

Shropshire and Staffordshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

Habitat Regulations Assessment

Screening Report Final

September 2016

Shropshire & Staffordshire Flood Risk Management Strategy
Habitats Regulations Assessment

Produced by the Environmental Advice Team, Staffordshire
County Council

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adopted Shropshire and Staffordshire Local Flood Risk
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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In June 2015 a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) screening report was produced by the Environmental Advice Team, Staffordshire County Council, with input from Shropshire County Council's Environment Team, for the Shropshire and Staffordshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS). The purpose of the screening report is to identify any potential impacts of the strategy on international sites, as required under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.
- 1.2 The report concluded that the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy would not have an adverse effect on Natura 2000 sites (Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas) and Ramsar sites providing a wording amendment was made to the text for s.9.0 Wider Environmental Objectives to provide the certainty required by the Habitats Regulations'.
- 1.3 Section 9.1 Identification of Environmental Objectives identified environmental objectives that the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) may contribute to. This included:
- Protecting Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) within Shropshire and Staffordshire;
 - Adhering to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2012, as amended ('Habitats Regulations'). Government policy protects all internationally designated sites such as Special Areas for Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites (internationally significant wetlands). An Appropriate Assessment will be undertaken for any activities assessed as having a likely significant effect, under Regulation 61 of The Habitats Regulations. The Local Flood Risk Management Strategy (LFRMS) will ensure that the integrity of internationally designated sites will not be adversely affected
- 1.4 It was recommended that wording of s.9.1 be amended to make clear that Environmental Objectives are not only something the LFRMS may contribute to, but are integral to the Strategy and apply to all Policies and Actions covered by the LFRMS. The following amendment to paragraph 4 of s.9.1 was recommended:
- 1.5 "The following Environmental Objectives of the FRMS apply to all Part 1 Objectives and Part 2 Policies and Actions and to Shropshire Council and Staffordshire County Council exercise of flood risk management functions including approval of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), designation of features, consent of works and use of permissive land drainage powers to manage the ordinary watercourse network:"

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1.6 It was concluded that should this amendment be made there would be no requirement to continue to Appropriate Assessment of the LFRMS.

1.7 Following this assessment the LFRMS was revised and condensed.

2.0 Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening of the adopted Shropshire and Staffordshire Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

2.1 The revised Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has been reviewed in regard of consistency with the version subject to the Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report June 2015 and compliance with the recommendation of the June 2015 report outlined above.

2.2 For information on the HRA screening process and the sites considered please see the [June 2015 report](#).

2.3 The June 2015 assessment included screening of LFRMS Guiding Principles and Objectives for Managing Local Flood Risk and of the Wider Environmental Objectives. Each objective was screened as to whether there might be a significant adverse effect on any Natura 2000 or Ramsar sites and if so whether the LFRMS includes inbuilt mitigation to avoid potential significant effects.

2.4 The Guiding Principles and Objectives in Part 1 Chapter 4 of the revised LFRMS remain the same as in the version assessed. The Wider Environmental Objectives, now found in Chapter 6.0. s.6.2 include the text recommended see s.1.5 above. The Wider Environmental Objectives include:

- protecting Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) within Shropshire and Staffordshire. All Flood Risk Management authorities have a duty, under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), to take reasonable steps to further the conservation and enhancement of SSSIs;
- adhering to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations, as amended ('Habitats Regulations'). Government policy protects all internationally designated sites such as Special Areas for Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar sites (internationally significant wetlands). An appropriate assessment will be undertaken for any activities assessed as having a likely significant effect, under Regulation 61 of The Habitats Regulations. The Strategy will ensure that the integrity of internationally designated sites will not be adversely affected.

2.5 The Wider Environmental Objectives and the application of these to all Part 1 Objectives and Part 2 Policies and Actions provide protection of Natura 2000 and Ramsar sites in accordance with the Habitats Directive and Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.