • The factors affecting the feature are under control. Conservation objective 1903 Fen Orchard *Liparis loselii:* • Sufficient suitable habitat is present to support the populations. The factors affecting the feature are under control.		
Carmarthen Bay SPA	Gwendraeth and Burry Port Western Valleys	Yes	Annex II species present as a qualifying feature: • A065 *Malanitta nigra*	• Air pollution, air-borne pollutants (Low risk H04) • Military use and civil unrest (Medium risk G04) • Marine water pollution (Medium risk H03)	• The numbers of all SPA bird species are stable or increasing. • The abundance and distribution of suitable prey are sufficient and appropriate to support the numbers of all SPA bird species. • All SPA birds are allowed to inhabit their feeding grounds and resting areas with minimum disturbance and are allowed to move unhindered between them. • All states of the Conservation Objectives for the supporting habitats and species, subject to natural processes, are fulfilled and maintained in the long-term.	Screened in.	Located within the RBD and therefore hydrologically linked.

Designated Site	RBD	Hydrological connectivity	Qualifying Features	Existing Pressures	Conservation Objectives	Screened in/out	Justification
					• The management and control of activities or operations likely to be of significant effect to the oystercatchers, is appropriate for maintaining the feature at FCS and is secure in the long-term.		
Cernydd Carmel SAC	Amman and Lough	Yes	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site: • 3180 Turloughs Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: • 4010 Northern Atlantic Wet Heaths with *Erica tetralix* • 4030 European dry heaths • 7110 Active raised bogs • Tilio-*Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines.	• Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions (High risk J02) • Changes in abiotic conditions (High risk M01) • Air pollution – air-borne pollutants (High risk H04) • Invasive non-native species (Medium risk I01) • Interspecific floral relations (High risk K04) • Grazing (High risk A04) • Biocenotic evolution, succession (Medium risk K02) • Problematic native species (Medium risk I02)	Conservation objective 3180 European Turloughs: • The turlough will fill and empty according to natural seasonal fluctuations in the underlying aquifer. It will typically fill with water in the autumn-spring period and empty during the summer months. • A natural pattern of vegetation zones will be apparent during the dry phase of the turlough, as determined by micro-topographical variation in the turlough basin in relation to the main swallow hole. • The following vegetation zones, together with typical associated species will be present: hydrophytic bryophyte zone; *Equisetum fluviatile* zone; *Carex vesicaria* zone; *Phalaris arundinacea* zone; *Salix cinerea-Galium paulustre* woodland zone. • Alien plant species such as *Crassula helmsii*, *Hydrocotyle ramuculoides, Myriophyllum aquaticum* and *Azolla filiculoides* will be absent. • All factors affecting the achievement of the above conditions, including water quality, water levels and scrub development, will be under control. Conservation objective 9180 European *Tillio- Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines: • *Tilio-Acerion* woodland will occupy approximately 44ha of Cernydd Carmel SAC. • The *Tillio-Acerion* woodland will occupy a patchwork of small woods with areas of grassland between, forming a characteristic element of the historic landscape pattern of Cernydd Carmel. The distribution of woods will mirror the pattern of woodland mapped in 1994. • Within the high forest areas, the woodland will be maintained as far as possible by natural processes. • Within the high forest areas, between 10 and 25% of the woodland will comprise open glades or canopy gaps, although the location of glades/ canopy gaps may vary over time. • Trees and shrubs of a wide range of ages and sizes should be present, including functionally mature canopy trees, young trees and an active shrub layer. • Regeneration of locally native trees/ shrubs will be plentiful. • The canopy will comprise varying mixtures of locally native species including ash *Fraxinyus excelsior*, oak *Quercus spp*., goat willow *Salix caprea*, yew *Taxus baccata* and wych elm *Ulmus gabra*. Typical shrub layer species will include hazel *Corylus avellana*, hawthorn *Crateagus monogyna,* blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, spindle *Euonymus europaeus* and dogwood *Rhamnus catharticus*. Non-native species including sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus* and beech *Fagus sylvatica* will be largely absent.	Screened in.	Located within the RBD and therefore hydrologically linked.

Designated Site	RBD	Hydrological connectivity	Qualifying Features	Existing Pressures	Conservation Objectives	Screened in/out	Justification
					• The field layer will comprise a rich mixture of woodland herbs including *Ramunculus ficaria, Ciracea lutetiana, Galium odoratum, Allium ursinum, Hyacinthoides non-scripta, Mercurialis perennis, Conopodium majus, Paris quadrifolia, Lamiastrum galedobdolon, Conopodium majus, Phyllitis scolopendrium, Arum maculatum and Anemonie nemorosa*. • Locally uncommon species including *Rhamus catharticus, Euonymus europaeus, Convallaria majalis, Paris quadrifolia* and *Daphne mezereum* will continue to be present. • Dense bramble will be largely absent. • Within the high forest areas, dead wood will be present in the form of standing and fallen trunks/limbs. • All factors affecting the achievement of the above conditions, including grazing and browsing, will be under control. Conservation objective for 4010 European North Atlanic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix:* • Northern Atlantic wet heath will occupy at least 6ha of Cernydd Carmel SAC • The wet heath will have a high cover (>25%) of dwarf shrubs, including heather *Calluna vulgaris*, cross-leaves heath *Erica tetralix* and bilberry *Vaccinium myrtillius*. • Typical associates will include western gorse *Ulex gallii* and *Molinia caereulea*, but not at high cover. • Bog mosses *Sphagnum spp.* Will be prominent in the sward. • Scrub and bracken will be largely absent. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions, including grazing and scrub/ bracken encroachment are under control. Conservation objective for 7110 European Active raised bogs: • Active raised bog will cover at least 13ha of Cernydd Carmel SAC. • At least five raised bog peatland units will be present, occupying a series of peaty depressions within the Milestone Grit ridge. • The mires will support a specialist bog flora including heather *Calluna vulgaris,* cross-leaved heath *Erica tetralix*, deergrass *Scripus cespitosus*, hare's tail cotton grass *Eriophorium vaginatum,* common cotton grass *E. angustifolium,* bog asphodel *Narthecium assifragum* and round-leaves sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*. • Bog mosses *Sphagnum spp*. Will be abundant, while purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* and other grasses will be scarce. • The mire surfaces will display a characteristic hummock and hollow topography, with lawns of *Sphagnum* moss dominating the wet hollows. • Scrub and bracken will be largely absent. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions, including water and nutrient levels, and grazing will be under control.		

Designed Sites Screening Exercise

Designated Site	RBD	Hydrological connectivity	Qualifying Features	Existing Pressures	Conservation Objectives	Screened in/out	Justification
Cwm Doethie – Mynydd Mallaen SAC	Upper Towy	Yes	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site: • 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles • Cwm Doethie – Mynydd Mallaen contains a large area of old sessile oak wood along a series of inter-connected valleys. The site is one of several examples representing this habitat in the core of its Welsh range. Sessile oak Quercus petraea woodland predominates, with a typical acidic ground flora and rich lower plant component. The site is also notable for its upland heathland and grassland communities, and for its breeding bird assemblages, which includes red kite (*Milvus milvus*). Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site: • 4030 European dry heaths	• Grazing (High risk, A04) • Forest and Plantation Management (High risk, B02) • Interspecific floral relations (Low risk K04) • Problematic native species (Medium risk I02) • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants (High risk H04) • Forest planting on open ground (Low risk B01) • Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreation activities (Medium risk G01)	Conservation Objective 4030 European dry heaths: • The extent, quality and diversity of heath vegetation within the constituent sites is maintained and, where possible, degraded heath is restored to good condition. • The main heathland areas have a varied age structure with a mosaic of young heath, mature heath and degenerate heath. • Sunny slopes in certain areas support vegetation that includes bell heather and western gorse and steep north and east facing slopes have a rich variety of mosses and liverworts beneath the dwarf shrub canopy, including bog mosses in some areas. • Populations of uncommon plants, such as lesser twayblade, are stable or increasing. • The larger heathland areas provide suitable habitat for breeding birds, including red grouse and merlin. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control. Conservation Objective for 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isle: Old sessile oak woodlands remain a significant and conspicuous feature of the upland valley sides within the plan area. • The boundary between the woodland and adjacent upland habitat is often a flexible one where trees regenerate on to open ground. At many locations oak woodland forms patches in ‘ffridd’ areas where there is less grazing pressure on the upland fringe. • The oak woodland has of a variety of different structures and its character varies from place to place, ranging from long standing closed canopy areas to largely open wood pasture. • The dominant trees are sessile oaks, but in places birch is more conspicuous. Rowans and other trees occur as a minor component while at the foot of slopes where the oak woodland grades into wet woodland, there are some alders and willows. Non-native trees such as beech and sycamore will be present only in small numbers are generally scarce. • Under-storey shrubs are generally quite sparse, but scattered groups of hazel or holly will be found in some woods. • Ground cover varies widely. Parts will be bracken covered, others grassy, others again have a wider range of flowering plants and ferns and are often carpeted with bluebells in spring. On thin soils in shaded moist situations there are luxuriant carpets of mosses and liverworts, with or without under-shrubs like heather and bilberry. • The larger trees support a variety of lichens on their trunks and branches.	Screened in.	Located within the RBD and therefore hydrologically linked.

Designed Sites Screening Exercise

Designated Site	RBD	Hydrological connectivity	Qualifying Features	Existing Pressures	Conservation Objectives	Screened in/out	Justification
					• In each woodland block, trees in most age classes are present and veteran trees are prominent in some areas, particularly where there is wood pasture. • In all areas except wood pasture, there is evidence of actual regeneration in the form of seedlings and saplings or potential for regeneration, while in some wood pasture areas the planting and protecting of young trees, especially oak, may be appropriate. • Dead wood is well distributed and sometimes abundant, both lying on the woodland floor and occurring as standing dead trees or branches of trees. • The majority of the oak woodland has a closed canopy, but there are some clearings and much larger areas that are effectively wood pasture. These conditions should be sympathetic to the important populations of mosses and liverworts on the one hand and lichens on the other. • The oak woods support a characteristic assemblage of birds, such as wood warbler, pied flycatcher and redstart. • The pattern and distribution of grazed and un-grazed woods may change over time as different conservation needs arise. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.		
Elenydd – Mallaen SPA	Upper Towy	Yes	• Breeding Red Kite (*Milvus milvus)* • Breeding Merlin (*Falco columnbaris)* • Breeding Peregrine (*Falco peregrinus)*	• Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities (Low Risk G01) • Renewable abiotic energy use (Medium risk C03) • Problematic native species (Low risk I02) • Fire and Fire suspension (Medium risk J01) • Changes in Abiotic conditions (Low risk M01) • Hunting and collection of wild animals, including damage caused by game, and taking/. Removal of terrestrial animals (including collection of insects, reptiles, amphibians, birds of prey, etc., trapping, poisoning, poaching, predator control, accidental capture (Medium risk F03) • Forest and Plantation management and use (Medium risk B02) • Grazing (Medium risk A04)	Conservation objective 7130 European Blanket bogs: • The extent, quality and diversity of blanket bog vegetation within the constituent sites is maintained and, where possible, degraded bog is restored to good condition. • Populations of uncommon bog plants, such as Tall bog-sedge, Slender sedge, Magellanic bog-moss and Round-fruited collar-moss, are stable or increasing. • The bogs continue to provide suitable habitat for breeding birds, including golden plover, dunlin and red grouse, and invertebrates, such as large heath butterfly. • Peat profiles containing important pollen records are maintained. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control. Conservation objective 4030 European dry heaths: • The extent, quality and diversity of heath vegetation within the constituent sites is maintained and where possible, degraded heath is restored to good condition. • The main heathland areas have a varied age structure with a mosaic of young heath, mature heath and degenerate heath. • Sunny slopes in certain areas support vegetation that includes bell heather and western gorse and steep north and east facing slopes have a rich variety of mosses and liverworts beneath the dwarf shrub canopy, including bog mosses in some areas.	Screened in.	Located within the RBD and therefore hydrologically linked.

Designated Site	RBD	Hydrological connectivity	Qualifying Features	Existing Pressures	Conservation Objectives	Screened in/out	Justification
					• Populations of uncommon plants, such as lesser twayblade, are stable or increasing. • The larger heathland area provide suitable habitat for breeding birds, including red grouse and merlin. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control. Conservation objective: 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles: • Old sessile oak woodlands remain a significant and conspicuous feature of the upland valley sides within the plan area. Those in the Elan and Claerwen valleys and Rhayder area, the Dinas and Gwenffrwd area of the upper Tywi valley and the Cothi valley to the north of Mynydd Mallaen are particularly well developed or extensive. • The boundary between the woodland and adjacent upland habitat is often a flexible one where trees regenerate on to open ground. At many locations oak woodland forms patches in 'ffridd' areas where there is less grazing pressure on the upland fringe. • The oak woodland has a variety of different structures and its character varies from place to place, ranging from long standing closed canopy areas to largely open wood pasture. • The dominant trees are sessile oaks, but in places birch is more conspicuous. Rowans and other trees occur as a minor component while at the foot of slopes where the oak woodland grades into wet woodland, there are some adders and willows. Non-native trees such as beech and sycamore will be present only in small numbers are generally scarce. • Under-story shrubs are generally quite sparse, but scattered groups of hazel or holly will be found in some woods. • Ground cover varies widely. Parts will be bracken covered, others grassy, others again have a wider range of flowering plants and ferns and are often carpeted with bluebells in spring. On thin soils in shaded moist situations there are luxuriant carpets of mosses and liverworts, with or without under-shrubs like heather and bilberry. • The larger trees support a variety of lichens on their trunks and branches. • In each woodland block, trees in most age classes are present and veteran trees are prominent in some areas, particularly where there is wood pasture. • In all areas except wood pasture, there is evidence of actual regeneration in the form of seedlings and saplings or potential for regeneration, while in wood pasture areas the planting protecting of young trees, especially oak, may be appropriate. • Dead wood is well distributed and sometimes abundant, both lying on the woodland floor and occurring as standing dead trees or branches of trees.		

Designated Site	RBD	Hydrological connectivity	Qualifying Features	Existing Pressures	Conservation Objectives	Screened in/out	Justification

					• The majority of oak woodland has a closed canopy, but there are some clearings and much larger areas that are effectively wood pasture. These conditions should be sympathetic to the important populations of mosses and liverworts on the one hand and lichens on the other.
					• The oak woods support a characteristic assemblage of birds, such as wood warbler, pied flycatcher and redstart.
					• The pattern and distribution of grazed and ungrazed woods may change over time.
					• All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.
					
					Conservation objective 9180 European *Tillio- Acerion* forests of slopes, screes and ravines:
					
					• Ash is prominent on some of the less acidic rock outcrops within the oak woodlands.
					• Some dead wood is present, and this provides an important habitat for the woodland flora and fauna.
					• Plants indicating disturbance and nutrient enrichment, such as large patches of nettles and cleavers, are not common and there are no extensive areas of bare ground within the woodland.
					• Non-native trees and shrubs, such as sycamores and conifers are absent.
					• All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.
					
					Conservation objective 6130 Calaminarian grasslands of the *Violetalia calaminariae*:
					
					• The habitat covers at least its current measured area.
					• Lichens dominate large blocks of metal rich spoil from mine workings, tips, walls and other built structures.
					• Lichens, mosses, ferns and a few higher plants such as sea campion are present on rock outcrops in cliffs, open cuts and about the entrances to shafts and adits.
					• On open, usually level ground, plant communities are found represented by the moss genus *Wessia* and a range of crustose metallophyte lichens. The moss *Ditrichum plumbicola* and sea campion occur in the most base-rich areas, usually associated with scattered lime mortar from adjacent buildings.
					• Heath, scrub, trees or other woody species are scarce or absent.
					• Light grazing prevents the growth of tall herbs, scrub and woodland. Grazing levels are carefully managed to avoid undesirable levels of ground disturbance.
					  • Areas of disturbed bare ground occupy less than 10% of potential areas that could be occupied by this habitat.
					  • There is less than 1% cover of non-native plants.
					  • There is no newly dumped material.		

Designated Site	RBD	Hydrological connectivity	Qualifying Features	Existing Pressures	Conservation Objectives	Screened in/out	Justification
					• The habitat is spreading gradually across this extensive site wherever suitable conditions exist. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control. Conservation objective 3130 Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters of the *Isoeto-Nanojunceta*: • The plan area contains several upland lakes with mildly acidic, nutrient poor water and fairly stoney beds. Water plants found here include Shore weed, Water Iobelia, Alternate Water-milfoil, Quillwort, Bulbous Rush, Floating Bur-reed, Broad-leaved Pondweed, Intermediate Water-starwort and Water Moss. • Fully developed oligotrophic lake vegetation is present in each of the lakes, including all of the component species typical of the SAC feature, as represented in the Elenydd SAC. • For each of the lakes, where it occurs, the extent and species composition of the oligotrophic lake vegetation is stable or increasing in range and/or diversity. • The Rare Stonewort *Nitella gracillis,* Scarce Six-stamened Waterwort and Awlwort are found in Llyn Glynon. Six – stamened Waterwort is also found growing in shallow water on the stony bed of Dolymynach Reservoir. • Populations of these water plants are all stable or increasing and the water quality of the lakes remains suitable for their survival in the long term. • Plants indicating unfavourable condition for this feature e.g. filamentous algae associated with eutrophication and invasive non-native species will absent or maintained or restored below and acceptable threshold level. • With the exception of Dolymynach Reservoir, near natural hydrological and geomorphological processes and forms will be operating in the lakes e.g. water levels, water depth, stability of bed substrate, with no artificial regulation of water levels or altered sediment regimes. • Low nutrient and shade levels are maintained. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control. Conservation objective 1831: Floating water-plantain *Luronium natans*: • The floating water-plantain populations are viable throughout their current distribution in the plan area. • Each floating water-plantain population will be able to complete sexual and/or vegetative reproduction successfully. • Potential for genetic exchange between floating water-plantain populations, in and / or outside the plan area.		

Designated Site	RBD	Hydrological connectivity	Qualifying Features	Existing Pressures	Conservation Objectives	Screened in/out	Justification
					• Near natural hydrological and geomorphological processes and forms will be operating in the 4 lakes. • Low nutrients and shade levels will be maintained, with no species present indicative of unfavourable conditions. • The dispersal of floating water-plantain will be unhindered. • There will be no non-native invasive species present. • All factors affecting the achievement of the above conditions are under control. Conservation objective A074 Breeding Red Kite *Milvus milvus*: • The SPA area continues to support at least 15 pairs of breeding red kites or 0.5% of the British population. • Traditional nest sites within the SPA will continue to be used. • The extent of suitable semi-natural feeding habitat within the SPA is maintained. • Availability of carrion within the SPA is maintained. • Roosting sites within the SPA are maintained. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control. Conservation objective A098 breeding Merlin *Falco columnbaris*: • The SPA area continues to support at least 7 pairs of breeding Merlins, or 0.5% of the British population. • Traditional nest sites within the SPA continue to be used. • The extent of suitable semi-natural feeding habitat within the SPA is maintained. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control. Conservation objective A103: Breeding Peregrine *Falco peregrinus:* • The SPA area continues to support at least 15 pairs of breeding Peregrines, or 0.5% of the British population. • Traditional nest sites within the SPA continue to be used. • The extent of suitable semi-natural feeding habitat within the SPA is maintained. • All factors affecting the achievement of these conditions are under control.		
Gweunydd Blaencleddau SAC	2.1km from the Western Valleys RBD	No	Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site: • 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* • 6410 Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (*Molinion caeruleae*)	• Invasive non-native species (Medium risk I01) • Mowing/cutting of grassland (High risk A03) • Biocenotic evolution, succession (Medium risk K02)	For the Molinia meadows, wet heath, blanket bogs, transition mire and quaking bog, alkaline fen, marsh fritillary, and southern damselfly, their objective is to be in a favourable conservation status where all of the conditions outlined in the management plan are satisfied. This includes: • Molinia meadows to occur in small patches around the site, with purple moor-grass, small sedges and devil's bit scabious being common and an absence of scrub species.	Screened out.	Given the distance from the LFRMS Area and local topography, the SAC is not considered to be linked to the LFRMS Area and therefore screened out.

Designated Site	RBD	Hydrological connectivity	Qualifying Features	Existing Pressures	Conservation Objectives	Screened in/out	Justification
			• 7130 Blanket bogs (* if active bog becomes a primary feature) *Priority feature • 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs • 7230 Alkaline fens Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: • 1065 Marsh fritillary butterfly (*Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia)* Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: • 1044 Southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercurial*	• Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish) (Medium risk H01) • Air pollution air-borne pollutants (High risk H04) • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions (Medium risk J02) • Grazing (High risk A04)	• For wet heath to occupy at least 6% of the area with scrub species being largely absent. • For blanket bogs to occupy at least 4% of the area with scrub and bracken species being largely absent. • For transition mire and quaking bog to occupy at least 2% of the area with scrub species being largely absent. • For flushes with alkaline fen to occupy at least 10% of the site with scrub and bracken species being largely absent. • For Marsh fritillary butterfly, this would consist of a density of larval webs during sampling that is at least 200 per hectare of Good Condition habitat (see the SAC Management Plan for further details). • For the Southern damselfly, this would consist of a density of adult males during sampling is at least 1 male per 10 square metres of breeding habitat.		
North Pembrokeshire Woods SAC	N/A	No	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site: • 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site: • 91E0 Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae*) * Priority feature Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: • 1308 Barbastelle *Barbastella barbastellus*	• Grazing (High risk A04) • Forest and Plantation management & use (High risk B02) • Interspecific floral relations (Medium risk K04) • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants (High risk H04) • Invasive non-native species (Medium risk I01) • Biocenotic evolution, succession (High risk K02)	• For the Old sessile oak woods to be in favourable condition and to cover the majority of the SAC. For at least 2% of the SAC will be covered by alluvial woodland and to be in favourable conservation status. For the Barbastelle bat to be in favourable conservation status including no net loss of ancient semi-natural woodland at the site.	Screened out.	Given distance from the LFRMS Area and local topography, the North Pembrokeshire Woods SAC is not considered to be linked to the LFRMS Area and therefore screened out.
Pembrokeshire Marine SAC	N/A	No	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site: • 1130 Estuaries • 1160 Large Shallow inlets and bays • 1170 Reefs Annex II Species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: • 1364 Grey Seal • 1441 Shore dock Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature but not a primary reason for selection of this site:	• Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions (High risk J02) • Other human intrusions and disturbances (Medium risk G05) • Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish) (High risk H01) • (Medium risk K01) • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants (Low risk H04) • Exploration and extraction of oil or gas (Medium risk C02) • Changes in abiotic conditions (Medium risk M01)	• The overall distribution and extent of the habitat features within the site, and each of their main component parts is stable or increasing. For the coastal lagoons feature this is subject to the requirements for maintenance of the artificial impoundment structure and maintenance of the lagoons for the original purpose or subsequent purpose that pre-dates classification of the site. • The physical biological and chemical structure and functions necessary for the long-term maintenance and quality of the habitat are not degraded. Important elements include geology, sedimentology, geomorphology, hydrography and meteorology, water and sediment chemistry and biological interactions. This includes a need for nutrient levels in the water column and sediments to be at or below existing statutory guideline concentrations and, within ranges that are not potentially detrimental to the long-term maintenance of the features species	Screened out.	Given the distance from the LFRMS Area and local topography, the SAC is not considered to be linked to the LFRMS Area and therefore screened out.

Designated Site	RBD	Hydrological connectivity	Qualifying Features	Existing Pressures	Conservation Objectives	Screened in/out	Justification
			• 1110 Sandbanks which are slightly covered by sea water all the time. • 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide. • 1150 Coastal Lagoons • 1330 Atlantic salt meadows • 8330 Submerged or partially submerged sea caves Annex II Species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: • 1095 Sea lamprey *Petromyzon marinus* • 1099 River lamprey *Lampetra fluviatillis* • 1102 Allis Shad *Alosa alosa* • 1103 Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax* • 1355 Otter *Lutra lutra*	• Shipping lanes, ports, marine constructions (Medium risk D03) • Hunting, fishing or collecting activities (High risk F06) • Invasive non-native species (High risk I01) • Outdoor sports and leisure activities, recreational activities (Medium risk G01) • Fishing and harvesting aquatic resources (High risk F02) • Marine water pollution (Medium risk H03)	populations, their abundance and range. Contaminant levels in the water column and sediments derived from human activity must be at or below existing statutory guideline concentrations, below levels that would result in increase in contaminant concentrations within sediments or biota or below levels potentially detrimental to the long-term maintenance of the feature species populations, their abundance or range. • The Milford Haven waterway complex would benefit from restorative action. There is a need for some restoration of the populations of several typical species of the Milford Haven waterway complex that are severely depleted with respect to historical levels because of human exploitation. • The populations of grey seal, otter, allis shad, twaite shad, river lamprey, sea lamprey and shore dock maintain itself on a long-term basis as a viable component of its natural habitat. Important elements include; population size, structure, production and condition of the species within the site. For otter and grey seal; contaminant burdens derived from human activity are below levels that may cause psychological damage, or immune or reproductive suppression. Populations should not be reduced due to human activity. • The species population within the site should not be reduced now or in the future from the natural range. For otter and grey seal; their range within the SAC and adjacent inter-connected areas must not be constrained or hindered; there are appropriate and sufficient food resources within the SAC and beyond; the sites and amount of supporting habitat used by these species are accessible and their extent and quality is stable or increasing. • The presence, abundance, condition and diversity of habitats and species required to support this species is such that the distribution, abundance and population dynamics of the species within the site and population beyond the site is stable or increasing. The abundance of prey species subject to existing commercial fisheries needs to be equal or greater than that required to achieve maximum sustainable yield and secure in the long term. The management and control of activities or operations likely to adversely affect the species feature is appropriate for maintaining it in favourable condition and is secure in the long term. Contamination of potential prey species should be below concentrations potentially harmful to their physiological health. Disturbance by human activity is below levels that suppress reproductive success, physiological health or long-term behaviour. For otter there are sufficient sources within the SAC and beyond of high-quality freshwater for drinking and bathing		

Designated Site	RBD	Hydrological connectivity	Qualifying Features	Existing Pressures	Conservation Objectives	Screened in/out	Justification
Preseli SAC	N/A	No	Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site: • 4010 Northern Atlantic wet heaths with *Erica tetralix* • 4030 European dry heaths • 7150 Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion* • 7230 Alkaline fens Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: • 1044 Southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercuriale* • 1065 Marsh fritillary butterfly *Euphydryas (Eurodryas, Hypodryas) aurinia* • 1393 Slender green feather-moss *Drepanocladus (Hamatocaulis) vernicosus*	• Pollution to groundwater (Point sources and diffuse sources) (Medium risk H02) • Grazing (High risk A04) • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions (High risk J02) • Biocenotic evolution, succession (High risk K02) • Air pollution, air-borne pollutants (High risk H04) • Invasive non-native species (Low risk I01)	For the Southern Damselfly, Marsh fritillary butterfly, Slender green feather-moss, Alkaline fens, Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion*, European dry heaths and Northern Atlantic wet heaths, their objective is to be favourable conservation status where all of the conditions outlined in the management plan are satisfied. This includes: • For Southern Damselfly the density of adult males, during sampling, will be at least 1 male per 10 square metres of breeding habitat; There will be at least 3500 square metres of breeding habitat; and all factors affecting the feature will be under control. • For the Marsh fritillary butterfly a healthy population of the marsh fritillary butterfly will be present on and around the SAC. There will be sufficient suitable and good condition habitat to support viable meta-populations of the butterfly which is dependent here on marshy grassland and flush, with tussocks of purple moor-grass and plenty of the caterpillar's main food-plant, devil's bit scabious. The swards will vary in height so that there are short 'lawn' areas for the caterpillars to sun themselves on, and taller tussocky areas to provide shelter. • For Slender Green Feather Moss, it has been decided to treat the feature as part of the Rare mosses on damp ground SSSI feature. • For Alkaline Fen to be present in patches across the site and display a range of plant and insect species typical of the habitat, including the southern damselfly. The flushes supporting this specific habitat will comprise short, open vegetation rich in small mosses, sedges and plants characteristic of less acidic conditions. • For Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion* to have open vegetation and have an abundance of species such as white beak-sedge *Rhynchospora alba*, the bog moss *Sphagnum auriculatum*, marsh clubmoss *Lycopodiella inundata* and round-leaved sundew *Drosera rotundifolia*; Depressions on peat substrates of the *Rhynchosporion* will occupy roughly 1-2% of the SAC, and be present in at least two management units (currently units 2 and 3); The vegetation in these areas will be typically very open and competitive species indicative of under-grazing, particularly purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*, will be kept in check; and scrub species such as willow *Salix* and birch *Betula* will also be largely absent.	Screened out.	Upstream of the Afonydd Cleddau. Given the distance from the LFRMS Area and local topography, the SAC is not considered to be linked to the LFRMS Area and therefore screened out.

Designated Site	RBD	Hydrological connectivity	Qualifying Features	Existing Pressures	Conservation Objectives	Screened in/out	Justification
					• For Dry Heath it will cover at least 11% of Mynydd Preseli SSSI and display a range of plant, insect and bird species typical of the habitat; The following plants will be common in the dry heath: heather Calluna vulgaris; bell heather *Erica cinerea* and western gorse *Ulex gallii*; Competitive species indicative of under-grazing, particularly bracken *Pteridium aquilinum*, purple moor-grass *Molinia caerulea* and western gorse *Ulex gallii* will be kept in check. • For Wet Heath to cover at least 11% of the site and display a range of plant species typical of the habitat. Most of the wet heath will have a mixture of tussocks of purple moor-grass, separated by closely grazed patches rich in deer grass, bog mosses and heathers such as cross-leaved heath. A proportion should also have a range of short sedges and flowering plants such as round leaved sundew.		
River Usk SAC	Upper Towy immediately adjacent.	Yes	Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: • 1095 Sea lamprey • 1096 Brook lamprey • 1099 River lamprey • 1103 Twaite shad • 1106 Atlantic salmon • 1163 Bullhead • 1355 Otter Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for site selection: • 3260 water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation. Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site: • 1102 Allis shad	• Invasive non-native species (Medium risk I01) • Grazing (High risk A04) • Forestry activities (Low risk B07) • Pollution to surface waters (limnic & terrestrial, marine & brackish) (High risk H01) • Soil pollution and solid waste (excluding discharges) (Low risk H05) • Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions (High risk J02) • Forest and plantation management and use (Medium risk B02) • Other ecosystem modifications (Medium risk J03)	• The capacity for the habitats in the SAC to support each feature at near-natural population levels, as determined by predominantly unmodified ecological and hydro morphological processes and characteristics, should be maintained as far as possible, or restored where necessary. • The ecological status of the water environment should be sufficient to maintain a stable or increasing population of each feature. This will include elements of water quality and quantity, physical habitat and community composition and structure. • Flow regime, water quality and physical habitat should be maintained in, or restored as far as possible to, a near-natural state, in order to support the coherence of ecosystem structure and function across the whole area of the SAC. • All known breeding, spawning and nursery sites of special features should be maintained as suitable habitat as far as possible, except where natural processes cause them to change. • Flows, water quality, substrate quality and quantity at fish spawning sites and nursery areas will not be depleted by abstraction, discharges, engineering or gravel extraction activities or other impacts to the extent that these sites are damaged or destroyed. • The river planform and profile should be predominantly unmodified. Physical modifications having an adverse effect on the integrity of the SAC, including, but not limited to, revetments on active alluvial riverbanks using stone, concrete or waste materials, unsuitable extraction of gravel, addition or release of excessive quantities of fine sediment, will be avoided. • Artificial factors impacting on the capability of each species feature to occupy the full extent of its natural range should be modified where necessary to allow passage. • Natural factors such as waterfalls, which may limit the natural range of a species feature or dispersal between naturally isolated populations should not be modified.	Screened in.	Hydrologically linked. Source (the Usk Reservoir) is located within the LFRMS Area boundary immediately upstream of the designated site.

Designated Site	RBD	Hydrological connectivity	Qualifying Features	Existing Pressures	Conservation Objectives	Screened in/out	Justification
					• Flows during the normal migration periods of sea and river lamprey will not be depleted by abstraction to the extent that passage upstream to spawning sites is hindered. • The population of the feature in the SAC is stable or increasing over the long term. • The natural range of the feature in the SAC is neither being reduced nor is likely to be reduced for the foreseeable future. • There is a sufficiently large habitat to maintain in the feature's population in the SAC on a long-term basis. • The population of otters is stable or increasing over the long term and reflects the natural carrying capacity of the habitat, as determined by natural levels of prey abundance and associated territorial behaviour. • The natural range of otters is nether being reduced not likely to reduce. • The area is considered to form suitable breeding habitat for otters. • The size of breeding territories may vary depending on prey abundance. • The population size should not be limited by the availability of suitable undisturbed breeding sites. Where these are insufficient, they should be created through habitat enrichment and where necessary the provision of artificial holts. No otter breeding site should be subject to a level of disturbance that could have an adverse effect on breeding success. Where necessary, potentially harmful levels of disturbance must be managed. • The natural range of plant communities represented within this feature should be stable or increasing.		
River Wye SAC	N/A	No	Annex I habitats that are a primary reason for selection of this site: • 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation Annex II species that are a primary reason for selection of this site: • 1092 White-clawed (or Atlantic stream) Crayfish • 1095 Sea lamprey • 1096 Brook lamprey • 1099 River lamprey • 1103 Twaite shad • 1106 Atlantic salmon • 1163 Bullhead • 1355 Otter	• Human induced changes in hydraulic conditions (High risk J02) • Marine water pollution (Medium risk J03) • Invasive non-native species (High risk I01) • Pollution to groundwater (Point sources and diffuse sources) (High risk H02) • Forest and Plantation management & use (High risk B02)	Ensure the integrity of the site is maintained or restored, and ensure that the site contributed to achieving the favourable conservation status of its qualifying features by maintaining or restoring: • The extent and distribution of qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species • The structure and function (including typical species) of qualifying natural habitats. • The structure and function of the habitats of qualifying species. • The supporting processes on which qualifying natural habitats and habitats of qualifying species rely. • The populations of qualifying species • The distribution of qualifying species within the site.	Screened out.	Although within 2.5km, given the local topography and distance, the SAC is not considered to be linked to the LFRMS Area and therefore screened out.

Designated Site	RBD	Hydrological connectivity	Qualifying Features	Existing Pressures	Conservation Objectives	Screened in/out	Justification
			Annex I habitats present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site: • 7140 Transition mires and quaking bogs Annex II species present as a qualifying feature, but not a primary reason for selection of this site: • 1102 Allis shad				

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